

Visitor Programs and Events

Fall 2015

Sandy Hook, New Jersey

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.



Officers Row Sunset, by Michael J. Paternoster, is an entry in our 2015 Photo Contest Find Your Park.

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:

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, Please see Jamaica Bay Guide for the full story of this excellent series.

The ♥ symbol denotes a hike or walk of moderate activity. Come enjoy nature and the park as you get some exercise.

Do you receive email notifications of Gateway’s programs and events? If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, please send a message to Charles.Markis@nps.gov, with ‘program guide’ in the subject line and we will add you.

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 below.

Continuing Programs

Sandy Hook Lighthouse & Keepers Quarters/Visitor Center

Daily, 9 AM - 5 PM

The 1883 Keepers Quarters has exhibits on New Jersey Lighthouses. Tours are first-come first-served starting at 1 PM, with the last tour at 4:30 PM. You must be at least 48 inches tall to climb the tower. A video in the adjacent barn is always available.

Battery Potter

Saturdays,

September 5 - September 26

1 PM - 4:30 PM

Explore and tour one of Sandy Hook's oldest gun batteries. Completed in 1895 it was the first concrete disappearing gun battery built in the United States.

Mortar Battery

Sundays,

September 6- September 27

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Completed in 1894 the Sandy Hook Mortar Battery was the first Endicott Era concrete mortar battery built in the United States as part of New York Harbor's defense against enemy attack from the sea.

History House

Officers' Row, Building #1

Tuesday, September 1- Wednesday, September 30

1PM- 5PM

This 1898 lieutenant's residence along "Officers Row" is furnished as it was in the 1940's when Fort Hancock was at its busiest. Stop in to chat with a ranger and learn how to become a park volunteer.

Centennial programs are denoted with green type and green boxes. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

Nike Missile Radar Site

Parking Lot L, Horseshoe Cove

Sunday, September 13, 12 – 4 PM

(Cold War Day)

Saturday, September 19, 12 – 4 PM

Sunday, September 27, 12 – 4 PM

Sunday, October 4, 12 PM – 4 PM

Saturday, October 17, 12 PM – 4 PM

Sunday, October 25, 12 PM – 4 PM

Sunday, Nov. 1, 12 PM – 4 PM

Sunday, November 8, 12 PM – 4 PM

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

Canoeing on Sandy Hook Bay

U.S. Life-Saving Station Parking Lot

(between Lot D and Lot E)

Saturday, September 5

9:15 AM – 12 PM

Take a two-mile morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook bay from an ideal vantage point—the water itself. Rangers guide you on a two and a half hour tour of the bayside waters and Skeleton Hill Island. Free, call 732-872-5970 to reserve.

Centennial: Junior Ranger Beachcombing Craft and Campfire Program

LOT E, Beach Plaza

Saturday, September 26

6 PM – 8 PM

Take a walk along the beach (between low and high tide cycles) to experience a search for seashells, crab carapaces, egg cases of different marine life and other interesting finds such as driftwood or rocks. Once gathered, participants will create a craft from the beach “goodies” ending with a beach campfire.

Seining on Sandy Hook Bay

LOT C, Bayside

Sunday, September 6

10 AM – 11:30 AM

Join a park ranger to seine the waters of Sandy Hook Bay. Many saltwater creatures migrate to warmer waters to mate, reproduce and find food. It is the perfect time of year to observe these animals before they head south for the season.

Centennial: Junior Ranger Naturalist

Beach Plaza @ North Beach

Saturday, September 12

12 PM – 2 PM

Collect natural materials from the beach and make you own wind chime. A park ranger will provide the materials and assist with the project.

Battery Gunnison/New Peck Restoration

Saturday, September 12

12 PM - 6 PM

The Army Ground Forces Association (AGFA) is a volunteer group in WWII-era uniform performing restoration projects and interpreting Battery Gunnison/New Peck. Visitors are invited to stop by to chat and learn more about Battery Gunnison/New Peck, and the historic time period of September 1943 at Fort Hancock.

Seining on Sandy Hook Bay

LOT C, Bayside

Saturday, September 12

10 AM – 11:30 AM

Join a park ranger to seine the waters of Sandy Hook Bay. Many saltwater creatures migrate to warmer waters to mate, reproduce and find food. It is the perfect time of year to observe these animals before they head south for the season.

