The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms Annual Report 2021
**Friends,**

I'm pleased to share this record of the previous year at the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms. In each area of the museum’s work—preservation, collections care, exhibitions, education, and interpretation—a blend of planning, ingenuity and hard work have helped the museum remain strong and effective through two demanding and unpredictable years, as we have worked to recover from a damaging storm in 2020, and like most nonprofits, to navigate the challenges associated with a worldwide pandemic.

As you page through this report, you’ll find news, photos, and numbers that tell the story of the past year, and while I’m excited to share every facet of our work, from new collections objects and a new exhibition to new classes and new ways to engage our audience around the country, I’m most pleased to share the 2021 Craftsman Guild on pages 10-11. These pages acknowledge the generous donors whose support and inspiration has made all of our 2021 achievements possible and meaningful. Donors are the museum’s partners in our day-to-day work. Donors support our mission and our ongoing efforts to preserve Craftsman Farms and the legacy of Gustav Stickley and to share both with audiences of all ages. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Advisory Council, staff, and volunteers, I want to express sincere gratitude for everyone whose generous gifts have made the museum’s work possible, inspired the achievements in this report, and helped this organization thrive throughout 2021.

With sincere gratitude,

Vonda K. Givens
Executive Director

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**New Look**

As you review the 2021 Annual Report, you may notice a new look for the museum. In 2019 the museum won a Heritage Tourism grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust. The grant supported the development of wayfinding signs for the entire property, and through the process of designing this “family” of signs, we also were able to develop a new look, new logos, and new branding for the museum.

Most visible throughout this report is our new S logo, which was inspired by the repeating letter S on the Log House living room stair rail. Our green, rusty orange, and brown color palette is inspired by colors in the Log House and around the property.

We wish to thank Perkins Eastman for their work on developing our signage designs and particularly for their development of the museum’s new informational kiosk. Thank you to Amanda Lancaster, the museum’s graphic designer, for helping us shape these designs for small-scale use. The resulting logos grace the museum’s website, letterhead, brochures, social media posts, and more. Amanda designed the report you are holding now, and she has labored with enthusiasm and care behind-the-scenes for this organization for many years. Finally, thank you to the New Jersey Historic Trust for the generous grant which launched all of these efforts.

—V.G.

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The museum’s collections provide a visual narrative and foundation for understanding Gustav Stickley’s work and legacy. (The museum’s collections may be viewed online by visiting the museum’s website: StickleyMuseum.org/Collections.) Care and conservation of objects in the museum’s collections is a daily undertaking. These efforts ensure that the furniture, metalwork, textiles, ceramics, books and ephemera in our care are protected and available for study, interpretation, and inspiration for years to come.

New to the Museum Collection

Bringing original furnishings back into the Log House is an ongoing priority for the museum. In 2021, with the help of generous donors, the museum acquired a beautiful original oak screen and brought it back home to the Log House. One of Stickley’s later productions (1913-15), the screen (no. 84) has been placed in a prominent spot at the north end of the living room.

The museum wishes to express deepest gratitude to the Leeds Art Foundation and to the people who made this acquisition possible: Barbara Nitchie Fuldner, Thomas Bird, Cindy and Tim McGinn, and Ted Lytwyn.

Stickley Museum Library

The upper floor of the museum’s new Education Center, completed in the summer of 2020, features The Stickley Museum Library, which holds a substantial collection of period catalogs, rare books, and archival materials. Highlights include cash vouchers that document Stickley’s spending in 1916-17, many original catalogues and pieces of ephemera, and period books, including volumes owned by Stickley that bear his personal bookplate. The library catalogue may be viewed by visiting StickleyMuseum.org/explore/library. Not yet open to the public, the library is expected to open for visitation by appointment after completion of the Annex Rehabilitation and Kitchen Restoration project (see page 4).

The museum is grateful to the Family of Barbara and Henry Fuldner for their vision for and generous support of the Stickley Museum Library.
Preservation of Craftsman Farms

Preserving Craftsman Farms’ nine original buildings and thirty acres of pastoral landscape is a vital aspect of the museum’s mission and operations. In the summer of 2020, the museum completed construction on the Education Center (see cover), a transformative rehabilitation of an original garage building that was made possible by the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills, the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust, and individual donations to the Education Center Capital Campaign. In 2022, the museum looks ahead to rebuilding after Tropical Storm Isaias.

