

Why we protected this place...

Though less than an acre, Foundry Dock Park is an important place for people to connect with the inspiring beauty of the Hudson River and Highlands, and it provides access for kayakers and canoeists to the river and adjacent Constitution Marsh. As the former industrial wharf for the West Point Foundry, the park also preserves a significant part of Cold Spring's history.

Save our SAV

Walk to the shoreline closest to the chapel. Notice the sign that reads "Save our SAV"? SAV stands for submerged aquatic vegetation. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is mapping SAV beds along the river to keep track of these important plants that:

- filter the water, keeping it clean,
- provide shelter for juvenile fish like white perch and banded killifish, and
- provide food for birds and fish.

It's easier to see the SAV at low tide, when they're not underwater. Can you spot them?

Water celery

Clasping pondweed

You also may see aquatic plants like European water chestnut and Eurasian water milfoil. They aren't native to this part of the world and push out plants that belong here. Animals don't use these "invasives."



Copyright © 2012 Scenic Hudson, Inc.

NatureNotes

FOUNDRY DOCK PARK *Cold Spring*

Foundry Dock Park offers spectacular views. The river's history here is just as amazing. This is the narrowest, deepest part of the Hudson, its course carved out by glaciers. Seen from some angles, the sharply curving river appears to end—hence this section's name, *World's End*. In the Revolutionary War, a chain strung across the river here kept British ships from sailing past. In the 1800s, this was the West Point Foundry's loading dock, where cannons and other products began their journeys to far-flung destinations. Today, Foundry Dock Park is a great place to launch a kayak or sit a spell and take in the views.

Who's Scenic Hudson?

We're a group of dedicated people who care about the area we live in—the Hudson River Valley. Nearly 50 years ago, our founders fought to protect a mountain from being made into a power plant. Since then, we've continued to work together with communities to protect special places. We've created or enhanced over 50 parks and preserves for you to enjoy.

For more information about our parks, visit www.scenichudson.org/parks



Wiccie Muller

Become part of our online community at: www.scenichudson.org

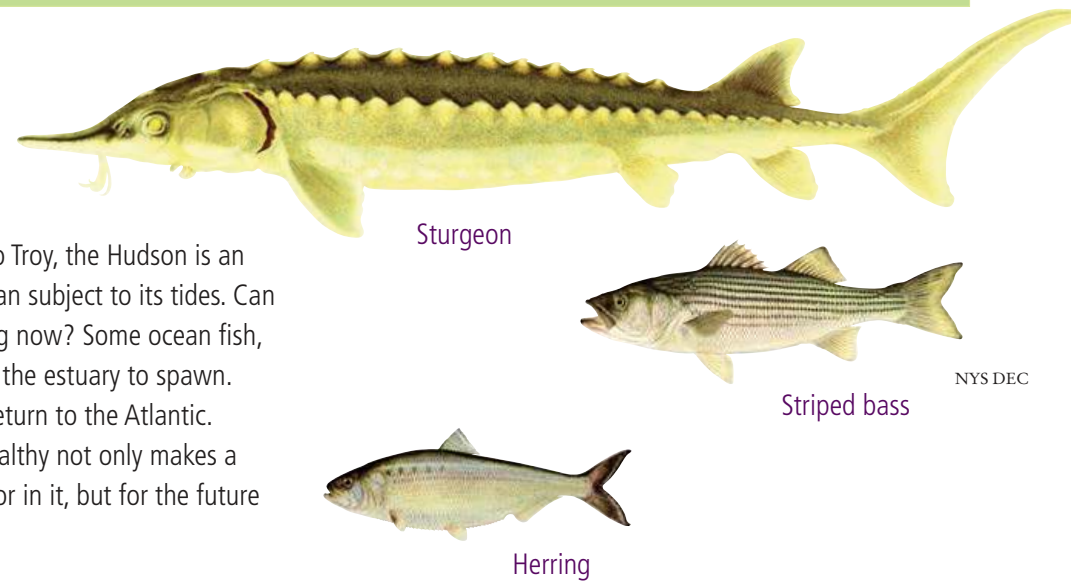
NatureNotes created by Susan Hereth, updated by Abi Locatis.

SCENIC HUDSON NATURENOTES

THE HUDSON RIVER

Native Americans called this “the river that flows both ways.”

That’s because from New York City to Troy, the Hudson is an estuary—an arm of the Atlantic Ocean subject to its tides. Can you tell which way the river is moving now? Some ocean fish, such as sturgeon and shad, swim up the estuary to spawn. Eventually, they and their offspring return to the Atlantic. So keeping the Hudson clean and healthy not only makes a difference for those who live near it or in it, but for the future of creatures in our oceans as well.



