

GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845



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Alberta Baker – Spirit Award Winner

Aileen Novick, *Program Director*

Spirit Award Winner **Alberta Baker** has been a volunteer at Locust Grove for nearly 30 years — one of only a handful of other three-decade volunteers.

Alberta, a retired nurse, gets involved with almost all of our events and activities. She is a docent, works with school groups, and helps out wherever she can.

As an avid genealogist, Alberta has a great deal of experience working with primary sources. She helped complete a survey of the records and sources housed at Locust Grove so that others could find and use them. Most of these

documents were collected for research purposes when the house was being restored in the early 1960s.

While reading one of those documents a few years ago, she saw a reference to a then-unknown portrait of **George Rogers Clark**. It said the portrait had been given to an attorney in Vincennes, Ind., in exchange for some legal services.

Several others, including her docent partner **Joe Spalding** and the Locust Grove program director, weren't aware of the portrait. So Alberta called a long-time friend at Vincennes University to see if he knew about it. He said, "I'm sitting here at my desk, looking at it."



That portrait, on loan from Vincennes University, now hangs over the fireplace in the Visitors' Center auditorium.

Alberta says that the best part of being at Locust Grove is sharing the house and the family with visitors. "What I learn from our guests is a great part of the joy all this brings me," she says.

All of us here at Locust Grove are very happy that Alberta is a part of our team!

Yearly Events— Mark Your Calendars!

Afternoon Lecture Series

1:00 p.m. – the first Wednesday of each month, except for January, May, and November.

Revolutionary War Encampment

Saturday and Sunday of "Thunder Weekend" in April.

Gardeners' Fair

Friday, Saturday, Sunday on the second weekend in May.

Mothers' Day Brunch

Sunday during Gardeners' Fair. *Reservations required.*

Antiques Markets

Last Sundays in June and in September.

18th Century Market Fair

Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend in October.

Candlelight Tours

5:30 p.m. – Friday and Saturday, second weekend in December.

GROVE GAZETTE

From the Director's Desk

Carol Ely, Executive Director

This March, Locust Grove again performed the feat of turning books into children.

How? By selling \$6,000 worth of used books at our second annual Used Book Sale. Now we can bring busloads of children here from schools that could not otherwise afford a visit. (*Story below.*)

All winter, schools have been experiencing our new Work & Play field trip — where students can try their hands at rolling a hoop, hauling water, carding wool, or bouncing a balloon made from a pig's bladder. ("Yuk!" they all say.)

In the meantime, we're excited to start work on our new exhibit gallery.

We've selected a Louisville-based exhibit design firm, Solid Light, as the design team. They'll work on the project in partnership with our own Exhibit Committee.

Work progresses on the new terrace roof as well. Although it won't be ready for Derby, the roof should be in place for our fall events.

Our busiest time is now upon us. The Revolutionary War Encampment on "Thunder Weekend" — April 22-23 — will bring re-enactors, tent camping, military drills and mock battles to our grounds.

Our spring events are capped by the Gardeners' Fair on Mothers's Day weekend —

May 12-14. This event celebrates more than 200 years of gardens and gardening in Kentucky.

With the Gardeners' Fair and its Silent Auction, and Mothers' Day Brunch (which usually sells out) all on the same weekend — this is Historic Locust Grove's biggest fundraiser and most visible event of the year.

Also expected in May is our long-awaited new book — *George Rogers Clark and Locust Grove* — by **Samuel Thomas** and **Gwynne Potts**.

This book explores new research and overturns some cherished Locust Grove myths.

But it will replace these stories with new, better, and even more interesting stories.

The new book will place **George Rogers Clark's** military career in the context of the complicated and fascinating American Revolution in the West. It also will illuminate the background and career of the man who built Locust Grove, **Major William Croghan**.

And we'll finally have a clear story to tell visitors about the history of our site *after* the Croghans left — from the Civil War to the 21st century.

This new, and newly understood, material will be the basis for

revitalized tours, exhibits, and for all of our interpretation.

Festivities surrounding the publication will include a book launch party and author signing on June 8th for Friends of Locust Grove and invited guests.

