

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LeDuc Historic Estate Open for the Season

May 27, 2009 marks the opening of the season at the LeDuc Historic Estate, 1629 Vermillion St., Hastings. Once again, tours will be available Wednesday through Sunday of each week, 10 and 11:30 a.m. and 2, 2:30, and 4 p.m. Sunday tours will begin at 1 p.m. Tour rates remain the same as last year - Adults, \$6; Seniors and Military Personnel, \$5; Students up to age 18, \$3; and Free for members of Dakota County Historical Society and children age 5 and younger. The LeDuc Historic Estate is owned by the City of Hastings and managed by Dakota County Historical Society.

These are special events planned for the season:

May 21 - Lecture Series - "Gardens: Back Yard & Local" - Chris James from Fresh Earth Farms, 7 p.m., free and open to the public.

June 15-19 - Day Camps for 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students, based on LeDuc family history. Participants will learn about and experience life in the late 1800s, wear period costumes and make items to take home. Please register through District 200 Community Education. Limited Enrollment.

June 27 - "Modern Interpretations of Historic Designs" - This is the opening day of a juried show of artists' renditions using patterns designed by Alice LeDuc for the Hastings Needlework Company. Pieces will be displayed throughout the house. An added attraction will be original LeDuc Textiles from the Minnesota Historical Society's collection. All items will be on exhibit throughout the entire season. Special lectures on Hastings Needlework will be offered by Dr. Ann Braaten of NDSU, who has done considerable research on the topic, two times during the day.

July 17-19 - Hastings Rivertown Days - Check out the Rivertown Days brochure to learn about interesting events taking place at the LeDuc Historic Estate.

July 13-16 and July 20-23 - Percussion Workshops - Learn about and register through Hastings Community Education.

Sundays in August - Special tour offered at 5 p.m. for people attending the outdoor summer concert series (7 p.m.) sponsored by Hastings Concert Association. Reservations encouraged - call 651-437-7055.

August 22 - NEW - Agriculture Day - Enjoy demonstrations of woodworking and other crafts with old tools. There will be examples of harvesting, canning, live animals and much more. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

September 12 and 13 - Civil War Weekend - Re-enactors will camp on the grounds. Learn history and have fun while observing debates, music, marching, and firearm displays. Food will be abundant. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day.

September 26 - Leduc/Simmons Country Market - There will be art, antiques, fine crafts, home baked goods, fruits, vegetables, and plants offered for sale under the trees around the Leduc Historic Estate. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Special Enhancements;

Vermillion Falls Walking Tour at 10 a.m. the first Saturday of each month - Reservations REQUIRED.

"Step-on Guide" bus tour of Historic Hastings - Please call 651-437-7055 for details.

Check www.dakotahistory.org for further details on all the events.