The Amy Clampitt Fund seeks to “benefit poetry and the literary arts by converting Amy Clampitt’s prior residence …into a facility which would provide for a place to foster the study and promotion of poetry and/or a poet in residence” through 6-to-12 month residencies at the Amy Clampitt house near Lenox, Massachusetts.

Amy Clampitt was born and brought up in New Providence, Iowa, graduated from Grinnell College, and from that time on lived mainly in New York City. Her first full-length collection of poems, The Kingfisher, published in 1983, was followed in 1985 by What the Light Was Like, in 1987 by Archaic Figure, and in 1990 by Westward. A Silence Opens, her last book, appeared in 1994.

The recipient in 1982 of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and in 1984 of an Academy of American Poets Fellowship, she was made a MacArthur Prize Fellow in 1992. She purchased a small house in Lenox with part of the award and lived there briefly. She was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and was a Writer in Residence at the College of William and Mary, Visiting Writer at Amherst College, and Grace Hazard Conkling Visiting Writer at Smith College. Ms. Clampitt died in September 1994. Her husband, Harold Korn, died in March 2001. It is his estate that has established the Amy Clampitt Fund.

Awards
The Residency award consists of the use of the Amy Clampitt House free and clear for a six month or twelve month period beginning on February 1, 2010 and ending on January 27th, 2011. Grants for travel to and from the Clampitt House are available based on need. A monthly stipend of $2,500 is paid to the resident fellow. It is expected that the resident fellow commit to residing in the house full-time and focusing exclusively on his/her creative work except for occasional absences. The Resident Fellow will be asked to give a reading locally of his/her work.

The Amy Clampitt House is a charming, fully furnished, three bedroom, two-story house in the Cape style in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Partners and/or children may accompany the resident so long as the total number of individuals in the house does not exceed five. There is one phone line to the house and a DSL connection. Pets are not allowed. Smoking is not allowed inside the house. The house is not wheelchair-accessible and is located in a quiet, residential neighborhood, a 15-minute walk from the village of Lenox.

Lenox is in rural Western Massachusetts, bordering Northern Connecticut and Eastern New York. As public transportation is virtually non-existent, it is necessary that residents make arrangements for their own transportation for the duration of the residency.

The Clampitt Residency provides an ideal opportunity for writers who are independent and resilient enough to live and work in a somewhat isolated and rural community. The program is administered by a community foundation, and as a result, the administrative support is minimal.
Eligibility
Poets or literary scholars with professional standing in their fields as well as emerging poets/scholars are eligible for residencies. The level of accomplishment of the work submitted will be considered as it is commensurate with the applicant’s age and/or experience. The Amy Clampitt Fund Residency Program encourages individuals from all backgrounds to apply. It does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of age, race, handicap, sex, religion, marital status, or national origin in its admission policies.

To Apply
Complete the attached application form and send it to the above address along with:

- A letter (no more than two pages) describing your interest in the residency and the work you propose to undertake.
- A 10-page work sample. This should be work completed in the last four years and representative of the genre in which you intend to be working at the Clampitt House. A portion of a work-in-progress may also be submitted as long as the total submission does not exceed 20 pages. All prose manuscripts should be printed single-sided and double-spaced in an easily readable font.
- Your resume.
- Three personal and professional references: List the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of two authorities in your field who are familiar with you and your work, and one or two individuals who know you personally. Indicate in each case whether the reference is personal or professional.

Deadline
Applications must be received at Berkshire Taconic by 5 p.m., August 1st, 2008.

Admissions Process
Acceptance is based on the evaluations of the Amy Clampitt Fund Board, using the review criteria listed below. The Board includes distinguished professionals in the field of poetry. The Board’s recommendations will be reviewed and approved by Berkshire Taconic’s Distribution Committee and its Board of Directors. An interview in person or by telephone may be part of the review process. Over time the Board will award the residencies to a group of writers that is diverse: poets, poetry scholars whose writing style and stage of career may differ widely.

Review Criteria
The Board will review requests for residencies according to the following criteria:

- The quality of the applicant’s work.
- The potential impact of the residency on the applicant and the commitment of the applicant to make propitious use of the residency period.
- Applicant’s demonstration of ability to complete his or her proposed project, as presented.
**Notification**
Applicants will be informed of Berkshire Taconic’s decision by December 1.

**Reporting Requirements**
Resident fellows will be requested to submit to the Clampitt program a copy of any work developed during the residency, when/if it is published. Residents are asked to write a brief letter commenting on their overall experience during their stay.

**Questions**
Please contact Maeve O’Dea, Program Director, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation at 800-969-2823 or by email at maeve@berkshiretaconic.org

**The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation**
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation administers and oversees the Clampitt Residency Program. Berkshire Taconic is based in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, several miles from the Clampitt House and is a nonprofit organization that serves as a catalyst for philanthropy in the Berkshire region. The mission is to improve the quality of life in Berkshire County, MA; Columbia County and northeast Dutchess County, NY; and northwest Litchfield County, CT. Berkshire Taconic serves as steward for the Amy Clampitt Fund, as well as hundreds of other funds that enhance the life of the area.
The Amy Clampitt Residency Program
Application for Residency

Please read enclosed Guidelines before completing form. Submit form and other materials no later than 5 p.m. August 1st, 2008

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: ____________________________________________________________

Phone (home): _______________________ Email: ______________________________

Phone (work): _______________________ Social Security #: ______________________

Date of Birth _____/_______/_______ (month/day/year)

How did you hear about the residency?: ____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Scheduling Information

What dates would you like to be in residence (six months minimum, twelve months maximum)

/____/ February 1st, 2010 – July 27th, 2010
/____/ August 1st, 2010 – January 27th, 2011

It is important that you make a commitment to spend your time in residence in the Clampitt House although it is understood that you may need some brief periods away for personal and/or professional reasons. Please indicate that you agree to this commitment.

______________________________________________________________________________

Amy Clampitt Residency Program
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
271 Main Street, Suite 3, Great Barrington, MA 01230-1972
T: 413.528.8039  F: 413.528.8158  info@berkshiretaconic.org  www.berkshiretaconic.org
The Clampitt resident fellow has the opportunity to participate in a program at the local public school district if it is comfortable and appropriate. Berkshire Taconic staff will effect introduction and facilitate the resident’s participation in the school program.

If this is interesting to you, please indicate so:

____________________________________________________________________________________________

What other, if any, family members will be with you?

_______________________________________________________________________  

_______________________________________________________________________

Will you bring your car or do you plan to rent a car? _______________________________

Special Requirements: (e.g. scope of project, personal mobility limitations, etc.)

_______________________________________________________________________  

_______________________________________________________________________

Work Sample Return: Please note that although every precaution is taken to see that work samples are handled with care, the Clampitt Fund cannot be responsible for their safety. Work samples will be returned only if you provide a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE). No dated metered postage, please.

(   ) SASE enclosed     (   ) Do not return sample.

Signature _______________________________        Date: _____________________________