



The Heritage and Agriculture Association, Inc.

Latest Lusscroft News!

Welcome Back!

Greetings from the members of the Heritage and Agriculture Association, Inc. It's been a while since we've published a newsletter so we hope you all enjoy the updates. The pandemic put a temporary hold on many of the events our organization typically was able to offer to the public. Slowly, but surely, they are being put back onto our annual plan and you will see more and more activities being offered as our membership and volunteer base rebuilds.



This brings us to an important request. Please consider joining the Heritage and Agriculture

Association, Inc. (H&AA) as a member. We need you! Historic Lusscroft Farm is an amazing location. Its' 578 acres and almost two dozen buildings provide many benefits to the public. Although this property is part of High Point State Park, it is our responsibility as the officially recognized Friends group, to raise funds to stabilize and restore the buildings, in addition to developing and offering events and educational opportunities on site. Whether you join as a member, volunteer your time and expertise, provide much needed professional services or send a monetary contribution for a particular project, everything you contribute is important to help us advance our mission. You can find a membership form within this newsletter or on our website LusscroftFarm.org.

Join Us!

Benefit Events

Barn Sales

Even during the pandemic, we were fortunate enough to be able to continue offering our Barn Sales to the public. These continue with approximately two per month from May through October. If you haven't visited our



Barn, you are missing a fun experience! The Barn Sales are held in the large bank barn that is the first barn seen from Neilson Road. The lower level contains thousands of lightly used items that have been donated and our volunteers have organized for easy viewing. Our sales are rather unique - most items are "Name Your Own Price" with the caveat that no reasonable amount will be refused. We educate our shoppers that many, many hours are donated by our members and volunteers to put on these twice a month sales. We are a

501(c)3 non-profit organization and pay for the restoration efforts at Lusscroft Farm.

August Barn sale dates are Friday, August 11th and Saturday, August 26th from 10am to 3pm both days.

Christmas in July



This is part of our regularly scheduled July 29th Barn Sale. We thought we'd spice it up a little and add some extra activities along with the **Barn Sale** and **Cottage** being open. The Manor House will offer conducted tours for the public for a \$5.00 fee per person. **Craft vendors** will be both outside and in the Carriage House selling their wares. The **Sussex County Native Plant Society**

will be set up at the Gardens to talk about their project and **NABA NJ (North American Butterfly Association, NJ Chapter)** will have information about the butterflies of the area that will benefit from the native flowers. **Food trucks** will be on premises. There are many picnic tables around so think about making this a day trip and come and enjoy Lusscroft Farm. The event will be held rain or shine.

Holiday Event



If you haven't experienced the holiday season at Lussercroft Farm, you've missed a delightful day. The Manor House is decorated to celebrate the season and live music chimes through this historic home. The Cottage is open selling holiday items just in time for your decorating. Vendors occupy the Carriage House helping you with your holiday shopping needs. Need some hot cocoa? Stop by the food truck to warm your insides and your spirits. **Saturday,**

November 25th, from 10am to 4pm; there is a \$5.00 fee to tour the Manor House.

Nature Walks

The Trails at Lussercroft are always open to the public for their enjoyment. Parking is near the State Park kiosk on Neilson Road by the three main houses. Park, check out the trail map (or download ahead of time) and walk onto the property. Many of these trails connect to the main portion of High Point State Park. If you would prefer someone to show you around,



H&AA offers gentle hikes a number of times a year. Knowledgeable guides will tell you the history of the property, what's happening now and, depending on the season of the walk, bring you to the vernal ponds to look for salamanders, show off the Fall colors or discover what winter wildlife calls Lussercroft Farm home. The next Nature Walk is the **Autumn Leaves Walk on Sunday, October 1st from 2pm to 3:30 pm.**

Maple Syrup



As you drive through or walk around Lussercroft Farm, you may notice a great deal of downed wood. These were ash trees that were diseased and had to be cut to insure the public's safety. We are hopeful that some of these trees will be put to a good use when we produce our on-site maple syrup. Our process requires boiling the sap over a wood burning fire, so everything here

has a use! **If you enjoy being outside in the winter months, consider volunteering with us** to help work the sugarbush and make that sweet tasting delight.

