

# Fire Island

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

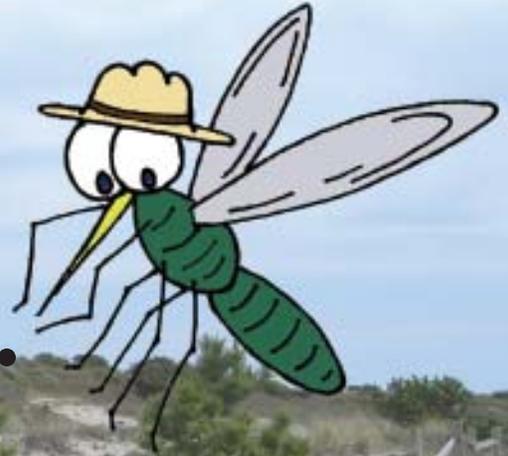
Fire Island National Seashore  
Long Island, New York



Summer 2009

## Summer BUZZ

Fire Island Program Schedule



### *A Message from the Superintendent:*

Summer is here at last and it is time to think about trips to the beach and lazy afternoons outdoors, taking walks in the woods or going boating. Fire Island National Seashore is a great place to consider for any of these activities. For the folks that work at Fire Island National Seashore summer begins in May and lasts into October. This is our busiest season and we welcome it and all our visitors to come and enjoy the wonders of Fire Island and its Great South Beach, the Great South Bay, and the magnificent William Floyd Estate in Mastic Beach on Long Island.

Fire Island National Seashore is one of about 400 parks that make up the National Park System. It is a special place that has been set aside for both the protection of its special features but also for their enjoyment by visitors both today and in years to come. Any visit to Fire Island National Seashore, whether on the water, the beach or walking a trail through the Sunken Forest or at the William Floyd Estate, results in an encounter with nature's bounty. The plant and animal life throughout the park are part of an annual pageant that is intriguing as well as a natural wonder.

In May visitors can experience the return of various migrating birds. Piping Plover, found nesting on the beach, are a protected species, thus the symbolic fences along the beach to keep visitors away from the nests until the Plover chicks are fledged. During the full moon of May and June, horseshoe crabs lay their eggs in the sand of Fire Island's bay beaches. Terns have also arrived and are nesting on the beach as well. Dogwood trees are in bloom at the William Floyd Estate and on the beach the dune grasses are sprouting new shoots and turning green again.

Throughout the rest of the summer Fire Island's plants and animals each have their turn on center stage. Sanderlings are in greater numbers in June and July running along the beach in search of food just along the water's edge retreating landward ahead of each new wave. At dusk, little brown bats are a common sight as they search for flying insects especially around Fire Island's many salt marshes where mosquitoes are most abundant. Box turtles are often encountered on a hike at the William Floyd Estate many of which have resided there for decades. In August, Phragmites, the tall reed-like plant also found in wetlands, mature and their blooms turn deep purple. At night the sounds of katydids fill the air. In September the Monarch Butterflies undertake their great migration back to Florida and Mexico and can be seen in extraordinary numbers on Fire Island. Also in September seaside goldenrod is in full bloom, beach plums are ripe, and by October Fire Island's poison ivy is starting to turn brilliant red. For sport fisherman the late summer is a great time for surf casting for bluefish.

These are just a few of nature's wonders that any visitor will encounter. While enjoying them and the park's many recreation facilities, we ask visitors to take a few but important safety precautions. Wear protective footwear, avoid grassy and bushy areas which have poison ivy and high tick populations, drink plenty of water while out in the sun and use sunscreen, and swim only at a lifeguarded beach or with others in safe conditions.

Whether attending a ranger-led program, hiking, or just relaxing in boat in a marina or on the beach, enjoy your visit and please return often to experience the many wonders that are Fire Island National Seashore.

Chris Soller

Superintendent

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Fire Island  
National Seashore  
was established in  
September 1964



"for the purpose of conserving and preserving for the use of future generations certain relatively unspoiled and undeveloped beaches, dunes, and other natural features within Suffolk County, New York, which possess high values to the Nation."

# How Do I Get There?

## Ferry Schedule 2009

### Fire Island Lighthouse

By car via the Robert Moses Causeway

#### Fire Island Ferries

631-665-3600 or 666-3600

[www.fireislandferries.com](http://www.fireislandferries.com)

Bay Shore to:

Kismet\*  
Saltaire  
Fair Harbor  
Dunewood\*  
Atlantique\*  
Ocean Beach  
Seaview\*  
Ocean Bay Park\*  
*\*Seasonal Only*

Cross-bay and lateral water taxi

#### Fire Island Water Taxi

631-665-8885

[www.fireislandwatertaxi.com](http://www.fireislandwatertaxi.com)

*Seasonal Only*



### Fire Island Lighthouse

#### Directions

Located at the southern terminus of the Robert Moses Causeway, just east of Robert Moses State Park. Parking available at Robert Moses State Park Field #5. **(Fee for parking)**

1-mile walk from Kismet.

