



March 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

March 2:

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

March 3:

1 – 2 pm

The Storm Beach – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

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

Saturday

March 9:

Noon – 1 pm

Seaside Stories & Crafts: Spring Equinox – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Come celebrate the changing season as winter turns to spring. Hear a story about the coming of spring and create a season spinner to take home. This program is geared for children ages 5-7, but all are welcome.

Saturday

March 16:

Noon – 1 pm

Junior Ranger Workshop: Spring Shelling – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Beachcombing is a great excuse to visit the beach during the off-season, and it's always fun to find new seashells. But do you know which animals lived in these shells and what their role was in the ocean environment? Join a park ranger to learn more while you search for seashells by the seashore. Geared for children ages 8-12, but all are welcome. Dress for the outdoors and walking on sand.

Sunday

March 17:

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

March 23:

Noon - 2 pm

Spring Wilderness Hike – Wilderness Visitor Center

Free program; call for information: 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4766 (weekdays)

Leave the winter behind during this 3-mile roundtrip guided walk along the shore to see natural history as you never have before! Learn how the wind and waves carve the shape of the beach, how the deep thickets and sparkling marshes provide food and shelter for the island's wildlife. Dress for the weather and for walking on sand.

Save the Date:

National Park Week is coming soon!

- **National Junior Ranger Day on Saturday, April 20, 2013** at the **Fire Island Wilderness Visitor Center**

Watch for details to be posted on the park's web page!

www.nps.gov/fiis/forkids/beajuniorranger.htm

Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open during March 2013

Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876

Closed due to impacts of Hurricane Sandy and construction projects.

Wilderness Visitor Center- 631-281-3010

Southernmost end of William Floyd Parkway; parking at Smith Point County Park

Open January 1 – March 31, 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

245 Park Drive, Mastic Beach, NY 11951

***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

120 Laurel Street, Patchogue NY 11772

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

Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

160 West Avenue, Patchogue, NY 11772

***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