



## December 2012 Special Programs this Month at Fire Island National Seashore



For More Information:

[www.nps.gov/fiis](http://www.nps.gov/fiis)

631-687-4750

Follow us on [Twitter.com/FireIslandNPS](https://twitter.com/FireIslandNPS),

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### Saturday

December 15:

Noon - 1 pm

**Seaside Stories & Crafts: Where Did the Sand Go?** – Mastic Beach Public Library

*Free program; call for information: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780 (weekdays)*

Listen to stories about the wind, waves, and sand that shape Fire Island, then create a sandy craft to take home. This program is geared for children 5 – 7 years of age, but all are welcome!

### Monday

December 17:

**Happy 278<sup>th</sup> Birthday, William Floyd!** (*December 17, 1734 - August 4, 1821*)

The William Floyd Estate, birthplace and home of one of New York's signers of the Declaration of Independence, is closed for the season, but visit our website for a special birthday podcast!

<http://www.nps.gov/fiis/planyourvisit/williamfloydestate.htm>

### Sunday

December 23:

**Happy 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary, Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness!** (*December 23, 1980*)

The Fire Island Wilderness is the only federally-designated wilderness area in New York State, and one of the smallest in the National Park System. To learn more about what makes this place so special, visit our website at <http://www.nps.gov/fiis/planyourvisit/fireislandwilderness.htm>

### Saturday

December 29:

Noon – 1 pm

**Junior Ranger Workshop: Beach Change Detective** –Wilderness Visitor Center

*Free program; information/reservations: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780 (weekdays)*

Explore the ever-changing shoreline of Fire Island National Seashore. Learn about the powerful wind and waves, and the shifting sands that shape the barrier beach. Dress warmly for this outdoor program.

This program is geared for children 8-12 years of age, but all are welcome!

### Tuesday

January 1, 2013:

10 am – 1 pm

**New Year's Day Hike** - Wilderness Visitor Center to the Old Inlet Breach

*Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010 or 631-687-4780*

Celebrate the New Year on Fire Island. Discover the beauty of the winter beach and the many changes that have occurred since Hurricane Sandy, as you enjoy a relaxing 3-mile ranger-led round-trip hike to the breach at Old Inlet. Dress for the weather and for walking on sand; bring a light snack, drinking water and binoculars.

## Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open during December 2012 / January 2013

Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876

*Closed due to impacts of Hurricane Sandy and construction projects*

Wilderness Visitor Center- 631-281-3010

*December 1 – December 31, roving ranger on site 9 am – 4 pm, Friday – Sunday only.*

*Closed Christmas day. No Sportsman's Recreational Driving Permits or Wilderness Camping Permits issued at this time. Waterfowl Hunting Permits issued 9-10 am and 3-4 pm, Friday – Sunday only.*

William Floyd Estate - 631-399-2030

*Closed until May 2013; grounds will be open for special tours and programs during the winter and spring.*

*Guided Old Mastic House Tours Closed for the Season*

Park Headquarters in Patchogue - 631-687-4750

*Open all year, Monday - Friday, 9 am – 4:30 pm Closed on federal holidays*

Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

*Closed from October 9 until May 2013, but watch for special programs in the spring*

Sailors Haven and Watch Hill Facilities and *The Pier at Watch Hill Restaurant Closed until May 2013*

Watch Hill Campground - 631-597-6664 [www.watchhillfi.com](http://www.watchhillfi.com)

*Reservations for 2013 season accepted on-line in January 2013*



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### Tuesday

January 1  
10 am – 1 pm

#### **New Year's Day Hike - Wilderness Visitor Center to the Old Inlet Breach**

*Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010 or 631-687-4780*

Celebrate the New Year on Fire Island. Discover the beauty of the winter beach and the many changes that have occurred since Hurricane Sandy, as you enjoy a relaxing 3-mile ranger-led hike. Dress for the weather and for walking on sand; bring a light snack, drinking water and binoculars.

### Saturday

January 12:  
1 – 2 pm

#### **The Storm Beach – Wilderness Visitor Center**

*Free program; call for information/reservations: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780*

Hurricane Sandy significantly transformed the landscape of Fire Island. Join this short outdoor program to compare the new landscape to what you may remember. Learn how the island has changed and how the park is responding to the challenges of a dynamic landscape. Dress for the weather and walking on sand.

**Rain/Snow Date: Sunday, January 13**

### Sunday

January 13:  
10 – 11:30 am

#### **William Floyd Estate Winter Woods – William Floyd Estate**

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-399-2030)*

Experiencing the winter woods in their dormant state is so different from the growing time of summer. This year, you will also observe how high the surge from Hurricane Sandy came into the forest and view the dozens of trees toppled by the mega storm! Find and identify plants, seeds, birds, and the occasional evidence of other animal life on this serendipitous exploratory hike. Dress for the weather and be prepared for a 2- to 3-mile roundtrip walk.

### Saturday

January 19:  
9 – 11:30 am

#### **Old Mastic Winter Bird Walk – William Floyd Estate**

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-399-2030)*

Search for both wintering and year-round avian species at the Old Mastic Estate. Bring binoculars, dress for the weather and be prepared for a 2- to 3-mile roundtrip walk.

### Saturday

January 19:  
Noon - 3 pm

#### **Picture This! Photography Workshop – Mastic Beach Public Library/Wilderness Visitor Center**

*Free program; call for information/reservations: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780*

Join a park ranger to learn how to take the perfect picture. Meet at the Mastic Beach Public Library for a short indoor presentation, then bundle up and head to the beach at Fire Island National Seashore for some outdoor practice you're your camera. This program is geared for novice photographers, young adult and up. Bring your camera, dress for the weather and walking on sand, and pack a light snack and drinking water.

### Sunday

January 20:  
10 am – Noon

#### **The Old Mastic Way to the Bay – William Floyd Estate**

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-399-2030)*

Explore a fascinating cultural landscape and natural history. This ranger-guided walk from the Old Mastic House to the bay follows roads well used by the Floyd family from the mid-1700s to the 1970s. Along the way, discover signs of historic uses of the property. Pass through fields and woods, along mounds and ditches, cultural plantings, fresh water creeks, and the salt marsh on Moriches Bay. Dress for the weather. Be prepared for a 3-mile roundtrip walk.

### Saturday

January 26:  
10 – 11:30 am

#### **Old Mastic Winter Botany – William Floyd Estate**

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-399-2030)*

Learn to identify all different types of plants, including trees and shrubs, grasses and old wildflowers from last summer and fall, by observing their bark, buds and seeds. You will also observe how Hurricane Sandy damaged the plants at the historic William Floyd Estate.

### Sunday

January 27:  
10 – 11 am

#### **The Barns on the Farm – William Floyd Estate**

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-399-2030)*

Barns are fast disappearing on the Long Island landscape, but at one time they were a sign of prosperity and hard work. There are several old barns and outbuildings at the historic William Floyd Estate. Explore and learn their uses and histories as you enjoy a winter stroll around this treasured cultural landscape.