

## NEWS RELEASE



### **Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens: A Must-See in Northeast Ohio**

Named #1 Historic Home Tour by Readers of USA Today

June 7, 2016—Akron, Ohio — A visit to Northeast Ohio is not complete without a trip to Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, located at 714 North Portage Path in Akron, Ohio. This historic house museum and botanical garden — recently named the # 1 historic home tour in the U.S. by readers of USA Today — is an incredible example of local history, and the enormous influence of the rubber industry on the region.

Previously the residence of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company co-founder, F.A. Seiberling and his family, the 64,500 sq. foot Tudor Revival Manor House, completed in 1915 is the 6th largest home open to the public in the U.S., and 95% of the collections and furnishings are original to the house. The gardens, designed by Warren Manning are as magnificent as the house; the English Garden, redesigned in 1928 by Ellen Biddle Shipman is the only restored Shipman garden open to the public in America.

When the Seiberlings began to design Stan Hywet, many questioned the need for such a large house. But F.A. Seiberling, fondly recalled the weekly Sunday dinners at his parents' home where his siblings and extended family would gather to visit. With this memory in mind, F.A. built Stan Hywet and stayed true to the family tradition: it was a place to welcome everyone, just like during his childhood. To F.A. and his wife, Gertrude, family meant love and support, and elegant Stan Hywet was first and foremost a *home*. It was a place to raise their children, spoil grandchildren and welcome relatives for holidays and celebrations, through good times *and* bad.

"It is a privilege to share these rare and interesting stories about the Seiberlings and shed light on the importance of their relationships with each other," notes Linda Conrad, President & Executive Director of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens.

In the Manor House, the exhibit, **Our Family**, explores the importance of the family bond to the Seiberlings through photos and letters. New this year and another way to dive deeper into the history of Stan Hywet are *Walk the Hall* guides. Designed to personalize a Manor House tour, each guide offers the guest a different perspective, from the point of view of one of eight Seiberling family members.

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**Picturing the Past** is a captivating display featuring 21 oversized historic photos, positioned to illustrate Stan Hywet at the very beginning; six focus on family stories. Strategically placed on the grounds, this exhibit provides guests a way to imagine then and now. **Strange and Wonderful Plants** in The Corbin Conservatory includes a display of exotic carnivorous (insect-eating plants) under glass cloches; carrions, a group of plants with stunning blooms, but off-putting smells; and a display of citrus plants — an homage to the history of the Conservatory as an orangerie.

Guests who take a specialty tour will learn even more about the Estate. Offered once daily, the **Blueprints to Bricks** Manor House tour focuses on how the Estate was planned and constructed, and allows guests to venture behind closed doors and into unique spaces that are usually not accessible. Guests tour both inside the Manor House and outside on the grounds.

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

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*The 2016 season is sponsored by The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.*

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, the nation's 6th largest historic home open to the public, is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, a distinction that is held by only 1,048 of the estimated 17,500 museums in the United States. This national recognition affirms our continuing "commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards and continued institutional improvement... exceeding the highest standards for U.S. museums."

In December, 2015, Stan Hywet was voted the #1 Historic Home Tour in the country by readers of USA Today.

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