

May 2013



Special Programs this Month Fire Island National Seashore

For More Information:

www.nps.gov/fiis

631-687-4750

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Saturday

May 4:

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Surfcasting Clinic – Wilderness Visitor Center

Free program; call for directions/information 631-687-4766 weekdays; 631-281-3010 weekends

Join us for a free I FISH NY fishing clinic to learn more about the fish in our seas, the best way to catch them, and how to help keep our local fish populations healthy. Equipment and expert instruction will be provided, paving the way for you to master your cast. This program is geared for adults of all abilities; but ages 10 years and up are welcome to register. The clinic will be provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and requires registration with the Marine Fishing Registry.

Saturday

May 4:

2 – 3 pm

Lecture Series: Hurricane Sandy: Before and After – Wilderness Visitor Center

Free program; call for directions/information 631-687-4766 weekdays; 631-281-3010 weekends

Join us for an indoor presentation about Hurricane Sandy. See how this history-making storm reshaped the barrier beach and get an insider look at before and after photos and the progress of recovery on Fire Island National Seashore.

Saturday

May 11:

9 – 11:30 am

Old Mastic International Migratory Bird Day Walk – William Floyd Estate

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

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day! During the peak of migration, search for both spring migrants and year-round bird species at the Old Mastic Estate. Bring binoculars, dress for the weather and be prepared for a 2-mile roundtrip walk.

Saturday

May 11:

9 - 11:30 am

Birding for Beginners on International Migratory Bird Day – Wilderness Visitor Center

Free program; call for directions/information 631-687-4780 weekdays; 631-281-3010 weekends

Fire Island is a spectacular place for birds and bird watching, especially during migration time, as migrant songbirds, hawks, and water birds touchdown to rest and feed before continuing on. Take some time on International Migratory Bird Day learning some bird watching tips and techniques and experiencing the migration first hand. Practice using binoculars; learn to use a field guide, and how to identify birds in the field by sight and sound. This program is geared for adults, but all are welcome. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy walking boots; bring drinking water, insect protection, and binoculars if possible.

Saturday

May 11:

Noon – 1 pm

Junior Ranger - Wilderness Birder – Wilderness Visitor Center

Free program; call for directions/information 631-687-4780 weekdays; 631-281-3010 weekends

Over 300 different types of birds can be found on Fire Island, just not all at once. Why? It's because of migration. Learn about Fire Island's birds and about the mysteries of migration. This program is geared for children 8-12 years of age, but all are welcome. Dress for the weather and for a short bird watching walk into the Fire Island Wilderness.

Saturday

May 18:

Noon – 1 pm

Seaside Stories and Crafts: Hurray for Horseshoe Crabs – Wilderness Visitor Center

Free program; call for directions/information 631-687-4780 weekdays; 631-281-3010 weekends

Listen to stories about what's so special about horseshoe crabs, and then create a horseshoe crab craft to take home. This program is geared for children ages 5 -7, but all are welcome to attend.

Saturday

May 25:

5:30 – 8 pm

Sunset Beach to Breach Hike – Wilderness Visitor Center

Free program; call for directions/information 631-687-4766 weekdays; 631-281-3010 weekends

Celebrate the unofficial start of summer this Memorial Day weekend during this evening seaside stroll. Join a park ranger for a 3 mile walk to the breach at Old Inlet and back. Learn about Fire Island's dynamic shoreline while the sun sets and May's Flower Moon rises. Bring drinking water and insect protection; dress for the weather and be prepared to walk on the sand.

Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open or reopening in May 2013

Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876

The Fire Island Lighthouse and its Keepers Quarters Museum is expected to re-open as soon as Robert Moses State Park Field 5 opens. Boardwalks damaged by the storm are not expected to be repaired until later in the summer, requiring visitors to walk down the beach (about ¼ mile) to access the Lighthouse. The traditional clothing optional use of this stretch of beach is no longer accommodated. Pre-planned rehabilitation work in and on the tower and terrace may impact tower tours and other programs throughout this summer.

