

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact

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A COLORFUL PATCHWORK OF ART, AGRICULTURE AND HISTORY AT THE LEDUC HISTORIC ESTATE

New programs on archaeology, needlework, agriculture, the events that lead up to the Civil War, and even live chickens join perennial favorites during the 2010 season at the LeDuc Historic Estate. (May 26, 2010 - October 31, 2010) Tours are available Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (tours start at 10, 11:30, 1, 2:30 and 4) and on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (tours start at 1, 2:30 and 4.)

Student admission is \$3 (ages 6-18) and children age 5 and younger are admitted free. Adult rates are only \$6 with a \$1 discount for seniors and military personnel. Members of Dakota County Historical Society receive free admission and discounts in the museum store. This beautifully restored Victorian estate is owned by the City of Hastings and managed by Dakota County Historical Society.

*NEW THIS YEAR

*Chicks, Chicks. The LeDucs raised much of their own food, including livestock, fruits, vegetables, & grains. This tradition will be carried on as baby chicks are introduced to the grounds. An attractive chicken coop is being built based on 19th Century plans. The Good Neighbor and Klover Klub 4-H clubs have partnered with DCHS to care for the chickens as they grow all summer.

*Junior Needleworking. Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m.-12 noon for children ages 8-12 years at the LeDuc Historic Estate. Have you ever wanted to learn to embroider? The LeDuc sisters were famous for their embroidery patterns and their Hastings Needlework business. Come to their home and learn about their pattern company and how they lived. Learn about embroidery and the basic stitches from an expert, then stitch a sampler based on a LeDuc pattern. You can take home what you need to keep stitching. Class fee of \$20 includes all materials. Register through Hastings Community Education: www.HastingsCommunityEd.com. There will be another opportunity for Junior Needleworkers - the 2011 Needleworking Competition for Juniors. Check out the patterns used in the competition at www.dakotahistory.org after June 1.

*Dig LeDuc. Thursday & Friday, July 8 & 9, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. An Archaeology Day Camp at the LeDuc Historic Estate for students 13-18 years. Want to know what secrets lie beneath the surface of Hastings? Explore the exciting field of archaeology at the iconic LeDuc Historic Estate. Archaeologists in Minnesota are constantly uncovering evidence of early pioneer life, Dakota and Ojibwe settlements, and even earlier American Indians that lived here as much as 10,000 years ago. Learn about archaeology and pioneer life in Hastings while helping the Dakota County Historical Society uncover the fascinating history of the LeDuc family. Work side-by-side with archaeologists and assist with a real excavation project. Archaeology campers will learn about artifact identification, stratigraphy, documentation, and how to set up an excavation square. Bring a bag lunch and wear clothing that can tolerate dirt. Register through Hasting Community Education at [www.HastingsCommunity Ed.com](http://www.HastingsCommunityEd.com). Fee - \$90.

*ONGOING EVENTS

*FREE SCHOOL TOUR PROGRAM - Experiential learning is alive and well at the LeDuc Historic Estate and the Dakota County Historical Society. All Minnesota Educators are encouraged to participate in this free program. Guides are happy to work with teachers to develop a tour or visit that meets the needs of

any classroom. If a field visit isn't possible, check out our virtual tour at www.dakotahistory.org/leduc/tour or go to www.dakotahistory.org/education asp for fun classroom activities that illustrate Minnesota history for students of all ages. School tours may be scheduled any time of year by calling 651-437-7055 or by e-mail at leduc@co.dakota.mn.us. The Free School Tour Program is sponsored in part by the Friends of LeDuc of Historic Hastings, Dakota County Historical Society, and local civic organizations. To become a sponsor, please call Chad Roberts at 651-552-7548.

*VERMILLION FALLS WALKING TOUR - A special opportunity is being offered at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of June, July, August, September and October, The Vermillion Falls Walking Tour. Participants will enjoy an historic walking tour of Hastings' most beautiful park, just blocks from the Estate. They will learn how the Vermillion River and the milling industry shaped Hastings while taking in the natural beauty of the river and breathtaking falls. Tour rates are the same as at the Estate or visitors may purchase a discount package for \$10 (for adults) which includes a tour of both the Estate and the walking tour.

Reservations are REQUIRED and prospective participants should call 651-437-7055 or e-mail leduc@co.dakota.mn.us. The walking tour is sponsored in part by a grant from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

*HISTORIC HASTINGS BUS TOURS - Tour groups coming to the Estate by bus are invited to take a tour of Historic Hastings either preceding or following a scheduled tour. For \$85 a step-on guide will lead groups through the history, historic sites, and architecture of the second oldest city in the state for a one-hour tour. If this special tour is done in conjunction with a tour of the Estate, a discounted rate of \$75 will apply. Please call 651-437-7055 or e-mail leduc@co.dakota.mn.us to make reservations.

*CIVIL WAR TRAVELING TRUNK SHOW - Go back to Civil War days and learn about everything from clothing to food for the Civil War soldier. Staff of LeDuc Historic Estate will travel to meeting locations and explain the contents of this unique trunk. Call 67561-437-7055 to make a reservation.