SCENIC HUDSON & FOUNDRY DOCK PARK

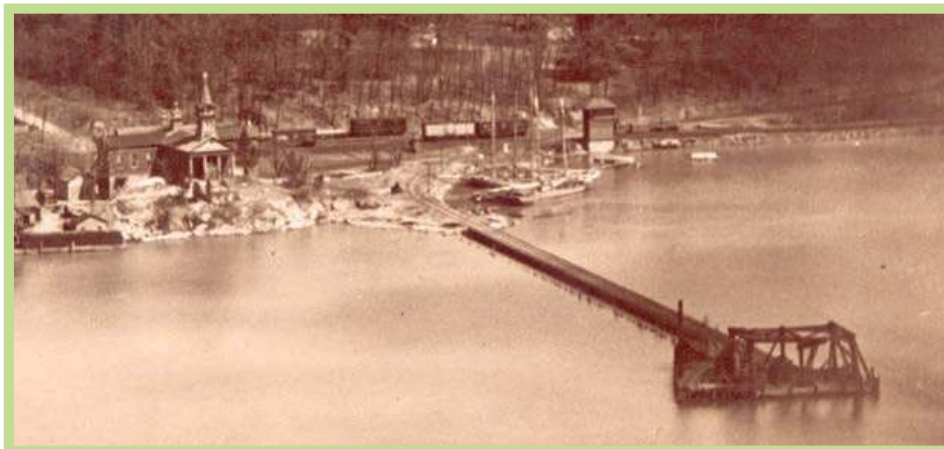
Scenic Hudson purchased this waterfront property in 1996 to make sure it always would be a place where people can connect with the beauty, power and spirit of the Hudson River. Today many kayakers begin their paddles here, while others simply come to sit and enjoy views of the Hudson Highlands—considered by many to be the most majestic and historic stretch of the river. The buildings across the river to your left (south) are the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In the distance to your right (north), also on the opposite shore, is Storm King Mountain, where Scenic Hudson got its start by halting plans to build a huge hydroelectric plant that would have destroyed this magnificent scenery. That 17-year battle is considered the birth of America’s modern grassroots environmental movement.



Nick Zungoli

THE LONG DOCK

The 600-foot long dock—reaching out to the deepest part of the river, where big ships could anchor—allowed iron ore, scrap iron, coal, wood and other raw materials to be brought to the West Point Foundry. Cannons, shells, engines and other foundry products were shipped out. Why does the walkway you’re standing on look like train tracks? It marks the site of a rail line that connected the dock to the foundry, about half a mile away. Look carefully at low tide and you might see Cupcake Island, part of the dock’s platform about 600 feet from shore.



Putnam County Historical Society & Foundry School Museum

SCENIC HUDSON NATURENOTES

ON THE WATERFRONT

After the War of 1812, President James Madison named Cold Spring one of four sites to build a foundry to produce cannons, shot and shells for the U.S. government. Why Cold Spring? Because of 1) its location on the Hudson River; 2) rushing Foundry Brook that furnished power; and 3) abundant nearby supplies of raw materials, especially iron ore and hardwood trees (needed to make charcoal, to melt the ore). When the West Point Foundry opened in 1818, workers and their families were provided with everything they needed—housing, a school, even a chapel.

Foundry Dock Park also played a big role in the West Point Foundry’s success. It was the site of the foundry’s busy industrial wharf and main shipping dock.



Putnam County Historical Society & Foundry School Museum

WEST POINT FOUNDRY

In business until 1911, West Point Foundry was one of America’s largest, most modern ironworks, manufacturing steam engines, locomotives and water wheels that sparked the Industrial Revolution. It also produced the pipes for New York City’s water system and weapons for the U.S. government, including the Parrott gun, a cannon developed at the foundry that’s credited with winning the Civil War. Today, archaeologists have uncovered important information about the foundry, whose ruins are located in Scenic Hudson’s West Point Foundry Preserve, a short walk from here.



The preserve currently is closed for construction of exciting new interpretive features.

Putnam County Historical Society & Foundry School Museum

EAST FOUNDRY COVE

Located just south of Foundry Dock Park—and a popular destination for kayakers—East Foundry Cove provides a safe habitat for many plants, fish, birds and mammals. A nearby factory once dumped so many chemicals in the marsh that it was called one of the world’s most polluted places. Today, thanks to a huge cleanup, visitors can experience the natural wonders of this Hudson River tidal marsh. From there, you can continue paddling into Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary (left), which also features a 700-foot boardwalk.



Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary