

John Burroughs: The Hudson Valley's Own First Naturalist



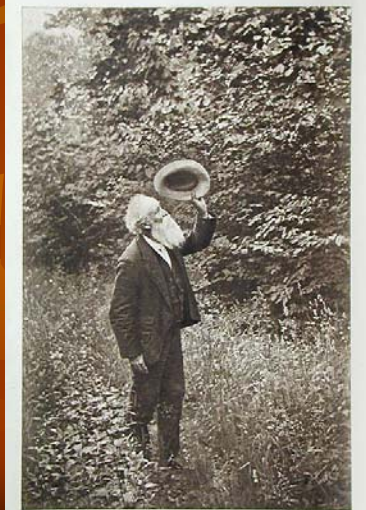
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Agenda

- Home Page- Jay Thalacker
- Thesis- Ensemble
- Biography- Jay Thalacker
- Place (Riverby/Slabside)- Elena Iannucci
- Lesson Plan- Christine Beirne
- Guidebook- Deirdre Murray
- Website Links- Lisa Reyes
- Annotated Bibliography- Cynthia Spiecker
- Conclusion- Ensemble

Thesis Statement

John Burroughs was an influential naturalist of the 19th century because through both his writings and political connections he brought awareness of the importance of conservation of the environment to a time of rapid expansion and industrialization.



*“Known as the Hudson River naturalist
and the father of the American nature”*

Biography

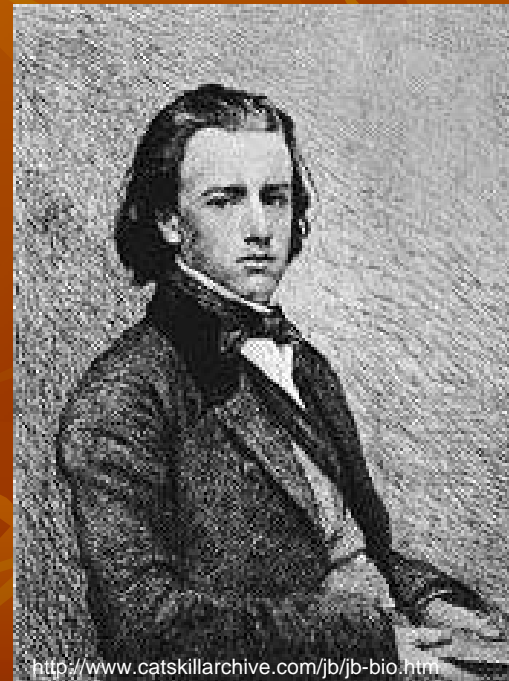
American naturalist and essayist
(1837-1921)

ROAD TO SUCCESS

- Despised writing as a boy, preferred to be outside
- By 20 he was a determined author
- He was a teacher, a journalist, a treasury clerk and a bank examiner before writing ‘professionally’

A somebody was once a nobody
who wanted to and did.

John Burroughs



"Simple values, simple means, simple ends"