Irongirl Triathlon

Sunday, September 13

7 AM - 12 PM

The triathlon is being held once again at Sandy Hook. Come cheer on over 3,000 participants in this swim/bike/run event which supports breast cancer research. For more information, visit www.irongirl.com.

Centennial: Cold War Day

LOT L, Horseshoe Cove

Sunday, September 13

12 PM – 4 PM

Tour a Nike Missile Radar Site

(located opposite Horseshoe Cove

Parking Lot L) and Nike Launch site

(located one mile south of the Nike

Radar Site) with the Nike NY-56

volunteers who have restored many of

the buildings to the time of the Cuban

Missile Crisis. Learn about why these

sites were essential to national security

in the Cold War era.

New Jersey Sea Grant

Consortium

Boy Scout Environmental

Science Merit Badge Program

Fort Hancock, Building #22

Saturday, September 19

10 AM – 3 PM

Discover the ecology of Sandy Hook's

maritime environment in this highly

interactive five-hour program at Sandy

Hook, conducted both outdoors and in

the NJSGC laboratory classroom.

Open to all individual boy scouts.

Advance registration

required. Register online

at www.njseagrant.org/education/scout

[-programs](http://www.njseagrant.org/education/scout) or contact Jody

Sackett: JSackett@njseagrant.org or [73](tel:201-287-1300)

[2-872-1300, ext. 20](tel:201-287-1300). Fee.

Stars of Sandy Hook

Beach Plaza, LOT E

Saturday, September 19

8 PM – 10 PM

Join a park ranger and the Amateur

Astronomy Association to view the

night sky. Bring telescopes and/or

binoculars.

Centennial: Sandy Hook "BioBlitz"

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. Programs and events follow.

Centennial: Sandy Hook "BioBlitz"

Headquarters located at the Littoral

Society, Bldg. 18

Friday, September 18 – Saturday,

September 19th, 3 PM – 3 PM

Join park and university naturalists

and researchers to discover the

biological diversity found on the

Sandy Hook peninsula over a 24 hour

period. You can participate in field

explorations and assist with species

counts, learn about the natural

ecosystems through public walks and

displays; or volunteer to assist with

the event. Registration is required.

For more information please visit

<http://nbii->

[nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/sandyhook/bi](http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/sandyhook/bioblitz/)

[oblitz/](http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/sandyhook/bioblitz/)

Special BioBlitz Programs: Sunset Seining

Friday, September 18

6 PM – 7:30 PM

Discover the diverse wildlife

inhabiting our coast. Join naturalists

at Horseshoe Cove on Sandy Hook

bay for a seining adventure.

Participants are invited to help pull

our 40 foot seine net through the bay,

and experience the excitement of

learning about the fish and other

marine life caught. Wear clothes and

shoes you don't mind getting wet.

Plum Island Natural History Hike

Friday, Sept 18

6 PM - 7:30 PM

Walk with a park ranger around the

marshes of Plum Island, and learn

about the native flora and fauna.

Star Gazing for Families (NJDEP)

Friday, September 18, 9 PM – 11 PM

The session will introduce novice sky-

watchers to the pleasures of looking

up! Learn tips, tricks, and stories of

what you see, how best to see, and

where to go to see the best the sky has

to offer. Telescopes will be set up to

look at the moon, planets and other

celestial objects visible that night.

Attendees are encouraged to bring

folding chairs, flashlights, binoculars

(if you have them), hot chocolate and

to dress for the weather.

Family Seining Program

Saturday, September 19

9:30 AM – 11 AM

Discover the diverse wildlife

inhabiting our coast. Join naturalists

at Horseshoe Cove on Sandy Hook

bay for a seining adventure.

Participants are invited to help pull

our 40 foot seine net through the bay,

and experience the excitement of

learning about the fish and other

marine life caught. Wear clothes and

shoes you don't mind getting wet.

Explore the Outer Edges of Sandy Hook

on the Old Dune Trail
Saturday, Sept 19

10AM - 11:30AM

Learn about the maritime forest,

dunes, and swale environment.

Spermaceti Cove Holly Forest Walk

Saturday, Sept 19

1PM – 3PM

Check out the country's largest stand

of virgin holly trees, with some

estimated to be older than 200 years

old. Learn how Holly trees adapt to

thrive in such a harsh environment.