*PRIVATE EVENTS AND PRIVATE GROUP TOURS - The LeDuc Historic Estate is a perfect venue for your special occasions. Weddings, showers, birthday parties, catered teas and luncheons and many other events will be made all the more memorable at the mansion. Private group tours can be included in your event and are also available as a stand-alone option for groups of 20 or more. Group tours and events are available YEAR-ROUND. Please call 651-437-7055 or e-mail leduc@co.dakota.mn.us for reservations.

*SELECTED EVENTS - MAY-DECEMBER, 2010

*FRIENDS OF LEDUC OF HISTORIC HASTINGS - meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Estate with a short business meeting followed by an informational program dealing with history or the arts. Members and visitors invited for this FREE event.

*LEDUC BOOK GROUP - meets the first Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at the Estate. Book discussion led by Pleasant Hills Librarian, Allan Cotter. Selected books of an historical nature will be discussed. Members and public invited to participate. Free.

*SUNDAY AUGUST CONCERT SERIES - The first four Sundays in August, at 6:30 p.m. the LeDuc Historic Estate will be the venue for the FREE concert series sponsored by Hasting Concert Association. Bring your own chair or blanket. Come early for dessert!! A special tour of the LeDuc Historic Estate will take place at 5 p.m. on concert nights with regular tour rates applying.

*June 1 - Introduction of MODERN INTERPRETATIONS OF DESIGN competition for 2011. The instructions, entry forms and patterns are available at www.dakotahistory.org after June 1, 2010. Entries need to be submitted by March, 2011.

*June 21-25 - EXPERIENCE LIFE WITH THE LEDUC FAMILY SUMMER CAMP for ages 10-14, 8 a.m.-12 noon at the LeDuc Historic Estate. Can you imagine a time when there were no TV sets, no computers, no cars, and not even a telephone? How did people live, and what did kids do for fun? At

this camp, you'll have the chance to experience life as it was lived by the LeDuc children, who grew up in a marvelous house in Hastings during the 1860s. Students will immerse themselves in the 19th Century as they dress in period costumes, participate in activities of daily life, make projects to take home, and have fun with old-fashioned games and pastimes. Hands-on activities will include: learning about the house and family, outdoor sports and games, craft projects such as making a candle lantern and dipping candles, churning butter and making bread over an open fire, exploring family trees, learning about the Civil War, journaling and letter writing. Register through Hasting Community Education at www.HastingsCommunityEd.com. Fee - \$85.

*August 21 - FARM, FOOD, AND FUN FAIR. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. This is an event that is reminiscent of the agricultural lives of the LeDuc family. It is a return to the earth in which there will be vendors selling locally grown vegetables, fruits, plants, canned goods and baked goods. There will be the work of fine crafters and special needleworkers. There will be food and music and fun!! At the conclusion of the day, at 5 p.m. there will be an old-fashioned basket social. Admission to the grounds FREE but tour rates apply for the tour of the Estate.

*September 11 & 12 - PRELUDE TO WAR - CIVIL WAR WEEKEND. 10 a.m. -5 p.m. Regular tour admission price to the grounds which also includes a tour of the house. Re-enactors will camp on the grounds and will provide demonstrations in marching, music, and firearms displays. Visitors will be able to learn history while observing debates and participating in cooking over an outdoor fire. Especially moving will be hearing about the real reasons leading up to the war.

*October 23 - HARVEST HAUNTING. 5-9 p.m. \$5 per person, any age. There will be candlelight tours of the cellar, storytelling, the making of apple cider, and the making of s'mores. A scary walk with story tellers may have ghosts and goblins haunting the LeDuc woods. This is an especially family-friendly event and costumes worn by the younger children will add to the celebration.

*November 5-14 - HASTINGS ARTISTS SHOW AND SALE - Artists working in almost every media will be represented during the Annual Hastings Artists Show and Sale. Admission to the house is free during regular business hours. This is an ideal time to begin holiday shopping and at the same time supporting local very talented artists.

*December 4-5 & 11-12 - VICTORIAN HOLIDAYS AT THE LEDUC HISTORIC ESTATE - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Come and see this spectacular house in all its holiday splendor the first two weekends of December. Have a tour at regular rates or come only to shop in the Museum Store. A special Victorian dinner, complete with entertainment, will be held on Sunday, December 5 and Sunday, December 12, 4-9 p.m. Reservations required. Details will be available at www.dakotahistory.org this fall. Call 651-437-7055 for early reservations as this event sells out quickly.

For more information: Please call the LeDuc Historic Estate @651-437-7055 or check the website: www.dakotahistory.org for further information on tours or special events at this perfectly restored Estate. Keep in mind that the LeDuc House is air conditioned in summer and heated in winter.

THE LEDUC HISTORIC ESTATE is located on the east side of Highway 61, south of Highway 55 in Hastings, and on the southeast edge of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. To get to the free LeDuc Historic Estate parking lot, from the north, turn left off Highway 61 at East 17th Street and from the south, turn right at East 17th Street. Enter the parking lot directly behind the LeDuc buildings.