

GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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'Hysterical Dusters' Spirit Award Winners

Once a month, four women collect soft cloths, don gloves, grab brooms and pails, and spend several hours dusting and cleaning those treasures that visitors love at Historic Locust Grove.

The volunteer Historical Dusters – **Tricia Langley**, **Nancy McFarland**, **Jane Smith**, and **Nancy Wesolosky** – have dubbed themselves “The Hysterical Dusters.” “That’s mainly because we have such a great time working together,” laughs **Nancy Wesolosky**.

Under the guidance of Locust Grove’s house- and grounds-keeper, **John Moses**, the Dusters do a variety of chores. “Besides dusting, we remove cobwebs, sweep floors, polish silver, wash windows, clean

hurricane lamps, even wax floors — the old-fashioned way, on hands and knees using paste wax,” says **Nancy McFarland**.

It’s certainly not all routine. “We think we should get some kind of ‘wildlife’ award,” laughs **Tricia**. “When we were cleaning the kitchen out-building, we didn’t know that a bird had made a nest in a pot on a high shelf.

“When Nancy Wesolosky picked up that pot, two baby birds flew straight at her!”

Nancy W. adds that a visiting science teacher put the nest in the nearby dairy so the mother bird could find her babies.

“We feel so privileged to be given the responsibility of taking care of Locust Grove,” adds **Jane**. “Most people can’t even get close to the house’s



The 'Hysterical Dusters' are (L-R) Nancy McFarland, Nancy Wesolosky, Tricia Langley, and Jane Smith.

treasures. We’re honored that we can touch these beautiful old items — carefully, and only when wearing gloves.”

“Keeping up our high standards is possible only with the help of our volunteers,” adds HLG Executive Director **Carol Ely**, “— especially this brave and intrepid band of Hysterical Dusters! They truly deserve this quarter’s Spirit Award.”

Yearly Events Mark Your Calendars!

Afternoon Lecture Series

1:00 p.m. – the first Wednesday of the month (except January and May).

Used Book Sale

Great book bargains to support Locust Grove’s programs — held the second weekend in March.

18th Century Thunder

Our Revolutionary War Encampment — held the Saturday and Sunday of “Thunder Weekend” in April.

Gardeners' Fair & Auction

Friday, Saturday, Sunday — held the second weekend in May.

Mothers' Day Brunch

Sunday during the Gardeners' Fair. *Reservations required.*

Antiques Markets

Held on the last Sundays in June and in September.

18th Century Market Fair

Held Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend in October.

Holiday Candlelight Tours

Costumed interpreters in the house and out-buildings on Friday and Saturday in early December.

From the Director's Desk

Carol Ely, Ph.D., Executive Director

Americans of the early 19th century were not afraid of bright colors. They favored exuberant greens, fierce reds, burning blues, rich yellows, softened with some mild pinks and soothing grays.

In re-restoring Locust Grove's interiors based on the original colors like verdigris green, chosen by the Croghan family, we've been delighted by the fresh energy these colors have given to the House. (At least, most of us have been delighted — with a few remaining holdouts who are still adjusting.)

And why not color? In the 21st century, we live with overstimulation and cacophony. We want our homes to be havens, with muted tones and earth shades, designed for peace.

Paint expert **Matthew Mosca** spoke at a presentation here last summer about his Locust Grove research. He reminded us then that early 19th century interiors were far from "natural." Nearly every surface was painted or glazed or otherwise decorated.

In that world two centuries ago, to say that something was "artificial" was high praise.

It meant well-crafted, with appropriate artifice — actually the very opposite of "natural."

William Croghan had enough of nature; it was all around him. It was forest, wilderness, river, wild places. He'd surveyed and camped acres of Kentucky ground, surviving for weeks in the woods with no comforts of civilization.

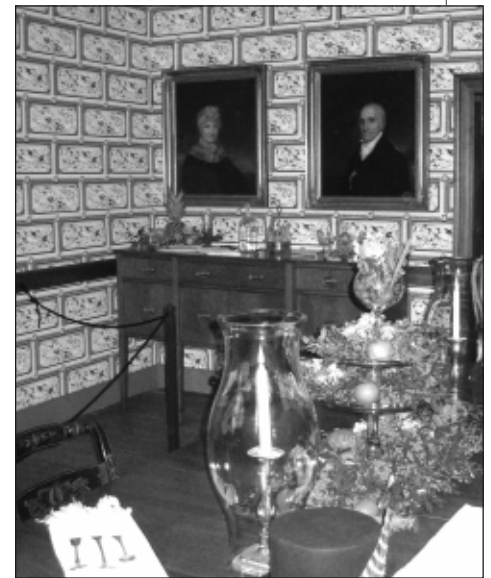
Locust Grove was his "country seat," his civilization. Croghan's taste was formed in the 18th century in the great homes of Ireland and of New York and Pennsylvania.

A fine house like Locust Grove was meant to stand apart from the forest. It would stand on a flat platform, partially ringed by a stone retaining wall, with no trees or foundation plantings to distract from the mass of the foursquare building.

The surrounding buildings and gardens would show classical symmetry and civilized restraint. The romantic "natural" landscapes of the mid-19th century were a generation away.

Inside, he wanted the same symmetry and artifice. Brilliant, glossy verdigris was his favorite color — perhaps his Irish heritage was an influence.

Where bare wood appeared — and Croghan *did* show off more bare wood than was usual for the



The new wallpaper and the addition of Lucy and William Croghan's portraits in the restored dining room attracted a great deal of attention during December's Candlelight tours.

period — it was tamed by being framed and carved.

Very little bare plaster was left in the house when Croghan finished wallpapering several of the rooms.

Right now, we're eagerly awaiting the last of the wallpaper to be installed in the second floor Great Parlor (formerly known as the Ballroom). It is being custom-printed for us by Adelphi Wall Hangings — using wood block techniques with inks and paper that will be very close to the original colors and textures.

This authentic re-creation process is itself a complicated story — see details on our reconstruction blog at: www.locustgrovelouisville.blogspot.com.

We also invite you to come in March and see the House for yourself!

Carol Ely

Grand Re-Opening! March 25-27, 2010

You're invited to be a part of the exciting festivities to celebrate the unveiling of the re-restored Locust Grove!

Thursday, March 25 : Friends' Reception

We'll kick off the celebration with a gala reception for Friends of Locust Grove and guests. If you'd like an invitation, just become a Friend of Locust Grove or renew your membership by March 1, 2010.

Friday, March 26:

Re-restoration Symposium

We'll have an all-day symposium on the restoration planning and process. It will feature talks, panel discussions, and demonstrations — such as printing wallpaper with wood blocks.

The symposium will be open to the public. There will be a fee and registration will be required. You will receive notice of this event if you are a Friend of Locust Grove or if we have your email address in our files. If you would like to receive email messages about this and all of our events, please send a message to: lghh@locustgrove.org. Information on this all-day symposium also will be posted on our website: www.locustgrove.org.

Saturday, March 27: Free Admission!

Locust Grove will be open all day — free to the public. We'll have several accompanying events, demonstrations, re-enactments, and general festivity. Join us here!



Detail of paper in Gen. Clark's room.

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561 Blankenbaker Lane
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 897-9845
(502) 896-2433
www.locustgrove.org

The mission of Historic Locust Grove, Inc. is to preserve and interpret the 55-acre site, with its circa 1790 house and out-buildings, the collection, and the gardens, as an example of early 19th century frontier America.

It is also our mission to share the stories of the many people who contributed to the history of Locust Grove, emphasizing the life of General George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War hero and founder of the city of Louisville.

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Getting to Know Locust Grove's Costumed Interpreters

Ron Adkisson is the New William Clark



Who are the characters you've interpreted?

For five years, I was Benjamin Temple, a son-in-law of the oldest Clark brother, Jonathan. Along with my wife, **Cheryl**, and our two children, we interpreted the Temple family.

For this past Candlelight, Locust Grove changed the year we were portraying from 1820 to 1809. Suddenly our characters would have to be 11 years younger.

Bob Pilkington switched from William Clark to William Croghan, and I was asked to portray William Clark. So Cheryl changed her character to play my darling young wife, Julia. In 1809, William was 39; Julia was 18. Cheryl's loved teasing me about this difference in our ages.

How did you begin costumed interpreting at HLG?

I teach American history at South Oldham Middle School. To help my students understand and enjoy studying history,

Cheryl and I created three living history dramatic presentations for my classroom.

After that, we thought it would be fun to do more costumed interpreting. So we became involved at Locust Grove.

Describe your character.

Until I began researching William, didn't know a lot about him. Of course, I knew about the Lewis & Clark expedition — but very little about the man who did so much to help change the shape of our nation.

William had great love for his family. Through *Dear Brother* — a collection of letters William wrote to his brother Jonathan over a period of years — we learn of William's concern for his brother George. William spent a great deal of time, energy and money trying to help George.

William consulted often with his oldest brother, even though William was the national hero. I am so impressed with William's leadership on the expedition west, and how he and Captain Lewis got so much out of their men under such daunting circumstances.

How do you make a character come to life?

It's actually quite difficult to do historical interpretation well. I find it hard not to talk too much! The people I'm chatting with may not be as interested in my topic as I am.

As with every good presentation, you must know your audience. Relating to young children is always a challenge since they don't have the same

background that adults may have on the topic.

It's important to have an amazing amount of knowledge, not only about the person but also the time period. I try to make people *believe* they're talking to William Clark — which requires a little effort on everyone's part.

I had a few simple stories and facts about the family and the trip west. And I made sure our visitors saw that we're having a great time. That's one reason why I love the dancing in the Grand Parlor. It's such fun.

How do you research your character?

For me, it's simple. I've loved history forever. I was the kid who actually *wanted* to read his history textbook. I usually have a book on some historical topic I'm reading. I do some Internet research. But I like to buy the books so I can write in them.

My research is in the early stages, and I'm planning to spend the entire year preparing for Candlelight 2010.

What makes costumed interpreting worth the time?

I love it when a history buff comes to Candlelight and is willing to travel through time to have a discussion with a person from the past.

Possibly the most rewarding part comes when I am able to help someone understand some part of history.

It's great to see how much the person enjoyed the chance to learn something new.

Gen. Clark's Victory Has International Impact

On October 3, 2009, **Gwynne Potts** was the keynote speaker at the rededication of the George Rogers Clark National Historic Site. This is an excerpt from her talk. (See the full text on Locust Grove's website.)

Both the National Historic Sites of Locust Grove in Louisville and this memorial in Vincennes owe their continued existence to the reverence our nation feels for George Rogers Clark.

We recall how George Rogers Clark, at age 26, slogged through a "drowned country" enroute to Fort Sackville and succeeded in securing the Northwest Territory.



HLG Board President Gwynne Potts gives the keynote speech during the rededication of the George Rogers Clark Memorial National Historic Park in Vincennes, Ind.

Clark wrote about his own reasons for the campaign to Virginia Governor Patrick Henry — not to George Washington. What was going on?

Let's look back. In the early 1770s, when Clark was searching for his fortune around Ft. Pitt, he first learned of the land beyond the Wabash from Deputy Indian Supervisor for the Crown, George Croghan (uncle of William Croghan).

George Croghan was instrumental in attempts to create the Indiana, or "Vandalia" colony, in what would today be most of West Virginia. He was also the force behind the creation of the Illinois Colony, which extended across southern Illinois from the Mississippi River to roughly Vincennes.

England likewise had plans to claim this territory by establishing land companies that would become English colonies. Unfortunately, so many land companies were formed that, by 1774, no one in London knew where one began and another ended.

The situation became so chaotic that Parliament passed the Quebec Act, placing all the land bordered by the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, north to the Great Lakes, in the province of Quebec. Had the British won the American Revolution, we would be standing in Canada!

This Quebec Act ignored Virginia's charter claim to the West. It so badly outraged important Virginians that most historians consider it the foundation of the Revolution in that colony.

When Clark marched into the Virginia Assembly in 1776 and announced that a "Country not worth protecting is not worth Claiming," he only referred to Kentucky. But the Virginia government determined it would have to control not only Kentucky, but "the Illinois" — everything north of Kentucky to Canada.

So, George Rogers Clark was sent to capture the Illinois for Virginia, not the United States. It was Virginia Governor Patrick Henry who wrote his orders and to whom he reported. It was Clark family neighbor Thomas Jefferson who promised land as payment to the men of the expedition.

Meanwhile, the Spanish government in New Orleans was braced for a naval invasion by Britain. If successful, the Brits would

sail north, reinforce the Illinois Territory, march east across Kentucky and up the Ohio River where Ft. Pitt would be taken. With western access cut off, and major east coast ports already in the hands of the British, Washington would have no choice but to surrender.

When Clark and his men captured the forts on the Mississippi in 1778, the British developed an invasion plan where British General Henry Hamilton would sweep down to Vincennes from Detroit, recapture Fort Sackville, Kaskaskia and Cahokia, and march to Fort Pitt. One man stopped Britain's plan to end the American Revolution: George Rogers Clark.

When General Hamilton surrendered Fort Sackville to Clark's Illinois Regiment on Thursday morning, February 25, 1779, this victory immediately became one of the most significant tactical operations of the American Revolution. And reverberations were felt all the way to London!

At that moment, Virginia's campaign became America's victory, and the American West no longer was the Appalachian Mountains — but the Mississippi River and even beyond.

Clark's future brother-in-law, Major William Croghan, happened to be dining with George Washington and a party of Continental officers when Washington received news from Thomas Jefferson announcing Hamilton's surrender at Vincennes.

The general asked the men to lift their glasses and announced "a series of brilliant achievements effected by the Virginia troops commanded by a Virginia officer" had resulted in the American flag now waving in triumph on the banks of the Wabash, and that the British governor general "is our prisoner; all this has been effected by the daring and gallantry of Colonel George Rogers Clark and his brave associates."

Did You Know...?

... that there's a good reason for that anachronistic bright blue tarp partially covering the roof of the cabin we call our Wood Shop.

The Wood Shop is where our carpenters demonstrate their craft and describe our great collection of antique woodworking tools to children on school tours and to other visitors during special events.

In early November, workers were carefully removing an old cherry tree at the northwest corner of the building. The tree was in such bad shape that we were afraid it would fall onto the cabin and damage it.



This is the damage that's under that bright blue tarp on the Wood Shop cabin roof.

Unfortunately, while the men were taking down the tree, it fell in an unexpected direction and hit part of the roof. Fortunately no one was hurt.

The injury to the building is painful to look at. But it will be repaired this winter in a most authentic manner.

Workers will be using the same artisanal building techniques that were used when the cabin was reconstructed on our site several decades ago.

The Wood Shop's rafters, deck, and shingles will be replaced using hand tools and early 19th century craftsmanship. By spring, the Wood Shop will be as good as . . . old.

And now you know.

Historic Locust Grove
CALENDAR

2010 AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES

This year's theme is "American Revolutions: How Society Changed During the Revolutionary Era." Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for January and May. Desserts and beverages are served at 1:00 p.m., with the lecture immediately following. Admission is \$5, or \$3 for Friends of Locust Grove.

EARLY RIVER TRANSPORTATION

Wednesday, February 3, 1:00 p.m.

Chuck Parrish, retired historian for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Louisville, will talk about the importance of Kentucky's rivers and the means of transportation on those rivers during the exploration and settlement of our region.

LUCY BAKEWELL AUDUBON

Wednesday, March 3, 1:00 p.m.

Kelly O'Connell Brengelman is Lucy Bakewell Audubon, the wife of artist John James Audubon. Lucy was incredibly devoted to her husband, whose business ventures often failed. She became the breadwinner as John spent hours in the woods with his brushes and paints. This is perhaps one of the best, and somewhat unknown, Kentucky love stories. In John James Audubon's words, "With her, was I not always rich?"

This is a Kentucky Chautauqua performance in partnership with The Kentucky Humanities Council.



EARLY MEDICAL EDUCATION AT TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, April 7, 1:00 p.m.

The fifth medical school in the U.S. was founded in 1799 at Transylvania University in Lexington. For several decades during the early 1800s, "Transy's" medical school rivaled America's

premier medical school in Philadelphia because of Transy's large library and rich collection of scientific apparatus. Transylvania University Professor **Charles Ambrose M.D.** will talk about the impact of Transylvania's medical college on the early development of Kentucky and the region.



These are some of the scientific and medical instruments and other items that are a part of Transylvania University's priceless collection.

