

Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct

Newsletter
No. 2, December 1998

The Map is Published!

Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated corps of volunteers, a long-cherished goal of the Friends came to fruition in July with the publication of a full-color map and guide of the 26-mile Old Croton Aqueduct state trailway. No longer must trail users wonder "Where do I go after Lyndhurst?" Faced with the many spots where the trail seems suddenly to disappear, walkers need only pull out the map - accordion-folded to fit in pack or pocket - to find the familiar footpath once again.

The map shows the route of the Aqueduct and trail from New Croton Dam through the rivertowns of the lower Hudson Valley to the Yonkers-New York City line. It indicates the location of all ventilators and weirs as well as more than 50 sites of interest on or near the trail. Insets present greater detail for hard-to-navigate sections, while the illustrated text provides a brief history of the Aqueduct and capsule descriptions of the featured sites.

The response to the publication has been overwhelmingly positive. The map seems well on its way toward meeting the Friends' goal of raising awareness of the trail and its unusual history.

How it came about. The idea of a new map was first proposed in 1994 by Brian Goodman, Historic Site Manager of Old Croton Trailway State Park, whose advice and expert knowledge of the trail were of constant and immeasurable benefit to the project. Friends President Fred Charles envisioned a map that would not only address the trail's discontinuities but also document its varied landscape and historic elements in a visually exciting way. An early prototype by Friends member Clem Paulsen stimulated initial comments and participation by others.

The project took on new life in 1996 when Robert Romagnoli, a professional mapmaker and graphic designer from New York City with a passion for the trail, offered to donate his skills and, in the end, many hundreds of hours to create the map and design the entire publication. At about the same time Charlotte Fahn, a technical editor and



parks advocate, worked closely with Robert; coordinated volunteers to walk the trail, check facts, draft and edit text, and field-test the map; and worked with the printer. The names of the dozens of volunteers who gave generous and invaluable assistance throughout the process follow this article.

With the help of Brian Goodman and Tema Harnik in applying for funding, the Friends were fortunate to receive a generous grant from Furthermore, the publications program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund. The grant matches dollars to volunteer time to defray the costs of printing.

Plaudits. In October the Friends were honored to receive two awards for the map. One was an Award for Excellence from the Lower Hudson Conference of Historical Agencies and Museums. Part of the citation reads "A regional history as well as a trail guide, the publication 'effectively captures the unique cultural legacy of the Aqueduct and the significant community resources that it links.'" Historic River Towns of Westchester presented the Friends with a Tourism Achievement Award, citing the brochure for " . . . helping visitors use and appreciate this great historic resource."

There has been enthusiastic press coverage as well. An article in *Half Moon Press* was headlined "Croton Aqueduct Map A Triumph." And thanks to a feature article in the *New York Times* Westchester section, people far beyond the immediate rivertowns area ordered the map and have learned about the Aqueduct and trail.

Map available locally. You can now buy the map in local stores and museum gift shops (list on p. 8) as well as by mail order. Many thanks are owed to Eileen Charles, Cornelia Cotton, Charlotte Fahn, Carl Oechsner, Connie Porter, Karen Schatzel, Zelda Appleton, and Julianne Kelly for yeoman service in processing a flood of mail and retail orders, and to Fred Charles and Holly Daly for keeping our database current with the names of new members who joined when buying the map.

At the Lower Hudson Conference's awards ceremony in New Paltz: l. to r. Doug Emilio, Charlotte Fahn, Robert Romagnoli, Brian Goodman, Eileen Charles, and Fred Charles.



Thank you on behalf of Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct to the individuals and organizations whose efforts contributed so importantly to the creation of the new Aqueduct map and guide.

