

HISTORIC NEW HARMONY IN NEWSLETTER HARMONY

Historic New Harmony is a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

Spring • 2010

HERITAGE ARTISANS WEEK CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Heritage Artisans Week began 25 years ago in New Harmony with a short timeline and a big mission.

In 1985 the Lilly Endowment asked the University of Southern Indiana to undertake management of the nonprofit Historic New Harmony, Inc., which the endowment had assisted in buying, and restoring historic properties in New Harmony. The University accepted the mission and hired its first director of the organization, admired antiques expert and instructor Jim Sanders.

The challenge presented to Sanders by USI leadership was threefold: to increase visitor traffic in New Harmony, utilize the historic buildings, and provide educational programming for children. Sanders' innovative response to that call was well received, and in slightly less than three months, Heritage Artisans Week was launched.

Under the new director's guidance, Historic New Harmony staff, community volunteers, and USI/HNH Foundation board members kicked off the first weeklong heritage program with about a dozen 19th century craft demonstrators placed throughout the town of New Harmony,

a \$1 per-person gate fee, and an invitation for Tri-state elementary students to attend.

The exact number of students who patronized the first Heritage Artisans Week is not known, but first-year volunteers share at least one common memory: the overwhelming job of trying to take photographs of the student groups as they came off the buses.

It was a great surprise to event volunteers and staff when hundreds of students from the regional area spilled off school buses that lined up as far as they could see.

Twenty-five years later, they still keep coming, with as many as 5,000 students attending Heritage Artisans Week annually. This year Historic New Harmony celebrates a smart solution that has become a time-honored Tri-state tradition.

See page 5 for more about Heritage Artisans Week and its founder.

"There were so many children," a staff member recollected, "and they just kept coming."



HISTORIC
NEW HARMONY

"By preserving its utopian legacy, Historic New Harmony will inspire renewal and fellowship between people and communities through its programs and collections."

—Historic New Harmony Mission Statement



Thousands of Tri-state school-age children and adults attend Heritage Artisans Week annually on the grounds of the Athenium in New Harmony. This year marks the event's silver anniversary. Historic New Harmony anticipates welcoming its 100,000th event patron and celebrating 25 years of heritage education with dedicated volunteers, craft demonstrators, educators, sponsors, and community supporters.



DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Connie Weinzapfel,
Director

"A few years ago, I was sitting at the kitchen table attempting to study science with my son, who, at that time, was in third grade. I remember telling him that he officially knew more about science than I did. I have a feeling that's about to change!

As part of the unified program called "Historic New Harmony," our staff from the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites has developed an exhibition featuring the importance of the scientific work done here in New Harmony during the Owen/Maclure Community days. More familiar to me will be the show's highlighting of the splendid artistic quality of that work.

University of Southern Indiana's role in the unified program is to create public programming related to New Harmony's history. So we've lined up a yearlong series of lectures, talks, hikes, and even a "Bug Camp" for kids to enhance the exhibition. Titled "The Art of Science," the show and lecture series will begin in April. I invite you to join me in exploring new frontiers from the past."



ACROSS THE BOARD

Welcome to a new decade!

Historic New Harmony appreciates all the support you have provided over the years. (You wouldn't be reading this newsletter if you hadn't been supportive in some way!) So, many thanks for all your monetary gifts, in-kind contributions, and volunteer efforts.

Our development chair, Laurel Vaughn, has been working diligently on the USI/New Harmony Foundation annual fund drive for this fiscal year, which runs from July 1 through June 30. We are at about 50 percent of our \$60,000 goal. If you have already given, thank you. If you don't know if you have given, check it out. If you know you haven't given, please consider doing so. With all of the state budget cuts it becomes even more important that we secure private funds to assure the continuation of Historic New Harmony programs.

Speaking of programs, Heritage Artisans Week is celebrating its 25th year serving thousands of Tri-state students annually. But keep in mind, it's not just for kids. Heritage Artisans Week also is a wonderful event for adults. So, stop in during the week if you love seeing the children enjoy themselves. Or come on Saturday. And we'd like to see you at the annual Hat Luncheon on June 17, so mark your calendar.

Let's begin this new decade by enjoying a happy and healthy new year.



Darla J. Olberding
Chair
USI/New Harmony Foundation



NEW DEVELOPMENT AND PR MANAGER HIRED

Laura S. Spradley has accepted the position as manager of development and public relations for Historic New Harmony, a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in communications from Indiana State University and has a 20-year marketing background that includes work in corporate, creative, and not-for-profit sectors.