### Sailors Haven

By ferry via the Sayville Ferry Service

631-589-8980

[www.sayvilleferry.com](http://www.sayvilleferry.com)

#### Lv. Sayville

#### Lv. Sailors Haven

#### June 26 thru September 7

#### Monday thru Friday, inclusive

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| *9:30am | *10:00am |
| 11:15am | 11:45am  |
| 1:15pm  | 1:45pm   |
| *3:15pm | *4:00pm  |
| 5:00pm  | 5:30pm   |

#### Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays

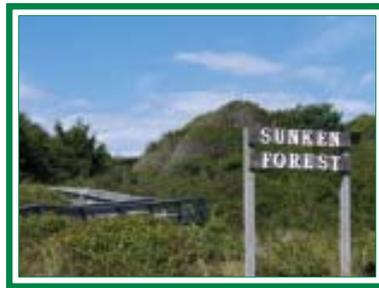
|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| *9:15am | *9:45am |
| 10:30am | 11:00am |
| 11:45am | 12:15pm |
| 1:30pm  | 2:00pm  |
| *3:45pm | *4:15pm |
| 5:00pm  | 5:30pm  |
| 6:00pm  | 6:40pm  |

Trips marked \* run rain or shine.

Others may be canceled in inclement weather.

Call for weather update if in doubt

631-589-8980.



### Sailors Haven

#### Directions

LIE (I-495) or Sunrise Hwy. (Rt.27) to Nicholls Rd. (Rt.97) South. Approx. 5.5 miles to third light, Montauk Hwy. (Rt. 85), make right. Go under R.R. overpass, make left at first light, Foster Ave. in Sayville. Follow green & white "Fire Island Ferry" signs to terminal. **(Fee for parking)**

### Talisman

Access by private boat or by chartered ferry from Patchogue via the Davis Park Ferry or from Sayville via the Sayville Ferry.



### Talisman

#### Directions

Access by private boat or by chartered ferry from Patchogue via the Davis Park Ferry or from Sayville via the Sayville Ferry.

# Fire Island Map

## Watch Hill

By ferry via the Davis Park Ferry Company, Inc. **631-475-1665**  
[www.davisparkferry.com](http://www.davisparkferry.com)

Lv. Patchogue Lv. Watch Hill

June 27 thru September 7

Monday thru Friday

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 8:45am   |          |
| 10:15am  | 11:00am  |
| *12:30pm | * 1:15pm |
| 3:10pm   | 3:50pm   |
| 5:00pm   | 5:45pm   |

Saturday & Sunday  
and 9/7 Labor Day

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 8:30am   | 9:05am   |
| 10:00am  | 10:45am  |
| *12:00pm | *12:45pm |
| 1:45pm   | 2:30pm   |
| *3:30pm  | * 4:15pm |
| 5:30pm   | 6:30pm   |
|          | *10:00pm |

*Saturday Only*

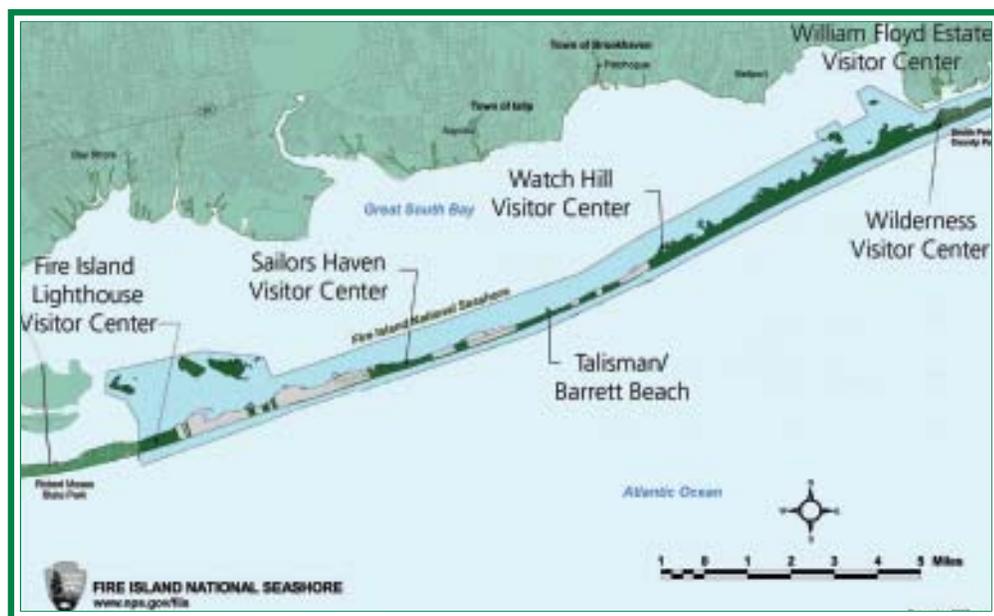
\* **Weather Permitting Boats.** If weather is inclement, please call Davis Park Ferry at 631-475-1665 to see if they will run. For Saturday 10:00pm boat please call Watch Hill Restaurant at 631-597-9060 to see if it is running.

