



The Meadow Lark

Calendar of Events 2007—2008

OCTOBER

Oct 13 30th Anniversary Celebration at Hageman 6 pm-9 pm \$50/person

Oct 13 Colonial Times at Wyckoff Garretson House 10 am- 5pm \$ 5 per car

Oct 14 Colonial Times at Wyckoff Garretson House 11 am – 4pm \$ 5 per car

Oct 28 Pumpkin Patch at Van Wickle 12pm - 3pm

NOVEMBER

Nov 3 Cool Women Poets of NJ at Tulipwood 2 pm \$10 per person

Nov 11 Annual Meeting and Elections at Van Wickle 1pm -4pm

DECEMBER

Dec 2 Sinterklaas Festival at the Van Wickle House 1pm – 4 pm donation

Dec 9 Old Fashioned Christmas at Hageman 12pm-4pm Free family fun

JANUARY

Jan 12 Mira and Bruce Foreman : "Jews in the Civil War" at Hageman Farm 2 pm \$10 per person

FEBRUARY

Feb 23 Joe Becton: "The Rise of the Blues in New Orleans" at Tulipwood 2 pm \$10 per person

MARCH

Mar 15 Trish Chambers: The role of women of the Civil War as "Soldiers and Spies" at Hageman Farm 2 pm \$10 per person

APRIL

Apr 12 John Stevens: the architecture of the Van Wickle House 2 pm \$10 per person

THE MEADOWS FOUNDATION TO CELEBRATE 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Meadows Foundation is celebrating 30 years of service to the Township of Franklin as stewards of five Historic sites. Please join us for the celebration and a brief pictorial tour of the Meadows Foundation history.

It will be held on October 13, 2007 from 6:00 pm at the Hageman Farm located at 209 South Middlebush Road in Franklin Township, Somerset.

The cost to attend the dinner and special event is \$50.00 per person. Please R.S.V.P. by October 7, 2007. Checks are payable to The Meadows Foundation. Seating is very limited, so make your reservations early! No tickets will be sold at the door.

THIRTY YEARS

In 1976 a small but determined group of individuals fought for and saved the Van Wickle House, also known as



Van Liew Suydam House "after" restoration 2006.

"the meadows." Thirty years ago, the group took that name for its own, incorporated in 1977, and began an organization of volunteers who have worked together with local, county and state officials to save and eventually restore these vestiges to

(Continued on page 2)



Van Liew Suydam House "before."

3RD ANNUAL COLONIAL TIMES WEEKEND COINCIDES WITH 30TH ANNIVERSARY



Colonial Times in Franklin Township will be held October 13th & 14th, 2007 at the Wyckoff-Garretson House located at 215 South Middlebush Road in Franklin Township in Somerset County.

The event activities will be on Saturday from 10 am until 5 pm and on Sunday from

11 am until 4 pm.

Featuring the Colonial Living History Alliance, visitors will see a unique depiction of what 18th century life was like for many Colonists. Estimates vary slightly, but in the 1750's, there was an estimated English population of 1.2 million people. At it's

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our past.

The Meadows Foundation collection of seven properties traces its origins to the late 1600s through the late 1800s, and comprises 15 historic structures. This is no accident. It is the result of the ongoing and dedicated efforts of visionaries to preserve Franklin's distinctive character. Today Franklin Township stands as a model of historic preservation, restoration and artistic expression.

Franklin Township in Somerset County is a place where history and heritage are still very much a part of everyday life. Few pockets are untouched by the ravages of time and nature such as these 300-year-old structures. Franklin Township has survived wars, fires, floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes. There have been developers threatening to bulldoze, and planners threatening to flood the land to create a reservoir - and despite it all, the farms and buildings retained their importance and dignity.

While all of the properties and many of the surrounding areas have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, none have been designated by the US Department of the Interior as National Historic Landmarks - the highest possible designation for a historic site. It is a goal of The Meadows Foundation that one day the Wyckoff-Garretson property will become a museum and receive this distinction.

We recommend that you make a point of discovering all of the properties ...they truly are irreplaceable treasures.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE MEADOWS FOUNDATION

It has been a very busy three

years since I began serving as your president. I will attempt to recap the accomplishments for your review.

The Meadows Foundation added a seventh property to its collection. Tulipwood, a 1892 structure on Hamilton Street, which has been undergoing intensive historic reviews, and restoration of the front and side porches, the roof, and windows.