Spradley has worked on community-based projects in New Harmony since 2005. She served as co-chair of the event development committee for Art & Soul, a program of the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art and New Harmony Artists' Guild. She is responsible for advertising and marketing, tourism initiatives, and media marketing for programs of Historic New Harmony.

WHAT'S YOUR VISION OF UTOPIA?

"Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me."¹

—Dr. Donald E. Pitzer

¹ From the song "Let There be Peace on Earth," written in 1955 by Jill Jackson Miller and Sy Miller.



NEW HARMONY RESOURCES RECYCLED

Historic New Harmony staff presented a collection of 24 classic images of early 1900s New Harmony to members of the Ribeyre Gymnasium Restoration Group (RGRG), for their display and caretaking. The images, reproduced from the Don Blair collection, were featured in a 1999/2000 Historic New Harmony exhibition hosted at the Scholle House. With a new 2010 exhibition slated for that space, Historic New Harmony staff began looking for a smart way for the retired exhibition to be further utilized.

The RGRG happily accepted the gift from Historic New Harmony, and plans to exhibit the photos where visitors and New Harmony residents—especially local seniors—can enjoy them.

The images were made from photographic glass plates in the Blair collection. Blair, an engineer who came to New Harmony in the 1920s to help build the bridge—and ended up staying—was a photographer and a collector of Homer Fautleroy and William Litzenberger photos and glass plates. The complete collection of image plates that have been donated to USI archives at the Rice Library contains hundreds of early community photos. This will essentially be the third exhibition of these images.

The photo collection has been placed in an ideal home among people who honor the community and its resources. The Ribeyre Gymnasium, built in 1924, is being restored by New Harmony high school students and repurposed as a community center. The antique town clock, which the building houses, is currently being brought back to life through an innovative community-wide fund-raising campaign. The clock, coincidentally, also was a pet project of Don Blair, who applied his engineering background to its care for nearly 50 years.



RGRG representatives Kenyon Bailey, Heath Hoffman, Ivan Alsop, and Rick Johnson accept the recycled images from Historic New Harmony Director Connie Weinzapfel and Collections Manager Amanda Bryden.

PARTNERING IN COMMUNITY



Dr. Matthew Grow is assistant professor of history and director of the Center for Communal Studies at the University of Southern Indiana.

Architecture, in the fullest sense of the word, is the theme of the 35th Annual Communal Studies Association Conference being conducted in New Harmony this fall. This theme encompasses not only the innovative physical structures and town planning of communal groups, but also the social, religious, and political organization of their communities. The striking architectural contrasts of New Harmony—from the earliest Harmonist buildings to the Atheneum—make the town an ideal setting for this conference.

With its fascinating history, cultural institutions, Roofless Church, and golf carts, New Harmony is a wonderful place. Even so, its history is part of a much broader tradition of experiments to establish a communal utopia. While the United States is usually seen as a land of rugged individualism, communalism has manifested itself in a dizzying array of groups—religious and secular, immigrant and home-grown, conservative and radical, authoritarian and anarchist, celibate and free love—from the Colonial era to the present.

While at first glance the Harmonists seem to have little in common with 1960s hippie communes or contemporary ecovillages, all have challenged fundamental ideals of society such as capitalism and private property, traditional gender and marriage norms, republican government, and clothing and diet patterns. Throughout American history, communal groups have bemused, captivated, and infuriated the broader public.

Charles Durrett, a prominent California architect and author who brought the concept of co-housing communities to the United States from Denmark in the 1980s, will deliver the conference keynote address. Co-housing communities, which are rapidly expanding across the world, emphasize collaborative planning, a shared community center and garden, some group meals, and a design which recommends neighborly interactions over automobile traffic.

The conference also will feature dozens of presentations on historical and contemporary intentional communities, including many on the Harmonists and the Owen Community in New Harmony. In addition, the local Harmonie Haus Cinema will feature films on communal groups during the conference. I hope that you will consider joining us.

Dr. Grow, who serves as chair of Conference Program Committee for the Communal Studies Association, may be contacted with conference questions at mjgrow@usi.edu.



"We learned how our ancestors made everything!"



"Among the education community, Heritage Artisans Week is considered the best field trip of the year."

25th ANNIVERSARY HERITAGE ARTISANS WEEK

"The quality of the demonstrators is top-notch. They are highly respected professionals."



"When a student's experience is so good and so strong that it draws him back as an adult—that's the impact this event has on people." **JULIE EICKHOFF**

Mary Rowe with Daniel Wertz Elementary School has attended Heritage Artisans Week every year and estimates she has brought 750 students to the event. "Our students always come back with a story...and a better understanding of a former time. It is a wonderful day for the kids."