## Fire Island Wilderness

By car or bus via the William Floyd Parkway **631-281-3010**

## William Floyd Estate

By car via the William Floyd Parkway **631-399-2030**



## Watch Hill

### Directions

Located on West Ave. Patchogue, NY. From LIE (I-495) to Exit 61 South (County Rd 19) or Sunrise Hwy (Rt 27) to Exit 52 South (County Rd. 19). About 1 mile down, bear left, cross Main Street onto West Avenue. Ferry terminal is about 1/2 mile down West Avenue.

## Fire Island Wilderness

### Directions

Located at the southern terminus of William Floyd Parkway. Parking available at Smith Point County Park. **(Fee for parking)**

## William Floyd Estate

### Directions

LIE (I-495) or Sunrise Hwy (Rt.27) to William Floyd Parkway (2 miles) south. Cross over R.R., and make left onto Neighborhood Rd. (Mastic Business District), to end of road, follow William Floyd Estate signs to main parking lot. Follow boardwalk to the house.

# Sailors Haven Summer Programs 2009

Fire Island  
National Seashore



Daily Schedule: July 1 - September 7, 2009

|  | Sunday                       | Monday                       | Tuesday                      | Wednesday                    | Thursday                     | Friday                           | Saturday                     |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>10:00 a.m.</b>  | Visitor Center<br>10:00-6:30 | Visitor Center<br>10:00-5:00     | Visitor Center<br>10:00-6:30 |
| <b>11:00 a.m.</b>  | Sunken Forest<br>Tour            | Sunken Forest<br>Tour        |
| <b>2:00 p.m.</b>   | Catch of Day/<br>Horse Demo  |                              |                              |                              |                              | Jr. Ranger: Path<br>to Discovery | Seaside Stories<br>& Crafts  |
| <b>2:30 p.m.</b>   | Sunken Forest<br>Tour        |                              |                              |                              |                              |                                  | Sunken Forest<br>Tour        |
| Lifeguards on duty Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. |                              |                              |                              |                              |                              |                                  |                              |

## Sailors Haven Visitor Center

Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday - Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
**631-597-6183**

## Ranger-Conducted Programs

### Sunken Forest Tour

Monday - Friday 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday & Sunday 11:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.  
Meet at Sailors Haven Visitor Center  
Explore the unique wonders of the crown jewel of Fire Island—the Sunken Forest. 1½ hours.



### Junior Ranger: Path to Discovery Program

Friday 2:00 p.m.  
Meet at Sailors Haven Visitor Center  
(Children 8-12 years)  
Be a part of the Junior Ranger program at Fire Island. Our Junior Ranger team presents a different program each week to help kids learn about the special places and things protected by Fire Island National Seashore. 1½ hours.

4 Summer BUZZ: Fire Island Program Schedule

### Children's Hour: Seaside Stories & Crafts

Saturday 2:00 p.m.  
Meet at Sailors Haven Visitor Center  
(Children 5-7 years)

Come listen to stories of the seashore environment. Whether it's whales, horseshoe crabs, turtles, birds, deer, trees or stars, children will be entertained while learning all about our natural world. Create a craft you can take home. 1 hour.

### Catch of the Day

Sunday 2:00 p.m.  
Meet at Sailors Haven Visitor Center  
(All ages and levels welcome)

Discover the common marine life in the Great South Bay using a seine net and dip nets. Participants must wear water shoes. Plan to walk about ½ mile. 1½ hours.



### NPS Patrol Horse Demonstration

Sunday 2:00 p.m. (Dates TBA)  
Meet at Sailors Haven Visitor Center  
Be escorted to the horse and meet the ranger/volunteer who will demonstrate the skills needed to take care of this magnificent animal and explain how the animal is cared for. 1 hour.

