



## November 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

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### Saturday

November 3:  
10 – 11:30 am

#### Trees, Wood and Tools: The Colonial Uses of Wood - William Floyd Estate

*(Free program; reservations required: call 631-399-2030)*

During the colonial period in New York, Floyd family used the pristine forests to build their beloved “old Mastic House” and its barns and outbuildings. See samples of wood and tools. Walk the grounds to see tree species used by the Floyds.

### Saturday

November 3:  
1 – 2:30 pm

#### Blueberries, Beach Plums and Rosehips, Oh My! – Meet at Robert Moses State Park Field 5

*(Free program; call for information: 631-687-4780)*

Discover nature’s kitchen right here on Fire Island. Join a park ranger on this botanical field walk exploring barrier island plants around the Fire Island Lighthouse. Learn how these native plant species have been used for food and flavor throughout the ages. Dress for the weather and a 1½-mile walk.

### Saturday & Sunday

November 3 & 4:  
10 am – 4 pm

#### Happy Birthday Fire Island Lighthouse! – Fire Island Lighthouse

*(Reduced Tower Tour Fee all day; call for information: 631-661-4876)*

Celebrate the 154<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Fire Island Lighthouse. See its 1<sup>st</sup> order Fresnel lens, which was put into service on November 1, 1858. Tower tours fees are reduced to \$6 for adults, \$3 for seniors or children under 12 years old (*must be 42” tall to climb the 182-step tower*).

### Saturday

November 10:  
10 – 11:30 am

#### Old Mastic House: Cultural Landscape Walking Tour – William Floyd Estate

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

Easy 1½-hour, 1- to 2-mile walk around the historic William Floyd Estate in Mastic Beach. Observe evidence of changes to the landscape as the Floyd family adapted their land: from plantation/working farm to summer estate/hunting preserve.

### Saturday

November 10:  
Noon - 1 pm

#### Children’s Hour: Animal Adventures – Wilderness Visitor Center

*(Free program; call for information: 631-281-3010)*

Listen to a story about Fire Island animals and create a seashore critter craft of your very own. This program is geared for children 5 – 7 years of age, but all are welcome!

### Sunday

November 11:  
5:45 am

#### Early Morning Tower Tour – Fire Island Lighthouse

*(\$25/person; reservations required: call 631-661-4876)*

Come enjoy the scenery from the top of the tower as the sun rises. Tour includes a “light” breakfast and souvenir mug. Sunrise is at 6:35 am.

### Sunday

November 11:  
10 am – 4 pm

#### Thank you to all our United States Veterans! – Fire Island Lighthouse

*(Free tours for veterans; call for directions/information 631-661-4876)*

Free tower tours during regular operating hours to all veterans who served in the military.

### Sunday

November 11:  
1 - 2 pm

#### Boats & Beaches, Bass & Bluefish, Fluke & Flounder: Fishing Fire Island – Patchogue-Watch

*(Free; call for directions/information 631-687-4780)*

Hill Ferry Terminal

Join National Park Service marine fisheries scientist Karl Brookins for a discussion about recreational fishing on Fire Island and efforts underway to understand marine recreational fisheries at Fire Island and throughout our national parks.

### Saturday

November 17:  
9 – 11 am

#### Light Keepers Behind-the-Scenes Tour - Fire Island Lighthouse

*(\$20 Fee; reservations required, limited to 12: call 631-661-4876)*

Follow one of our present day Lighthouse Keepers on his rounds. This bottom to top tour takes you from the auxiliary generator and the Light Keepers workshop in the basement of the Keeper’s Quarters to the beacon in the lantern room of the lighthouse tower. Learn how Lighthouse Keepers in the 1860’s to 2012 maintained the light. Includes a tour of the new Lens Building which houses our original first order Fresnel Lens.

