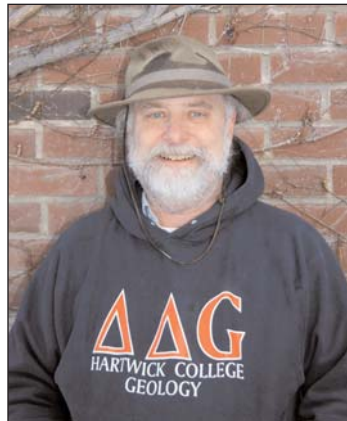


Lodge hosts family-oriented nature programs

A varied line-up of family-friendly activities is planned at Woodchuck Lodge this year. Instead of a single "Burroughs Community Day" as we've hosted for the past several years, we've opted to spread the pleasure out over the entire season. ***Please consult the enclosed calendar for dates and times.***

Guest presenters include:

* Hartwick College geology professor Bob Titus, author of *The Catskills: A Geological Guide*, and *The Catskills in the Ice Age*. His most recent book, *The Other Side of Time*, is a collection of his published essays which opens with one on John Burroughs' "Boyhood Rock," a glacial erratic boulder deposited on John's native farm millions of years ago.



**Hartwick College Geology
Professor Robert Titus**

* The Audubon Society's Larry Federman will tell visitors all about odonates - dragonflies and damselflies. He'll explain a recent citizen survey of these fascinating but under-appreciated insects so critical to the ecological fabric, particularly of wetlands. Armed with nets, visitors will set off in search of the winged wonders.

Three members of the Lodge's Board of Directors - and one who recently left the Board - will share with visitors their deep knowledge of Burroughs and the natural world.

* Jim Marion, founder of the environmental education program at Frost Valley YMCA, has taught courses and led tours of Woodchuck Lodge and Burroughs Memorial Field for Elderhostel and school groups, and served as a speaker at Burroughs events and conferences. Raised on farms in the

Finger Lakes, Marion can relate to the life of "farm boy" John Burroughs, which will be the topic of his talk and short nature walk.

* Tom Alworth, until recently vice president of the Woodchuck Lodge Board, will highlight excerpts from Burroughs' essays that serve as an entree to the appreciation of nature by people of all ages. Tom is a Burroughs scholar who has written and presented frequently on aspects of the naturalist's work. The former Director of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, he is now Director of Natural Resources for the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

* John McDaniel, Program Director of Manhattan Country School Farm in Roxbury for the past 16 years, will offer a nature walk to help children and their grownups a chance to "listen" to the land. Farming, gardening, and exploring nature with children has given John the opportunity to help build relationships between people and their natural surroundings. Using organic, humane, and sustainable methods of agriculture, the Manhattan Country School Farm has been a model of "educational" farming for four decades.



John Burroughs and a child known only as "Sammie" are shown in this undated photo from the collection of Helen Ives Crabtree, courtesy Historical Society of the Town of Middletown.

Visit Woodchuck Lodge and Memorial Field

Woodchuck Lodge was built around 1860 by Curtis Burroughs on the east end of the family's expansive farm. The house was used by brother John Burroughs as a summer home and writing retreat from 1910-1920.

Burroughs built the distinctive front porch and some of the rustic furniture that still graces the parlor. Here he entertained such notable guests as Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, Thomas Edison, Hamlin Garland and Ida Tarbell.

Visitors may wish to picnic at Burroughs Memorial Field State Historic Site just up the road from Woodchuck Lodge. The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) maintains the site, a State Historic Landmark where the naturalist was buried April 3, 1921, on his 84th birthday.

Gravesite restoration

Bounded by a low stone wall and covered in lilies of the valley, the gravesite is adjacent to what has become known as Boyhood Rock, a boulder on which he daydreamed as a child, and upon which is fixed a plaque with the words from his famous poem "Waiting": "I stand amid the eternal ways, and what is mine shall know my face."

OPRHP plans this year to return the gravesite to its appearance soon after Burroughs' interment. A period description comes from the *Catskill Mountain News* of November 18, 1921:

"A committee headed by W. Ormiston Roy, a landscape architect, has been beautifying the estate in a simple natural manner. Rocks native to the region have been placed about the grave of the naturalist in Memorial. They have been built into pillars about two feet square and three and a half feet high. Between them are set birch, maple, hickory and cherry limbs and so intertwined that they form a rustic fence about the grave. Mr. Burroughs liked to have cows grazing on the field and he stipulated that in the event of his death the cows were still to have access to the field."

Planning a visit to Woodchuck Lodge?