# Watch Hill Summer Programs 2009

Fire Island  
National Seashore



Daily Schedule: July 1 - September 7, 2009

|   | Sunday                      | Monday                      | Tuesday                     | Wednesday                   | Thursday                    | Friday                          | Saturday                    |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>9:00 a.m.</b>  | Visitor Center<br>9:00-6:30 | Visitor Center<br>9:00-5:00 | Visitor Center<br>9:00-5:00 | Visitor Center<br>9:00-5:00 | Visitor Center<br>9:00-5:00 | Visitor Center<br>9:00-6:30     | Visitor Center<br>9:00-6:30 |
| <b>10:00 a.m.</b>   | Canoe sign up               |                             |                             |                             | Canoe sign up               | Canoe sign up                   | Canoe sign up               |
| <b>11:00 a.m.</b>   | Guided Canoe<br>Tour        |                             |                             |                             | Guided Canoe<br>Tour        | Guided Canoe<br>Tour            | Guided Canoe<br>Tour        |
| <b>2:00 p.m.</b>  | Catch of Day/<br>Horse Demo |                             |                             |                             |                             | Jr.Ranger: Path<br>to Discovery | Seaside Stories<br>& Crafts |
| Lifeguards on duty Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.<br>Wilderness backcountry camping registration available during visitor center hours |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                                 |                             |

## Watch Hill Visitor Center

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday - Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**631-597-6455**

## Ranger-Conducted Programs

### Guided Canoe Tour

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday 11 a.m.

*Children under the age of 6 not permitted on trip)*

*(Reservations start @ 10:00 a.m. the day of the program in person at the visitor center; limit 24 paddlers)*

Explore the Watch Hill salt marsh, some of nature's most productive real estate. Canoes, paddles, & life jackets provided. Participants must be able to swim. **2 hours.**



### Junior Ranger: Path to Discovery Program

Friday 2:00 p.m.

Meet at Watch Hill Dune Station

*(Children 8-12 years)*

Be a part of the Junior Ranger program at Fire Island. Our Junior Ranger team presents a different program each week to help kids learn about the special places and things protected by Fire Island National Seashore. **1½ hours.**

### Children's Hour: Seaside Stories & Crafts

Saturday 2:00 p.m.

Meet at Watch Hill Dune Station

*(Children 5-7 years)*

Come listen to stories of the seashore environment. Whether it's whales, horseshoe crabs, turtles, birds, deer, trees or stars, children will be entertained while learning all about our natural world. Create a craft you can take home. **1 hour.**

### Catch of the Day

Sunday 2:00 p.m.

Meet at Watch Hill Visitor Center

*(All ages and levels welcome)*

Discover the common marine life in the Great South Bay using a seine net and dip nets. Participants must wear water shoes. Plan to walk about ½ mile. **1½ hours.**

### NPS Patrol Horse Demonstration

Sunday 2:00 p.m. *(Dates TBA)*

Meet at Watch Hill Visitor Center

Be escorted to the horse and meet the ranger/volunteer who will demonstrate the skills needed to take care of this magnificent animal and explain how the animal is cared for. **1 hour.**



# Wilderness Visitor Center Summer Programs 2009

Fire Island  
National Seashore



Daily Schedule: July 1 - September 7, 2009

|   | Sunday                      | Monday                      | Tuesday                     | Wednesday                   | Thursday                    | Friday                           | Saturday                    |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>9:00 a.m.</b>  | Visitor Center<br>9:00-6:00 | Visitor Center<br>9:00-4:30 | Visitor Center<br>9:00-4:30 | Visitor Center<br>9:00-4:30 | Visitor Center<br>9:00-4:30 | Visitor Center<br>9:00-6:00      | Visitor Center<br>9:00-6:00 |
| <b>10:00 a.m.</b>   |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                                  | Mid-Morning<br>Stroll       |
| <b>2:00 p.m.</b>  |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             | Jr. Ranger: Path<br>to Discovery | Seaside Stories<br>& Crafts |
| Parking is available at Smith Point County Park <i>(Fee Charged)</i><br>Wilderness backcountry camping registration available during visitor center hours |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                                  |                             |

## Otis Pike Wilderness Visitor Center

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday - Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

631-281-3010

## Ranger-Conducted Programs

### Junior Ranger: Path to Discovery Program

Friday 2:00 p.m.

Meet at Wilderness Visitor Center

*(Children 8-12 years)*

Be a part of the Junior Ranger program at Fire Island. Our Junior Ranger team presents a different program each week to help kids learn about the special places and things protected by Fire Island National Seashore. 1½ hours.

### Mid-Morning Stroll

Saturday 10:00 a.m.

Meet at Wilderness Visitor Center

Explore the wonders of the beach or the mystique of New York's only federal wilderness area on this guided nature walk. You must be able to walk on sand. Bring water, hat, and sunscreen. 1½ hours.



Otis G. Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness Visitor Center at sunset.