2009-2010 EMILIE STRONG SMITH CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

The Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series is a rare opportunity to enjoy music much as the Croghans and Clarks would have in the early 1800s. Light refreshments are served on the first floor of the historic house at 5:00 p.m.; the concerts are at 5:30 p.m. in the Grand Parlor. Call (502) 897-9845 for further information and purchase tickets.

ARS FEMINA

Sunday, March 28, 5:30 p.m.

ARS FEMINA is a chamber music ensemble of professional musicians and scholars whose pioneering work on women composers before 1800 has attracted an international following. Explore the passions and prejudices that have inspired – and silenced – women composers through the ages, as the ensemble performs music written by female composers before 1800.

LOCUST GROVE'S BIG USED BOOK SALE!

Thursday, March 11

Members' Preview, 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 12 thru Sunday, March 14

Open to the Public, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

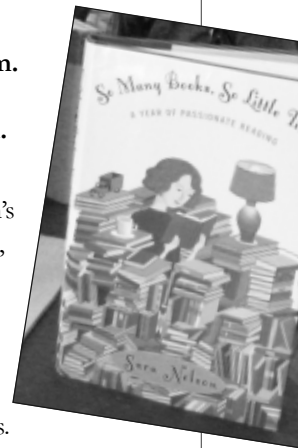
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Audiobooks, CDs, DVDs, cassettes and videotapes. Books on Kentucky and Indiana and by regional authors. Collectible books. Gift books. Coffee-table books. Vintage magazines and novels. Autographed books. Hard-to-find books.

Nearly anything you could dream of wanting to read, you'll find at Locust Grove's original, biggest, and best used book sale in March.

Preview Night is Thursday, March 11, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. — exclusively for Friends of Locust Grove. (See page 6 for information on becoming a member.) Friday through Sunday, we're open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. On Sunday after 2:00 p.m., you can fill a bag with books for \$10. (We furnish the bag.)

But we need your books! This fabulous sale is possible only through your donation of used books. Because proceeds of this sale support HLG's programs, donations are tax-deductible. Bring your book to Locust Grove's Visitors Center during our regular hours. And if you need help getting your books to Locust Grove, we'll help. Just call us at (502) 897-9845. Thanks so much!



Historic Locust Grove
CALENDAR

WINTER WORKSHOPS

Please call (502) 897-9845 to register. NOTE: Space is limited.

CHAIR RUSHING

Saturday, February 20
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Learn to make a rush seat for a chair or stool from craftsman **Art Hoffman**. If you bring your own chair, it must be simple, with unobstructed access to all four rails.

If you have questions about the difference between a rush chair and cane chair, call Art at (502) 429-5242. You also may purchase a chair (\$50) or a stool (\$25) from him. You'll need your own flat screwdriver, hammer, scissors, tape measure, and a spring clamp – as well as a bag lunch.

Cost: \$60, which includes all the materials and instructional handouts. (Minimum of 3 students, maximum of 12.)



BLOCK PRINTING ON PAPER

Saturday, March 6
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Virginia Tucker shows the class how to create block prints on paper. This technique is similar to that used by wallpaper manufacturers like the ones that furnished the wallpapers for Lucy and William Croghan's Locust Grove in the early 1800s. Please bring a bag lunch for this day-long workshop. Cost: \$70, which includes all materials.

CREATING MARBLEIZED FLOOR CLOTHS

Saturday, April 17, 10:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., and
Sunday, April 18, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Virginia Tucker, owner of The Virginia Floor Cloth Company in Louisville, will show you how to create a unique marbled floor cloth. The art of making floor cloths (a precursor to linoleum) became popular in the 1700s.

The fee includes frames, canvas, paint, brushes, and other materials. The workshop is held in two sessions to allow the first day's paint to dry. Cost: \$90 for the two-day workshop. Please bring a bag lunch on Saturday.



Creativity reigns supreme in one of Virginia's floor cloth workshops.

18TH CENTURY THUNDER: A REVOLUTIONARY WAR ENCAMPMENT

Saturday, April 17 and Sunday, April 18
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Companies representing General George Rogers Clark's troops from the Northwest Campaign will re-enact life in a military camp, including surveying, cooking, drilling, and other demonstrations. Chat with the soldiers and their families to learn what life would have been like for a soldier 200+ years ago.

