



Media Contact:

Ann Clark, Edelman
212-704-8296
ann.clark@edelman.com

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Hudson River Park Announces Historic Vessel Lineup

New York, NY (May 1, 2012) — The Hudson River Park Trust today announced that it is currently scheduled to receive four visiting historic vessels at Pier 25 this May. Visiting historic vessels include three tall ships—the Barque *Picton Castle* from Nova Scotia, Canada; Schooner *Roseway* from Camden, Maine; and the Wooden Barkentine *Gazela* from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—as well as the Lehigh Valley Barge No. 79 currently berthed in Red Hook, Brooklyn. These boats will join the Tug *Pegasus* and Lighthouse Tender *Lilac*, two historic vessels previously awarded long-term berths at Hudson River Park through an RFP issued last year.

“New York City has a rich maritime history, and part of the Trust’s mission includes seeking ways to preserve it, enhance public awareness and offer educational opportunities,” said Madelyn Wils, president and CEO, Hudson River Park Trust. “We’re thrilled to introduce these historic vessels to a new generation of Park users.”

Arriving at her home berth this week, the 105-year-old Tug *Pegasus* will be offering regular free dockside tours and educational river trips. The *Lilac*, berthed at Pier 25 for the past year, is a historic steamship built in 1933 for the U.S. Lighthouse Service, and provides regular free dockside tours and other public programming.

As a usual condition to berthing at Pier 25, visiting historic vessels must be willing to provide public access to their vessels through dockside tours or other public education programming. This season, two of the four berths at Pier 25 are currently reserved for visiting historic vessels in hopes that park patrons will have many different opportunities to explore the waterfront’s rich maritime history.

The line-up includes:

May 3-15: Lehigh Valley Barge #79

This 1914 vessel, typically stationed in Red Hook, Brooklyn, is the only surviving all-wooden example of the Hudson River Railroad Barge from the Lighterage Age (1860-1960) that remains afloat and accessible to the general public.

May 15-20: The Picton Castle

The Barque *Picton Castle* is a 180-foot, three-mast tall ship based in Nova Scotia, Canada, best known for its sail training voyages around the world.

May 22-24: Roseway

After 84 years of service, the *Roseway* is one of only six original Grand Banks schooners, and the only schooner specifically designed to beat the Nova Scotians in the international fishing vessel races of the 1920s and 1930s.

May 23-28: Gazela

Built in 1883, the 177-foot *Gazela* is the oldest wooden square-rigger still sailing in the United States.

June 28-July 1: North River Historic Ship Festival

Sponsored by North River Historic Ship Society and Friends of Hudson River Park, this festival includes free tours of historic ships, free trips on a tug and a fireboat, a benefit cocktail party, and a circus on a showboat. Please visit <http://www.nrhss.org/> for the full run-of-show.

For more information regarding educational opportunities or tour availability, please contact Nicolette Witcher, Vice President of Environment & Education, Hudson River Park Trust, at (212) 627-2020 or nwitcher@hrpt.ny.gov.

About the Hudson River Park Trust

Hudson River Park Trust is a partnership between New York State and City charged with the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the five-mile Hudson River Park. A public benefit corporation and 501(c)(3), the Trust is governed by a thirteen-member Board of Directors. We employ a focused, diverse staff with experience in parks, design, finance, public policy, operations and maintenance, and are governed by the Hudson River Park Act, a 1998 law that established both the Park and its governing requirements.

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