



## Visitor Programs and Events – Winter 2013 – 2014

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



© Peter Colen

#### Annual New Year's Day Beach Walks at 11am

Whether or not you have overindulged in holiday cheer, you may want to join the American Littoral Society New Year's Day walk for a breath of fresh air. These invigorating walks are offered at both Queens, and Sandy Hook. Dress appropriately and join us. See listings below for details.

*Left, a Brant Goose takes off from Jamaica Bay. This is a species that breeds in the Arctic and winters over in this area.*

#### Gateway Celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 1964 Civil Rights Act and Black History Month

We are approaching the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act (July 2, 2014) and are telling this story as it relates to the many African Americans served in the military here-- Floyd Bennett Field, Fort Wadsworth and Sandy Hook. Their stories are often overshadowed and not so well known. The military is an important part of Gateway's story and we are showcasing the many African-Americans who served our nation in many ways. Please join us for these programs in celebration of Black History Month (February) and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which will be given at the Ryan Visitor Center. You will find programs listed in the guide below. (*Not all programs are in February.*)

#### Winter is a Great Time to Get Outside and Get Moving...

...Providing that you are appropriately dressed and well shod. There are plenty of offerings for walks, hikes, and for the first snowfall, cross country skiing (bring your own gear). But you can get out on your own and experience nature against the backdrop of New York City.

#### Winter Break Programs For Kids Week of Feb. 16

You will see that we have scheduled some special programs for kids during the NYC winter break for the week of Feb. 16. These programs are listed below in a special boxed section. All programs are free.

*Join our mailing list? Please send a message to [Charles\\_Markis@nps.gov](mailto:Charles_Markis@nps.gov) and put program guide on the subject line to be added to our email list.*

### December

#### Fort Tilden Beach at Low Tide

Fort Tilden, **Queens**  
Building 1

Sunday, December 1  
12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

As a result of its elliptical orbit our moon comes closest to earth every December, resulting in the highest and lowest tides of the year. Join American Littoral Society naturalist Mickey Maxwell Cohen at low tide and discover the usually hidden biological treasures from beyond the tides. Bus: Q35, Q22

#### Star Gazing

Floyd Bennett Field, **Brooklyn**  
Community Garden

Friday, December 6  
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Join the Amateur Astronomers Association for a look at the night sky over New York. Telescopes are provided. Star gazing will be cancelled, in case of cloudy or rainy weather. Bus Q35.

## Dorie Miller Led the Way

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
Ryan Visitor Center  
Saturday, December 7  
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Remember Pearl Harbor by learning about Dorie Miller, who was there. And explore a history of African American service people during World War II. Bus: Q35

## Winter Homes ♥

Great Kills Park, [Staten Island](#)  
Ranger Station  
Sunday, December 15  
2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Learn how animals survive in winter and adapt to seasonal changes. Join a National Park Service Ranger on a walk. Dress appropriately for the weather. Reservations required: call (718) 987 – 6790. *3 miles*

## Famous First Flights

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
Ryan Visitor Center  
Sunday, December 15  
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Jamaica Bay has had its fair share of famous first flights taking off and landing from its shores. Join a park ranger for a slideshow about these flights, and many others. Bus: Q35

## Civil War or Civil Rights: A Century of Change

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
Ryan Visitor Center  
Sunday, December 15  
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Explore the major events of the civil rights continuum during the pivotal years from 1863 to 1963. Bus: Q35

## NYC Audubon

### Winter Bird Walk ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
[Queens](#)  
Saturday, December 21  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Join NYC Audubon for an easy hike around the West Pond, gardens and upland woods, and a slide presentation. Learn how plants and animals adapt to winter, and look for waterfowl, owls, and wintering birds. To register, call at (718)474-0896, or [donriepen@gmail.com](mailto:donriepen@gmail.com). Bus: Q52, Q53; A Train to Broad Channel. *2 miles*

