Partners with NYS Parks

Woodchuck Lodge is pleased to partner with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) on several programs this year, beginning with a ceremonial tree planting, tree identification walk and Burroughs reading on Sunday, May 6.

The event, led by Minekill State Park Educator Ashley Drum, begins at 1 p.m. at the OPRHP-maintained Burroughs Memorial Field State Historic Site, the place where the naturalist was buried on his 84th birthday in 1921.

Ashley will also offer a nature journaling workshop June 16, and a moss walk July 8 (see Calendar, Page 3 of this Newsletter).

The OPRHP staff and Friends of Minekill/Max V. Shaul State Parks, in southern Schoharie County, have dozens of programs planned for families and nature lovers. For details: (518) 827-6111; http://nysparks.com/parks/165/details.aspx

John Burroughs Community Day

Our annual tribute to the Laird of the Lodge will take place Saturday, June 9, when an assortment of activities awaits outdoor lovers of all ages.

There will be a wildflower walk, a wildlife sketching workshop for kids, a lesson in geocaching (see what all the excitement's about!), and an apple tree pruning demonstration.

See live birds of prey. Build a rustic bird feeder. Bring a picnic and enjoy a tour of the Lodge. At 2 p.m., hear a bit about its history from John Lutz, great-great nephew of John Burroughs and founder of Woodchuck Lodge, Inc.

WOODCHUCK LODGE, Inc. . .

is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the historic summer home of literary naturalist John Burroughs and to promoting his ideas and legacy through events and activities that encourage people to live, work and prosper in harmony with nature.

Board of Directors
Diane Galusha, John McDaniel, Joe Farleigh, Bill Birns, Julianne Warren, John Fairbairn, Sally Scrimshaw

Happy 175th Birthday, John!

April 3, 1837

"I have spoken of my good luck. It began in my being born on a farm of parents in the prime of their days and in humble circumstances. I deem it good luck, too, (that) my birth fell in April, a month in which many other things find it good to begin life. . . . I had come into a household of five children, two girls and three boys, the oldest ten years and the youngest two. One had died in infancy making me the seventh child. Mother was twenty nine, father thirty five . . . I had come into a home where all the elements were sweet, the water and the air as good as there is in the world and where the conditions of life were of a temper to discipline both mind and body."

From John Burroughs' memoir, My Boyhood Published posthumously in 1922
Burroughs and Bicknell's Thrush on National Trails Day

Woodchuck Lodge will team up with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Catskill Mountain Club to offer a guided hike to the summit of Slide Mountain on June 2.

Bird and Burroughs enthusiasts are invited to learn about Bicknell's thrush (pictured), one of Burroughs' favorite birds, on National Trails Day. Gregg Kenney, a biologist for DEC in Region 3, will lead this hike to one of the few locations where this rare bird breeds; the place it was first identified by Eugene Bicknell in 1881.

We'll try to catch a glimpse of the thrush, or at least hear its soft, distinctive song. Gregg will also discuss the on-going study of the impacts of mercury deposition on species like this that inhabit the high peaks.

This is a moderate-to-difficult eight-mile hike. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Group size is limited, pre-registration is a must.

For directions to the State trailhead on Ulster County Road 47, and to register, go to www.catskillmountainclub.org.

"Slide Mountain enjoys a distinction which no other mountain in the state, so far as is known, does - it has a thrush peculiar to itself. . . The moment I heard it I said, 'There is a new bird, a new thrush.' . . .The song is in a minor key, finer, more attenuated, and more under the breath than any other thrush. It seemed as if the bird was blowing in a delicate, slender, golden tube . . . At times it was like a musical whisper of great sweetness and power."

John Burroughs
"The Heart of the Southern Catskills"
Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine
May-Oct, 1888

Signs of the times

We've been aiming towards a higher profile for Woodchuck Lodge for the past several months. Last summer we joined the throngs on Facebook. JohnBurroughsofWoodchuckLodge now has hundreds of Friends. This spring, visitors will notice new signs pointing the way to the Lodge and Burroughs Memorial Field from NYS Route 30 in Roxbury, courtesy of the NYS Department of Transportation. The Town of Roxbury Highway Department orchestrated the placement of another new sign at the intersection of Hardscrabble and Burroughs Memorial Road.

