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**Thomas Cole National Historic Site Hosts
Open House for Prospective Docents**



Catskill, NY (February, 2008): Do you love history and art? Do you like interacting with people? Interested in the life and works of the 19th-century artist Thomas Cole, the founder of the Hudson River School of art? Want to play a role in preserving and telling the story of his home at Cedar Grove?

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is currently recruiting docents to conduct tours of the beautiful Federal-style house and 1839 studio during the open season, May 3-October 26, 2008. The museum invites prospective docents to an Open House on March 30th, 12 noon, at Cedar Grove, followed by the last *Sunday Salon* presentation of 2008, *Thomas Cole and Christian Geology*. The special behind-the-scenes tour at noon offers the chance for a private glimpse into the museum while it is closed to the public, and an opportunity to meet other volunteers and ask questions about being a docent. Admission is free.

I love the friends I've met at Cedar Grove. It was a great way to get involved in the community.
- Ethel, Cedar Grove Docent

I feel like I am making a contribution to keeping Cedar Grove open. - Ann, Cedar Grove Docent
My heart is with Thomas Cole and Cedar Grove! - Patti, Cedar Grove Docent

Cedar Grove docents have the chance to expand their knowledge about history, art and culture while interacting with diverse visitors from all over the world. Docent enrichment sessions offered April 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th provide a comprehensive orientation to the museum, artifacts and landscape. For more information about this Open House or about volunteering, contact Linda Bartula at (518) 943-7465 ext. 4 or info@thomascole.org.

As the primary residence and workplace of leading 19th-century landscape painter Thomas Cole, Cedar Grove was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965 and an affiliate of the National Park Service by U.S. Congress in 1999. Through tours, exhibitions, education programs, and special events, the Thomas Cole National Historic Site seeks to preserve the legacy of Thomas Cole and his impact on 19th-century American art and culture.

Cedar Grove is located at 218 Spring Street in Catskill, N.Y. For more information about the site, visit www.thomascole.org.