Other public events are in the planning stages. And you can be sure that *George Rogers Clark and Locust Grove* will be for sale on our website and in our Museum Store as soon as it is available.

Second Annual Used Book Sale – A Book Lover's Paradise!

Cookbooks, coffee-table books, quilting books, novels. Travel pamphlets and maps, works on religion (many donated by the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary). Scores of John Grishams, Nora Roberts and Danielle Steeles.

Histories (of course), biographies, children's books, antique books, favorites, and obscure titles. Almost any book you could think of was at our Used Book Sale, March 10-12.

On Thursday night, despite a tornado watch, people lined up for the Friends-only Preview Party. They lined up again the next morning to get in to the main sale. And the lines returned on Sunday to buy books by the bagful.

On Thursday evening, every table we could find was groaning with books. Books were even under

the tables. By the close of the sale on Sunday, we had sold about 85 percent of the books.

Some went to dealers; many others to the hands of voracious readers. One man bought an entire cardboard box of battered 19th century Dickens books and then came back for more.

Our silent auction of valuable books, new this year, resulted in the sale of seven special books sold at premium prices.

Flocks of volunteers, some of them high school students from Manual, Ballard, Collegiate and Trinity heaved boxes of books and kept shelves from toppling over.

We made \$6,000, to be used for Locust Grove's educational and preservation programs.

We'll also have more antique books for sale during our Antiques Market on June 25.

So, please start saving books now to donate next year. We couldn't do this sale without you.



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561 Blankenbaker Lane
Louisville, KY 40207
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(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 Louisville.

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Sarah Dickerson: Locust Grove's Gardening Guru

Looking to the future by peering into the past. That's what Locust Grove's gardener, **Sarah Dickerson**, does every day.

Her days are filled with research into historic plants and heritage seeds — searching the Internet, reading gardening books, perusing heritage seed catalogues. When she's not raking leaves or pulling weeds, she and Groundskeeper **John Moses** are clearing fallen branches or sowing seeds.

On inclement days in the early spring, you'll find Sarah creating the seed packets that are sold in Locust Grove's Museum Shop. The packets feature watercolors of the plants, painted by volunteer **Thelma Herweh**. Sarah prints the packets, then fills them with seeds she's saved from last fall's harvest of heritage plants.

The seeds for Sarah's love of gardening were sown when she was small. "I learned much of what I know from trailing behind my father as he worked our 2.5-acre homestead in Bellville, Ohio," says Sarah. "I devoured his gardening books and his copies of *Mother Earth News*."



Sarah Dickerson plants a cherry tree in the east orchard. Donations in memory of Locust Grove volunteer Pat Roles' son were used to purchase this tree, selected by Pat. Most of the trees in the two orchards have been purchased by Friends of Locust Grove in honor or in memory of a loved one.

While at Berea College in Kentucky, Sarah managed to have her own garden — raising lettuce and radishes in the spring and harvesting hot peppers and potatoes when she returned in the fall.

As an art history major, Sarah was fascinated by the technique of dating works of art by matching them with old botanical sketches of plant varieties.

After graduation, she moved to Louisville and "met a great fellow who's now my husband — **Lowe Sutherland**," says Sarah. She was working as a "modern gardener" when she applied to be Locust Grove's gardener.

The work that Sarah has done over the past five years at Locust Grove is evident. She tends the herb garden just outside the historic kitchen, and nurtures a trellis with Concord grapes. She's growing many heritage plants. And some day, Sarah would love to have a large, fenced-in 19th-century garden bed.

She also has developed an eight-tree apple orchard by the picnic area. "These pre-1820's apple trees represent the ancient apple orchard that's described as being 'west of the stone wall,'" Sarah explains. "Unfortunately, we don't have written records of any other fruit trees, but we feel sure Locust Grove would have had more.

"So, relying on historical research combined with logic, we're developing another orchard to the east of the house — with quince, medlars, peaches, apples, and just-planted crabapple and cherry trees."