### Children's Hour: Seaside Stories & Crafts

Saturday 2:00 p.m.

Meet at Wilderness Visitor Center

*(Children 5-7 years)*

Come listen to stories of the seashore environment. Whether it's whales, horseshoe crabs, turtles, birds, deer, trees or stars, children will be entertained while learning all about our natural world. Create a craft you can take home. 1 hour.



Learn about life in the Great South Bay from the visitor center aquariums. (Left: Oyster Toadfish, Right: Seahorse)

# Fire Island National Seashore 2009 Special Events

## Fire Island Trek

**June 25, 2009** (Evening Hike)  
**September 9-11, 2009** (3 Day Hike)  
(reservations required)

Fire Island National Seashore is hosting its 3-day Fire Island Trek this year on September 9-11, 2009.

A special evening hike—the new Twilight Trek—is scheduled for June 25, 2009, from noon to 9:00 p.m.

Limited logistical support is available, but you must provide for your own transportation and parking, and pay for your own meals along the way. You will need to provide your own sleeping bag for overnight stays.

There is a nominal cost for lodging and logistical support.

The Fire Island Trek may be canceled at any time due to inclement weather.

For more information or reservations call 631-687-4765 or visit:

[www.nps.gov/fjis/FireIslandTrek.htm](http://www.nps.gov/fjis/FireIslandTrek.htm)

## Fire Island National Seashore's Traveling Trunk

(reservations required)

Have a ranger visit your classroom or camp with a traveling trunk full of seashore treasures to discover. If you are planning a site visit the trunk will stay in your classroom until the day of your trip. Once at the park, return the trunk and receive a ranger-led tour to complete the experience. Call 631-687-4765.

## Fire Island National Seashore's Educator Workshop

Spring of 2010

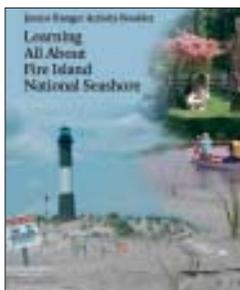
Learn how to enhance your students' field trip experience with activities designed to provide background knowledge in basic natural, cultural & historical resources at Fire Island National Seashore. For more information call 631-687-4765.

## Become a Junior Ranger

For kids ages 8 - 12. Pick up a free Junior Ranger activity booklet at any visitor centers. As you explore the park, complete the required activities and return to a visitor center information desk to receive your official Junior Ranger badge or patch. For more information, inquire at the visitor center information desk or call any of the visitor centers.

For even more fun, become a WebRanger. Visit:

[www.nps.gov/web ranger](http://www.nps.gov/web ranger)



The advanced booklet is for those 13 and older or for anyone who has successfully completed "Learning All About Fire Island National Seashore"

## Junior Ranger: Path to Discovery Program

**July 10 - August 28 Fridays 2:00 p.m.**

Become a Junior Ranger. Our team of rangers will be presenting a different program each week at our Wilderness, Watch Hill and Sailors Haven Visitors Centers to help kids ages 8-12 learn about special places called National Parks.

For more information, inquire at the visitor center information desk or call any of the visitor centers.



## Fire Island Lighthouse: Jr. Lighthouse Keeper

**July 8 - August 12 10:00 a.m.**

Wednesdays

(reservations required) **Fee charged.**

For more information or reservations please call 631-687-4765.

## Annual Labor Day Sand Creation Contest

**September 7 at Watch Hill & Sailors Haven**

Put your creativity and building skills into action at the annual sand creation contest to celebrate the end of the summer season. All ages are welcome.

For more information call:

Watch Hill @ 631-597-6455

Sailors Haven @ 631-597-6183



Sand Creation Contest 2008

## International Coastal Beach Clean-up 9/19/09

Fire Island National Seashore will participate in the International Coastal Clean-up. Work sites will be throughout the seashore.

For more information call 631-687-4765.



Beach Clean-up Crew

## Upcoming Schedule

|           |         |                                   |
|-----------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| September | 9-11    | Fire Island Trek                  |
|           | TBA     | Butterfly Migration Walk          |
| October   | 10      | Girl Scout Trek                   |
|           | 10      | WFE House Tour                    |
|           | 24      | WFE: Colonial Uses of Wood        |
|           | 31      | WFE: Documents in Stone           |
| November  | 7       | WFE: Cultural Landscape Walk      |
|           | 22      | WFE: Old Mastic Bird Walk         |
| December  | 27      | Wilderness Hike                   |
| January   | 26      | Wilderness Hike                   |
| February  | 2       | Wilderness Hike                   |
| April     | 13      | Hike for Nature Lovers            |
|           | 10 & 11 | National Service Day for Scouting |

# William Floyd Estate Summer Programs 2009

Fire Island  
National Seashore



## William Floyd Estate

May 22 - November 15, 2009

Friday - Sunday & Holidays

Grounds: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Old Mastic House: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**631-399-2030**

*Free self-guiding pamphlets for the outbuilding area and family cemetery are available at the Old Mastic House until 4:00 p.m.*

Plan to spend at least 2 hours at the William Floyd Estate to see the house, grounds and family cemetery.