Biography

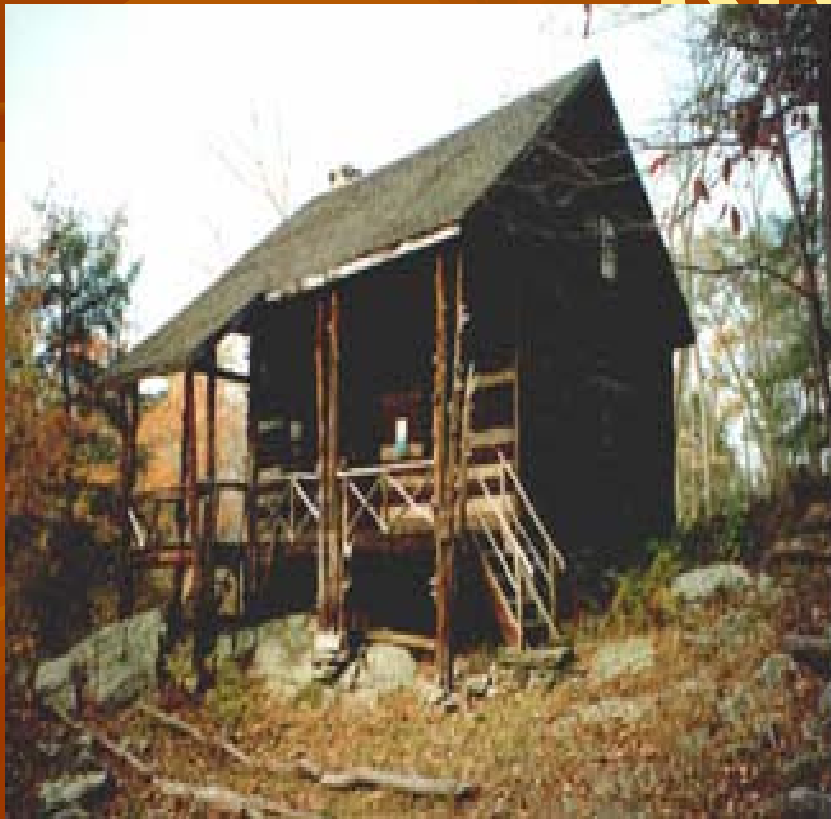
- Complete devotion to his writing
 - covered everything from birds and nature to religion and literature
- Married Ursula North at 20 – had trouble remaining faithful
- Befriended Walt Whitman early – lasting friendship
- Lived majority of life in simple cabin
 - Frequent visitors include Theodore Roosevelt, Walt Whitman, Henry Ford and Thomas Edison

Joy in the universe, and keen curiosity about it all - that has been my religion.

John Burroughs

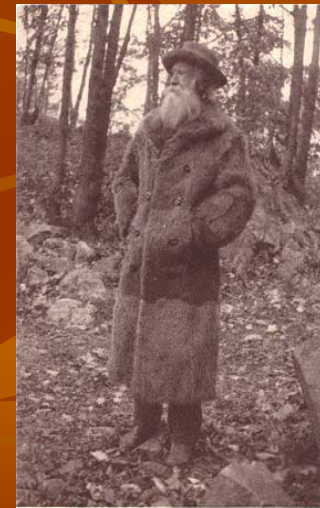


Historical Places of John Burroughs: Slabsides and Riverby



Riverby

- In 1873, John Burrough purchased a nine-acre farm on the Hudson River in West Park (Epopus), NY
- He worked on the farm while taking in the beautiful scenery of the Hudson that inspired him to write more books
- He eventually left the Hudson to go into the wilderness, where he built Slabsides not to far from Riverby



Photograph by Katherine S. Smith
John Burroughs in Woodchuck Czar

Slabsides

- John Burroughs built this lodge with his son in 1895, also located in West Park, NY, but in the woods, not on the Hudson
- It was also used to inspire his writing
- He entertained many people in this lodge:
 - Theodore Roosevelt
 - Walt Whitman
 - Henry Ford
 - Thomas Edison
 - John Mair





Lesson Plan on John Burroughs





- Grade Level – 4th Grade
- Connection to Curriculum: Creative Writing, Connection with nature
- Time: Week long lesson plan
- Materials:
 - Use of internet
 - *Riverby Edition* by John Burroughs
 - Pen and paper
 - Transportation to Riverby





Objectives

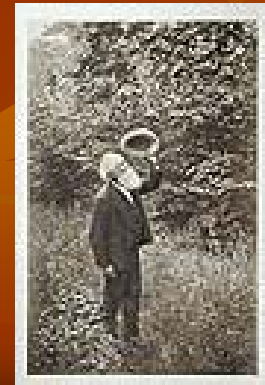


- Students will
 - Describe nature they can see in their area
 - Research online and through research books the life of John Burroughs and read some of his writings
 - Visit home of John Burroughs



Opening

- Begin class with asking students to recollect nature they have noticed around their homes
- State that a naturalist is a type of writer who glorifies nature through his works and explain that the author of the week is John Burroughs who was the most remembered naturalist



