

February 2012



## Special Programs this Month at 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

February 5:  
9 – 11 am

### William Floyd Estate 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.

Saturday

February 11:  
10 – 11:30 am

### William Floyd Estate: In Honor of Trees – William Floyd Estate

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

What's 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, which can be fun and challenging. Dress for the weather and be prepared for a 2- to 3-mile roundtrip walk.

Saturday

February 11:  
Noon – 1 pm

### Seaside Stories and Crafts: Where Do Animals Live? – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Listen to stories about animal habitats in the Fire Island Wilderness and make a habitat craft of your own to take home. Geared for kids ages 5 -7, but all are welcome!

Saturday

February 11:  
4 - 6 pm

### “Lighthouses are for Lovers” - Fire Island Lighthouse

*(\$40/couple; reservations suggested: call 631-661-4876)*

Savor 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.

Sunday

February 12:  
9 am – Noon

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

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

Get away from it all! Spend a relaxing morning taking in the breathtaking sights and sounds of the winter beach and the Fire Island Wilderness. Dress for the weather and join a park ranger for a guided 3-mile round-trip hike to Old Inlet and back. Park at Smith Point County Park; meet at Wilderness Visitor Center.

Sunday

February 12:  
2 pm

### Lecture Series – Fire Island Lighthouse

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

Join us in the new Lens Building as retired NPS Chief Ranger Jay Lippert displays his hand made half ship models. He will be on hand to discuss the process of carving.

Saturday

February 18  
9 am – Noon

### Great Backyard Bird Walk – William Floyd Estate

*(Free program; Rain/Snow Date: Sunday, Feb. 19; call for information 631-399-2030)*

This ranger-guided bird walk, in cooperation with the Lab of Ornithology at Cornell, helps observe, document and record numbers of birds 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 winter and participate in a vital citizen science project at the same time. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather and a 3-mile roundtrip walk.

Saturday

February 18:  
10 am – Noon

### Great Backyard Bird Count – Fire Island Lighthouse

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

Help us contribute to this year's Great Backyard Bird Count, an annual bird tally conducted across the U.S. and Canada. During this program, we'll walk from ocean to bay on the western end of Fire Island, looking for our feathered friends. Our bird count will help scientists tell the story of winter birds here on Fire Island and elsewhere along their migration routes. Bring binoculars, pack a snack; dress for the weather and a 1½-mile roundtrip walk. Park and meet at Robert Moses State Park Field 5.

Saturday

February 18:  
11 am – 1 pm

### Great Backyard Bird Count – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

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Saturday

February 18:  
5 pm

### Evening Lighthouse Tower Tour - Fire Island Lighthouse

*(\$20/person; 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 is at 5:30 pm.

*(more)*

Monday - Friday  
February 20 - 24:  
11 am – 1 pm

### **Celebrate Presidents Week - Fire Island Lighthouse**

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

Looking for something to do with the kids? Come visit us! Reduced Tower Tour fees for children under 12 years old (must be 42 inches to climb). Special activity stations for children and scavenger hunt: **Lighthouses of Long Island**. Come visit our new addition – The Fire Island Light Station Fresnel Lens Building, which houses our original First Order Fresnel Lens. Special daily features inside the Fresnel Lens Building:

- Tuesday, **February 21**, 11 am – noon: **Lighthouse Origami**
- Wednesday, **February 22**, 11 am – noon: Vivian Farrell 's dramatic presentation, "**Robert's Tall Friend**"
- Friday, **February 24**, 11 am – noon: "**Light**" **Magic**

Saturday  
February 25:  
9 – 11:30 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 25:  
Noon – 1 pm

### **Junior Ranger Workshop: Discovering Habitats – Wilderness Visitor Center**

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

Discover Fire Island animals and their habitats during a short outdoor exploration into the Fire Island Wilderness. Dress for the weather. Geared for children 8-12, but all are welcome.

Sunday  
February 26:  
10 – 11:30 am

### **Ocean to Bay: Two Sides of a Barrier Island - Wilderness Visitor Center**

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

This general natural history walk will show both sides of the barrier beach and the area in between. We'll be on the lookout for winter birds, ocean-washed shells, maritime plants and mammals. Roundtrip walk 1 mile. Dress for the weather. Park at Smith Point County Park; meet at Wilderness Visitor Center.

Sunday  
February 26:  
2 pm

### **Lecture Series – Fire Island Lighthouse Fresnel Lens Building**

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

In her presentation, author Cheryl Dunbar Kahlke will share some of the personal recollections of those in her book, *Reminiscing About Ocean Beach and Fire Island*. All took place during the winters on Fire Island, in a bygone era and way of life, from the 1920s to the early 1940s. She will recount these episodes in their words, idioms and vernacular, and will include their own vintage photographs, which also enhance her book. Her book will also be available for purchase and signing.

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

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

*Open mid-December – March 31, Weekdays, 10 am – 4 pm; Weekends, Noon – 4 pm (staffing & weather permitting)*

*Last tower tour 1 hour before closing*

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

*Open January 1 through March 31: Daily, 9 am – 4 pm (staffing & weather permitting)*

*Wilderness camping permits when office is open*

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

*Closed until May 2012, grounds open for special guided tours. Watch for special programs this winter and spring!*

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

*Closed until May 2012*

### **Watch Hill Campground - 631-597-6664 www.watchhillfi.com**

*Reservations for 2012 season now accepted on-line*

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

*Open all year, Monday - Friday, 9:30 – 4 pm Closed on federal holidays*

### **Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal**

*Closed until May 2012, but open for special programs. Watch for special programs this spring*