



## Visitor Programs and Events – Fall 2014

### New York - *Jamaica Bay*

*Jamaica Bay from a map of 1898.*



### Jamaica Bay Perspectives

Jamaica Bay, the body of water that Brooklyn and Queens wrap their arms about, is a significant feature of the metropolitan area. Once filled with salt marsh and teeming with wildlife—birds, mammals, marine life—it has changed over the several centuries since people began living on its shores.

When this area was settled by colonists from the old world, it is said that the area was so rich in seafood—oysters, clams, mussels, lobsters-- that the natives could gather enough food for a day from one foraging trip at low tide. All you needed was butter for a great clambake.

As the city grew in population, so grew the demands and threats on Jamaica Bay. The fishermen took more than the resource could bear, and the creation of landfills, the dumping of refuse and sewage took tolls

as well. As the city was settled and the salt marsh (considered worthless land suitable for filling) and the surrounding areas were paved increasing runoff that dragged the detritus of the city streets into the once pristine bay.

On Oct. 27, 1972, Congress created Gateway National Recreation area, with Jamaica Bay as the 20,000 acre body of water at its core. And since that time the NPS has worked to rehabilitate the bay, its waters and the wildlife that use this habitat, with the goal of making Jamaica Bay a better place for all the creatures that live in, on or near.

Jamaica Bay has come a long way since its adoption by the NPS. We are no longer pulling dead cars and refrigerators from the water, but there are still challenges that are ongoing in the NPS trek for rehabilitation.

The use of the waters and shore line by power boats; fishing line, from the

fishers, plastic and Styrofoam, run off from the sewer system, and by a myriad of user groups, and the various items they leave behind take their toll. In addition the impact from JFK, one of the busiest airports in the world, and the residue from exhaust, de-icing fluid, and the like are constant challenges to the ecosystem.

This year we are looking at Jamaica Bay from various perspectives, and we have lined up a panel of experts that will examine the bay from various vantage points and perspectives for our fall **Herbert Johnson Lecture Series**, an homage to the first manager of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge from the 1950s. These lectures, details noted below, will occur on Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.



**Dan Hendrick, author, historian and filmmaker,** opens with a pictorial overview of JB showing pictures and images he gathered for his book, *Jamaica Bay*, (Arcadia Press, 2006). His program will provide an historical perspective over a long period. October 1.



**Mark Christiano, Geographic Information Specialist,** Gateway, will show us how the geography of the area has changed. Christiano will show maps, aerial photographs, and amazing digital images that show changes over time. October 8.



**Mark Ringenary, Water Resources Specialist & Environmental Scientist,** will use his lens of scientist and chemist to show how the water quality and environment have changed over time and discuss the threats that are still being thrust upon the bay. October 15.



**Hanem Abouelezz, Biologist and Naturalist** (photo below left) Gateway will discuss the various species of wildlife that live in the bay and how the efforts to monitor these species have influenced their protection and preservation. October 22.

**Dan Hendrick,** will close the series with a showing of footage from his documentary *Jamaica Bay Lives, double entendre* intended, and will share stories of what lives near Jamaica Bay, and some of the lives of people who are important to working to make Jamaica Bay a better place for all the creatures that live in, on or near. October 29.

### September Programs

#### Wildlife and Landscape of Deadhorse Bay

Saturday, September 6.

10:30 am

Old Ranger Station, **Brooklyn**

(FBF South Entrance, parking lot on the right as you enter)

Did you know that the word “physics” comes from the Greek word for nature? In this all ages nature walk, we’ll be exploring the wave patterns, landscape, and wildlife of Deadhorse Bay. We’ll also learn about a world renowned physicist who was originally from Far Rockaway, Richard Feynman. Though he’s known today as a man who helped revolutionize his field, he was known to other scientists partly for his playful approach to learning about the world around him. Bus: Q35 and request the third stop at FBF. ♥ 1 mile

#### Beach Plums and Goldenrod at Plumb Beach,

Plumb Beach Round House, **Brooklyn**

Sunday, September 7

10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Explore the ever-changing Plumb Beach with American Littoral Society naturalist Mickey Maxwell Cohen. Discover its autumn beauty, replete with groves of seaside goldenrod and ripened beach plums. Learn about heroic efforts to halt the most severe beach erosion in our area. Sun protection, binoculars, and a magnifying glass will be helpful. This is an American Littoral Society / GNRA Partnership Program. ♥ (2 miles)

#### Full Moon Walk

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge – **Queens**

Monday, September 8

6:30pm – 8 pm

Enjoy the night as a ranger guides you along the west trail under the full moon light. Program will be canceled if the sky is overcast. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Bring a flashlight. ♥2 miles

#### Stargazing at Floyd Bennett Field

Floyd Bennett Field, **Brooklyn**  
Community Garden

Friday, September 12

8 – 10 pm

Discover the wonders of the night sky above Jamaica Bay with members of the Amateur Astronomers Association.

