

A Magnificent Historic House Museum and Country Estate



714 North Portage Path  
Akron, Ohio 44303-1399  
330-836-5533  
fax: 330-836-2680  
[www.stanhywet.org](http://www.stanhywet.org)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Restoration Around The Estate Continues at a Brisk Pace**

April 6, 2018 – Akron, Ohio – Restoration work at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens continues both inside the Manor House and outside on the grounds.

The restoration of the Manor House Music Room is nearly complete. Funded by the Babcox Family Foundation and part of the \$1M Room-by-Room Restoration Plan, new curtains, sheers and valences (with fabric from Scalamandre in New York) are being constructed and door curtains will cover the entrances to the West Porch, Round Room and Solarium just like when the Seiberlings lived at Stan Hywet Hall.

“There are no original valences in the archives, so we’re working from historic photos for these curtains as well as the new door curtains,” notes Julie Frey, Director of Museum Services/Curator.

Whitney Stained Glass Studio tackled the puzzle of the wall sconces, the elaborate and intricate crystal light fixtures attached to the walls of the Music Room. Once a matching group of fourteen sconces, over time parts became loose or broke leading to repairs and patches without a system to maintain the original pattern and design of the entire set. The team from Whitney Stained Glass evaluated the sconces, choosing one that appeared to be the most historically accurate, and used it as a prototype to repair all the other fixtures so that they now match once again. New lampshades are being replicated with new, custom-dyed fabric, and pleated to match the originals.

—continued, other side—

On the grounds, the Hidden Aspect re-opened after being closed for ten years due to unsafe conditions caused by erosion. Tucked into the landscape just north of the Tea Houses, the Hidden Aspect is a stone patio with a stunning view of the Cuyahoga Valley; it was a favorite picnic spot for the Seiberling family. The restoration of the Hidden Aspect is part of a larger restoration project of the Tea Houses and stabilization of the cliff face below.

More 100 years of dirt and debris was removed from the cliff face in 2017, and the area supporting the Tea Houses was rebuilt in two phases. Restoration of the Tea House structures began over the winter: stone pavers and the fountain were removed to repair and reinforce the concrete slab underneath, which was then topped with another layer of concrete that slopes toward a new storm drainage system. Once the Tea Houses are fully restored in the spring, the area below, facing the lagoons will be landscaped according to the original 1915 design.

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**CONTACT:** Donna L. Spiegler/330-315-3294 or [dspiegler@stanhywet.org](mailto:dspiegler@stanhywet.org)

Activities available for families every day include geocaching, Questing, Joe's Adventure, the Butterfly Habitat (opens June 17), Playgarden, Homes of Nature and Explorer Backpacks and more:

- **Playgarden** includes six interactive adventures that relate to the history and architecture of the estate to capture the delight and imagination of the entire family.
- **Homes of Nature**, across from Playgarden, are colossal interactive installations built to climb up, down and all around.
- **The Pollinator Garden** is an experiential and educational garden featuring plants that attract bee colonies. Guests will learn about the pollination and importance of bees to the environment.
- The **Explorer Backpack** is filled with binoculars, bug collectors and more. Children may sign out a backpack, perfect for family hikes around the estate.
- Visitors can get up-close-and-personal to a variety of domestic *lepidoptera* by visiting **Butterflies of North America**, located next to the Corbin Conservatory.
- Garden secrets and hidden architectural elements are waiting to be uncovered. Guests will follow a series of clues that lead to a hidden treasure box in **Questing**. Or guests may try **Geocaching** and find a "cache" by using a smart phone or handheld GPS.
- In the Manor House (part of admission), clues lead families on **Joe's Adventure**, a scavenger hunt throughout the Manor House. A completed adventure booklet may be redeemed for a prize. **Touch-It Stations** are interactive learning stations. The eight new **Story Cards**, feature fun facts about the Seiberlings. **Walk the Hall Guides** are a way to dive deeper into the history of Stan Hywet on a self-guided tour. The activities are included in a Manor House admission.

#### **ADMISSION**

Gardens, Grounds, Conservatory: \$12 adults, \$5 youth (ages 6-17), children 5 & under are free  
Self-guided Manor House tour & grounds: \$15 adults, \$6 youth, children 5 & under are free  
Guided Manor House tour & grounds: \$19 adults, \$8, youth, children 5 & under are free  
*Visit [stanhywet.org](http://stanhywet.org) for other tour prices.*

#### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10am-6pm; the last admission is at 4:30pm. The Estate is also open on the following Monday holidays with regular operating hours: Memorial Day, and Labor Day.

Hours of operation for public programs (special events) may be different; please check [stanhywet.org](http://stanhywet.org) for specifics. Daytime hours change in December; please check [stanhywet.org](http://stanhywet.org) for more details.

More information is available at [www.stanhywet.org](http://www.stanhywet.org) or by calling 330-836-5533.

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