

## **Hill-Stead Museum**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **HILL-STEAD MUSEUM ANNOUNCES GIFT FROM FARMINGTON BANK**

**FARMINGTON, CT** – Hill-Stead Museum announces that it has received a gift of \$20,000 from the Farmington Bank Foundation, the charitable arm of Farmington Bank, to underwrite educational programs and signature events.

The funds will be used to sponsor benefit events such as May Market and the *Monet in May* Dinner Auction, as well as the museum’s popular family Hay Day festival. In addition, a portion of the gift will underwrite vital educational programs such as student visits and teacher workshops.

“Farmington Bank has been a true ambassador and an exceedingly generous supporter of Hill-Stead Museum, and we are grateful for the bank’s charitable contributions to this vibrant local institution and National Historic Landmark,” said Douglu Pyrke, Hill-Stead Museum’s Development Director.

**May Market**, the Farmington Valley’s premier home, garden and crafts event, takes place **May 6 & 7, 2011, 10am-4pm**. Held on the lush grounds of the museum’s 152-acre hilltop estate, the market features over 50 exhibitors with unique crafts, plants, artisan foods and antiques for home and garden. Visitors can shop for quality jewelry and garden sculptures, hard-to-find perennials and more; attend lectures with celebrity caterer **Lulu Powers** and noted garden author **Jane Garmey**; enjoy daily garden demonstrations; and tour the museum’s renowned Impressionist art collection at their own pace. Information and tickets are available at 860.677.4787 ext 132.

**Monet in May**, Hill-Stead’s 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Dinner Auction, takes place on **May 26, 2011**. The event showcases outstanding items such as island getaways, art and antique treasures, and fine wine collections. Spectacular hilltop views from Hill-Stead’s West Lawn, creative cocktails and exceptional dining distinguish this signature event. Information and tickets are available at 860.677.4787 ext 132.

**Hay Day, October 2, 2011, 12-4 pm**, is a popular, family-friendly celebration of autumn, a favorite among Hill-Stead visitors. Hitch a ride on a horse-drawn hay wagon, build a scarecrow, tap your toes to the tunes of Connecticut's Bristol Old Tyme Fiddlers, and enjoy the museum's trails and meadows in full autumn color.

Farmington Bank is a full-service community bank with more than \$1.5 billion in assets and 16 branch offices throughout Central Connecticut. Established in 1851, Farmington Bank is a diversified consumer and commercial bank with an ongoing commitment to contribute to the betterment of the communities in our region. Farmington Bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of First Connecticut Bancorp. For more information about Farmington Bank, visit [farmingtonbankct.com](http://farmingtonbankct.com).

A National Historic Landmark and an Official Project of Save America's Treasures, Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, CT, is a stop on the Connecticut Art Trail and a member of Connecticut's Historic Gardens. The period rooms are open for tours Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. The last tour of the day begins at 3 pm. Grounds are open daily 7:30 am-5:30 pm. For tour and program information, browse [www.hillstead.org](http://www.hillstead.org) or call 860.677.4787.

Hill-Stead is noted for its 1901 33,000-square-foot house filled with art and antiques. Pioneering female architect Theodate Pope Riddle designed the grand house, set on 152 hilltop acres, to showcase the Impressionist masterpieces amassed by her father, Cleveland iron industrialist Alfred A. Pope. Collections include original furnishings, paintings by Monet, Degas, Manet, Whistler and Cassatt, as well as numerous works on paper and Japanese woodblock prints. Stately trees, seasonal gardens, meadows, over three miles of stone walls and blazed hiking trails accent the grounds. A centerpiece of the property is the c. 1920 sunken garden designed by landscape architect Beatrix Farrand, today the site of the renowned Sunken Garden Poetry & Music Festival.