Equine Trail Rides

Did you know that Lusscroft Farm is the only location on NJ State Park lands where you can stable your horse and camp overnight when participating in one of our regular trail rides? These are offered approximately five times a year through our volunteer base. Dates are posted on our website with details. A nominal donation is requested for the use of the stables and a primitive camping site. The trail system is open to the public and can be used at any time, but the overnight portion is date specific through H&AA.



Projects

The Cottage at Lusscroft



During 2022, a hard working group of our members decided to take on the 19th century “Manager’s House” as a project. Over the course of approximately nine months, every part of the interior of the building was cleaned, repaired and painted. (Note: two coats of primer and two coats of paint on every surface - that’s a lot of volunteer hours!) The effort was worth it. We are now affectionately calling the building “*The Cottage at Lusscroft*” and it houses all of the holiday themed items that are donated for resale. The Cottage will

be open during many (but not all) of the Barn Sale dates for your shopping pleasure.

Manor House



Our next anticipated project will be a major clean up of the Manor House with repairs done as needed. This lovely residence was built mainly between 1914 and 1917 with a later addition. The original owner, James Turner, was responsible for assembling all the acreage we now call Lusscroft Farm, building all the residential and agricultural buildings, and then donating all to the State of New Jersey in 1931. We hope to be able to start offering more regular “house tours” once certain projects

are completed. In the meantime, mark your calendars for both July 29th and November 25th, 2023 to stop by and tour the Manor House.

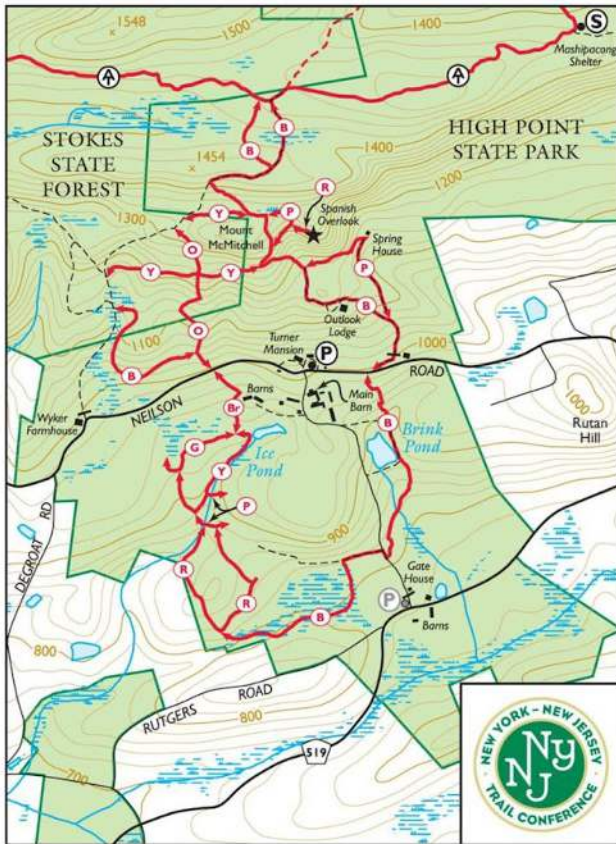
One project within the Manor House was completed recently - window repair and painting of the iconic three story spiral staircase!



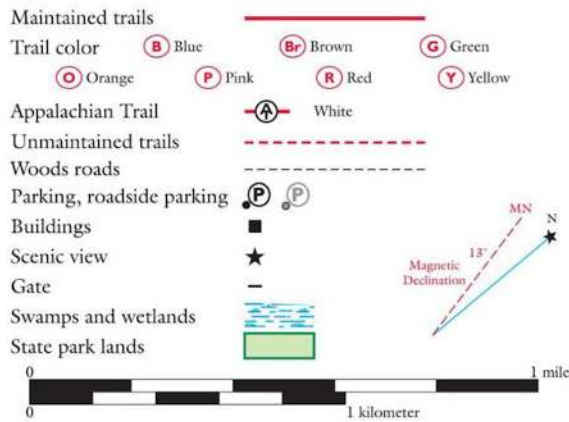
The Gardens



A major transformation began last year with the re-creation of some of the existing herb gardens into native plant pollinator beds. The **Sussex County Native Plant Society** has adopted this project and is working with H&AA members to accomplish this. This will be a multi-year endeavor. Weeding, planting and mulching is slowly offering native plants to these beds that, once established, will not require the weeding and watering regiment necessary for non-native flowers. Native plants are important for pollinators - bees, bugs, butterflies and birds! These gardens will be a great educational opportunity to learn about pollinators and their importance to both our food chain and nature. **Like to garden? Be a volunteer!**