Rebuilding the Annex

In August 2020, Tropical Storm Isaias brought significant damage to Craftsman Farms when a massive, uprooted poplar tree fell onto the Annex, the structure adjacent to the Log House (see above right). As the tree came down, it brought down the Log House electrical lines with it. The power failure engaged the building’s sprinkler system, sending water flooding into the Annex and the Log House kitchen, the longtime home of the museum’s shop. Through the quick actions of the museum’s staff, the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills building department, and the Mount Tabor Fire Department, the flooding in the Log House was contained to the kitchen, but the damage, particularly to the Annex, was severe. Emergency recovery began immediately, with efforts to restore power and to salvage the shop’s inventory, but the entire upper floor of the Annex, with its windows set aside for later study, had to be removed. (For more details and pictures of the storm and recovery, visit StickleyMuseum.org/news.)

Within days of the damage, planning to rebuild the Annex also began. Envisioned by Gustav Stickley as an open-air dining pavilion, the Annex was enclosed by the Farny family, the second owners of the property. Many years later, the structure became a multi-use facility for the museum’s educational programs. With the opening of the new Education Center in the summer of 2020, the museum was in the beginning stages of shifting the use of this structure to a visitor’s welcome pavilion and museum shop.

Working with HMR Architects and the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills, the museum’s Board of Trustees, led by a specially designated Task Force, began conceiving of a rebuilt Annex, a facility that would honor the history of Craftsman Farms, while also serving as a welcome facility that would address the needs of a growing museum. To bolster this effort, a study of the Annex, its history and evolution over the years, was undertaken by Jonathan Clancy, the museum’s Director of Collections and Preservation.
Rebuilding the Annex, Cont.

As a plan for the Annex’s rehabilitation as a visitor’s welcome pavilion and home of The Craftsman Shop began to take shape, the museum also began considering the potential for simultaneously restoring the Log House kitchen (see drawing by Pete Mars). The storm damage had prompted the continuing closure of the museum to the public and the removal of the shop’s inventory. For the first time in many years, the kitchen stood empty. These unusual circumstances provided time and opportunity to undertake the first comprehensive study of this Log House space. With the Township’s strong support and commitment to cover half of the project’s anticipated $1.5 million budget, the museum began incorporating this restoration into the Annex project. While addressing Stickley’s original vision, the kitchen restoration also would address long-term problems related to the building’s plumbing, sanitary lines, and security.

Preservation News

After many delays, the museum began phase one of stabilization of the White Cottage in 2021. One of three cottages on the Craftsman Farms campus, the White Cottage (at left) is located on a hill northwest of the Log House, which would have provided the Stickley family with both privacy and beautiful views overlooking the heart of the property. In later years, a second floor was added to this small cottage by the Farny family, second owners of the property. In its initial work on this building, the museum has been seeking to stabilize the structure while returning it to its original floorplan. The project has included the removal of the second floor addition, installation of a new roof, added ventilation and a general removal of debris around the structure. The museum plans to seek additional funding to continue stabilization efforts on this charming original building.

Grants to the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms

The museum is grateful to the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills, owner of the property and the museum’s partner in preservation, and the following organizations for their generous support of the museum’s work.

**Recent Awards**

- To Support General Operations:
  - NJ Arts & Culture Recovery Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
  - NJ Historical Commission
  - NJ Historic Trust: Preserve NJ
  - NJ Historic Preservation Fund grant for the Rehabilitation of the Annex & Restoration of the Log House Kitchen
  - NJ Historic Trust: Discover NJ History License Plate Fund grant for Permanent Signage on Route 10
  - NJ Historic Trust: Preserve NJ Historic Preservation Fund Heritage Tourism grant for Wayfinding Signage

- Ongoing Grants:
  - NJ Historic Trust: Preserve NJ Historic Preservation Fund grant for Stabilization of the White Cottage
  - NJ Historic Trust: Preserve NJ Historic Preservation Fund Heritage Tourism grant for Wayfinding Signage
Education

