



Late August/September 2013 Special Programs this Month at Fire Island National Seashore

For More Information:

www.nps.gov/fiis

631-687-4750

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Wednesday-Sunday (thru Sept. 2) **Sunken Forest Tour** 11 am – 12:30 pm – Sailors Haven Visitor Center

Weekends (Sept. 7 thru Oct. 14) **Sunken Forest Tour** 11:30 am - 1 pm – Sailors Haven Visitor Center

Weekends (thru Sept. 2) **Exploring the Salt Marsh Canoe Tour** 11 am – 1 pm – Watch Hill Visitor Center

Weekends (Sept. 7 thru Oct. 14) **Watch Hill Salt Marsh and the Maritimes Walk** 11 am – 12:30 pm – Watch Hill VC

Weekends (thru Oct. 14) **Lighthouse Tower-less Tour** 11 am - 3 pm hourly – Fire Island Lighthouse

Free program; call for information: 631-661-4876

The Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society is offering a guided tour of the Lighthouse complex—the Keepers Quarters, Fresnel Lens Building, and Boat House—while the Lighthouse tower is closed for construction.

Saturday

August 24:

4 – 5 pm

Interesting Insects: Cool, Curious, & Concerning Facts about Ticks & Mosquitoes – Watch Hill

Free program; call for information: 631-687-4766

Do you enjoy the outdoors but hate biting insects? Park biologist Kaetlyn Kerr shares information about mosquitoes and ticks, their life cycle, their struggle to survive, and their importance to the Fire Island ecosystem

Sunday

August 25:

Happy 97th Birthday, National Park Service!

Get out for a tour of the **William Floyd Estate's Old Mastic House** or a stroll along the beach to the **Fire Island Lighthouse, Sunken Forest Nature Trail, Watch Hill Salt Marsh Trail**, or hike to the **breach at Old Inlet in the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness!**

Wednesday

August 28:

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Fire Island Dynamics: Nutrients, Storms, Deer and Humans – Patchogue Ferry Terminal

Free program; call for information: 631-687-4772

Guest lecturer Henry W. (Hank) Art shares views of the changes in plant and animal populations that have occurred over the past 75 years on Fire Island, with insights into the interactions between humans and the barrier island systems.

Saturday

August 31:

11 am – 12:30 pm

Ecology of the Sunken Forest, Then & Now: Special Tour with Hank Art – Sailors Haven

Free program; call for information: 631-597-6183

Ecologist Henry W. (Hank) Art conducted extensive studies on the vegetation of the Sunken Forest from the 1960s to 1990s. Join him as he revisits his old stomping grounds and discover how the forest has changed through the years.

Saturday

August 31:

11 am – 3:30 pm

The Summer Gunner: Art and Lore of Traditional Decoy Carving - William Floyd Estate

Free program; call for information: 631-399-2030

Join decoy carver Jaime Reason on the front porch of the Old Mastic House to learn about the history of waterfowl hunting in the local bays and the rich traditions of carving shorebirds and ducks by hand.

Saturday

August 31:

4 – 5:30 pm

Bounty of Fire Island – Sailors Haven Visitor Center

Free program; call for information: 631-597-6183

Join this indoor presentation about the fruits, fowl, fish and shellfish of Fire Island and surrounding waters, and how people of the region have for centuries, used these foods from nature for sustenance.

Sunday

September 1:

10 am – 3 pm

Annual Labor Day Sand Creation Contest – Watch Hill and Sailors Haven Beaches

Free program; call for information: 631-597-6455 (Watch Hill) or 631-597-6183 (Sailors Haven)

All ages welcome. Register at lifeguard stand until Noon; judging 1 pm; awards 2 pm. This year's theme: **Seashore Life**

Thursday - Friday

September 5-6:

Fire Island 2-Day Trek – Watch Hill to Fire Island Lighthouse

\$100/person; reservations required; call for information: 631-687-4780

2-day, 13-mile hike. Fee covers lodging, some meals and logistical support.

Sunday

September 8

11:30 am - 1 pm

Monarch Migration Walk – Sailors Haven Visitor Center

Free program; call for information: 631-687-4780 or 631-631-76183

For a few special days each autumn, Fire Island becomes a temporary home to thousands of migrating monarch butterflies. Learn more about these beautiful insects and the remarkable journey they make to the mountains of Mexico.

(More)

Fire Island National Seashore Special Programs this Month: **September 2013** (cont.)

Wednesday

September 11:

Happy 49th Anniversary, Fire Island National Seashore!