## January

### Annual New Year's Day

**Beach Walk ♥ [Queens](#)**  
Fort Tilden, Chapel Parking Lot  
Wednesday, January 1  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join American Littoral Society for their 30th annual beach walk. Climb up to the hawk watch platform at noon to signal across the harbor to another group at Sandy Hook. Coffee and cookies will be served afterwards. No reservation necessary. Call (718) 474 – 0896 for more info. Bus: Q35, Q22. *2 miles*

### Wild Winter Nature Hike ♥

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
North Forty Natural Area  
Sunday, January 5  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The bare trees and shrubs in this woodland expose a winter wonderland of living things. Discover this mysterious, little known site with American Littoral Society Naturalist Mickey Maxwell Cohen. Bus: Q35. *2.5 miles*

### Tuskegee Airmen of World War II

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
Ryan Visitor Center  
Sunday, January 5  
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Learn about these trailblazing pilots, who fought against the Nazis overseas, and segregation at home. Bus: Q35

### The Prepared Paddler

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
Ryan Visitor Center  
Monday, January 6  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Interested in going paddling in Jamaica Bay? Get an overview of paddling best practices. Learn about the skills and equipment you will need, so you can plan your next trip. Space is limited; call (718) 338 – 3799 to make a reservation.

### Civil War to Civil Rights: World War II

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
Ryan Visitor Center  
Sunday, January 12  
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Learn little known histories of African Americans at Normandy and Port Chicago during World War II. Bus: Q35

### Jamaica Bay Origami

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge,  
[Queens](#)  
Saturday, January 18  
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Did you know that origami came from the Japanese words “Oru” meaning “to fold” and “Kami” meaning “paper”? Learn more about this relaxing art and create an animal found in and around Jamaica Bay. Bus: Q52, Q53; A Train to Broad Channel

### The Coast Artillery During World War I

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
Ryan Visitor Center  
Sunday, January 19  
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The U.S. Army’s Coast Artillery did more than just guard the shores of the United States during World War I. Join a park ranger for a slideshow presentation to find out about their service around New York Harbor and “over there.” (718) 338-3799. Bus: Q35

### Hike to Moses Mountain ♥ High Rock Nature Center, [Staten Island](#)

Meet at the Nevada Parking Lot Entrance  
Sunday, January 19  
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Discuss the connection that Robert Moses, a New York City Parks Commissioner, had to Gateway National Recreation Area and to the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Join the Greenbelt Environmental Educators and a National Park Ranger, for a hike to Moses Mountain. Reservations required: call (718) 351 – 3450. *4 miles*

## Jamaica Bay Origami

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge,  
Queens

Sunday, January 19  
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Did you know that origami came from the Japanese words “Oru” meaning “to fold” and “Kami” meaning “paper”? Learn more about this relaxing art and create an animal found in and around Jamaica Bay. Bus: Q52, Q53; A Train to Broad Channel

## Civil War to Civil Rights: Congressman Celler

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
Ryan Visitor Center

Sunday, January 19  
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Brooklyn Congressman Emmanuel Celler took the lead on a bipartisan effort in the Congress that passed the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Bus: Q35

## February

### Can't Wait for Spring: Osprey

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge,  
Queens

Saturday, February 1  
1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Explore the winter journey of a Jamaica Bay Osprey. (718) 318 – 4340 Bus: Q52, Q53; A Train to Broad Channel

### Exploring Dead Horse Bay ♥

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
Main Entrance Ranger Station

Sunday, February 2  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Hike the trails and shoreline of Dead Horse Bay with American Littoral Society Naturalist Mickey Maxwell Cohen, author of *Exploring the Trails of Dead Horse Bay*, Bus: Q35 1.5 miles

## Wings Over America: The Civilian Pilot Training Program

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
Ryan Visitor Center  
Sunday, February 9  
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

In 1939, the Civilian Pilot Training Program was established to provide aviation training to college students. Learn about the flight schools established at Floyd Bennett Field, and how these pilots later went to war. Bus: Q35

## Civil War to Civil Rights: A Revolutionary Act

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
Ryan Visitor Center

Sunday, February 9  
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Examine the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which passed the House on February 10, 1964. Learn about the impact on New York. (718) 338 – 3799. Bus: Q35

