



### Website of the month:

- Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation

[www.hvedc.com](http://www.hvedc.com)

## Honored Day for Battle of Twin Forts

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, a gathering honoring the battles of Forts Montgomery and Clinton was held at Fort Montgomery.

Attendants congregated at the site of the new Visitor's Center for a ground breaking ceremony. Activities throughout the day included lectures, a cannon firing program at the battery, a battle reenactment at North Roundabout, and a buffet supper.

The program of events was co-sponsored by the Fort Montgomery Battle Site Association (FMBSA),



First firing of Fort Montgomery's 32-pounder cannon, "George." photo: L. Bruck

Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC), and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

Forts Montgomery and Clinton were defended by the American Army during the Revolutionary War.

American Brigadier General Governor George and James Clinton defended the forts from an attack by General Sir Henry Clinton.

Separated by the Popolopen Creek, Fort Montgomery State Historic Site and Fort Clinton at Trailside Museum are preserved historic locations. At Fort Montgomery



L-R: Private Bill Edsall, 5th NY; Col. Jim Johnson, HRVI; Commissioner Barney McHenry, PIPC.; Governor George Pataki; Richard White-Smith, Heritage NY. photo: K. Saur

located on a marked trail are foundations of structures including a powder magazine, the guardhouse, and barracks built during occupation. In addition to a well-preserved Outer Redoubt, a museum exhibits artifacts and information describing the forts and battles.

-Kristen Alldredge

## Hudson River Valley Boating Conference



photo: C. Pryslopski

The conference, held on November 8, 2004, at the Pirate Canoe Club in Poughkeepsie, New York, was sponsored by the

Hudson American Heritage Rivers Initiative, Navigator Vinny Tamagna, and the Hudson River Boat and Yacht Club Association, President John Dmytryszyn.

The Boating Conference held informational sessions on clean marina/clean boating practices, improving accessibility of boating facilities, shallow water dredging and maintaining boat slip draft. Betsy Blair, manager of the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve and NYSDEC, presented information on invasive species, such as the zebra mussel and how to preserve reserve sites like the tidal wetlands.

These sessions helped to inform such institutions as the Fishermen Association, Scenic Hudson, US EPA, Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, the DEC, yacht clubs, marinas, and such colleges as PACE.

There will be a follow up Dredging Workshop on Saturday, December 11th at Marist College. The workshop will start at 8:30 in the Henry Hudson Room in Fontaine Hall. Visit "What's New" at [www.hudsonrivervalley.net](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net) for more information.

-Jessica Baldwin



Panel presents at Boating Conference. Photo: C. Pryslopski

# Students Active in America's Affairs

Every year Marist College sends two delegates, a history major and a political science major, to SCUSA at West Point Academy. SCUSA stands for Student Conference of United States Affairs, and it is the largest student conference in the nation.

The first SCUSA was held in 1949; this year was the 56<sup>th</sup> conference. Over two hundred student delegates representing over 100 schools and 25 different countries convened at West Point this November.

This year I received the honor of being the history representative from

Marist College, along with Candice Muna, the Political Science Representative.

Each year the conference has a different theme of discussion. Students compile a short policy paper on their group's conclusions. This year's theme was "Beyond Hegemony: The Goals and Consequences of American Action at Home and Abroad."

Students were part of Round Tables, or groups, each with a particular subtopic to talk about. As a part of the Western Europe Round Table we focused on how to heal the rift formed

between the United States of America and the European Union.

Many important people in the government, military, NATO, and the UN attend this conference, lending advice and expertise.

SCUSA was an experience I am grateful for. I learned so much from lectures and participating the round table discussions. The opportunity to work so closely with such influential people in our nation and around the world was a privilege and an incredible opportunity.

-Kim Wilson

# Patriots Remembered at Stony Point

This year the Hudson River Valley Region honored the Revolutionary War Patriots at Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site. The weekend of July 15-18, the anniversary of the battle fought



photo: NYSOPRHP

at Stony Point, was complete with memorial festivities commemorating and celebrating those who fought in the War for American Independence.

The soldiers who defended Stony Point in 1779 were armed with unloaded muskets and fixed bayonets. They marched south from Sandy Beach near West Point and followed a plan devised by General Washington. At General Wayne's command, the soldiers called out, "The Fort's Our Own," when taking the fort.

The weekend entailed a re-dedication ceremony of the museum, performances of 18th century military activities, military music, artillery drill, and the re-creation of the Battle of Stony Point.

Stony Point Battlefield Historical Site

in Rockland County has a free admis-



photo: NYSOPRHP

sion museum and battlefield walking tours.

