



February 2013 Special Programs this Month at Fire Island National Seashore



For More Information:

www.nps.gov/fiis

631-687-4750

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Saturday

February 9

Noon – 2:30 pm

A Walk Through Time - Wilderness Visitor Center

Free program; call for directions/information 631-687-4766

Fire Island's barrier island landscape has a history lesson to share. Explore dune layers and beach plants for stories of the past during this 3-mile round-trip ranger-guided hike to the breach at Old Inlet. Bring drinking water; dress for the weather and for walking on sand.

Sunday

February 10:

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

February 16:

9 am – Noon

Great Backyard Bird Count – William Floyd Estate

Free program; call for information/reservations: 631-399-2030

Take a science stroll! Join us for the 2013 Great Backyard Bird Count and contribute to this worldwide citizen science effort documenting the location of birds in winter. Be prepared for a 3-mile round-trip hike through fields and woods to the bay and back. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them.

Rain/Snow Date: Sunday, February 17

Saturday

February 16:

9 am – 11 am

Great Backyard Bird Count – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Take a science stroll! Join us for the 2013 Great Backyard Bird Count and contribute to this worldwide citizen science effort documenting the location of birds in winter. Be prepared for a 1½-mile round-trip hike through sand and along the beach. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them.

Rain/Snow Date: Sunday, February 17

Saturday

February 16:

Noon – 1 pm

Seaside Stories & Crafts: Wilderness Habitat – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Listen to stories about the animal habitats that can be found in the Fire Island Wilderness and create a habitat craft of your own. This program is geared for children ages 5-7, but all are welcome.

Saturday

February 23:

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 tidal 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 exploratory hike. Dress for the weather and be prepared for a 2- to 3-mile roundtrip walk.

Saturday

February 23:

Noon – 1 pm

Junior Ranger Workshop: Discovering Wilderness Animals – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

See the new habitat that Hurricane Sandy created for animals that live in the Fire Island Wilderness. Search for signs of wildlife and create an animal track to take home. Dress for the weather. Geared for children ages 8-12, but all are welcome.

Sunday

February 24:

10 – 11:30 am

Winter Beach Botany – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Come along for a brisk winter's walk identifying plants of all kinds growing upon the barrier beach. Observe the new landscape created by Hurricane Sandy and the changes that occurred to the barrier island's natural plant communities. Round-trip 2-mile walk. Dress for the wind and weather.

Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open during February 2013

Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876

Closed due to impacts of Hurricane Sandy and construction projects.

Wilderness Visitor Center- 631-281-3010

Open January 1 – February 28, 9 am - 4 pm, Friday – Sunday and holidays. (staffing & weather permitting)

No Wilderness Camping Permits issued at this time.

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 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

Reservations for 2013 season accepted on-line