

# Hancock Shaker V I L L A G E



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2013

Media Contact:

Laura Wolf, Director of Operations & Marketing

413.443.0188 x213

LWolf@hancockshakervillage.org

High-resolution photos of Hancock Shaker Village are posted online at:

<http://hancockshakervillage.org/about/press-room/hsv-images/>

## **Hancock Shaker Village Announces 2013 Programming**

Pittsfield, Mass.—Hancock Shaker Village (HSV) announced the living history museum's 2013 plans at a press conference today. The 53rd season will run from April 13 through October 27. It includes *Fakes and Forgeries: Shaker Chairs and Their Influence*, a new interactive exhibition that will help visitors identify Shaker chairs and their imitators, as well as *A Promising Venture: Shaker Photographs from the WPA*, a continuation of last year's popular exhibition featuring the work of photographer Noel Vicentini, who was hired as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Federal Art Project in 1936 to document the Shaker villages in upstate New York and western Massachusetts for the Index of American Design. There will also be exhibitions in the Poultry House Gallery showcasing the work of prominent local artists Marge Bride, Deb Carter, Michael Cohen, Joannie Ciofi Palano, Ellen Joffe-Halprin, Susan Merrill, Ivor Parry, and Scott Taylor, as well *Wood Works*, a juried exhibition of Shaker-inspired chairs, small furniture, and functional pieces crafted by contemporary woodworkers and furniture makers.

The Village will host an array of community events, such as the ever-popular spring

Baby Animals on the Shaker Farm and fall Country Fair. The schedule also features a dozen workshops that explore the connection between the Shakers and contemporary life, with topics such as quilting, woodworking, backyard poultry and beekeeping, and photography. New for 2013, the Village will offer Wooden Window Sash Restoration taught by preservation expert Jackie Blombach. It will be a rare behind-the-scenes, hands-on opportunity for participants to become an important part of HSV's ongoing restoration efforts as they learn the skills and techniques of wooden window sash restoration.

“This is a time of eager anticipation at the Village, with lambs, calves, and chicks being born, garden seedlings sprouting, and farm-inspired artwork being installed in the Poultry House Gallery,” said Hancock Shaker Village President Linda Steigleder.

“We are looking forward to a lineup of promising exhibitions throughout the season, partnering with local artists and showing off hidden gems from our own collection, and to sharing the bounty of the Village through our Community Supported Agriculture program.”

HSV will offer four specialty tours this year, including a Behind-the-Scenes Farm Tour during Baby Animals that includes a private narrated hayride with baby animals on board, plus Choose Your Own Shaker Adventure custom tours in which participants choose from a list of more than 30 topics, as well as tours that focus on children and “off limits” attics and basements.

HSV is collaborating on projects with several different organizations during the 2013 season. Willis Henry Auctions will return to the Village for a second year to sell part two of the McCue Shaker Collection. Outstanding In The Field will throw one of its famous locavore dinner extravaganzas in the Village gardens. Chef Brian Alberg and his crew from The Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge will man the field kitchen and present a five-course meal to 150 guests. The Village will also serve as the site for three major athletic events: the Hancock Shaker Village Trail Marathon and 50-Mile Ultramarathon and the Berkshires to Boston Bicycle Tour.

HSV is expanding its virtual presence this year thanks to a \$150,000 grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) that will allow the museum to dramatically improve its website. “The overall goal is to make an online visit more closely reflect a visit to the physical site. This is being accomplished in a number of ways, such as ‘micro-sites’ for exhibitions, events, and our many initiatives, such as the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and Master of Science in Design & Historic Preservation programs,” said Ms. Steigleder. An interactive map shows building details, sample artifacts, audio clips, and links to pages with additional information about each building. Searchable databases of the museum’s collection and of Shakers who lived at Hancock, as well as new videos and online exhibitions give greater access to the wealth of knowledge held in the collections and archives. “It’s a thrilling time at Hancock Shaker Village these days,” continued Ms. Steigleder. “The Shakers were great innovators and we are embracing technological evolution to share their legacy.”

## **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 [umass.edu/preservation](http://umass.edu/preservation) for more information about degree and elective coursework and opportunities.

