

Cape Cod National Seashore Activities May 1 through May 22, 2009

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



National Seashore

TALKS AND FILMS

SKYWARN™ - SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTING TRAINING - Tuesday, May 5, 7 PM, 2½ hours. Salt Pond Visitor Center, Route 6 and Nauset Road, Eastham. Free. ♿

This training session will teach you to be a severe weather spotter for the National Weather Service. Weather spotters work with local emergency agencies by reporting local wind gusts, hail size, rainfall, and cloud formations that could signal a developing tornado.



THE WORKHORSE OF THE MARSH - Monday, May 18, 1 PM, 1 hour. Salt Pond Visitor Center auditorium, Route 6 and Nauset Road, Eastham. Free. ♿

Perhaps the last hay barge of its kind, this vessel now sits on display at the Salt Pond Visitor Center. Learn about its history and restoration.

**NOW
PLAYING**

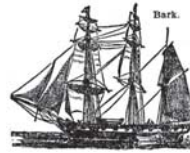
MARITIME MATINEES: 1:30 PM, up to 1 hour. Province Lands Visitor Center, Race Point Road, Provincetown. The Cape's rich maritime history is linked to larger stories, both near and far. Take a virtual trip to some of these remarkable spots and imagine days gone by. Matinees include a short film and ranger remarks. Free. ♿

Saturday, May 2: *Song of the Sandy Mooring*

As Province Lands Visitor Center opens its doors for the season, join us for a trip back in time to 1960s Provincetown. This film focuses on the town's rich cultural heritage as a fishing and artistic community. (1 hour)

Saturday, May 9: *To the Farthest Port of the Rich East*

By 1790, Salem, MA was the sixth largest U.S. city, and its merchants were major players in world commerce, especially China. Most of the Salem waterfront is now preserved as Salem Maritime National Historic Site. (45 minutes)



Saturday, May 16: *Around Cape Horn*

This 1929 film depicts sailing aboard the massive bark, *Peking*, and spectacular scenes of a wild storm as the ship rounds the feared Cape Horn. (45 minutes)



Saturday, May 23: *The City that Lit the World*

In the 1800s, New Bedford, MA was the preeminent whaling port, and for a time, "the richest city in the world." The film is a beautiful chronicle of this remarkable era. Today, New Bedford's cobblestone streets and historic buildings are preserved as part of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. (45 minutes)

VISITOR CENTERS

SALT POND VISITOR CENTER

OPEN DAILY 9 TO 4:30 PM, OFF ROUTE 6,
EASTHAM. (508) 255 - 3421 ♿

This visitor center offers magnificent views of Salt Pond, Nauset Marsh, and the Atlantic; an outstanding museum; and films every 20 minutes in the theater. Staff are on duty to help with trip planning, and there is a well-stocked store offering books, maps, puzzles, games and other interpretive items for sale. Restrooms are available in the parking area. The Nauset Marsh and Buttonbush trails, and the Nauset Bicycle Trail are located nearby.

Visit our website at
www.nps.gov/caco

PROVINCE LANDS VISITOR CENTER

OPEN DAILY, 9 TO 5 PM, OFF RACE POINT ROAD,
PROVINCETOWN. (508) 487 - 1256 ♿

Just two miles from the tip of the Cape, this center offers a small exhibit area and regular showings of park orientation films. Rangers are on duty to assist with trip planning, and there is a well-stocked bookstore with books, maps, puzzles, games and other interpretive items provided by the park's education partner, Eastern National. The observation deck offers a 360-degree view of the Province Lands dunes, the Outer Beach, and the Atlantic. Restrooms are available year-round. Access to the recently-renovated Province Lands Bicycle Trail and Race Point Beach are nearby.

HISTORIC BUILDING PROGRAM:

NEW LIFE FOR A LIFE-SAVING STATION: THE RESTORATION OF THE OLD HARBOR LIFE-SAVING STATION - Wednesday, May 13, 1 PM, 1½ hours. Province Lands Visitor Center, Race Point Road, Provincetown. Free. ♿

Join Cape Cod National Seashore Historian William Burke for a look at the ongoing restoration of the historic Old Harbor Life-Saving Station, one of the last stations of its kind in the nation. Meet at the Province Lands Visitor Center auditorium for a 30-minute illustrated program about the station's history and plans to restore it, inside and out, to its 1900 appearance. Then, drive 5 minutes to the station for a first-hand look at the restoration progress.