Sarah also is creating a garden brochure to be available at the Gardeners' Fair in May. She asks that if a reader knows where to find *hard proof* (letters, book citations, etc.) about Locust Grove's gardens or **Lucy Croghan's** skill with herbs to please contact her.

Sarah's immediate goal is to recruit more garden volunteers. "My ability to bend down to weed and do other gardening chores will be impeded by the baby that Lowe and I are expecting in mid-July," she adds with a grin.

2006 Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

LaMar Gaston

LaMar Gaston's 21 years of volunteer service have touched Historic Locust Grove's buildings, grounds, events, staff, volunteers, members, and neighbors. That is why he has been named the recipient of the Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award for 2006.

In 1998, Locust Grove's Volunteer Steering Committee created this award to recognize volunteers who have offered a lifetime of dedication and support to the site.

In 2000, the award was renamed for the late volunteer **Audrey Pilkington**, in recognition of her pioneering work and positive energy in nurturing Locust Grove.

Board Member **Nancy Stablein** recruited LaMar to the board in 1985 because, as she said, "nobody loves this property like LaMar does."

After three years on the board, LaMar was elected board president. He led the board to see the need for the 1990 capital campaign that created our current Visitors' Center.

In typical LaMar fashion, he personally called, wrote, and met with the people who became our largest donors.

LaMar followed up that success a decade later by leading our just-completed capital and endowment campaign for enhancing the educational and cultural experience of our visitors.

Annual Garden Meeting Scheduled

All who love the grounds at Locust Grove are invited to the annual Garden Meeting on **Wednesday, April 19 at noon.**

"Nosh, nibble, and see what's happened here since last spring," invites Locust Grove's Gardener **Sarah Dickerson.**

"Please RSVP to (502) 897-9845 by *April 17* so I'll know how much food to cook. And this meeting is not limited to garden volunteers. Everyone's welcome!"



LaMar Gaston holds his special 2006 Audrey Pilkington Award – a footstool handcrafted specifically for him by Locust Grove carpenters Bob Smith and Fred Atkinson.

Events just wouldn't be the same without LaMar's energetic drive and enthusiasm. He has co-directed the Gardeners' Fair for many years.

In 2003, LaMar and board member **Shirley Dumesnil** planned and led the 250th anniversary celebration of **George Rogers Clark's** birthday. And currently, he is co-chair of our 2006 Lewis and Clark Homecoming event this November.

"You just feel better when LaMar is helping at an event," said one of the people who nominated LaMar. "I've never seen him get upset or ruffled when things don't seem to be going right."

LaMar is known for sweet-talking people to get them to do things like carry mulch in the rain, put up tarps, split and stack wood, plant sod, park cars, mow lawns, distribute posters, and polish and paint whatever needs to be fixed up.

"We ran extremely low on wood for the Market Fair last October," said Program Director **Aileen Novick** during the awards ceremony. "So I asked LaMar to find another wood supplier.

"When they couldn't locate one, LaMar and **Andy Anderson** went to the Gaston residence several times, filling Andy's truck with LaMar's own wood."

Previous recipients of the Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award are **Emilie Strong Smith, Martin Schmidt, Fred Atkinson, Dorothy Martin, and Bob Pilkington.**

Volunteers Make A Big Difference!

Aileen Novick –
Program Director

13,293.25 hours!

That's the number of hours our volunteers at Historic Locust Grove officially logged in for 2005.

Can't get your head around 13,293+ hours? Look at it this way. One person working eight hours a day, seven days a week, would have to work **four and a half years** to rack up 13,293+ hours!

This shows how much Historic Locust Grove relies on our wonderful volunteers. Without them, our small staff could not possibly run our daily activities nor operate our special events.

At our recent Volunteer Appreciation Event in March, we honored our volunteers for the contributions they've made over the past year. And we were delighted to welcome several more enthusiastic Locust Grove workers into our family.

At the party, we presented the prestigious Audrey Pilkington Award to long-time volunteer **LaMar Gaston.**

We also honored two other volunteers. Veteran volunteer **Norma Adams** received the "Honorary Staff Award" for her amazing dedication to planning and supervising the 2005 Gardeners' Fair.

