



# NOTES FROM THE FARMS

THE JOURNAL OF THE STICKLEY MUSEUM AT CRAFTSMAN FARMS



From the  
President's  
Chair

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT BARBARA WEISKITTEL:

Throughout 2019 we are celebrating 30 years of the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms! As you will see over the pages of this special 30th Anniversary edition of *Notes from the Farms*, we've got quite a lot to celebrate. In every facet of the museum's work—preservation, mission and governance, collections and education—our aim is to achieve at the highest levels. The new Education Center, now under construction, stands as one of the most visible symbols of these efforts. This Center, which will preserve and fully rehabilitate an original Stickley-era garage building, was developed to serve the museum's educational, administrative and collections activities for many years to come.

We are proud to have generous support for this project from the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills—which rescued Craftsman Farms from development in 1989 and formed a partnership with the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms (formerly The Craftsman Farms Foundation, Inc.) to oversee its preservation and daily operations—and from the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust.

*Continued on page 2*

# 30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION

## *The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms*



*The new Education Center (front entrance, side and rear)*



## *30-Years-Old and Thriving!*

*We're celebrating a big milestone. Enjoy this special 30th anniversary edition of Notes from the Farms. Read on and learn how you can be part of this celebration. 🇺🇸*



*President's Chair continued from page 1*


The funding we have received from these two entities will cover the hard costs of construction, but as you likely know, the hard costs of construction account for only a portion of the total funds needed to realize a project like the Education Center.

We must furnish, landscape, maintain the building and more. And while getting this project underway in 2018 was the realization of a dream, it is vitally important now that we complete this building project in a position of strength. I am writing today to ask you to help us do that.

Along with the museum's entire Board of Trustees, I am fully dedicated to this project. We have each demonstrated our support with a contribution to the Education Center Capital Campaign. We invite you to join us. Will you help us in this effort?

We anticipate that the full project cost for the Education Center will be \$2.8 million. To date we have raised \$2.6 million. **With an additional \$200,000, we will be able to realize our full vision for this building project.** With \$200,000 more, this project will achieve transformation across the Craftsman Farms property and will position the museum for future growth and vitality.

Will you join me in supporting the Education Center project? **See the last page of this Notes from the Farms for details about how you can be a part of our Education Center Capital Campaign.** And while you're at it, check out all of the activities, from preservation to programs, taking place at Craftsman Farms today. Join us for **The Stickley Weekend, October 12-13** (page 5), experience one of our upcoming **Farms Afield** trips (Florida in 2020! Page 4), or enjoy Craftsman Farms with your entire family at our **12th Annual Fall Family Day**. Be a part of this small, dynamic museum and find out why, during this special milestone year, the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms is thirty and thriving!



Barbara Weiskittel



*The Log House exterior and interior receive ongoing diligent care.*



*Exterior lighting inspired by Stickley's original lampposts for Craftsman Farms were installed across the property in 2018.*

## 30 YEARS OF PRESERVATION

- ☒ Opening in 2020! The new Education Center, now underway, will preserve and rehabilitate a Stickley-era garage for new program, office and collections space. Inspired by the original building, it will serve the needs of a growing museum far into the future.
- ☒ All preservation projects for Craftsman Farms' nine buildings are undertaken with careful planning, following the standards of the Secretary of the Interior, and with Stickley's original vision in mind. Stickley's home, the Log House, a primary focus of preservation for the past 30 years, has been restored with diligent care through ongoing consultation with skilled professionals, from architects and engineers to roof specialists and exterminators. Restoration of the kitchen is next on the list!
- ☒ While the museum's initial focus was on the Log House restoration, over the past ten years more work has begun across the property. In 2018 exterior lighting, inspired by original Stickley-era lampposts, was installed. Stabilization (phase 1) of the White Cottage, one of three cottages on the property, will begin later this year.



*Archaeologist Ian Burrow, of Burrow into History (center), conducted the first archaeological dig at Craftsman Farms in late 2017.*



