



## September 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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**Weekends** (thru Oct. 8)

**Saturdays** (thru Oct. 8)

**Sunken Forest Tour** 11:30 am - 1 pm – Sailors Haven Visitor Center

**Watch Hill Salt Marsh and the Maritimes Walk** 11 am – 12:30 pm – Watch Hill Visitor Center

**Saturday**

September 1:

4 – 5:30 pm

**Step Back in Time – Fire Island Lighthouse**

*Free program; call for information: 631-687-4780 or 631-661-4876*

Explore the history of the Fire Island Light Station on this ranger-led walking tour of its grounds and outer buildings. Discover the importance of the light and its keepers, and the U. S. Life Saving Service in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Sunday**

September 2:

10 am – 2 pm

**Annual Labor Day Sand Creation Contest – Watch Hill and Sailors Haven beaches**

*Free program; 631-597-6455 (Watch Hill) or 631-597-6183 (Sailors Haven)*

All ages welcome. Register at lifeguard stand until Noon; judging 1 pm; awards 2 pm. This year's theme: **Seashore Life**

**Sunday**

September 2:

6:30 – 8 pm

**Step Back in Time – Fire Island Lighthouse**

*Free program; call for information: 631-687-4780 or 631-661-4876*

Explore the history of the Fire Island Light Station on this ranger-led walking tour of its grounds and outer buildings. Discover the importance of the light and its keepers, and the U. S. Life Saving Service in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Sunday**

September 2:

11 am – Noon

**Science in the Sunken Forest – Sailors Haven Visitor Center**

*Free program; call for information: 631-687-4766*

Join us for a look at the science that helps the National Park Service protect Fire Island's crown jewel. Learn how herbivores shape the Sunken Forest, and how the Great South Bay shapes its shoreline.

**Wednesday - Friday**

September 5-7:

**Fire Island 3-Day Trek – Fire Island Wilderness to Fire Island Lighthouse**

*Fee for program - \$100; Reservations required; call for information: 631-687-4780*

3-day, 21-mile hike. Nominal cost for lodging and logistical support.

**Saturday**

September 8:

9 am

**Light Keepers Behind-the-Scenes Tour – Fire Island Lighthouse**

*\$20/person; reservations required – limit 12 people; call for information: 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**

September 8:

11 am – 4 pm

**The Summer Gunner: Art and Lore of Traditional Decoy Carving - William Floyd Estate**

*Free program; call for directions: 631-399-2030*

Join decoy carver Jaime Reason on the front porch of the Old Mastic House to learn about the history of waterfowl hunting in the local bays and the rich traditions of carving shorebirds and ducks by hand.

**Sunday**

September 9:

1 - 2 pm

**Monarch Migration Walk – Sailors Haven Visitor Center**

*Free program; call for information: 631-687-4780 or 631-687-6183*

For a few special days each autumn, Fire Island is a temporary home to thousands of migrating monarch butterflies. Come celebrate this natural phenomenon on a ranger-led walk and learn more about this tiny creature and its remarkable journey to the mountains of central Mexico.

**Saturday**

September 15:

10 – 11:30 am

**Old Mastic House: A Simple Architectural Tour – William Floyd Estate**

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

See examples of Colonial, Victorian and Greek Revival architecture among the many styles represented at the Old Mastic House over the past 250 years. 18<sup>th</sup> Century doors, post and beam framing, 12 over 12 windows are among the details.

**Saturday**

September 15:

9:30 am – Noon

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual International Coastal Cleanup Day – Fire Island Lighthouse bayside beach**

*Free program; Reservations required; call for information: 631-687-4780*

Join a worldwide effort to remove marine debris from our shores, and collect data, too. Fire Island National Seashore will participate in this event with work sites for groups and a program for the general public at the Fire Island Lighthouse.

