

NEWS RELEASE
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**Celebrate the *spirit of the maker* at the
78th Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair!
August 6-14, 2011 Mount Sunapee Resort, Newbury, NH**

CONCORD, NH – Each piece of fine craft on display at the 78th Annual Craftsmen's Fair has a story – one that expresses the vision, inspiration, skill, and personal history of the maker. These are the juried members of the League of NH Craftsmen, artisans who make fine hand craft using traditional methods. By creating functional pieces using natural materials that have lasting value, they are contributing to the state's legacy of craftsmanship and improving the sustainability of our community and environment.

One of the nation's most prestigious cultural events, the Annual Craftsmen's Fair, which runs August 6-14 at the Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury, NH, is a nine-day celebration of traditional and contemporary fine handcraft. 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. Fine craft collectors and enthusiasts will appreciate the diversity and quality of the craft and the opportunity to meet and speak with the makers. Those who love to shop will find distinctive 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.

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Come to the 78th Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair this August / 2

Visitors can view and purchase jewelry, glass, pottery, prints, metalwork, fiber arts, woodcarvings, weaving, sculptures, furniture, and leatherwork at 200 craft booths. There are daily educational demonstrations and workshops for all ages on the traditional methods of making fine handcraft. Glass blowing, blacksmithing, woodcarving, and furniture building – these are just some of the craftmaking skills that will be on display. These



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 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.

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. There will also be a print exhibit called, *Starry, Starry Night*, featuring members of the League and the New Hampshire Art Association.

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 craft is made. Each day, a League member 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 that craft. 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

Daily musical performances complement the lively atmosphere of the Fair and are included in the Fair admission price. High-caliber country, bluegrass, Latin, folk, jazz, and blues musicians and performers will appear in the Performing Arts Tent.

Fair Information

The 78th Annual League of NH Craftsmen Fair will be open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm daily, rain or shine, from August 6-14. 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, as well as a second day free return to the Fair.

Early Discount Tickets

Visitors who purchase their tickets in advance on the League's website, www.nhcrafts.org, will receive a \$1 discount, plus no convenience fee. This discount will be offered until August 5. 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 grants from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.



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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