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LEDUC/SIMMONS COUNTRY MARKET BRINGS TOGETHER CRAFTS, FOOD, ANTIQUES AND ART

*Hastings, MN, September 14, 2009* - For the third consecutive year visitors attending the LeDuc/Simmons Country Market on September 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at the LeDuc Historic Estate, 1629 Vermillion Street, Hastings, will discover a buzz of activity. This event, sponsored by the Friends of LeDuc of Historic Hastings, continues the tradition of the LeDuc family and Carroll Simmons in their affinity with the earth.

Long before the phrase, "thinking green," became popular, these early owners were *living* green. It is in their honor that the Friends of LeDuc of Historic Hastings sponsor this high quality antique and collectible flea market in the Simmons Activity Room. Throughout the Estate Grounds there will be large plant and bake sales, and 15 vendors will provide a variety of fresh produce, jams, jellies & preserves, jewelry, hand painted cards, textile art, and other arts and craft items.

Proceeds from these sales will go towards the free school tour program which is offered to school classes throughout the state of Minnesota.

The Hastings Art Council's "Hastings Taste of the Arts" is joining the Friends of LeDuc of Historic Hastings and the Dakota County Historical Society during the LeDuc/Simmons market for the second year. LeDuc is one of five venues featured in this year's "Hastings Taste of the Arts" and the featured artists at the Estate include:

- Art Nordstrom - Demonstrating firing of raku pottery
- Al Todnem and Mel Agen - Demonstrating Norwegian wood carving
- Lynn Lucas - Garden art
- Sandy Sanders - MOSAIC art
- Life Works - Watercolors and Miscellaneous art forms

"HASTINGS Taste of the Arts" will also take place on Second & Sibley Streets in downtown Hastings where 12 other artists will be displaying their work. See [www.hastingsartscouncil.com](http://www.hastingsartscouncil.com) for further information.

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Another aspect of 'Taste of the Arts' will be a production of "Paul Bunyan - An Unlikely Beginning to a Tall Tale," written and produced by Andy & Mandy Langenfeld and Robin Starch of the Black Dirt Theater Company. The show will be performed on the east lawn of the LeDuc Historic Estate at 8 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. The cast of characters includes:

- Paul Bunyan - John Bigelow
- Gladys - Emily Niebur
- Johnson - Rachel Cobian
- Normand - Andy Langenfeld
- Guitarist - Andrew Gathright

The theater company is also sponsoring a pancake breakfast on the grounds of the LeDuc between 7:30 and 11 a.m. Tickets in advance may be purchased at local business establishments for the reduced price of \$5 for adults and free for children under age 5. Tickets on the grounds at the LeDuc are \$7 for adults and free for children under age 5. The menu consists of pancakes, sausages, apple sauce and a beverage. The pancake batter is being donated by Perkins. The proceeds for the breakfast will be divided between the Black Dirt Theater Company and the Hastings Art Council.

Admission to the grounds and the theater performance are free for this day, but regular tours of the house are available at 10 and 11:30 a.m. and 1, 2:30 and 4 p.m. Tour rates are \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors & military personnel; \$3 for students up to age 18; and Free for members of Dakota County Historical Society and children less than 5 years of age.

Free parking is readily available at the lot behind the house, just off 17th Street East. Please call 651-437-7055 with questions or check the website [www.dakotahistory.org](http://www.dakotahistory.org).

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