



Cedar Grove

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site

Beautiful Party, Record Fundraising, at the 2006 "Pic-Nic" CEDAR GROVE'S THIRD ANNUAL SUMMER PARTY A BIG HIT!



CATSKILL, NY - The Thomas Cole National Historic Site held their third annual summer party at Cedar Grove on Saturday July 29th, raising a record amount of funds for their operations. Approximately 215 guests were treated to a cocktail party in the garden and on the porch of Cedar Grove, the home of the famous 19th-century artist Thomas Cole, and all were treated to a special dinner party in one of many lovely nearby homes. Guests at the party included artists Richard Artschwager and Terry Winters, art historians including Kevin Avery, the Curator of American Painting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and political representatives including Vincent Seeely, mayor of Catskill.

The event brought in over \$33,000, which is an 83% increase over last year ... nearly double! New this year were the sponsors at silver, gold and platinum levels, which greatly enhanced the evening's success. All of the dinners were donated by generous dinner hosts -- nearly twenty in all. In addition, the over-the-top flowers were donated by Douglas Koch, including a sensational central arrangement that towered over guests in the main tent. Because of all of the donated dinners and special sponsors, the cost of the event was extremely minimal, allowing nearly all of the funds raised to go directly to benefit Cedar Grove. Photography was generously provided at a greatly reduced rate by Brian Branigan. Music was performed by Shaker Creek on authentic antique instruments. Fancy hors d'oeuvres were prepared by Georgia Ray's catering. All printed materials at the event, right down to the name tags, were designed by Hilary Hillman.

The Pic-Nic event committee was comprised of wonderfully hard working and fun people: Lisa Fox Martin, Hilary Hillman, Ronnie McCue, Frank Cuthbert, and Pamela Belfor. The event's

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"Pic-Nic" theme is inspired by Thomas Cole's painting of the same name, featuring Cole with his friends and family enjoying a beautiful summer day with wine, food and music. Cedar Grove wishes to express special thanks to all of the sponsors, guests, and Pic-Nic hosts who made this event such a success:

Pic-Nic Hosts: Pamela and Ted Belfor, Gabe Brown and John Lippert, Jacqueline & Steve Dunn, Lisa Fox Martin and Dick May with Hudson Talbott, Ray Pierce and Bob Gillis, Carrie and Nicholas Haddad, Alyson and Patrick Milbourne, Johnnie Moore and Ashton Hawkins, Peter O'Hara and John Garofalo, Michelle Saunders, Betsy and Al Scott, Stephen and Jonathan Shadley, Andrea and Robert Smallwood, Matthew Talomie and Michael DeLellis, Dick and Sybil Tannenbaum, Brooke and Malcolm Travelstead, Ethel and Ken Williams, Margot Zengotita and Joe Tumay

Platinum Sponsors: Pamela and Ted Belfor, Lisa Fox Martin and Dick May, Purcell and Jim Palmer

Gold Sponsors: Richard and Ann Artschwager, L. Scott Johnson, Morgan Anderson Consulting, Betsy and Al Scott

Silver Sponsors: Jean and Richard Bassin, Blass Communications LLC, David Borenstein, BRIK Gallery, John and Linda Cross, Martin J. Davidson and Virginia Martin, Dimensions North Ltd., Dunn Builders Supply, Jean D. Hamilton and Richard N. McCarthy, David Herman and Richard Philp, Hillcrest Press, Main Care Energy, Marshall & Sterling Insurance, N&S Supply, Ronnie McCue, Rip Van Winkle Realty, Robin and Martin Smith, STRAYBAR, Stair Galleries and Restoration, Washington Irving Inn, Randolph E. Wills, Anonymous

About Cedar Grove

Cedar Grove is the site where the artist Thomas Cole lived, worked and was married, and where he died at the age of 47. Today the site consists of the Federal style brick home (c. 1815), as well as Thomas Cole's original studio building (1839), on 5 landscaped acres with a magnificent view of the Catskill Mountains. In recent years the house has undergone a major restoration, and now contains both furnished rooms and gallery rooms with special exhibitions. The newly restored studio contains Cole's original easel and art-making tools, and offers a greater understanding of the artist and his working environment.

About Thomas Cole

Long regarded as the founder of America's first art movement, known as the Hudson River School, Thomas Cole (1801-1848) is a central figure in the development of American culture. When Cole made his first trip up the Hudson River in 1825, thought-leaders in America were searching for something distinctly American to establish the nation's own culture as separate from that of Europe. Thomas Cole found it in the Catskill Mountain wilderness, which came to symbolize the unspoiled character of the new nation. Lionized during his lifetime and celebrated by a generation of artists who followed in his footsteps, Cole is now widely regarded as the father of American landscape painting.