

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Contact:
Gina Hyams, Hancock Shaker Village PR Consultant
413.464.2851
ginahyams@gmail.com

Images available upon request.

**Hancock Shaker Village Celebrates Spring
Chicks Emerge and Children Cozy up to Baby Animals
April 13 – May 5, 2013**

Pittsfield, Mass.—Hancock Shaker Village opens its 2013 season with the quintessential spring event, Baby Animals on the Shaker Farm, open to visitors of all ages from April 13 through May 5, daily from 10:00am to 4:00pm. At the heart of this 11th annual interactive celebration is a lively display of baby lambs, piglets, calves, goats, ducklings, and chicks in the iconic 1826 Round Stone Barn. Admission is free for children ages 12 and under on family visits.

During Baby Animals on the Shaker Farm, visitors meet and greet new livestock and participate in farm chores and Shaker-themed craft activities, including basket weaving, making and decorating seed packets, and loom weaving. “This event is a joyous tradition not just for families and school groups in the Berkshires, but for EVERYONE. There’s no better way to welcome spring and rededicate ourselves to the land and living beings,” said Hancock Shaker Village President Linda Steigleder.

The animals represent livestock once kept at the Village by the Shakers, beginning in the 1700s and continuing into the 1960s. In addition to the heritage breed animals raised by Hancock Shaker Village year round, this event includes “guest” livestock raised by local farms and 4H clubs. The famous circular Shaker-built 1826 Round Stone Barn originally stabled 52 milk cows. For decades it has attracted notable visitors—including authors Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville, who staged a footrace around the structure.

Special Events...

Pony Rides

Party Time Ponies will be returning to Baby Animals on the Shaker Farm from 12:00pm to 4:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays to offer rides on their warm, fuzzy, and friendly ponies at \$5/ride (plus general admission).

Behind-the-Scenes Farm Tours

Behind-the-Scenes Farm Tours are available daily at 2:00pm, as well as at 10:00am on weekends during Baby Animals and by reservation during school vacation (April 15 through 19). Families can get up close and personal with the animals on these private guided tours, which include special access to the newborns, helping at feeding time, gift bags with a variety of toys and games from the Village Store, and a framed group photo to commemorate the visit. Behind-the-Scenes Farm Tour tickets are \$27 per person (\$24 for HSV Members), and include general admission. Reservations may be made for this tour online at www.hancockshakervillage.org or by calling 413.443.0188 x100.

April 27 and 28 is **Sheep Shearing Weekend**. In addition to the regular farm activities, Sheep Shearing Weekend will feature shearing of the Village's Merino sheep and special hands-on textile demonstrations and activities that will be conducted by volunteers from three local spinning and weaving guilds.

For more information, please call 800.817.1137 or visit www.hancockshakervillage.org.

About Hancock Shaker Village

An outdoor history museum and educational resource situated on a picturesque expanse of farm, field, and woodland in Pittsfield, Mass., Hancock Shaker Village affords visitors authentic experiences in 20 historic buildings, heirloom medicinal and vegetable gardens, and with 22,000 examples of Shaker furniture, crafts, tools, and more. This National Historic Landmark depicts daily life at the Shakers' City of Peace through its 220 years. Partake of guided tours, craft and cooking demonstrations, lectures, workshops, hikes on interpreted trails, and a Discovery Room with hand-on activities for children. Stop by for lunch at the Village Harvest Café. Find gifts and souvenirs in the Village Store. An interactive Village audio tour is available in English, French, Italian, and German. Additionally HSV offers an executive every-other weekend Master of Science in Design & Historic Preservation program in collaboration with UMASS Amherst; see www.umass.edu/preservation for more information about degree and elective coursework and opportunities.

Hours, Admission, and Directions

Hancock Shaker Village is open daily for self-guided visits from April 13 through October 27, 2013. April 13 through June 30, the Village is open 10:00am to 4:00pm daily, and July 1 through October 27, hours are 10:00am to 5:00pm daily.

Hancock Shaker Village members and children 12 and under (accompanied by an adult) are admitted free of charge. Admission for adults is \$17 and youth visitors aged 13 to 17 are \$8. Fieldtrip visits are \$5 per student for self-guided tours and \$8 per student for guided tours.

Hancock Shaker Village is located on Route 20 in Pittsfield, Mass., just west of the junction of Routes 20 and 41. For GPS purposes, the Village is located at 34 Lebanon Mountain Rd., Hancock, Mass. 01237. Or, enter 1843 W. Housatonic St., Pittsfield, Mass. 01201 then proceed 1/2 mile further west on Rt. 20 to the parking lot.

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