## Winter Waterfowl Walk ♥

Great Kills Park, [Staten Island](#)  
Ranger Station

Wednesday, February 12  
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 27  
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Join a park ranger to view the many species of ducks visiting Great Kills Park. We provide a spotting scope for up close viewing; bring binoculars if you have them. Reservations required. Call (718) 987 – 6790. 3 miles

## Can't Wait for Spring: Amazing Butterflies

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge,  
Queens

Saturday, February 15  
10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Join a park ranger to learn about the amazing life cycles of the butterflies that live in Jamaica Bay. Bus: Q52, Q53; A Train to Broad Channel

## Civil War to Civil Rights: Presidents

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
Ryan Visitor Center

Sunday, February 16  
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Celebrate Presidents Day. Compare the roles Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy performed relative to advancing human rights. Bus: Q35

## Can't Wait for Spring: Native Orchids of the Northeast

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge,  
Queens

Sunday, February 23  
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Though one of the largest plant families, orchids are rarely abundant for a variety of reasons. Wonderfully adapted, they are hardly the "hot house darlings" many consider them. In fact many can be found in our busy northeast, several closer than you might suspect. Join park ranger Dave Taft to learn about these surprisingly hearty native plants. Bus: Q52, Q53; A Train to Broad Channel.

## "The Times Were a - Changing"

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)  
Ryan Visitor Center

Sunday, February 23  
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

1964 was a year of momentous social changes in New York City. Newspaper strikes, Civil Rights activists Schwerner and Goodman, and gender equality all had dynamic impacts. Bus: Q35

## Winter Break Programs

*While school's out join us for some fun programs that explore your national park!*

### Explore, Learn, Protect!

#### Have a Hoot Junior Ranger ♥

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge,  
Queens

Sunday, February 16

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Kids ages 7 to 12, are invited to join a park ranger to earn their very own Junior Ranger badge, and to get started on the way toward earning their Junior Ranger patch! Junior Rangers will go on an owl adventure to learn about beautiful birds and their diet by investigating owl pellets. Be prepared to take a hike along the west pond train to search for owl habitat. Bus: Q52, Q53; A Train to Broad Channel. 1.5 miles

### Explore, Learn, Protect!

#### Become a Junior Ranger

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Ryan Visitor Center

Monday, February 17

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Kids ages 7 to 12, are invited to join a park ranger to learn about Gateway's Jamaica Bay Unit, and to earn their very own Junior Ranger badge, and to get started on the way toward earning their Junior Ranger patch! Reservations required (718) 338 – 3799. Bus: Q35

#### Bessie Coleman

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Ryan Visitor Center

Tuesday, February 18

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Bessie Coleman was the first female African American pilot. Children ages 3 to 7, help celebrate Black History Month, by joining us for a story about Bessie's life. Bus: Q35

#### Balance Challenge for Children ♥

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Ryan Visitor Center

Wednesday, February 19

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Balance and flexibility are important parts of healthy living. Children ages 6 – 12 will enjoy a host of fun balance and flexibility exercises that they can also do at home. Space is limited; call (718) 338 – 3799 to make a reservation.

#### Tuskegee Airmen

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Ryan Visitor Center

Thursday, February 20

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Children ages 5 to 9, join in the Discovery Zone to hear a story about the brave African American pilots of World War II. Bus: Q35

## Continuing Programs

#### Cross Country Skiing ♥

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Aviator Sports Parking Lot

First Snowfall

Follow the cross country ski trail through the North 40. A National Park Service Ranger will cut a track at first snow. Call (718) 338 – 3799 for trail conditions.

#### H.A.R.P.

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Hangar B

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Guided Tours

Sundays

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Come and visit the volunteers of the Historic Aircraft Restoration Program, as they restore aircraft associated with Floyd Bennett Field's rich aviation history. Bus: Q35.

#### Kayak Volunteer Corps

##### Sunrise Paddles ♥

Floyd Bennett Field, [Brooklyn](#)

Seaplane Ramp

Variable Weekday Mornings

6 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

If you are already a prepared four season paddler and would like to kayak with other skilled paddlers, join our Kayak Volunteer Corps. Stay in good form and be ready to share your skills this spring with the public paddling program. Please call (718) 338 – 3799 for more information. Bus: Q35.

