



# Sandy Hook Visitor Programs

## Spring 2009

### March

#### Night Prowl

Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Saturday, March 7 at 7 p.m.  
Explore a Sandy Hook habitat on this night hike. Bring a flashlight.

#### Harbor Lights

Twin Lights State Historic Site  
Highlands, New Jersey  
Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m.  
This talk is about the lighthouses, lightships and buoys that guide ships into New York Harbor. Bring binoculars. Free. Reservations needed. 732-872-1814.

#### Spring Equinox Shorewalk

Guardian Park, Fort Hancock  
Friday, March 20 at 7 p.m.  
Join the American Littoral Society for an evening walk when daylight and darkness equally share the 24 hours in a day. Call 732-291-0055 to reserve a spot. Free.

#### Early Spring Birding

Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Saturday March 21 at 10 a.m.  
Join a naturalist from the New Jersey Audubon Society for a two-hour bird walk in search of migrating waterfowl and raptors.

#### Battery Gunnison Preserved

Saturday March 21, noon to 4 p.m.  
Sunday, March 22, noon to 3 p.m.  
The Army Ground Forces Association is a volunteer group in 1943 era coast artillery uniform who restore and interpret Battery Gunnison and its 6-inch guns. Visitors are invited to stop by on this work day to chat.

#### Sandy Hook Visitor Center

Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
The 1894 Spermaceti Cove U.S. Life-Saving Station. Features exhibits and a bookstore. 732-872-5970

#### Fort Hancock Museum

Weekends beginning May 16, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
The museum is in the former post guardhouse with Fort Hancock exhibits.

#### Sandy Hook Lighthouse Keepers Quarters

Weekends in March, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Daily, beginning April 4  
Weekends, noon to 4:30 p.m. Weekdays, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
The 1884 Keepers Quarters has exhibits on New Jersey Lighthouses. The nearby Keepers barn is always open with a video on the Lighthouse history.

In May, the New Jersey Lighthouse Society will display their entries in their annual Lighthouse Photography Contest.

#### Sandy Hook Lighthouse Tours

Daily, beginning April 4  
Weekends, noon to 4:30 p.m. Weekdays, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Tours are first-come, first-served. You must be 48 inches tall to climb the tower.

#### History House

Weekends, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
This lieutenant's quarters on Officers Row overlooks Sandy Hook Bay. It's now restored and furnished to the 1940s, the peak years of Fort Hancock operations.

#### Sandy Hook Bird Observatory

Building 20, Fort Hancock's Officers Row  
Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sundays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
New Jersey Audubon Society field center with a bookshop and displays. Call 732-872-2500.

#### Battery Potter

Closed for the season

#### Nike Missile Radar Site

Closed for the season.

#### Sandy Hook Spring Migration Watch

Observation Deck at North Pond  
Daily, March 15 through May 15, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Each Spring New Jersey Audubon's Sandy Hook Bird Observatory sponsors a spring count of migratory birds. The watch is manned daily (weather permitting) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; visitors are welcome any time. For more information please contact the Sandy Hook Bird Observatory at 732-872-2500 or [shbo@njudubon.org](mailto:shbo@njudubon.org).

**Sandy Hook**  
**2009 Summer Season Beach Pass**  
**On sale beginning Monday, April 27**  
**at the Sandy Hook Ranger Station.**  
**Available daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

## Woodcock and Osprey Walk

Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Saturday, March 28 at 7 p.m.  
See the Osprey known as a "fish hawk" and search for American Woodcocks.

## Museum Collection Open House – Behind the Scenes

Building 47, Fort Hancock  
Building 25, Fort Hancock  
Sunday, March 29, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Visit the newly renovated Museum Collection Storage in Building 47 and see some of Sandy Hook's historic treasures. Then, drive to the Fort Hancock Parking Lot and walk to Building 25 to see the future Sandy Hook Visitor Center and get a sneak peek at the scale model exhibits in this 17,000 square foot building.

## April

### Birding for Beginners

Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Sunday April 5 at 10 a.m.  
Join naturalists from the New Jersey Audubon Society for a two-hour introduction to birding at Sandy Hook. Early spring brings a variety of ducks, loons, and hawks."

