



Visitor Programs and Events, Spring 2012

Staten Island Unit

March

Waterfowl Walk ♥

Great Kills Park Ranger Station
Sunday, March 11
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Observe a variety of birds in their winter habitat at Great Kills Park. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. Reservations required. 3 miles. Call (718) 987 – 6790.

World War II Day at Fort Wadsworth

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Saturday, March 24

Join World War II re-enactors from the 9th Division Historical Preservation Society as they recreate the life of the Army G.I. at Fort Wadsworth.

“Respect”

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Sunday, March 25
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Women’s contributions to the defense of the United States, in uniform, in defense industries, on the home front, in entertainment [such as Aretha Franklin, whose 70th birthday is March 25, 2012], and public policy, through a multi-media program at the Visitor Center and Mont Sec House.

Seashells and Mermaid’s Purses

Great Kills Park Beach Station
Sunday, March 25
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Parents and children may stroll the ocean beach at low tide to find Neptune’s bounty of seashells. Look for mermaid’s purses, pastel shades of beach glass and horseshoe crab shells. Learn about the animals that made the shells and how they survive in the challenging surf environment. Wear sneakers and dress for the weather.

Kite Flying and Beach Walk

Miller Field Ranger Station
Saturday, March 31
12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Kids and adults alike are invited to join a park ranger for a fun afternoon of kite building. When the kites are ready we’ll launch them from the historic airfield. All materials will be provided. Call 718-351-6970 for more information.

April

Peek at a Tide Pool

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Saturday, April 7
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

All ages may participate in this program using dip nets to collect and observe small marine animals. The animals can be found in a tide pool at low tide at the edge of the Fort Wadsworth beach. Participants will learn about how the animals collected depend on each other for survival. Participants will car caravan to the beach. Wear rain boots for wading in shallow water and dress for the weather.

“Pioneer in Sports” Program

Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Thursday, April 12
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Meet a baseball pioneer who was a member of the All-American Girls Baseball League from 1950-1954. Reservations required. Call (718) 987 – 6790.

Receive this Program Guide Electronically

This program guide is published four times a year. If you are not on our email list and wish to receive this publication and notices of special programs and events, please email Charles.Markis@nps.gov, put “program guide” in the subject line to request addition to our list.

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!

War of 1812 Bicentennial – Community Quilt

Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Sundays, March 11 & 25
April 15, 22, & 29
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Come join other local residents for this quilting experience led by NPS volunteer Jarda Crane. Several sessions will include Park Ranger discussions on the daily life and significant events of early 19th century New York.

Junior Ranger: You Need a Flower!

April 11, 12, & 13
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Bring your kids to explore blooming flowers at Great Kills Park! A daily program will be held by NPS Intern Francesca Simondi during spring break. Children will use creativity and imagination to discover the wonders of Gateway National Recreation Area! Nature, music and art will involve them in an exciting tour through the park! Some of the artistic works that the kids will produce, will be posted on: www.naturalmentenaturally.blogspot.com.

Mont Sec House Open House

**112 A Mont Sec Avenue
Fort Wadsworth
Saturday, April 14, 2011
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

Visit historic Mont Sec House for an afternoon in another era. Join a Park Ranger for a tour of the home and discover how an officer and his family lived at Fort Wadsworth during the nineteenth century.

40th Anniversary Beach Clean – up Day ♥

**Sunday, April 15
Fort Wadsworth
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Miller Field
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

Honor Earth Day and Gateway's 40th Anniversary by volunteering to assist National Park Rangers with trash collection on our park's beaches. Call (718)354 – 4500, or (718) 351 – 6970 to register yourself or your group as volunteers. *1 mile.*

Spring Photography at the Fort

**Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Sunday, April 15
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

Bring your camera and tripod and join a Park Ranger as you explore the budding spring around New York's "Guardian of the Narrows." Learn photography tips, techniques, and a little history as you explore.

Junior Ranger: Where's My Home Gone?

**Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Saturday, April 21
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

Children ages 7 -10 will enjoy the antics of fiddler crabs, the clowns of the crab world, while learning about their natural history. Participants will explore the Great Kills salt marsh at low tide to find out why fiddler crabs can no longer be found living there. Wear old sneakers for walking in packed mud.

Earth Day Volunteer Beach Cleanup

**Great Kills Beach Center
Parking Lot G
Sunday, April 22**

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Join the National Park Rangers for a spring-cleaning of the beach and maritime dune area. Bring gloves and water.

"Zinnia's Garden": Story Hour at Miller Field Building 26

**Saturday, April 28
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

Children, ages four to six are invited to a story hour at Miller Field. Enjoy a story read by a Park Ranger and complete your visit by potting your own plant to take home. Reservations required; call (718) 354 – 4528.

May

Photography at Great Kills Park

**Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Saturday, May 12
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

Bring your camera and tripod and join a Park Ranger to explore and capture the natural beauty of Raritan Bay.

Build a Bird House

**Miller Field Ranger Station
Saturday, May 12 at noon**

Join a park ranger for this popular arts and crafts activity. All ages are welcome and all supplies will be provided. Call 718-351-6970 to reserve a spot for your family.

Nature Stories

**Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Sunday, May 13, 2012
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

Children ages four to six are invited to explore nature while listening to a nature story read by a park ranger. Complete your visit by making a bookmark to take home.

Shorebird Migration ♥

**Great Kills Park Ranger Station
Sunday, May 13
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Low tide at Great Kills Park offers a great opportunity to view migrating shorebirds. Bring binoculars. *3 miles.*

Micro and Macro Seining - for Kids!

**Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Saturday, May 19, 2012
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Kids ages 9 – 12 will explore an urban marine estuary through two seining activities to learn about the challenges of the animals living in an urban estuary. Some of the children will use a large seine net working with the rangers to collect small animals, others will use plankton nets to collect microscopic plants and animals. Children will observe the animals collected and learn about food chains. The will be discussed. Parents will car caravan participants to Crooke's Point parking lot. Wear old sneakers, socks, and long pants.

Treasure Your Island 4

**Fort Wadsworth
Sunday, May 20
11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Come enjoy a local festival commemorating islanders from the early Dutch period to the present. For more information, call 718-354-4602.

Horseshoe Crab Walk

**Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Saturday, May 26
12 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

Walk the beach in Great Kills Park in search of "living fossils." These ancient creatures pre-date the dinosaurs and have copper-based blood that is the subject of medical research. This program will include educational components and exercise. Depending on weather conditions, it may also incorporate date collection such as horseshoe crab tagging under the direction of NPS personnel. Call 718-354-4500 to register.

War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration

**Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Sunday, May 27
10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Commemorate the War of 1812 with an audio-visual presentation by Borough Historian Tom Matteo, hands-on education programs for families "Sentinels of Our Shores," and tours of Battery Weed. Call 718-354-4500 for more information.