



For Immediate Release

November 14, 2008

Contact: Craig Orndorff

Phone #: (540) 869-2028

Email: craig.orndorff@gmail.com

Harvest Home: Belle Grove to host Thanksgiving Weekend Tours

Do you get headaches after taking on the massive crowds that swamp every retailer on Black Friday? Are you all cramped up from a living in a house full of in-laws? Are you always going mad trying to find a truly unique gift for that special someone who seems to have everything? If you suffer from these symptoms or suffer history-obsession disorder, then a tour of Belle Grove on Thanksgiving Weekend may be the cure. Belle Grove Plantation and its one-of-a-kind Museum Shop will be open on Friday, November 28th and Saturday, November 29th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the last tour at 3:15 p.m.

Belle Grove has something for everyone at your house for Thanksgiving. Take our historic house tour to learn more about the 1797 Manor House and its original owners Major Isaac Hite and Nelly Madison. Go on a self-guided tour through the plantation grounds and take in our unique outlying sites, including the Slave Cemetery, the Ice House, and the Smokehouse. Once you're finished seeing everything Belle Grove has to see, spend some time in our Museum Shop. Some of this year's unique offerings include locally made porcelain Snowbabies based on the original German designs, individually hand-crafted wooden ornaments from Middletown, a unique selection of books on local and Virginia history, vintage Christmas ornaments, and a selection of linen and woolen items based on 1860's designs. If you and your holiday visitors enjoy history and spectacular mountain views, you won't want to miss this great opportunity to beat the crowds and search for a special gift.

Located in Middletown, Virginia near the intersection of I-81 and I-66, Belle Grove Plantation is both a National and Virginia Historic Landmark and a Property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Constructed between 1794 and 1797, the Manor House boasts authentic Jeffersonian architecture, an impressive decorative arts collection and sweeping views of the Blue Ridge, Alleghenies and Massanutten Mountain. The plantation holds several popular annual events and is open for touring, daily from March 31 until November 4 and weekends in November. For more information please contact Belle Grove by phone at (540) 869-2028, or by e-mail at info@bellegrove.org. Be sure to visit our web-site at www.bellegrove.org.