#### Junior Ranger Shore Bird Festival

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge – **Queens**

Sunday, September 14

10 am – 3 pm

All are welcome to attend this family friendly event with opportunities to explore, learn and protect shorebirds. Hikes will be scheduled throughout the day along with other shorebird themed activities.

#### 29th Annual International Coastal Cleanups

North Channel Bridge,

**Queens**

Saturday, September 20

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Join thousands of volunteers and park rangers across the state in an effort to clean our coastlines.

For information and to sign up to volunteer call 718-354-4657 or see [www.littoralsociety.org](http://www.littoralsociety.org)

To organize or find a cleanup in your area, contact Natalie Grant, the NY State Beach Cleanup Coordinator at: [NYSBeachCleanup@gmail.com](mailto:NYSBeachCleanup@gmail.com).

#### North Channel Bridge

Sunday, Sept. 21, 1-2:30 pm

**Queens**

East side parking lot of the North Channel Bridge

The tide will be perfect for it at that time.

## Story Hour

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Ryan Visitor Center

Tuesday, September 23

2 – 3 pm

Floyd Bennett Field was home to New York City's first municipal airport. Children ages four to five, visit the Golden Age Discovery Room in the recently restored Ryan Visitor Center. Join us for a story teaching children about airports. Bus Q35

## Jamaica Bay Sunset Cruise

Pier 4 in Sheepshead Bay, [Brooklyn](#)

Saturday, September 27; 3-6 pm

Enjoy a three-hour cruise aboard the 'Golden Sunshine'. Learn about the history, ecology, management and wildlife of Jamaica Bay. See egrets, herons, ibis, oystercatchers, waterfowl, raptors and shorebirds galore, plus shoreline highlights. Narrated by Mickey Cohen and Don Riepe. Cost: \$55 adults; \$25 for youth (under 16) includes narrated tour, wine & cheese, fruit, snacks. Departure: 3:00 pm from pier 4 in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn (at Emmons and Bedford Aves). Reserve your ticket call (718) 474-0896 or e-mail [donriep@gmail.com](mailto:donriep@gmail.com)

## October

### Herbert Johnson Lecture Series

Jamaica Bay Perspectives

*Pictorial History of Jamaica Bay*

Dan Hendrick

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, [Queens](#)

Weds. October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

7 – 8 pm

Bus Q52, Q53 and A Train Broad Channel.

### Stargazing at Floyd Bennett Field

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Community Garden

Friday, October 3

8 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Discover the wonders of the night sky above Jamaica Bay with members of the Amateur Astronomers Association.

### Hawk Watch at Fort Tilden

Fort Tilden, [Queens](#)

Saturday, October 4

10am - 1pm

Meet 10am at Bldg. 1 in Fort Tilden, Queens for a hike along the beach & dunes and visit to the hawk watch platform during peak migration time. Call (718) 474-0896; e-mail: [donriep@gmail.com](mailto:donriep@gmail.com) Bus Q22, Q35.

## Herbert Johnson Lecture Series

Jamaica Bay Perspectives

*Geography of Jamaica Bay*

Mark Christiano

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge,

[Queens](#)

Wednesdays October 8, 15, 22, 29

7 – 8:00 p.m.

Bus Q52, Q53 and A Train Broad Channel.

## Open House New York

Floyd Bennett Field [Brooklyn](#)

Ryan Visitor Center

Sunday October 12th

10 am – 6 pm

Tours: 11am, 1pm, and 3pm

Tour size is limited; may fill up quickly. Maximum number of people allowed on tour: 20.

## Herbert Johnson Lecture Series

Jamaica Bay Perspectives

*Water and Environment of*

*Jamaica Bay*

Mark Ringenary

JB Wildlife Refuge, [Queens](#)

Wednesdays October 15, 22, 29

7 – 8:00 p.m.

Bus Q52, Q53 and A Train Broad Channel

## An Autumn Hike

at Breezy Point

Fort Tilden, Bldg 1, [Queens](#)

Carpool to Breezy Point,

Sunday, October 19

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Carpool in a caravan led by Mickey Maxwell Cohen of the American Littoral Society to the little known western tip of the Rockaway Peninsula. Highlights will include dune foliage, shore birds and a surprising assortment of rocks and minerals used in the construction of the Breezy Point Jetty. Insect repellent, sun protection, binoculars, and a magnifying glass will be helpful. This is an American Littoral Society / GNRA Partnership Program.

