

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE GROVE GAZETTE



Sam Thomas' Legacy Lives On At Locust Grove by Gwynne Tuell Potts, HLG Board President



Historic Locust Grove adviser, **Dr. Samuel W. Thomas**, died on October 4, 2012. In addition to leaving his family and many friends far too soon, Sam left the region, particularly Louisville, without its primary recorder. And Locust Grove has lost its first director and longest-serving consultant.

Sam and his brother, **Jim Thomas**, arrived at the former Waters farm on the afternoon of June 2, 1962 — newly hired by the Jefferson County Judge/Executive as student caretakers to live at the site through the restoration of the Croghan house.

Although Jim left for Pleasant Hill to assist Jim Cogar in the restoration of that historic site, Sam remained. He served first as Clerk of the Works and later as the first director of the newly opened museum. He lived on site for 15 years in the log house purchased by Jefferson County in 1963. Sam's former living room today houses the William Croghan Surveyor's Cabin exhibit, and his kitchen is the volunteers' library/lounge.

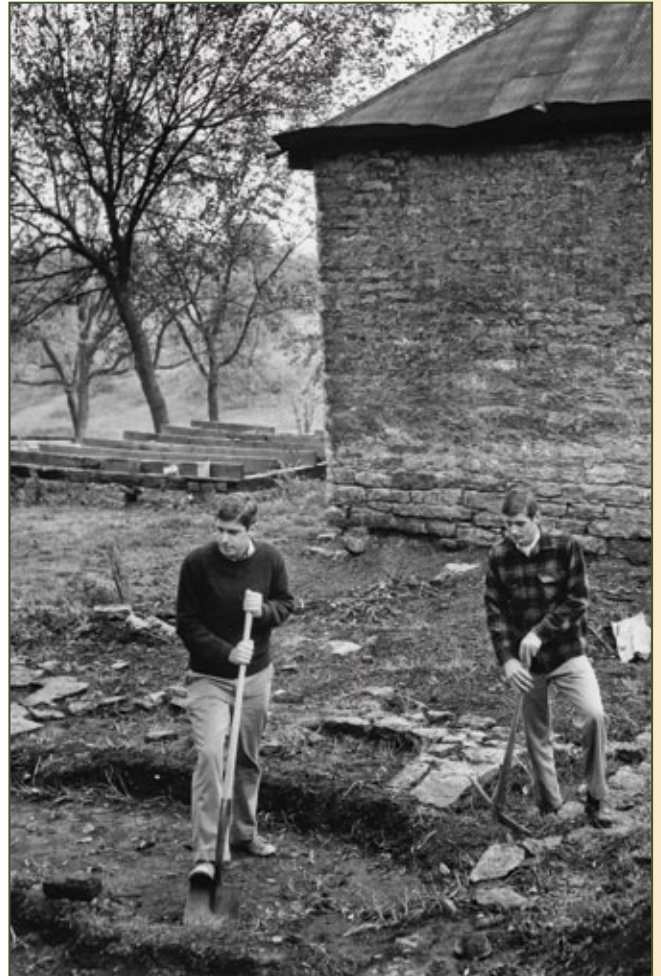
In 1979, Sam bought the Crescent Hill house that triggered the research that led to the first of his popular neighborhood books.

Although Sam established the Jefferson County Archives office, worked at The Filson Historical Society and the Mary and Barry Bingham Sr. Fund, and authored a score of books, those of us at Locust Grove thought of him primarily as ours. For more than 50 years, he patiently answered the same questions of a succession of directors and volunteers who relied upon his memory to provide details of Locust Grove's restoration.

Sam was drafted to create the first "museum" room on the top floor of the Croghan house, and volunteered his expertise to help pull together the museum displays in the 1992 Visitors' Center. He was at the center of negotiations to acquire George Rogers Clark's 1812 sword and, for 50 years, was the heart of most discussions concerning interior and exterior preservation measures throughout our site.

