



September 2013 *(revised)* Special Programs this Month at Fire Island National Seashore



For More Information:

www.nps.gov/fiis

631-687-4750

Follow us on [Twitter.com/FireIslandNPS](https://twitter.com/FireIslandNPS),

www.facebook.com/FireIslandNPS

Friday-Sunday (thru Nov. 11) **Old Mastic House Tours** 10 am – 4 pm – William Floyd Estate

Weekends (thru Oct. 14) **Sunken Forest Tour** 11:30 am - 1 pm – Sailors Haven Visitor Center

Weekends (thru Oct. 14) **Watch Hill Salt Marsh and the Maritimes Walk** 11:30 am – 12:30 pm – Watch Hill VC

Weekends (thru Oct. 14) **Lighthouse Tower-less Tour** 11 am - 3 pm hourly – Fire Island Lighthouse

Free program; call for information: 631-661-4876

The Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society is offering a guided tour of the Lighthouse complex—the Keepers Quarters, Fresnel Lens Building, and Boat House—while the Lighthouse tower is closed for construction.

Sunday

September 1:

10 am – 3 pm

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

Free program; call for information: 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**

Thursday - Friday

September 5-6:

Fire Island 2-Day Trek – Watch Hill to Fire Island Lighthouse

\$100/person; reservations required; call for information: 631-687-4780

2-day, 13-mile hike. Fee covers lodging, some meals and logistical support.

Sunday

September 8

11:30 am - 1 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 becomes a temporary home to thousands of migrating monarch butterflies. Learn more about these beautiful insects and the remarkable journey they make to the mountains of Mexico.

Wednesday

September 11:

Happy 49th Anniversary, Fire Island National Seashore!

Get out for a stroll along the beach to the Fire Island Lighthouse or hike to the breach at Old Inlet in the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness, or visit a Fire Island community!

Saturday

September 14:

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 a present day Lighthouse Keeper on his rounds from the auxiliary generator and Light Keeper's workshop, then to the Fresnel Lens Building. Learn how Lighthouse Keepers from the 1860s to the present maintain the light. Program includes a tour of the Lens Building which houses the lighthouse's original first order Fresnel lens.

Sunday

September 15:

2 pm

Lighthouse Lecture Series: Children's Book Signing – Fire Island Lighthouse Lens Building

Free program; call for information: 631-661-4876

Joanne Vergona Krapp signs her children's book, *Missing Treasure Means Trouble*, followed by an activity for kids.

Saturday

September 21:

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

1-day, 9-mile hike. Participants must arrange for their own transportation to and from Fire Island.

Sunday

September 22:

11:30 am – 1 pm

Fall Forest Walk – Sailors Haven

Free program; call for information: 631-687-4780 (weekdays), 631-687-6183 (weekends)

Autumn officially arrives today at the Sunken Forest. See late blossoms and early fruits and the beginning of fall foliage. Look for deer, south-bound migrant songbirds and more. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Saturday

September 28

11:30 am – 2 pm

Celebrate 20th Anniversary of National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day Canoe Tour – Watch Hill

Free program; reservations required – space is limited; call for information: 631-687-4780

Join a special canoe paddle along the lee side of Fire Island. Explore the early fall salt marshes fringing the Fire Island Wilderness. Paddlers must be 16 years or older. Take the 10:20 ferry from Patchogue to Watch Hill (*\$16/person round-trip*). Bring sun and insect protection, drinking water, snack, water shoes.

(More)

Fire Island National Seashore Special Programs this Month: September 2013 (cont.)

Saturday

September 28
1 pm – 3:30 pm

Celebrate 20th Anniversary of National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day Beach to Breach Hike and Cleanup – Fire Island Wilderness

Free program; call for information 631-687-4766

Learn while lending a hand. Explore the dynamic dune line and beach on a 1.7 mile hike to the breach at Old Inlet. On the way back, help clean the beach. Bring drinking water, dress for the weather and for walking on sand.

Saturday

September 28
10 – 11:30 am

Documents in Stone - William Floyd Estate

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

This program provides a unique introduction to genealogical research, as you explore the William Floyd family cemetery. 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.

