

Spring 2006 Delights in the Brandywine Valley

For immediate release; Wilmington, DE, 3/1/06: The Brandywine Valley, where Pennsylvania and Delaware meet just thirty miles southwest of Philadelphia, is home to world-class gardens, museums, historic sites, and cultural opportunities. These are complemented by art galleries and antique shops, lovely backcountry roads, and a variety of accommodations and dining options. Spring along the Brandywine is magical as a symphony of floral color crescendoes on the rolling hills.

Here are seasonal highlights. There are many other events scheduled for March through June. Detailed information, including calendars of events, hours, food service options, and ticketing fees, is available directly from the sites through the contacts and websites listed below.

Beginning April 1, the **Brandywine River Museum** resumes tours of the Kuerner Farm, a major inspiration to Andrew Wyeth for more than 70 years. Guided tours allow visitors to explore Wyeth's art and view areas of the property depicted in many of his works. Also April 1, the restored home/studio of Andrew's father, famed American illustrator N. C. Wyeth, opens. Visitors experience the environment where he created memorable works and raised a family.

Andrew Wyeth's extraordinary skill as a draftsman is the subject of "Andrew Wyeth: Master Drawings from the Artist's Collection." The exhibit complements and coincides with "Andrew Wyeth: Memory and Magic" at the nearby Philadelphia Museum of Art from March 29 through July 16, and the exhibit at the Delaware Art Museum.

Opening March 25, "Flora, Fauna, and Fantasy: The Art of Dorothy Lathrop" presents energetic and imaginative ink drawings and watercolors done by this early 20th-century illustrator.

Exhibiting American art in a restored 19th-century grist mill, the Brandywine River Museum is internationally known for its unparalleled collection of works by three generations of Wyeths and its fine collection of American illustration, still life, and landscape paintings. (U.S. Route 1, Chadds Ford, PA 19317; www.brandywinemuseum.org. Jennifer Maguire, 610-388-8337, jmaguire@brandywine.org.)

"Something Waits Beneath It—Early Work by Andrew Wyeth, 1939-1969" is at the **Delaware Art Museum** from March 29 through July 16. This intimate exhibition of 32 early and seldom seen works, including watercolors and tempera paintings, reveals the private observations of the artist. The exhibit complements and coincides with "Andrew Wyeth: Memory and Magic" at the nearby Philadelphia Museum of Art from March 29 through July 16 and the exhibit at the Brandywine River Museum.

From March 17 through July 9, "Charles Shannon: Lithographs and Luminaries" presents lithographic work of this late 19th-century artist. "Portraits of a People: Picturing African Americans in the Nineteenth Century" is on view from April 22 through July 16. This exhibition looks critically at images made of and by African Americans and how these images influenced racial identity during a period of social change. (2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806; www.delart.org. Rob Skomorucha, 302-351-8511; rskomorucha@delart.org.)

Hagley Museum and Library presents "Centuries of Progress: American World's Fairs" through July 31. The exhibit examines how these expositions served as marketplaces of ideas where technology and products were introduced.

On Saturday and Sunday March 25 and 26, Hagley hosts an Art and Antiques Show. April 23, Hagley celebrates Earth Day with a variety of activities about energy.

Situated on 235 picturesque acres along the Brandywine River, Hagley's stunning landscape provides a remarkable combination of experiences that illustrate a chapter of American history. The birthplace of the DuPont Company, this park-like museum depicts home and work life in a nineteenth-century milling community amid ruins and restorations. Decorative arts, formal and natural gardens and woodlands, working machinery, and changing exhibitions provide a unique exploration of American industrial history. (DE Route 141, Wilmington, DE 19807. Suzanna D. Rogers, 302-658-2400, ext. 238; srogers@hagley.org.)

Longwood Gardens has a full slate of events to commemorate its centennial. In March, "Welcome Spring" creates a floral fantasy indoors and out. April 8-21 brings the Easter display ("Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" on April 15); beginning in late April through the end of May, tulips, azaleas, and wildflowers explode into bloom during "Acres of Spring." Longwood celebrates Arbor Week with tree-related activities April 24-29. In May, founder Pierre S. du Pont's wife Alice gets her due with an orchid named for her, and an international "Orchid Show, Sale, & Symposium" on Mother's Day weekend.

May 27 opens the annual "Festival of the Fountains." On the 28th, Longwood hosts a fireworks and fountains display, "Centennial Salute." Other performances and illuminated fountain displays are scheduled for Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday evenings throughout the summer.

