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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition and Programs Celebrate Natural Science in New Harmony *The Art of Science: Exploring and Documenting the Natural World*

NEW HARMONY, IN (April 1, 2010) - Historic New Harmony

Historic New Harmony kicks off a seven-month series of natural history walks, talks and workshops Friday, April 9, with a presentation by respected historian and scholar, Ritzert Rinsma. A fascinating mix of science, history and art, the education series supports Historic New Harmony's new season-long exhibition, *The Art of Science: Exploring and Documenting the Natural World.* The show opens to the public Saturday, April 10, with a reception from 4 – 7 p.m. at the historic Scholle House, during the New Harmony Spring Arts and Antiques Stroll.

The collaborative work of three pioneering scientists, Lesueur, Say, and Maclure, who joined the Owen/Maclure community in 1826, is the subject of *The Art of Science*.

The extraordinary artist, Charles-Alexandre Lesueur, and disciplined scientist Thomas Say made New Harmony, Indiana, their working laboratory. Both of 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 exhibition features original art, insect specimens, 19th-century scientific equipment and rare books borrowed from the collections of Historic New Harmony, the Working Men's Institute, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Museum d'Histoire Naturelle du Havre, and other institutions.

Guest lecturer Ritzert Rinsma returns to New Harmony from Le Havre, France, for the first presentation in the education series. Rinsma's lecture, "The Impact of William Maclure, Thomas Say and Charles-Alexandre Lesueur on New Harmony and the World," serves as a perfect introduction to -- and fitting overview of -- the exhibition. Rinsma has been working on the subjects of Lesueur, Maclure and New Harmony since 1996, and has made several working visits to the community.

Education Coordinator Jan Kahle said *The Art of Science* exhibit demonstrates art as a scientific tool. And it causes visitors to think about how the lines between science and art sometimes blur. Kahle said, "These techniques are as interesting and relevant to our modern arts community as they were when New Harmony was an early center for science. " Ritzert Rinsma is the perfect scholar to begin this conversation in New Harmony, she added.

The broad slate of guest lecturers includes international, regional and local authorities on related topics, and include professors from University of Southern Indiana and Purdue and local naturalists Sally Roth and Lois Gray. In June, even kids can join the fun at a one-day “BUG CAMP!”

The Art of Science, installed in the Scholle House at the corner of Tavern and Brewery streets in New Harmony, is a new addition to the Historic New Harmony tour. It is accessible to visitors for one hour prior to all accompanying lectures, workshops and nature walks, and will remain open to the public through December 30, 2010.

For The Art of Science program details, visit www.newharmony.org or call 812.682.4488.

About Historic New Harmony:

Historic New Harmony is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve New Harmony’s utopian legacy by inspiring renewal and fellowship between people and communities through its programs and collections. Historic New Harmony is a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. For more information on Historic New Harmony, please visit www.newharmony.org.

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New Harmony Council Member Karen Walker recommends the exhibition, saying it's an interesting mix of New Harmony art, science and history. Walker is pictured with an illustrated firefly cookie, part of the theme refreshments at the reception.