Perhaps most importantly, Sam's research set the standard for our museum. Sam expected the interpretation, programs, grounds, staff, and even the store to reflect the critical standards introduced during the restoration and meticulously employed in each of his subsequent projects.

Our museum has been fortunate in many of its leaders and supporters. But all who served and most of what was accomplished here were influenced by Sam's work and his point of view — just as he, of course,



Sam Thomas at left, and his brother Jim, standing in the area of the kitchen foundation. That's the original smokehouse in the background. Photo from *The Courier-Journal*, 1962.

was impacted by his experience at Locust Grove. There isn't a museum press release or tour that does not contain information first uncovered by Sam. And in full circle, it was entirely appropriate that he chose this place for the gathering of those who cared for and admired him to exchange tears and laughter in his memory.

Former Historic Locust Grove advisor, **Sharon Receveur**, told *The Courier-Journal* that Sam "gave legs" to all Louisville's historians. He did the same for Locust Grove.

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Louisville, KY 40207 (502) 896-2433
www.locustgrove.org

The mission of Historic Locust Grove is to preserve and interpret the remaining 55-acres of William Croghan's estate, Locust Grove, with its circa 1792 house, outbuildings, collection and grounds as examples of early 19th-century frontier America, and to share the stories of the many people who contributed to the history of the site, emphasizing the experiences of George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War hero and founder of Louisville.

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Director's Letter Carol Ely, Ph.D., Executive Director – Historic Locust Grove

The loss of Sam Thomas has made us even more aware of the legacy he left us in the area of historical research.

Besides his published and unpublished research on Clark and the Croghans, Sam generously left part of his research library to Locust Grove. This research will form the nucleus of our plan to establish a small archive in the Visitors' Center and expand our capacity to develop rich narratives of life in the early republic.

Documentary historical research forms the basis of our interpretations. It's how we know what Clark thought about his expeditions, what land William Croghan purchased (and his preference for coffee at all times of day), the names and ages of the enslaved who were emancipated, and even what Eliza Croghan felt about going away to boarding school (she cried).

But other sorts of research are equally important for a historical site. Recently, we had the benefit of the microscopic chemical research of **Matthew Mosca** to tell us that the house's hallway was painted a brilliant verdigris and that wallpaper covered the walls of many rooms of the house. This kind of information, newly possible, allows an accuracy that was not available when the house was originally restored.

Archaeological research on the grounds gives us information not only on the Croghan family's life here, such as exactly the kind of imported porcelain dishes used to serve dinner, but also about the lives of the slaves in small cabins on the grounds. The research also reminds us of the native Americans who hunted and camped on this very spot for generations before the settlers came down the Ohio. The results of current research and archaeological surveys will improve and sharpen our ability to tell these stories.

This summer students from Indiana University Southeast undertook another sort of study — of our 30 acres of woods. This area, to the north and east of the buildings, has grown to replace the open fields of 50 years ago. The IUS students' survey of flora and fauna discovered a range of trees from elm to ash to native pawpaws among the inevitable locusts. This survey also revealed a variety of wildlife in residence, from raccoons to frogs to deer (so many deer!). The area is a bird preserve and hosts wild turkeys, crows, woodpeckers, cardinals and more. How many of these species were known to the Croghans?

We're taking advantage of the findings of this research as opportunities to create programs and specialized tours. Watch our calendar for future offerings. And if you are not yet on our email list, you are missing out on early notices of upcoming events. Sign up at the "join our mailing list" link on our webpage. You'll be among the first to see the results of our research.



Fall is gorgeous at Locust Grove. Come see for yourself!

Carol Ely

A Rich Spot of Earth: Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden at Monticello

A SPECIAL EVENING LECTURE IN MEMORY OF VOLUNTEER MARGUERITE BEATTY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 6 PM

Peter J. Hatch will speak about his work recreating Jefferson's garden described in his new book, **A Rich Spot of Earth**. Mr. Hatch is the former Director of Gardens and Grounds for the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello.

