



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spring Open House Celebrates the Woods at Highfield Hall & Gardens on Sunday, May 6

Falmouth, MA, April 26, 2018 – Highfield Hall & Gardens kicks off the 2018 season with a Spring Open House on Sunday, May 6th from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM with five inspiring art exhibitions which bring the woods inside and invite visitors to attend outdoor docent-led tours and a festive maypole celebration. Artist receptions, live music, floral, woodturning and carving demonstrations will also be part of this free community event. All are welcome.

A one-hour docent-led estate tour will start at 12:30 PM for those who want to learn about the fascinating history of the Beebe family who built the estate and the community activism that saved the mansion from demolition.

From 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, artist receptions will be held for the national and local exhibiting artists. Local woodworkers will be on hand demonstrating the art of woodturning and wood carving. Visitors are invited to learn more about woodworking in the educational area on display through June 17. Also from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, award-winning floral designer Anna Holmes will demonstrate a variety of floral arrangements.

At 1:30 PM, Director Terry Soares will lead a walking garden tour around the grounds and share an overview of Highfield's horticulture, the historic Sunken Garden and West Garden restoration projects, and new garden initiatives including the launch of a pollinator path.

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At 2:00 PM, Highfield Hall will present its annual maypole celebration on the front lawn with music accompaniment by The Queen Victoria Secret Band from Woods Hole. Visitors of all ages are invited to participate in the traditional maypole dance.

Wrapping up the festivities on a high note, Music Director Robert Wyatt will perform a much-anticipated annual performance of his favorite songs of spring on Highfield's Mason & Hamlin concert grand piano at 3:00 PM. Mr. Wyatt, a Steinway Artist and popular music history lecturer, has performed throughout the United States and internationally and presented at the Smithsonian for over twenty years.

Throughout the day, a special \$5 discount will be offered for new memberships and membership upgrades, and members can enter to win two tickets to Anthony and Joseph Paratore, duo-pianists performing at Highfield Hall & Gardens on May 20th.

Tickets will also be on sale for Highfield's third annual fundraiser, Highfield Celebrates: Gardens of Earthly Delights on Saturday, June 30. With a lush garden theme, guests will enjoy delicious gourmet food, live music, a live auction, lawn games, and back by popular demand magician Mike Pisciotta will dazzle and delight.

The spring exhibitions include *Art Ability: Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital's Celebration of Art by Artists with Disabilities*, a national show on display through June 17 features the work of 29 exceptional artists who work in a diversity of media including printmaking, mixed media, sculpture, metalwork, drawing, and painting. The exhibition's goal is to foster a better appreciation of people with disabilities through their artistic achievements and extraordinary stories. As art enriches their lives, expect their creativity, talent and exuberant spirit to enrich yours.

Artistic Trails of Healing: the Paintings of Debra Hope Colligan and Her Students, on display through May 13, is a series of horse portraits. Artist Debra Hope Colligan suffered a traumatic brain injury from a horseback riding accident, and this exhibition is the life force of her artworks, along with the inspiration she receives from her talented students whose artwork is included in the exhibition.

Thin Places: Drawings and Photographs by Deborah Coolidge explores Ms. Coolidge's profound connection with trees, particularly old growth trees and witness trees in New England. Her drawings begin with graphite tree bark rubbings, which she transforms in the studio by polychromatic applications of oil stick, pastel, and graphite into a personal aesthetic statement. This exquisite exhibition will be on display through June 17.

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Expressions in Wood: Carved and Turned Vessels, located on the first floor at Highfield Hall through June 17, showcases the woodturning and carving expertise of local artists Sue Beardsley, Bob Beardsley, Mike Grady, Toby Lorenzen, and Gary Tabor. Inspired by the texture of wood, the gorgeous colors, and the intriguing grain, these artists make each piece a personal artistic expression while preserving the wood's natural beauty.

The Continuum of Now: Photographs by Jon Moore is a series of photographs taken near the Punch Bowl in Beebe Woods. Mr. Moore's photos of a winter's walk around a snowy pond, printed in sepia tone, record fleeting moments of seeing as in "the waning sunlight of a winter's day." Photographs will be displayed through June 17.

There will be complimentary Beebe Woods trail maps and a "Passport to Beebe Woods" children's activity booklet for families to explore and celebrate the woods located behind Highfield Hall & Gardens.

Highfield Hall is wheelchair accessible and handicapped parking is available. For more information, visit highfield.org or call 508-495-1878 x2.

Highfield Hall & Gardens, the magnificent Victorian mansion with beautiful gardens located in the heart of Falmouth, is a unique combination of historic home, expansive gardens and trails, and a vibrant cultural center. Built in 1878 as the summer home for Boston's Beebe family, the mansion sits on 5.5 pristine acres surrounded by nearly 400 acres of conservation land and public walking trails. While there's plenty of history within these glorious old walls, Highfield Hall & Gardens is not your typical historic estate. Highfield Hall offers world-class music, international art exhibitions, culinary classes, family programs, and year-round special events. Expect the unexpected!

Highfield Hall & Gardens is open April 15 through October 31 from Tuesday – Friday and Monday holidays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Admission is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors, and free for members and children. In July and August, admission is free during Free Friday nights from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The gardens and grounds are open daily from dawn to dusk free of charge. For more information, visit highfieldhall.org.

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