



Visitor Programs and Events – Spring 2014

New York Sites (*Jamaica Bay, Staten Island*)

Liora Codor Photography Exhibit

Liora Codor is a professional photographer working in New York and has done hundreds of shoots for a variety of print and web venues.

While the commercial photography pays her bills, her heart is in photographing nature, which she has been doing at Gateway for more than a decade. A native of Brooklyn, she and her family, like many others seek the solace of open space and wildlife that she finds in the park. One of her favorite areas is Fort Tilden and the combination of sea shore; buildings and ruins with nature dominating the territory are prominently featured in her photographs. And for this exhibit it is the juxtaposition of photos over time and season that is fascinating.

The same view seen at different hours and different season provides a unique perspective.

As Ms. Codor writes, “This exhibit is my photo essay. I have been visiting and photographing various corners of Fort Tilden on a monthly basis for ten years. The park is so close to the noisy, bustling hectic city and is so magical and rejuvenating. It is amazing to see how clearly the park and wildlife change with the seasons, and how it restores itself, especially after hurricane Sandy. My aim is to take the viewer on a walk through the park and its seasons over time, and provide a perspective that only photographic documentation can.

Please join us for the opening of Liora Codor; A Photographic Essay, on Sunday April 6 from 2 to 4pm and see the park through her eyes and lens.



Check out photographer Liora Codor's unique views of Gateway, at her exhibition at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, beginning on April 6. (Liora Codor Photo)

Programs and offerings: What are you interested in? We want your comments.

Our programs are designed to tell some part of Gateway's story relating to the topics connected to the park and its history, called interpretive themes, which for Gateway are:

- The Natural Wonders, Dynamics and Challenges of an Urban Estuary
- Two Centuries of National Defense
- Maritime Heritage
- Recreation and Education: Quality of Life for All Visitors

In addition to these main themes and stories about the park and its history, other related topics, such as birds, mammals, sea life, and botany of Gateway: nature against the backdrop of an urban area, and sustainable design, meteorology, cartography and geographic information are also to be included.

Our planners are always wondering what other programs you would like to see and are asking for ideas for additions, (along the line of the themes and topics outlined above, of course). And --along the same lines--we are wondering which programs you like and would like to see expanded and perhaps offered more frequently?

So please, let us know what you think. Please send your ideas to Charles.Markis@nps.gov, editor, with heading “program ideas.” We can't promise that every idea will be used, but we will listen and we will share your thoughts and ideas with the park planners.

Gateway Photo Contest

Gear up for the Photo Competition to be held this July. We will be accepting recent (within the last year) photos on the themes and stories outlined above. We want pictures that tell stories—not isolated shots of birds and animals.

March

Star Gazing

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Community Garden

Friday, March 7

8 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Come gaze at the wonders of the night sky over Floyd Bennett Field with the Amateur Astronomers Association. Weather permitting; clear or partly clear skies. Dress for the weather. Telescopes will be provided. Bus: Q35.

Wood Cock Watch ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge –
Queens

Sunday, March 16

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Wait and watch in the dusk for American woodcocks and their amazing flying tricks. These birds, also known as timberdoodles, mudbats or bogsuckers, put on a spring show that's not to be missed! Program will begin with a brief indoor presentation. Bring a flashlight. *2 miles* Bus: Q52, Q53.

Spring Peepers ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge –
Queens

Wednesday, March 19

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Celebrate the first full day of spring with the spring peeper chorus. Join a ranger to discover these tiny but fascinating tree frogs on a stroll to Big John's Pond. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Bring a flashlight. *2 miles* Bus: Q52, Q53.

W.A.V.E.S

During World War II

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Ryan Visitor Center

Thursday, March 20

Women stepped up to win the war on the home front, and in the military. They worked in all fields, in jobs that women had traditionally been excluded from, freeing the men for combat. Join us for a lecture and power point program about the Waves who took over jobs at Floyd Bennett Field during the war. Bus: Q35.

