



HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY HUDSON RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



A Monthly Newsletter from the [Hudson River Valley Greenway](#) and the [Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area](#)

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What's New?



Hudson River Valley Greenway Board Meeting

The next Joint Meeting of the Boards of the Hudson River Valley Greenway will take place on Wednesday, January 16, 2008, at the Henry A. Wallace Center of the [FDR Library](#) in Hyde Park. The meeting is scheduled to convene at 10:00 AM. For further information, please call (518) 473-3835.

Heritage Area Passport Program



Responding to the requests of visitors and guests, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area recently embarked on an exciting initiative to bring the National Park Passport Program to our region. The Passport program offers visitors the opportunity to acquire cancellation stamps at no cost at various historic sites throughout the region. The stamps serve as a record of each visit. The program has been very successful in National Parks throughout the nation, with over one million passport books having been issued since the start of the program. Each stamp says "Hudson River Valley NHA" with the name of a heritage site underneath. By offering a National Heritage Cancellation Stamp, visitors are encouraged to visit heritage sites and spend time in the surrounding community. The site is also listed in the passport book and online. Fifty-nine heritage sites elected to participate in the program. An additional "Albany NY" stamp was also created for special events sponsored by Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.



Hudson Valley Climate Change Efforts on the Web

There is a new home for information about the climate change efforts going on throughout the Hudson Valley. The DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program has begun [hosting a web page](#) with information about their work with various regional groups on a climate change advisory committee. The Estuary Program, along with the New York State Climate Change Office, has been working towards the development of a regional strategy for responding to the climate change in the Hudson Valley.



Governor Spitzer Creates Smart Growth Cabinet

On December 10, Governor Spitzer signed an executive order creating a Smart Growth Cabinet to develop smart growth strategies that will specifically target New York's particular needs in this area. The Cabinet will have its first meeting this month. It will be comprised of several NYS Agency leaders. The term "smart growth" refers to sensible, planned development that balances the need for economic development with the need to preserve and enhance our built and natural environment.

Saratoga County Preserves Open Space

The Saratoga County Board of Supervisors had designated an additional \$250,000 from a budget surplus to buy open space in Saratoga County next year. This latest allocation brings the total amount the board will spend on open space preservation to \$750,000. The County's open space committee will now have additional funds to work with in the 2008 budget. Through a competitive process, money is given to various organizations throughout the county for open space preservation.

Victorian Stroll



December 2nd marked the 25th year of the [City of Troy's Annual Victorian Stroll](#). Organized by the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Stroll offered a variety of free events which included musical performances, children's activities, refreshments, carriage rides, a window decorating contest, and a visit from Father Christmas as well as characters from "A Christmas Carol." Additionally, Troy's shops and galleries were open for holiday shopping and special events.



Upcoming Grant Opportunities



Applications for the next round of [Greenway Communities Grants](#) will be due February 13th for our March Board Meeting. Applications received after this date will be considered for our June Board Meeting. Applications can be downloaded from the Hudson River Valley Greenway Website by clicking [here](#).

Other Grant Opportunities:



[Documentary Heritage Program](#) Projects must focus on activities that document life in New York State. 1) Projects to identify, survey and plan for collection of records relating to under documented subjects; impact of the World Trade Center attacks; New York's changing industries and new population groups; as well as mental health activities and environmental affairs. 2) Projects to arrange and describe historical records already in repositories 3) Projects to develop strategic plans for historical records repositories. 4) Projects for regional documentation planning to identify under documented topics. (February 1, 2008)

[Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund](#) From New York State Archives to help local governments establish records management programs or develop new components. Grants for individual or cooperative initiatives. (February 1)

[Conservation Trust grants from the National Geographic Society](#) For conservation and research programs promoting sustainable use and preservation of the earth's biological, cultural, and historical resources. Grants of up to \$20,000 each to individuals who have conducted prior research or conservation work related to the proposed program. (Open)

[2007 Unified Funding Process](#) NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal and the NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation, funds for affordable housing and community revitalization including: new construction, rehabilitation; emergency repair; homebuyer assistance; façade and building renovation; streetscape enhancement, downtown anchor creation; accessibility; and tenant-based rental assistance. (Deadlines Vary)



[The Trust's National Preservation Endowment](#) offers financial assistance to nonprofit organizations, public agencies, for-profit companies, and individuals involved in preservation-related projects. (Open)

[Collaboration Grants](#) Applications for grants from Dyson Foundation's Strategic Restructuring Initiative, which supports collaboration of two or more organizations intent on establishing a continuing relationship to increase efficiency and service. Grants awarded in four categories: assessment, planning, integration, and enhancement. (Open)

