



**THOMAS
COLE** NATIONAL
HISTORIC
SITE



Contacts:

Henry Miller or Brooke Botsford
Goodman Media International
(212) 576-2700
hmiller@goodmanmedia.com
bbotsford@goodmanmedia.com

**RENOWNED HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL ART TRAIL MORE THAN DOUBLES IN
SIZE, GROWING TO 22 SITES IN FOUR STATES**

**Extraordinary Art Trail, Combining Nature and Culture, Grows to 17 Sites in New York,
Two in New Hampshire, Two in Wyoming, and One in Massachusetts**

ALBANY, NY – May 16, 2012 – The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the Thomas Cole National Historic Site announced today the expansion of the renowned Hudson River School Art Trail, which includes locations painted by Hudson River School painters that people can visit. The expansion more than doubles the Art Trail’s size – from its original eight sites in New York to 17 sites in New York, two each in New Hampshire and Wyoming, and one in Massachusetts – and includes a new website with hand-held optimization and an upcoming app. The expanded Art Trail will officially open on Saturday, June 2nd, National Trails Day.

The Hudson River School Art Trail was launched in 2005 by the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, in partnership with the Olana State Historic Site and other organizations, to provide a series of hiking and driving trails that lead visitors to the places that inspired America’s first great landscape paintings, in the 19th century. The artists who created those paintings – including Thomas Cole, Frederic Church, Jasper Cropsey, Asher B. Durand, Sanford Gifford and many others – were part of the art movement now known as the Hudson River School and created sublime landscape images throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond. Today, artists continue to create work that is inspired and informed by their experience in the very same landscapes.

The eight original sites of the Art Trail are located within two counties (Greene and Columbia) along New York’s Hudson River. The nine new sites in New York are in four counties along the Hudson River (Dutchess, Columbia, Ulster, and Westchester). They offer the following views (and, in some cases, require an admissions fee):

- From Jasper Cropsey’s home at the Newington Cropsey Foundation, Hastings on Hudson
- Across Mohonk Lake near the Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz
- Of the Shawangunk Mountains from Eagle Cliff near Artist Rock, Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz
- Of the Shawangunk Mountains from Skytop with Eagle Cliff in the foreground, Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz
- Of Skytop across Lake Mohonk, Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz
- Of the Hudson River and Catskill Mountains from Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, Hyde Park
- Of the Hudson River from Hasbrouck Park, Kingston
- Of the Hudson River from Croton Point State Park, Croton-on-Hudson
- Of the Hudson River from the City of Hudson.

The remaining five sites are in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Wyoming, reflecting the travels of Hudson River School artists:

- The view of the Connecticut River from Mt. Holyoke, South Hadley, Massachusetts
- Echo Lake at Franconia Notch in the White Mountains, Franconia, New Hampshire
- Crawford Notch in the White Mountains, White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire
- Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone National Park, Mammoth, Wyoming
- Lower Geyser Basin in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.

A listing of all 22 sites, and related visitors’ information, will be available on the new website (<http://www.thomascole.org/trail>) beginning June 2nd. The new website will provide interpretive texts about the locations, renowned paintings of each site, and the artists, as well as directions to the sites and other information. Kevin Avery, former curator of American paintings and sculpture at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, researched the new sites and related paintings and drafted the descriptive texts.

“The landscapes and views that comprise the Hudson River School Art Trail are a national treasure,” said Elizabeth B. Jacks, director of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. “Visiting them awakens the same love of nature that inspired the Hudson River School artists in the 19th century. We’re delighted that the Trail is now expanding both geographically and digitally.”

“The Hudson River School Art Trail combines nature and culture, as well as recreation and emotional refreshment,” said Mark Castiglione, Acting Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. “We’re excited that it can now be enjoyed by many more visitors across the country.”

The “Trail Views” section of the new website will offer a virtual tour of the painting sites, comparing several paintings by Hudson River School artists with photographs of the same views as they appear today. The majority of the views appear remarkably similar to the 19th-century paintings, as they have been permanently protected. Often, several artists painted the same view, enabling a comparison of the artists’ styles and choices.

The “Maps & Directions” section of the website will provide the tools needed to visit the Trail sites. Some of the stops are easy to reach by car, while others can be reached only on foot and range from

an easy walk to a fairly strenuous hike. From the website one can download pages with maps, directions, and reproductions of the images.

Photographs of views from most of the sites, as well as companion paintings, are available upon request.

About the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

The [Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area](#) program was established by Congress in 1996 and is funded, in part, through the National Park Service and Department of the Interior. The mission of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area is to recognize, preserve, protect and interpret the nationally significant cultural and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley for the benefit of the Nation. The [Hudson River Valley Greenway](#) is the management entity for the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

About the Thomas Cole National Historic Site

The artist Thomas Cole (1801-1848) is a central figure in the development of American culture, having founded America's first art movement, the Hudson River School. The [Thomas Cole Historic Site](#), historically known as Cedar Grove, is where he lived, worked, was married, and died at the age of 47. Today the site consists of the Federal-era brick home (c. 1815) in which Thomas Cole resided with his family, as well as the artist's original studio building, on five landscaped acres with a magnificent view of the Catskill Mountains.

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