Snacks and soft drinks will be available in the Visitors Center. Tours of the newly re-restored house will be conducted every half-hour, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Special prices for 18th Century Thunder — \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12, and free for children 5 and under.



GARDENERS' FAIR, BRUNCH & AUCTION

FAIR: Friday, May 7 – Sunday, May 9

10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

BRUNCH: Sunday, May 9

10 a.m., Noon, 2 p.m.

The timing is perfect for all garden enthusiasts! Every year on the second weekend in May — which also is usually Mother's Day Weekend — Locust Grove's grounds bloom with plants, flowers, herbs, tools, flower-themed accessories and handcrafted items. It's all at Locust Grove's annual Gardeners' Fair. Admission, which includes a tour of the newly re-restored house, is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 6–12, free for children 5 and under.

Our Mother's Day Brunch is a lovely way to honor the special women in your life. Tables go quickly! Because of the high demand, paid reservations are required. Call (502) 897-9845 after March 1 to reserve.

The Silent Auction features treasures from antiques to gift baskets to the handmade quilt from the Locust Grove Quilters. Bidding starts at 10:00 a.m. Friday and closes Sunday at 4:00 p.m.



Now Accepting Silent Auction Items!

Antique furniture. Dishes. Collectibles. Quilts. Heritage or new needlepoint items. New knitted or crocheted wearables or accessories. Gift certificates.

Themed baskets.

All donations are tax-deductible!

Call us at (502) 897-9845 to donate or for more information on how you can help. Thanks so much!

Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from August 15, through December 31, 2009

A hearty "thank you" to all of these people who recently joined or renewed their memberships, and to all of our longtime Friends of Locust Grove!

If you'd like to become a Friend, please go online to www.locustgrove.org, or call us at (502) 897-9845 for further information and details.

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Yearly memberships in the Friends of Locust Grove are available in three categories:

Individual — \$35
Family — \$50
Student — \$15

For membership information and details, please call us at (502) 897-9845

Remember:
"Friends of Locust Grove" always receive a 10% discount at the Museum Store!

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Wanted: A Few Good Quilters . . . For Fun — And Fundraising

Experience the traditional joys of a quilting bee every month ... enjoy the company of a delightful group of women ... and create works of art — all the while helping to raise money for Historic Locust Grove's textile collections.

The Locust Grove Quilters are looking for two or three experienced quilters to join their group — one of the longest-standing groups at HLG. If you are interested, please call **Nancy Wesolosky** at (502) 426-3597.



This gorgeous quilt — entirely created by hand — is the 2009 project of Locust Grove's Quilters. The quilt will be the centerpiece of the Silent Auction during HLG's Gardeners' Fair in early May. Holding it are Nancy McFarland (left), a member of the Silent Auction committee, and HLG quilter Nancy Wesolosky.

Many Thanks to Our Donors

Many thanks to the hundreds of people who support Historic Locust Grove through various kinds of donations. We depend upon and deeply appreciate your generosity and involvement.

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Attention – Locust Grove Volunteers

Pilkington Award Nominations Now Open

The Locust Grove Volunteer Steering Committee is now accepting nominations for the **Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award**, which recognizes volunteers — current or former — who have offered a lifetime of dedication and support to Historic Locust Grove.

Begun in 1998, this award was named for **Audrey Pilkington** in recognition of her pioneering and positive energy in nurturing the volunteer corps, as well as her contributions and dedication to many other programs at Locust Grove.

To date, there are nine Pilkington Award winners: **Emilie Strong Smith** (1998), **Martin Schmidt** (1999), **Fred Atkinson** (2001), **Dorothy Martin** (2003), **Bob Pilkington** (2004), **LaMar Gaston** (2006), **Gwynne Potts** (2007), **Shirley Dumesnil** (2008), and **Nancy Lee** (2009).

If a 2010 winner is selected, the award will be presented at the volunteer appreciation party scheduled for **Wednesday, April 14 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

This is your chance to recognize your fellow volunteers! Forms are available from Program Director **Mary Beth Williams**. *Nominations must be returned to Mary Beth by Wed., March 24, 2010.*