

March 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)

Friday

March 2:

7 – 9:30 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 a captivating presentation and stargazing of the night skies above Fire Island. Telescopes will be provided. Dress for the weather.

Saturday

March 3:

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 evidence of other animal life on this serendipitous exploratory hike. You'll also see some plants that should not be there. Dress for the weather and be prepared for a 2- to 3-mile roundtrip walk.

Saturday

March 10:

9 – 11:30 am

#### **Old Mastic Winter Bird Walk** – William Floyd Estate

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

Search for early spring migrants, wintering 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

March 10:

9 am

#### **Light Keepers Behind-the-Scenes Tour** – Fire Island Lighthouse

*(\$20/person; reservations required, limit 12 people; call for information: 631-661-4876)*

Follow one of our present day Lighthouse Keepers on his rounds. This bottom to top tour takes you from the auxiliary generator and the Light Keepers workshop in the basement of the Keeper's Quarters to the beacon in the lantern room of the lighthouse tower. Learn how Lighthouse Keepers in the 1860's to 2012 maintained the light. Includes a tour of the new Lens Building which houses our original first order Fresnel Lens.

Saturday

March 10:

Noon – 1 pm

#### **Seaside Stories and Crafts: Birds of a Feather** – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Listen to stories about our feathered friends, learn about the birds of Fire Island and create a special bird craft of your own to take home. Geared for children ages 5 – 7 but all are welcome to join.

Saturday

March 10

6 – 9 pm

#### **Junior Rangers: Night Sky Program** – Fire Island Lighthouse

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

Become a Junior Ranger Night Explorer. Learn all about the moon, solar system and star constellations. Geared for ages 8-12. NPS Ranger led free program.

Sunday

March 11:

10 – 11:30 am

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

*(Free program; reservations required: call 631-399-2030)*

Easy 1½-hour, 1- to 2-mile walk around the historic William Floyd Estate in Mastic Beach. Observe evidence of changes to the landscape as the Floyd family adapted their land: from plantation/working farm to summer estate/hunting preserve.

Sunday

March 11:

2 pm

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

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

Book signing and presentation by Jack Whitehouse, author of "13 Legends of Fire Island" and "Fire Island Heroes." Meet in the Lens Building at the Lighthouse.

Saturday

March 17:

6:30 am

#### **Early Morning Lighthouse Tower Tour** - Fire Island Lighthouse

*(\$25 per person; reservations required: 631-661-4876)*

Come enjoy the scenery from the top of the tower as the sun rises. Tour includes a "light" breakfast and souvenir mug. Sunrise is at 7:02 am.

Sunday

March 18:

5 – 6:30 pm

#### **Vernal Equinox Wilderness Sunset Walk** – Wilderness Visitor Center

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

Celebrate the soon to come Vernal Equinox by hiking between ocean and bay, day and night, and winter and spring. As the sun slowly sets on winter, we'll look for signs of spring in Fire Island's Otis Pike High Dune Wilderness. Wear sturdy walking shoes and dress for the weather.

Tuesday

March 20:

6:15 pm

#### **Evening Lighthouse Tower Tour** – Fire Island Lighthouse

*(\$20/person; reservations required; call for directions/information: 631-661-4876)*

Celebrate the beginning of Spring, the Vernal Equinox. View the night sky from the top of the Lighthouse. Sunset is at 7:05 pm.

*(more)*

Saturday

March 24:  
Noon – 1 pm

**Junior Rangers: Bird Migration – Wilderness Visitor Center**

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

Learn about birds that spend part of the year at Fire Island and where they go when they're not here. Dress for a short hike into the Fire Island Wilderness. Geared for children ages 8 – 12 but all are welcome to join.

Saturday

March 24:  
10 am – 1 pm

**Fire Island Volunteer Recruitment Day – Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal**

*(Free; call for directions/information: 631-687-4780)*

Fire Island National Seashore is recruiting volunteers to assist with a variety of park functions and services ranging from staffing visitor centers and conducting visitor tours and programs, to native plant gardening, monitoring endangered shorebirds and clearing invasive plants. Come for recruitment day to learn more about park volunteer opportunities.

Sunday

March 25:  
9 – 11 am

**Early Spring Wilderness Bird Walk – Wilderness Visitor Center**

*(Free program; call for more information: 631-281-3010)*

Come along on this early spring bird walk to observe and identify some of Fire Island's various bird species. Migration of many species, particularly waterfowl, has already begun so we should see a variety of ducks and geese. Shorebirds, hawks and songbirds will all be looked for as well on this program. Bring binoculars if you have them. Roundtrip walk is about 2 miles. Dress for the weather.

Sunday

March 25:  
2 pm

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

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

"A Master Mariner Remembers Pre-GPS Navigation" Retired ship captain and lighthouse volunteer Harold Stumme presents his experience of passing a lighthouse at sea by: Terrestrial Navigation and Approaching the Port of New York plus other sea stories.

**Save the Date:**

**National Park Week is coming soon!**

- **National Junior Ranger Day on Saturday, April 21, 2012**
- **8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Science Conference on Friday & Saturday, April 27 & 28, 2012**

**Fire Island National Seashore Facilities open in March 2012**

**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 June 30: Daily, 9 am – 4 pm (staffing & weather permitting)*

*Wilderness camping permits when office is open*

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

*Closed until May 25, 2012; grounds open for special guided tours. Watch for special programs this spring!*

**Sailors Haven and Watch Hill marinas**

*Closed until May 4, 2012*

**Watch Hill Campground - 631-597-6664** [www.watchhillfi.com](http://www.watchhillfi.com)

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

**The Pier at Watch Hill restaurant**

*Closed until May 25, 2012*

**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 – 150 West Avenue, Patchogue NY 11772**

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

**Seasonal restriction on driving/pets on the beach begins on March 15.**