Sunday

September 29:
10 am – 3 pm

12th Annual "Cruise to the Light" Auto Show: - Robert Moses State Park Field #4

\$5/spectator, children under 12 free: call 631-661-4876

Fire Island Lighthouse fundraiser at Robert Moses State Park (*no dogs allowed*).

Sunday

September 29
11:30 am - 1 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 becomes a temporary home to thousands of migrating monarch butterflies. Celebrate this natural phenomenon on a ranger-led walk and learn more about these beautiful insects and the remarkable journey they make to the mountains of central Mexico.

Fire Island National Seashore Facilities Open after Labor Day (September 2, 2013)

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

June 29 – Labor Day, staffed weekends & holidays 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Building/restrooms open ½-hour before ferry departs. *Closed from Oct. 15 until May 2014, but watch for special programs!*

William Floyd Estate - 631-399-2030

Grounds Open **May 24 – Nov. 11, 2013**, Friday – Sunday & holidays, 9 am – 5 pm

Old Mastic House Open **May 24 – Nov. 11, 2013**, Friday – Sunday & holidays, 10 am – 4 pm

Free house tours every half-hour. *Watch for special grounds tours during the fall, winter and spring!*

Wilderness Visitor Center - 631-281-3010 (Wed-Sun 9-4, September)

Sept. 3 -30, 2013: Wednesday-Sunday, 9 am – 4 pm

Oct. 1 – Jan. 1, 2014: Friday-Sunday & holiday Mondays, 9 am – 4 pm

Closed on Thanksgiving & Christmas days.

New (effective September 13, 2013): Sportsman's Recreational Driving Permits will be issued at the Wilderness Visitor Center, **for use between September 18 and December 31, 2013**, but the recreational driving area will be reduced to a length of about 1¼ miles while the breach at Old Inlet remains open; *ORV driving could be suspended at any time.*

New: Backcountry camping reservations for required permits must be obtained online at **Recreation.gov**

All Wilderness/backcountry overnight camping permit check-in is required at the Watch Hill Visitor Center during hours of operation or at the Watch Hill Ranger Station after Labor Day. Access to both east and west wilderness/backcountry camping zones will be from the west as long as the breach at Old Inlet is open:

Ferry from Patchogue to Watch Hill: Friday afternoon – Sunday & holiday through October 14 only = **1½ - 5 mile hike**

Ferry from Patchogue to Davis Park: Daily through Nov. 1, weekends only through Dec. 1 = **2½ - 6 mile hike**

Ferry from Sayville to Fire Island Pines: Daily through Dec. 22, except 11/28/2013 = **5½ - 10 mile hike**

Watch Hill

Watch Hill Ferry Service - 631-475-1665

Sept. 3 – Sept. 6, 2013: M-F: LV Patchogue 10:15 am/3:30 pm + 6:30 pm Friday;

Sept. 7 – Oct. 13, 2013: F: LV Patchogue 3:30 pm + 6 pm Friday;

Sa-Su: LV Patchogue 10:20 am/12:15 pm/3:30 pm

M: LV Patchogue 10:20 am/3:30 pm

Watch Hill Marina - 631-597-3109

June 21 – Sept. 2, 2013: Mon-Wed.: \$1/ft + elec.; Thur.-Sun.: \$2/ft + elec. (*\$1.50/ft + elec. Su special with Fr-Sa stay*)

Sept. 3 – Oct. 20, 2013: F-Sa & holiday; \$2/ft + elec.; Su-Th \$1/ft + elec.

Watch Hill Campground – 631-567-6664

May 11 - October 20, 2013; reservations accepted on-line at www.watchhillfi.com

(Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry service only available on weekends Sept. 7 through Oct. 14)

Watch Hill Snack Bar & General Store

June 22 – Sept. 2, 2013: M-Th: 9:30 am-5:15 pm; Fri. 7 am-5:15 pm; Sa-Su: 7am-6:30 pm

Sept. 3 – Oct. 14, 2013: Daily: 11 am-4 pm

The Pier at Watch Hill Restaurant – 631-597-9060 (call for reservations)

June 27- Sept. 1, 2013: Thursday – Saturday, 5 pm – 12 am, Sunday 10-1

Sept. 6 – 14, 2013: Friday – Saturday, 5 pm – 12 am

(More)

Fire Island National Seashore Facilities Open after Labor Day (September 2, 2013)

Watch Hill (cont.)

