

# Banking and Finance

## HSBC and NYS support education at Mohonk Preserve

As interest in environmental issues grows, the Mohonk Preserve's education work has received continued financial support from HSBC Bank USA, North America, and the New York State Zoos, Botanical Gardens, and Aquariums (ZBGA) program.

The \$20,000 grant from HSBC, a key supporter of environmental education at the Mohonk Preserve since 2005, will fund the Climate Change Education for ALL Learners project. This initiative expands the reach of the Preserve's field studies program (which serves more than 3,000 children annually from dozens of area schools) by combining and strengthening two of its central aspects: information on climate change trends and impacts; and the provision of outdoor experiences to students with disabilities. The Preserve will now be able to offer training in its award-winning accessible field studies program "NatureAccess" to nature

centers across the Hudson Valley, provide inclusivity assessments to the centers, and

The ZBGA renewal grant of nearly \$96,000 will enable the Preserve to provide environmental education programs and maintain exhibits of wildlife and natural and cultural history that are enjoyed by tens of thousands of students and visitors annually. After nearly being cut from New York's 2008-2009 budget, the ZBGA program (administered through the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, OPRHP) was restored in recognition of its importance to the many facilities that, like the Mohonk Preserve, offer the public unique opportunities to connect with and appreciate wildlife and the environment.

"It's wonderful that HSBC Bank, N.A. and OPRHP continue to recognize that outdoor experiences and understanding of the natural world contribute to human health and well-being," says Kathy Ambrosini, the Preserve's Director of Education. "During these difficult economic times, the Preserve is deeply grateful to receive funds to continue its education work and benefit the public."

Located in five Ulster County towns, the Mohonk Preserve is the largest member- and visitor-supported nature preserve in New York State. Managing nearly 7,000 acres of the Shawangunk Ridge, the Preserve works to protect the ridge and to inspire people to care for, enjoy, and explore the natural world. Visitors are welcome on Preserve lands and at the Visitor Center, which has exhibits, trails, and a gift shop. Preserve lands are open sunrise to sunset every day, and a current membership or day entry pass is required to access the lands. Admission to the Visitor Center is always free.

For more information, visit [www.mohonkpreserve.org](http://www.mohonkpreserve.org) or call (845) 255-0919.



Children learn about life in ponds and other environments at Mohonk Preserve. Photo credit Mary Leary

offer field-based learning to a more diverse audience of K-6 students.