FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Photo available on request.

STONE WORKERS: A WALKING TOUR OF THE NEW CROTON DAM

“Breathtaking”, “awe inspiring”, “feel the power!” These are just a few of the comments on Trip-Advisor’s entry for the New Croton Dam, yet many who live nearby have never visited one of the Hudson Valley’s signature engineering feats.

Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct and Teaching the Hudson Valley want to change that and invite the public to visit the dam for special walking tours Thursday, April 23, 4 p.m., and Saturday, April 25, 11 a.m. Laura Compagni-Sabella, will lead both tours, highlighting the stories of the hundreds of immigrant workers who risked life and limb to build the dam between 1892-1905.

New Croton Dam represents the ingenuity of late 19th century American engineers. At completion, it was the world’s tallest masonry dam. Equally important, it’s at the heart of a dramatic labor story: workers organized a strike, brought construction to a standstill, and confronted the New York State National Guard which occupied the Croton Valley to protect replacement workers. Compagni-Sabella, a museum educator, exhibit planner, and Friends’ board member, will explore these forgotten stories.

Open to the public, the tour was designed with educators in mind. Certificates of participation will be available, and Compagni-Sabella will share classroom-ready, primary source-based, social studies activities and lesson plans. Appropriate for grades 5-11, the materials explore key themes of the Industrial Revolution.

Tours are $12 and reservations are appreciated. For details or to register, go to the professional development section at http://www.teachingthehudsonvalley.org.

Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, a not-for-profit based in Dobbs Ferry, works to protect and preserve the Old Croton Aqueduct. The Friends work to raise public awareness of the Aqueduct and trail and to secure resources that enable this historic greenway to remain unspoiled in perpetuity.

Teaching the Hudson Valley helps educators discover, appreciate, and share the region’s natural, historic, and cultural treasures with children and youth. THV is a project of the National Park Service, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, and the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation.