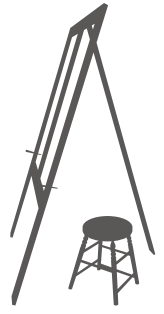


# THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



Winter 2012 Newsletter

## HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL ART TRAIL GROWS TO 22 SITES



Art Trail press conference, left to right: Mark Castiglione; Shayne Gallo, Mayor, City of Kingston; Assemblyman Kevin Cahill; Maurice Hinchey, U.S. Congressman; and Elizabeth Jacks, Executive Director, Thomas Cole Site

The renowned series of driving and walking trails to the places that inspired Hudson River School landscape paintings has been expanded throughout the Hudson Valley of New York and into three other states. In partnership with the Hudson Valley Greenway, the expansion was announced in June 2012, and was featured in a two-page full-color spread in *The New York Times* over the summer. At the same time, through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Trail gained a new website, [www.hudsonriverschool.org](http://www.hudsonriverschool.org), that is optimized for hand-held devices such as smart phones and iPads, enabling people to take maps, images and information with them out on the Trail.


The Trail was launched in 2005 by the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in partnership with the Olana State Historic Site and other organizations to lead visitors to the views that appear in 19th century landscape paintings. The original eight sites are in Columbia and Greene Counties, anchored by the Thomas Cole Site and Olana, which are sites one and two on the Trail. There are now 17 sites in New York, encompassing Westchester, Ulster and Dutchess Counties as well. The remaining five sites are in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Wyoming.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 »



John I. Mesick

## NEW STUDIO UPDATE: JOHN MESICK HIRED AS LEAD ARCHITECT

The Committee to Rebuild the New Studio is pleased to announce the selection of architect John Mesick to lead the reconstruction of the building that Cole designed and used as his workspace from 1846 until his death in 1848. The partnership of Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker Architects, LLP, with offices in Albany, NY, and Williamsburg, VA, has specialized in the discipline of historic preservation for nearly four decades. The firm has demonstrated leadership in design and preservation of the highest quality with projects such as the New York State Capitol, Vermont State House, Tennessee State Capitol, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, and Thomas Jefferson's homes, Monticello and Poplar Forest. The firm has been the recipient of awards from New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Buchanan Award from the Vernacular Architecture Forum, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 



Thomas Cole's Second Annual Community Day draws over 400 people. **See article on page 4.**

## THE 2012 THOMAS COLE FELLOWS

In 2010, the Thomas Cole National Historic Site launched the Thomas Cole Fellows program for recent college graduates and graduate students. Now in its third year, the program received more than 30 applicants, hailing from 12 states, Canada, and the UK. The accepted Fellows commit to a five-month stay at the Thomas Cole Site, June 1 to November 1, and in exchange receive an honorarium, free housing at the historic site, the resumé-building experience of working in a museum environment, as well as a full schedule of training, professional development, networking and field trips. We have benefited greatly from their presence here and wish them all great success in their budding careers.



### **Margot Mache**

graduated in 2012 from Boston University where she majored in History of Art and Architecture and minored in Business Administration and Management. She worked at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Association of Architecture Organizations, the Royal College of Art in London, and as a research assistant at Boston University with Professor Jodi Cranston. She led after-school art classes and was involved in the Boston University Theatre troupe. At the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, Mache conducted new research to determine which of Thomas Cole's paintings were painted here on-site, which paintings would have hung in the Main House during his lifetime, and where those works are now. Her research lays the groundwork for new permanent interpretive exhibits that will be planned in the coming year. Mache also compiled oral history reports to learn more about Thomas Cole's New Studio, and played a pivotal role in co-organizing and implementing the exhibition "Postcards from the Trail" (see page 4).



### **Amara McMann**

earned her MA in the History of Fine and Decorative Arts from the University of Manchester in the UK, and her BA in Art History at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. Prior to her arrival at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, McMann worked as a gallery assistant at the University of North Florida Gallery of Art, where she also taught art history courses. She served as an education instructor and docent trainer at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Jacksonville, FL, and led art classes at Camp Walt Whitman in Piermont, NH. She wrote her undergraduate thesis on the works of Thomas Cole and presented a paper analyzing the relationship between Cole's poetry and his paintings at the 2010 School of Visual Arts conference, *Green, Greener, Greenest: Romancing Nature Again*.