*Get out for a stroll along the beach to the **Fire Island Lighthouse** or hike to the **breach at Old Inlet** in the **Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness**, or visit a **Fire Island community**!*

Saturday

September 14:

9 am

Light Keepers Behind-the-Scenes Tour – Fire Island Lighthouse

\$20/person; reservations required – limit 12 people; call for information: 631-661-4876

Follow a present day Lighthouse Keeper on his rounds from the auxiliary generator and Light Keeper's workshop, then to the Fresnel Lens Building. Learn how Lighthouse Keepers from the 1860s to the present maintain the light. Program includes a tour of the Lens Building which houses the lighthouse's original first order Fresnel lens.

Sunday

September 15:

2 pm

Lighthouse Lecture Series: Children's Book Signing – Fire Island Lighthouse Lens Building

Free program; call for information: 631-661-4876

Joanne Vergona Krapp signs her children's book, *Missing Treasure Means Trouble*, followed by an activity for kids.

Saturday

September 21:

11 am - 8 pm

Fire Island 1-Day Twilight Trek – Fire Island Pines to Fire Island Lighthouse

Free program; reservations required; call for information: 631-687-4780

1-day, 9-mile hike. Participants must arrange for their own transportation to and from Fire Island.

Sunday

September 22:

11:30 am – 1 pm

Fall Forest Walk – Sailors Haven

Free program; call for information: 631-687-4780 (weekdays), 631-687-6183 (weekends)

Autumn officially arrives today at the Sunken Forest. See late blossoms and early fruits and the beginning of fall foliage. Look for deer, south-bound migrant songbirds and more. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Saturday

September 28

11:30 am – 2 pm

Celebrate 20th Anniversary of National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day Canoe Tour – Watch Hill

Free program; reservations required – space is limited; call for information: 631-687-4780

Join a special canoe paddle along the lee side of Fire Island. Explore the early fall salt marshes fringing the Fire Island Wilderness. Paddlers must be 16 years or older. Bring sun and insect protection, drinking water, snack, water shoes.

Saturday

September 28

1 pm – 3:30 pm

National Public Lands Day Beach to Breach Hike and Cleanup – Fire Island Wilderness

Free program; call for information 631-687-4766

Learn while lending a hand. Explore the dynamic dune line and beach on a 1.7 mile hike to the breach at Old Inlet. On the way back, help clean the beach. Bring drinking water, dress for the weather and for walking on sand.

Saturday

September 28

10 – 11:30 am

Documents in Stone - William Floyd Estate

Free program; reservations required: call 631-399-2030

This program provides a unique introduction to genealogical research, as you explore the William Floyd family cemetery. Discover a variety of ways to learn about grave markers: from the materials they were made of, to foot stones, to kinship, to burial characteristics. Learn about the origins of the "Deaths Head" and take home a grave stone rubbing.

Sunday

September 29:

10 am – 3 pm

12th Annual "Cruise to the Light" Auto Show: - Robert Moses State Park Field #4

\$5/spectator, children under 12 free: call 631-661-4876

Fire Island Lighthouse fundraiser at Robert Moses State Park (*no dogs allowed*).

Fire Island National Seashore Facilities Open after Labor Day (September 2, 2013)

Park Headquarters in Patchogue - 631-687-4750

Open all year, Monday - Friday, 9 am - 4:30 pm *Closed on federal holidays*

Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

June 29 - Labor Day, staffed weekends & holidays 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Building/restrooms open ½-hour before ferry departs. *Closed from Oct. 15 until May 2014, but watch for special programs!*

William Floyd Estate - 631-399-2030

Grounds Open May 24 - Nov. 11, 2013, Friday - Sunday & holidays, 9 am - 5 pm

Old Mastic House Open May 24 - Nov. 11, 2013, Friday - Sunday & holidays, 10 am - 4 pm

Free house tours every half-hour. *Watch for special grounds tours during the fall, winter and spring!*

Wilderness Visitor Center - 631-281-3010 (Wed-Sun 9-4, September)

July 1 - Labor Day: Wednesday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm; weekends & holidays, 10 am - 6 pm

Sept. 3-30, 2013: Wednesday-Sunday, 9 am - 4 pm

Oct. 1 - Jan. 1, 2014: Friday-Sunday & holidays, 9 am - 4 pm

Closed on Thanksgiving & Christmas days.

Sportsman's Recreational Driving Permits will not be issued while the breach at Old Inlet remains open.

New: Backcountry camping reservations for required permits must be obtained at Recreation.gov

No wilderness/backcountry overnight camping permits will be issued at the Wilderness Visitor Center.