Development

- Instruct students to use classroom computer and library to research biography of John Burroughs using the site <http://www.johnburroughs.org/>
- Provide each child with a different John Burroughs' essay from the 23 volume collection of works called *Riverby Edition*
- As a class visit the historical site of the home of Burroughs, Riverby, in Ulster County



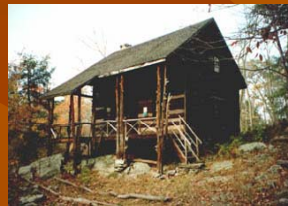
Closing/Assessment

- Children will make notes of nature seen at Riverby which will be used to write their own descriptive piece on nature and world around them as naturalists did



Guide Book

- Visit Slabsides and learn more about John Burrough's historical background. At Slabsides you too can admire the beauty of nature and the great tranquility of the Hudson River Valley has to offer.



- Also visit Riverby, Burrough's farm that he purchased in West Park, NY.

Other Hudson River Valley Attractions:

- Visit the small village of Sleepy Hollow along the Hudson River Valley to learn more about another famous Knickerbocker, Washington Irving.
- Based at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, The Hudson River Valley Institute will connect you with information about the area that can help you discover more about the Naturalist John Burroughs.

Website Links

John Burroughs

[John Burroughs](#)

[John Burroughs Association](#)

[John Burroughs School](#)

[Ecology Hall of Fame](#)

[Catskill Archive](#)

[John Burroughs Quotes](#)

[More Quotes](#)

[Columbia Encyclopedia](#)

[Wake Robin](#)

[Wiki Quote](#)

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Conclusion

John Burroughs was known as the Hudson River naturalist and the father of the American nature essay; he was considered one of the most popular and respected authors of his time. His popularity and respect grew as he developed an awareness of nature at his homes, Riverby and Slabside, and shared this view, through his writings, with the world.

Annotated Bibliography

Weiss, Don. (2000). Ecology Hall of Fame John Burroughs 1937-1921. *Ecotopia*. Received 7 March 2005. <http://www.ecotopia.org/ehof/burroughs/index.html>.

This website, Ecology Hall of Fame John Burroughs, speaks to the ecology focus of John Burroughs life. He is a member of this hall of fame because he was such a great appreciative of the environment. The website features links to his writings, biography, and extracts on the different aspects of nature that he spoke about in his work.

Slabsides John Burroughs Cabin. (2002). Retrieved 7 March 2005. http://www.johnburroughs.org/jb_assoc/slabside.htm.

This website, John Burrough's Cabin, features information about his cabin, Slabsides. He built the cabin as a sanctuary to study and watch nature in it's element. The site features links to pictures of the cabin and information about it. It is maintained by the John Burroughs society, who own Slabsides

"Come Visit with John Burroughs." (March 4, 2002). Retrieved 7 March 2005. <http://www.johnburroughs.org/index.htm>.

This website was created by the John Burroughs association. It offers a short biography of his life highlighting his literary difficulties and accomplishments. The website also has sections dedicated to John Burroughs outlooks of nature, and his favorite types of birds.

Catskill Archive: "John Burroughs." (2003). Retrieved 5 Mach 2005. <http://www.catskillarchive.com/jb/jb.htm>.

This website gives a well rounded look at the life and works of the late John Burroughs. There is a section dedicated to his biography as well as excerpts and lists of his literary works. It also discusses how Burroughs found joy in life by admiring and enjoying nature. He hoped to inspire others with this viewpoint.

Renehan, Edward J. Jr."The Half More Satisfying than the Whole: John Burroughs and the Hudson. Black Dome, 1993. Retrieved 4 May 2005.<http://www.catskillarchive.com/jb/jb-eh.htm>

This website features an essay about John Burroughs and the significant aspects of his life. It connects John Burroughs with the Hudson River Valley because not only was the naturalist born along it in West Park, but he resided there often to find inspiration for his writings. Burroughs was a man interested in trying to find the big picture in the small realities of nature.