## 30 YEARS OF COLLECTIONS STEWARDSHIP & GROUNDBREAKING EXHIBITIONS

- ☒ The new Education Center will include state-of-the-art secure storage for collection objects and archives. This much needed space will help protect the collection and move the museum towards accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. The second floor will feature a reading room available to scholars and researchers to consult the museum's large holdings of contemporary scholarship as well as period resources. Additionally, the anticipated launch of its online public catalog will help position the museum among the leading institutions with publicly available research collections.
- ☒ In June, the museum opened a new exhibition, *The American Arts and Crafts Chair: "A Message of Honesty and Joy,"* guest curated by David Cathers, and on view through Sunday, January 5, 2020. The exhibition offers a comprehensive study of the Arts and Crafts chair. A full-color Visitor's Guide, presented by Toomey & Co. Auctioneers, accompanies the exhibition. The guide, which is available to all visitors, includes an essay by Cathers and contributions by distinguished scholars.
- ☒ In 2018, the museum received significant collections gifts, including an extraordinary grouping of rare green ash furniture from the collection of Gregg and Monique Seibert. The museum also received a Craftsman Workshops dining table (no. 633) and a hall seat (no. 224) from the collection of John and Neville Bryan (shortly before Mr. Bryan's passing).
- ☒ A new groundbreaking exhibition on the life and work of artist and designer Eloise Roorbach, curated by former Executive Director Heather Stivison, was unveiled at the National Arts and Crafts Conference at the Grove Park Inn in February.
- ☒ In 2018, the museum renewed the Metropolitan Museum of Art's long-term loan of the original Log House dining room cabinet. After a 40 year absence, the cabinet was featured in the museum's 2017 exhibition of original Log House furnishings and remains on view today.

Photos by Jonathan Clancy



*The museum's current exhibition explores the American Arts and Crafts Chair.*



*Lamp table (no. 2411), included in a 2018 gift of rare green ash furniture.*

Drawings by Peter K. Mars



*A drawing of the planned collections storage facility in the new Education Center.*

## 30 YEARS OF SHARING GUSTAV STICKLEY'S LEGACY

- ☒ The new Education Center will more than double current program capacity, allowing the museum to expand access to its most in-demand educational activities for adults and children. After many years of turning away program participants because of limited space, the new multi-use facility will provide a thoughtfully-designed program area and storage for equipment and materials.
- ☒ Over the past ten years, participants in Farms Afield multi-day trips have discovered the rich heritage of the Arts and Crafts movement across America from Boston to Syracuse to Detroit to Berkeley. **Farms Afield 2020 attendees (see below) will explore the Arts and Crafts in Florida, including the Morse Museum in Winter Park, the Florida Southern campus in Lakeland, and a tour of the extraordinary new Museum of the American Arts and Crafts Movement in St. Petersburg.**
- ☒ Farms Afield participants also have discovered Arts and Crafts closer to our New Jersey home including day trips to Moravian Pottery and Tile Works Museum in Bucks County, PA and George Nakashima Woodworkers in New Hope, PA. **Mark your calendar for our next day trip on Saturday, November 2 exploring nearby historic community Mount Tabor (see below), which is celebrating its 150th anniversary.** Established in 1869, this Victorian era Methodist camp meeting community, just minutes from Craftsman Farms, has a wonderful history which dovetails with Stickley's vision for Craftsman Farms.
- ☒ The Scholars Symposium, now in its 9th year (see next page), has featured excellent presentations from both emerging and distinguished scholars. Prior presenters have included Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen, Martin Eidelberg, Glenn Adamson, Ted Bosley, Gerry Ward, Jonathan Clancy, Greg Wittkopp and Adrienne Spinozzi, who was an emerging graduate student scholar at the first Symposium and returned for the eighth Symposium as a panelist and an author of *American Art Pottery: The Robert A. Ellison Jr. Collection*.
- ☒ Fall Family Day, now in its twelfth year, has welcomed hundreds of families to Craftsman Farms to celebrate fall harvest with hayrides and pumpkin painting. **Join us for this year's Fall Family Day on Saturday, September 21!**
- ☒ Girl Scout workshops, focused on history, pottery, product design, papermaking and more, now in their 10th year, have introduced Gustav Stickley and Craftsman Farms to hundreds of girls.
- ☒ A strong social media presence, on Facebook and Instagram, has provided a significant platform for educating a worldwide audience about the museum and its mission.
- ☒ Thematic and seasonal tours, attracting new audiences and expanding understanding of Gustav Stickley and Craftsman Farms, have been in regular development and rotation for eight years.
- ☒ The museum's team of docents undertake extensive training and have regular access to opportunities to expand their knowledge. Every tour is different and intended to engage the interests of visitors of all ages.



Join us Saturday, November 2, 2019 for Farms Afield in Parsippany's historic Mount Tabor neighborhood.



Jonathan Clancy moderates a panel discussion at the 2018 Scholars Symposium with Adrienne Spinozzi, Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen and Martin Eidelberg.



Attendees of the 2020 Farms Afield trip will tour the Florida Southern campus, which features twelve buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, including the Annie Pfeiffer Chapel.

