

HRVI

Hudson River Valley Institute

YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Teaching the Hudson Valley

Teaching the Hudson Valley (THV) held their 7th annual three-day conference at the Home and Presidential Library of FDR the last week of July to “help educators explore, appreciate, and share the region’s natural historic and cultural treasures.” In what seems to have been their biggest turn out yet, THV brought schools, counselors, and teachers together with museums, parks, and several informal learning sites. This year’s theme was “Reading, Writing, and Thinking the Hudson Valley” and focused on using place-based education to help students develop life and learning skills; a much needed break from the rote test preparation dreaded by students and teachers.

A variety of teacher workshops took place at the con-

ference. Mary Ellen Iatropoulos of Children’s Media Project (www.childrensmediaproject.org) gave a great presentation on how to integrate video editing, literature, and the environment into a single lesson. Students growing up today are almost wholly digital – they often understand how to use technology better than some of their teachers, and as a result learn better when using updated teaching techniques that encompass new technologies.

In another workshop, Tom Lake encouraged writing as a way to enjoy the Hudson River Valley. As a coordinator of the Hudson River Valley Almanac, he emphasizes the beauty and potential of this region that is all too often forgotten in memories, never preserved by ink. Being on the Hudson is often inspiration enough for some students to start writing, to pay attention

to detail, and to use specific vocabulary and sharpen their writing. While simultaneously learning about their area, students learn how to be concise and articulate in their writing. Perhaps more informative and entertaining than the workshops themselves was to see how excited the teachers were getting to try out all the new activities that they were learning with their own students.

Day-long field experiences on Wednesday help to divide the Tuesday and Thursday workshop sessions. Conference attendees split up into groups to visit one of the five locations, including: [Olana State Historic Site](#), [Mohonk Preserve](#), [Albany Heritage Area](#), [Stone Barnes Center for Food & Agriculture](#), and the [Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies](#). Each trip was unique in its own

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Hudson Valley Renegades

For the past fifteen years the Hudson River Valley has been home to the history and tradition of the Hudson Valley Renegades, a minor-league baseball team. They have become a symbol for the people of the Hudson Valley by winning the New York-Penn League championship in 1999. [The Renegades](#) are well known around the Hudson Valley for their family friendly promotions that entertain the audience between innings. Younger fans also love their raccoon mascots, Rookie and Renee, walk around the stands entertaining them during games.

The Hudson Valley Renegades are a short-season Class A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays and member of the New-York Penn League since 1994. The Renegades are located in the Fishkill-Wappingers Falls area and play in the beautiful Dutchess Stadium.

Originally the Erie Sailors, they moved to the Hudson Valley in 1994. The

team was formerly affiliated with the Texas Rangers, but became a member of the Devil



Rays (as of November 2007, the Rays) organization in 1996. The current majority owner of the Renegades is Marvin Goldklang who also owns a stake in five other minor league baseball teams throughout the country.

Over the past fifteen years the Renegades have seen nearly 50 future major leaguers begin their careers, including former all-star Scott Podsednik, Rangers standout Josh Hamilton, Cubs starter Ryan Dempster and the new face of the Tampa Bay franchise Evan Longoria. In all, nine former Renegades occupy slots on the Rays' 40-man roster for the 2010 season with a half-dozen more top prospects waiting in the wings.

This summer the Hudson River Valley has great events to keep you busy, but if you're a sports fan, catching a Renegades game is a must. For more information or ticket purchases you can visit the Hudson Valley Renegades on their website <http://www.hvrenegades.com/>.

By: Joe Ritchie

Hudson Valley Ribfest

The Hudson Valley Ribfest 2010 will be held on August 21st and 22nd at the [Ulster County Fair](#) grounds in New Paltz, New York. It is organized and run by the many volunteers of the Highland Rotary Club and its friends. Both the New England Barbeque Society (NEBS) and Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS) sponsored the contest at the local fair. Winners take home \$10,000 and advance to the finals in Kansas City. They aim to create a family-friendly, upbeat and exciting festival packed with music, games, and most importantly, delicious food.