Gary Randolph took charge of the restoration of the Van Liew Suydam property, as seen on the front of this issue. He has made miraculous strides, taking what was an extremely neglected building, and lovingly restoring it to its magnificent eighteenth century façade.

Mark Else stepped forward to serve as the force behind the restoration of the Wyckoff-Garretson properties, both the main house, and the wagon barn.

Today we are able to enjoy the fruits of their labors

as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of The Meadows Foundation.

I cordially invite all of you to attend the Colonial Times Weekend event, and join us in the dinner celebration where we will recap 30 years of restoration, and stewardship in Somerset.

Your board and many volunteers continue to serve this historic community. It is my honor to follow in the footsteps of the leaders before me.

John L. Mullen III

MEADOWS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2008 FIRESIDE CHATS SCHEDULE

The Arts and Culture Committee of the Meadows Foundation has announced the 2008 schedule of its enormously popular Fireside Chats. The time is always at 2 pm, venues vary.

The series inaugurates its third season on Saturday, **January 12th**, Mira and Bruce Foreman will speak on *"Jews in the Civil War."* This multimedia presentation gives not only an overview of Jews in the Civil War but of specific individuals they portray, including Capt. Myer Ash, 1st NJ Cav. Company H, and Miss Rebecca Moss, Secretary of the Ladies Hebrew Association for the Relief of Sick and Wounded Soldiers. The presenters will dress in period clothes and display artifacts and living history objects of the period. The event will take place at Hageman Farm, 209 S. Middlebush Road.

The series moves to Tulipwood, 1165 Hamilton Street, on **February 23rd** for a return engagement by popular raconteur Joe Becton of Philadelphia, who will discuss *"The Rise of the Blues in New Orleans."* This will be Mr. Becton's third year at the Meadows, as we celebrate Black History Month. Tulipwood is a late-Victorian residence, in perfect keeping with the rise of this musical medium.

On **March 15th** Trish Chambers returns to the Hageman Farm to discuss the role of women as *"Soldiers and Spies"* of the Civil War.

"Attendees at the March 2007 Fireside Chat clamored for her return," notes Chats chair Chris Retz. "I'm glad to say that we have secured her for a performance of entirely new material, which she is researching specifically for us,

as we want to emphasize New Jersey women in this, our celebration of Women's History Month."

The series will conclude on **Saturday, April 12th**, when John Stevens, author of Dutch Vernacular Architecture in North America, 1640-1830, discusses the *"Architecture of the Van Wickle House"*, which he has studied extensively. This talk will take place at the Van Wickle House, 1289 Easton Ave., Somerset.

Tickets to each Fireside Chats are \$10 per person, and should be reserved in advance by calling Arts & Culture chair Evelyn Maron at 732-560-1977.

For advance notice, please e-mail your name, and phone number to chrisflp@aol.com.



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height during the American Revolution, only about 20 to 30 thousand, or roughly about 2.5% of the population, were directly involved in the military.


The other 97 percent were the farmers, shopkeepers, tavern keepers, midwives and other civilians that continued to go about their daily lives, in spite of the European power struggles going on around them.

The Colonial Living History Alliance creates this experience for The Meadows Foundation with their beautiful and authentic recreations of life in the 18th Century.

Each day there will be activities going on all day, around and in the house.

Join our celebration of Colonial Times! There is on-site parking for a donation of \$5 per car.



Contact Mark Else at 732-846-3345 or visit the website: www.themeadowsfoundation.org for more information. 

Colonial Times in Franklin
Wyckoff-Garretson House
at 215 So. Middlebush Road
Sat. Oct 13 (10a-5p) & Sun. Oct14 (11a-4p)

COOL WOMEN POETS of NEW JERSEY

"THIS OLD HOUSE"

by Evelyn K. Maron

Come hear the Cool Women Poets of New Jersey, eight Princeton-area poets who will be reading at Tulipwood on November 3, 2007 at 2 pm. They began as a monthly critique group and are now requested to perform their jazz-like synthesis of themed readings virtually every month, by no means limited to New Jersey. Much published on their own, the group has three anthologies and a CD to their current credit. Their theme in honor of Tulipwood will be "This Old House." This ensemble of widely published poets gives a lively reading of poems that tell the truth. Bring your teenagers and shock them!