NYC Audubon

Early Spring Bird Walk ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge –
Queens

Saturday, March 29

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Join naturalist Don Riepe for hike around the ponds and gardens to look for egrets, ibis, osprey, oystercatchers and many other early migrants as well as wintering birds. To reserve, call (718) 474-0896; e-mail donriepe@gmail.com Bus: Q52, Q53. *3 miles*

Hike Great Kills ♥

Great Kills Park – Staten Island
Meet at Hylan Blvd. and Buffalo
Street Entrance

Sunday, March 30

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Take a walk along the multiuse path, and learn about the plants along the way. Bring water, binoculars and wear comfortable shoes. Call (718) 987-6790 for information. *3.5 miles*

Spring Tide at Riis Park ♥

Jacob Riis Park – Queens

Parking Lot

Sunday, March 30

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Walk the winter-ravaged beach with Mickey Maxwell Cohen, American Littoral Society naturalist, and learn the science of beach dynamics. Check the flotsam and jetsam along the tide line while learning about the surprising wartime history of the area. *2 miles* Bus: Q22, Q35

April

Star Gazing

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Community Garden

Brooklyn

Friday, April 4

8 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Come gaze at the wonders of the night sky over Floyd Bennett Field with the Amateur Astronomers Association. Weather permitting; clear or partly clear skies. Dress for the weather. Telescopes will be provided. Bus: Q35.

Spring Words and Origami

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge –
Queens

Sunday, April 13

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

All are invited to share their favorite poem or excerpt with a spring theme. We will also create spring flowers using the art of origami. A short nature walk will follow if the weather permits. (.05 miles) Bus: Q52, Q53.

Flights of Discovery

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Ryan Visitor Center

Wednesday, April 15

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Children join us during spring break to learn about airports and planes of the past. Design your own pilot wings and receive your passport to adventure. Then visit Hangar B where our HARP volunteers are restoring vintage planes. Bus: Q35

Yoga in the Park ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge –
Queens

Thursday, April 16

10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Join a park ranger outdoors to learn some basic yoga poses and breathing techniques that you can do while you are out enjoying nature. Meet in front of the visitor contact station. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. Weather permitting. Reservation required. (718) 318-4340. Bus: Q52, Q53

"Get in the Scrap!" –

World War II Recycling

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Golden Age Discovery Zone

Ryan Visitor Center

Thursday, April 17

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

During World War II, children on the home front helped the war effort by collecting scrap, and even donating some of their own toys. Children aged 8 - 11, join us for a fun afternoon of learning about what they collected and create your own World War II poster! Bus: Q35

North Forty

Natural Area Hike ♥

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Ryan Visitor Center
Sunday, April 20
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join American Littoral Society naturalist, Mickey Maxwell Cohen and discover birds, early wildflowers and hidden World War II military bunkers in this developing maritime woodland. *2 miles* Bus: Q35

Volunteer in the Park on Earth Day

Jamaica Bay Unit
Multiple locations in Brooklyn and Queens
Tuesday, April 22
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join us to help spruce up your favorite places in Gateway! Contact Volunteer Coordinator Keith White to sign up at keith_white@nps.gov.

Celebrate National Park Week and Earth Day

South Beach Library
21-25 Robin Road, Staten Island
Tuesday, April 22
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

We have inherited natural wonders, spectacular scenery, historic and cultural treasures. Join us to take a virtual tour of Gateway and all its wonders! Call (718) 816 – 5834 for more information.

Celebrate National Park Week and Earth Day

Huguenot Library
830 Huguenot Avenue,
Staten Island
Wednesday April 23,
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

We have inherited natural wonders, spectacular scenery, historic and cultural treasures. Join us to take a virtual tour of Gateway and all its wonders! Call (718) 984 – 4636 for more information.

NYC Audubon

Spring Migration Bird Walk ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge -
Queens
Saturday, April 26
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Join naturalist Don Riepe for a hike around ponds and gardens to look for spring migrants. To reserve, call (718) 474 – 0896 or e - mail: donriepe@gmail.com *3 miles* Bus: Q52, Q53.

