



Visitor Programs and Events

Fall 2015

New York – *Listings for Brooklyn & Queens*

Photo Contest Update

Soon we will be posting the top ten pictures and will be sending out an email message to announce the finalists and to ask for you to vote for your favorites. Voting is by “liking” on Facebook, Instagram or by email. After the voting is complete we will exhibit the winners and the top contenders at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Last year it was very interesting to see the voting progress and watch the numbers change as the various voting factions weighed in. There were surprises—you may recall that the first prize photo was of a veterinarian and a diamond back terrapin, and not the landscape scenes. Stay tuned.



Sandy Hook BioBlitz

A BioBlitz is a 24-hour event in which teams of scientists, volunteers, families, students, teachers and other community members work together to find and identify as many species of plants, animals, microbes, fungi and other organisms as possible. This survey usually occurs over a 24 hour time period within a particular geographical area. Gateway has previously sponsored this snapshot of biological activity on Sandy Hook in 2011 and Jamaica Bay in 2010. On September 18 and 19 the American Littoral Society, in partnership with the National Park Service, will sponsor a BioBlitz at Sandy Hook. Click

here <http://www.littoralsociety.org/index.php/programs/education/sandy-hook-bioblitz> to see the details and sign up if you would like to participate as a volunteer. Volunteers and visitors may attend one of six special tours/hikes offered at Sandy Hook during the BioBlitz: Friday, Sept. 18: 6 PM Sunset Seining and Plum Island Hike, and 9 PM Star Gazing for Families. Saturday Sept. 19: 9:30 AM Family Seining, 10 AM Old Dune Trail Hike, and 1PM Holly Forest Walk. Details are in Sandy Hook Guide.

Fall Lecture Series Jamaica Bay

The City College of New York recently completed a two-year research project developing a thorough analysis of Jamaica Bay, as well as a series of proposed design strategies for coastal resiliency. Led by principal investigator Catherine Seavitt Nordenson, an associate professor in the Landscape Architecture Program at City College’s Spitzer School of Architecture, their research was funded by the Rockefeller Foundation as part of a four-university initiative with the US Army Corps of Engineers entitled “Structures of Coastal Resilience.” The results of the work of all four university teams may be seen at

www.structuresofcoastalresilience.org. The Fall 2015 Herbert Johnson Lecture Series at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge features four talks by members of the City College Jamaica Bay research team, all graduates of City College’s Master of Landscape Architecture program. Each speaker will share aspects of their research and analysis of this fascinating place that is Jamaica Bay. The programs are:

Gotham, Jamaica Bay, by K. Hernandez-Aviles, is an entry in our 2015 Photo Contest *Find Your Park*

Sunday October 4, 2:00pm: *On Vulnerability: Infrastructural, Social, and Environmental Risk at Jamaica Bay*, by Kjirsten Alexander. Sunday October 11, 2:00pm: *From Protection to Restoration: A History of the US Army Corps at Jamaica Bay*, by Eli Sands. Sunday October 18, 2:00pm: *Above and Below: Species of Jamaica Bay*, by Danae Alessi. Sunday October 25, 2:00pm: *The Unexpected Environmentalist: Robert Moses, the Belt Parkway, and the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge* by Fern Lan Siew, Sunday October 25, 2:00pm. Please see Jamaica Bay Guide for the full story of this excellent series.

The ♥ symbol denotes a hike or walk of moderate activity. Improve your health, as you enjoy your park .

To be added to our email list, send a message to Charles.Markis@nps.gov and put program guide in the subject line.

Centennial Event: Herbert Johnson Fall Lecture Series

We are pleased to announce our fall lecture series which has been arranged by Professor Catherine Seavitt, who presents four of the research scholars who participated in the research on a recent two year project:

STRUCTURES OF COASTAL RESILIENCE AT JAMAICA BAY

**Catherine Seavitt Nordenson, Associate Professor
The City College of New York**

The City College of New York recently completed a two-year research project developing a thorough analysis of Jamaica Bay as well as a series of proposed design strategies for coastal resiliency. Led by principal investigator Catherine Seavitt Nordenson, an associate professor in the Landscape Architecture Program at City College's Spitzer School of Architecture, their research was funded by the Rockefeller Foundation as part of a four-university initiative with the US Army Corps of Engineers entitled "Structures of Coastal Resilience." The results of the work of all four university teams may be seen at

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On Vulnerability: Infrastructural, Social, and Environmental Risk at Jamaica Bay, Kjirsten Alexander
Sunday October 4, 2:00 PM



Jamaica Bay is comprised of complex layers of life and infrastructure. Intense regional air and ground transportation networks intersect with landfills, power plants, and water treatment operations. The bay's critical intertidal zone hosts sensitive marshland habitat that in turn supports local and migrating species. This talk will address the mapping of infrastructural, environmental, and social risk factors at Jamaica Bay, revealing sensitive zones where planned restorative efforts may be focused, defining opportunities for improved resiliency.