Watch Hill

Watch Hill Ferry Service - 631-475-1665

June 22 - Sept. 2, 2013: M-F: LV Patchogue 8:45 am/10:15 am/12:30 pm/3:10 pm/5 pm + 7 pm Friday;

Sa-Su & holiday: LV Patchogue 8:30 am/10 am/12 pm/1:45 pm/3:30 pm/5:30 pm

Sept. 3 - Sept. 6, 2013: M-F: LV Patchogue 10:15 am/3:30 pm + 6:30 pm Friday;

Sept. 7 - Oct. 13, 2013: F: LV Patchogue 3:30 pm + 6 pm Friday;

Sa-Su: LV Patchogue 10:20 am/12:15 pm/3:30 pm

Oct. 14, 2013: M: LV Patchogue 10:20 am/3:30 pm

Watch Hill Marina - 631-597-3109

June 21 - Sept. 2, 2013: Mon-Wed.: \$1/ft + elec.; Thur.-Sun.: \$2/ft + elec. (\$1.50/ft + elec. Su special with Fr-Sa stay)

Sept. 3 - Oct. 20, 2013: F-Sa & holiday; \$2/ft + elec.; Su-Th \$ 1/ft + elec.

Watch Hill Campground - 631-567-6664

May 11 - October 20, 2013; *reservations accepted on-line at www.watchhillfi.com*

(Patchogue-Watch Hill Ferry service only available on weekends Sept. 7 through Oct. 14)

Watch Hill Snack Bar & General Store

June 22 - Sept. 2, 2013: M-Th: 9:30 am-5:15 pm; Fri. 7 am-5:15 pm; Sa-Su: 7am-6:30 pm

Sept. 3 - Oct. 14, 2013: Daily: 11 am-4 pm

The Pier at Watch Hill Restaurant - 631-597-9060 (call for reservations)

June 27- Sept. 1, 2013: Thursday - Saturday, 5 pm - 12 am, Sunday 10-1

Sept. 6 - 14, 2013: Friday - Saturday, 5 pm - 12 am

Watch Hill Visitor Center - 631-597-6455

June 29 - Labor Day: Wednesday - Friday 9:30 am - 5 pm; weekends 9 am - 6 pm

Sept. 3 - Oct. 14, 2013 weekends & holidays 10:30 am - 4 pm **Salt Marsh Tours at 11 am weekends**

New: Backcountry camping reservations for required permits must be obtained online at Recreation.gov

All Wilderness/backcountry overnight camping permit check-in is required at the Watch Hill Visitor Center during hours of operation or at the Watch Hill Ranger Station after Labor Day. Access to both east and west wilderness/backcountry camping zones will be through Watch Hill as long as the breach at Old Inlet is open.

Watch Hill Lifeguarded Beach

June 28 - Labor Day: Monday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm; weekends 10 am - 6 pm

Talisman/Barrett Beach - *restrooms open through October 14*

Sailors Haven

Sayville Ferry Service - 631-589-8980

June 22 - Sept. 2, 2013: M-F: LV Sayville 9:30 am/11:15 am/1:15 pm/3:15 pm/5 pm;

Sa-Su: LV Sayville 9:20 am/10:30 am/11:45 am/1:30 pm/3:45pm/5 pm/6 pm

Sept. 3 - Sept. 8, 2013: Daily: LV Sayville 10:30 am/2:30 pm

Sept. 14 - Sept. 15, 2013: Sa-Su only: LV Sayville 10:30 am/11:45 am/2:30 pm/4 pm

Sept. 21 - Oct. 14, 2013: Sa-Su & Columbus Day only: LV Sayville 10:30 am/2:30 pm

Sailors Haven Marina - 631-597-6171

June 21 - Sept. 2, 2013: Daily: \$2/ft + elec. (\$1.50/ft + elec. Monday special with Sunday night stay)

Sept. 3 - Oct. 27, 2013: Su-Th \$ 1/ft + elec.; F-Sa & hol.; \$2/ft + elec.

Sailors Haven Snack Bar & Gift Shop

June 22 - Sept. 2, 2013: M-F: 10:15 am - 5:15 pm; Sa-Su: 9 am - 6:15 pm

Sept. 3 - Oct. 14, 2013: Daily: 11 am - 3 pm

Sailors Haven Visitor Center - 631-597-6183

June 29 - Labor Day: Wednesday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm; weekends 10 am - 6 pm **Sunken Forest Tours 11 am Wed-Sun.**

Sept. 3 - Oct. 14, 2013: weekends & holidays 11 am - 3 pm **Sunken Forest Tours at 11:30 am weekends**

Sailors Haven Lifeguarded Beach

June 28 - Labor Day: Monday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm; weekends 10 am - 6 pm

Fire Island Lighthouse - 631-661-4876

May 25 - Labor Day: Daily 9:30 am - 5:30 pm **No Tower Tours during construction**

Boardwalks damaged by the storm are not expected to be repaired until later in 2013, requiring visitors to walk down the beach (about ¼ mile) to access the Lighthouse. Pre-planned rehabilitation work is underway into the fall.

Sept. 3 - Nov. 3, 2013: Daily 9:30 am - 5 pm *Last tower tour at 4 pm.* **No Tower Tours during construction**

Dec. 16, 2013 - Mar. 31, 2014: Weekends Noon - 4 pm *Closed on Christmas day. Last tower tour at 3 pm.*