Education and interpretation are cornerstones of the museum’s mission. Education initiatives, from tours of the Log House to Girl Scout programs, are designed to illuminate the legacy of Gustav Stickley and the American Arts and Crafts movement for all ages. Throughout the pandemic, even with the Log House doors closed to the public, we have sought new avenues for sharing Craftsman Farms and connecting with new and long-time friends of the museum. Since April 2020, a variety of Saturday afternoon courses with Jonathan Clancy, the museum’s Director of Collections and Preservation, have been a lifeline for the museum and an ongoing resource for education and community. Additionally, the museum has expanded its social media platforms to share more educational content, from videos about collections objects to quotes from The Craftsman magazine. This online content also has included the development of Craftsman Kids, which presents simple, do-at-home craft projects, and Craftsman Kitchen, which features recipes adapted from early 20th century cookbooks or with a direct link to Craftsman Farms history.

Saturday Classes: Moving Programs Online

After the success of the museum’s 2020 Saturday online classes, in January 2021, the museum introduced a new series of six classes on design history called Design & History: The Past is Always Present. As the year unfolded, so did the series, over time growing from the initial six to a total of twenty-three sessions. With Stickley and the Arts and Crafts movement as its touchstone, this course offered a whirlwind tour of design history across eras and around the world, from the aesthetics of Egyptian art to the legacy of Black Mountain College. The multi-session series ended just as the museum launched its new online exhibition Circa 1917: Rediscovering Craftsman Farms (see page 8), providing an opening for a new five-session course exploring the latest research on the grounds, buildings, and furnishings of Craftsman Farms, and a behind-the-scenes look at the development of the new exhibition.

A complete archive of 2020 and 2021 class recordings is available for purchase on the museum’s website (see the online class archive at StickleyMuseum.org). In January 2022, the museum introduced Close Looking: Design, a new fifteen session series about great design and the process of looking. Visit our website to learn more.
Grounds Tours

Over the summer, when the museum remained closed for Log House tours as we continued to address the damage to the Annex, a new tour of the grounds of Craftsman Farms was offered to the public. The tour, which explores Stickley’s development of the 650-acre property, will continue to be offered when the Log House is re-opened for visitors.

The museum expects to resume tours of the Log House in 2022 after construction begins on the Annex Rehabilitation and Kitchen Restoration project. Please check our website for the latest information on re-opening and on making tour reservations.

Crafts-Mas at Craftsman Farms

In December 2021, the museum had been closed for more than twenty months when it re-opened on two consecutive Saturdays to host a free Crafts-Mas Open House. The Open House offered an opportunity to view the Log House interior adorned with holiday decorations inspired by Christmas ideas expressed in Stickley’s magazine The Craftsman and by early twentieth-century Christmas traditions, from a focus on bringing nature indoors to handmade ornaments made from postcards.

BY-THE-NUMBERS:

ONLINE PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS OFFERED:

FREE MEMBERS-ONLY PROGRAMS

• Stickley Birthday Celebration with Cindy & Tim McGinn
• Rebuilding the Annex: What's Next for the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms?
• A Visit with Bruce Johnson: Roycroft at the 1913 Grove Park Inn
• “Thank you, Members” Party, with The Craftsman Tile Unveiling
• Thanksgiving Party with Ted Lytwyn
• The Gamble House: Our Stickley Story

VIRTUAL SATURDAY CLASS SESSIONS

• Design & History: The Past is Always Present, Parts 1-3
• Circa 1917: Rediscovering Craftsman Farms

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 68 PARTICIPANTS

Arts & Crafts Conference Virtual Happy Hours

Photo credit: Zbig Jedrus Photography, courtesy of HMR Architects
Exhibitions

Exhibitions, both online and on-site, provide opportunities for the museum to undertake new research associated with Gustav Stickley and the American Arts and Crafts movement, investigate and share objects both inside and outside the museum’s collections, and broadly explore the rich history of Craftsman Farms.