Over 14,000 people swarmed to the fairgrounds to enjoy the festival last year. With a convenient location just 70 miles north of the city, the Ribfest is a

short trip for both Hudson River Valley and New York City residents. Visitors will enjoy the flavorings of rib vendors, concession vendors and tailgaters serving fair favorites such as fresh squeezed lemonade, fried dough, and of



course, ribs. Six local and national rib vendors are featured each year, such as previous winner ¡Que.

The fair is expanding each year, and this year's fair will be the biggest yet. Come be a part of the largest BBQ festival in the Hudson River Valley. Parking and entry are just \$5 per person, and free entry for children under 12. No pets are allowed. For more information, please visit their website <http://hudsonvalleyribfest.org/> or find them on Facebook!

By: Peter Rottenbucher

Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome

The Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome is a museum of World War I era aircraft and antique automobiles, and located in Red Hook, New York. The Aerodrome is the inspiration of Cole Palen, the founder and architect of the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome, who performed during weekend air shows as his alter ego “The Black Baron”. Palen collected a number of veteran and vintage aircrafts which have been on display at the Aerodrome since it opened in 1960. The Aerodrome features many remarkable World War I and pre-World War I aircraft that can’t be seen anywhere else in the world today, especially in-flight. Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome not only shows aircraft in their natural environment, but also provides a fun and entertaining day out for the whole family.

Cole Palen set up the Aerodrome in a way that allows families to get up close and personal with the airplanes and artifacts in the collection. In fact, one of the best experiences the Aerodrome has to offer is biplane rides, where you can see the beauty of the Hudson River Valley from the air in a classic 1929 new standard open-cockpit biplane. Biplane rides are available before and after the air shows on weekends, from mid-June through mid-October. Passengers are flown over the Hudson River and back

at \$65 a person, and each biplane is allowed to take up a maximum of 4 passengers at a time. Rides are always a favorite with their guests, so arrive early to ensure a seat. The gates open and biplane rides begin at 10:00am, the air show starts at 2pm and ends at 4pm, and the Museum is open daily 10:00am - 5:00pm. For additional information, video previews of the show, special events and prices for museum only admission check the Old Rhinebeck Website at www.olderhinebeck.org.



The 2010 season is bringing back some restored pieces to the museum’s collection that includes: the Fokker D-VII airplane, the Stampe airplane, the Curtiss Jr. airplane, the Taylor J-2 airplane, and the Renault Tank. Throughout the month of June the Rhinebeck Aerodrome will be having special summer events. The Mohawk Valley Community College Aviation Tech department will be giving a presentation for those interested in an aviation oriented education on June 19th. On Sunday June

20th the museum will host a Father’s Day celebration.

On August 14th and 15th the Aerodrome has Artists, Authors, and Photographers weekend and will give the opportunity to the Hudson Valley to join as a participant, or to see local artists, authors and photographers display their work. There will be special opportunities for photographers to get up close and personal with their antique airplanes. There also will be professional photographers to assist amateurs with specialized aviation techniques. Saturday August 28, is Pioneer Aircraft Day,

where they will have special talks and presentations on the pioneer fleet, and also celebrate the 101st birthday of their 1909 Bleriot. In September there will be a model airplane weekend, where you will

see many display and fly radio controlled period aircraft models.

For a complete calendar guide to the events at the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome visit: http://www.olderhinebeck.org/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&view=calendar&Itemid=156. Or follow the museum on Facebook or Twitter to keep the most up to date information on the 2010 season.

By: Joe Ritchie

THV Continued...

way and exciting for teachers and group leaders alike. Participants were guided through the field trip and given activity suggestions to do along the way: writing, drawing, observing, and anything else that allowed students to have the hands-on experience that the classroom cannot provide. And that's what place-based education is all about.

None of this would have been possible if it were not for the hard work and dedication of Debi Duke. As THV's coordinator, she takes it upon herself to ensure that the entire conference runs as smooth as possible.

