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.”

Who’s Scenic Hudson?
We’re a group of folks who care about the land we live in—the Hudson River Valley. Nearly 50 years ago, our founders fought to protect a mountain from being marred with a power plant. Since then, we’ve continued to work together with communities to protect special places. We’ve created or enhanced over 40 parks and preserves for you to enjoy.

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

*SCENIC HUDSON* land = parks = advocacy

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

NatureNotes created by Susan Hereth, updated by Abi Locatis.
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.

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.

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.