



Visitor Programs and Events – Autumn 2011

Staten Island Unit



What's With The ♥?

Gateway's programs are wonderful ways to stimulate your mind and your senses, but did you know that many of them provide fantastic opportunities to get some exercise? Our hikes, service projects, and paddles are great ways to get your heart going, while you enjoy the natural beauty and historic treasures that surround you. Just look for the ♥ next to the program listing for programs that require walks of a mile or more, or moderate physical exertion, and let Gateway pump you up!

Quilting at Mont Sec House

112 A Mont Sec Avenue
Fort Wadsworth
Sundays, September 25; October
9, 23; November 6, 20
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The Crazy Quilt was a popular 19th century craft. Join us for a hands-on-experience of period crazy quilting. Learn various techniques and create your own wall hanging in this five session program. Materials provided. The first class will include a tour of the house. Reservations required.

Lantern Tours of Fort Wadsworth

Thursdays, September 15,
October 20, November 17
7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Our most popular tour explores the historic sites of the fort by night. Bring a flashlight. Reservations required. For more information, call (718) 354 – 4500.

September

Voyage to the Ocean Planet

St. George Library, Staten Island
Wednesday, September 7
5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Join a National Park Service Ranger for a fantastic photo tour of some of America's well known National parks, as well as a few lesser-known gems. Visit nine National Parks including Gateway National Recreation Area from the comfort of the St. George Library in Staten Island. Several international beauty spots will also be a part of this trip from somewhere in the Milky Way to the place known as the blue planet, because of its oceans. This program is appropriate for ages 9 to adult.

Harvest Moon Hike

Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Monday, September 12
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Ramble through under the moon and stars for a night to remember. A National Park Service Ranger will be your guide as you learn about what lurks around when the park is closed to visitors but not to nocturnal animals. Please wear sturdy footwear and bring a flashlight.

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International Beach Clean – Up

Miller Field Beach
Saturday, September 17 (Rain date: September 24)
10 a.m. – 12 a.m.

This is the 26th Annual International Coastal Beach Cleanup, sponsored locally by the American Littoral Society. Bring gloves and water. Meet at the Miller Field Ranger Station.

Afternoon at Mont Sec House

112 A Mont Sec Avenue
Fort Wadsworth
Saturday, September 17
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Visit historic Mont Sec House for an afternoon in another era. Join a Park Ranger for a tour of the home and discover how an officer and his family lived at Fort Wadsworth during the nineteenth century.

International Beach Clean-Up

Great Kills Park Beach Center
Sunday, September 18 (Rain date: September 25)
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Meet at Beach Center Parking Lot G to participate in the 26th Annual International Coastal Beach Cleanup, locally sponsored by the American Littoral Society. Bring gloves and water.

Fun with Fiddler Crabs

Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Sunday, September 18
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Join a National Park Service ranger for fun with the clowns of the crab world. Watch their antics, and get to hold one in your hand. Learn about their crab culture, and how they survive in the salt marsh. Children 5 and up are invited to participate. Wear casual clothes for this indoor program.

National Public Lands Day/American Littoral Society/Fort Wadsworth Fall Beach Cleanup

Saturday, September 24
10 p.m. – 12 p.m.

Volunteers needed for this event! Please report to the picnic area on USS North Carolina Rd. To receive bags, cards, clipboards, and instructions. Participants should wear sturdy footwear, gloves, and bring water. Please call (718) 354 – 4500, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily for directions and further information.

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October

Monarch / Dragonfly Migration

Great Kills Park Ranger Station
(opposite parking lot A)
Sunday, October 2
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Join us for on a hike to view the migration of the monarch butterflies and dragonflies. Call 718-987-6790 to reserve a spot on this free program.

Moon Shine

Miller Field
Wednesday, October 12
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Enjoy the night as a ranger guides you along the coastal shoreline of Miller Field on a full moon night. Identify marine life and plants of the Hudson. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a flashlight.

Fall Photography in the Fort

Fort Wadsworth
Sunday, October 16
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Bring your camera and tripod and join a ranger as you explore the beauty of fall and New York's "Guardian of the Narrows". Pick up some photography tips, techniques, and a little history as well as you explore Fort Tompkins, the beautiful harbor overlook, and Battery Weed.

Mont Sec House in Words

Fort Wadsworth
Mont Sec House
Saturday, October 22
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Experience Mont Sec House through the letters of an officer's wife. Tour the house and learn how a family lived in the fort and experienced New York City in the 1880's. Reservations required.

Stories of Owls and Raccoons

Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Sunday, October 23, 2011
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Just before Halloween, honoring Harry Potter and Hedwig, the Snowy Owl, listen to stories of owls which are migrating through Staten Island at this time of year. Then listen to stories about the raccoon, a creature who seems to wearing a "bandit" mask, as they prepare for the winter. The stories will be followed by a short walk to look for animal tracks and possibly some signs of owls. Bring binoculars, if you have them. This program is designed for children ages 5-11 years.

Halloween Campfire

Miller Field Beach
Saturday, October 29
7 p.m. -- 9:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to join our park rangers for an evening of music and storytelling around a blazing fire. For more information call (718) 351 – 6970.

General Wadsworth Birthday Celebration

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Sunday, October 30
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Enjoy a presentation about this beloved humanitarian, leader, philanthropist, and citizen-soldier of New York State and the United States of America. Take the 2pm guided tour of Fort Tompkins, weather permitting. For more information, please call (718) 354 – 4500.

November

Fall Foliage in the Swamp White Oak Forest

Miller Field
Administration Building
Sunday, November 6
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Enjoy a leisurely stroll through this hidden gem during the fall color peak. Find out more about this unique area and the threats to its existence. Examine fallen leaves to learn about the trees which are adapted to living in this fragile place. Look for evidence of animals, such as tracks, partially eaten nuts, and hiding spots. All ages are welcome.

Forest to Coast Hike

Greenbelt Nature Center
700 Rockland Avenue (at the intersection with Brielle Avenue)
Staten Island
November 13
12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Join the Greenbelt Educators and the National Park Service rangers for a hike from forest to field to coastal habitat. The 7.6 mile White trail begins at the Greenbelt Nature Center and ends at Great Kills Park. Please dress for the weather and make arrangements for return transportation from the Great Kills Park parking lot at Hylan Boulevard and Buffalo Street after this 3-hour hike. Bring water and a snack. Registration required. Call (718) 351-3450.

Waterfowl Walk

Great Kills Park
Parking Lot A – Saltmarsh Path
Wednesday, November 16
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join a park ranger and Staten Island Museum Science Curator Ed Johnson to view waterfowl that live in Great Kills Harbor and learn to identify them. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. Reservations required. Call (718) 987 – 6790.

Have a Hoot Junior Ranger

Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Saturday, November 19, 2011
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Children ages 7 to 11 are invited to join a park ranger for an owl adventure. Learn about owls and the role they play at Great Kills Park through a hike and dissection of owl pellets. Please dress for the weather.

The Winne Family at Historic Mont Sec House

112 A Mont Sec Avenue
Fort Wadsworth
Saturday, November 19
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Revisit Staten Island in the nineteenth century. Spend an afternoon at historic Mont Sec House. Tour the house and learn about the "Winne Family"; Caroline, Charles and their son Bopper.