For more information and to register for Hancock Shaker Village programs and tours, see [hancockshakervillage.org](http://hancockshakervillage.org) or call 800.817.1137.

## **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 courtesy of Berkshire Bank Foundation. Admission for adults is \$17 through May 24, \$18 as of May 25. 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.

###

## **HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE 2013 SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

### **EXHIBITIONS**

Saturday, April 13 through Sunday, May 12 from noon to 4:00pm daily  
Opening reception Sunday, April 7 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm (RSVP: 413.443.0188 x100)  
**Patterns: A Painting and Drawing Exhibition by Susan Merrill**  
Stockbridge-based artist Susan Merrill returns to the Village with her annual painting and drawing exhibition composed of works that celebrate Baby Animals on the Shaker Farm. This year's theme is "patterns," recognizing the distinctive patterns of fur and feathers, as well as groupings of animals in their pastures and pens. Proceeds from the sale of these works will help to support the museum's programming. Free to HSV Members and included with general admission.

Saturday, April 13 through Sunday October 27 during regular museum hours

**A Promising Venture: Shaker Photographs from the WPA**

Hancock Shaker Village's major exhibition, now in its second year on display, features the work of photographer Noel Vicentini, who was hired as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Federal Art Project in 1936 to document the Shaker villages in upstate New York and western Massachusetts for the newly-formed Index of American Design. The result was over 200 black-and-white photographs showcasing Shaker craft, architecture, and culture. Free to HSV Members and included with general admission. Exhibition sponsored by Berkshire Money Management.

Friday, May 24 through Sunday October 27 during regular museum hours.

Opening reception Thurs., May 23 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm (RSVP 413.443.0188 x100)

**Fakes and Forgeries: Shaker Chairs and Their Influence**

The Shaker chair is an icon of simple, streamlined design. Talented Shaker craftsmen took a basic American ladder back chair and perfected the proportions, the seat, and the feet to create something unique and beautiful in its simplicity. They also created a successful marketing campaign that made the chairs accessible to the average American family. The Shaker chairs offered superior quality at an honest price. It is no surprise that these chairs spawned many imitators. This exhibition will examine the imitations next to the authentic articles, pointing out the details that make Shaker chairs unique and worthy of duplication, even today. Appealing to the general museum visitor, craftsmen, and collectors, the information provided will allow visitors to better identify Shaker chairs and their imitators. This exhibition will include interactive components, including a guessing game, a hands-on Shaker chair with tilters, and Shaker chair assembly. Free to HSV Members and included with general admission.

Friday, May 24 through Sunday, August 25, during regular museum hours.

Opening reception Thurs., May 23 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm (RSVP 413.443.0188 x100)

**Village Views**

Berkshire-based artists Marge Bride, Deb Carter, Michael Cohen, Joannie Ciofi Palano, Ellen Joffe-Halprin, Ivor Parry, and Scott Taylor will exhibit works in a variety of mediums, including watercolor, acrylics, and oil. Free to HSV Members and included with general admission.

Saturday, September 7 through Sunday, October 27 during regular museum hours.

Opening reception Fri., September 6 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm (RSVP 413.443.0188 x100)

**Wood Works**

A juried gallery exhibition of Shaker-inspired chairs, small furniture, and functional pieces crafted by contemporary woodworkers and furniture makers. The Shaker tradition of fine craftsmanship is still practiced today by many talented individuals. They each add personal and unique touches to their work, but as a group they all honor the Shaker aesthetic of clean lines, beautiful woods, and an eye toward perfection.

**SPECIAL EVENT**

Saturday, August 10 at 5:30pm

**Hancock Shaker Village Gala**

Proceeds from the Hancock Shaker Village 2013 Summer Gala will support the museum's education mission and public programs. This year's gala will include a farm-to-table dinner and a musical concert held amid historic Shaker buildings and vibrant gardens. Gala tickets go on sale to the public on May 1.

**INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS**

Saturday, September 7 at 1:00pm

**Willis Henry Auctions Presents the McCue Shaker Collection (Part Two)**

Willis Henry Auctions will present part two of the Shaker collection of Drs. J. J. Gerald and Miriam McCue. The McCue collection began in 1948 and grew from an initial purchase of approximately six pieces from Faith and Edward Deming Andrews, seminal collectors and scholars in the Shaker studies field, from their Richmond, MA barn. The McCues also pursued direct purchases from existing Shaker communities, including Canterbury, Sabbathday Lake, and Hancock.

Sunday, September 8 at 3:00pm

**Outstanding In The Field Dinner**

This nationally recognized event offers Hancock Shaker Village a chance to showcase its historical roots in agriculture, and to promote the top-notch food culture of the Berkshires. Ingredients for each Outstanding In The Field meal are almost all local, sometimes sourced within inches of the guests' seats at the table. After a tour of the site, guests settle in to share the long table, this time in the shadow of the iconic Round Stone Barn. Guest Chef Brian Alberg of the Red Lion Inn will present a five-course, family style meal in the midst of the Village's heirloom gardens. Tickets are \$220 per person and are for sale online at [http://outstandinginthefield.com/events/north-american-tour/?dinner\\_id=323](http://outstandinginthefield.com/events/north-american-tour/?dinner_id=323).

Thursday, September 19

**Berkshires to Boston Bicycle Tour**

The Berkshires to Boston Bicycle Tour is a four-day, 240 mile bike tour showcasing the best of Massachusetts cycling and supporting Massachusetts' statewide bicyclist advocacy organization, MassBike. Beginning in the scenic Berkshire hills along the New York border at Hancock Shaker Village, the tour meanders through the Connecticut River Valley and spins through the historic communities of Lexington and Concord before arriving in Boston. There, riders will join more than 5,000 cycling enthusiasts for Hub on Wheels, Boston's annual bicycling festival. Only 300 spots are available. To register, see [berkshirestoboston.com](http://berkshirestoboston.com).

Saturday, September 21

**Hancock Shaker Village Trail Marathon and 50-Mile Ultramarathon**

Hancock Shaker Village will host its first-ever 26-mile trail marathon and second annual 50-mile Ultramarathon beginning on the grounds of the Village, traveling up Mount Zion,

through the Pittsfield State Forest, up Doll Mountain, and then north on the Taconic Crest Trail, on to Rounds Mountain and Misery Mountain, and back to the Village. To register, see [Ultrasignup.com](http://Ultrasignup.com).

## **FAMILY**

Saturday, April 13 through Sunday, May 5 from 10:00am to 4:00pm daily

### **Baby Animals on the Shaker Farm**

The Baby Animals on the Shaker Farm spring celebration is one of the most exciting times of the year at the Village, when visitors of all ages interact with scores of baby lambs, piglets, calves, goats, ducklings, and chicks in the iconic 1826 Round Stone Barn. In addition, 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. Free to HSV members and included with general admission. Baby Animals is sponsored by Greylock Federal Credit Union, Guardian Insurance, WGBY and Berkshire Magazine.

Saturday, April 13 at 11:00am and 12:30pm

### **David Grover and Friends Barnyard Sing-Along**

To usher in Baby Animals 2013, David Grover and Friends will perform outside the Round Stone Barn (rain location inside the Brick El of the barn). The farm-themed concert will have families up and dancing, singing their hearts out, and celebrating the arrival of spring. Sponsored by Greylock Federal Credit Union. Free to HSV members and included with general admission.

Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28 from 10:00am to 4:00pm daily

### **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. Free to HSV members and included with general admission.

Saturday, August 3 and Sunday August 4 from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily

### **Age of Iron Weekend**

Blacksmiths, representing Berkshire, Connecticut, the Capital District, and New England Blacksmith Guilds will showcase their art and artisanship with both historical and contemporary demonstrations. Ironwork craftsmanship dating from the 17th to the 21st century, Japanese hardware, tool making, engraving, and Viking and Shaker forging are just a few of the techniques and styles that will be on display. Many exhibitors will be dressed in period costume. Hancock Shaker Village ironwork will be highlighted with a special scavenger hunt for children. Free to HSV members and included with general admission.

