



ESSEX NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Essex National Heritage Commission Presents the Endecott Pear Tree Lecture

April 6, 2011 (Salem, MA) -- The Essex National Heritage Commission, in collaboration with Mass General/North Shore Center for Outpatient Care and the Danvers Historical Society will present a lecture on, and visit to, the Endecott Pear Tree, deemed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to be the oldest planted living fruit tree in North America. The lecture will take place on Wednesday, April 13 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm at the Mass General/North Shore facility located at 102 Endicott Street in Danvers. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$5 for Essex Heritage and Danvers Historical Society members and \$10 for non-members. Registration is required.

The pear-focused evening will feature a walking tour of the Endecott Pear Tree, pear-themed refreshments and a lecture about the history of the tree and efforts to preserve it. Welcoming remarks will be made by Robert Norton, President and CEO of North Shore Medical Center, and David Torchiana, M.D., Chairman and CEO, Massachusetts General Physicians Organization. Lecturers will be Anthony Patton, M.D., Danvers Historical Society, and Emeritus Member, NSMC Medical Staff, and Karen Krag, M.D., Medical Oncologist, Mass General/North Shore Cancer Center.

“We are thrilled to present this lecture celebrating the oldest living fruit tree in North America, which is right in our back yard,” said Annie C. Harris, Executive Director of the Essex National

Heritage Commission. “The partnership with MassGeneral/NorthShore and Danvers Historical Society enables us to combine our resources to preserve and promote the cultural, historical and environmental importance of the Endecott Pear Tree.”

Mass General/North Shore Center for Outpatient Care became caretakers of this tree when it acquired the land from Osram-Sylvania. The outpatient center is engaged in making improvements to the area around the tree for its protection and longevity.

“We have wanted to provide opportunities for our community to appreciate this unique tree”, said Elena Sierra, Executive Director, Mass General/North Shore Center for Outpatient Care. “This is the first in a series of collaborative lectures promoting healthy and ecologically friendly connections to our communities. This lecture will feature two local physician historians who will speak about the history of the Endecott Pear tree, as well as Massachusetts’ first Governor, John Endecott, the Endecott family and the mutual commitment to preserving this historic tree.”

“About 1630, Governor Endecott planted the Pear Tree at its present location” said Wayne Eisenhauer, treasurer of the Danvers Historical Society. “We look forward to this lecture where we will be joined by several of the Endicotts and will be taking orders from attendees for future scions of this almost 400 year old historic tree.”

For additional information or to purchase tickets, please contact Essex Heritage at 978-740-0444 or visit the website at www.essexheritage.org.

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About the Essex National Heritage Area

The Essex National Heritage Commission (Essex Heritage) is the non-profit management entity for Essex National Heritage Area, one of forty-nine heritage partnership parks of the National Park Service. Working in collaboration with the National Park Service, the Essex Heritage promotes public/private partnerships and develops and implements programs that enhance, preserve and encourage regional awareness of the unique historic, cultural and natural resources found within the Area. For more information, visit the website at www.essexheritage.org or call (978) 740-0444.