Cool Women have been described as: "Women of a certain age who love poetry,

especially the intimate ~ not generally considered cool in our culture, but just stubborn

ing individuality.

The Meadows Foundation has been presenting readings by New Jersey poets for several years. The most recent reading was by Charles Johnson, the Allen Ginsburg Poetry Award winner in 1998 and Paterson Poetry Prize winner in 2004.


Mr. Johnson read from his new publication, "Sam's Place," describing his experiences and thoughts as a platoon leader in the Vietnam War. The poetry and night Editor of the Home News presented a warm, thoughtful and powerful persona.

The 2006 reading held at Tulipwood, on a warm November afternoon, was on the large porch at the

front of the stately house. It was a golden, pleasant afternoon experience with fine poetry, refreshments and warmed by the sun with occa-

"Women of a certain age who love poetry, especially the intimate... not generally considered cool in our culture... But stubborn enough to love it anyway."

sional bees adding to the atmosphere.

Tulipwood is located at 1165 Hamilton Street in the Franklin Township section of Somerset County. Parking spaces are limited, and car pooling is appreciated. For additional information call 732-560 1977. 



COOL WOMEN POETS OF NJ
Photo by Tasha O'Neill for picture at Grounds for Sculpture, and Lee Harrod for Cools Recording.

enough to love it anyway. Each is delighted to be part of a group while fiercely cherish-



PUMPKIN PATCH and ENCHANTED FOREST

**Van Wickle House
1289 Easton Avenue in Somerset
from 12pm – 3pm on October 28, 2007**

2007 “Fireside Chats” Shatter Attendance Records

By Christine Retz

The recently concluded 2007 “Fireside Chats” broke all previous attendance records. “Every talk was standing room only,” notes Chats Chair Christine Retz. “I was very pleased to see so many people become ‘regulars’ as the series progressed.”

This popular lecture series is traditionally held on the third Saturday afternoon from January through April. Topics included the importance of the Demarest family in early Jersey Dutch history; the African-American soldier in the Civil War; women in the Civil War; and Mathew Brady, the most famous cameraman of the War Between the States.

“The continuing restoration of the Meadows properties enabled us

to expand our locales,” Chris continued. “For our Civil War talks, we were able to use the front and back parlors of the Hageman Farm, which is authentic to the period.”

She added, “We were very proud to again get a grant from the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission to produce the series. This was the third consecutive year that the series was partially grant-funded, which I think is a testament to the importance of the Meadows Foundation, as well as to the quality of the series itself. We are very grateful to the commissioners and to the officials of Franklin Township who are so vital in our efforts to maintain the sites so that we can have such high-quality programming.” *SCCH*

EIGHTEEN MONTHS IN A NINETEENTH-CENTURY HOUSE!

*By Bob Hosh, Resident
Caretaker, Hageman
Farm*

It has been a real adventure living at the Hageman homestead for the past year and a half. Having grown up on a working truck farm made adjusting to living and caring for the house very easy. The Victorian-Italianate design of the house is very attractive and comfortable for my needs. I enjoy participating in the house tours and events at the farm. Having no neighbors close by would lead one to think that the farm and house was a lonely place, but such is not the case. The neighbor dairy cows provide lots of amusing company when they crowd the fence every afternoon to watch what I’m doing in the

yard.

The yard certainly keeps me busy. My goal is to return it to a form that is nineteenth-century in appearance.

When I moved in, there was surprisingly little in the way of flowers. I’ve since planted some perennials and a few roses. In keeping with my old farmstead image, most of the roses planted are heirloom such as Bourbons and Hybrid Perpetuals. I’ve followed the same pattern in the small vegetable garden in

selecting old or heirloom vegetables.

Wild animals and birds abound at the farm (fox,

buy a bird identification book to satisfy my curiosity. When I’m mowing the lawn at dusk the barn swallows engage in a feeding frenzy as the mower scares up hundreds of insects for them to catch. They fly low to the ground and narrowly miss me as they frantically catch the flying insects. The experience is very exciting.

