

# Butterworth Center & Deere-Wiman House

*Where history lives in real time.*

www.butterworthcenter.com

## FACT SHEET

### Who are we?

Deere-Wiman House, built in 1872, was home to John Deere's son, Charles Deere. Butterworth Center, built in 1892, was home to John Deere's granddaughter, Katherine Butterworth.

In 1953, Katherine Butterworth established the Butterworth Trust. Under the trust, Butterworth Center & Deere-Wiman House are open to the community as cultural arts centers that develop and support educational programs and events.

### What we offer

- Onsite and outreach programs for schools, childcare facilities, colleges and organizations are available. Our programs are interactive and emphasize arts, music and history.
- Several free family events are held each year, including Blossoms at Butterworth, Fridays at Deere-Wiman and Christmas Open House.
- Year round, visitors can tour Butterworth Center & Deere-Wiman House. Donations are accepted.
- Hundreds of non-profit organizations may reserve free meeting space at the Butterworth Center and Deere-Wiman House.

### More on the historic homes...

#### **Deere-Wiman House**

817-11<sup>TH</sup> Avenue  
Moline, IL 61265  
309-765-7970

In 1872, John Deere's youngest son, Charles, built the Deere-Wiman House for his wife, Mary Little Dickinson Deere, and their daughters, Anna and Katherine, born in 1864 and 1866, respectively. They named their Swiss Villa style residence "Overlook" because of its desirable hilltop location above the growing city of Moline, Illinois, and the family business, the John Deere Plow Works. Overlook, known as Deere-Wiman House today, served as home to four generations of Deere descendants. After the death of Mrs. Pattie Southall Wiman in 1976, it was donated for public use.

Tours of Deere-Wiman House offer visitors an authentic glimpse into Victorian family life and architectural innovations of the past century. Points of interest include a nearly complete set of Audubon chromolithographs, from an 1860 edition, a working Kimball pipe organ (c. 1910 - 1920) in the library, and a multi-nozzled spa shower reminiscent of the healing hot spring resort waters popular during the Victorian era.

The home's seven acres of meticulously-groomed formal gardens and walkways, as well as a child-size playhouse and three-story carriage house, beckon guests to leisurely explore the same lovely setting enjoyed by residents of a bygone era.

### ***Butterworth Center***

*1105-8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Moline, IL 61265  
309-765-7970*

In 1892, Charles Deere built a new home a block from his beloved Overlook as a wedding gift for his youngest daughter, Katherine, and her husband William Butterworth. Over the years, the Butterworths tripled the size of the original house, appropriately named "Hillcrest," and groomed over three acres of surrounding grounds into a showplace for unusual varieties of trees and flowers. In 1910, they designed extensive formal gardens that included a lawn bowling field and pathways that wound past a fountain, through a large pergola, and into a charming summer gazebo.

Katherine Butterworth's community involvement and philanthropy eventually led her to establish the Butterworth Trust in memory of her husband, William Butterworth. Upon her death in 1953, Hillcrest was renamed Butterworth Center, and in 1954 opened as a civic center to perpetuate Mrs. Butterworth's lifelong pattern of giving back to the community she loved.

Because of her generosity and foresight, visitors may still wander the lush grounds among countless species of labeled plants or take a moment to drink in the view from Butterworth Center's ample, screened porch.

Interior tours of Butterworth Center lead guests through three floors of handsomely appointed rooms that originally served as living quarters to William and Katherine Butterworth. Of special interest are the richly paneled music room with pipe organ of twenty-six ranks, an impressive library added in 1917 to accommodate a 25 by 50 foot 18th Century ceiling painting discovered in Italy, and the lower level Oak Room that opens onto a stone porte cochere where drivers delivered ladies and gentlemen to attend social events sponsored by the Butterworths.