New Walkway to the Beach

The National Park Service installed a new walkway to gain beach access from Burma Road. It is called a removable Mobi-Mat.

Mobi-Mat Beach Access Mats are a nonslip design that offers a tear resistant, firm and stable surface for permanent or temporary walk ways. It allows access to the beach for wheelchairs, strollers or pedestrians.

This mat is made of 100% recycled polyester. It contributes to the environment by utilizing recycled plastics and it is also recyclable. This permeable structure allows sand to filter through and is easily maintained by sweeping any excess sand build up with a broom or a leaf blower.

A special thanks to the crew that installed it. We have noticed that people are now staying on the path which is helpful for the dune restoration.

Lantern Light Tour

Join us on Saturday, September 17th for our Lantern Light Tour. Enjoy an escorted lantern light walk along the beach and through the swale as stationed interpreters unfold the stories of the United States Life Saving Service and the Fire Island Light Station.

This is a very popular program. Reservations are required. Call (631) 661-4876.
Fire Island Light
Published by the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.

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Follow us on facebook and twitter

Open Year Round
April through June:
Daily 9:30 am to 5 pm

July through August
Daily 9:30 am to 6 pm

Labor Day through mid-December
Daily 9:30 am to 5 pm - DST (4 pm EST)

Mid-December through March:
Weekdays 10 am—4 pm
Weekends and Holidays 12 noon—4 pm
(Closed Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter)

Tower Tours
Offered during operational hours, until an hour before closing.

Fee:  Adult $7, Senior $4, Child $4 (under 12), Active Military w/ID $4, Member $2. Fees subject to change.

Participants must wear appropriate footwear, be at least 42” tall and in good health.

Unique Tower Tours
Looking for something different to do? Perhaps a custom tower tour. If you have the group—we have the tour! Arrangements can be made for small groups for Private Sunset Tours; outside of scheduled hours of operation. Fee: $20 per person. Maximum group size not to exceed 20 people. Minimum fee of $200 if less than 10 people. Reservations required—Call (631) 661-4876.

Visit our web site
www.fireislandlighthouse.com
Follow us on facebook

The Volunteer Box
Thank you to all our Volunteers!!!
The Board of Directors of the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society would like to express their thanks and appreciation to the 100 plus Lighthouse volunteers for generously donating their time and efforts, without which the Society could not exist. We are looking forward to a great fall & winter with our volunteers doing everything from school groups, running tours, helping in the gift shop, maintaining the Light, and caring for all our precious exhibits.
President’s Message

Why is our visitation so high? (As of the end of July, it is up over 20%)

Our treatment of our visitors is the answer.

In Advance of their visit:
- Social Media: facebook, Twitter, Instagram.
  These are kept up to date by Bette Berman, FILPS Director, Elizabeth Rogers, NPS and Bill Donahue, FILPS Volunteer.
- News Media-Newsday gives us excellent coverage. Other local papers feature our programs and events. News12 comes out at least twice a year to film an event or to feature us on their show. Recently the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau came out to film for a world wide campaign on what to do on Long Island.
- Our new web site- (created by Mark Nuccio, FILPS Director) This site includes 360 degree views from different spots in the tower.
- Our staff who answers the phones-real people (no recordings).

Upon arrival at the Lighthouse:
- Most people are greeted as they enter.
- New “Welcome” desk is very inviting. The volunteers love to be there.
- A new water fountain, acquired by Bill Chaloupka, FILPS Director, was installed by the National Park Service. It features a dispenser to fill personal water bottles. The water is cold and filtered.
- We provide a water bowl for our visitors with four legged friends.

Interpetive staff and volunteers are always anxious to interface with visitors and answer questions or volunteer information. Changing exhibits, as advertised on Social Media, attracts visitors to return to the Keeper’s Quarters and the Lens Building.

The attitude of all the people at the Lighthouse is why the visitors feel so welcome.

Bob La Rosa
President

New Revolving Exhibits

Celebrating the National Parks Service Centennial.

Bathing suits from 1916  Life on the beach in 1916  The Lighthouse Keeper George Thomas and his family in 1916.
Milkweed Recovery

Since “Super Storm” Sandy hit back in October of 2012, the landscape has been struggling to restore itself. This summer we are experiencing more growth of Milkweed at the Lighthouse.

Why do you ask why we are excited that weeds are growing here? Because Milkweed is the only thing Monarch Butterfly caterpillars eat. Milkweed is the only plant that the female Monarch Butterfly will lay her eggs on.

Every autumn some groups of Monarchs migrate more than 2,000 miles during August—October, flying from southern Canada and the United States to southern California and Central Mexico. Females lay their eggs along the migratory route. This migration takes up to four generations of Monarch to complete.

Although this migration is an annual event, everyone visiting Fire Island in early October of 2006 remarked at the exceptional numbers of Monarchs flying along the beach. Visitors sitting on the beach were afforded an opportunity to view hundreds of butterflies on their way south. A steady stream of Monarchs fluttered westward along the foot of the dunes all afternoon. It was truly impressive! We haven’t had a good showing of a migration since then.