## THE STICKLEY WEEKEND

October 12–13, 2019

*Make plans now to be a part of this weekend celebration of the museum's 30th Anniversary! Join us for the Symposium, Craftsman Gala and Open House.*

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

#### Scholars Symposium

9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The ninth annual Symposium will feature an impeccable roster of distinguished speakers including:

#### Meghan Melvin, the Jean S. and Frederic A. Sharf Curator of Design at the MFA, Boston

In her lecture, “Boston Made: from Artist’s Archive to Exhibition,” Melvin will speak about the museum’s ongoing exhibition *Boston Made: Arts and Crafts Jewelry and Metalwork*.

#### Jessica Douglas-Home, author of *William Simmonds - The Silent Heart of the Arts and Crafts Movement*

Douglas-Home will investigate the life and work of the underappreciated Arts and Crafts sculptor William Simmonds.

#### Amy Stahl Memorial Lecturer

#### David Cathers

Guest Curator Cathers will present a lecture exploring the museum’s ongoing exhibition “The American Arts and Crafts Chair.”

The Symposium will end with lunch and—not to be missed!—**Hardhat**

#### Tours of the museum’s new Education Center!

\$55 Member, \$65 Non Member, Space is limited.

*For early registration, call 973-540-0311.*



### THE CRAFTSMAN GALA

6 p.m. at the Mountain Lakes Club

Co-Chairs **Leigh Ann and Bruce Johnson** will preside over the Craftsman Gala celebrating 30 years of the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms. Cocktails overlooking beautiful Mountain Lake, dinner, and silent and live auctions will round out this special evening benefitting the museum. **John Walcher**, Vice President and Senior Specialist, Toomey & Co. Auctioneers, will be our special guest and auctioneer.

*Watch for your invitation in the mail. For more information, call 973-540-0311.*



*Leigh Ann and Bruce Johnson*

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

12 – 4 p.m.

Free Open House at the Stickley Museum featuring a visit from special guest artisan **Nawal Motawi**, founder of **Motawi Tileworks** in Ann Arbor, Michigan. For more than 27 years, Motawi Tileworks has been dedicated to making the world a better place by making beautiful things. Nawal will join us for a day of discussing ceramics, demonstrations and hands-on activities.

*Free, no reservation required.*



*Nawal Motawi*



*Children explore Craftsman Farms through tours, games and crafts.*



*The Board of Trustees gathered in June for a retreat dedicated to long-range comprehensive planning.*

## 30 YEARS OF FOCUS ON MISSION

- ☒ The museum's twenty-three-member Board of Trustees brings a wealth of experience and expertise to guiding the museum's mission and strategic goals. Trustees include architects, museum professionals, Stickley family members, a member of the Parsippany-Troy Hills Township Council and the Township Mayor.
- ☒ The Board of Trustees gives at the highest levels in support of the museum's annual operational needs and has led the Education Center Capital Campaign.
- ☒ The Board of Trustees has committed to pursuing an update of the 2009 Historic Site Master Plan and has completed a new 5-year Strategic Plan for the years 2019-2023, which includes achieving gold-level status in the American Association for State and Local History's Standards and Excellence Program (StEPS) self-study, a first step toward accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums.
- ☒ The museum's staff, two full-time and five part-time employees, includes dedicated employees who have collectively served the museum for more than 35 years. The staff are supported by an enthusiastic core team of 25 volunteers, including shopkeepers, docents, and collections and administrative volunteers, who help the museum maintain a year round schedule of more than 800 tours annually and more than 80 programs for all ages.



*Board President Barbara Weiskittel (left), with Executive Director Vonda Givens, received a Jefferson Award for Volunteerism from the Governor in the spring of 2019.*