♥ (2 miles)

## Autumn Hike at Jamaica Bay

Wildlife Refuge

JB Wildlife Refuge – [Queens](#)

Sunday, October 19

2 pm

Join a park ranger for a hike on the trails of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge to identify colors and shapes in nature. 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. A train to Broad Channel. ♥ 1 mile

## Herbert Johnson Lecture

Series

Jamaica Bay Perspectives

*Wildlife & Botany of the Bay*

Hanem Abouelezz, Oct. 22

7 – 8:00 pm

Bus Q52, Q53 and A Train Broad Channel.

## Jamaica Bay Lives, Video

Dan Hendrick, Oct. 29

JB Wildlife Refuge, [Queens](#)

7 – 8:00 pm

Bus Q52, Q53 and A Train Broad Channel.

## November

### Veterans Day at Hangar B

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Hangar B

Tuesday, November 11

11 am – 3:30 pm

This Veterans Day, honor those who have served our country by visiting Hangar B, and hearing the stories of the people and aircraft that have protected our nation in war and peace. Bus Q35.

### WW II Nose Art

Ryan Visitor Center

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Thursday, November 13

1p.m. – 2 p.m.

World War II pilots painted graffiti-like designs on the nose of their planes. Children join us for a visit to the Ryan Visitor Center to learn about nose art and design a nose art picture of your own. For information call 718-338-3799. Bus Q35.

## Stargazing at Floyd Bennett Field

Floyd Bennett Field. **Brooklyn Community Garden**  
**Friday, November 14**  
**8 p.m. – 10 p.m.**

Discover the wonders of the night sky above Jamaica Bay with members of the Amateur Astronomers Association. Bus Q35.

## NYC Audubon Winter Waterfowl Workshop

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**

**Sunday, November 16th**  
**10 am-1 pm**

Learn about the behavior, biology and where to find waterfowl in winter in NYC. Slide presentation followed by hike around East and West Ponds. Leader: Don Riepe. Call (718) 474-0896; email: [donriep@gmail.com](mailto:donriep@gmail.com). Bus Q53, Q52, A train to Broad Channel station.

## Hike the Trails of the North Forty Natural Area

Floyd Bennett Field, **Brooklyn**  
**Ryan Visitors Center**  
**Sunday, November 16**  
**10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Join American Littoral Society naturalist Mickey Maxwell Cohen and discover the birds, wildflowers, autumn fruits and foliage in this developing woodland. Participants will carpool to the program site at Floyd Bennett Field. Insect repellent, binoculars, and a magnifying glass will be helpful. This is an American Littoral Society / GNRA Partnership Program. ♥ (2 miles)

## Selecting a Good Birding App

**Sunday, November 23**

**2pm, Queens**

### Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

David Etengoff, a tech-savvy boomer and retired teacher, offers an introduction to the use of apps for birding. An app, short for application, is special program designed for tablets and smartphones that function in a unique area. While printed field guides have pictures, apps also contain recordings of the birds in flight and song. If you have been tempted to enter this world, here is program for you. *Note that the NPS does not endorse or recommend any specific product.*

Bus Q52, Q53 and A Train Broad Channel

## Creepy Crawlies

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
**Sunday, November 30**

**10:30 am 12 pm, Queens**

The itty bitsy spider is fun to learn about, and the insects are too! Hear all about creepy crawlies during this interactive family-friendly program. Please bring a small jar to upcycle into a bug box, which will be used during our nature hike. Bus Q52, Q53 and A Train Broad Channel.

## Continuing Programs

### H.A.R.P. Open House

Floyd Bennett Field, **Brooklyn**  
**Hangar B**

**Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays**  
**9 am – 3 pm**

Come and visit the volunteers of the Historic Aircraft Restoration Program, as they restore aircraft associated with Floyd Bennett Field's rich aviation history.

**Walking Tour of Hangar B**  
Floyd Bennett Field, **Brooklyn**  
**Hangar B**

**Sundays, 2 pm – 3:30 pm**

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

### What's with the ♥ ?

The heart symbol indicates a hike or walk of a mile or more or, a program with significant exercise, designed to provide a moderate workout. Join us to get pumped up! It's your park, your health !

**Do you receive email notifications** of Gateway's programs and publications? If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, please send a message to [Charles\\_Markis@nps.gov](mailto:Charles_Markis@nps.gov), with 'program guide' in the subject line and we will add you.

## Continuing Programs

### Be a Bird Detective

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**

**Saturdays, Sundays and holidays**  
**10 - 10:30 am**

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 new comers 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.

### Hours:

**The Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge**  
9-5 daily, **Queens**  
Closed Thanksgiving  
718-318-3486  
Bus Q52, Q53, A Train Broad Channel Station.

### The Ryan Visitor Center

9-5 daily, **Brooklyn**  
Permit office and bookstore 9-4 daily  
Closed Thanksgiving Day  
718-338-3799  
Bus Q 35  
Web [www.nps.gov/gate](http://www.nps.gov/gate)