*For more information and registration, call 631-687-4780 or e-mail [fiis\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:fiis_interpretation@nps.gov).*

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

### Saturday

September 22:  
11 am - 8 pm

**Fire Island 1-Day Twilight Trek** – Fire Island Pines to Fire Island Lighthouse  
*Free program; Reservations required; call for information: 631-687-4780*  
or visit [www.nps.gov/fiis/fire-island-trek.htm](http://www.nps.gov/fiis/fire-island-trek.htm)  
1-day, 9-mile hike. No fee, but participants make all arrangements for transportation and food

### Friday

September 28:  
7 - 9 pm

**Shipmates** – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Special musical guests, Shipmates, will lead an enchanted evening of chauties and ballads of the sea. Acoustic Instruments are welcome. If you bring sheet music, please bring several copies.

### Saturday

September 29:  
6 am

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

*\$25/person; reservations required, call for directions/information 631-661-4876*

Enjoy the scenery from the top of the tower as the sun rises. Tour includes a "light" breakfast and souvenir mug. Moonset is at 6:17 am and sunrise is at 6:48 am.

### Saturday

September 29:  
10 am

**Documents in Stone** - William Floyd Estate

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

Unique introduction to genealogical research. Discover a variety of ways to learn about grave markers from the materials they were made of to foot stones to kinship to burial characteristics. Learn about the origins of the "Deaths Head" and take home a grave stone rubbing.

### Saturday

September 29:  
11:30 am – 2 pm

**National Public Lands Day Canoe Tour** – Watch Hill

*Celebrate National Public Lands Day during a special canoe paddle along the lee side of Fire Island at Watch Hill. Explore the early fall salt marshes fringing NYS only federally designated wilderness area during this ranger guided canoe tour. Space is limited, register in advance by calling 631-687-4780 or email: [FIIS.Interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:FIIS.Interpretation@nps.gov). 10:20 am Ferry to Watch Hill from Patchogue, returning at 4 pm. Wear sun and insect protection and water shoes. Bring drinking water and snack. Paddlers must be 16 years or older.*

### Sunday

September 30:  
10 am – 3 pm

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual "Cruise to the Light" Auto Show:** - Robert Moses State Park Field #4

*\$5/spectator, children under 12 free; \$10 pre-registration, \$15 day-of registration for show cars: call 631-661-4876) Fire Island Lighthouse fundraiser at Robert Moses State Park (no dogs allowed)*

## Reduced hours at some Fire Island National Seashore Facilities after Labor Day (September 3, 2012)

**Ferry Service to Watch Hill - 631-475-1665 and Sailors Haven - 631-597-8980**

*Reduced number of trips/day after Labor Day, Weekend/Holiday service only September 8 – October 8*

**Lifeguards at Watch Hill and Sailors Haven** – daily through Labor Day

**Talisman/Barrett Beach** – restrooms open through October 8

**Visitor Centers at Watch Hill - 631-597-6455 and Sailors Haven - 631-597-6183**

*Open daily through Labor Day; open weekends only (11 am – 3 pm) through Columbus Day, October 8*

**Sailors Haven Marina - 631-597-6171 and Watch Hill Marina - 631-597-3109**

*Open through October 28. Weekday special of \$1/foot, Monday–Thursday (except holidays)*

**Sailors Haven Snack Bar**

*Open 11 am – 2:30 pm daily through October 8*

**Watch Hill Marina - 631-597-3109**

*Open through October 14. Shoulder season special of \$1/foot, Sunday – Thursday (after September 3)*

**Watch Hill Snack Bar**

*Open 11 am – 3:30 pm daily through October 8*

**Watch Hill Campground - 631-567-6664**

*Open through October 21. (Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry service only available on weekends through October 8)*

**The Pier at Watch Hill Restaurant - 631-597-9060**

*Open through September 2, 5 pm – 12 pm Thursday – Saturday & 10 am - 1 pm Sunday;  
September 7-22, open 5-12 pm Friday & Saturday only.*

**Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876**

*Open through Labor Day, 9:30 - 6; Sept. 4- November 3, 9:30 – 5; 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.*

**Wilderness Visitor Center - 631-281-3010**

*Open through September 3, 9 am – 5 pm Monday-Friday; 10 am – 6:30 pm Saturday & Sunday;*

*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**

*Open through September 3, Friday-Sunday 8 am – 6:30 pm; September 8–October 7, weekends, 10am – 5 pm  
Oct. 8 Noon – 5 pm. Closed from October 9 until May 2013, but watch for special programs!*