

August 2009



Special Programs this Month at Fire Island National Seashore

For More Information:

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

Daily, 11 am;

And Weekends, 11 am & 2:30 pm **Explore the Sunken Forest Tour** - Sailors Haven
Every Thursday – Sunday, 10 am **Guided Canoe Trip Through the Marsh** - Watch Hill Visitor Center
Every Friday – Sunday, 10 am **Exploring Watch Hill Nature Walk** - Watch Hill

Saturdays

August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: **Mid-Morning Stroll** – Wilderness Visitor Center
10 am *(Free 1½-hour program; call for information 631-281-3010)*
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. Meet at the visitor center. No reservations needed.

August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: **Children's Hour: Seaside Stories and Crafts** – Wilderness, Watch Hill, Sailors Haven
2 pm *(Free 1-hour programs; call for information 631-687-4765)*
Different program each week for children ages 5-7. Listen to stories about the seashore environment, then create a craft to take home. Meet at the visitor center. No reservations needed.

Sundays

August 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: **Catch of the Day**– Wilderness, Watch Hill, Sailors Haven
2 pm *(Free 1½-hour programs; call for information 631-687-4765)*
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. Meet at the visitor center. No reservations needed.

Sunday

August 2:
11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm **The Life and Times of William Floyd —
Signing the Declaration of Independence** - William Floyd Estate
(Free ½-hour program; information: 631-399-2030)
Celebrate the anniversary date of William Floyd's signing of the *Declaration of Independence*. Join the ranger for a half-hour chat about the life and accomplishments of one of New York's four signers, who actually placed his signature on this document on August 2, 1776. William Floyd was born in the Old Mastic House, now a part of the William Floyd Estate at Fire Island National Seashore.

Friday

August 7:
10 am – 5 pm **National Lighthouse Day** - Fire Island Lighthouse
(Reduced tower tour fee all day. Free children's programs; 631- 661-4876)

Fridays

August 7, 14 & 21:
2 pm **New! Floyd Estate Junior Ranger Program** - William Floyd Estate
(Free program; reservations required: 631-399-2030)
New 3-week Junior Ranger program at the William Floyd Estate focuses on a different theme each week for three consecutive Fridays. Topics include the Floyd Family, the Old Mastic House, and the grounds and barns. During each 1-hour activity, students work on a comprehensive 26-page prototype for a new junior ranger workbook. After completion of the 3-week program, students will earn their own copy of the Declaration of Independence and a certificate. Program limited to 10 students with parental permission only.

Fridays

August 7, 14, 21 & 28: **Junior Ranger: Path to Discovery Program** – Wilderness, Watch Hill, Sailors Haven
2 pm *(Free programs; call for information 631-687-4765)*
Different program each week for kids ages 8-12, to learn more about special places called national parks. Meet at the visitor center. No reservations needed.

Saturday

August 8:
2 pm **Children's Hour: Seaside Stories and Crafts** – Talisman
(Free 1-hour program; call for information 631-687-4765)

August 8:
6:30 – 11 pm **23rd Annual "Barefoot Black Tie" Dinner Dance** - Fire Island Lighthouse
(\$95/person; advance sales only, reservations required: 631- 321-7028)
Major fundraising event to support the operation of the Fire Island Lighthouse.
All proceeds go to the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society.

August 8:
8:15 pm **Evening Program: Piping Plovers and Other T & E Species** – Watch Hill
(Free program; call for information 631-597-6455)
Join a field biologist to learn about the park's threatened and endangered plants and animals, and how park managers are helping them. Meet at the visitor center.

August 2009



Special Programs this Month at Fire Island National Seashore (cont.)

For More Information:
www.nps.gov/fiis

631-687-4750

Saturday

August 15:
5:30 am

Sunrise Tower Tour - Fire Island Lighthouse

(\$20/person; *reservations required*: 631- 321-7028)

Enjoy a unique view from the top of the tower as the sun slowly rises. Tour includes fresh hot coffee in a souvenir mug and light refreshments. Sunrise 6:03 AM.

August 15:
10 am – 12:30 pm

Boating Safety Program: Radar Seminar– Watch Hill

(\$40 *Materials Fee*; *ages 16 & older*; *reservations required*: 631-597-6455)

Learn about the use of radars functions, radar selection, operation, interpretation, basic collision and collision avoidance. Gain firsthand knowledge of techniques during 2½ hour course (not manufacturer specific). Meet at the Watch Hill Camp Store.

August 15:
2 pm

Catch of the Day– Talisman

(*Free 1½-hour program*; *call for information* 631-687-4765)

August 15:
7 pm

A World of Birds: Migration to Central America - Fire Island Lighthouse

(*Free 1-hour program*; *call for information* 631-687-4765 or 631- 661-4876)

Situated along the Atlantic Flyway, Fire Island is a major migratory pathway for birds during the fall. Have you ever wondered where they are all going? The park's International Volunteer-in-Parks intern from Guatemala explains how birds make their way to Central America. Get a brief history of ornithology, and learn about the bird research and conservation actions that are being taken in Central America.

August 15:
8:15 pm

Evening Program: Bedtime Stories by the Bay – Watch Hill

(*Free program*; *call for information* 631-597-6455)

Come and relax after a fun day in the sun, sand, and surf and drift away into the night as you listen to seaside tales read aloud. For children of all ages. Meet at the visitor center.

Saturday & Sunday

August 15 & 16:
10 am – 5 pm

Amateur Radio Lighthouse Weekend - Fire Island Lighthouse

Ham radio operators set up on the terrace and Keeper's Quarters to talk with other operators from around the world, demonstrating the invisible as well as visible signals of communications at the Fire Island Lighthouse.

Saturday

August 22:
11 am

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.

August 22:
8:30 pm

Star Watch: A Night of Discovery – Watch Hill

(*Free program*; *call for information* 631-687-4765 or 597-6455)

Enjoy a captivating slide show followed by viewing the night sky. Meet at the visitor center.

Sunday

August 23:
11:30 am

Dig It!: Watch Hill Archeology Program – Watch Hill

(*Free program*; *call for information* 631-597-6455)

Enjoy Be an Archaeologist for a day! Come explore a sandy dig site to uncover natural objects and artifacts of the past. Make a journal and record what you find.. Meet at the Watch Hill Dune Station.