Mary Allison
Edward Brody
Mavis Cain
William Cassella
Christian Cesar
Eileen and Fred Charles
Daniel Chazin
Gregory Classon
Cornelia Cotton
Christopher Davis
Maureen and Christopher DePaoli
Juanita Dugdale
Charlotte and Stanley Fahn
Vicki Fox
Judith and Seymour Gage
David Griffin
Bram Gunther
Tema Harnik
William Hoppen
Lucille Hutchinson
Joan Jarvis
Beverly Jansen
Robert Kornfeld, Jr.
Joseph Kozlowsky
Maryann Marshall
Susan Meigs
Jane Northshield
Carl Oechsner
Clement Paulsen
Connie Porter
Thomas Quinn
Dale Ramsey
Robert Rayne
Michael Rebic
Laura and Gregory Rice
Dorothy Rinaldo
Robert Romagnoli
Edward Rondthaler

Tom Rupolo
Joanne Scebold
Paul Sherman
Barbara Smith
John Stark
Jennifer Stern
Stephanie Todd
Tom Vincent
Laurie Wasserman
Robert Weir
Peter Wilson

Beczak Environmental Center:
Diggitt McLaughlin
Robert Walters

emphas!s:
Andrew Simons

Hudson River Museum:
Laura Vookles

Jervis Public Library, Rome, NY:
Keith Kinna

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation:
Brian Goodman

Office Ink:
Barbara McManus
April Knies

Westchester County Planning Dept.:
Paul Gisondo

Westchester County Parks, Recreation and
Conservation Dept.:
David DeLucia

and special thanks to Sarah Knox for her charming "temporary" map - still in use!

New Friends Made on Awareness Day

Aqueduct Awareness Day this year was planned to coincide with the celebrations of Hudson Heritage Day on Oct. 3rd. The main activities were at the Overseer's House in Dobbs Ferry, orchestrated by Eileen Charles. For the third year in a row, Niles and Jan Davies of Doctor Davies' Pick-Your-Own Orchard in Congers, NY, provided us with a generous supply of cider and crisp, delicious apples for the event. Gwen Thomas brought the cornucopia from Rockland County. The Hudson River Museum's informative framed panels with a history of the Aqueduct hung in the barn. They were lent to us by the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic and transported by Nicholas Ritter.

Music filled the air thanks to Paul Mandry and his acoustic guitar and singing talent. His partner, Donna Green, helped out with beautiful Carribean folk songs. While some were munching on cookies, others were planting donated daffodils bulbs. A new Friend, Pauline Kravath, returned to plant more bulbs during the week. Come see the golden daffodils in the spring! In the morning, trail manager Brian Goodman gave his famous weir-and-tunnel tour in Ossining.

Awareness Day festivities at
trailway headquarters in
Dobbs Ferry.



Dobbs Ferry Tiger Cub Troop No. 2,
led by Renny Epstein, was hard at work
planting bulbs.

As for Overseer's House improvements - Bill Logan, Doug Emilio, Holly Daly, and Pierre Michel worked all day at it. More windows were repaired and the first floor cleaned up. The next project is to stabilize the northeast corner of the building. We'll keep you posted.

Good News About the Woodlands Next to the Trail in Dobbs Ferry

You'll remember that the Friends worked to help save the woods adjacent to the trail, west of Dobbs Ferry High School. Tentative plans have been made for using the woods as a nature classroom, a possibility that interests many of our members, in particular Dr. Fred Hubbard. Fred is a naturalist with an astonishing knowledge of local trees and plants. He has offered to be a consultant in their identification and in giving general advice. Another member, Gwen Thomas, who has a forestry degree from Yale, has put together a plan of all the study possibilities. Jim McCue, a long-time member, has researched the history of the mill that was once in the southwest corner.



Heavy lifting
during the
woodlands
cleanup.

To get things rolling, Mavis Cain worked with Saralyn Myers to help organize a clean-up day on Nov. 7th, and what a great turnout we had! - Friends, kids from the school, boy scouts and parents. More than 75 people dragged out bed springs, broken chairs, old shoes, cans and bottles, even a rosary. The pile of debris could have been a modern art sculpture. The whole project is one we are happy to be part of.

Rockwood Hall Becomes Permanent State Parkland

The 88 acres of rolling lawns, winding paths, and stunning Hudson River views that comprise Rockwood Hall (site 14 on the map) have formally become part of Rockefeller State Park Preserve through an arrangement with the Rockefeller family. An Oct. 15th ceremony on the property that included Governor Pataki, Laurance Rockefeller, David Rockefeller, and State Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro marked the turnover of ownership to the state. The autumn day was perfect and the Governor was hard-pressed to take his eyes from the hawks overhead while making his remarks.