LIGHTHOUSE TOURS AND OPEN HOUSES

THREE SISTERS LIGHTHOUSES OPEN HOUSES - Sundays, May 10 and 17, 1 to 4 PM. Cable Road, Eastham. ½ mile. Free. ♿

View these lights that once served as beacons for sailors off the shores of Nauset Light Beach. Park at Nauset Light Beach in Eastham, and follow the signs, along the paved path to the lights. Presented by Cape Cod National Seashore.



NAUSET LIGHT TOURS Sundays, May 10 and 17, 1 to 4 PM, Ocean View Drive, Eastham. Free.

Climb to the top of the light and learn about its history and importance. Located at Nauset Light Beach, Eastham. Presented by Nauset Light Preservation Society.

HIGHLAND LIGHTHOUSE TOURS Opens for the season May 16. Admission charged. FULL MOON TOUR, Saturday May 9, 7:30 PM.

Climb to the top of the light! Also, view a video depicting the history, moving, and relighting of the lighthouse. Children must be 48" tall to climb the stairs. Take Route 6 to the Highland Road Exit in Truro. Follow signs for Cape Cod (Highland) Light. Presented by Highland Museum and Lighthouse.

Are you interested in maritime history? Now in its 15th year, the month of May is designated *Cape Cod Maritime Days* with many scheduled Capewide events that celebrate Cape Cod's rich maritime history. Full details are available at: www.ecapechamber.com/MaritimeDays/schedule.asp

GUIDED WALKS AND HIKES

BEECH FOREST BEAUTY - Saturdays, 9 AM, 2 hours, 1 mile. Beech Forest parking area, off Race Point Road, Provincetown. Free.

Find out what dozens of species of migrating songbirds already know - the Beech Forest is a great place to stop in the spring! In addition to outstanding birding (especially warblers), there are ponds and a hardwood forest nestled among the dunes in Provincetown. The trail is a combination of soft sand and hard pack. Bring binoculars if you have them.



SEAL SEARCH - Saturdays, 9:30 AM, 1½ hours, 1½ miles. Meet at the Coast Guard Beach parking area, Eastham. Free.

Curious about seals in our local waters? In this hike along the Coast Guard spit, we'll look for seals and learn about the species we might see, as well as some of the special adaptations seals have that make them perfectly suited for a life in the sea. Wear footwear suitable for walking in soft sand.

LORE OF NAUSET MARSH - Saturdays, 1:30 PM, 1 hour, 1 mile, meet at the terrace at the Salt Pond Visitor Center, Eastham. Free.

This alluring place has drawn people to its shores for thousands of years, including a number of famous artists and authors in recent centuries. Discover some of the stories associated with this special place.

PROVINCE LANDS DUNES AND BOGS - Sundays, 2 PM, 1½ hours, 1 mile walk in soft sand. Province Lands Visitor Center, Race Point Road, Provincetown, May 3 and 10 only. Free.

Explore an enchanting dune landscape of unusual plants and wild cranberry bogs. Discover the hidden story of America's oldest public lands, and how actions by enterprising settlers changed this landscape.



EXPLORE YOUR PARK - Join an experienced park ranger to explore different places in the park each week. Tuesdays and some Wednesdays, at varying times. Participants must be good walkers, and may join one program or all. By reservation only. Call Salt Pond Visitor Center, 508-255-3421 ext. 0, to register. Free.

"Island" Adventure - Tuesday, May 5, 9 AM, up to 3½ hours, 4 miles. Explore Griffin "Island's" dramatic windswept landscape, the Herring River flood plain, and their rich history. Good footwear, long pants, bug spray, and water are recommended. Meet at the Great Island parking area, Wellfleet.