Saturday and Sunday, September 28 and 29 from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily

### **Hancock Shaker Village Country Fair – 16th Annual**

Hancock Shaker Village's 2013 Country Fair promises fun for the whole family with Shaker-inspired games in the Kids Tent, a farmers' market with samples of heirloom vegetables to taste, vendors and demonstrations of handmade crafts, wagon rides, antique engines and tractors, sustainable gardening tips, a pie contest, juried quilt exhibition, and more. Free to HSV members and included with general admission.

## **SHAKER STUDIES**

Wednesday, July 24 through Sunday, July 28

### **39th Annual Shaker Seminar**

Shaker Seminar 2013 promises to be an excellent opportunity to be deeply immersed in Shaker history, as well as Shaker landscapes. The event will be based at Shaker Museum Mount Lebanon in Lebanon, New York. See [hancockshakervillage.org](http://hancockshakervillage.org) for pricing and registration information. Shaker Seminar is sponsored by John Keith Russell Antiques, Inc.

Saturday, October 19 at 4:00pm

Saturday, November 30 at 4:00pm

### **Traditional Shaker Suppers**

Traditional Shaker Suppers at Hancock Shaker Village are an annual tradition for families and friends. Guests come to the Village for a private tour and Shaker-inspired candlelight dinner in the historic Brick Dwelling, followed by a Shaker music program. For reservations, call 413.443.0188 x100. Tickets: \$60 HSV members, \$65 non-members.

## **PREMIUM TOURS**

Daily from Saturday, April 13 through Sunday, May 5 (60 minutes) at 2:00pm, as well as at 10:00am on weekends during Baby Animals and by reservation during school vacation (April 15 through 19)

### **Behind-the-Scenes Farm Tours**

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.

Wednesdays - Sundays from June 26 through September 1 at 10:30am (90 minutes)

### **Young Shaker's Tour**

See the Village through the eyes of a Shaker child, from how they lived and played to where they went to school. Don a Shaker bonnet or straw hat and walk in the footsteps of the children who lived at Hancock, including a visit to the Brick Dwelling, Brethrens' and

Sister's Shops, Schoolhouse, and the Round Stone Barn. This tour wraps up in the modern Discovery Room. Tour tickets are \$15 per child (\$13 HSV members) and include general admission. Adults wishing to accompany their child on the tour may do so by purchasing a \$10 ticket (\$8 for HSV members) in addition to their general admission ticket.

Sundays from June 30 - August 26, October 6 - October 27 at 2:00pm (90 minutes)

### **Attics & Basements Tour**

From basements to attics, HSV's all access tour offers you the chance to get past those "Museum Staff Only" signs and peek into the nooks and crannies of rarely seen areas of the Laundry & Machine Shop, Brethren's Shop and Trustees Office & Store. Get behind the scenes in some of the Village's most significant historic buildings, learning about the Shakers' architecture and material culture. Tour tickets are \$30 per person (\$27 for HSV members), and include general admission.

By appointment from Monday, May 6 through Sunday, October 27

### **Choose Your Own Shaker Adventure**

The barriers come down when you Choose Your Own Shaker Adventure. Go behind closed doors to do and see exactly what interests you. Select one of 30 topics, your preferred date and time, and our expert staff will create a custom tour that will inform and inspire. Expand your experience by adding additional 30 or 60-minute topics. Tour tickets start at \$27 per person for one topic, and include general admission for the day.

## **WORKSHOPS**

### **Photography**

Saturday, July 13 from 10:00am to 3:00pm

#### **Photographing The City of Peace with Ben Garver**

Hone your digital photography skills with the Berkshire Eagle's photo editor. This workshop includes classroom time and field time, with ample opportunity to practice technique. Tuition: \$68 HSV members, \$75 non-members.

Saturday, October 12 from 10:00am to 4:00pm

#### **Digital Photographic Artistry Workshop with Fred LeBlanc**

Students will learn to apply traditional photographic values, composition, and storytelling to the new era of digital photography, and explore new tools available in the digital realm, such as HDR (High Dynamic Range) settings and techniques. HDR allows for a greater range of exposures, capturing everything from dark shadows to bright highlights and combining them into a single image, offering tones and values beyond what can be achieved through a standard photograph. Tuition: \$80 HSV members, \$90 non-members.