## Ranger-Conducted Programs

### Old Mastic House Tour

May 22 - November 15, 2009

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Friday - Sunday & Holidays** Tours are limited to 6 people.

Visit the historic home of William Floyd and be guided through multiple generations of change from the 1720s to the 1970s. This free 1 hour guided tour of the furnished 25-room house is offered every half-hour. Last tour leaves at 4:00 p.m.

**The Old Mastic House is only available by guided tour.**

*Call 631-399-2030 to make your reservations for any special programs.*

### Cultural Landscape Walking Tour

May 30, November 7 10:00 a.m. **Reservations required.**

What's cultural landscape all about? On this Estate it's about how the Floyd family manipulated, changed, and adapted their land for various uses. The land changed from a plantation and working farm to a summer estate and hunting preserve. On this guided walk, we will look for the evidence of these changes history left behind.

### Trees, Wood and Tools:

#### The Colonial Uses of Wood

June 6, October 24 10:00 a.m. **Reservations required.**

This is a unique introduction to the trees, tools, and woods of the Colonial Period in New York. The Floyd Family used the pristine forests to build their beloved "Old Mastic House" and all of their barns and outbuildings. Samples of wood and tools used by the Floyds and their carpenters will be shown and explained. Weather permitting; a walk will be conducted to view specific types of trees that were used for various purposes by the Floyd Family.

### The Summer Gunner: The Art and Lore of Traditional Decoy Carving

July 4, August 22, September 12 11:00 a.m.

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

### Floyd Junior Ranger Programs

July 10, 17, 24, August 7, 14, 21 2:00 p.m.

(Children 8-12 years) **Reservations required.**

Be a part of the Junior Ranger program at the William Floyd Estate. Our Junior Ranger team presents a different program each week. After 3 Fridays, participating children will earn a Declaration of Independence and a pin. **1 hour.**

### Cradle to Grave:

#### The Life and Times of John G. Floyd, Jr.

July 11 10:00 a.m. **Reservations required.**

John G. Floyd, Jr. — a story of real people living in the Old Mastic House. He was a publisher, a lawyer, a Civil War veteran, a father, a widower and a European traveler. Follow his life through the Old Mastic House and finish in the family cemetery with a grave stone rubbing.

### The Old West Lane Walk

July 18 10:00 a.m. **Reservations required.**

This leisurely nature stroll along the Old West Lane will point out trees, shrubs, flowers, and birds along the road. The road basically follows one of the early entrance roads into the Estate.

### Old Mastic House: A Simple Architectural Study

June 20, October 10 10:00 a.m. **Reservations required.**

Visitors will be given a simple architectural review of the Old Mastic House. Colonial, Victorian and Greek Revival architecture, among other styles, are all represented here and each will be seen and explained. Eighteenth century doors, post and beam framing and 12 over 12 windows are just some of the details to be examined.

### Documents in Stone

September 19, October 31 10:00 a.m. **Reservations required.**

It's a unique introduction to genealogical research. Visitors are shown 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 a grave stone rubbing home.

# Fire Island Lighthouse Summer Programs 2009

Fire Island  
National Seashore



## Fire Island Lighthouse

Year-round, Daily

### Tower Tours Available

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Fee charged.**

Check their website;

[www.fireislandlighthouse.com](http://www.fireislandlighthouse.com)

or call for hours of operation.

631-661-4876

For more information about programs and fee schedule call the *Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society* at 631-661-4876 or visit [www.fireislandlighthouse.com](http://www.fireislandlighthouse.com)

### NEW Summer Evenings

Extended Summer Evening Hours:  
Fridays & Saturdays in July  
until 7:30 pm

## May

### 5th Annual Long Island Lighthouse Challenge

Challenge yourself to visit all 12 of Long Island's historic lighthouses, starting with the Fire Island Lighthouse! For more information, visit: [www.longislandlighthouses.com](http://www.longislandlighthouses.com)

## June

### Horseshoe Crab Program

June 6

Reservations required. **Fee charged.**

Learn about horseshoe crabs and watch them come ashore to lay their eggs.

### 8th Annual Art Show

June 25 - July 19

Local artists display their artwork in the Keepers Quarters at the Lighthouse. Opening reception will be held on June 25th, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Artwork is for sale.

