

For Immediate Release
6/17/2016

The Fells Historic Estate and Gardens, Raising Funds to Preserve the Past and Protect the Future.

NEWBURY, June 17, 2016– The Fells Historic Estate and Gardens has announced the Public Phase of their *Treasure The Fells* campaign to raise the \$1.2 million needed to continue their mission of creating a center for discovery and education. The monies are needed to preserve this historic estate for future generations and to improve the visitation experience for members and guests of all ages.

The campaign has already raised \$850,000 through its silent phase. As the Public Phase begins, an anonymous donor has pledged a “Challenge Grant of \$150,000”. This means that every dollar raised over the next 12 months will be matched 1 for 1, up to a total of \$150,000. This challenge grant will go a long way toward helping to reach the goal of \$1.2 million.

The projects that are part of the campaign include; the construction of an Education and Events Pavilion to be used as a teaching center; restoration and preservation of the 1914 Prentice Sanger-designed ‘Honeymoon’ Cottage; a new Wildflower Trail; and some much needed parking.

Rich in history, The Fells was the summer home of John Milton Hay and his family, and is a fine example of the New Hampshire summer home movement. Hay (1838-1905) was an American writer, diplomat, and Secretary of State who served Presidents Lincoln, McKinley and Roosevelt.

In 2005, a group of passionate Fells volunteers made a commitment to rescue The Fells and to restore its beauty and preserve its historical significance. They developed a master plan called Vision 2020. Phase I of that plan, now completed, was the acquisition of The Fells from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; the

refurbishing and furnishing of the Main House; the restoration of the Pebble Court and the Old Garden; and the expansion of the Rock Garden.

“Treasure The Fells advances the mission of The Fells and follows the original Master Plan which was envisioned and purposely outlined by our dedicated volunteers and friends prior to the acquisition in 2008. The educational components woven throughout all aspects of each project are designed to enhance the visitor’s experience with each and every visit”, stated Executive Director Susan Warren.

The *Treasure The Fells* initiative is designed to ensure that the Hay family legacy is preserved so that future generations can enjoy and learn the history, horticulture, and ecology of the site. If you are interested in making a contribution to *Treasure The Fells* call 603-763-4789 ext. 3 or visit www.thefells.org.

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