Rockwood Hall was the estate of William Rockefeller, younger brother of John D. Rockefeller, Sr. William purchased the property in the 1870s and built a grand mansion on its highest point. The grounds were designed by renowned 19th century landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. Aqueduct walkers can access Rockwood

Hall from the trail about 100 yards north of the new Aqueduct bridge over Route 9 at Archville. At this point a graveled carriage road starts from the west side of the Aqueduct. Follow the road as it winds downhill into the park.

A Tribute to Water System Guardians

We thank Lucille Hutchinson for transcribing and sending us the words of the weathered inscription on the rock monument in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery (see the description of site 17 on the map). The monument honors those who guarded New York City's aqueducts during World War I. Its moving tribute reads

This rock symbolizing the regiment which raises it hewn from Bonticou Crag on the line of the Catskill Aqueduct by the storms of ages was erected here marking the spot where one of its fatherless boys was buried by the regiment at the request of the mother a helpless widow and

as a memorial to those who made the supreme sacrifice in the service with the First Provisional Regiment guarding the 100 miles of the water supply system of the City of New York from Ashokan to Hillview during the Great War.

1917 1918 1919

Frank De Costa

Born Sep 29 1900 Died Dec 3 1918

Following this is a list of additional names. On the other side of the monument are the names of the various military units that participated in the First Provisional Regiment.



Left: The monument in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery (photo by Ted Hutchinson).

Aqueduct News / In Brief

Professor Roger Panetta conducted a workshop at Marymount entitled "Croton Aqueduct: Rural Resources Meet Urban Needs" on Oct. 3rd and 4th. On Oct. 3rd Roger and the class took the Ossining weir tour and later joined the Awareness Day festivities in Dobbs Ferry. . . . **Aqueduct neighbors in Hastings** were startled to hear sounds of fife and drum and marching feet on the trail on Oct. 18th. An enthusiastic band in period uniforms was reenacting the 1778 Battle of Edgars Lane, which occurred close to the present-day trail. The Hastings Historical Society's exhibit about the skirmish is on view until Jan. 15th (914-478-2249). . . . **Hudson River Museum's "Bridges" exhibit** (until Jan. 24th; 914-963-4550) includes a group of paintings and photographs of the famed High Bridge, which carried the Aqueduct across the Harlem River. . . . **Marge Schlitt led a walk** on the Aqueduct from Greystone to Tarrytown in October for the Sierra Club in October. More than 50 people turned out for this biannual walk. . . . **Trail manager Brian Goodman** guided some 215 visitors into the Aqueduct gatehouse and tunnel in Ossining in the last two months (including Awareness Day). Appointments for group visits can be made by calling him at 914-693-5259.



New Trailway Sign. The state has erected an imposing new sign at park headquarters in Dobbs Ferry. Two additional signs giving historical and engineering information are in the works.



Where Is It? Do you know the location of this unusual Aqueduct feature? The trail is on top of the wall. See p. 8 for the answer.