## July

### Jr. Lighthouse Keepers Summer Program

July 8 - August 12 10 a.m. - noon.

Call for application. **Fee charged.**

Scheduled activities every Wednesday for six weeks.

### Sunrise Tower Tour

July 11 5 a.m.

Reservations required. **Fee charged.**

### Light Keepers

#### Behind the Scenes Tour

July 11 9 a.m.

Reservations required. **Fee charged.**

Limit 12 people.

## August

### National Lighthouse Day

August 7

Call for more information.

Reduced tower tours fee all day.

Free children's programs.

### 23rd Annual "Barefoot Black Tie Dinner Dance"

August 8 6:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Reservations required. **Fee charged.**

For more information or tickets call: 631-321-7028.

### Sunrise Tower Tour

August 15 5:30 a.m.

Reservations required. **Fee charged.**

### Amateur Radio Lighthouse Weekend

August 15, 16

Ham radio operators set up on the terrace and Keeper's Quarters to talk with other operators from around the world.



Fire Island Lighthouse as seen from the west.

## Fire Island Lighthouse Fall Schedule

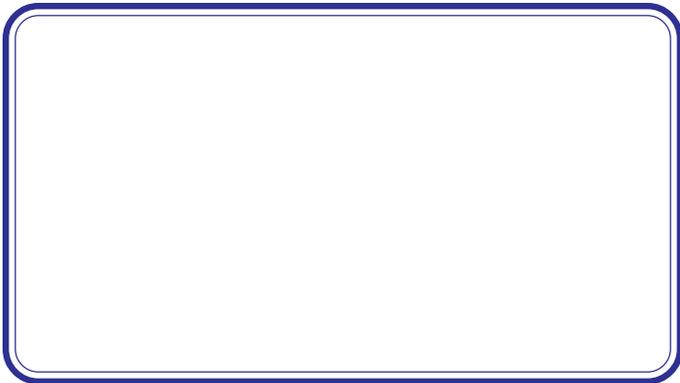
Call for fees and reservations.

|           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
| September | 12 | Light Keepers Behind the Scenes Tour                                 |
|           | 27 | 8th Annual Auto Show   |
| October   | 3  | Lantern Light Tour   |
|           | 24 | Ghost Stories and Legends of Fire Island                             |
| November  | 1  | Evening Tower Tour, 4:30 p.m.  |
|           | 7  | Sunrise Tower Tour, 6:00 a.m.  |
|           | 14 | Light Keepers Behind the Scenes Tour                                 |
|           | 28 | Tree Trimming Event, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.                          |
| December  | 2  | Evening Tower Tour, 4:00 p.m.  |
|           | 12 | 7th Annual Re-Enactment of the Flying Santa, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. |
|           | 31 | Evening Tower Tour, 4:00 p.m.  |



### Take a Hike!

Go on a ranger-led walk or take a walk with family and/or friends. Look for different animals as you go. Draw the animal in the box. Fill in the information and write a “Did you know” fact. Make several to put together as a book or display them on a wall.



**Name of Animal:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Habitat:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Predators:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prey/ Food:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Did you know.....**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Word Hunt

How many different words can you make using the letters in the words: **NATIONAL SEASHORE**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

### Sand Art

Create your very own masterpiece using the different sands found on Fire Island.

#### Materials Needed:

- \* Different colored sand found on Fire Island
- \* 3 small containers
- \* White glue (dries clear)
- \* Popsicle stick
- \* Pencil/ Crayon
- \* Piece of cardboard

#### Directions:

1. Take a walk on the beach and collect different colored sands in separate containers.
2. Draw a design using the pencil or crayon on the piece of cardboard. HINT: Larger geometric shapes work best!
3. Pick one color of sand to start. Using the popsicle stick spread a thin layer of glue on the shapes where you would like to use that color.
4. Carefully shake some of the sand onto the glue until all of the glue is covered.
5. Repeat steps #3 and #4 with the other colors of sand.
6. Allow glue to dry and then shake off excess sand.

**Congratulations! You did it!**

#### Did you know?

Three different sands are found on Fire Island. The white sand is quartz, the red sand is garnet, and the black sand is magnetite. Magnetite is magnetic, so if you place a magnet into the sand the black sand will stick to it. Give it a try!



# Volunteer Spotlight

## Presidential Volunteer Award

Carmen Mejia has served as a campground host at Fire Island National Seashore's Watch Hill campground since 1984. The camping season begins in May and continues into October. Carmen works up to 16 hours a day during the weekend. Her major role and function is making sure campers have a safe and enjoyable visit while staying at Fire Island and to protect the park's resources. She carries out her duties with her outgoing cheerful personality, her knowledge of the local area and her skills in camping. In her twenty-five years of service, she has welcomed thousands of campers to the island and gives them all that famous smile. She is a true gem of Fire Island National Seashore.



