

NEWS RELEASE
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**Celebrate the *spirit of the maker* at the
77th Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair!
August 7-15, 2010 Mount Sunapee Resort, Newbury, NH**

CONCORD, NH – The 77th Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair, which runs from August 7-15 at the Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury, NH, is a nine-day celebration of fine handcraft and the spirit and creativity of those who make it. It is the oldest, continuously running craft fair in the US, and was voted one of America's Top 10 Fairs and Festivals in 2010 by *AmericanStyle* readers because it provides fun, educational, and entertaining activities for everyone. The Fair showcases functional, one-of-a-kind jewelry, glass, pottery, prints, metalwork, fiber arts, woodcarvings, weaving, sculptures, furniture, and leatherwork at 200 craft booths. Each piece of fine craft has a story that expresses the vision, inspiration, skill, and personal history of the maker –a master craftsman and juried member of the League.

Fair visitors will discover the diversity and quality of the craft and have an opportunity to meet and speak with the makers. Those who love to shop will find creative and functional items for themselves or to give as gifts. People of all ages will enjoy watching and participating in the daily demonstrations and workshops.

Education is a key component of the Annual Craftsmen's Fair. There are daily demonstrations and workshops for all ages, including glass blowing, blacksmithing, woodcarving, and furniture building, among other craftmaking skills. All demonstrations and workshops are given by juried members of the League of NH Craftsmen, as well as invited guests from the New Hampshire Potters Guild, the Guild of

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New Hampshire Woodworkers, the New Hampshire Woodcarvers Guild, the New Hampshire Art Association, the New Hampshire Shaker Museum, the Canterbury Shaker Village, and the New Hampshire Farm Museum.

Joy Jaworksi, a member of the New Hampshire Business Committee for the Arts, described the experience that she and her children had. "My kids had a great time being craftsmen, from doing it themselves to finding out about the amount of time and effort it takes the craftsmen to develop, create and complete their works. The craftsmen took the time to engage with them and answer their questions. To see it all in action really helped them understand what it means to dedicate yourself to your art.," she said.

Newest Workshop: Tools for Kids

This year's Fair features a new daily workshop designed especially for kids, called Tools for Kids. League member and master woodworker Dave Emerson provides non-electric tools like planes, hand drills, treadle lathe, and even a wringer washer for kids to try.

Craft Exhibitions Showcase Handcrafted Items in Use

Two exhibitions, *Living With Craft* and *CraftWear*, and an outdoor *Sculpture Garden*, illustrate the practical and decorative use of handcrafted items. *Living With Craft* features tastefully decorated room settings furnished entirely with handmade furniture and room accessories. *CraftWear* features unique "art-to-wear" clothing, jewelry, and accessories. The outdoor *Sculpture Garden* includes pieces such as garden ornaments and landscape sculptures. An exhibition of fine prints, called *Here Comes the Sun*, is on display in the Sunapee Lodge.

Collector's Forum at the Fair

Craft collectors, and those who want to be, can learn more about investing in and caring for a fine craft collection during the Collector's Forum. During this Forum, avid collectors and fine handmade craft experts will discuss what to look for in a collection, how to get started, and the advantages from a financial and personal perspective of investing in fine craft.

Tour with a Master

Tour with a Master provides fairgoers with an in-depth view of how a particular type of craft is made. Each day, a master craftsman will take fairgoers on a 45-minute tour of the craft booths and exhibitions, providing detailed commentary on the techniques and artistry that go into making wood, metal, glass, and fiber handcraft. Fairgoers will gain a greater appreciation for the quality and distinction of fine handcrafted items as well as the standards the League uses to determine juried membership.

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Musical Performances

The Fair experience also includes a variety of musical performances, including high-energy jazz, Caribbean steel drum music, country and bluegrass, storytelling, gospel, and pop/rock. All performances take place in the Performing Arts Tent and are included in the admission price to the Fair.

Fair Information

The lead sponsor for the 77th Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair is the Duprey Company. The Fair will be open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm daily, rain or shine, from August 7-15. Admission is \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors, students, active duty military (with ID), and groups of 20 or more. Admission is free for children 12 and under. A ticket includes admission to all exhibitions and demonstrations and a second day free return to the Fair. Tickets are available for advance purchase on the League's website, www.nhcrafts.org. Having tickets in advance is a great way to avoid the long ticket lines at the gate.

Parking is free and childcare is available on site at \$2 per hour. Picnic areas, as well as a food tent, indoor cafeterias, and an outdoor Garden Café (serving adult beverages) are open daily. No pets are permitted on the fairgrounds or left in cars in the parking lots.

About the League of NH Craftsmen

The League of NH Craftsmen is a non-profit, craft education organization. Its mission is to encourage, nurture and promote the creation, use and preservation of fine contemporary and traditional craft through the inspiration and education of artists and the broader community. The League represents the *signature of excellence* in fine craft, through the work of its juried members, and its rigorous standards for self expression, vision, and quality craftsmanship.



The League of NH Craftsmen is supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information about the Fair, or the League of NH Craftsmen, call 603-224-3375, email nhleague@nhcrafts.org, or visit the League's website at www.nhcrafts.org.

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