



**THOMAS  
COLE** NATIONAL  
HISTORIC  
SITE



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**FIVE PUBLIC EVENTS ON JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> WILL CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF  
THE EXPANDED HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL ART TRAIL, WHICH HAS  
DOUBLED IN SIZE, GROWING TO 22 SITES IN FOUR STATES**

**New York Events Will Be in Catskill, Hudson, Hyde Park, Kingston, and Newburgh**

**ALBANY, NY – May 22, 2012** – The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the Thomas Cole National Historic Site announced today a series of five public events that will take place on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, to celebrate the opening of the expansion of the renowned Hudson River School Art Trail. The expansion will more than double 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. A new Art Trail website with hand-held optimization will also be available, beginning on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

The following celebratory events will take place in New York on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, which is also National Trails Day:

- Official ribbon-cutting and press conference at 12:30 pm at Hasbrouck Park on Delaware Avenue in Kingston

- Lecture on Sanford Gifford and his hiking and sketching trips by Kevin Avery, Senior Research Scholar at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, at 4:00 pm at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill, NY ([www.thomascole.org](http://www.thomascole.org))
- Social media experience on the carriage drives at the Olana State Historic Site ([www.olana.org](http://www.olana.org)) in Hudson: self-guided hikes of the drives with Foursquare and Facebook Places check-ins along the way – and Olana-oriented prizes, based on the amount of ground covered and the use of social media
- Nine-mile End-2-End trek on the Hyde Park Trail at the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites (<http://www.nps.gov/hofr/roosevelt-vanderbilt-national-historic-sites.htm>) in Hyde Park, beginning at 8:00 am; pre-registration is recommended due to shuttle bus capacity
- Sketching Day at Washington’s Headquarters State Historic Site (<http://nysparks.com/historic-sites/17/details.aspx>), which was repeatedly the subject of Hudson River artists, in Newburgh.

Additional details, including any admission fees, are available on the websites shown.

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 (free admission; by appointment only)
- 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 (free admission)
- Of the Hudson River from Hasbrouck Park, Kingston (free admission)
- Of the Hudson River from Croton Point State Park, Croton-on-Hudson (\$10 parking fee)
- Of the Hudson River from the City of Hudson (free admission).

\* A grounds pass of \$25 is required at Mohonk Mountain House for access to its four sites.

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.

“The expanded Art Trail gives the public many more opportunities to explore and cherish these extraordinarily inspiring vistas,” said Elizabeth B. Jacks, director of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. “The landscapes and views that comprise the Hudson River School Art Trail are truly a national treasure.”

“The expanded Hudson River School Art Trail combines nature and culture on a broad scale,” said Mark Castiglione, Acting Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. “It offers the public a way to appreciate both while benefiting from exercise and emotional refreshment.”

A listing of all 22 sites on the expanded Art Trail, and related visitors’ information, will be available on the new website (<http://www.thomascole.org/trail>). The 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 of the Metropolitan Museum of Art researched the new sites and related paintings and drafted the descriptive texts.

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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