The House Committee is currently planning two events for this Fall and Winter. One is an old-fashioned tree decorating event which was inspired by my having friends over last Christmas to decorate a tree in the front parlor with ornaments representative of the 19th century. The tree was visible to passing traffic and



Hageman House on South Middlebush Road.

deer, groundhogs). Interaction is fun and sometimes frustrating, especially the groundhogs and squirrels. The birds, however, are a joy. There are so many kinds that I was forced to

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SINTERKLAAS FESTIVAL

All Dutch children know that Sinterklaas lives in Spain. There he spends most of the year recording the behavior of all children in a big red book, while Piet stocks up on presents for next Sinterklaas Eve. After mid-November Sinterklaas mounts his milk-white steed, Piet swings the sack full of gifts over his shoulder, and



the three board a steamship to set course for Amsterdam harbor and a formal welcome by the Mayor and a delegation of citizens. A fabulous parade through town marks the beginning of the St. Nicholas season.

As every surprise comes as a gift from Sinterklaas, and every poem is signed by him, the real giver is supposedly anonymous. Recipients simply say a loud, "Thank You Sinterklaas!"

This unique Dutch festival is held annually at The Van Wickle House. There is Dutch clog dancing, Dutch clothing, Dutch chocolate and other specialty treats, as well as arts and crafts for the children to enjoy making.

When Sinterklaas makes his appearance on horse-



SINTERKLAAS FESTIVAL

Van Wickle House

1289 Easton Avenue in Somerset

from 1pm – 4 pm on December 2, 2007

back, there is singing and dancing. You and your family can celebrate with us here in Somerset County where

the Dutch traditions brought from the Netherlands 300 years ago are still enjoyed today.

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added to the holiday atmosphere.

I am happy to be living at Hageman Farm and helping with making it a historic and community success.

#### Addendum:

#### An Unusual Visitor

The adventures at Hageman Farm never end! Returning home yesterday afternoon, August 20, from a doctor's visit I discovered a most unusual visitor in the yard! I parked the car and upon exiting the vehicle noticed a large bird of prey at the base of a



tree near the driveway. I thought it might be injured or

ill as one almost never sees a bird of prey walking around on the ground.

But there it was strolling down the driveway and I followed right along beside it, talking softly to it. It never uttered a sound, but kept its eye on me as we walked along the driveway. It showed no fear of me, nor was it disturbed by my presence. I decided I needed to get pictures of this bird! It's not everyday you get to keep such close company with a hawk!

I raced upstairs and grabbed my camera and

rushed back down to the yard. But there was no sign of the bird! That is I almost stepped on it! It had crossed the driveway and was standing near a juniper tree where the driveway forks.

I took several pictures, most of which are out of focus and beyond repair thanks to my excitement to be so close to a wild predatory bird! It stayed on the ground, which I thought was peculiar in a bird usually seen high above us soaring in search of food or perched high atop a tree on a dead branch surveying the countryside for prey. I found that by talking quietly, it would tolerate my close nearness of 60 or 70 inches!

*"I am happy to be living at Hageman Farm and helping with making it a historic and community success."*

- Bob Hosh

## MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS Join Online

You are cordially invited to participate in The Meadows Foundation as a member and/or a volunteer.

If you like gardening, being a tour guide at a historic property, setting up displays or selling refreshments at an event, please join us.

Strong arms are always welcome for clean-up and maintenance, cutting grass and pruning.

Families can join for a mere \$35 per year. It's not a lot of money, but it helps keep the programs active, and the houses open to the public. Donations are important to any non-profit, especially historic sites.

The chair of the membership committee is Bonnie Sovinee. Contact her through the website [www.themeadowsfoundation.org](http://www.themeadowsfoundation.org)



Van Wickle House



Van Liew Suydam French House



Hageman House and Farm



Hageman Horse and Cow Barns

## VAN WICKLE HOUSE



**Built in 1722**, and saved from demolition in 1976, the building has been farmhouse, colonial showplace, and

home for generations of owners.

**Restoration** has included the addition of an outdoor stage, the Reinman garden, a canal bridge, wetland boardwalk, Vergano program center, and a nature trail.

**Programming** includes historic house tours, Revolutionary War era encampments, art shows, Fireside Chats, musical and other cultural events.

The Van Wickle property is the site for three public annual holiday events: the Dutch Sinterklass Festival in December, Pumpkin Patch with an Enchanted Forest in October, and Bunny Jamboree usually in April. Located at 1289 Easton Avenue 732-828-7418

## VAN LIEW SUYDAM HOUSE & FARM

**Built in 1875**, this farmhouse sits atop a hill which is graced with the most spectacular view of sunsets in all of Franklin Township.