Bike and Hike Fort Tilden ♥

Jacob Riis Park – Queens
Boardwalk & Beach 169th St.
Saturday, April 26
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Bike and hike with a Park Ranger and enjoy the sites of Fort Tilden on this trip. Travel at a moderate pace. Bring water, sunscreen, your own bike, helmet and dress for the ride. Reservations are required; call (718) 338 – 3799 for more information, and to make a reservation. *2 miles* Bus: Q22, Q35

Junior Ranger Day:

Nature Hike ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge –
Queens
Sunday, April 27
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Join park ranger Shalini for a hike on the trails of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. We will earn our Junior Ranger badge by learning about the plants and animals we encounter. Program is dependent on weather. Call 718-318-4340 for information. *2 miles* Bus: Q52, Q53.

The Prepared Paddler

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Ryan Visitor Center
Monday, April 28
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Reservations are required; call (718) 338 – 3799 for more information, and to make a reservation. Bus: Q35

Celebrate the 44th Anniversary of Earth Day
Great Kills Park – Staten Island
Beach Center – Lot G
Sunday, April 27,
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Help remove the invasive plant Asian Sand Sedge, found growing in an ecological belt of the upper intertidal zone along Great Kills beach. Bring gloves and water. Reservations required; call (718) 987 – 6790.

May

Yoga in the Park ♥

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, May 3
11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Join a park ranger outdoors and learn some basic yoga poses and breathing techniques that you can do while you are out enjoying nature. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. Weather permitting. Reservation required; call (718) 318-4340. Bus: Q35

Flight of the NC – 4

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Ryan Visitor Center
Sunday, May 4
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join a park ranger to learn about the first flight across the Atlantic Ocean, and to celebrate its 95th anniversary! Bus: Q35

Fitness Walks ♥

Fort Wadsworth – Staten Island
Fort Wadsworth Overlook
Tuesdays in May
May 6, 13, 20, 27
10 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Walk the loop around the overlook, battery weed, to the beach. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water. Call (718) 354 – 4655 for questions. *3 miles*

Star Gazing

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Community Garden
Brooklyn
Friday, May 9
8 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Come gaze at the wonders of the night sky over Floyd Bennett Field with the Amateur Astronomers Association. Weather permitting; clear or partly clear skies. Dress for the weather. Telescopes will be provided.

Bike Around

Floyd Bennett Field ♥

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn

Ryan Visitor Center

Saturday, May 10

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Bike with a Park Ranger and enjoy the sites of Floyd Bennett Field on this trip. Travel at a moderate pace. Bring water, sunscreen, your own bike, helmet and dress for the ride. Reservations are required; call (718) 338 – 3799 for more information, and to make a reservation. *4 miles*
Bus: Q35

Full Flower Moon ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge –

Queens

Wednesday, May 14

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Enjoy the night as a ranger guides you along the West Pond Trail on a full moon night. Program will be canceled the sky is overcast. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Bring a flashlight. *2 miles*
Bus: Q52, Q53.

Yoga in the Park ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge –

Queens

Thursday, May 17

11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Join a park ranger outdoors and learn some basic yoga poses and breathing techniques that you can do while you are out enjoying nature. Meet in front of the visitor contact station. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. Weather permitting. Reservation required. (718) 318 – 4340. Bus Q52, Q53

Fort Wadsworth, After Dark

Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island

Building 120 – Visitor Center

Thursday, May 17

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Join us to explore historic Fort Tompkins by candlelight. Please make your reservations early for this popular tour. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight.