Stacy Steber, Petty Elementary School, said Heritage Artisans Week helps her students connect the history in textbooks with real events and people. "Thank you for providing such a wonderful experience for the teachers and students."



"Heritage Artisans Week has thrived because it has evolved to fit changing needs and interests."

**CHRISTINE CREWS,
HISTORIC NEW HARMONY**



"It helps see what was like days ago and them for experience." **KATHY K. WERTZ, ELEM. TEACHER**

"One guest on a tour was so taken with Heritage Artisans Week, the next year she came from Oregon, stayed at the Inn (at her own expense), and volunteered for us every day."

JAN KAHLE, HISTORIC NEW HARMONY EDUCATION COORDINATOR



"One of the thrills is the quality professional demonstrators." **MARION AND POLLY MITCHELL**



"Heritage Artisans Week has become a Tri-state tradition."

"The most fun I ever had was the shearing project. Most of the kids had never even seen a sheep."

TISH MUMFORD, USI/NEW HARMONY FOUNDATION LIFE MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER



Lisa Kincer, Ireland Elementary in DeWitt County, said Heritage Artisan Week is using all available resources in an efficient manner. "Best of all, another quarter of the year is spent sharing your country's rich and interesting history with young learners."



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ANOWSKY, DANIEL
LEMENTARY SCHOOL



"It's just a pleasure
to see it continue."

JIM SANDERS



"The students are
very interested.
You can tell by
the quiet
attention they
give the
demonstrators."

MARYLU SONNTAG,
USI/NEW HARMONY
FOUNDATION BOARD
MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER



Gayle Coomes, Holy Redeemer School teacher, has brought 400 students during 11 trips to Heritage Artisans Week. "The kids love being outside, the hands-on demonstrations, listening to people share their stories...and they love the rock candy!"

s for us is being included with
essional artists and craftsmen at
s Week."

LL, CRAFT DEMONSTRATORS

ek has
dition."

"Our motto says, 'From small acorns, large oaks grow,' and we believe youth is the most important community asset. We sponsor Heritage Artisans Week because this event is about planting seeds."

DAN LEWIS, PRESIDENT, WEST SIDE NUT CLUB



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HERITAGE ARTISANS WEEK FOUNDER INSPIRED BY FAMILY TRADITION

Jim Sanders credits his family for teaching him to value history. He remembers their sharing family photographs and mementos with him, often with fascinating provenance. The tradition of oral history in his family established in him a connection with the past and spurred Sanders' own interest in local history. With that first-rate training, he also became a collector of objects and stories at an early age.

It's not surprising that as an adult, Sanders would become not only the director of Historic New Harmony, an organization charged with the preservation and interpretation of history, but also the founder of a tremendously successful heritage event in the Tri-state area.

Twenty-five years—a generation—after the inaugural Heritage Artisans Week, each April in New Harmony, craft and trade demonstrators continue to make the past come alive, telling the stories of early life in the Wabash Valley, and encouraging children to care about history.

Sanders is looking forward to the 25th anniversary benchmark, and to celebrating with those who have made Heritage Artisans Week such a hit over the years. He said, "The success of the event isn't any one thing...it's having quality demonstrators and volunteers who care. It's the band playing period tunes in the background, a great staff, teachers who are willing to go out of their way, donors and sponsors who get involved."

Sanders added sincerely, "There's just no way to say thank you to everyone who's contributed to the event's success."

As Historic New Harmony celebrates the Heritage Artisans Week silver anniversary, we extend our thanks to all who have contributed, and we acknowledge Jim Sanders, especially, for a legacy that has inspired thousands of people to care about history.

Sponsors, volunteers, and other participants from the event's 25-year course are invited to join Historic New Harmony staff at a reception slated for Tuesday, April 20, at 5:30 p.m. at the large green lunch tent.



Event founder Jim Sanders and Connie Weinzapfel, current director of Historic New Harmony, reflect on Heritage Artisans Week and look forward to its future.



CHARLES E. HIRSCH WILL BE MISSED



Longtime friend of New Harmony and Foundation Advisor Charles E. Hirsch, 89, of Poseyville, Indiana, passed away December 26, 2009. Hirsch attended Evansville College and was co-owner and

operator of JL Hirsch Company for 57 years before retiring in 1994. He was well known as a dedicated advocate of preservation, and an artist who painted watercolors of endangered historic buildings throughout Posey County. His gift of a rare enameled patch box connected with the Fretageot family was formally accepted by the Historic New Harmony Collections Review Committee at their December 18, 2009, meeting.