She works closely with other Hudson River Valley organizations to ensure the best possible conference. Interpretive Specialist and Education Coordinator Steve Stanne of the [Department of Environmental Conservation](#), Executive Director Mark Castiglione of [Hudson River Valley Greenway](#), and Superintendent Sarah Olson of [National Park Service](#)

were all integral to the success of this year's conference. All three Hudson River Valley activists are firm believers in place-based education and are thrilled to see that other residents are quickly becoming enthusiasts themselves. They are glad to see educators



starting to take advantage of the region's rich history and great natural environment. When asked to sum up the conference, to sum up their goals, the answer was more often than not their slogan: "Explore a place, discover your world." Simply put, you won't know what's out there unless you go see it for yourself.

With the success of this year's conference, THV is excited to begin working towards the next one. Debi Duke is playing around with a few ideas for next year, leaning towards "Using Media and Technology to Teach the Hudson Valley." Since the conference is only held once a year, THV is also seeking ways to reach teachers during the remaining 362 days. One possibility is a "meet and greet" where informal learning sites, such as museums and parks, share their programs and other resources in a fair-like fashion so that teachers can see a broad array of activities for their students. THV offers field trip and curriculum development grants as well as a website featuring more than 200 ready-to-use lesson plans and activities related to the Hudson River Valley. The website also includes a map featuring some 300 sites of cultural, historic, or natural interest that teachers and others can link to. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.teachingthehudsonvalley.org/>. You can also find links to their friends and partners websites on THV's site.

By: Peter Rottenbacher

Meet the Intern: Peter Rottenbacher

A native to the Hudson River Valley, Peter Rottenbacher joined the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College to learn more about the area he grew up in. His summer certainly turned out to be an eventful one. His enthusiasm for history and culture was complemented by an eclectic blend of writing assignments that brought him into the heart of the Hudson Valley, exploring local treasures such as



Mount Beacon and the Mohonk Preserve.

Peter is a History and Spanish double major at Marist College, with a concentration on local and Caribbean/Latin American studies. He will be spending his entire junior year abroad in Madrid, hoping to gain a mastery of the language and culture to supplement his historical interests. Life after college becomes a gamble. He is considering graduate school to teach history and Spanish, but doesn't want to give up his dream of life abroad teaching English or translating. Either

way, he is confident that he has set himself up to pursue many fields of work that suit his passions – history and language.

The best part of interning was being part of the small operating crew within the Institute. The banter within the group that took in between during the endless research, writing, editing, and begrudged phone calls was a unique phenomenon in and of itself that would be impossible duplicate or forget. Peter intends to keep in touch with the Institute upon coming back from Spain.

By: Peter Rottenbacher

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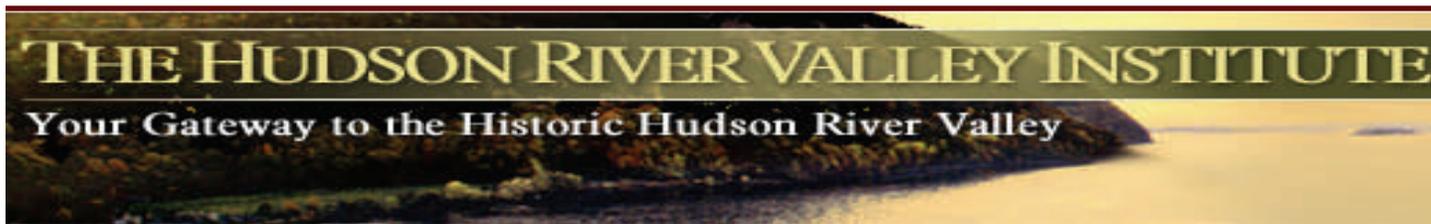
***The Hudson River Valley:
"The Landscape that Defined America"***

The Hudson River Valley is one of only 37 congressionally designated National Heritage Areas in the United States. As one of the most important regions in the United States, it is the fountainhead of a truly American identity. Recognizing the area's national value, Congress formed the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in 1996 to recognize, preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally-significant history and resources of the valley for the benefit of the nation.

The Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) is the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Its mission is to study and promote the Hudson River Valley and to provide educational resources for heritage tourists, scholars, elementary school educators, environmental organizations, the business community, and the general public. Its many projects include the publication of *The Hudson River Valley Review* and the management of a dynamic digital library and leading regional portal site.

As the center for the study of the Hudson River Valley, the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College is the central hub for information about the region that Congress called "the Landscape that defined America."

www.hudsonrivervalley.org



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