

Subj: **News Release: Free Mohonk Preserve memberships for local town residents**
Date: 4/5/2006 9:25:44 A.M. Eastern Standard Time
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PLEASE POST

MOHONK PRESERVE NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: April 4, 2006

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FREE ONE-MONTH MEMBERSHIPS FOR LOCALS AT THE MOHONK PRESERVE

Gardiner, New York -- On Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23, the Mohonk Preserve will hold its semiannual Five Towns Appreciation Weekend. On these two days only, the Preserve will issue free, one-month memberships to visitors residing in the towns of Gardiner, Marbletown, New Paltz, Rochester, and Rosendale. The memberships are valid for one month from the date of issuance.

Visitors with proof of residency can obtain their free membership between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on either day at any trailhead or at the Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center, Route 44/55, Gardiner. Visitors without proof of residency in one of the five towns pay the standard \$9 day use fee for hikers and bikers (\$15 for climbers) or can purchase an annual membership. Children 12 and under are always free, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Visitors are always welcome on Preserve lands and at the Visitor Center, which has exhibits, trails, and a nature shop. Admission to the Visitor Center is always free. Preserve lands are open sunrise to sunset.

Directions to the Visitor Center: (from Route 209) Turn on Route 44/55 and go 10 miles east; Visitor Center is 1 mile past West Trapps Entry. Turn into second lot. (From Route 299) Go 7 miles west on Route 299; right on Route 44/55 and ½ mile to Visitor Center.

Located in five Ulster County towns, the Mohonk Preserve is the largest member- and visitor-supported nature preserve in New York State, protecting over 6,500 acres of the Shawangunk Ridge. The Preserve's mission is to protect this land and to promote a wider understanding of the environment. For more information, visit **www.mohonkpreserve.org** or call (845) 255-0919.

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Wednesday, April 05, 2006 America Online: PamDReal