[Waste Reduction, Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Programs:](#) Statewide and municipality-specific state assistance programs for waste reduction, recycling and household hazardous waste (HHW) programs. **(Open)**

[Environmental Training and Technical Assistance Grants:](#) Applications for training and technical-assistance funds to strengthen nonprofit environmental organizations in areas including fund raising, organizational development, and planning. Can be from regional, statewide, or local grass-roots organizations serving low-income or minority constituencies that have environmental issues as a significant part of the organization's agenda. (Open)



[Management Assistance Mini-Grant Program.](#) helps board and staff members and volunteers develop skills by providing financial support to hire consultants and to help defray professional-development costs. (Open)

[Google's In-Kind Advertising Services to Nonprofits](#) This program supports organizations that share the company's philosophy of community service worldwide in areas such as science and technology, education, global public health, the environment, youth advocacy, and the arts. (Open)



[Local Agricultural Protection Municipal Planning Grant Program](#) from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. Grants up to \$25,000 or 75% of planning costs for local agricultural protection plans. Eligible plans identify farmland proposed to be protected, the land's value to the local economy and as open space, and likelihood / consequences of commercial development.

[Pollution prevention and Economic Development grants for small businesses](#) Through the Environmental Investment Program (EIP), the New York State Department of Economic Development and its Environmental Services Unit support projects that lead to pollution prevention and economic development. EIP awards are made on a competitive basis. Projects with a strong likelihood of creating results in a timely fashion receive more favorable reviews. **More information at** (518)292-5340



Upcoming Events



1/16: Joint Board Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, Conservancy, and National Heritage Area. Henry A. Wallace Center of the FDR Library.

7/3-13: Eighth Annual Great Hudson River Paddle ([registration now open!](#))



7/29-31: Teaching the Hudson Valley Summer Institute at Hyde Park. This year's topic will be "Teaching the Hudson Valley Diversity: Culture, History, and Nature 1609-2009."

Other Upcoming Events Around the Region



- 1/1: [Revival of old Albany tradition - New Year's Day House Visits and Refreshments](#): Start at the Ten Broeck Mansion, sign our visitor register, enjoy some refreshments, then continue on to the homes of friends. It's a wonderful, fun way to start the new year with you family and friends.
- 1/6: [Happy Anniversary to the Washingtons](#): George and Martha Washington shared their 24th Wedding Anniversary on January 6, 1783 at Headquarters, Newburgh. Join Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site as they celebrate that anniversary on Twelfth Night. Period attired interpreters will discuss the date and aspects of their married life. (845) 562-1195.
-  [Twelfth Night Event at Schuyler Mansion](#): Enjoy the 18th century holiday season as it may have been celebrated at the mansion. Come enjoy the Twelfth Night celebrations of Albany's past! (518) 434-0834
- 1/7: [Schuyler Mansion Holiday Open House](#): Schuyler mansion hosts a Holiday Open House, replete with 18th century holiday fare, music, and a special visitor for the children! (518) 434-0834
- 1/10: [Lecture: The Boscobel Story](#): Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Evening Speakers Series presented at Painter's Tavern, Cornwall-on-Hudson. Come learn the history of Boscobel in Garrison. (845) 534-5506 x204 
- 1/12: [Snakes Alive!](#): Come spend the morning at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum's Wildlife Education Center learning about snakes. Finish up with a snake craft to take home. (845) 534-5506 x204
- 1/13: [Winter Walk](#) Enjoy a short hike in the wintry Olana landscape. Walk the Church family farm site and discover why the family often referred to Olana as "the farm." Be prepared to walk about one mile. (518) 828-0135 x305
-  ["Objects and Artifacts" Photography Workshop](#) Enjoy this free workshop at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor Center located at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Join NPS Photographers for a workshop covering basic photography concepts such as composition, lighting, color and exposure. (845) 229-9300
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- 1/14: [Cedar Grove Art Market Madness Lecture](#): Join Carter Horsley, editor and publisher of *The City Review*, for his talk addressing the rise, fall, and resurgence of Hudson River School paintings.
- 1/16: **Joint Board Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, Conservancy, and National Heritage Area. Henry A. Wallace Center of the FDR Library.**
- 1/16,23,30: [Winter Cooking Classes at the Castle](#) Equus at Castle on the Hudson presents winter cooking classes with award winning chefs. Hands-on courses are designed to teach the art of food preparation and presentation. (914)524-6379
- 1/17: [Lecture: Reptile Conservation in New York](#): Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Evening Speakers Series presents Peter Warny, reptile expert, as he explains about reptile and amphibian populations in New York. (845) 534-5506
- 1/17: [Ten Broeck Mansion Mid-Winter Lecture Series: Freedom and Slavery in the Hudson Valley](#): Join Kristina Saddlemier, Saratoga County Historian, for a presentation titled "The Underground Railroad and Abolitionism in Saratoga County" (518) 436-9826.
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- 1/19: [Impressive Fossils](#): Spend the morning at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum's Outdoor Discovery Center learning how fossils can tell us what life was like in the Hudson Highlands 350 million years ago. (845) 534-5506 x204 
- 1/20: [The Earth Rocks! Great Garnet and Fantastic Fossils](#) Discover amazing information about rocks and fossils at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum. (845) 534-5506 x204.
- 1/24: [Lecture: How to Curb Climate Change by Eating Local](#): Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Evening Speakers Series presents columnist, Shawn Dell Joyce, explaining the importance of local sustainable agriculture. (845) 534-5506
- [Ten Broeck Mansion Mid-Winter Lecture Series: Freedom and Slavery in the Hudson Valley](#): Join Kathy Sheehan, Registrar for the Rensselaer County Historical Society, for a presentation titled "A view of the Rensselaer County Underground Railroad." (518) 436-9826.
- 1/26: [Discover Snow Shoeing](#): Come spend the morning at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum's Outdoor Discovery Center, hiking trails in snow shoes provided by the D.E.C. Stonykill Farm. (845) 534-5506 ext 204 
- 1/27: [January Gallery Talk at Dia:Beacon](#) Norton Batkin, Director of the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College, will discuss the work of Bruce Nauman as part of Dia Art Foundation's Gallery Talk Series at Dia:Beacon. Reservations are suggested. (845) 440-0100 x44

[Wildlife in Winter](#) Come learn how the opossum, gray squirrel and beaver adapt to survive the harsh winter weather at the Museum of the Hudson Highlands. Finish with a short hike in the woods. (845) 534-5506 x204. ❄️

1/31:

[Lecture: The History of Borden Home Farm, Walkill, New York](#): Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Evening Speakers Series presented at Painter's Tavern, Cornwall. Learn the history and stories of this famous location from Rodney Stuart Thompson, caretaker of the "Borden Home Farm" for the past 17 years. (845) 534-5506 x204



[Ten Broeck Mansion Mid-Winter Lecture Series: Freedom and Slavery in the Hudson Valley](#): Join Lisa Anderson, Bioarchaeologist for the New York State Museum, for a presentation titled "An African-American Burial Ground in Schuyler Flatts, New York." (518) 436-9826

Community Spotlight ❄️

[City of Troy](#)

A lively City no matter the season, Troy is enjoying a thriving downtown culture due to its successful revitalization work. Within the many buildings representing the finest examples of nineteenth century American architecture, full of friendly merchants offering many unique products and services, excellent restaurants serving up everything from micro-brews and hearty pub food to fine cuisine, antiques, and a host of gift and specialty shops. Troy is bursting with fun, flavor and flare. ❄️

The City of Troy is located in [Rensselaer County](#) and on the eastern bank of the Hudson River. The name Troy, after the legendary city of Troy, was adopted in 1789, and the region was formed into the "Town of Troy" in 1791 from part of the Rensselaerwyck Manor. Troy became a village in 1801 and was chartered as a city in 1816. A fantastic example of how adaptive reuse and historic preservation can coincide to reinvigorate an old city.



As a river city, Troy was not unaffected by the Hudson River, other natural waterways, and the man-made Erie Canal, as they provided the means for not only transportation, but powered the mills that enabled the City to become an industrial leader by the mid-nineteenth century. At one time, Troy led the nation in iron and steel production, and the watchful visitor will note dozens of examples of original cast and wrought iron railings adorning many of the brownstones from that period. Horseshoes, nails, cast iron stoves, bells, and the plates for the Union's Civil War battleship Monitor were also manufactured here. Many buildings formerly used in the stove trade remain in evidence on River Street.

Capitalizing on the rich history and beautiful 19th century architecture, the City of Troy, is one of the Capital Region's fastest growing areas for business and commerce. With enthusiastic financial backing from the State of New York, the City has made significant financial investments in the infrastructure of the downtown and surrounding areas. The City's most important attributes are a robust mix of consumers, a diverse college and university population, and an educated workforce nurtured by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a world class technological facility. The City's downtown contains numerous office facilities welcoming private sector and governmental office workers. ❄️

Troy celebrates its environment, culture and heritage with creative, engaging family festivals and community events. Many activities are undertaken by residents to improve both the aesthetic and morale of neighborhoods. Projects such as beautification of city parks, annual Earth Day cleanup, festivals and activities for children are several such initiatives. Some fine seasonal examples include [The Annual Victorian Stroll](#), The River Street Festival, The Turkey Trot, and Collar City Live. Today, Troy is alive and renewed.