Carmen Mejia receiving her Presidential Volunteer Service Award for which she completed over 5000 hours.

### Interested in Volunteering?

Fire Island National Seashore is one of 391 national parks in the system. Visitor center operation, environmental education and children's programs are just a small part of what is done at Fire Island. Many schools, organizations, scouts and the general public come to the park for educational programs and to experience the beauty of a National Seashore.

If you enjoy working with children or people in general and have a few hours to spare, we could use your help.

Interested in volunteering?  
Call Fire Island National Seashore's  
Volunteer Coordinator  
@ 631-687-4765



# What's New & Exciting?

## National Junior Ranger Day

April 25, 2009 was National Junior Ranger Day. Children participated in three Ranger-Led programs: *Animal Tracking*, *Orienteering*, and *United States Lifesaving Service*. Other activities were also presented throughout the day including seashore crafts and learning how to weave a bracelet. The park's Resource Management staff demonstrated how to take saltwater fish surveys and taught about life in the Great South Bay. Children were also able to complete one of the many Junior Ranger activity booklets: *All About Fire Island*, *Advanced*, *Bernie the Boater*, and *Oh Deer: Tracks to Facts*. Once a book was completed participants earned the award associated with that book. Sagamore Hill Historical Park also participated and introduced their activity booklets to the children.

**Save the Date: Next year's National Junior Ranger Day is April 24, 2010.**



Park Rangers, Rosemary O'Day and Justine Stefanelli, presenting a park orienteering program.

### Earn the honor of becoming a Fire Island National Seashore Junior Ranger

It's easy! Just stop in any of the park's visitor centers, during open hours, and ask for your very own Junior Ranger activity booklet. Need help completing your booklet? Our staff of rangers and volunteers will be more than willing to help. When you're done, return to the visitor center, our staff will check your book and present you with your award!



Fire Island National Seashore  
120 Laurel Street  
Patchogue, New York 11772  
phone: 631-687-4750  
[www.nps.gov/fiis](http://www.nps.gov/fiis)



Chief J. "Blue Claw" Crab  
reminds you to  
**THINK SAFETY  
FIRST!**

**RIP CURRENTS**  
**Break the Grip of the Rip!**

ESCAPE ESCAPE ESCAPE ESCAPE

RIP CURRENT

Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmers out to sea.

**IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT**

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

**SAFETY**

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information about rip currents can be found at the following web sites:  
[www.ripcurrents.usaa.gov](http://www.ripcurrents.usaa.gov)  
[www.afta.org](http://www.afta.org)

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

**Fire Island  
National Seashore  
Visitor Centers**

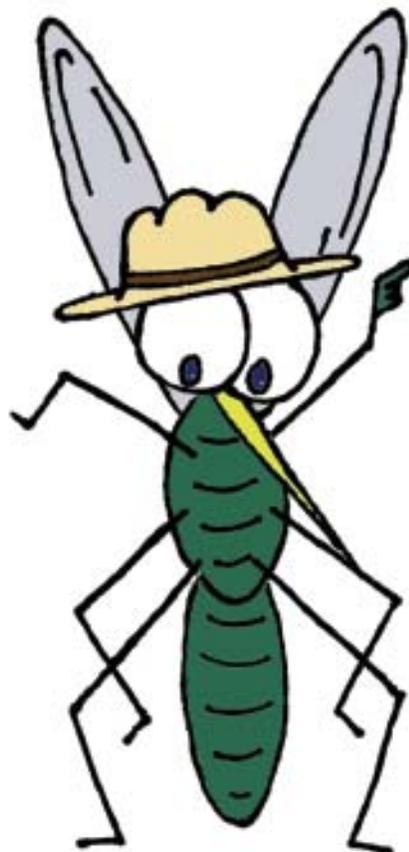
**Fire Island Lighthouse**  
631-661-4876  
*Open all year*

**Sailors Haven**  
631-597-6183  
*Open mid-May to mid-October*

**Watch Hill**  
631-597-6455  
*Open mid-May to mid-October*

**Fire Island Wilderness**  
631-281-3010  
*Open May to December  
Weekends to April*

**William Floyd Estate**  
631-399-2030  
*Open Memorial Day  
to mid-November.*



**Did You Know?**

\*When the Fire Island Lighthouse Tower was built in 1858, it took 800,000 bricks to complete.

\*The Sunken Forest is called the "Crown Jewel" of Fire Island and is about 300 years old.

\*A White-tailed deer can jump 9 feet high and can run up to a speed of 40 miles per hour.

\*The Sailors Haven Visitor Center was a restaurant during the 1960's.