Carrie Nakajima, quilter, chef, weaver, board member and long-time volunteer, was saluted for donating the most hours of volunteer time in 2005.

If you would like to join our family of volunteers, please call me at (502) 897-9845. We'd love to welcome you!

Historic Locust Grove
CALENDAR

2006 AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES

This year's theme is "The Early Settlement of the Land." Lectures will focus on settlement in Kentucky and other topics associated with early Kentucky history, including the Clark and Croghan families.

In the lectures, we'll share more information about migration to different areas of Kentucky. Beginning with our September lecture, we will focus on Lewis and Clark to commemorate the 200th anniversary of their return to Historic Locust Grove.

Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for January and May. (Note that November's lecture this year is the second Wednesday.) Dessert and coffee are served at 1:00 p.m., with the lecture immediately following. Admission is \$5, or \$3 for Friends of Locust Grove.

ARCHEOLOGY AT THE PORTLAND WHARF

Wednesday, June 7

We'll hear from **Jay Stottman** and **Lori Stahlgren**, the archeologists excavating the Portland Wharf — an extinct urban area located in the Portland neighborhood. Recently, a survey of the entire 55-acre park revealed a vast intact archaeological site with street paving, house foundations, and artifacts from the 1800s buried beneath the surface.



IMAGE: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

"WHEN THE PAINFUL HOUR ARRIVES . . ."

Wednesday, July 5

Local historian **Lynn Renau** shares the discoveries she found in the letters of the Terrell family, who migrated from Virginia to Lexington, and eventually settled just off Brownsboro Road in 1795. As probably the closest friends of **William and Lucy Croghan**, the Terrells — **Richard and Lucy** — provide intimate and fascinating details of the difficult lives of early settlers and life in the area around Locust Grove.

SETTLEMENT OF FORT JEFFERSON, KENTUCKY

Wednesday, August 2

Dr. Kenneth Carstens is a professor of anthropology, archaeology, and world geography at Murray State University. He has published three books specifically about Fort Jefferson, western Kentucky's first Anglo settlement.

He'll offer insights on the interactions between the Kaskaskia and Chickasaw tribes and the settlers of Fort Jefferson.



KENTUCKIANA AND THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY

Wednesday, September 6



The Filson Historical Society's **James Holmberg**, curator of special collections, kicks off Locust Grove's bicentennial celebration of the return of Lewis and Clark to Louisville in 1806. He'll be talking about Kentuckiana's participation in the Corps of Discovery. Mr. Holmberg is the editor of *Dear Brother: Letters of William Clark to Jonathan Clark*.

SCULPTING YORK

Wednesday, October 4

Award-winning sculptor **Ed Hamilton** continues Locust Grove's bicentennial celebration of Lewis and Clark's return to Louisville in 1806. He'll discuss how he created the York memorial that stands by the Ohio River on Louisville's Belvedere. The memorial was dedicated in October 2003 as part of Louisville's Lewis & Clark Bicentennial celebration. York, a slave, was the only black man to participate in the Corps of Discovery.



Ed Hamilton's statue of York in Louisville, Ky.

Mr. Hamilton also will sell and autograph his new autobiography, *The Birth of an Artist: A Journey of Discovery*.

THE NATIONAL LEWIS & CLARK BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Wednesday, November 8 (Please note date change!)



Bud Clark "on the trail."

PHOTO BY LULU

Peyton "Bud" Clark, the great-great-great-grandson of explorer **William Clark**, discusses his role and experiences with the National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. He portrayed his famous ancestor in The Discovery Expedition — a re-enactment of the original 4,100-mile journey from Wheeling, W. Va., to Oregon and return.

LOUISVILLE DULCIMER SOCIETY HOLIDAY CONCERT

Wednesday, December 6

Join "Santa Sam" and all the talented musicians in the Louisville Dulcimer Society for this great kickoff of the holiday season. Hear seasonal songs played on the lap dulcimer — Kentucky's official state instrument — and other Appalachian and acoustical instruments such as hammered dulcimer, banjo, mandolin, guitar, and even a washtub.