NJDEP Exhibit

Saturday, September 19

10 AM – 3 PM

The DEP will feature displays that

focus on environmental stewardship,

water conservation, alternative

energy, recycling, state parks and

native and invasive

wildlife. Handouts and hands-on

materials will be available -

including free fossil shark teeth for

the kids

Canoeing on Sandy Hook Bay

U.S. Life-Saving Station Parking Lot

(between Lot D and Lot E)

Sunday, September 20

9:15 AM – 12 PM

Take a two-mile morning paddle to

explore Sandy Hook bay from an

ideal vantage point—the water itself.

Rangers guide you on a two and a

half hour tour of the bayside waters

and Skeleton Hill Island. Free, call

732-872-5970 to reserve.

Canoeing on Sandy Hook Bay

U.S. Life-Saving Station Parking Lot
(between Lot D and Lot E)

Sunday, September 20

9:15 AM – 12 PM

Take a two-mile morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook bay from an ideal vantage point—the water itself. Rangers guide you on a two and a half hour tour of the bayside waters and Skeleton Hill Island. Free, call 732-872-5970 to reserve.

Fall Equinox Walk

Guardian Park

Wednesday, September 23

6 PM – 8 PM

It is called the equinox because it's one of two days in the year when daylight and darkness agree to equally share the 24 hours in a day. Truth or myth - you can balance a raw egg on its end. Not sure, but it's a great day for an early evening walk on the Hook. Free, call Megan at the American Littoral Society at (732) 291-0055 or megan@littoralsociety.org to make reservations. ♥1 mile

Canoeing on Sandy Hook Bay

U.S. Life-Saving Station Parking Lot
(between Lot D and Lot E)

Saturday, September 26

9:15 AM – 12 PM

Take a two-mile morning paddle to explore Sandy Hook bay from an ideal vantage point—the water itself. Rangers guide you on a two and a half hour tour of the bayside waters and Skeleton Hill Island. Free, call 732-872-5970 to reserve.

Centennial: Junior Ranger Beachcombing Craft and Campfire Program

LOT E, Beach Plaza

Saturday, September 26

6 PM – 8 PM

Take a walk along the beach (between low and high tide cycles) to experience a search for seashells, crab carapaces, egg cases of different marine life and other interesting finds such as driftwood or rocks. Once gathered, participants will create a craft from the beach “goodies” ending with a beach campfire.

Seining on Sandy Hook Bay

LOT C, Bayside

Sunday, September 27

10 AM – 11:30 AM. Join a park ranger to seine the waters of Sandy Hook Bay. Many saltwater creatures migrate to warmer waters to mate, reproduce and find food. It is the perfect time of year to observe these animals before they head south for the season. NJ Sea Grant Consortium

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New Jersey Sea Grant

Consortium

Boy Scout Oceanography Merit Badge Program

Fort Hancock, Building # 22

Sunday, September 27

10:30AM – 2:30 PM

Explore Sandy Hook and experience the science of the ocean “hands-on” during this four-hour program, conducted both outdoors and in the NJS GC laboratory classroom. Open to all individual boy scouts. Advance registration required. Register online at www.njseagrant.org/education/scout-programs or contact Jody Sackett: JSackett@njseagrant.org or 732-872-1300, ext. 20. Fee

Lighthouse to Lighthouse Tour

Sandy Hook Keepers' Quarters

Sunday, September 27

5 PM – 7 PM

Climb the Sandy Hook Lighthouse starting at 5 p.m., then car caravan over to Twin Lights State Historic Site in the Highlands to climb the south tower there. Please call (732) 872-5970 to make reservations.

Super Harvest Moon of 2015

Beach Plaza, LOT E

Sunday, September 27

7 PM – 8:30 PM

Bring a flashlight for this night walk that utilizes the five senses. Call (732) 872-5970 to make reservations.