NEW HARMONY POETRY BY ALMA VAUGHN PUBLISHED

Historic New Harmony director Connie Weinzapfel was delighted to learn recently that New Harmony patron Alma Vaughn wrote a number of poems about the town, its features, and its founders. Both Alma and D.W. Vaughn, the late parents of board member Laurel Vaughn, were longtime advocates of New Harmony. A collection of the New Harmony poems, recently published by University of Southern Indiana for Historic New Harmony, is available through the Atheneum Museum Shop. *This Place in Time* features 16 pieces by Vaughn, whose work reveals her fondness for and deep understanding of the town.

The cover art for the booklet, an illustration of New Harmony's "Poet's House," was drawn by Les Miley, retired professor of art from the University of Evansville. Miley lived in the Poet's House many summers while conducting the annual pottery workshop for the Blaffer Foundation. The Vaughn family was one of the earliest and most prolific collectors of Miley's work.



UTOPIA GARDEN COMES TO LIFE

In early 2009, several New Harmony residents began talking about forming a community garden. Within a matter of weeks, not only had those gardeners found one another, they also had found a perfect patch of land. Claudia Elliott and John Jeffrey offered a prime gardening spot on their property in addition to free tilling and a deer fence. They hosted the first meeting of the would-be gardeners in March, and worked out an organized grid of 10 x 10 plots with easy access for people and wheelbarrows.



The Utopian Garden worked. About 17 novice and experienced gardeners helped one another out on "Weed Days," shared seeds and solutions, and, eventually a lot of fresh food. In late summer a "Free Produce" sign was posted so members could share their abundance with the community. The harvest pitch-in dinner, featuring all things zucchini, caramelized cippolini onions, and other garden-fresh dishes, was a satisfying benchmark. Thanks to the generosity of the garden hosts, the leadership of Julie Lindauer, and the benevolence of nature, New Harmony's community gardening experiment was a big success. Planning for the second season began in February 2010.

ROOFLESS CHURCH NAMED MIDWEST "TRAVEL TREASURE"

It's official. The Roofless Church in New Harmony, Indiana, has been selected as a "Travel Treasure" by *AAA Midwest Traveler* magazine. The article that denotes the honor is featured on page 7 of the magazine's January/February edition.

An architectural landmark, the Roofless Church commemorates New Harmony's religious heritage. Dedicated in 1960, the interdenominational church is an award-winning design by architect Philip Johnson. "We're pleased to add Roofless Church to the growing list of 'treasures' in our region," said Michael Right, editor/publisher of *AAA Midwest Traveler*. "Our members recognize the Midwest has endless travel and recreational opportunities. We try to offer events like this to our readers to encourage more exploration of local sites and attractions."



The church, which is owned and managed by the Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation, will mark its 50th anniversary this year, with a celebration on site the afternoon of May 1, 2010.



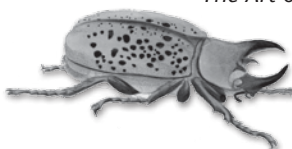
THE ART OF SCIENCE:

EXPLORING AND DOCUMENTING THE NATURAL WORLD

The collaborative work of three pioneering scientists who joined the Owen/Maclure community in 1826 will be the subject of Historic New Harmony's 2010 exhibition, open April 10 through December 30.

The extraordinary artist Charles-Alexandre Lesueur and disciplined scientist Thomas Say made New Harmony their working laboratory. These Renaissance men found a patron in William Maclure, who financially supported their scientific endeavors. The three men were instrumental in the professionalization of the sciences, through their collecting and documentation of the natural world, and through the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

The Art of Science exhibition will feature original art, insect specimens, 19th-century scientific equipment, and rare books. Educational programming featuring local, state, and international authorities on related topics will be offered throughout the nine-month show.



- 4/9 Lecture: Ritsert Rinsma, French author, historian, and Lesueur scholar
- 4/10 The Art of Science Exhibition Opening and Reception
- 4/30 Lecture: Leonard Warren, author of the newly-published *Maclure of New Harmony*
- 6/3 Lecture: Brian Collier, *Noticing, Naming and Displaying Very Small Objects*
- 6/5 Workshop: Alison Erazmus, *Cyanotypes* (fee charged; also offered June 12, 19)
- 6/18 Children's program: Buzz in with the kids for our enlightening one-day *Bug Camp* (fee charged)
- 6/18 Lecture: Arwin Provonsha, Curator of the Purdue Entomological Research Collection
- 7/15 Lecture: Bill Wepler, Curator of Historical Archaeology at the Indiana State Museum
- 8/7 Nature Program: New Harmony Science teacher and USI instructor Lois Gray, *Trekking the Trail the Thomas Say Way*
- 9/11 Nature Program: Author Sally Roth, *The Backyard Naturalist*
- 10/28 Lecture: Dr. Eric McCloud, USI Professor of Biology, *What Would Thomas Say?*



Exhibition programming is free and open to the public, thanks to a grant from the Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation. A small fee is charged for workshops. Visit www.newharmony.org for details, or call 812.682.4488.