Double the fun by stepping back into time at events in historic Roxbury June 21, July 5 and August 30 and 31. Activities include horsedrawn coach rides, an open air market, period music by the Roxbury Brass, and 19th-century baseball contests between the Roxbury Nine and visiting challengers.

For more information: www.roxburyny.com, or call 607-326-3722.



Woodchuck Lodge will be open for tours from 10 to 2 on the following weekends in 2008:

**May 3-4; June 7-8, July 5-6,
August 2-3, August 31, September 6-7
and October 4-5**

There is no admission fee, but donations toward the restoration and upkeep of the house and site are greatly appreciated.

Directions: NYS Route 30, ten miles south of NYS Route 23 in Grand Gorge. Turn onto Hardscrabble Road (watch for signs for Woodchuck Lodge and Memorial Field). Bear left onto Burroughs Memorial Road, about one mile to the Lodge.



Unidentified men stand next to Boyhood Rock and the fenced-in grave of John Burroughs in this photo from the 1920s provided by Walter Crump.

Phase 1 of Lodge restoration completed

Restoration contractor Frank Furlan and Sons of Milford, NY have completed the first phase of restoration of Woodchuck Lodge.

Over the past two years a new cedar shake roof was installed, the chimney rebuilt, and the foundation secured. Water seepage and damage were corrected, sills, joists and beams were replaced, and new piers and a basement slab were poured.

Wood preservative was applied to the vulnerable old timbers and new framing members. The front porch steps and railing were rebuilt, with new cedar posts added this spring.

Overseeing the work was historic architectural consultant Randy Crawford.

Grants from New York State Dept. of Parks, Recreation and

Historic Preservation, the O'Connor Foundation, Assemblyman Clifford Crouch, the Town of Roxbury and the Dana Foundation, along with generous contributions from Woodchuck



Timothy Bowen and Stephen Banks, members of the crew of Frank Furlan and Sons, pose at the porch in April after installing sturdy cedar posts.

Lodge supporters made this work possible.

Phase two of the restoration project will include the windows, shutters and the front door, some roof framing repairs, electrical and plumbing improvements, and other tasks.

Future plans also call for collections assessment, restoration of the interior, and development of a site interpretation plan.

Donations towards these important tasks are much needed and most welcome.

**Please send your contributions to
Woodchuck Lodge, Inc.
PO Box 492
Roxbury, NY 12474.**

Falling tree damages new roof



A large poplar tree falling from the hillside behind Woodchuck Lodge was an unwelcome holiday surprise in late December. Damage to the Lodge roof, installed in 2005, can be seen in this photo taken soon after the tree toppled. Volunteers removed the fallen tree, which also damaged the adjacent garage roof.

Insurance is covering most of the repairs, being done by Roxbury contractor Steve Hinkley. Donations to help defray the expense of repairs to the roof and siding and to insure the future safety of the building and grounds are always welcome. Please send your contributions to the address above.

Woodchuck Lodge Inc.

A non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the historic Lodge and to promoting the ideas and legacy of John Burroughs through events and activities that encourage people to live, work and prosper in harmony with nature.

Board of Directors

President: Diane Galusha
Vice President: John McDaniel
Treasurer: Joe Farleigh
Recording Secretary: Bill Birns
Corresponding Secretary: Jim Marion
Julianne Lutz Newton Warren

Burroughs Nature Writing Seminar at Vassar June 15-19

Scholars from universities as far afield as Texas, Wisconsin and Nevada will present new research at "Sharp Eyes V: John Burroughs, Nature Writing and 19th-Century Science," the fifth in the John Burroughs Nature Writing and Seminar series.

The conference will take place at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie June 15-19. Organized by Vassar Professor of Earth Science Jeffrey Walker, the program will include presentations at plenary sessions of students, faculty, and visiting scholars, a session in the Vassar College Special Collections to view their extensive Burroughs collection, and a field trip to Riverby, Slabsides and other Burroughs haunts in the Hudson Valley.

Keynote addresses at the Vassar conference will be delivered by Charlotte Zoe Walker (SUNY Oneonta) on "John Burroughs, Sharp Eyes and Reading the Book of Nature Today," and Harry Stoneback (SUNY New Paltz) on "John Burroughs--Regionalist (and Modernist?): A Meditation on Influences and Confluences."

A schedule and registration information may be found at <http://earthscienceandgeography.vassar.edu/burroughs/index.html>



Inspiration point: Woodchuck Lodge, the haybarn study (center left) and farmland on the shoulder of Old Clump as seen in an undated photograph.

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