### Monmouth County Audubon Society Spring Bird Walk

Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Saturday, April 11 at 10 a.m.  
Join us in search of early migrants and listen for their songs celebrating spring.

### Surf Fishing Clinic

Sandy Hook, North Beach Center  
Saturday, April 25 at 8 a.m.  
Join American Littoral Society staff for a day of surf fishing and instruction on the beach. Rods, reels and tackle will be provided, but bring your own if you have it. Call Jeff at 732-291-0055 to make reservations for this fee program.

## COA Spring Beach Sweep

Parking Lot E  
Saturday, April 25 at 9 a.m.  
Volunteers gather on beaches from Raritan Bay through Sandy Hook to Cape May Point to work together to rid our beaches and waterways of pollution. This event is free and open to the public. Groups of 10 or more are asked to pre-register by completing the online form at [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org), or by calling 732-872-0111.

## May

### Spring Birding

Sandy Hook Visitor Center  
Saturday May 2 at 10 a.m.  
Join naturalists from the New Jersey Audubon Society for two hours of birding during the best month for warblers and other songbirds.

### 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Henry Hudson's landing on Sandy Hook

Meet at Parking Area N  
¼ mile north of Ranger Station  
Sunday May 3 at 2 p.m.  
Celebrate Monmouth History Days with a walking tour on Sandy Hook. The explorer Henry Hudson first landed here in 1609. Join a ranger for a trip back into the past to see how Sandy Hook has - and hasn't - changed in the last 400 years. Wear walking shoes and bring bug repellent.

#### Visit us on the web.

The official National Park Service website with information on Sandy Hook and all the sites of Gateway National Recreation Area:  
[www.nps.gov/gate](http://www.nps.gov/gate)

Website of the Sandy Hook Foundation, the official Friends Group of the National Park Service at Sandy Hook:  
[www.sandyhookfoundationnj.org](http://www.sandyhookfoundationnj.org)

## Surf Fishing Clinic

Sandy Hook, North Beach Center  
Sunday, May 10 at 8 a.m.  
Join American Littoral Society staff for a day of surf fishing and instruction on the beach. Rods, reels and tackle will be provided, but bring your own if you have it. Call Jeff at 732-291-0055 to make reservations for this fee program.

## Education on Sandy Hook

### New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium/ NJ Sea Grant

The NJMSC/NJ Sea Grant offers a variety of education programs.  
732-872-1300. [www.njmssc.org](http://www.njmssc.org)

### Brookdale Community College Ocean Institute

Brookdale CC offers a variety of education programs and teacher workshops:  
[www.brookdalecc.edu/staff/sandyhook/index.html](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/staff/sandyhook/index.html)

### Clean Ocean Action Spring Student Summit, Sandy Hook

Parking Lot E  
Thursday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Friday, May 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Clean Ocean Action's Spring 2009 Student Summit gives students the opportunity to be scientists at the beach for a day. By participating in field trips and workshops, students have a hands-on experience learning about the marine ecosystem. This event is open to North and Central Jersey middle schools with application (check website for details.) FREE  
Contact Carl Guastaferrero at: 732-872-0111.

Visit [www.nps.gov/gate](http://www.nps.gov/gate) to download a full list of education programs offered by the NPS and its Sandy Hook education partners.

# COASTAL DEFENSES WEEKEND AND OCEAN FUN DAY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 16 AND 17

## Saturday, May 16

### Battery Gunnison in World War Two

**Saturday, May 16, noon to 4 p.m.**  
Army Ground Forces Association, Living Historians in 1943 era uniform, demonstrate and involve the public in the loading of a 6-inch gun. See how the guns were aimed in a "working" plotting room, where you can learn about the operations of a World War II coast artillery gun battery.



### Harbor Defense Evening Lantern Tour

**Meet at the Fort Hancock Museum  
Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m.**  
Join volunteers from the Army Ground Forces Association uniformed as World War II Coast Artillery soldiers on this walk to Battery Gunnison to learn how Fort Hancock played a critical role in protecting New York Harbor during the 1940's. Bring a flashlight.