Circa 1917

The museum closed its doors for Log House tours in March 2020 with the onset of the global pandemic. After a damaging tropical storm in August 2020, interior tours remained suspended as the museum recovered and planned for upcoming construction in the heart of the Craftsman Farms campus. Throughout this period, the museum continued to present exhibitions to the public by shifting them to an online format. In 2020 the museum presented Things Wrought By The United Crafts: An Expression of Modern Life, an exhibition curated by Jonathan Clancy, Director of Collections and Preservation, that featured a recently acquired collection of nineteen pieces of rare Stickley green ash furniture. In 2021, the museum unveiled another new comprehensive online exhibition, this one focused on the property itself. Entitled Circa 1917: Rediscovering Craftsman Farms, the exhibition features a wide-ranging exploration of the property’s early history through maps, objects, historic photographs, and other documentation. Both exhibitions may be accessed on the museum’s website. Below is an excerpt of the opening essay of Circa 1917 by curator Jonathan Clancy:

“Gustav Stickley’s Craftsman Farms unfolded over time; it was never a moment fixed in amber. Craftsman Farms was an experience, or series of experiences, the result of a process of transformation and revision that happened by chance and by purpose. It was in Stickley’s time, much as it remains today, a series of ever-changing vignettes, choices, and circumstances that alternated between the accumulative and the destructive, reminding us that the fixed ideas we have about the property and its residents are but poor surrogates, shallow stand-ins for the richness of life that transpired during the Stickley family’s residence. Unfortunately, we cannot go back. Their lives here are something we will never fully recapture, never really revisit, and stories that remain unavailable to us, cloaked in a past that is largely inaccessible except for the fragmentary record that remains. On its own, that record—with all of its interesting objects, its snapshots of life, and snippets of text—is not enough. Things, in and of themselves, are mute witnesses to the lives that transpire around them. Recollections and texts are lovely to look at but hardly objective; like the humans who write them they are full of contradictions, inconsistencies, and aspirations, they are—like memory—a story we tell ourselves while unaware that we are spinning a yarn. Rediscovery, then, requires us to have a certain amount of empathy, imagination, and bit of courage. The choice, as I see it, is whether we cede these pasts as something condemned to the dustbin of history (because our understanding must by definition be imperfect) or whether we push forward with empathy and imagination in the hope that our imperfect fictions and stories we tell will contain some essential kernels of truth. In many ways, this notion is central to the exhibition; it is the shape to which these fluid ideas will conform…”

Exhibition Acknowledgements

The museum wishes to thank to Drs. Cynthia and Timothy McGinn, Barbara Fuldner, Nancy Calderwood, Lou Glesmann, David and Susan Cathers, Peter Cook, The Gustav Stickley House Foundation, and The Crab Tree Farm Foundation for access to and photographs of their collections which made the Circa 1917 exhibition possible.
Membership

Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms’ nationwide community of Members support the museum’s operations and inspire every aspect of our work. Members receive the latest news, invitations to special events, notices of Craftsman Shop sales, free tours on-site, and opportunities to participate in the museum’s Farms Afield travel programs, which we hope to revive in 2022 (watch our eblasts and website for travel news). In 2021 Members were invited to participate in six special Member-Exclusive online programs.

Exclusive Online Programs for Members

In 2021, through Member-Exclusive programs, the museum invited Members to travel virtually coast-to-coast, from the Gamble House in Southern California to Roycroft in East Aurora, New York. Through these programs, Members also were invited into private Arts and Crafts homes for opportunities to take photo tours of their extraordinary interiors and collections.

In March, as part of our Stickley birthday celebration, Members were invited to visit the lovely home and collection of Stickley great-granddaughter Cindy McGinn and her husband Tim (see above). The visit included amazing before-and-after photos, an opportunity to see objects passed down through the Stickley family, and a live-streamed Q & A. In the spring, Members received the latest news about the museum’s rebuilding of the Annex and learned about plans to incorporate the restoration of the Log House kitchen into this project (see pages 4-5).

In the summer, during Member Month, Members were treated to a special visit with Bruce Johnson, who explored the Roycroft furnishings of the historic Grove Park Inn and was joined by Alan Nowicki, the program director for Roycroft Campus Corporation. Nowicki shared Roycroft’s history and the latest news from this important landmark. Member Month concluded with a photo tour of Ted Lytwyn’s outstanding Pewabic Pottery collection (see below) and The Craftsman Shop’s unveiling of its new custom Pewabic Pottery tile (see page 11), with special guest Pewabic Executive Director Steve McBride.

At Thanksgiving, we showed our gratitude for Members with a special invitation to return to the home of Ted Lytwyn to see more of his extraordinary collection of Arts and Crafts furnishings, metalwork, and pottery. And in December, we wrapped up the year of Member programs with an invitation to explore The Gamble House’s Stickley story with Jennifer Trotoux, the Director of Collections and Interpretation for the Greene and Greene masterpiece in Pasadena, California.

