

Historic Deerfield: New family programs celebrate history, nature

Have you ever wondered what life was like for families in Colonial America? How were clothes made? Where did foods come from? How did people survive without modern appliances? The 2010 summer family programs at Historic Deerfield will explore the lives of colonial families, and various aspects of their nature-based life.



Berry Season

In June, the many uses of berries will be investigated in a new program called "Berry Season." Used for food, medicine, and even for dyes and inks, berries were also a seasonal treat for early Americans. Visitors will explore the importance of berries to both Native Americans and English settlers in the 18th century, make berry ink, put together a refrigerator-jam kit to take home, and receive a berry recipe booklet. Included with general admission.

BERRY SEASON

Noon to 4 p.m., weekends in June.

Adults \$12, Youths (age 6 to 17) \$5, Children (under 6) free.

Colonial Colors

In July and August, visitors can enjoy the new program "Colonial Colors: Fun with Paint and Dye," an

exploration of the rich and vibrant colors and hues found in everyday colonial New England life. This program will look at how fabric dyes were made from local plants, as well as imported dye stuffs. Visitors can learn how people colored their houses with paint ground from natural pigments and mixed it with natural materials such as linseed oil or even milk! Historic houses and the Flynt Center of Early New England Life will be open for visitors to see ways in which people made their interiors stand out with color. Visitors can also create their own colors using natural materials and methods, and make a project to take home. Included with general admission.

COLONIAL COLORS: Fun with Paint and Dye

Noon to 4:30 p.m.

Adults \$12, Youths (age 6 to 17) \$5, Children (under 6) free

Daily, July 3 to Aug. 15

Finally, the programs only gets sweeter when "Honey Harvest" is offered on weekends in September. Honey was an important ingredient used to sweeten foods and beverages in colonial America, and to brew a traditional drink called mead. Join museum educators in this fun family program to learn about bees and honey. Taste different kinds of honey, and make a beeswax candle to take home.

All family programs are included with general admission and are free to members. For more information, call (413) 775-7214 or visit www.historic-deerfield.org

Also at Historic Deerfield

OPEN HEARTH COOKING: HERBS

June 12, repeats every Saturday until June 26.

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Experience the sights,



sounds, and aromas of hearth cooking while learning about colonial foods and diet. See what's growing when you visit the Cooks' Garden dedicated in memory of Margaret Quinn Orloske. Included with general admission.

GARDEN DAY

June 12

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Visit Historic Deerfield for a day that recognizes the important roles that gardens played for early New Englanders. Enjoy tours of our Cooks' Garden, Open Hearth Cooking with their own garden produce, tastings of herbal foods, culinary-focused house tours, a "Tree and Shrub ID" walk, a talk about composting and soil health, an agricultural walk, and a garden tour focusing on the critical role of pollinators. Included with general admission.

SHADOWS IN THE VALLEY: A Cultural History of Illness, Death, and Loss in

■ For more information, call 775-7214 or visit www.historic-deerfield.org.

New England — 1840-1916

June 27, 2 to 4 p.m.

Alan C. Swedlund, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, will give a lecture followed by a signing of his new book. Free.

TEA AND A TOUR

Saturday, Aug. 21

2 to 4 p.m.

New: Join Historic Deerfield and the Deerfield Inn for a fun and educational opportunity to learn more about tea drinking in colonial Deerfield. Enjoy freshly baked scones with clotted cream, finger sandwiches, cakes, sherry, cookies and more with your cup of tea. Also join Amanda Rivera Lopez, Director of Museum Education and Interpretation at Historic Deerfield, to learn about the many ways people have enjoyed tea over time. Following the tea, visit some of Historic Deerfield's tea-related collections.

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for Youth (12 and under) and must be purchased in advance. Pre-registration is required by Aug. 18. For more information or to register, please call (413) 774-5587.