Watch Hill Visitor Center - 631-597-6455

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

Sept. 3 – Oct. 14, 2013 weekends & holidays 11 am – 4 pm **Salt Marsh Tours** at 11:30 am weekends

New: Backcountry camping reservations for required permits must be obtained online at **Recreation.gov**

All Wilderness/backcountry overnight camping permit check-in is required at the Watch Hill Visitor Center during hours of operation or at the Watch Hill Ranger Station after Labor Day. Access to both east and west wilderness/backcountry camping zones will be from the west as long as the breach at Old Inlet is open:

Ferry from Patchogue to Watch Hill: Friday afternoon – Sunday & holiday through October 14 only = **1½ - 5 mile hike**

Ferry from Patchogue to Davis Park: Daily through Nov. 1, weekends only through Dec. 1 = **2½ - 6 mile hike**

Ferry from Sayville to Fire Island Pines: Daily through Dec. 22, except 11/28/2013 = **5½ - 10 mile hike**

Watch Hill Lifeguarded Beach

June 28 – Labor Day: Monday-Friday 10 am – 5 pm; weekends 10 am – 6 pm

Talisman/Barrett Beach – restrooms open through October 14

Sailors Haven

Sayville Ferry Service - 631-589-8980

June 22 – Sept. 2, 2013: M-F: LV Sayville 9:30 am/11:15 am/1:15 pm/3:15 pm/5 pm;

Sa-Su: LV Sayville 9:20 am/10:30 am/11:45 am/1:30 pm/3:45pm/5 pm/6 pm

Sept. 3 – Sept. 8, 2013: Daily: LV Sayville 10:30 am/2:30 pm

Sept. 14 – Sept. 15, 2013: Sa-Su only: LV Sayville 10:30 am/11:45 am/2:30 pm/4 pm

Sept. 21 – Oct. 14, 2013: Sa-Su & Columbus Day only: LV Sayville 10:30 am/2:30 pm

Sailors Haven Marina - 631-597-6171

June 21 – Sept. 2, 2013: Daily: \$2/ft + elec. (\$1.50/ft + elec. Monday special with Sunday night stay)

Sept. 3 – Oct. 27, 2013: Su-Th \$ 1/ft + elec.; F-Sa & hol.; \$2/ft + elec.

Sailors Haven Snack Bar & Gift Shop

June 22 – Sept. 2, 2013: M-F: 10:15 am - 5:15 pm; Sa-Su: 9 am - 6:15 pm

Sept. 3 – Oct. 14, 2013: Daily: 11 am - 3 pm

Sailors Haven Visitor Center - 631-597-6183

June 29 – Labor Day: Wednesday-Friday 10 am – 5 pm; weekends 10 am – 6 pm **Sunken Forest Tours** 11 am Wed-Sun.

Sept. 3 – Oct. 14, 2013: weekends & holidays 11 am – 3 pm **Sunken Forest Tours** at 11:30 am weekends

Sailors Haven Lifeguarded Beach

June 28 – Labor Day: Monday-Friday 10 am – 5 pm; weekends 10 am – 6 pm

Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876

May 25 – Labor Day: Daily 9:30 am – 5:30 pm **No Tower Tours** during construction

Sept. 3 – Nov. 3, 2013: Daily 9:30 am – 5 pm *Last tower tour at 4 pm.* **No Tower Tours** during construction

Nov. 4 – Dec. 15, 2013: daily Noon – 4 pm **Closed on Thanksgiving day.** *Last tower tour at 3 pm.*

Dec. 16, 2013 – Mar. 31, 2014: weekends Noon – 4 pm **Closed on Christmas day.** *Last tower tour at 3 pm.*

Boardwalks damaged by the storm are not expected to be repaired until later in 2013, requiring visitors to walk down the beach (about ¾ mile) to access the Lighthouse. Pre-planned rehabilitation work is underway into the fall.