Fun Canoe Paddle and Walk in the Park ♥

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn

Saturday, May 17

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Seaplane Ramp Kayak Launch
Enjoy this beginner's paddle on the incoming tide along the shores of Floyd Bennett Field. Land your canoe on Mill Basin inlet and enjoy a guided walk back to the start. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult. Reservations are required; call (718) 338 – 3799 for more information. *1 mile paddle, 1 mile walk*

Fun Canoe Paddle and Walk in the Park ♥

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn

Seaplane Ramp Kayak Launch

Sunday, May 18

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Enjoy this beginner's paddle on the incoming tide along the shores of Floyd Bennett Field. Land your canoe on Mill Basin inlet and enjoy a guided walk back to the start. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult. Reservations are required; call (718) 338 – 3799 for more information. *1 mile paddle, 1 mile walk*

NYC Audubon Horseshoe Crabs and Shorebirds

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge – Queens

Saturday, May 17

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center, and carpool to Broad Channel beach site to see the annual mating ritual of the horseshoe crab and shorebirds feeding on their eggs. To reserve call (718) 474 – 0896;
e-mail: donriep@gmail.com

Canarsie Walk-up and Paddle ♥

Canarsie Pier – Brooklyn

Saturday, May 17

1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Kayak tryouts for those who have never done it before. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult. No reservation required.

Canarsie Walk-up and Paddle ♥

Canarsie Pier – Brooklyn

Sunday, May 18

1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Kayak tryouts for those who have never done it before. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult. No reservation required.

Canarsie Walk-up and Paddle ♥

Canarsie Pier – Brooklyn

Saturday, May 24

1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Kayak tryouts for those who have never done it before. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult. No reservation required.

Beach Campfire

Jacob Riis Park, Queens

Boardwalk & Beach 169th St.

Friday, May 23

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Join a park ranger for a National Park Service tradition! Enjoy the evening, and the traditional start of the summer season with a sing-along! Bring a blanket or chair, and s'mores fixins! Bus: Q22, Q35

Camp Gateway Walk-up and Paddle ♥

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn

Seaplane Ramp

Saturday, May 24

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Kayak tryouts for those who have never done it before. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult. No reservation required. Bus: Q35

Riis Landing Walk-up and Paddle ♥

Riis Landing, Queens

Sunday, May 25

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Kayak tryouts for those who have never done it before. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult. No reservation required.

Camp Gateway Walk Up and Paddle ♥
Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Seaplane Ramp
Sunday, May 25
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Kayak tryouts for those who have never done it before. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult. No reservation required. Bus: Q35

The Golden Age of Aviation

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, May 10
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Join a park ranger to learn about aviation in the 1930's, often called the "Golden Age of Aviation," and Floyd Bennett Field's role.

Camp Gateway Walk Up and Paddle ♥

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Seaplane Ramp
Monday, May 26
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Kayak tryouts for those who have never done it before. Open to the public, ages 6 and up with an adult. No reservation required. Bus: Q35

Memorial Day in Hangar B

Floyd Bennett Field – Brooklyn
Seaplane Ramp
Monday, May 26
12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Honor those who served our country, by visiting the hangar, and seeing the historic aircraft that many of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines relied on during wartime. Bus: Q35.

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. Let Gateway pump you up!

Rockaway Cove Paddle ♥

Riis Landing – Queens
Monday, May 26
1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Rockaway Point and back – this trip, follows the scenic bay shore of Rockaway peninsula along the cove toward Rockaway Point. Reservations are required; call 718 338 3799 for more information, and to make a reservation. *2 miles*

Memorial Day – Intermediate Kayaking ♥

Great Kills Park – Staten Island
Beach Center – Lot G
Monday May 26,
11 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Call (718) 354 – 4655 for reservations.

Beginner Level Kayaking ♥

Great Kills Park – Staten Island
Beach Center – Lot G
Monday, May 26
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Learn how to kayak, 30- minute sessions, with first come, first served basis. Children over 11 are welcome. Prepare to get wet and wear water shoes. Equipment is provided. Call (718) 351 – 6992 for questions. Reservations required, call (718) 354 – 4655.

NYC Audubon Horseshoe Crabs and Shorebirds

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge – Queens
Saturday, May 31
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center, and carpool to the Broad Channel beach site to see the annual mating ritual of the horseshoe crab and shorebirds feeding on their eggs. To reserve call (718) 474 – 0896; e-mail: donriep@gmail.com

On our e-mailing list?

