

February 2010



## Special Programs this Month at Fire Island National Seashore

### For More Information:

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

Saturday

February 6:  
11 am

#### Seashells by the Seashore - Fire Island Lighthouse

*(Free program. For more information call 631-661-4876)*

Seashells come in different shapes, sizes and colors, and the winter is a good time to find many. Discover the life histories of some of the animals that make the shells you can find on Fire Island beaches. Meet at the Fire Island Lighthouse for a ranger-guided talk; weather permitting, a beach walk will follow to search for seashell treasures.

Saturday

February 6:  
2 pm

#### Seaside Stories and Crafts: Starry Night – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Have fun while learning about the night sky in winter, and create your own constellation to take home. Geared for kids ages 5 -7, but all are welcome!

Sunday

February 7:  
10 – 11:30 am

#### Inside the Park's Collections – William Floyd Estate

*(Free program. Reservations required; call 631-399-2030)*

Take an inside look at Fire Island National Seashore's museum collections. More than 100,000 objects are catalogued and stored in the park's curatorial storage facility. See christening dresses, 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramics, indentures, cartes de visite, and much more. Limit of 6 people. **Reservations required by February 5.**

Saturday

February 13  
9 am – Noon

#### Great Backyard Bird Walk – William Floyd Estate

*(Free program; Rain Date: Sunday, Feb. 14; call for directions/information 631-399-2030)*

Ranger-guided walk helps observe and record numbers of all bird species found at the William Floyd Estate during the annual Great Backyard Bird Count Weekend. It's a great way to get outside and enjoy nature in the wintertime, and participate in a vital citizen science project at the same time. Dress for the weather and a 3-mile roundtrip walk.

Saturday

February 13:  
9 am – Noon

#### Fire Island Wilderness Hike for Nature Lovers - Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Dress for the weather and join a ranger for a guided 3-mile round-trip hike on the beach and into New York's only federally designated wilderness area. Park at Smith Point County Park, meet at Wilderness Visitor Center.

Saturday

February 13:  
4 - 6 pm

#### "Lighthouses are for Lovers" - Fire Island Lighthouse

*(\$30/couple; reservations suggested: call 631-661-4876)*

Come enjoy the sunset with your "someone special." Climb the Fire Island Lighthouse tower and enjoy light refreshments, served at sunset (5:24 pm) on the terrace. Free flower and chocolates for couples with reservations.

Monday - Friday

February 15 - 19:  
11 am – 12:30 pm

#### Celebrate Presidents Week - Fire Island Lighthouse

*(Reduced fees for tower tours; free activities for kids: call 631-661-4876)*

Looking for something to do during the school break? Visit the Fire Island Lighthouse. Reduced tower tour fees (children must be 42 inches tall to climb). Special daily activity for children: story time, knots, nature walk, crafts—a different activity each day!

Friday

February 19:  
9 am – Noon

#### Exploring the Salt Marsh - Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Join this ranger-guided walk and discover the value and solitude of this important ecological community. Learn about role as part of the barrier island ecosystem. Dress for the weather (waterproof boots recommended). Park at Smith Point County Park, meet at Wilderness Visitor Center.

Sunday

February 21:  
9 – 11 am

#### The Old Mastic Way to the Bay – William Floyd Estate

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

Explore a fascinating cultural landscape and natural history. This ranger-guided walk from the Old Mastic House to the bay follows roads well used by the Floyd family from the mid-1700s to the 1970s. Along the way, discover signs of historic uses of the property. Pass through fields and woods, along mounds and ditches, cultural plantings, fresh water creeks, and the salt marsh on Moriches Bay. Dress for the weather. Be prepared for a 3-mile roundtrip walk.

Saturday

February 27:  
10 – 11:30 am

#### Inside the Park's Collections – William Floyd Estate

*(Free program. Reservations required; call 631-399-2030)*

Take an inside look at Fire Island National Seashore's museum collections. More than 100,000 objects are catalogued and stored in the park's curatorial storage facility. See christening dresses, 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramics, indentures, cartes de visite, and much more. Limit of 6 people. **Reservations required by February 26.**

Saturday

February 27:  
6 pm

#### Junior Ranger Workshop: Exploring the Night Sky – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Discover the significance and value of a dark night sky. Learn about winter constellations and complete the Junior Ranger Night Explorer activity booklet. Dress for the weather and be prepared for outdoor viewing. Kids ages 8 - 12!

Sunday  
February 28:  
9 – 11 am

**Old Mastic Winter Woods – William Floyd Estate**

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

Experiencing the winter woods in their dormant state is so different from the growing time of summer. Find and identify plants, seeds, birds, and the occasional evidence of other animal life on this serendipitous exploratory hike. Dress for the weather and be prepared for a 2- to 3-mile roundtrip walk.

Sunday  
February 28:  
5:15 pm

**Evening Lighthouse Tower Tour - Fire Island Lighthouse**

*(\$15 Fee; reservations required: call 631-661-4876)*

Experience the lighthouse at night. View the night sky during the Snow Moon from the top of the tower. Sunset at 5:42 pm and moonrise at 6:07 pm.

**Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open in February**

**Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876**

*Hours mid-December – March 31, Weekdays, 10 am – 4 pm; Weekends, Noon – 4 pm*

*Parking available at Robert Moses State Park, Field #5*

***Last tower tour 1 hour before closing***

**Wilderness Visitor Center - 631-281-3010**

*Hours January 1 through March 31: 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**

***Closed until May 2010, grounds open for special guided tours***

***Winter entrance at 20 Washington Avenue, Mastic Beach NY 11951***

***Watch for special programs this winter and spring!***

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

***Closed until May 2010***

**Watch Hill Campground - 631-597-6664**

***Reservations for 2010 season accepted by mail after January 1***