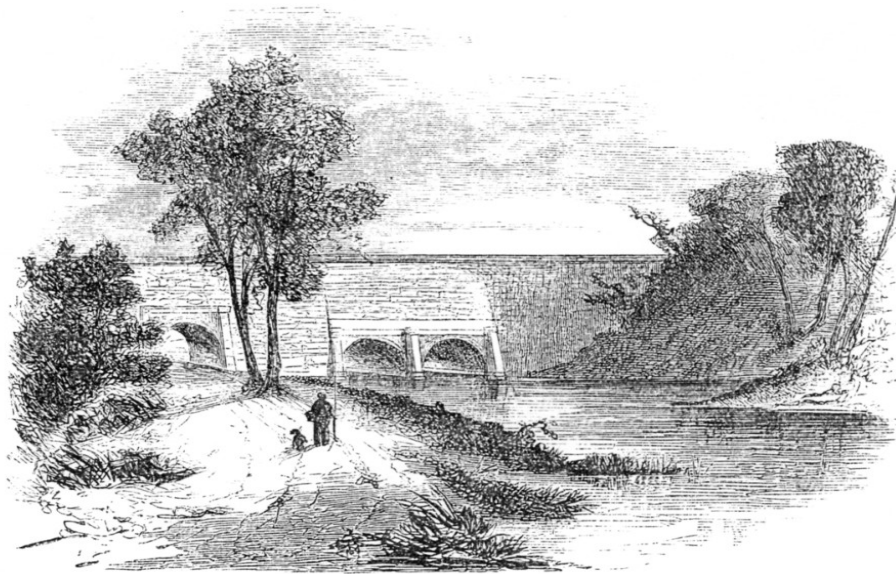
Where to Buy the Map

We thank the stores and museum sites listed below for carrying the map. Think of the map for your holiday gift list and for friends who have moved away.

- ▶ **Cornelia Cotton Gallery**, 111 Grand Ave., Croton-on-Hudson
- ▶ **Art Barn**, 211 North Highland Ave., Ossining
- ▶ **Ossining Heritage Area Visitor Ctr**, Joseph Caputo Community Ctr, Ossining
- ▶ **Mt. Kisco Book Co.**, 15 South Moger Ave., Mt. Kisco
- ▶ **Murray Frank's Cards & Gifts**, 35 North Broadway, Tarrytown
- ▶ **Hudson Office Supply**, 21 Main St., Tarrytown
- ▶ **Lyndhurst**, 635 South Broadway, Tarrytown
- ▶ **Becker's**, 57 Main St., Irvington
- ▶ **River Gallery**, 49 Main St., Irvington
- ▶ **Corey Glass Picture Framing**, 3 Main St., Hastings-on-Hudson
- ▶ **Good Yarns**, 8 Main St., Hastings-on-Hudson
- ▶ **Office Ink**, 572 Warburton Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson
- ▶ **Hudson River Museum**, 511 Warburton Ave., Yonkers
- ▶ **Urban Center Books**, 457 Madison Ave. (betw. 50th & 51st St.), Manhattan

(For mail order information call 914-693-4117.)

Where Is It? (From p. 7). This may be the only Gothic-style arch on the Aqueduct. It can be glimpsed from Warburton Ave. about a mile south of Main St. in Hastings.



Aqueduct Bridge Over the Neperhan [now the Saw Mill] River, Yonkers

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

We've had an exciting and productive year. The new map/guide has had a great reception, we initiated our newsletter, and thanks to your renewals and our growing membership we will be making progress on other projects such as the Overseer's House and trail signage.

The effect of your membership contribution is many times greater than its dollar amount. Please, if you have not yet given this year, take this opportunity to make a tax-deductible donation. The coupon below is provided for your convenience.

Enjoy the holidays!

Fred Charles
President

Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc.
Overseer's House, 15 Walnut Street
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522-2109

Be a Friend!

Your tax-deductible contribution helps to protect and preserve the trail.

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

☐ Friend \$10 ☐ Family \$20 ☐ Good Friend \$50 ☐ Best Friend \$100

☐ Other _____ ☐ Additional donation to Overseer's House Fund _____

Name _____ Phone (day) _____

Address _____ Phone (eve) _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

☐ I would like to volunteer. Area of interest _____

Availability: Weekdays _____ Weekends _____

Please make your check payable to **Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct**. And see if your organization has a matching funds program. Do call us if you have any questions or suggestions at 914-693-5259.

The Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct

is a voluntary, non-partisan, non-profit organization formed to protect, preserve and promote the Old Croton Trailway State Park. The purpose of the Friends is to educate the Public about the National Historic Landmark, and to provide planning and protection by securing appropriate financial and governmental support so that the Aqueduct shall remain in perpetuity the unspoiled 26-mile recreational greenway which spans from Croton-on-Hudson, through the rivertowns of Ossining, Briarcliff Manor, the Tarrytowns, Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings-on-Hudson to Yonkers.

Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc.

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