Lusscroft Farm Trails High Point State Park



This map is adapted from Kittatinny Trails, a four-map set that shows more than 275 miles of trails along the Kittatinnyes and Delaware River. Visit www.nynjtc.org to obtain these maps or to learn more about trails.

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LUSSCROFT FARM TRAIL NETWORK

Provides:

“Greenway Corridor” access to the Appalachian Trail, High Point State Park & Stokes State Forest.

Location:

50 Neilson Road, Wantage, NJ (off of County Route 519, north of Beemerville.)

Information:

- Trail network is over 5 miles through grassland, hardwood forest, and wetland habitats.
- The trails range in ability levels from beginner to advanced.
- Lusscroft Farm has a significant agricultural history, unique geologic features, and was the Beemerville 4-H Youth Camp from 1971 – 1997.
- Educational activities such as nature walks and equine trail rides are conducted year-round.
- For additional activities and information check: www.lusscroftfarm.org

Listed in:

The Skylands Birding & Wildlife Trails of Sussex County Publication:
www.njwildlifetrails.org or
www.njaudubon.org



Heritage & Agriculture Association, Inc.
www.lusscroftfarm.org



**New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry**



VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Home Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____ DOB: _____
(Optional)

How would you like to be contacted (by email or by phone)? _____

What is your program or park preference (see listing on following page)?

What type of volunteer service(s) would you like to perform? (Examples: planting seedlings, gardening, history programs, nature programs, public information, cataloging, carpentry, demonstrating historical crafts, identifying invasive species, trail work, clean-up, campground host.)

Please indicate the month(s) of the year, day(s) of the week and hours of the day that you are available.

So that we may better match your skills and abilities to a meaningful contribution to the Division, please take a moment to tell us about your interests and field(s) of expertise that you would be willing to share. (Attach additional pages if necessary).

(Signature of Applicant or Parent/Guardian if Applicant is Under 18 Years Old) _____ Date

NJ Department of Environmental Protection • Division of Parks and Forestry
PO Box 420, Mail Code 501-04 • Trenton, NJ 08625 • (800) 843-6420 or (609) 984-0370

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Heritage & Agriculture Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 7191
Sussex, NJ 07461
www.LusscroftFarm.org
email: LusscroftFarm@gmail.com

Membership Application

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____

EMAIL: _____

Annual Membership Fee is \$25.00. Voting privileges are bestowed to members only.

Monthly meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday at the Sussex/Wantage Library, Rt. 565 (McCoy's corner), Wantage at 7:30 pm.

Please make checks payable to the **Heritage & Agriculture Association, Inc.**

Mail to: **P.O. Box 7191, Sussex, NJ 07461**

Area(s) of interest (circle/check all that apply):

____ Interior Restorations: Painting Electrical Plumbing Sheetrock Flooring Trim

____ Exterior Restorations: Carpentry Roofing Masonry Painting Gutters Barns

____ Events: Staffing/Hospitality Ticket Sales Baking Decorating Planning

____ Administration: Donation Seeking Grant Writing Clerical Data Entry

____ Gardening/Landscaping: Flowerbeds Lawns/Mowing Farming Trails

____ Public Relations: Printing/Publishing Advertising Blogging Video/DVD

____ Maple Sugaring

____ History/Museum: Cataloging items Interface with Historical Organizations

Thank you for your support of the Heritage and Agriculture Association, Inc. H&AA meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. Location varies but participating via ZOOM is usually available. If you are interested in participating, send an email to LusscroftFarm@gmail.com to be added to the meeting notice email list.

All events presented by the Heritage and Agriculture Association, Inc., are held in cooperation with the NJ DEP/Division of Parks and Forestry. Proceeds from these events go to restoration of the buildings and grounds at historic Lusscroft.



The Heritage and Agriculture Association, Inc.
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