## **Quilting**

Saturday, April 6 from 10:00am to 2:00pm

### **Appliquéd Quilting Workshop: Embroidery Techniques and Adding Borders with Connie Logan and Mary Rentz**

This class will focus on wall-quilts inspired by Shaker Gift Drawings, including Tree of Life, apple basket, and floral wreath motifs. Beginners will receive basic quilting skills instruction and experienced quilters are welcome to participate as well in this drop-in quilting session. Tuition: \$22 HSV members, \$25 non-members.

Saturday, May 11 from 10:00am to 2:00pm

### **Appliquéd Quilting Workshop: Making the Quilt Sandwich, Hand Quilting, and Adding Binding with Connie Logan and Mary Rentz**

This class will focus on wall-quilts inspired by Shaker Gift Drawings, including Tree of Life, apple basket, and floral wreath motifs. Beginners will receive basic quilting skills instruction and experienced quilters are welcome to participate as well in this drop-in quilting session. Tuition: \$22 HSV members, \$25 non-members.

## **Sustainability**

Saturday, May 11 from 10:00am to 5:00pm

### **Backyard Beehive Workshop with Joe Moncecchi**

Learn about the benefits and inner workings of beekeeping, and go home with your very own hive and a complimentary jar of honey extracted from the hives at HSV. Tuition: \$225 HSV members, \$205 non-members.

Saturday, June 1 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm

### **Backyard Poultry Workshop with Laura “The Chicken Lady” Field**

Learn everything you need to know about starting and maintaining a backyard poultry flock, from where to buy hatchlings or hens to how to clean out the coop. Tuition: \$45 HSV members, \$50 non-members.

## **Woodworking**

Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21 9:00am to 4:00pm daily

### **Wooden Window Sash Restoration with Jackie Blombach**

This workshop is a rare behind-the-scenes, hands-on opportunity for participants to become an important part of HSV’s ongoing restoration efforts as they learn the skills and techniques of wooden window sash restoration. Students will learn to organize the project, remove sashes, assess the condition of the sash, and determine what tools, materials, and equipment are needed to rejuvenate tired, worn-out windows. Tuition is \$225 for HSV members, \$250 non-members.

Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 16 from 9:00am to 4:00pm each day

### **Oval Box Basics Workshop with Steve Grasselli**

Make your own nest of four boxes while learning to carve swallow tails, bend the box,

and install tops and bottoms. No previous experience required. Tuition: \$200 HSV members, \$220 non-members.

Saturday, July 6 from 9:00am to 4:00pm

**Hand-Cut Dovetail Workshop with Steve Grasselli**

The Shakers were well versed in hand joinery and used dovetails in boxes, case construction, and, of course, drawers. Learn to make either a pine candle box or a pine tray using dovetail joinery. Tuition: \$175 HSV members, \$195 non-members.

Saturday and Sunday, August 10 and 11 from 9:00am to 4:00pm daily

**Advanced Oval Box Workshop with Steve Grasselli**

Build on your woodworking skills and master the form of the Oval Box. Students may make bigger boxes than in the Box Basics, or advance to other box-like projects such as oval carriers or trays. Tuition \$225 HSV members, \$250 non-members.

Wednesday, September 25 - Sunday, September 29 from 9:00am to 5:00pm daily

**Timber Framing: A Traditional Approach with Jack Sobon and Dave Carlon**

Participants learn the craft of timber frame construction using 18th and 19th century tools and techniques, completing the parts and assembling the frame of a small building. Tuition: \$435 HSV members, \$480 non-members. Participants must register directly with instructors by calling Jack Sobon (413.684.3223) or Dave Carlon (413.684.3612).

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE**

Friday, November 22 through Sunday, November 24

**Holiday Sale at the Hancock Shaker Village Museum Store**

Stock up on gifts at the annual holiday sale at the Hancock Shaker Village Museum Store. Shaker oval boxes, prints and posters, dishes, books, and other treasures will be sold at discounted prices. This is the only sale on oval boxes all season long.