## Sunday, May 17 Coastal Defenses Day

### Fort Hancock Museum

A walk to some of Fort Hancock's gun batteries. Discover how Sandy Hook's fortifications defended New York Harbor from the 1890s to the 1970s.

### Roseland Radio Club

**Sandy Hook Lighthouse grounds  
noon to 4 p.m.**  
The radio club will conduct shortwave radio broadcasts at the Sandy Hook Lighthouse.



### History House

**noon to 4 p.m.**  
An Officers Row house furnished circa 1940s. World War II re-enactors will be onsite with their camp exhibit.

### Battery Gunnison in World War II

**noon to 4 p.m.**  
Volunteers from the Army Ground Forces Association are in World War II uniform to demonstrate the operation of Battery Gunnison and its 6-inch guns. See how the guns are loaded and visit the plotting room to see how they are aimed and targeted.

## Sunday, May 17 Ocean Fun Day!

NJ Marine Sciences Consortium  
NJ Sea Grant

**Building 22, Fort Hancock  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

NJMSC Annual Open House with exhibits, eco and historic tours, touch tanks, crab races, kid's activities and more. Free.

Call NJMSC at 732-872-1300, ext. 19 for more information.

On the web: [www.njmssc.org](http://www.njmssc.org)



### Battery Potter

**noon to 4 p.m.**  
Explore Sandy Hook's oldest gun battery completed in 1894.

### Nike Missile Radar Site

**noon to 4 p.m.**  
Tour the site where radar could guide supersonic Nike Missiles guarding New York during the Cold War.





**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Gateway National Recreation Area  
 Office of Communications and Public Affairs  
 210 New York Avenue  
 Staten Island, NY 10305

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## Visitor Programs Sandy Hook Unit Spring 2009



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

### Gateway National Recreation Area Sandy Hook Unit

**General Superintendent**  
 Gateway National Recreation Area  
 Barry T. Sullivan

**Superintendent**  
 Sandy Hook Unit  
 Dave Avrin

**Chief of Interpretation**  
 Sandy Hook Unit  
 Lou Venuto

**Sandy Hook Visitor Center**  
**732-872-5970**

**[www.nps.gov/gate](http://www.nps.gov/gate)**

**Sandy Hook 24 - Hour  
 Emergency Number**  
**732-872-5900**

### Sandy Hook Cooperators

The National Park Service's partners in education and research at Sandy Hook are:

**American Littoral Society**  
 732-291-0055  
[www.littoralsociety.org](http://www.littoralsociety.org)

**Brookdale Community College**  
 732-224-2435  
[www.brookdalecc.edu/staff/sandyhook/index.html](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/staff/sandyhook/index.html)

**Clean Ocean Action**  
 732-872-0111  
[www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org)

**James J Howard Marine Laboratory**  
 732-872-1762

**Marine Academy of Science and Technology**  
 732-291-0995  
[www.mast.mcvsd.org](http://www.mast.mcvsd.org)

**National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Northeast Fisheries Center, Sandy Hook Laboratory**  
 732-872-3000  
<http://sh.nefsc.noaa.gov>

**New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium/  
 New Jersey Sea Grant**  
 732-872-1300  
[www.njmsc.org](http://www.njmsc.org)

**Rutgers University, Institute of Marine & Coastal Sciences**  
<http://marine.rutgers.edu/>

**Sandy Hook Bird Observatory**  
 732-872-2500  
[www.njaudubon.org](http://www.njaudubon.org)

**Sandy Hook Child Care Center**  
 732-291-2368

**Sandy Hook Foundation**  
 732-291-7733  
[www.sandyhookfoundationnj.org](http://www.sandyhookfoundationnj.org)

**Sandy Hook Partners**  
 732-708-9010  
[www.thefortatsandyhook.net](http://www.thefortatsandyhook.net)

### New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail

Sandy Hook is a site on the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail. The purpose of the Trail is to provide for public appreciation, education, understanding, and enjoyment of significant natural and cultural sites in the coastal area of New Jersey. More information at 856-447-0103 or visit: [www.nps.gov/neje](http://www.nps.gov/neje)