

# Media Advisory: 2009 National Walling Competition

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## Celebrating a Kentucky Tradition

The Dry Stone Conservancy is a Lexington, Kentucky-based not-for-profit organization with a national reputation as the leading expert in the preservation of historic dry stone structures and produces the United State's only drystone walling competition. Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, in Mercer County, Kentucky, is the host site. The site is known as the country's largest collection of historic rock fence, and makes the perfect location for the event. The site is a short drive from Lexington, and provides some of the finest lodging and dining in the state. Drystone fences once lined a majority of Central Kentucky's turnpikes in the early days. The fences appeared in the landscape because the early settlers and immigrants who settled here brought these craft traditions from Ireland, Scotland and England. The Conservancy's vision is that Kentuckians will take pride in this tradition, and will support the many men and women who are committed to learning and practicing this craft.

### Competition Highlights

- 38 masons from 10 states & Scotland traveled 35,000 miles to compete in 2008.
- 21 awards are given to winners in 3 levels of expertise: professional, amateur and novice.
- Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill is the host site, and has the largest collection of historic rock fence in the United States.



# FACT SHEET

**WHAT:** The 2008 National Walling Competition is the only event of its kind in the United States. The Competition is a unique Kentucky event, where drystone masons from around the country rebuild Kentucky's historic rock fences while competing for prizes and awards. The event is in its sixth year, and attracts dry stone masons from all over the country, to compete for prizes and recognition in three different professional classes of drystone masonry. The event highlights a week-long program of masonry training and professional certification of drystone masons by the Dry Stone Conservancy. In 2008, **38** masons from **10** states and **Scotland** competed in the event and traveled more than **35,000** miles to attend the event. Dry-laid masonry is building with stone without the use of any mortar.

**WHEN:** The event is Saturday, October 10th, 2008 from 8:30 am to 5 pm.

**WHO:** The event is produced by the Dry Stone Conservancy, Inc., a Lexington, KY based not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the traditional craft skill of dry-laid stone masonry. Kentucky has a long and rich history of dry-laid stone masonry beginning with its early frontier settlement, and continuing up until today.

**WHERE:** The event takes place at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill in Mercer County, Kentucky. Shaker Village has the largest collection of preserved historic rock fence in the country, more than 25 miles!

**ADMISSION:** The event is free and open to the public.

## DIRECTIONS TO SHAKER VILLAGE

### FROM THE NORTH

Follow I-75 South to Lexington, exit #115. Turn right off exit onto Newtown Pike (KY 922). Follow Newtown Pike to New Circle Road (KY 4). Turn right and follow New Circle Road to exit #2 (Harrodsburg Road, US 68 west). Turn right onto US 68 west and continue about 25 miles to Shaker Village, on right (about 40 minutes).

### FROM THE WEST

Follow I-64 East to exit #48 (Lawrenceburg-Graefenburg exit). Turn right onto KY 151 South and continue to junction of KY 151 and US 127. Turn right onto US 127 South and continue to Harrodsburg (about 30 minutes). At first stoplight, turn left onto US 127 South by-pass. Follow by-pass to US 68; turn left and follow US 68 East about 7 miles to Shaker Village, on left.

### FROM THE SOUTH

Follow I-75 North to Mt. Vernon. Take exit #59 to US 150 West and continue to US 127 North (Danville by-pass). Follow US 127 North to Harrodsburg. At first stoplight, turn right onto US 127 North by-pass. Follow by-pass to US 68 East about 7 miles to Shaker Village, on left.

### FROM THE EAST

Follow I-64 West to I-75 South at Lexington. Take exit #110 and follow US 60 West to New Circle Road (KY 4). Follow New Circle Road south to exit #2 (Harrodsburg Road, US 68 West). Take exit ramp to right, then turn left onto US 68 West and continue about 25 miles to Shaker Village, on right (about 40 minutes).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on this event, and the Dry Stone Conservancy's programs, please visit our website at [www.drystone.org](http://www.drystone.org). Also, please visit Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill's website for information on lodging and dining during the event, at [www.shakervillageky.org](http://www.shakervillageky.org).