

April 2010



Special Programs this Month at Fire Island National Seashore

For More Information:

www.nps.gov/fiis
631-687-4750

Thursday

April 1:
11 am

Mystery History Game - Fire Island Lighthouse
(Free program. For more information call 631-661-4876)
1-hour special children's activity inside the Fire Island Lighthouse.

Sunday

April 4:
6 am

Early Morning Lighthouse Tower Tour - Fire Island Lighthouse
(\$20/person; reservations required: call 631-661-4876)
Come enjoy the scenery from the top of the tower as the sun rises and the moon starts to set. Tour includes a "light" breakfast and souvenir mug. Sunrise is at 6:32 am and moonset is at 10 am.

Sunday

April 11:
9 – 11 am

Old Mastic Signs of Spring – William Floyd Estate
(Free program; call for directions/information 631-399-2030)
See how many signs of spring we can find on this annual spring foray. Tree buds are swelling, early flowers should be blooming, and birds are starting to migrate at the Old Mastic Estate. Dress for the weather and enjoy a leisurely 2- to 3-mile roundtrip walk.

Friday

April 16:
7 pm

Star Watch: A Night of Astronomy – Wilderness Visitor Center
(Free program; call for directions/information 631-281-3010)
Led by a guest speaker, the whole family will enjoy a captivating slide show and a viewing of the night skies by telescope. Dress for the weather!

National Park Week: April 17-25, 2010

Fire Island National Seashore offers a variety of special programs and events during National Park Week.

Saturday

April 17:
8 am

Historic Area Lighthouse Trek - Fire Island Lighthouse
(\$15/person; reservations required: call 631-661-4876)
Meet at the eastern end of Field #5 at Robert Moses State Park. Join a guided walk to discover the rich historic landscape surrounding the Fire Island Lighthouse. 3-mile walk takes you to the site of the former Surf Hotel and Western Union tower, visiting the site of New York's first state park. Program includes souvenir mug and T-shirt.

Saturday

April 17:
11 am

Tea in the Lighthouse Keepers Quarters - Fire Island Lighthouse
(\$15/person; reservations required: call 631-661-4876)
Enjoy cookies and tea with Marilyn Mahler, the former "first lady" of the Fire Island Lighthouse, who shares stories of family life on a remote barrier island while her husband Gottfried served as the lighthouse keeper (1948-1954).

Saturday

April 17:
1 pm

"The Old Lamplighter" - Fire Island Lighthouse
(Free program; call for directions/information 631-661-4876)
Former lighthouse keeper Gottfried Mahler presents an illustrated program about his service at the Fire Island Lighthouse (1948-1954). Hear firsthand accounts and stories of life on Fire Island before the bridge.

Saturday

April 17:
2 pm

Seaside Stories and Crafts: Earth Day – Wilderness Visitor Center
(Free program, call for directions/information 631-281-3010)
Have fun while learning about the Earth, then create a craft to take home.
Geared for kids ages 5 - 7, but all are welcome!

Sunday

April 18:
9 am

Celebrate Earth Day Wilderness Guided Hike - Wilderness Visitor Center
(Free program; information: 631-281-3010)
Join ranger for a guided 3-mile round-trip hike into federally designated wilderness area.

Tuesday

April 20:
9 am

Fire Island Bird Hike - Fire Island Lighthouse
(Free program; call for directions/information 631-661-4876)
Meet at the northeastern end of Field #5 at Robert Moses State Park for a naturalist-guided bird walk, conducted by Larry Merryman of the Great South Bay Audubon Society.

(More)

Wednesday

April 21:
8 am – 4:30 pm

7th Biennial Science Conference – Patchogue Ferry Terminal

(Registration required by April 12: 631-687-5030 or www.nps.gov/fiis/scienceconference.htm)

Update on various research and monitoring programs within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore. Half-hour presentations on Day 1 focus on the Great South Bay. Free program, but seating is limited. *Reservations required.*

Thursday

April 22:
8 am – 4:30 pm

7th Biennial Science Conference – Patchogue Ferry Terminal

(Registration required by April 12: 631-687-5030 or www.nps.gov/fiis/scienceconference.htm)

Half-hour presentations on Day 2 focus on a variety of planning, research and monitoring programs within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore. Free program, but seating is limited. *Reservations required.*

Saturday

April 24:
11 am – 4 pm

National Junior Ranger Day - Fire Island Lighthouse

(Free program; call for information: 631-687-4765 or 631-661-4876)

Meet under the tent for a variety of activities and a chance to earn Fire Island National Seashore and Sagamore Hill National Historic Site Junior Ranger patches, badges, and pins. Kids ages 8 and up can participate in three distinct ranger-guided programs, arts & crafts activities, scientific technique programs, and more.

Sunday

April 25:
12:30 – 1 pm

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Open House - Patchogue Ferry Terminal

(Free program; call for information: 631-687-4759)

Join Fire Island National Seashore staff, park partners, and local officials for a pre-season view of the new Patchogue Ferry Terminal building. Ceremony at 12:30, followed by the art show reception (1 – 4 pm), building and boat tours, and more.

Sunday

April 25:
1 – 4 pm

Friends of Fire Island National Seashore Art Show Reception - Patchogue Ferry Terminal

(Free program; call for information: 631-687-4759)

The theme of the Friends of Fire Island National Seashore's 1st annual calendar art contest and exhibition is "The Essence of Fire Island." Approximately 30 of the semifinalist artists will display their work. Meet the artists and enjoy sharing your own stories of what makes Fire Island such a special place.

Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open in April

Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876

Open April through June—Daily, 9:30 am – 5 pm

Closed on Easter

Last tower tour 1 hour before closing

Wilderness Visitor Center - 631-281-3010

Open January 1 through June: Wednesday - Sunday, 9 am – 4 pm

Wilderness camping permits when office is open

Park Headquarters in Patchogue - 631-687-4750

Open all year, Monday - Friday, 9:30 – 4 pm

Closed on federal holidays

William Floyd Estate - 631-399-2030

Grounds open for special guided tours this spring; Old Mastic House reopens May 28, 2010

Watch for special programs this spring!

Sailors Haven and Watch Hill Facilities and The Pier at Watch Hill Restaurant

Closed until May 2010

Watch Hill Campground – www.watchhillfi.com 631-567-6664

Reservations for 2010 season accepted by mail after January 1