The 2012 Thomas Cole Fellows visiting the Tenement Museum, NY

At the Thomas Cole Site she paired literary writings with sites along the Hudson River School Art Trail. Additionally, McMann compiled new research on Cole's early trips to Catskill and charted the various routes one would have taken over 180 years ago to reach the Hudson River Valley. She also provided essential support to the collection and exhibition manager with collection research and helped to update educational texts on collection pieces that are on view in the Main House.

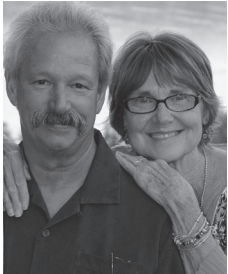


### **Madeline Turner**

graduated from Bard College in May 2012. She majored in Art History and Latin American/Iberian Studies. Prior to her time here, she worked to collect, organize, and edit exhibition information for Art in America's Chelsea Art Map, as well as the Miami Art Map. She worked in the education and exhibitions department at DIA:Beacon and as a gallery assistant at the Hessel Museum at Bard College's Center for Curatorial Studies. Fluent in Spanish, Turner writes for *La Voz* and was involved with the Nicaragua Education Initiative in 2011-12. For the Thomas Cole Site, Turner investigated the varied interests of Thomas Cole and conducted original research exploring how Cole's paintings were directly influenced by his pursuits outside of painting, including architecture, literature, the environment, science, and music. In addition, she was a co-organizer of the "Postcards from the Trail" exhibition and worked alongside Margot Mache to encourage local youth to participate in the show. 

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Board of Trustees is delighted to welcome five new members, including one who will serve as Treasurer, Maynard Toll. Marianne Lockwood and MaryEllen Gallagher were elected in May, Stephen Dunn was elected in September, and Johnnie Moore and Maynard Toll were elected in November. The board is now comprised of 17 members, fulfilling the goal of expanding the number of Trustees as the organization grows. We are grateful for their commitments and excited about the talents and experience that they bring to the organization. Welcome!



### **Stephen Dunn**

Stephen Dunn is the retired former owner and Chief Executive Officer of Dunn Builders Supply with locations in Catskill, Hudson and Chatham. He is also the past Chairman and current Board Member of Columbia Memorial Hospital in Hudson, New York. He was born and grew up in Catskill, New York, graduated from Hartwick College, and currently resides in the town of Athens in Greene County with his wife Jacqueline, a volunteer and docent at the Thomas Cole site. He has four daughters and 12 grandchildren.



### **MaryEllen Gallagher**

MaryEllen Gallagher currently works for Columbia-Greene Community College as assistant professor of nursing, and is the owner and director of Aisling Yoga & Movement Studio in Cairo, New York. Before moving to Greene County, Ms. Gallagher worked as a nurse-midwife at Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie. She has hosted dinners for the summer fundraiser events for the Thomas Cole Historic Site, and has been a volunteer docent on the Hudson River School Art Trail since 2009.



### **Marianne C. Lockwood**

Marianne Lockwood is the co-founder and president emeritus of the Orchestra of St. Luke's and the DiMenna Center for Classical Music in New York City. An active advocate for the arts, Ms. Lockwood is a trustee of St. Luke's as well as the The Sphinx Organization. She has also served on the NEA, DCA, and the Massachusetts Arts Council music panels and was recently appointed as arts advisor to the Enoch Foundation. She lives in Catskill, New York with her husband David Bury, a development consultant to the arts.




