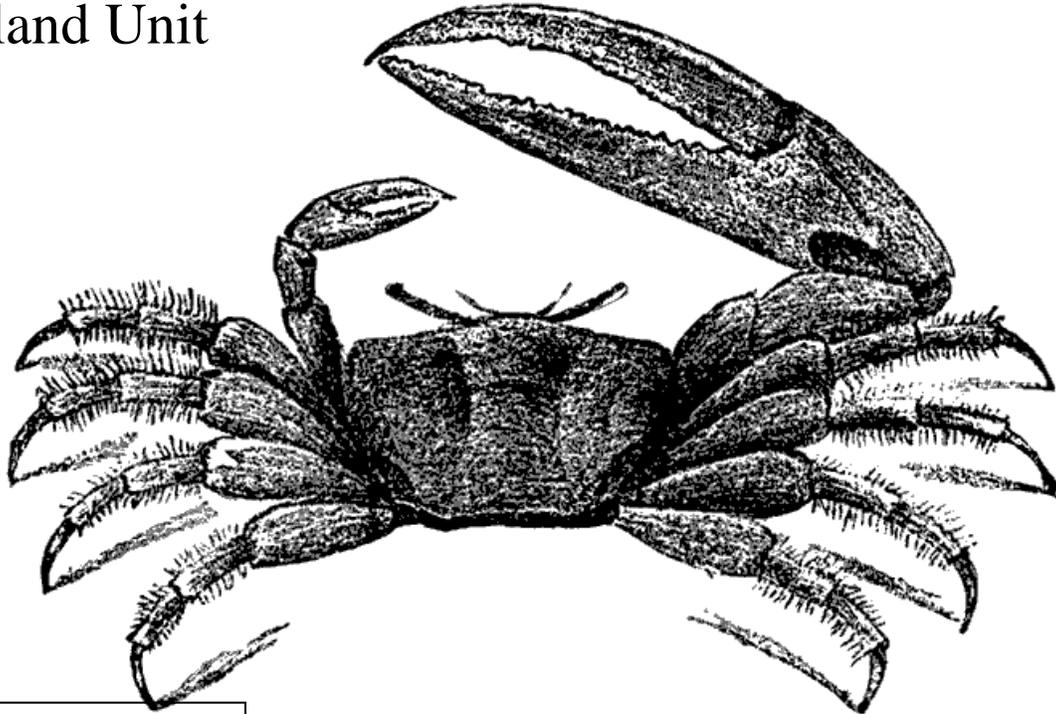




Visitor Programs and Events, Winter 2011 – 2012

Staten Island Unit



Discover Gateway During Winter Break!

Just because the weather has gotten colder, that doesn't mean that you can't enjoy your national park. Gateway's Staten Island Unit offers four seasons of discovery and fun, for the whole family! While children are out of school, they can discover nature all around them, on a winter walk along the beach with a ranger at Great Kills Park, or at a storytelling hour. Or, learn the long, storied history of how Fort Wadsworth defended New York Harbor. Maybe you want to explore on your own, along the park's many trails. Whatever you decide, Gateway is yours to enjoy!

This winter, take a break...at Gateway's Staten Island Unit!

All park visitor centers and offices will be closed on December 25, and January 1. Park grounds will remain open during regular hours.

December

Early Winter Beach Discovery ♥

**Great Kills Park Beach Station
Saturday, December 3
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

Explore the Great Kills Park beach in early winter with a ranger. Look for objects washed up by the tide, and find shells that have a story to tell. Learn how animals that live in the sand, survive the winter. Kids ages 5 to 9 years old are invited to participate, and a parent must be present with their child. For more information, call (718) 354 – 4630.

A Naval Revolution

**Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Sunday, December 10, 2011
1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

How the introduction of ironclad warships led the world's major naval powers to build steel warships, thus leading the U.S. Army to construct coastal artillery fortifications like the "disappearing guns" on reinforced concrete batteries. For more information, call (718) 354 – 4500.

Holiday Wreaths

**Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Sunday, December 11 12:00 p. m.**
Create wreaths using pinecones, flowers and more as we share the holiday spirit. All materials will be provided and all ages are welcome. Reservations required. Call 718-351-6970.