If you are not on our list and wish to be added to receive this publication and notices of special park events electronically, please send a message to: Charles.Markis@nps.gov, And put 'program guide' in subject heading line.

Continuing Programs

Awesome Osprey

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge – Queens
March 24 – May 31
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays

Stop by to observe our South Marsh osprey pair as they prepare to raise a family. Hear the remarkable stories of their annual long-distance migrations and their recovery in the US. Spotting scope provided for up-close views of these majestic birds of prey. Bus: Q52, Q53.

Be a Bird Detective

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge – Queens
Saturdays, Sundays and holidays
10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Don't know much about birds? That is okay, we'll teach you! Learn to use binoculars and a bird detective checklist. See for yourself why Jamaica Bay is a special place for all kinds of birds. This family friendly program is good for newcomers to Jamaica Bay. Binoculars and field guides to share will be provided, but more are always welcome. Dress for the weather, but the program may be adapted to an indoor program. Bus: Q52, Q53.

H.A.R.P. – Historic Aircraft Restoration Project

Floyd Bennett Field
Hangar B
Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sundays, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Discover Floyd Bennett Field's rich aviation history, by joining us for a tour of this historic World War II hangar, and the aircraft found inside. Bus: Q35

Floyd Bennett Garden Association

Have a “Green Thumb?” Learn at public gardening workshops. Find out about the Floyd Bennett Garden Association: <http://www.fbga.net/> All programs are at Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn. Bus: Q35.

The Salad Garden

Ryan Visitor Center
Sunday, March 2
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

You can grow fresh garden salad vegetables from spring thru the fall and beyond. Tips for growing all of the vegetables you’ll need, and growing tips for increased yields

Buried Treasures:

Growing Root Crops

Ryan Visitor Center
Sunday, March 16
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Many of your favorite vegetables grow deep in the cool dark earth. Learn about our many root crops and how to care for them. Cool and warm weather vegetables will be discussed

Homemade Organic Supplements:

Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, March 22
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Why spend lots of money buying special supplements when you can make your own. Learn how to make fertilizer supplements for the garden, many with things you may already have on hand. Demonstration and recipes for you to take home.

Sizzling Summer Crops

Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, March 29
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Growing advice from our award winning gardener. We will cover the vegetables you can grow in late spring thru early summer and what you can grow in late summer as well.

Origami Flowers for Spring

Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, April 5
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

After a long cold winter come create some bright colored flowers from paper. We will fold tulips with leaves and attach them to wire stems for display. Time permitting we may also fold irises. Prior experience with Origami is not necessary but is always helpful. Materials provided, Minimum age 10, Registration required in advance - workshop is limited to 12 people. Call (718) 338 – 3799 or, FBGAgardens@aol.com

Companion Planting

Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, April 12
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Come learn the ins and outs of Companion Planting. We will cover plants that enhance the growth of others, plants that can repel insects, and plants that don’t get along together.

What Color Are Your Nutrients?

Ryan Visitor Center
Saturday, April 26
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Blue tomatoes, yellow cucumbers, white carrots, are they just novelties or is there a difference? The color of the things we eat can influence the nutrients that they provide. Come and learn how the color of the vegetables you grow determine the nutrients they contain.

Garden Sign Workshop

North Gazebo (weather permitting,) or at the Ryan Visitor Center
Sunday, April 27
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Every Floyd Bennett Garden needs a sign! Join us and make a sign to identify your garden. We will supply the paint and wood. Registration required in advance, workshop is limited to 20 people. E-mail: FBGAgardens@aol.com.

Lasagna Gardening

North Gazebo
Sunday, May 18
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Make double duty out of your gardening bed. Is it a compost pile or a bed for gardening? It’s both! Learn about this ingenious method and grow while creating compost.

Container Garden

North Gazebo
Saturday, May 24
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

We can help you make the most of your limited space. Grow flowers, herbs and vegetables in containers; you can even have a water garden in containers. Join us and learn all you need to know.