We have to protect this milkweed in hope that the Monarchs will return again to lay their eggs here. Maybe you can do your part at home too. Plant a butterfly garden.

Fire Island Lighthouse on “amazonsmile”

The Fire Island Lighthouse is now a registered charity with amazonsmile, a website operated by amazon that offers the same selection of products and prices as on amazon.com. However, when you shop on amazonsmile (smile.amazon.com), the amazonsmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases back to the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society to help support the Lighthouse.

When you first visit the amazonsmile site, you must select The Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society as the charitable organization you wish to support before shopping.
From Rags to Riches  
The Story of Our Revival

Where We Were

In 1982, the Fire Island Lighthouse was scheduled for demolition by the government. Standing 168 ft. above sea level since 1958 adjacent to its Keeper’s Quarters along the eastern seaboard of America, this Lighthouse is rich in nautical history.

After three attempts to save the lighthouse from further destruction, a small group of Long Island community activists mobilized a broad coalition of people who formed the non-profit Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society. Led by Thomas F. Roberts, III, the Society succeeded in raising the funds needed to restore the lighthouse and transfer the Lighthouse site owned by the U.S. Coast Guard to the Fire Island National Seashore.

In 1986 the lighthouse was re-lit and the keepers’ quarters was opened to the public. Projects initiated by the FILPS Board of Directors and the National Park Service in the late 80’s and 90’s included:

- Achievement of 1\textsuperscript{st} fund raising goal of $1.2 million, May 26, 1986
- Advisory Council led by Liz Claiborne to broaden the Society’s leadership
- Register of Lighthouse Contributors & Member Benefits
- Off-season parking at Robert Moses State Park
- Temporary Exhibits
- Interpretive Assessment & Needs Assessment Survey (1986)
- Annual events - Run/Walk For Parks, Barefoot Blacktie Gala, Golf Tournament, Holiday Programs
- School Programs/Civic Organizations and other interested groups in the USA and abroad.
- Team Planning: South Shore Promotion Committee, LI Convention Visitors Bureau, NY State Tourism Bureau
- Group Tours
- Volunteer Recruitment & Training Program

Where We Are Now - In 2016, the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society’s has 297 members, 9 staff members, 170 volunteers, 38 + programs, and 3 annual events.

Next Issue: Where We’re Headed! Gayle Haines, Ed.D.
**New Tower by Lighthouse**

If you recently visited the Lighthouse, you may have noticed a strange looking tower to the east of us.

This tower helps migratory birds and bats. It is a temporary radio antenna tower that is a part of a network of wildlife tracking stations across the Atlantic seaboard.

Its six directional antennas are connected to a solar powered receiver that is collecting around-the-clock data on the movements of thousands of migratory birds and bats fitted with light-weight radio transmitters.

It is operated in collaboration with the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and University of Massachusetts.

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**Barefoot Black Tie Dinner & Dance**

This year marked the 30th year of the annual fundraiser. Tickets were almost sold out to this event again this year. It was held on the terrace of the Keepers Quarter’s and a good time was had by all. If you haven’t yet attended the dinner, you may want to consider it for next year. The date will be August 12, 2017.

Thank you to all who attended and to all that contributed to the Silent Auction.

You help keep the Light shining!
Celebrate the National Park Service Centennial

The National Park Service turned 100 years old on August 25, 2016.

There is still time to participate in the **Find Your Park Experiences** to learn, discover, be inspired, or simply have fun in National Parks. Check online for activities in the Fire Island National Seashore or any other National Park in the country. [www.nps.gov.fiis/getinvolved/nps-centennial-at-fire-island.htm](http://www.nps.gov.fiis/getinvolved/nps-centennial-at-fire-island.htm).

Some of Fire Island National Seashore Centennial Challenges are:

**Pick It Up!** - Join a monthly “Pick it Up” beach cleanup and help clear 2,016 pounds of marine debris from Fire Island National Seashore’s beaches.

**Climb to the 100th Step** - Climb to the 100th step and beyond in the Fire Island Lighthouse tower. Share your experience with #100years100steps on twitter.

Centennial Exhibits:

**Recollections, Collections and 100 selections**
Friday through Sunday, through November 11, 2016
William Floyd Estate

On display in the Old Mastic House, at the William Floyd Estate, are 100 items from the park’s museum collections that have never before been exhibited at the park. The exhibit showcases a great variety of artifacts representing recollections of life in Mastic, Long Island. Paint an idyllic picture of “House and Place in Time.” See objects from the archaeological collection, silverware, clothing, illustrated children’s primers and other items from 1600’s to the 1900’s.

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History Repeats Itself

One of our permanent displays in the Keeper’s Quarters features a young boy eating a slice of watermelon.

Sixty years later, Godfrey Mahler stopped in on to have another bite of watermelon.

He lived in the Keeper’s Quarters with his family. His father, Gottfried, was the Keeper from 1948-1954.