Trail Spotlight ❄️

Winter on the Greenway Trail

Many of the trails that we travel in the spring, summer, and fall are also available for use during the winter. NY State Parks, and many parks and open spaces managed by counties, municipalities and land trusts throughout the Hudson Valley maintain trail systems which remain accessible for winter hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Some have special rules that apply to winter use so always check ahead for specifics. ❄️



Interest in snowshoeing in particular has grown in recent years. "If you can walk, you can go snowshoeing" is a popular and true saying. There is a minimal learning curve, it doesn't require a large investment - for specialized boots, fashionable winter gear, lift-tickets and standing in long lines - and it doesn't require special technique. You can start today, and have fun, immediately! It's also a relatively inexpensive way to get the whole family out in the snow together. ❄️

One of the great things about snowshoes is that they allow hikers to go places where cross-country skis and snowmobiles cannot, making it easy to travel through thickly-wooded areas or steep terrain. And best of all - hiking in the winter snow with snowshoes offers the unique experience of a quiet and serene snow-covered landscape, which can't be found any other time of the year. The majority of designated Greenway Trails remain open for public use year-round so be sure to take advantage and enjoy your favorite trail this winter!



Schuyler Mansion



Drawing of the Schuyler Mansion made by Philip Hooker in 1818

One of the most influential figures in American politics, Philip Schuyler was a U.S. Senator, a descendant of one of Albany's most powerful Dutch founding families, and was one of the four major generals appointed by the Continental Congress at the onset of the American Revolution. In 1760 Schuyler acquired approximately 80 acres of land on a bluff overlooking the Hudson River in Albany upon which to build a residence with his wife Catherine Van Rensselaer. The Georgian style residence was named "The Pasture" for its pastoral view of the Hudson River.



The Pasture soon became a focal point for the family and Albany society. Philip Schuyler and his wife raised eight of their eleven children in the home and in 1780 the mansion was the site of the marriage between Alexander Hamilton and Schuyler's daughter Elizabeth. The Pasture was also the setting for many political events. Guests included Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Benedict Arnold. The residence also served as prison to British General John Burgoyne for several days after his defeat at the Battle of Saratoga. In 1781, Native Americans raided the mansion in an unsuccessful Loyalist attempt to kidnap Schuyler. Upon Philip Schuyler's death in 1804, the land was divided among his children. In 1886, the mansion became home to Saint Vincent's Orphan Asylum and in 1913 New York State assumed ownership of the property.

Today, the brick structure, now known as "Schuyler Mansion", functions as a museum and includes exhibits about the Schuyler family and Philip Schuyler's varied careers as an entrepreneur, military leader, farmer, and politician. The interior, features eight rooms and two center halls that are unusually large for the time. The wide staircase, with its spiral balusters in alternating patterns, is considered a masterpiece. The mansion contains a combination of family furnishings, period pieces, and reproductions. Period wallpaper has been reproduced based on the documented purchases of the family and much of the woodwork has been repainted in colors chosen by the Schuylers in the 1790s. Schuyler Mansion is listed on the State and National Registers and has been designated a National Historic Landmark.



Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, at 32 Catherine Street in Albany, is open throughout the year. During the winter season (November through March) the Mansion is open by appointment only. (518) 434-0834.

Did You Know?

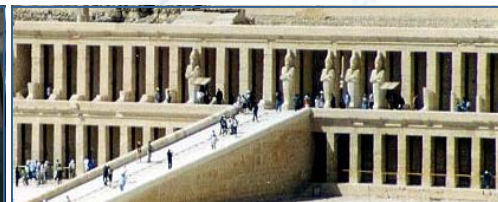


Did you know the City of Albany has connections with ancient Egypt?

Despite its modernist appearance, one of Albany's largest structures was inspired by ancient Egyptian architecture. Wallace Harrison, principal architect of the Empire State Plaza, based his design of the quarter mile long Swan Street building on Pharaoh Hatshepsut's Temple at Deir el-Bahri, Egypt.



Swan Street Building



Temple of Hatshepsut

Interested in learning more about Egypt and the Pharaohs? Visit the [Albany Institute of History and Art](#).

Quadricentennial Countdown



366 Days Until the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial
Visit www.exploreny400.com for more information

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And the National Heritage Website at www.hudsonrivervalley.com