♥1 mile

OCTOBER PROGRAMS

Monarch Butterfly Walk

Beach Plaza, LOT E

Saturday, October 10

10 AM – 11:30 AM

This remarkable insect, whose migration route ends in Mexico, is featured on a ranger-led tour. Please call 732-872-5970 to make reservations. ♥ 1 mile

Centennial: New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge Weekend

Sandy Hook Lighthouse

Saturday, October 17,

8 AM - 6 PM

Sunday, October 18,

8 AM - 6 PM

The Sandy Hook Light is one of the 11 New Jersey Lighthouses along the Atlantic coastline and Delaware Bay open for tours this weekend at this annual event sponsored by the NJ Lighthouse Society. For more information, visit <http://www.njlhs.org>

Monmouth County Audubon Society

Fall Bird Walk

Spermaceti Cove Parking Lot
(between Lot D and Lot E)

Sunday, October 18

10 AM – 12 PM

Join MCAS for a walk along the ocean and bayside to look for fall migrants. Wear comfortable shoes and bring binoculars. Free. ♥ 1 mile

Stars of Sandy Hook

Beach Plaza, LOT E

Saturday, October 24

7 PM – 10 PM

Join a park ranger and the Amateur Astronomy Association to view the night sky. Bring telescopes and/or binoculars.

CENTENNIAL: FORT HANCOCK DAYS WEEKEND

Mark the anniversary of the 1895 establishment of Fort Hancock and discover the fort's role in the defense of our nation.

World War II Harbor Defense Lantern Tour

Fort Hancock Museum

Friday, October 23

6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Volunteer living historians from the Army Ground Forces Association (AGFA) in uniform as World War II coast artillery soldiers will take you for a walk that includes several seacoast gun batteries of Fort Hancock, highlighting the restored Battery Gunnison/New Peck. Bring a flashlight. ♥1.5 miles

Fort Hancock Day

Battery Gunnison/New Peck in World War II

Sunday, October 25

12 PM – 4:30 PM

Volunteer living historians in WWII uniform from the Army Ground Forces Association (AGFA) bring Battery Gunnison/New Peck and its 6-inch guns to life. Learn about the defense of NY Harbor and a Fort Hancock soldier's life during October 1943. Participate in loading the guns, tracking ships and "artillery math." Learn about 1940's metal working machines and see machinists making parts for these historic M1900 6-inch rifles. See restored 1920's – 1940's communications and interior electric systems. Learn about Fort Hancock Army medical support.

COA 25th Annual Beach Sweep

Lot Delta (Seagull's Nest Lot)

Saturday, October 24

9 AM - 12:30 PM

Clean Ocean Action's Beach Sweeps is a biannual, statewide beach cleanup that occurs at over 70 locations throughout the state of NJ. Each beach sweeper becomes a citizen scientist for the day as they record each piece of

debris that they collect. This turns a one-day, cleanup event into a legacy of data that impacts research and legislation. Bring gloves, attend rain or shine, and dress for the weather.

Closed, hard-soled shoes are recommended. For more information, please visit Clean Ocean Action's website www.CleanOceanAction.org or call 732-872-0111.

American Littoral Society Spooky Tales/ Ghosts of Historic Fort Hancock

Officer's Row, Building 18

Friday, October 30

7:30 pm - 10 pm

Get into the Halloween Spirit on this moonlight walk around Historic Fort Hancock where ghosts have been known to linger. Cider and fall snacks will be provided. Bring flashlights.

Cost: \$5 per person. Reservations required: contact Megan at 732-291-0055 or megan@littoralsociety.org ♥ 2 miles

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

Surf Fishing Clinic

Fort Hancock, Building #18

Saturday, November 7

8 AM – 10 AM

Join American Littoral Society Tagging Director, Jeff Dement, for a day of surf fishing and instruction on the beach at Sandy Hook. Instructional skills include casting, knot tying, lure/bait selection, and "reading" a beach. All skill levels are welcomed. Rods, reels and tackle will be provided, but bring your own equipment if you have it. Children under 18 are welcome with a supervising adult. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided but please bring your lunch. Space is limited. Call Jeff Dement at 732-291-0055 or jeff@littoralsociety.org to make a reservation. Fees: \$20 per Member Family, \$40 per Non-Member Family.

Holly Forest Ramble

Beach Plaza, LOT E

Saturday, November 14

2 PM – 3:30 PM

A ranger-led walk through Sandy Hook's maritime holly forest at a prime time to visit the area. Learn how the plants and animals in this habitat adapt to extreme climate conditions.

♥ 1 mile

End of list.