### Saturday

November 17:  
2 - 3 pm

#### The Bounty of Fire Island - Fire Island Lighthouse Fresnel Lens Building

*(Free program; call for information 631-687-4766)*

Growing and gathering food is very much a part of who we are. People have used the foods available to them on Fire Island and within surrounding waters for centuries. Join us for an indoor presentation on the fruits, fowl, fish, and shellfish that have long provided sustenance and often an income to the people of Long Island and Fire Island.

(more)

## Fire Island National Seashore Special Programs this Month: November 2012 (cont.)

### Sunday

November 18:  
9 – 11:30 am

#### Late Autumn Old Mastic Bird Walk - William Floyd Estate

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

2-mile stroll through the woods, fields and wetlands to watch for late fall birdlife. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars to observe peak migration of thousands of birds heading south.

### Sunday

November 18:  
2 - 3 pm

#### Lighthouse Lecture Series: Fall Bird Migration - Fire Island Lighthouse Fresnel Lens Building

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-661-4876)*

Learn which birds are flying past the Fire Island Lighthouse and can be seen at this time of year. Bring your binoculars and watch for barrier island migrants in the late afternoon.

### Sunday

November 18:  
6 - 8 pm

#### Holiday Parade of Boats on the Patchogue River – Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

*(Free; call for directions/information 631-687-4750)*

View the annual Patchogue River boat parade from the National Park Service ferry terminal on West Avenue. Join Friends of Fire Island National Seashore inside the terminal for an opportunity to warm up and learn about Fire Island.

### Friday

November 23:  
10 am – 1 pm

#### After-Thanksgiving Wilderness Trek - Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Explore the only federally designated wilderness area in New York State during this 3-mile round-trip saunter. The Fire Island Wilderness is a place of exceptional beauty; a place teeming with plant and animal life; and a perfect place to work off Thanksgiving dinner. Dress for the weather and for walking on sand; bring a light snack, drinking water and binoculars if you have them.

### Saturday

November 24:  
10 am - 3 pm

#### Annual Tree Trimming Event - Fire Island Lighthouse

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-661-4876)*

Kick off the holiday season by helping decorate the traditional lighthouse tree with a handmade ornament relating to the sea, nature or lighthouse. Free hot chocolate and cookies!

### Saturday

November 24:  
Noon – 1:30 pm

#### Junior Ranger Workshop: Wilderness Wildlife—Animal Tracking – Wilderness Visitor Center

*(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)*

Take a short hike through the Fire Island Wilderness to search for signs of barrier island wildlife. Then back at the visitor Center, create an animal track for keeps, as a memento of your visit. This program is geared for children 8-12 years of age, but all are welcome! Dress for the outdoors.

### Saturday

November 24:  
4 pm

#### Thanksgiving Weekend Evening Tower Tour - Fire Island Lighthouse

*(\$20 Fee; reservations required: call 631-661-4876)*

Experience the lighthouse at night while working off some of those holiday calories. Sunset 4:30 pm.

## Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open during November 2012

#### Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876

*Open Sept. 4- November 3, 9:30 am –5 pm; Nov. 4 – mid-Dec., 9:30 – 4 pm;*

*mid-Dec. – March open weekends Noon – 4 pm & weekdays 10 am – 4 pm*

*Closed on Thanksgiving & Christmas days. Last tower tour 1 hour before closing.*

*Tower restoration work is expected to begin this winter. **No Tower Tours during construction.***

#### Wilderness Visitor Center- 631-281-3010

*Open September 4 – December 31, 9 am –4 pm daily. Closed on Thanksgiving & Christmas days.*

*Sportsman's Recreational Driving Permits on sale after September 1, for use September 15 – December 31.*

#### William Floyd Estate - 631-399-2030

*Open through November 12: Friday – Sunday and Holidays, 9 am – 5 pm*

*Guided Old Mastic House Tours 10 am – 4 pm on the half-hour when grounds are open*

#### Park Headquarters in Patchogue - 631-687-4750

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

#### Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

*Closed from October 9 until May 2013, but watch for special programs!*