### **Johnnie Moore**

Johnnie Moore is a performer, singer and voiceover artist residing in both New York City and Athens, New York. A graduate of Harvard College, Mr. Moore served on the Board of Trustees of the Olana Partnership for six years and on the Hudson River School Art Trail Committee in recent years. He is a Usual Suspect at New York Theater Workshop and a founding and current member of Gotham Chamber Opera. He and his partner, Ashton Hawkins, are members of the Campaign Committee to Build the New Studio and have hosted numerous events for the Thomas Cole Historic Site at their homes.



### **Maynard Toll**

Maynard Toll is a retired investment banker from First Boston Corporation and Credit Suisse. Prior to his banking career, he was an Assistant Professor of Politics and Assistant Dean of Faculty at the University of Massachusetts-Boston and worked for Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, first as his Legislative Assistant for Foreign Policy and then as his Administrative Assistant. In his banking career, he served as head of the bank's operations in Japan, and also was a member of the mergers and acquisitions department in New York. His background includes a PhD from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies as well as a Fulbright Scholarship. He currently serves as Chairman of the Edmund S. Muskie Foundation. 





**Elizabeth Jacks**  
Executive Director

## REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year, our twelfth season open to the public, I fell in love with a new artist – did you see our Mignot show? I am now a Mignot fan, and I was pleased to see so many other people becoming fans as well. I'd like to express my thanks again to Dr. Katherine Manthorne for creating this special exhibition for the Thomas Cole Site.



**Visitors at the Mignot exhibition**

This past June, we had a lot to celebrate. The month started with an announcement that we had more than doubled the size of the Hudson River School Art Trail – a series of walking and driving routes to the views that appear in famous 19th-century landscape paintings. Accompanying the Trail's expansion is a new installation of eight bronze rubbing medallions, one at each of the Trail



**Rubbing medallion for the Trail**

sites numbers one through eight. The bronze plaques have raised designs that can be transferred onto a piece of paper by taking a “rubbing” using a simple pencil. Visitors can “collect them all” and collect a prize. Also on each plaque is a QR code, a square bar code that can be scanned by smartphones, immediately taking the user to the new Art Trail website for information about that site. For example, if



**A young artist on Community Day**

you are at Kaaterskill Falls, Thomas Cole's painting of Kaaterskill Falls and some key insights about it would appear on your screen.

Our Second Annual Community Day drew over 400 people to Thomas Cole's home and studio, many of whom had never been here before. We were delighted to see kids not only getting their faces painted but also trying their hand at a “camera obscura,” a seemingly magic drawing



**Postcards from the Trail exhibition**

tool that Thomas Cole used. On the walls in the Main House were 250 new landscape paintings, including 75 works by local kids, in the “Postcards from the Trail” exhibition. Each painting was the size of a postcard and depicted one of the 22 views of the Hudson River School Art Trail. Over the summer we put out a call to artists, and we were amazed by the response. The paintings by adult artists were on sale for \$100, and a buying frenzy ensued. All told, over \$5,000 changed hands that day.

Thanks to the initiative of our educator, Melissa Gavilanes, we now have a reference library consisting of over 575 publications, up from only 77 in 2009. In the last few months alone,



**Catskill Village President Vincent Seeley as Thomas Cole on Community Day**

she has added over 100 books at zero cost by applying for grants and asking for donations from volunteers and others. The library is for on-site reference only, and is used by the Thomas Cole Fellows while doing



**Parachute games on Community Day**


their research, as well as staff and volunteers. If you have art books to share, please call Melissa (extension 5) to see if you have something we are missing.



**Melissa Gavilanes**

## » TRAIL GROWS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A listing of all 22 sites and related visitors' information are available on the new website, along with art history content developed by scholars including Kevin Avery, Senior Research Scholar of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The team of scholars and consultants that brought this expansion to fruition includes Charles Forcey of Historic Inc.; Mark Castiglione, Acting Director, Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area; Evelyn Trebilcock, Curator, Olana State Historic Site; Gregg Swanzey and


Greg Hoagland of the Mohonk Preserve; Gretchen Reed, Mohonk Mountain House; Mary Kay Verba, Director of Dutchess County Tourism; Rick Remsnyder, Director of Ulster County Tourism; Conrad Hanson, project management consulting; Johnnie Moore, actor; John Stilgoe, the Robert & Lois Orchard Professor in the History of Landscape, Harvard University; Kay Morgan, Director, The New Hampshire Heritage Project; and Joni Kinsey, Professor of American Art History, University of Iowa. 



Robin Smith in the garden

## » FROM THE DIRECTOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

This fall I was honored to be asked to join the Tourism Advisory Council for Greene County, organized by the Greene County Department of Tourism, Planning and Economic Development. It has been an intense commitment - I attended six meetings in six weeks so far - but I am delighted to be involved in developing new ways to bring tourists and their dollars to our area.

As you will see in this newsletter, we are welcoming a tremendous slate of new board members this year, but I would also like to draw attention to the retirement of two: Robin Smith and Kenneth Williams. Robin chaired our grounds committee and has painstakingly cared for our flower gardens for nearly a decade. Thankfully, she will stay on in this crucial role. Ken and his wife Ethel have been involved in the organization for over ten years, and seemed as much a part of the Thomas Cole House as the columns on the porch. Ken not only served as Treasurer on our board, but also completed all of the organization's bookkeeping, grant filings, tax forms and numerous other time-consuming tasks. The board and staff extend their profound gratitude for Robin and Ken's tremendous contributions. 



Ken & Ethel Williams

## CREATING A LEGACY

You can create your own legacy with a planned lifetime or estate gift to the Thomas Cole Historic Site. Your commitment will continue the preservation of Cole's home, studio and landscape, and help us to bring his inspiring story to the next generation of art lovers. For more information about how to make a gift, whether of cash or other assets, please contact Elizabeth Jacks, Executive Director, at 518-943-7465 extension 3.

## YEAR-END GIVING

As 2012 comes to a close, we hope that you will remember the Thomas Cole Historic Site with a year-end gift. As an independent non-profit organization, we are not owned or operated by either New York State or the Federal government and rely on the kindness of individuals like you to ensure that this historic site is open and inspiring to all for generations to come. Please use this form or visit our website donation page at [www.thomascole.org/support-us](http://www.thomascole.org/support-us). Thank you making a difference!

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Please send to PO Box 426, Catskill, NY 12414



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Evren & Asli Ay



Elizabeth Jacks with David & Laura Grey

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Geoff Howell, event designer, and  
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Meri Kane, Rick Sharp, Stuart  
Breslow, Anne Miller and friends

# THOMAS COLE PAINTING ARRIVES THROUGH A GENEROUS PARTNERSHIP

In October 2012, Thomas Cole's 1836 painting *On Catskill Creek* arrived back at the place where its journey began, Thomas Cole's home in Catskill, New York. Through the generosity of Dr. Matthew Brown and a partnership with the painting's current owner, Mr. Louis Salerno of Questroyal Fine Art, the work is being loaned on a long-term basis to the Thomas Cole Historic Site starting this month. The work depicts one of Thomas Cole's favorite haunts, the shore of a creek that flows near his Catskill home, a site that is also stop number three on the Hudson River School Art Trail (see article on page 1). Cole's beloved local farmscape and rolling hills in the background as well as his signature infinite sky above are executed with a high degree of precision. In contrast, the foreground waters and rocky outcropping are unfinished, providing a fascinating window into the artist's creative process. The board, staff, volunteers and greater community of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site would like to extend our most profound gratitude to Dr. Brown and Mr. Salerno for their thoughtfulness and generosity. 



Thomas Cole, *On Catskill Creek*, 1836. Oil on canvas, 20 5/8 x 15 11/16 in. Signed, inscribed and dated on backing panel: *Thomas Cole Catskill 1836*

## 2013 SUNDAY SALONS

Join us for these popular gatherings at the home of Thomas Cole with guest speakers leading discussions on topics relating to the Hudson River School, the nation's first major art movement. Enjoy the talk followed by a reception and lively conversation once per month at the birthplace of American landscape painting. Sundays at 2 pm. Tickets are \$9 per person or \$7 for members. Admission is first-come-first-served.