Thank you Godfrey Mahler for sharing some watermelon and memories with us!
# Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>September</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Light Keepers Behind the Scenes Tour</strong></td>
<td>9 am –  Follow one of our present day Lighthouse Keepers on his rounds. This bottom to top tour takes you from the auxiliary generator and the Light Keepers workshop in the basement of the Keeper’s Quarters to the beacon in the lantern room of the lighthouse tower. Learn how lighthouse Keepers in the 1860’s to 2016 maintained the light. Enjoy a tour of the Lens Building which houses our original first order Fresnel Lens. $15 for FILPS Members/$20 for non-members – Reservations required. Limit 12 people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Lantern Light Tour</strong></td>
<td>6:30 pm – 7:30 pm (tours leave at 15 minute intervals)-Meet in Field #5 RMSP. Enjoy an escorted lantern light walk along the beach &amp; through the swale as stationed interpreters unfold the stories of the United States Life Saving Service &amp; Fire Island Light Station. $10 per person – Reservations required. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight for your walk back to the parking field. The Tower will remain open until 9 pm at regular fees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>22</td>
<td><strong>Halloween Event</strong></td>
<td>Details tba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>November</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Thank you to all our United States Veterans!</strong></td>
<td>Free Tower Tours during regular operating hours to all veterans who served in the military.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>26</td>
<td><strong>Tree Trimming Event</strong></td>
<td>10 am – 3 pm. Kick off the holiday season by helping us decorate our holiday tree. Bring a handmade ornament relating to the sea, nature or the Lighthouse to hang on our tree. Free hot chocolate and cookies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>26</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving Weekend Evening Tower Tour</strong></td>
<td>4 pm - Experience the Lighthouse at night while working off some of those holiday calories. Bring a flashlight for your walk back to the parking field. $15 for FILPS Members/$20 for non-members – Reservations Required. Sunset 4:29 pm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Visit and Support our Gift Shop

- Lighthouse Models
- Tee Shirts, Sweatshirts, Hats
- Framed Lighthouse Prints
- Books, Note Cards, Posters
- Ornaments, Mugs
- Gift Certificates
- And many more items

The Gift Shop is open all year
- April through June Daily 9:30 am to 5 pm
- July 1st to Labor day Daily 9:30 am to 6 pm
- Labor Day to mid-December– Daily 9:30 am to 5 pm
- Mid-December to March
  - Weekends & Holidays 12 noon to 4 pm
  - Weekdays 10 am to 4 pm
  - Closed Christmas, Thanksgiving & Easter
  - 10 % discount for members (excludes books)

Thank You For Your Continued Support

Southwest Airlines Design Edge, Inc.
Official Offset Corporation John Bosch Bus
Kenneth J. Herman, Inc. Liberty Mutual
Fire Island Wireless FILPS Members

The Fire Island National Seashore

Follow us on Facebook

The Fire Island Lighthouse is now on Facebook. Two of our valued volunteers are updating the page daily. Get the latest updates on what is happening at the lighthouse and view recent photos of the storm damage. You are invited to submit your photos, subject to our approval.
Congratulations...
Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society
“Thank you for all you do for our Community and beyond”
Compliments of
Islip Town Supervisor
Angie M. Carpenter
FIRE ISLAND REAL ESTATE
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Licensed Broker
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Office: 631-583-5100
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Your ad could be here!
Advertisements run for four (4) consecutive issues.

- Full Page...$600
- Half page...$300
- Quarter page...$175
- Business Card...$100

Distribution is to Society Members and Lighthouse visitors
For more information call Patti or Dave
at (631) 321-7028

Long Island’s Top Rated Open Heart Program
+
A Convenient Suffolk County Location
= St. Francis Hospital, The Heart Center®
Open Heart Surgery Program
At Good Samaritan Hospital

Now in its second year, the West Islip award-winning cardiac surgical team at St. Francis Hospital is performing open heart surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital. That’s the sort of news that does every Long Islander’s heart good.
**BECOME A MEMBER**

Without membership, we can’t survive. With your financial support we can and we will. Help keep Long Island’s maritime heritage alive with your membership in the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society.

**Membership entitles you to:**
- Reduced tower tour fees
- *Fire Island Light* newsletter
- 10% discount on all gift shop items, except books
- Notification of programs/events.
- Discount on selected programs/events.

**Fire Island Lighthouse Fee Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tower Tour</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult (12 years and older)</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Citizens (65 and older)</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Military with I.D.</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (42 inches and taller)</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members of Preservation Society</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fees are subject to change

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**Annual Membership Application**

- ☐ Senior/Student……$20  ☐ Keeper……...$150
- ☐ Individual…………$25  ☐ Saver…………$300
- ☐ Family……………$40  ☐ Commodore……..$500
- ☐ Booster……………$100  ☐ Corporate……$1000

Name _____________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
Zip_____________________  Telephone_________________________
E-mail_____________________________________________________
Visa, MasterCard and American Express accepted.
Card #__________________________  Expiration Date_____________
Signature___________________________________________________

Please make checks payable to FILPS and send to:
4640 Captree Island, Captree Island, New York 11702

The Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society is a non-profit, 501 © 3 Tax exempt organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the Extent allowed by law.