Virtual visitors will want to watch for our new website, to be launched later this year. A matching grant from the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation is supporting this effort. Your help in reaching the match will expedite the launch of the website. Please consider sending a donation to PO Box 492, Roxbury, NY 12474. (When the website's up, you'll be able to contribute with a click!)

Come for a tour!

Once again in 2012, trained docents will offer tours of Woodchuck Lodge the first weekend of the month, Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., May through October. The Lodge will also be open on Mondays, Sept. 3 and Oct. 8; on June 9 for Burroughs Community Day, and on June 16 for participants in the Nature Journaling Workshop.

1633 Burroughs Memorial Road
Roxbury, NY 12455

Docents needed

"Why aren't you open more often?" We frequently hear this complaint, and truly wish we could oblige. Woodchuck Lodge could indeed be open additional weekends with trained docents willing to commit to one or more dates each season.

We need you!

A training session for new docents will be held May 12 at 10 a.m. at the Lodge.

Please contact Trustee Bill Birns if you'd like to attend. 845-254-6025; billbirns@mac.com.
Celebrate **NATURE** and **JOHN BURROUGHS' 175th Birthday!**

2012 Events at Woodchuck Lodge and John Burroughs Memorial Field State Historic Site

Roxbury, NY

**May 5-6**, 11-3: Guided Tours of Woodchuck Lodge

**Sunday, May 6**, 1-3: Ceremonial tree planting in observance of Burroughs’ birthday (April 3) and Arbor Day (April 27). Readings from Burroughs essays, and a tree identification walk, with Minekill State Park Educator Ashley Drum. Burroughs Memorial Field State Historic Site

**June 2-3**, 11-3: Guided Tours of Woodchuck Lodge

**Saturday, June 2**: Observe National Trails Day with a hike to Slide Mountain (elev. 4,200 feet) on the Burroughs Range to learn about the elusive Bicknell’s thrush with NYS DEC biologist Gregg Kenney. John Burroughs reading at the summit. Meet at 9 a.m. at Slide Mtn. trailhead, Ulster County Rte. 47 (Big Indian-Oliveerea Rd.). Co-sponsored by Woodchuck Lodge and Catskill Mountain Club. 

Register: www.catskillmountainclub.org

**Saturday, June 9**, 10-3: John Burroughs Community Day. wildlife sketching for kids, tree pruning demo, wildflower walk, geocache workshop, raptors on display, house tours and much more.  2 p.m. address by John Lutz, founder of Woodchuck Lodge, Inc.

**Saturday, June 16**: Nature Journaling Workshop, create your own nature journal and learn techniques for observing nature with Minekill State Park Educator Ashley Drum. Meet for a tour of Woodchuck Lodge at 10 a.m. Workshop for ages 5+ to follow at Burroughs Memorial Field State Historic Site. $5 materials fee. Call 518-827-6110, ext. 0 to register

**July 7-8-9**, 11-3: Guided Tours of Woodchuck Lodge

**Sunday, July 8**, 1 p.m.: Moss Walk with Minekill State Park Educator Ashley Drum. Free. Meet at Woodchuck Lodge

**August 4-5**, 11-3: Guided Tours of Woodchuck Lodge

**September 1-2-3**, 11-3: Guided Tours of Woodchuck Lodge

**October 6-7-8**, 11-3: Guided Tours of Woodchuck Lodge. Old-fashioned cider pressing demonstration Sunday, Noon-3

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**MORE INFO: 845-586-4973**

**Woodchuck Lodge, 1633 Burroughs Memorial Road, 2 miles off NYS Route 30, north of Roxbury, NY 12474.** Built in 1862, the Lodge was the summer home of literary naturalist John Burroughs from 1910-20. It is maintained by the non-profit Woodchuck Lodge, Inc. There is no admission fee; donations are encouraged.

**John Burroughs Memorial Field, Burroughs Memorial Rd., One-quarter mile from Woodchuck Lodge**

This site where the writer was buried beside his Boyhood Rock, is a State Historic Site maintained by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation. It is open daily, without charge, from dawn to dusk.