Kjirsten Alexander received her Master of Landscape Architecture degree from CUNY's City College of New York in 2012 and holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Development from Cornell's College of Human Ecology. Her interests focus on sites of human-environmental tension, particularly landscapes of resource extraction and local adaptation to climate change. Kjirsten was a research associate with the Structures of Coastal Resilience Jamaica Bay Team, and recently joined the Capital Projects design team at the New York City Parks Department.

From Protection to Restoration: A History of the U.S. Army Corps at Jamaica Bay, Eli Sands -
Sunday October 11, 2:00 PM.



The United States Army Corp of Engineers has a long and fascinating history in the Jamaica Bay watershed. From Breezy Point to Little Egg Island, their mission has slowly evolved to comprise both coastal storm risk reduction as well as environmental

restoration. This talk will review this fascinating history, as well as highlighting some of the projects and patents the USACE has designed and implemented over the years.

Eli Sands received his Master of Landscape Architecture degree from CUNY's City College of New York in 2015. Eli was a research assistant with the Structures of Coastal Resilience Jamaica Bay Team. His thesis project at City College, entitled Catch and Release, developed design strategies for the south shore of Lake Ontario. This project won the American Society of Landscape Architects' NY Chapter student Honor Award and was presented at the Dredgefest Great Lakes Symposium in Minneapolis, Minnesota in August 2015.

Above and Below: Species of Jamaica Bay, Danae Alessi
Sunday October 18, 2:00 PM



Jamaica Bay provides crucial habitat for a variety of plants and animals. This presentation will highlight the many migratory and year-round species that inhabit the bay, both in the air above the bay and the benthic zone beneath its waters. A contextual overview of land use and the impacts of urbanization on the bay, as well as the conflict of shared airspace between migratory species and airplanes, will also be discussed.

Danae Alessi received her Master of Landscape Architecture degree from CUNY's City College of New York in 2013, and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts, New York. Danae was a research associate

with the Structures of Coastal Resilience Jamaica Bay Team, and is currently a landscape designer at Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners in New York.

**The Unexpected Environmentalist:
Robert Moses, the Belt Parkway,
and the Jamaica Bay Wildlife
Refuge, Fern Lan Siew**

Sunday October 25, 2:00 PM



Perhaps no other single person had a greater effect on the development of Jamaica Bay in the twentieth century as Robert Moses. The primary force behind the construction of the highways and bridges in and around the bay, Moses was also responsible for most of Jamaica Bay's lands and waters being preserved as parks, as well as for the designation of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. The Belt Parkway system, completed in 1941, exhibits Moses's vision of richly landscaped transportation corridors that interlaced the movement of cars, bicycles, and pedestrians. Moses recognized that his parkway projects would ensure that the roads to his recreational facilities and parks would be built.

Fern Lan Siew received her Master of Landscape Architecture degree from CUNY's City College of New York in 2015, and is a graduate of the Master of Arts in Teaching program in secondary biology education at Cornell University. Prior to joining Terreform's Center for Advanced Urban Research as principal researcher, Fern was the curriculum developer for a series of NSF and NIH funded outreach education programs at the Nanobiotechnology Center and Cornell University, where she designed science kits and laboratory modules for students in grades K-12.

Note: We are very grateful to Prof. Seavitt for her excellent research and in setting up this series of lectures by her assisting scholars. Many thanks to all who have assisted in this program, to these presenters and especially to Madame Professor!

RECURRING PROGRAMS

Extended through September 30

Golden Age of Aviation

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Ryan Visitor Center

Daily, 11AM and 1PM

Ranger-led interpretive talks about the field's rich aviation history

Jacob Riis:

An Advocate for Parks

Jacob Riis Park, Bay 9, [Queens](#)

Daily, 2:30PM

Join a ranger to learn about the life of Jacob Riis, called "New York's most useful citizen" by Theodore Roosevelt and why the park was named in his honor.

Stories of the Sky

Golden Age Discovery Zone

Ryan Visitor Center, [Brooklyn](#)

Floyd Bennett Field

Daily, 12PM

Families and children join us for a fun time to hear a story, chosen daily by the ranger leading the program, about aviation.

Birding for Absolute Beginners

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, [Queens](#)

Saturdays and Sundays, 11AM

Join us for an introduction to this fun hobby. Learn how to do it like a pro in this introductory program. Bring binoculars and field guide, or borrow from the refuge.

Jamaica Bay 101

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, [Queens](#)

Daily, 10AM and 2PM

Want to know more about the complex history of Jamaica Bay? Join a ranger for a quick introduction and leisurely walk to explore some of the fascinating stories of this beautiful bay.

**Beach Plums and Goldenrod at
Plumb Beach**

Plumb Beach Round House,

[Brooklyn](#)

Sunday, September 6
10AM-12PM (1 mile♥)

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 the heroic efforts to halt the most severe beach erosion in the area. Bring sun protection, binoculars, and a magnifying glass. This is an American Littoral Society partnership program.

**Activating Senses and
Expanding Categories
Walking Tour with Bibi
Calderaro**

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge,
[Queens](#)

Saturday, September 12
10AM-1PM (1 mile♥)

From daily life to work, from self to world, from awareness to non-awareness, from sentient to inert matter, what separates one "thing" or state from another? This sensorial workshop, led by artist Bibi Calderaro, through the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge helps create a more dynamic awareness of these in-between spaces as we activate them with our walking. The workshop is an opportunity to nourish our ability to perceive and to narrate; it is a pleasurable form to become more attuned to who we are and how we live, and integrate our senses for a fuller and sustained way of living. Space strictly limited – RSVP at (718)318-4340.

Let's Go Biking

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Sunday,

September 13

11:30AM-4PM

Bike to the beach! Explore land and sea in Jamaica Bay. Bicycles and helmets provided. Call 718-338-4306 for Reservations.

Point Breeze Paddle

Gateway Marina, [Brooklyn](#)

Monday

September 14

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM (2 miles♥)

Join a Park Ranger for a leisurely paddle to enjoy the waning light of late summer. Kayaks, personal floatation devices, and paddles will be provided. Space is limited; call 718 338 3799 to make a reservation.

Golden Age Discovery Zone “Airplanes, Airplanes, Airplanes”

Ryan Visitor Center

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2015

2PM-3PM

Children aged 4-7 are invited to join us for a fun afternoon listening to stories about airplanes. Play on the toy plane in the Discovery Zone and make your own paper airplane to take home.

Sunrise Paddle

Floyd Bennett Field

Seaplane Ramp, [Brooklyn](#)

Friday

September 18

6:30 AM – 7:30 AM (2 miles♥)

Join a Park Ranger before going to work for this energetic paddle. Kayaks, personal floatation devices, and paddles will be provided. Space is limited; call 718 338 3799 to make a reservation.

Stargazing at Floyd Bennett Field

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

September 18, 2015

8PM-10PM

Come gaze at the wonders of the night sky over Floyd Bennett Field with the Amateur Astronomers Association. Weather permitting; clear or partly cloudy skies only. Telescopes are provided, but mosquito repellent is advised.

Sunrise Paddle

Floyd Bennett Field Seaplane Ramp,

[Brooklyn](#)

Friday

September 25

6:30 AM – 7:30 AM (2 miles♥)

Join a Park Ranger before going to work for this energetic paddle. Kayaks, personal floatation devices, and paddles will be provided. Space is limited; call 718 338 3799 to make a reservation.

Jamaica Bay Sunset Ecology Cruise

Sheepshead Bay, [Brooklyn](#)

Saturday, September 26; 4PM-7PM

Join us for a popular tour of the wildlife refuge aboard the “Golden Sunshine” leaving from Sheepshead Bay. Learn about the history, ecology, and wildlife of this 13,000 acre preserve and see migrating osprey, falcons, egrets, and shorebirds. Cost: \$55/person includes 3-hour narrated tour, wine & cheese, snacks, drink. For more info. and reservations call (718) 474-0896; e-mail donriep@gmail.com. This is a partnership program with the American Littoral Society and NYC Audubon.

OCTOBER

Herbert Johnson Lecture

On Vulnerability: Infrastructural, Social, and Environmental Risk at Jamaica Bay, Kjirsten Alexander

Sunday October 4, 2:00pm

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, [Queens](#)

Bus Q52, Q53 and A Train Broad Channel

Golden Age Discovery Zone “Get in the Scrap:” World War II

Recycling Effort

Ryan Visitor Center, [Brooklyn](#)

Floyd Bennett Field

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

1PM-3PM

Recycling is not a new idea. During WWII, children on the home front helped the war effort by salvaging scrap. Learn about WWII and read the story Nim and the War Effort, about a young girl helping in this effort. Then, make your very own WWII poster.

Fall Migration Hawk Watch

Fort Tilden, [Queens](#)

Saturday, October 10

10AM-1PM

Hike the shoreline and woods at Fort Tilden and visit the Hawk Watch platform on top of Battery Harris East. Meet at Building 1 at Fort Tilden. See many species of raptors and maybe a bald eagle! For more info. and reservations call (718) 474-0896. Leader: Don Riepe, email donriep@gmail.com.

Herbert Johnson Lecture

From Protection to Restoration: A History of the U.S. Army Corps at Jamaica Bay, Eli Sands -

Sunday October 11, 2:00PM.

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, [Queens](#)

Bus Q52, Q53 and A Train Broad Channel

The Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge: The Cultural Landscape

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens

Sunday, October 11, 2015

3:30-4:30 PM (1 mile♥)

Join a Park Ranger for this walking tour and discussion about how the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge came into being.

The Famous Flyers of Floyd Bennett Field

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Ryan Visitor Center

Sunday, October 18, 2015

1:30PM-2:30PM

Join a Park Ranger for a presentation to learn about some of the famous pilots associated with Floyd Bennett Field’s rich aviation history.

Herbert Johnson Lecture Above and Below: Species of Jamaica Bay, Danae Alessi

Sunday October 18, 2:00pm

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens

Bus Q52, Q53 and A Train Broad Channel

Lantern Tour of Fort Tilden

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

Sunday, October 25, 2015

7:30PM-8:30PM (1 mile♥)

Join a Park Ranger to experience and learn about historic Fort Tilden, in a little different way. Bring a flashlight and dress for the weather. Space is limited - call (718) 338-3799 for reservations.

Herbert Johnson Lecture The Unexpected Environmentalist: Robert Moses, the Belt Parkway, and the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Fern Lan Siew

Sunday October 25, 2:00pm.

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, [Queens](#)

Bus Q52, Q53 and A Train Broad Channel

NOVEMBER

Walking Tour of Ft. Tilden, [Queens](#)

Building 1

Sunday, November 1, 2015

10AM-12PM (1 mile♥)

Join a park ranger for this walking tour along Shore Rd., and through the back fort, to discover the hidden history of this former coastal defense post.

Make Do and Mend

Ryan Visitor Center

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

1PM-2PM

During WWII, everyone had to help in the war effort. Supplies were scarce and everyone had to pitch in. Clothes were mended and remade. Join us for a powerpoint presentation and peruse 1940s pamphlets that encouraged everyone to help the war effort.

Naval Aviation in Jamaica Bay

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Ryan Visitor Center

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

11AM-12PM

Join the National Park Service as we honor our veterans and learn about U.S. Naval Aviation's long history at Jamaica Bay.

Winter Waterfowl Workshop

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, [Queens](#)

Saturday, November 14, 2015

10AM-1PM (1 mile♥)

Meet at the Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for a brief slide presentation and walk along the trails and ponds to look for waterfowl and other birds. Learn about the many species of ducks and geese that spend winter in New York City and how to identify them. For more info. and reservations, call (718) 474-0896. Leader: Don Riepe, email donriepe@gmail.com. This is a partnership program with NYC Audubon.

Explore the Mysterious Back Woods at Fort Tilden

Building 1, [Queens](#)

Sunday, November 15, 2015

10AM-12PM (1 mile♥)

The leaves have fallen and the mysteries of the Back Woods at Ft. Tilden are now revealed. Walk the woods with American Littoral Society naturalist Mickey Maxwell Cohen to search for signs of winter wildlife and little-known historic fortifications of World War II. This is an American Littoral Society partnership program.

WWII Nose Art

Ryan Visitor Center, [Brooklyn](#)

Floyd Bennett Field

Thursday, November 19, 2015

2PM-3PM

World War II pilots painted graffiti-like designs on the nose of their planes. Children are invited to join us to learn about nose art and design a nose art picture of your own. For information, call 718-338-3799.

Stargazing at Floyd Bennett Field

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

November 20, 2015

8PM-10PM

Come gaze at the wonders of the night sky over Floyd Bennett Field with the Amateur Astronomers Association. Weather permitting; clear or partly cloudy skies only. Telescopes are provided, but mosquito repellent is advised.

End of list.