Memorial Day Weekend – June 30, daily 9:30 am – 5:00 pm

Open July 1 – Labor Day: daily 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

Last tower tour (when available) 1 hour before closing

Wilderness Visitor Center - 631-281-3010

Open **January 1 through June 23**: Friday-Sunday & federal holidays, 9 am – 4 pm

Open **June 29 – Labor Day**: weekends & holidays, 10 am – 6 pm; Wednesday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm

New: Backcountry camping reservations must be obtained at Recreation.gov beginning May 15, 2013 for overnight stays starting May 25, 2013. **Wilderness/backcountry overnight camping permits will not be issued at the Wilderness Visitor Center** office as long as the breach at Old Inlet is open. Check-in and access to both east and west wilderness/backcountry camping zones is expected to be through the Watch Hill Visitor Center during the summer of 2013.

William Floyd Estate - 631-399-2030

Grounds Open:

April 5 – May 19, Friday – Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

May 24 – Nov. 11, Friday – Sunday & holidays, 9 am – 5 pm

Old Mastic House Open:

May 24 – Nov. 11, Friday – Sunday & holidays, 10 am – 4 pm; Free house tours every half-hour

Park Headquarters in Patchogue - 631-687-4750

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

Sailors Haven

Sailors Haven Marina - 631-597-6171

Reopens **Friday, May 10, 2013**

Sayville Ferry Service - 631-589-8980

Spring Schedule starts **Monday, May 13, 2013**

Sailors Haven Snack Bar & Gift Shop

Reopens **Saturday, May 18, 2013**

Sailors Haven Visitor Center - 631-597-6183

Reopens **Saturday, May 25, 2013**

Open May 25 – June 23, weekends 10 am – 4 pm

Open June 29 – Labor Day: weekends 10 am – 6 pm; Wednesday-Fridays 10 am – 5 pm

Sailors Haven Lifeguards

On duty Memorial Day weekend

Talisman/Barrett Beach

Restrooms open by May 10, 2013 (No lifeguards expected in 2013)

Watch Hill

Watch Hill Marina - 631-597-3109

Reopens **Friday, May 10, 2013**

Watch Hill Campground – 631-567-6664

Reopens **Saturday, May 11, 2013**; reservations accepted on-line at www.watchhillfi.com

Between May 11 and May 17, 2013, access will be by private boat or by ferry from the Davis Park Ferry terminal at Sandspit Park on Brightwood Street, Patchogue, NY (fee for parking) to Davis Park on Fire Island (1 mile west of Watch Hill)

Watch Hill Ferry Service - 631-475-1665

Spring Schedule starts **Saturday, May 18, 2013**

Watch Hill Snack Bar, Tiki Bar & General Store

Reopens **Saturday, May 18, 2013**

The Pier at Watch Hill Restaurant

Reopens **Friday, May 24, 2013**

Watch Hill Visitor Center - 631-597-6455

Reopens **Saturday, May 25, 2013**

Open May 25 – June 23, weekends & holidays 10:30 am – 4 pm

Open June 29 – Labor Day: weekends 9 am – 6 pm; Wednesday - Friday 9:30 am – 5 pm

All Wilderness/backcountry overnight camping permit check-in will be required at the Watch Hill Visitor Center and access to both east and west wilderness/ backcountry camping zones will be through Watch Hill, as long as the breach at Old Inlet is open. For more information, call **631-687-4780**.

New: Backcountry camping reservations must be obtained online at Recreation.gov beginning May 15, 2013 for overnight stays starting May 25, 2013.

Watch Hill Lifeguards

On duty Memorial Day weekend

Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

Reopens **May 25-27, 2013**, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm; June 29 – Labor Day, weekends & holidays 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

Watch for the Friends of Fire Island National Seashore's

"Essence of Fire Island" Nature Photography Exhibition: opens late June 2013