## Gateway Partners

#### American Littoral Society

Study and conservation of marine and coastal environment.

[www.alsnyc.org](http://www.alsnyc.org)

(718) 318 – 9344

#### 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/>

#### 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](http://www.nyc.gov/parks) or call 311.

#### Rockaway

##### Artists Alliance

260 Beach 116 Street

Rockaway Beach, NY 11694

[www.rockawayartistsalliance.com](http://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:

## Hours

Jamaica Bay

Wildlife Refuge

Daily, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed December 25

Closed New Year's Day

(718) 318 – 4340

Bus Q52, Q53,

Subway "A" Train to Broad Channel Stop

Ryan Visitor Center

Daily, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Permit office and bookstore

TBA

Closed December 25

New Year's Day

(718) 338 – 3799

Bus Q 35



## Visitor Programs and Events – Winter 2013 – 2014

### Sandy Hook

#### December

##### Monmouth County Audubon Society Sandy Hook Migrants and Waterfowl ♥

Parking Lot B

Sunday, December 8

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Walk along the bayside and ocean to look for late fall migrants and arriving waterfowl. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring binoculars. *2 miles*

##### Geminid Meteor Shower Party

Parking Lot E

Saturday, December 14

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Join a park ranger and the Amateur Astronomers Association to view the moon, Jupiter and the Geminid meteor shower. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars or telescopes.

##### Children's Christmas Crafts Workshop

Lighthouse Keepers Quarters

Sunday, December 15

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Bring the family and learn to make paper chains and popcorn garland, reminiscent of homemade decorations from long ago.

##### Christmas Holly Walk ♥

Parking Lot E

Saturday, December 21

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Enjoy the winter scenery and learn about the “holly” of Christmas with a ranger-guided walk around Sandy Hook’s 64-acre maritime Holly Forest. *1 mile*

#### January

##### New Year's Day

##### Beach Walk ♥

Building 18, Fort Hancock

Wednesday, January 1

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

American Littoral Society New Year's Day beach walk is a great way to start the year, especially if you have overindulged in holiday cheer. Take a winter stroll on the beach and return to House 18 for hot cider/chocolate and hot dogs. Bring any holiday finger desserts that you wish to share. For more information, call (732) 291-0055. *2 miles*

##### Winter Twilight Exploration ♥

Lighthouse Keepers Quarters

Sunday, January 2

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Enjoy the Hook from dusk to dark with this exploration on one of Sandy Hook's trails or beaches. Bring your own flashlight! *1 mile*

#### February

##### Holly Forest Walk ♥

Meet at Sandy Hook

Visitor Center

Sunday, February 2

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Experience the unique charm of this 64-acre maritime holly forest on a ranger-led winter walk. *1 mile*

##### Monmouth County

##### Audubon Society

##### Waterfowl Everywhere ♥

Parking Lot B

Saturday, February 8

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Take a walk along the bayside and ocean to look for wintering waterfowl. Wear lots of layers, comfortable walking shoes and bring binoculars. *2 miles*

##### Searching for Seals in the Surf ♥

Lighthouse Keepers Quarters

Sunday, February 9

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Hike out to the Sandy Hook bayside with a park ranger to search for seal activity during their annual migration; and learn about marine mammals that dwell in the waters of Sandy Hook at different times of the year. Reservations required, please call (732) 872-5970. *1 mile*

##### Winter Night Prowl ♥

Parking Lot E

Saturday, February 15

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Bring a flashlight on this after-dark sensory walk through Sandy Hook's 64-acre maritime holly forest. *1 mile*

##### Winter Seal and Waterfowl Walk ♥

Building 18, Fort Hancock

Saturday, February 22

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Bring your binoculars and join the American Littoral Society on a trek to coastal ponds and estuaries for a look at the seals and waterfowl that over-winter at Sandy Hook. Afterwards, return to ALS headquarters and warm up with snacks and toasty beverages. Cost is \$5 per person, and reservations are required. Call to reserve: (732) 291-0055. *1 mile*