Historic Locust Grove
CALENDAR

REVOLUTIONARY WAR ENCAMPMENT

Saturday, April 22, and Sunday, April 23
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



The sights, sounds and smells of an 18th-century military camp come to life as **General George Rogers Clark's** troops from the Northwest Campaign return to Historic Locust Grove.

Men, women and children in pre-Revolutionary War era gear will transport your family to a time when Kentucky *was* the West. Children can sign up to drill with the Regiment. You'll see re-enactors loading and firing the famous long rifles during military drills both days.

Check out the work of the troops' doctor; see the blacksmith busy at his forge; and view demonstrations of flax breaking and hearth cooking. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 children 6-12, free for children 5 and under. Admission includes a tour of the house and grounds.

GARDENERS' FAIR AND SILENT AUCTION

Sunday, May 12-14
a.m.–5:00 p.m.

In the colorful plants, herbs, garden tools, themed accessories, crafted items, and the seeds of other creative ideas offered by the 70 local and regional garden suppliers and other vendors coming to this year's Gardeners' Fair.

On Saturday at 11:30 a.m., gardening expert **Donna**

Michael from the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service will give hints and advice on "Developing Flower Gardens and Borders."

Through 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, you may enter bids on a wide array of items in our Silent Auction. Look for gifts from a local spa and B&B and from many of our vendors and other merchants in the area. We'll have antiques, quilts, handmade items, Kentucky-made goods, sports memorabilia, handcrafted items, collectibles, and much more.

Admission, which includes a tour of Historic Locust Grove is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children aged 6 to 12; free for children 5 and under. All proceeds from this event support the continuing operation and preservation of this historic property.



MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 14
Seatings at 10:00 a.m., Noon, 2:00 p.m.

This delicious brunch catered by the Bristol Café is one of the most popular events at our annual Gardeners' Fair.

Because of the brunch's high popularity and limited space, this event sells out quickly.

Call us soon to make your reservations and get your choice of seatings — (502) 897-9845. Costs are: \$25 for adults, \$10 for children from 3-12, and free for children 2 and under. Paid reservations are required.

ADULT WORKSHOP

'BEYOND BEGINNER' DULCIMER CLASS

Saturday, May 21
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Join gifted dulcimer teacher **Maureen Sellers** in this class designed to improve your basic dulcimer skills. Students should be able to play two to three songs, be familiar with frets and tuning a dulcimer, and be able to do some chord work and finger picking.

Maureen has taught and performed dulcimer in more than 16 states. Currently, she teaches at the University of Louisville, in Bellarmine College's Elderhostels, at Senior Citizens East in Kentucky, and at Indiana University-Southeast in New Albany.

Cost is \$35 per person. Call (502) 897-9845 for reservations. Please bring a sack lunch.



Seeking Silent Auction Donations

A week's getaway. Antique quilts, glassware and silver. Vintage linens. Baskets filled with gardening tools and seeds or local cookbooks and foods. Luxury items and gift certificate from a local spa and B&B. Handcrafted stoneware sets and wooden birdhouses.



These are only a few of the hundreds of treasures that have been found in the Silent Auction — one of the most popular offerings at the Gardeners' Fair. Most items are from Friends of Locust Grove, vendors, and local merchants.

We're accepting donations now. Just drop them by the Visitors' Center. Or, for pick-up of large items, please call **Patty Rogers** at (502) 228-5747 or **Nancy Wesolosky** at (502) 426-3597. *All donations are tax-deductible.*

Did You Know?

During a tour of Historic Locust Grove, most visitors are shown an unusual brick by the porch door. On it is a name: "Gerard C. Branson."



That's either the name of the man who made the brick or perhaps the master brickmaker.

It took more than 150,000 bricks to build the house — all made by hand. Most likely, this was done by unskilled laborers or slaves, led by a brickmaker.

The basics of brickmaking are much the same today as when the first bricks were made many thousands of years ago.

It first starts with the right clay. Too sandy, and the bricks crumble. Not enough sand, and the bricks shrink, warp or even crack during firing.

