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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SNOWSHOE WALK

In Olana's artist-designed winter landscape

HUDSON, NY—

The Olana Partnership is pleased to collaborate with environmental educator Fran Martino for a guided snowshoe walk at Olana State Historic Site on Saturday, February 8 from 1-3 p.m. beginning at the Wagon House Education Center. In case of a snowstorm on the day of the program, it will be rescheduled for Sunday, February 9 from 1-3 p.m.

Enjoy the beauty of winter on 19th century Hudson River School artist Frederic Church's scenic trails that wind throughout the artist-designed landscape. Break in your new snowshoes, or test out a pair of ours. This walk is perfect for beginners and families. Participants will learn the basics of walking on snowshoes as we search for signs of animals that do not go south in the winter. If there is lack of snow, this will become a walk in nature without snowshoes. The walk will take place from 1-2:30 pm followed by hot beverages in the Wagon House Education Center.

Fran Martino is the sole proprietor of River Haggie Outdoors, a Woman-owned Business Enterprise certified with New York State Department of Economic Development. She is self-employed as an environmental educator, and serves as the education and outreach coordinator for the Greater Stockport Creek Watershed whose mission is to explore, understand, and protect the watershed ecosystem through community involvement and stewardship. Visit www.stockportwatershed.org

Martino's work includes developing, planning and presenting educational and recreational programs for the general public, schools, scouts, town parks, day camps and other organizations. She spearheads a group of volunteer "Stream Spotters" who monitor water quality throughout the Greater Stockport Creek Watershed. Martino also does outreach for the NYS Department of Health Fish Advisory Outreach Project to raise awareness about consuming fish from New York State waters. The health advice about which fish to eat depends upon who you are, where you fish, and what you catch.

Martino is often asked about the name "River Haggie" to which she responds, "It is a nickname I've had for a long time since I always seem to be around water - fishing, kayaking, wading in a stream." The Legend of the Sea Hag is popular folklore in Connecticut about a woman named

Molly. Legend says that her spirit haunts the waters as a pirate, magician, sorcerer and elements of nature. “Maybe I’ve got a little bit of Molly in me,” says Martino.

The Wagon House Education Center is located at Olana State Historic Site, 5720 State Route 9G, Hudson, NY 12534. Cost of the program is \$10/adult and \$5/child. Space for the program is limited. Please register by contacting Sarah Hasbrook, education coordinator for The Olana Partnership, at shasbrook@olana.org or call 518-828-1872 x109.

Wagon House Education Center programming is made possible in part through support provided by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency; the Hudson River Bank & Trust Foundation; the Educational Foundation of America; the John Wilmerding Education Initiative, and the members of The Olana Partnership.

About Olana and The Olana Partnership

The eminent Hudson River School painter Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900) designed Olana, his family home, studio, and estate as an integrated environment embracing architecture, art, landscape, and conservation ideals. Considered one of the most important artistic residences in the United States, Olana is a 250-acre artist-designed landscape with a Persian-inspired house at its summit, embracing unrivaled panoramic views of the vast Hudson Valley.

Olana State Historic Site, a historic site administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Taconic Region, is a designated National Historic Landmark and one of the most visited sites in the state. The Olana Partnership, a private not-for-profit education corporation, works cooperatively with New York State to support the restoration, development and improvement of Olana State Historic Site. To learn more about Olana and The Olana Partnership, please visit www.olana.org

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