### January 13

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Kevin J. Avery

#### ***Cole and the American Revolution in Landscape***

Scenery-loving Americans today would be surprised to learn that our wilderness was not always our mecca, but our dread. Thomas Cole and many of his followers of the Hudson River School made it a place of thrill and yearning, picturing the dreadful expressly to thrill. But their success presupposed a culture conditioned to welcome that thrill thanks to the very distance the Industrial Revolution increasingly put between people and the natural world in Europe and America. Dr. Kevin J. Avery, Senior Research Scholar of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, addresses the implications of the Cole revolution in American landscape art, and the ways in which his colleague, Asher B. Durand, and his followers both sustained and modified his vision.

### February 10

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Jean Dunbar

#### ***Thomas Cole and the Decorative Arts: Career & Home***

Thomas Cole painted visionary works and sweeping American landscapes, and few artists remain more firmly associated with the outdoors. Yet, few, if any, 19th-century painters had wider experience with interior decoration. In England, young Cole trained for a career in color block-printing, not engraving, as previously presumed. He soon gained experience creating textiles, wallpaper, floor coverings, and painted "fancy" furnishings that, in turn, educated and influenced his painting. Rather than scorning decoration, he considered painting inseparable from it. Historic interiors consultant Dr. Jean Dunbar of Historic Design, Inc., who has been researching Thomas Cole's home and studio since 2008, shares fascinating new discoveries about Cole's home in Catskill that reveal that the artist helped decorate the house and exhibited his paintings there. Thomas Cole, a decorative artist first, remained a decorative artist throughout his career.

### March 10

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Christopher N. Phillips

#### ***What Made Cole Epic?***

Thomas Cole is remembered primarily for his landscapes, but throughout his career he aimed to develop an epic art for America. This new aesthetic blended landscape, mythology, history, religion, and literature, and through works such as *The Course of Empire* and *Prometheus Bound* the concept captured the imaginations of Cole's contemporaries. In fact, Cole's art brought the term "epic" into American art criticism. Join Dr. Christopher N. Phillips, Assistant Professor of English at Lafayette College and author of *Epic in American Culture: Settlement to Reconstruction*, for a Salon that will focus on the development of Cole's career as an epic painter and his early reception in that light. Dr. Phillips will sign copies of his book after the talk.

### April 14

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Barbara Novak

#### ***Pioneer in American Art History***

Barbara Novak is one of America's premier art historians. Breaking into the world of American art history in the 1950s, when few professors taught the topic, Dr. Novak, Helen Goodhart Altschul Professor of Art History Emerita at Barnard College and Columbia University, spent the next 40 years creating a foundation for the study of American art history through her seminal books and teaching, inspiring generations of students to pursue remarkable careers in academic and museum life. In this Salon, six speakers from a range of fields reveal through their personal stories the wide sweep of Dr. Novak's influence as a scholar and mentor. Dr. Novak will offer her remarks at the end of the Salon. Come join us for this celebration of the life and work of Dr. Barbara Novak.

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## ALBERT BIERSTADT TO VISIT THOMAS COLE IN 2013!

We are excited to announce that our 2013 special exhibition will feature the iconic 19th-century landscape painter, Albert Bierstadt. For the forthcoming exhibition and the accompanying illustrated catalogue, the guest curator Annette Blaugrund, former director of the National Academy Museum and Andrew W. Mellon Senior Curator at the New-York Historical Society, will focus on Bierstadt's paintings of New York and New England. Best known for his paintings of the American West, Bierstadt's faithful depiction of botanical and geological details of the unspoiled wilderness, mountains, and meadows in the east, on both a grand and diminutive scale, were executed between the late 1850s through the 1880s, often while selecting aesthetic sites for his brothers Charles and Edward to photograph for their stereographs. Dr. Blaugrund will also examine Bierstadt's studios in New York City, Westchester and Oneida Counties as they relate to his work. The exhibition will open to the public on May 2, 2013.



Albert Bierstadt, 1862. Courtesy of the Century Association Archives Foundation