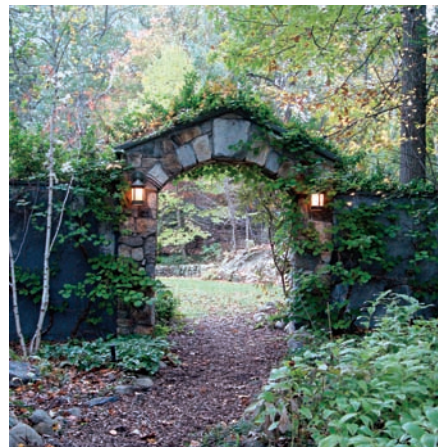


AHS NEWS SPECIAL: Tour Participants Enjoy Hudson Valley's Autumn Glory

by Gwyneth Evans



Left: View of the Hudson River and fall colors from Olana. Above: Among the private gardens visited was that of AHS member Fred Rich.

LAST OCTOBER, with fall color blazing in New York's Hudson Valley, 30 American Horticultural Society members from 15 states spent four days experiencing some of the area's best landscapes, art, and cuisine. This special AHS Travel Study tour was "an opportunity not to be missed—and autumn was a spectacular time to visit," says tour participant **Carole Hofley**, who lives in Wyoming. In addition, it was a propitious time to visit because 2009 was the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's exploration of the region that bears his name.

AHS President Emeritus **Katy Moss Warner** led the travel group to many of the area's noteworthy gardens, including her family home, Lisburne Grange, a historic mansion with a landscape designed by legendary landscape architect Fletcher Steele. Other horticultural highlights included the gardens at Bellefield that were designed by Beatrix Farrand, one of America's most renowned landscape architects of the early 20th cen-

tury, and Stonecrop Gardens, a 12-acre public garden featuring enchanting woodlands, water gardens, and an extensive collection of alpine plants.

Elements of art, architecture, and history integrated nicely with gardens and landscaping at both President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's lifelong home, Springwood, and Storm King Art Center sculpture park, which featured bold, abstract pieces amid the dramatic backdrop of the Hudson Highlands.

A tour of the area made famous by the landscape paintings of the Hudson River School would not be complete without a



At Storm King Art Center, sculptures such as this Richard Serra piece adorn the landscape.

visit to Olana, the home of Frederic Edwin Church—one of the prominent figures of the mid-19th century American art movement. "I found it remarkable that one could travel through 200 years of American history full of building, creating, and gardening in a relatively small area," says **Julie Ernest**, a participant from Washington.

Between garden visits, the travelers enjoyed unique dining experiences such as a sumptuous meal at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park; lunch at Glynwood Farm, a non-profit organization committed to organic farming, local food, and rural land conservation; and enjoying a menu and tableware designed by Russell Wright, America's first industrial designer, at a meal prior to visiting Manitoga, Wright's home and woodland garden.

"Overall, this was one of our most memorable excursions within the United States," says **Stephanie Jutila**, AHS director of member programs and outreach, who escorted the tour. "We will continue to offer this caliber of experience in 2010 with trips to exciting locations both in America and abroad." For more information about upcoming Travel Study tours, visit www.ahs.org, e-mail ahs@mcnairtravel.com, or call (703) 650-5262.

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