

NEWS RELEASE



Stan Hywet Is Now Open for the 2016 Season

Focus Turns to the Seiberling Family

April 8, 2016—Akron, Ohio—Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is now open for the 2016 season with the theme of **Family, Sharing Our Stories**, celebrating the importance of family to the Seiberlings. Generations of Seiberlings and their personal insights are being brought to life through family photo exhibits, *Walk the Hall* Guides in the Manor House, and an expanded *Picturing the Past* exhibit in the gardens. A new exhibit in the Corbin Conservatory and appealing special events round out what promises to be a fantastic season on the Estate. Stan Hywet is located at 714 North Portage Path in Akron, Ohio.

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' house 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 eight Seiberling family members.

Picturing the Past has been expanded to include six more oversized photographs, focused on family stories. Strategically placed on the grounds, these augment the 15 historic images already installed and 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.

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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.

Special events that are guest favorites are also back. **Founders' Day** weekend, June 10-12, commemorates the 81st anniversary of the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous at the Gate Lodge. The **Father's Day Car Show** on June 19 features historic family vehicles and a display of very intriguing and unusual microcars, plus live music by the Tuesday Musical Association. The annual **Gala**, a *Gracious Gathering* is on June 24.

Ohio Mart returns October 6-9; it is the 50th year for this popular annual artisan craft festival that celebrates autumn. In keeping with Stan Hywet's yearlong theme, **Deck the Hall** -- select evenings, November 25-December 30 -- features a **Storybook Christmas**. A second animated shop window is part of the holiday line-up that also includes **Dazzle**, a light show spectacular, **Gingerbread Land** and more than 800,000 lights illuminating the Estate.

More information is available at 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 776 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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