Gateway Partners

American Littoral Society

Study and conservation of marine and coastal environment.

www.alsnyc.org
(718) 474–0896

City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation

Sharing resources and staff for programming and preservation of park lands in New York City.

www.nyc.gov/parks
311

Rockaway Artists Alliance

260 Beach 116 Street
Rockaway Beach, NY 11694
www.rockawayartistsalliance.com
(718)474-0861
[e-mail:rockart116@aol.com](mailto:rockart116@aol.com)

Rockaway Theatre Company

Have a night at the theater in Fort Tilden. See the 2013 Calendar: rockawaytheatrecomp.any.org



Visitor Programs and Events – Spring 2014

Sandy Hook

Nike Missile Radar Site

Parking Lot L at Horseshoe Cove
Saturdays, April 12, 19 & May 31
Sundays, April 27 & May 4, 18
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Tour the site where radar once guided nuclear armed Nike missiles during the Cold War era. Veterans of the Nike System serve as tour guides, pointing out and explaining all the radars and controls used to steer the Nike Guided Missiles.

March

Stars of Sandy Hook

Lot E (Beach Plaza)
Saturday, March 15
7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Join a park ranger and the Amateur Astronomers Association to view the almost full moon, Jupiter, Orion Nebula and the Auriga and Puppis star clusters. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars/telescopes.

Battery Gunnison

Saturday, March 15
12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

The Army Ground Forces Association, dressed in 1943 era coast artillery uniform, is a volunteer group restoring and interpreting Battery Gunnison/New Peck and its 6-inch guns. Visitors are invited to stop by on this work day to chat and learn more about the historic time period of March 1943 (preparation for the May 1943 initial activation of Battery Gunnison/New Peck) and the restoration and preservation projects currently underway.

Spring Equinox Walk on Sandy Hook ♥

Guardian Park
Thursday, March 20
5:30 p.m.

Celebrate the equinox with an early evening walk on the Hook. Free, call the American Littoral Society at (732) 291-0055 to make a reservation. *2 miles*

Lighthouse to Lighthouse

Start at Sandy Hook Light;
conclude at Twin Lights Historic Site

Sunday, March 30
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Park Historians Margaret Carlsen and Thomas Hoffman take a group through the Sandy Hook and Twin Lights lighthouses (respectively) for this special tour. First tour the Sandy Hook Lighthouse then car caravan over to Twin Lights.

April

Battery Gunnison /New Peck Preserved

Saturday, April 12
12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

The Army Ground Forces Association is a volunteer group in 1943 era coast artillery uniform restoring and interpreting Battery Gunnison/New Peck and its 6-inch guns. Visitors are invited to stop by on this work and training day to chat and learn more about the historic time period of April 1943, preparation for the May 1943 initial activation of Battery Gunnison/New Peck and the restoration and preservation projects currently underway.

Spring Bird Walk ♥

Spermaceti Cove Parking Lot
(between Lot D and Lot E)
Sunday, April 13
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join the Monmouth County Audubon Society to look for returning osprey, herons, egrets, and other migrants. Bring binoculars and wear comfortable shoes. *1 mile*

Surf Fishing Clinic

ALS Headquarters, Building 18
(Officers Row)
Saturday, April 19
8 a.m.

Join the American Littoral Society to learn the basics of casting, knot tying, lure/bait selection, and “reading” a beach. All skill levels will be accommodated. Rods, reels and tackle will be provided. Children under 18 are welcome with a supervising adult. Bring lunch. Call (732) 291-0055 for program fees and to make a reservation.

Arbor Day, Trees of Sandy Hook Walk ♥

ALS Headquarters, Building 18
(Officers Row)
Friday, April 25
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Join the naturalists of the American Littoral Society and explore Sandy Hook’s unique ecosystem. Bring your binoculars and cameras, to capture all the exciting things you’ll see at Sandy Hook. Great for families. Free, call (732) 291-0055 to make a reservation. *1 mile*

Gateway’s Photo Contest is coming in July. See full announcement in the next issue, and on our website.