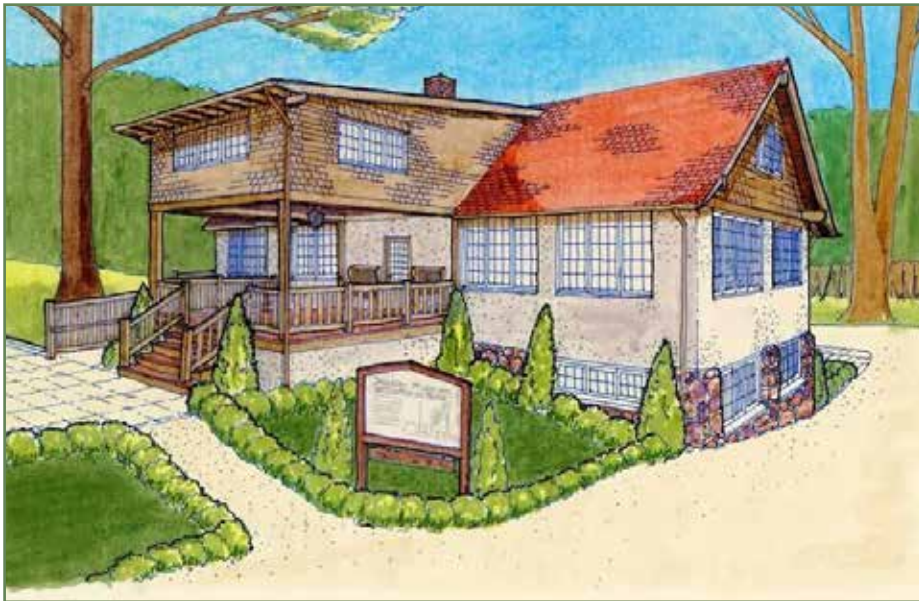


*Docent Joan Schaible leads one of more than 800 annual tours of the Log House.*



# JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN TO COMPLETE THE NEW EDUCATION CENTER!

Now that the framing for the 1st level of the Education Center has gone up, the contours of the newly rehabilitated building, which will serve as a beautiful gateway to the property, have taken shape. The historic fabric of the original Stickley-era garage at the ground level will be preserved and become much needed multi-use program and meeting space. The building's upper levels, which were destroyed by fire around 1950, will provide state-of-the-art storage for collections and more efficient administrative offices.



The new building will be a gateway greeting visitors.

The museum broke ground on this project in December 2018 through the generosity of individual donors and the strong support of the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills and the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust. While it is expected that current funds will cover the hard costs of construction, additional funds—estimated at \$200,000—are needed to realize our full vision for the project. Full project needs include landscaping, furnishing, signage and maintenance of the building after completion.

We invite you to become a part of this exciting campaign. With your help we will meet this final \$200,000 goal and achieve our full project vision for the Education Center. **With your help we will reinvigorate Stickley's beloved property and prepare this organization to serve the public for another thirty years.**

Become part of the Education Center Capital Campaign!

## YES, I WANT TO HELP BUILD THE FUTURE OF THE STICKLEY MUSEUM AT CRAFTSMAN FARMS

I have enclosed a check made payable to the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms for the **Education Center Campaign** in the amount of:     \$1,000     \$500     \$250     \$100     \$50     Other

Please charge my tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to *(circle one)*    Visa    MC    AmEx    Disc

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_    Expiration \_\_\_\_\_    Security Code \_\_\_\_\_    Billing Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ *(required on credit card charges)*

My company has a Matching Gifts Program; please send me information about making a matching gift.

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Print name as it should appear in our publications)*

CITY, STATE, ZIP : \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_



## VISITING CRAFTSMAN FARMS

Craftsman Farms is located at  
2352 Route 10 West  
Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950

The entrance is located on Route 10 West at Manor Lane, about 3 miles west of I-287 in Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey (mailing address is Morris Plains). Driving directions are available at [StickleyMuseum.org](http://StickleyMuseum.org).

Free to members and children under 2  
Adults: \$10; Seniors & Students \$7

Closed on Major Holidays.

## MUSEUM TOUR SCHEDULE

### HOURS:

Thursday through Sunday, year-round  
Tours depart hourly 12:15 to 3:15 p.m.

### Group Tours available by reservation.

Call 973.540.0311

## MUSEUM SHOP HOURS

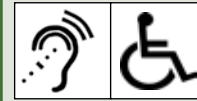
Thursday through Sunday Noon to 4 p.m.

## CONTACT US

Offices: 973.540.0311

Email: [info@stickleymuseum.org](mailto:info@stickleymuseum.org)

Web: [StickleyMuseum.org](http://StickleyMuseum.org)



## The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms

Farms is committed to assuring that all individuals can participate in our programs. If you require the use of assistive listening devices or other special assistance please call at least two weeks in advance.

*Craftsman Farms, the former home of noted designer Gustav Stickley, is owned by the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills and is operated by The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms, Inc., ("SMCF") (formerly known as The Craftsman Farms Foundation, Inc.). SMCF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of New Jersey. Restoration of the National Historic Landmark, Craftsman Farms, is made possible, in part, by a Save America's Treasures Grant administered by the National Parks Service, Department of the Interior, and by support from Morris County Preservation Trust, The New Jersey Historic Trust, and individual members. SMCF received an operating grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. SMCF gratefully acknowledges a grant from the New Jersey Cultural Trust. Educational programs are funded, in part, by grants from the Arts & Crafts Research Fund.*



## 30th Anniversary Special Edition

Return Service Requested

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