Beetle images from *The Complete Writings of Thomas Say on the Entomology of North American*, Vol. I, Edited by John L. LeConte, M.D., 1859. Plate No. 4 – Scarabaeus (male and female depicted).

CURATOR'S NOTEBOOK

Amanda Bryden,
Collections Manager



What would you do if a wealthy friend asked you to move from a large, bustling city to a small, remote town on the edge of the wilderness at the opposite end of the country? Would you accept the offer?

Thomas Say and Charles-Alexandre Lesueur did. These two scientists left Philadelphia and joined their friend and patron William Maclure in Robert Owen's utopian experiment in New Harmony in 1826. They left behind friends, colleagues, jobs at reputable scientific institutions, and city life to pursue their scientific interests in the frontier. Why would they make such a drastic decision?

All three scientists—Say, Lesueur, and Maclure—were adventurers. Prior to coming to New Harmony, Say accompanied Maclure and others on a trip to the islands off the coasts of Georgia and Florida. He also had trekked as far west as the Rocky Mountains as a member of Major Stephen H. Long's expedition to document the geography and natural resources of the Plains. Exploring and documenting the natural world was in his bones.

Like Say, Lesueur was a voyager as well. The Frenchman had explored Australia before coming to the United States. In this country, he and Maclure traveled to the northeast, Great Lakes, and southeast on numerous geological trips. Exploring and documenting the natural world was a passion for him too.

Although Maclure was an extensive traveler who had toured the country to conduct geological research, he possessed both the motivation and financial means to sponsor other scientific pursuits as well. Maclure saw the value of Say's and Lesueur's work, and he financially supported their efforts while they lived in New Harmony. Without the partnership of these three men, there is no doubt that scientific advancements would have been delayed or impeded.

I encourage you to visit our exhibition, "The Art of Science: Exploring and Documenting the Natural World," and discover the contributions these three men brought to New Harmony.

HISTORIC NEW HARMONY

P.O. BOX 364
NEW HARMONY, IN 47631

Did you know you could help sponsor HERITAGE ARTISANS WEEK?

If you'd like to back the bookbinder or support the soap maker, let us know! Visit us online or call Laura Spradley at 812.682.4488.



HISTORIC
NEW HARMONY
WWW.NEWHARMONY.ORG

In Harmony newsletter is published twice yearly by Historic New Harmony. Letters and comments may be sent to In Harmony, P.O. Box 579, New Harmony, IN 47631.

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P09-5182



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 15–DECEMBER 30

Historic New Harmony Walking Tours
Atheneum/Visitors Center 10 & 2 daily

APRIL

- 7–9 Statewide Preservation Summit
- 10 The Art of Science Exhibition
Opening and Reception
- 10 Spring Art/Gallery Stroll
- 12–17 First Brush of Spring Plein Air
Paint-Out
- 20–24 25th Annual Heritage Artisans Week

MAY

- 1 50th Anniversary Roofless Church
- 1–2 Arts in Harmony Art & Fine Craft Fair
- 1–2 Harmonie Hundred Bike Ride
Weekend

JUNE

- 5, 12, & 19 Cyanotype Workshop: Alison Erazmus
- 5 Archaeology Open House:
Lenz House

- 11–27 New Harmony Theatre:
The School for Scandal
- 12–13 Annual Golden Raintree
Antique Show
- 13–19 USI RopeWalk Writers Retreat
- 17 Summer Hat Luncheon

JULY

- 4 Traditional Fourth of July Celebration
- 8 & 22 Archicamp for Kids
- 9–25 New Harmony Theatre:
The Glass Menagerie
- 7/30–8/15 New Harmony Theatre:
Finian's Rainbow

AUGUST

- 21 Summer Art/Gallery Stroll

SEPTEMBER

- 11 Papermaking Workshop:
Janet Lorence
- 18–19 Traditional German Kunstfest
- 9/30–10/2 Communal Studies Association
Conference

For information regarding these and many other events, visit www.newharmony.org.