Winter Survival

**Great Kills Park Ranger Station
Sunday, December 11
2:30-4:30 p.m.**

Join a park ranger on a walk to learn how animals survive in winter and adapt to seasonal changes. Dress for the weather. Reservations required. Call 718-987-6790.

Holiday Hints in the Forest by the Shore ♥

**Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Saturday, December 17
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

Parents and their children will explore the maritime forest at Crooke's Point

looking for berries, pine cones, evergreen boughs, and other reminders of the holidays. A ranger will lead the group to find evidence of animals preparing for the winter. Participants should meet the ranger at the Education Field Station to car caravan to Crooke's Point. For more information, call (718) 354 – 4630.

January

Humorous and Strange Stories of Animals

**Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Saturday, January 7
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

Children and adults alike will laugh at these hilarious stories of familiar animals, then settle in to learn more about strange creatures of the sea. The last story will be a fantasy about a mythological animal, but with an environmental protection message. Appropriate for children aged 6-9 years. For more information, call (718) 354 – 4630.

The Times Were A'Changing

**Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Saturday, January 21
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

As the 1960s Bob Dylan song implied, the world was in turmoil. Many momentous world-wide events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) and Gulf of Tonkin episode (1964) occurred that prompted major changes in New York City and on its military and naval installations, including Fort Wadsworth and Miller Field. Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center

Technology Changes War

**Fort Wadsworth
Visitor Center
Saturday, January 28
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

This program explores how technological advances, such as railroads, large-scale steel production, electricity, telegraph and telephone communication, and rifled artillery guns allowed the “disappearing guns” of Fort Wadsworth to be produced and permitted coastal artillery spotters, fire control officers, and cannon crews to function more effectively “in real time.”

Hike to Moses Mountain

**Greenbelt Nature Center
Sunday, January 29 1-3 p.m.**

Join a park ranger and Greenbelt Environmental Educators for a hike to Moses Mountain that will include a discussion on the connections between Robert Moses, the former New York City Parks Commissioner, and the Gateway National Recreation Area. Reservations required. Call 718-987-6790.

February

Secret Places of Fort Wadsworth ♥

**Fort Wadsworth
Visitor Center
Saturday, February 4
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

Join a National Park Ranger for a hike to areas off the beaten trail at Fort Wadsworth. Wear sturdy footwear, a warm jacket and bring your camera.

Arts & Crafts

**Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Saturday, February 4; 12:00 p.m.**
Join a park ranger for an activity designed for the whole family. All supplies will be provided and all ages are welcome. Reservations required. Call 718-351-6970.

We've Proven That We Can

**Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center
Sunday, February 12
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

Celebrate Black History Month at this multi-media presentation recognizing persons of African ancestry, such as Dr. Charles Drew, seaman Crispus Attucks, Peter Salem, Salem Poor, and others who fought and served the US proudly from before its Revolution through WWII.

Winter Waterfowl Walk

**Great Kills Park Ranger Station
Wednesday, February 22
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

Join a park ranger and the Greenbelt Environmental Educators 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.

Scoping Out the Harbor

**Fort Wadsworth Battery Weed
Saturday, February 25
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

Check out the natural and historic sites of New York Harbor using spotting scopes set up along the waterfront in front of Battery Weed.

Stories of Sea Creatures, Big and Small ♥

**Great Kills Park
Education Field Station
Sunday, February 26
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

Hear stories of big and famous sea creatures, as well as the, just as fascinating, little animals of the sea. Then take a walk to the ocean beach to briefly look for the animals that live there. This program is suitable for 6 – 9 year olds, and their parents.

Patchwork Quilting: Putting the Pieces Together

**January, 8, 22 February 5 and 19
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

On Sunday afternoons, starting January 8, and every other week, gather at the Mont Sec House to learn the basics of quilting. Skills and techniques will start with picking fabric and end with the binding of a “Variable Star” pillow. An outline of the process and instructions on fabric and tools used in quilting will be demonstrated. We will learn to cut, piece and sew the block together. The process of sandwiching and quilting will be demonstrated; the final lesson will cover the finishing techniques. Some materials will be provided. Call (718) 354 – 4500

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 and volunteer projects 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!