**Restoration** of the outer building was completed in 2005. The interior reconstruction is scheduled for this winter.

**Programming** includes Historic House Tours, and cultural events. Located at 280 South Middlebush Road.



## HAGEMAN HOUSE

The older portion of the house was **built in 1810**. After the Civil War, the addition was **built in 1865**.

**Restoration** of the building has included replacement of stairs and banisters, pocket doors, windows, exterior clapboards and porch reconstruction. The interior kitchen has been modernized to accom-



modate the caretaker and some catering activities.

**Programs** included, Civil War encampments, President Lincoln interpretations, Country Apple Harvest Festivals, Musical and cultural events as well as Second Sunday Historic House Tours.

Located at 209 South Middlebush Road.

## HAGEMAN BARNs

A "Save the Barns" effort brought a lot of attention and some funding to the fragile barns on site. Thanks to county and state grants, and a lot of perseverance the Horse barn has been restored. Plans are

underway to restore the Cow Barn during this winter. It will be dismantled, numbered, and repaired before rebuilding.

**Programming** will include the 30th anniversary celebration dinner, future historic tours and events.





## FRANKLIN INN & USED BOOKSTORE



The Franklin Inn, a former tavern **constructed in 1752** on the stagecoach route from New York to Philadelphia, served as headquarters for the British General, Lord Cornwallis for five days in 1777. **Restoration** includes the removal of the porch to return the structure to eighteenth century Dutch architecture, repairs to the fireplace, and structural supports.

**Programming** includes the interpretations of Cornwallis, and other Revolutionary War era soldier encampments, General Washington portrayals, historic tours and fireside chats. The building houses a 20,000 volume Blackwells Mills Canal House Association library and serves as a used book store. It is leased from a local resident. Located at 2371 Amwell Rd, East Millstone



Franklin Inn  
and Used Bookstore  
Annie Van Liew Homestead

## WYCKOFF GARRETSON

**Built in 1730** and expanded in 1805.

**Restorations** included removal of the gabled roof and side shed, restoration of the clapboard front exterior, rebuilding the front benches, restoration of the foundation stone and kitchen fireplace, a new roof and cedar shingles.

**Programming** includes the Colonial Times in Franklin encampments and future museum. Located at 215 South Middlebush Road.



Wyckoff-Garretson  
House and Wagon Barn

## TULIPWOOD



**Built in 1892** by the architect, J. August Lineau, this structure was a country retreat from New York.

**Restorations** have included repairs of several front porch columns, the roof, replacement and repairs of the cedar shingles, window casings and shutters, replacement of the furnace, scraping and painting the exterior. Trees and shrubs removed.

**Programming** includes fireside chats, tours, poetry readings, and other cultural events. Located at 1165 Hamilton Street.



Tulipwood

## BLACKWELLS MILLS CANAL HOUSE

**Built in 1835**, when the D&R Canal was created for hauling lumber, milled products and other necessities between New York and Philadelphia. The Blackwells Mills Canal House was home for bridge-tenders who opened the old swing bridge for boats and barges. The last resident bridge-



tender was Sandor Fekete, who lived there until his death at age 90 in 1971.

**Restored** by volunteers, the property is leased from NJ DEP.

**Programming** includes craft and antique shows, art exhibits, children's events, market days, and plant sales. Located at 598 Canal Road.



Blackwells Mills  
Canal House



STEWARDS OF EARLY DUTCH & AMERICAN HERITAGE

1289 Easton Avenue  
Somerset, New Jersey 08873

The Meadows Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to give the past a future by preserving and restoring historic sites with an emphasis on early Dutch and American heritage.

Phone 732.828.7418



The Meadows Foundation receives operating support and other grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, NJ Historic Trust, Somerset County Historic Commission, Franklin Township Open Space Commission and from generous members, indi-

*Join the Meadows Foundation...  
celebrating 30 years of  
preservation and restoration.*

Early American Culture



Cool Women Poets of New Jersey, will be reading at Tulipwood on November 3, 2007 at 2 pm. Photo above from a poetry reading in 2006 on the front porch of Tulipwood.



The Historic Houses of The Meadows Foundation are open to the public on the second Sundays, and many are available for rentals. Photo above of the of Van Liew Suydam front porch.



Dutch Heritage