

April 2012



## Special Programs this Month Fire Island National Seashore

### For More Information:

[www.nps.gov/fiis](http://www.nps.gov/fiis)

631-687-4750

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

### Sunday

April 1:

9 – 11:30 am

#### Old Mastic Early Spring Bird Walk – William Floyd Estate

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

Search for early spring migrants and year-round avian species at the Old Mastic Estate. Bring binoculars, dress for the weather and be prepared for a 2- to 3-mile roundtrip walk.

### Saturday

April 7:

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 1- to 2-mile roundtrip walk.

### Sunday

April 8:

6 am

#### Early Morning Tower Tour: Easter Morning – 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. Sunrise is at 6:26 am. The Lighthouse will remain open until 12 noon.

### Saturday

April 14:

8 am

#### Historic Area Lighthouse Trek – Fire Island Lighthouse

*(\$15/person; reservations required; call for directions/information 631-661-4876)*

Meet at the eastern end in Field #5 of Robert Moses State Park. Join us for a guided walk around the historic surrounding area of the Fire Island Lighthouse. We'll visit the boat house, and sites where the historic Surf Hotel site and Western Union tower were located. Free tee shirt and “light” refreshments.

### Saturday

April 14:

10 – 11:30 am

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

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

This walking tour will reveal how the Floyd family changed, adapted and used their lands for their various purposes through the centuries. Evidence of cultural changes are all over the Estate, if you know how to look for them!

### Saturday

April 14:

Noon – 1 pm

#### Seaside Stories and Crafts: Earth Day – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Listen to stories about planet Earth, discover how you can help protect it, and create an earthen craft of your very own. This program is geared for children ages 5-7, but all are welcome to join.

### Sunday

April 15:

1 – 2:30 pm

#### Ocean to Bay: Two Sides of a Barrier Island – Fire Island Lighthouse

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

This general natural history walk will show both sides of the barrier beach and the area in between. Explore the ocean beach, maritime woods and bay shore. Discover shells, shorebirds, seaside plants and more.

### Friday

April 20:

7:30 – 10 pm

#### Star Watch: A Night of Astronomy – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Bring the family and join Astronomer Tom Carey for an exploration of the night skies over Fire Island. After an indoor presentation, head outdoors for the star viewing session. Telescopes will be provided; dress for the weather.

### National Park Week: April 21-29, 2012

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

### Saturday

April 21:

11 am – 4 pm

#### National Park Week – National Junior Ranger Day – Fire Island Lighthouse

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

Join us for a fun-filled day of activities and ranger-led programs at the Lighthouse, geared for ages 7 and up, but all are welcome.

- Complete the Jr. Ranger booklets and receive a special patch.
- “Let’s Move Outdoors” – Three mile round trip hike from the Lighthouse to Saltaire. Hike by reservation only, limited to 30 children. Bring lunch, drinking water and snacks.
- Displays and hands-on activities will be available all day under the Junior Ranger Tent : iPad Junior Ranger, Junior Ranger Orienteering , Animal Tracking, and more..

(more)

3-16-2012

## Sunday

April 22:  
9 – 11:30 am

### Old Mastic Earth Day Hike – William Floyd Estate

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

Search for early spring migrants and year-round resident birds at the Old Mastic Estate. Bring binoculars, dress for the weather and be prepared for a 2- to 3-mile roundtrip walk.

## Sunday

April 22:  
9 am – Noon

### Earth Day Wilds – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Celebrate Earth Day by exploring one of Earth's wild and untouched places. Join park rangers on this 3-mile roundtrip hike through Fire Island's Wilderness. Hiking is on sandy trails. Bring a light snack and water and dress for the weather.

## Sunday

April 22:  
2 pm

### John Corr in Concert – Fire Island Lighthouse Fresnel Lens Building

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

Enjoy live music by John Corr who performs traditional Irish and nautical music.

## Friday

April 27:  
8 am – 4:30 pm

### 8th Biennial Science Conference: Day 1 – Patchogue Ferry Terminal

*(Free on day 1, \$5 fee on day 2; call to directions/information/registration: 631-687-5030)*

Join us at the Patchogue Ferry Terminal for a series of guest presentations exploring current science and research at Fire Island National Seashore. During this 2-day conference, many scientific aspects of the park are shared.

## Saturday

April 28:  
8 am – 2 pm

### 8th Biennial Science Conference: Day 2 – Patchogue Ferry Terminal

*(Free on day 1, \$5 fee on day 2; call for directions/information/registration: 631-687-5030)*

Meet at the Patchogue Ferry Terminal for this second day of the Science Conference. Today we'll head outdoors for a field trip to Sailors Haven & Watch Hill for guided tours of research and project sites on Fire Island. Dress for the weather and pack your own lunch.

## Saturday

April 28:  
9 – 11:30 am

### Old Mastic Arbor Day Hike – William Floyd Estate

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

What is the difference between oaks and hickories and walnuts? What about cedars, pines and spruce? There are so many different kinds of trees. Learn to identify trees off-season without their leaves by using bark, buds and seeds. This can be fun and challenging!

## Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open in April 2012

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

*Open April 1 – June 30, daily 9:30 am – 5:00 pm. Closed Easter.*

*Last tower tour 1 hour before closing*

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

*Open January 1 through June 30: Daily, 9 am – 4 pm (staffing and weather permitting)*

*Wilderness camping permits when office is open*

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

*Old Mastic House closed until May 25, 2012;*

*New: April 6 – May 20 - Grounds open Friday – Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm; open May 25 – Nov. 12, 9 am – 5 pm*

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

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

*Closed on federal holidays.*

## Park Facilities reopening in May 2012

### Sailors Haven Marina - 631-597-6171

*Reopens May 4, 2012*

### Sayville Ferry Service - 631-589-8980

*Spring Schedule expected to begin mid-May 2012*

### Sailors Haven Visitor Center - 631-597-6183

*Reopens May 19, 2012, weekends through June 24; daily June 30 – Labor Day*

### Watch Hill Marina - 631-597-3109

*Reopens May 4, 2012*

### Watch Hill Campground – 631-567-6664 [www.watchhillfi.com](http://www.watchhillfi.com)

*Reopens May 12; reservations for 2012 season accepted on-line*

### Watch Hill Ferry Service -

*Spring Schedule expected to begin mid-May 2012*

### Watch Hill Visitor Center - 631-597-6455

*Reopens May 19, 2012, weekends through June 24; daily June 30 – Labor Day*

### The Pier at Watch Hill Restaurant

*Reopens May 25, 2012*

### Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

*Reopens May 2012*

Watch for the Friends of Fire Island National Seashore's

*"Essence of Fire Island" Nature Photography Exhibition opens late June*