-Kristen Alldredge

# The Hudson River Valley Navigator

The Hudson River Valley Institute is home to the Hudson River Navigator. Governor George Pataki nominated the Hudson River to become one of the nation's first American Heritage Rivers in 1997, and, at the Governor's request, President George W. Bush extended the Hudson River's heritage designation through July 2006.

In 2003 Governor Pataki appointed Mr. Vincent Tamagna as the Navigator and asked the HRVI to host

his operations. The American Heritage Rivers Initiative has complemented New York's efforts to restore and protect the Hudson River's natural, scenic, historic, and economic resources in a partnership with local governments and organizations along its banks.

The Hudson River Navigator is the liaison between New York State's Hudson River Heritage Council, federal and state agencies, and local governments and communities. In this

role the Navigator provides valuable assistance to the State, local governments, and communities along the Hudson in their efforts to preserve the unique historic and natural resources of the Hudson. Visit the navigator's site at:

[www.hudsonrivervalley.net/navigator](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net/navigator)

-Danielle Morrison

# Dedication Ceremony for new interpretive signs at the South Redoubt, Garrison



photo: Polly Townsend

COL (Ret.) Jim Johnson, Executive Director, HRVI and Bill Edsall, 5th New York Regiment, join seventh grade students and members of the School Forest Committee, Garrison Union Free School on November 20, 2004, to dedicate signs interpreting Middle (South) Redoubt overlooking Garrison, New York.

This ceremony celebrated the 225th anniversary of one of the key

works of Fortress West Point begun in the summer of 1779. Two French engineers, Lieutenant Colonel Jean-Baptiste Gouvion and Captain Etienne Bechet de Rochefontaine, supervised the construction of Middle Redoubt to delay or to suppress a British land force approaching from the east or the south across the plain between the Hudson River and the mountains.

On September 25, 1780, General George Washington, returning from a meeting with French General Rochambeau in Hartford, Connecticut, to meet Major General Benedict Arnold at West Point, turned aside to inspect the eastern fortifications at North and Middle Redoubts.

As Washington inspected the works, just below him at the Beverley Robinson House, Arnold was learning

about the capture of Major John André. The dedication completed the clearing and interpreting of the site so that it can once again be used to teach students about the importance of the Hudson Highlands and its fortifications to the winning of the American Revolution.



photo: Polly Townsend

## 225th Anniversary Commemoration Act

On November 20, 2004, the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemoration Act introduced by U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY-22) passed both houses of Congress as a part of the omnibus appropriations bill. Twenty-two co-sponsors joined Congressman Hinchey in his efforts in the House of Representatives, including fellow Hudson River Valley Representatives Michael McNulty (D-21-NY), Sue Kelly (R-NY-19), John Sweeney (R-NY-20), and Nita Lowey (D-NY-18). Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and John W. Warner (R-VA) had introduced identical legislation in the Senate.

The Hudson River Valley Institute had been working with Congressman Hinchey and Legislative Director Paul Brotherton since 2002 to pass legislation to establish a program in the National Park Service to promote the celebration of the 225th anniversary of the American Revolution since New York and its Hudson River Valley were instrumental in the winning of the American Revolution. With the help of Governor George Pataki, New York has led the campaign since 2000 to remember and

to celebrate our Revolutionary heritage. Under Congressman Hinchey's leadership, the American Revolution has been a critical theme of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area as well.

Congressman Hinchey's bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish a national program within the Park Service authorizing the additional resources and partnerships necessary to improve their stewardship of Revolutionary War sites and treasures through improved interpretation, education, outreach and protection.

The \$500,000 in annual appropriation that the bill authorizes will provide much needed funding to link historic structures and sites, routes, activities, community projects, exhibits and multimedia materials; improve and update educational programs and connections with local and regional educators; and expand the research base for Revolutionary War interpretation and education by seeking out and enhancing partnerships with scholars and educators.

In announcing the passage of the bill, Congressman Hinchey pointed out that "Every generation of American citizens should have an opportunity to understand and appreciate the continuing legacy of the American Revolution.

The 225th anniversary is an opportunity to educate a new generation who may not be aware of the significance of the American Revolution and the Park Service's role as steward of this history.

Enactment of this legislation will help provide additional resources to Revolutionary War sites in the Hudson Valley and throughout New York, and ensure that the 225th anniversary of the American Revolution receives the recognition and resources it deserves."

To read more about the bill and Congressman Hinchey's role in its passage, go to [http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/ny22\\_hinchey/morenews/112004amrev2.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/ny22_hinchey/morenews/112004amrev2.html).