Longwood Gardens is the world's premier horticultural display garden, offering 1,050 acres of gardens, woodlands, and meadows; 20 outdoor gardens; 20 indoor gardens under glass; spectacular fountains; and more than 800 annual events. Combination tickets for Longwood Gardens and Winterthur are available through April 30. (U.S. Route 1 at PA Route 52, Kennett Square, PA 19348; www.longwoodgardens.org. Patricia Evans, 610-388-1000, ext. 442; pevans@longwoodgardens.org.)

Spring arrives at **Winterthur Museum and Country Estate** on a carpet of blue as hundreds of thousands of bulbs bloom on the March Bank. Founder Henry Francis du Pont's adventurous sense of color is apparent with early April's daffodils, followed by magnolias and cherry trees. The Sundial garden, fragrant with lilacs, is transformed into a larger-than-life garden bouquet. Children enjoy their own special space in the Enchanted Woods™.

March 11 through July 10, "Time for Tea!" features nearly 200 teaware items from the Winterthur collection. On May 7 Winterthur hosts "Point-to-Point" steeplechase races. "Kid Stuff: Growing Up at Winterthur" takes modern children back in time. The Enchanted Woods is the site for an "Enchanted Summer Day" on June 24.

Indoors, the 175-room mansion is a world-renowned center for American decorative arts. Gallery space presents permanent and changing exhibits; various tours of the house, galleries, and gardens are offered. Combination tickets are available for Winterthur and Longwood Gardens through April 30. (DE Route 52, Winterthur, DE 19735; www.winterthur.org. Hillary Holland, 302-888-4734; hholland@winterthur.org.)

"Old Media, New Visions" continues at the **Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts** through June 4. This exhibition features the works of nine photographers who use 19th-century techniques in novel ways. Contributors include Sally Mann, named America's Best

Photographer by *Time* magazine in 2001. From March 3 through June 18, “The Low Road” presents Katherine Kuharic’s paintings and drawings, called “intricate narratives about American consumer culture.” “Crossovers, Crafts, Art, Design” features 31 artists in the annual Members’ Juried Exhibition, through April 23. An exhibition of prints and drawings by Eric Fischl, renowned for images of the human figure, is open from May 5 through September 10.

The DCCA presents exhibitions that explore topical issues in contemporary art and society. Housed in a rebuilt railroad car factory, art and community intersect here with passion and energy. (200 S. Madison St., Wilmington, DE 19801; www.thedcca.org. Larry Nagengast, 302-656-6466, lnagengast@thedcca.org.)

Historic photographs, drawings, documents, and artworks are presented at “Schoonover Studios: A Place in Our History” at the **Delaware History Museum** through May 13. It celebrates the centennial of the Studios’ founding, the artists (including N.C. Wyeth), and preservation efforts. Frank E. Schoonover was one of the most significant and prolific students of illustrator Howard Pyle. March 27 through June 30, “The Delaware Farmer” explores the history of Delaware’s agriculture. Starting May 25, “The Face of Farming: Delaware’s Farm Families” exhibits photos and oral histories.

The Delaware History Museum, part of the Historical Society of Delaware, brings the state’s past to life. Permanent exhibits cover four centuries of The First State’s history. (504 Market St., Wilmington, DE 19801; www.hsd.org. Megan Morris, 302-295-2390, publicrelations@hsd.org.)

Rockwood Park offers special events in its Gothic Revival mansion and surrounding grounds. “Fakes and Forgeries” is a whimsical exhibit that explores the many meanings of “fake.” Through April 30th. The Butler’s Pantry Café offers a Spring Tea on April 8 at noon, and a Mother’s Day Tea on May 13 at noon. “Mourning Customs of the Victorian Era” is scheduled for May 13 at 2 p.m. Beginning May 30, “Serving the Bringhamsts” explores tools servants used to keep house and tend to the mansion’s owners. The house may host a ghost! Find out for yourself as you hunt for the paranormal on a Ghost Tour, held on the evenings of May 27 and June 24.

Rockwood Park, owned and operated by New Castle County, welcomes visitors to the mansion, formal gardens, and 72 acres of woods and meadows. (610 Shipley Rd., Wilmington, DE 19805; www.rockwood.org. Carol Klaver, 302-761-4340, cklaver@nccde.org.)

Unlock some of the mysteries of dinosaur behavior at the “The Great Dinosaur Egg Hunt,” through April 30 at the **Delaware Museum of Natural History**. Visitors get a rare glimpse at recent evidence that helps explain the habits of these fascinating creatures.

Beginning May 27, “Shoot to Thrill: The Wildlife Photography Adventures of Bob Caputo” relates captivating stories through the lens of an award-winning wildlife photographer.

A visit to the Delaware Museum of Natural History is a family-friendly voyage of discovery. (4840 Kennett Pike, Delaware Route 52, Wilmington, DE 19807; www.delmnh.org. Joey Outten, 302-658-9111; joutten@delmnh.org.)

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