Hand-made bricks are made only in the warm months. Workers stomp water into the clay with bare feet. When ready, the clay is molded and thrown into wooden forms.

These forms are carried to the drying area and unmolded. The "green" bricks dry for a week or so. Another six weeks in a covered drying shed and they are ready to be fired — about 20,000 at a time.

After about a week of intensely high heat, the fires are allowed to die down. The bricks must cool for another week before they can be removed from the kiln.

Only about half of those bricks will be fired correctly. The under-fired ones can be used inside the house. The rest are tossed.

And now you know.

Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal — January 1, through March 15, 2006

Our "Friends of Historic Locust Grove" membership program began in January 2002. We now have more than 400 individual and family members.

A hearty "thank you" to all of these people who joined or renewed their memberships from January 1, through March 15, 2006, and to all of our longtime "Friends of Locust Grove"!

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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.

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Spring Blooms at the Museum Store

Jennifer Jansen, Visitors' Center Manager

New treasures are arriving every day in the Museum Store! And many of them are from Kentucky artists and craftspeople.

Among these are historically appropriate teas from the Elmwood Inn in Perryville, Ky., including Lapsang Souchong, Rose, and Oolong Black Dragon. And we're currently developing a new silver charm and a porcelain box in the shape of Locust Grove.

Please check out our delightful new vases, charming bird magnets, and a new book, *Mammoth Cave National Park Reflections*. By **Raymond Klass**, this book is a beautiful collection of photographs of the park, taken both above and below ground. It includes pictures of **Dr. John Croghan's** tuberculosis clinic in the cave.

And don't forget that "Friends" get a 10 percent discount in the store!



Many Thanks To Our Donors!

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To donate in honor of or in memory of a person, please send us a note and the check to:

Carol Ely, Executive Director
 Historic Locust Grove
 561 Blankenbaker Lane
 Louisville, KY 40207

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Donations Are Just A Click Away

Do you shop on-line? If so, your purchases could mean a donation to Locust Grove.



Instead of going directly to websites for merchants such as Alibris, Snapfish, Target Magellan's, or Best Buy (and hundreds of others!), go to <http://www.locustgrove.org/museumstore.html> **first**.

Click on this logo (above) and then click on the merchant's website. Think of this step as a door to the mall. A percentage of your purchase will be donated to Locust Grove.

It's *completely* anonymous. We don't know who you are nor what you're buying. But *you* should know that we thank you for taking this extra step to support Locust Grove.

Mrs. Susan Means
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 Camille P. Wagner
 Paula W. Wolf
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 Robert M. Zur Schmiede

Summer Camp Sign-Up Time! Aileen Novick - Program Director

Summer's just around the corner, so it's time to start thinking of camp. Locust Grove offers week-long children's speciality camps that make learning fun! Call (502) 897-9845 to reserve your child's place in history.

WOODWORKING CAMP

Mon., June 19 –
 Fri., June 23

9:30 a.m. –
 11:30 a.m.
 Grades 5-7
 (Ages 11-13)

12:30 p.m. –
 2:30 p.m.
 Grades 2-4
 (Ages 7-10)



Locust Grove's woodworkers will lead campers in the basics of woodworking.

Students will learn about types of wood and using historic and modern woodworking tools. They will complete a new project to take home. Cost: \$65 per student.

PIONEER DAYS CAMP

Mon., July 10 –
 Fri., July 14

9:00 a.m. – Noon
 Grades 2-4
 (Ages 7-10)

This exciting camp provides a sampler of early pioneer life.

Students participate in pioneer crafts and activities, such as weaving, carding wool, dipping candles, and storytelling.

Campers also play historic games and take nature walks. Cost: \$75 per student.



JUNIOR DOCENT CAMP

Mon., July 24 –
 Fri., July 28

9:00 a.m. – Noon
 Grades 5-8
 (Ages 11-14)

Learn more about life during the early days of Kentucky's history by trying your hand at different activities from the past. Learn storytelling and how to share history with others, as our docents do here at Locust Grove.

This is a great camp for students who like hands-on history activities, storytelling, and drama. Cost: \$75 per student.