Boy Scout Oceanography Merit Badge Program

NJ Sea Grant

Consortium, Building #22

Saturday, April 26

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Discover the secrets of the ocean and earn this BSA badge by seining in the bay, collecting plankton, studying waves and currents, and participating in interactive laboratory experiments with NJSGC. Open to individual boy scouts. Advance registration required. Call 732-872-1300, ext. 20. Fee.

Clean Ocean Action's Spring Beach Sweep

Meet at Lot D (Seagulls' Nest)

Saturday, April 26

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Since 1985, over 70,000 volunteers have participated and removed over 3.5 million pieces of debris from New Jersey's beaches and waterways. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Groups of 10 or more, pre-register by completing the online form at www.cleanoceanaction.org.

May

Secret Places on Sandy Hook ♥

North Beach, Beach Plaza

Sunday, May 4

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Walk with a ranger to explore historic batteries, buildings and landscape that are mostly hidden from public view. Explore the history of the North Beach Area. Call (732) 872-5970 for details and reservations. *1 mile*

Twilight By the Bay ♥

History House Porch, Bldg 1

Saturday, May 10

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Experience Fort Hancock at twilight with a park ranger. Learn about Fort Hancock's significance over the past 250 years. Parking is available behind History House. ♥ *1.5 miles*

Horseshoe Crab Walk

Plum Island, Lot B

Wednesday, May 14

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Get up close and personal with a living fossil. Take an evening walk along Plum Island to look for spawning horseshoe crabs. Wear foot gear that can get wet. Free, call the American Littoral Society to make a reservation (732) 291-0055.

Clean Ocean Action's 23rd Annual Spring Student Summit

May 14-15

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

This annual seaside symposium takes learning outside of the classroom and into the rich ecosystems of Sandy Hook- with hands-on, place-based environmental education. This free program is open to all northern and central New Jersey Middle Schools (Grades 5-8); maximum 30 students per school with one teacher or chaperone per 10 students. Schools must provide their own transportation and lunches. Apply at www.cleanoceanaction.org, under "Education Programs" or call (732) 872 – 0111.

Coastal Defense Weekend Ocean Fun Days

May 16 – 18

World War II Harbor Defense Lantern Tour and Battery Gunnison/New Peck Fort Hancock Museum

Friday, May 16

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

This night tour takes a look at how Fort Hancock's big guns protected New York City during World War II. Join a Ranger and Army Ground Forces Association (AGFA) members who will be in army uniform, for a walk that includes Battery Potter and Battery Gunnison. Volunteers from AGFA will be interpreting Battery Gunnison/New Peck as it was manned in May 1943. Bring a flashlight and camera, and wear sturdy shoes.

Battery Gunnison /New Peck Preserved

Battery Gunnison

Saturday, May 17

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The Army Ground Forces Association is a volunteer group in 1943 era coast artillery uniform restoring and interpreting Battery Gunnison/New Peck and its 6-inch guns. The time period is May 1943, tensions are high as the battery is activating after its reconstruction and conversion. Stop by and watch members conduct drills and prepare the battery for Sunday's public event.

Coastal Defense Day

Battery Gunnison

Sunday, May 18

12 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Volunteers from the Army Ground Forces Association bring Battery Gunnison/New Peck and its 6-inch guns to life as they were in May 1943. Participate in loading the guns, learn to track ships, visit the plotting room and magazine.

Mortar Battery/Battery Potter

Sunday, May 18

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Batteries will be open with tours provided by park rangers and volunteers.

Ocean Fun Day

New Jersey Sea Grant, Barracks 22 Fort Hancock

Sunday, May 18

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Spend the day with your family enjoying hands-on fun while learning about our environment. Join NJSGC and their Ocean Fun Days partners for this popular pre-summer event. Learn how to use a seine net or join the youth fishing clinic. Test your boating safety knowledge or become a beach comber and search for natural treasures on a guided tour. Hear from NJ scientists and researchers all about the inner workings of the ocean and how to protect it for generations to come. Admission is free.