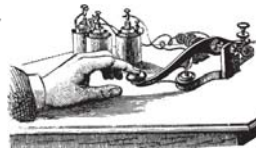
In the Vagabond's Footsteps: Walking Henry Beston's Great Beach - Wednesday, May 6 and Tuesday, May 19, 2 PM, up to 3 hours, 3 miles. Henry Beston's words in *The Outermost House* have served as a siren song, drawing people over the decades to Coast Guard Beach. And while his little house has long since been lost to the ocean, it is still possible to experience Beston's beach. Join a ranger for a hike, revisiting the classic book and discovering the beach for ourselves. Be prepared for walking in soft sand and dress for the weather. Meet at the Coast Guard Beach parking area, Eastham.

Freshbrook Village: Gone But Not Forgotten - Tuesday, May 12, 9 AM, up to 3½ hours, 4 miles. Join a resident ranger to learn about the 19th century Freshbrook Village while exploring the diverse environments of the Marconi area. Walk through upland forest and see remnants and feel the ambience of Freshbrook Village. Long pants, bug spray, and water are recommended. Meet at Marconi Beach parking area, Wellfleet, and look for the ranger.

Herring River Float - Wednesday, May 20, 9:30 AM, 4 hours, 3 miles. Bring your own canoe or kayak and gear (including life vests which will be required) and explore one of the hidden treasures within Cape Cod National Seashore. Trip will return via the same route. Participants must be good walkers. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, and bug spray. Water levels will determine starting point.

WHERE THE SPARK OF MAGIC HAPPENED: MARCONI'S CONTRIBUTION TO MARITIME COMMUNICATION - Thursday, May 14, 2 PM, ½ hour. Meet at the top of Marconi Site parking area, Wellfleet. ¼ mile. Free. ♿

Join a park ranger to explore the life of Guglielmo Marconi on the site where he sent the history-making transatlantic wireless message. Marconi's "ship to shore" wireless message led to a distinguished career as an entrepreneur.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

NATURE JOURNALING - Sundays, 2:30 PM, 1 hour, 1 mile. Meet at Hemenway town landing (one road north of Fort Hill, off Route 6). By reservation only. Call the Salt Pond Visitor Center, 508-255-3421, ext 0. For school-age children. Free. ♿

Scientists, explorers, and writers keep journals to record their experiences. Through exploration and activities, learn to look at the seashore in new ways. Participants receive a journal to use for the program and take home.



JUNIOR EXPLORER - Saturdays at 2:30 PM, 2 hours. By reservation only. Call Salt Pond Visitor Center, 508-255-3421 ext. 0, for meeting locations and to register. Selected programs are accessible with advance notice. Parents must remain with children. Free.

Calling all future rangers, ages 8-13! Develop skills for adventures in the great outdoors by attending these programs.

May 2 - Creatures of the Not-So-Deep - Freshwater ponds are teeming with tiny creatures that are essential to



Cape Cod's healthy ecosystem. Join us on a walk to a freshwater pond to discover just what these creatures are and why they are so important. Wear an old pair of shoes or boots that can get wet and muddy.

May 9 - Spring Birds of the Cape - As warm weather returns to Cape Cod many of our wonderful resident and returning birds nest and raise young, or feast upon the shoreline grub on their long journeys north. Join us on a short excursion to look and listen for the rich diversity of bird life found nearby. Wear weather-appropriate clothing, and bring binoculars and a hat. Limited pairs of binoculars are available to borrow from the visitor center.



May 16 - Family Orienteering - A simple map and compass can greatly add to your outdoor enjoyment and safety. In this program participants will learn how to use a compass and then take part in a small orienteering adventure. Compasses will be provided, but participants may bring their own if they wish.



TECHNOLOGY-BASED PROGRAMS

Two new activities are available at Cape Cod National Seashore. *The Fort Hill Quest* is a GPS-based information scavenger hunt of the Fort Hill area in Eastham. Download the coordinates and clue booklet from the seashore website at: www.nps.gov/caco/planyourvisit and click on "things to do," and "outdoor activities," or pick up a free copy at Salt Pond Visitor Center in Eastham. Cell phone tour stops are located throughout the seashore.

Look for the green and brown "*Dial and Discover Seashore Stories*" signs at Salt Pond, Coast Guard Beach, Fort Hill, Province Lands Visitor Center, and the Marconi Site. Cell phone tour scripts are available at visitor centers for persons with hearing impairments. Visitors must provide their own GPS units and cell phones.