THE VISIONARY CIRCLE

The museum’s Visionary Circle offers a special opportunity to friends of the museum to help ensure that the legacy and home of Gustav Stickley will be preserved for future generations to enjoy. The Visionary Circle was established in 2011 and honors those who have informed us of their decision to include the museum in their estate plans.

For more information about adding your name to the Visionary Circle, contact Executive Director Vonda Givens at 973-540-0311.

Members of the Visionary Circle

Robert C. Burchell
David Cathers
Michael Dawson
Paul Duchscherer
Frank Finkenberg
Susan Finkenberg
Barbara Fuldner
Louis G. Glesmann, III
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Davey L. Willans
Nancy Willans

Photo Courtesy of Cindy and Tim McGinn
The Craftsman Guild
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

We are grateful to the members of the 2021 Craftsman Guild Donor Circle whose generous support had a significant impact on the operations of the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms. The name Craftsman Guild was chosen because Gustav Stickley deeply admired the medieval practice in which artisans worked cooperatively within a guild. Our Guild is an alliance of advocates working together to further the mission of the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms.

President’s Circle
($20,000 and above)
Thomas Bird
Crab Tree Farm Foundation, Inc.
Barbara Ritchie Fuldner
Theodore Lytwyn
Barbara A. Weiskittel

Director’s Circle
($10,000 to $19,999)
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Karim Janik
Leigh Ann and Bruce Johnson
Cynthia McGinn, MD and
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Nancy Stickley Calderwood and
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Anne and Donald Tate
Linda Tenner Blume and Gerald Blume
Stephen Walsh
Jill and David Wilcox
Bevil Wright
JoAnn and Paul Young
Special Thanks
Tribute Gifts
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

In Honor
We are grateful for gifts in honor of:
The Board and Staff of the Museum
From
Linda Gardner
Robert C. Burchell
From
Nadia Block
Paul Clarke
From
Mary Ellen Lenahan
Vonda Givens
From
Ted Bosley
Julia Peterson

Catherine J. Mathis
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Samuel Dagogo-Jack
Julia Peterson
John Shank

In Memory
We are grateful for gifts in memory of:
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From
Vonda L. Breed

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Steven Torrenti
Gustav Stickley
From
Laura Daly Russell
Susan Tarlow
From
Donald Davidoff

THE CRAFTSMAN SHOP

During emergency recovery from Tropical Storm Isaias, the museum’s shop was cleared from from its long-time home in the Log House kitchen. When the museum re-opens, after the completion of the Annex rehabilitation and Log House Kitchen restoration, the shop will have a new home in the Annex’s visitor pavilion. During this time of closure, the shop adopted a new name, The Craftsman Shop, and its own brand identity. Last spring, The Craftsman Shop also introduced a comprehensive, new webshop, now featured on the museum’s website. Throughout the pandemic, The Craftsman Shop has focused on staying connected to friends of the museum through flash sales, special “shopopportunities”, and by featuring new, mission-inspired, custom items.

New to The Craftsman Shop

In July, The Craftsman Shop unveiled The Craftsman Tile (below right), the result of a 6-month collaboration with Pewabic Pottery, the National Historic Landmark pottery in Detroit, founded by Mary Chase Perry Stratton in 1903. The Craftsman Shop introduced its charming new, custom Log House ornament in December. The ornament (below left), which depicts a three-dimensional view of Gustav Stickley’s home, was produced in partnership with The Charleston Mint in North Carolina.

To purchase these items and explore housewares, jewelry, scarves, museum souvenirs, and more, visit The Craftsman Shop online at StickleyMuseum.org/shop
The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms is always OPEN ONLINE!

We're temporarily closed for on-site visits, but check out our online Saturday classes, exclusive Member programs, online exhibitions, and The Craftsman Shop online. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest. And watch for the latest news about re-opening in 2022!

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 the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust, The New Jersey Historic Trust, and individual donors. SMCF received an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, and a grant from the New Jersey Arts and Culture Recovery Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation. Educational programs are funded, in part, by grants from the Arts & Crafts Research Fund.