From 1977 to his retirement in this year, Mr. Hatch was responsible for the maintenance, interpretation, and restoration of the 2,400-acre landscape at Monticello. He managed important restoration projects, such as the eight-acre Vegetable and Fruit Garden, and the Grove, an ornamental forest of 18 acres. In 1987, he began the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants — a unique nursery to preserve historic and Jefferson-related garden plants.

A reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres follows the lecture. Tickets are \$20 for the general public, \$15 for Friends of Locust Grove. Special patron tickets at \$75 will include in a tour of Locust Grove's gardens and grounds with Mr. Hatch at 5:00 p.m. before the lecture. Reservations are now being accepted. Please call Locust Grove at (502) 897-9845 to purchase your ticket.

This event is partially supported by a generous gift from the estate of long-time Locust Grove volunteer Marguerite Beatty. Thank you.

Antiquarian Book Market

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 & 18
10 AM - 4:30 PM

NEW EVENT!

Calling all collectors and lovers of old books! This new Antiquarian Book Market features independent dealers and sellers of books, ephemera, and other collectible printed works. We'll have book collections from two estates and a booth offering books of unique value that have been donated to Locust Grove's semi-annual Used Book Sales. Join these vendors for a journey through the past via books:

Richard Young/All Booked Up

A Reader's Corner Bookstore

M. Johman/A Book By Its Cover

J. F. Whyland Books

Charles G. Bartman, Bookseller

Harvey Venier, Bookman

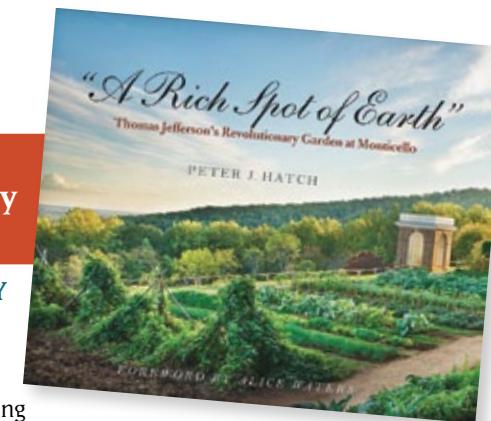
Joe Mobley, Collector

The Dr. Ernest Ellison Estate

The William Belknap Estate

Watch for details of book signings by local authors. The Antiquarian Book Market will be in the Visitors' Center Audubon Room.

Admission is free.



First Wednesday Lecture Series

Our lecture series offers a variety of interesting speakers and unusual topics that relate to the lives of the Croghans, Clarks, and the region. 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.



Holiday Concert by the Louisville Dulcimer Society

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1 PM

The Audubon Room fills with the sounds of the season when the Louisville Dulcimer Society presents its annual holiday concert featuring Kentucky's official musical instrument — the Appalachian lap dulcimer — along with a banjo, hammered dulcimer, washtub bass, and more. It's a great way to kick off the holiday season.

George Croghan: A Living Portrait

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2013, 1 PM

Locust Grove staff member and costumed interpreter **Brian Cushing** portrays George Croghan, the second son of Lucy and William Croghan and a hero in the War of 1812. George was a bright, educated man, an able soldier, and possessed what appeared to be a promising future. But his life following the War of 1812 was anything other than what could be called a success. Brian brings us a living portrait of George Croghan — successes, misjudgments, tragedies, and all.

Locust Grove Holiday Sampler

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Spend the day after Thanksgiving exploring our region's heritage. We're open during our regular hours (10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.). Costumed demonstrators will be in the kitchen and woodshop from noon until 4:00 p.m. And you can do holiday shopping in the museum store, with all items 20 percent off regular price. It's all included in the regular admission prices — \$8 for general admission, \$4 for children 6-12, free for children under 6 and for members.

Museum Store Sale

FRIDAY, NOV. 23 TO SUNDAY, DEC. 2
10 AM — 4:30 PM

For special holiday gifts without traffic hassles, visit our museum store. For 10 days after Thanksgiving, you'll receive a 20 percent discount on all purchases. The museum store carries a wide array of books, toys, stationery and Kentucky-made crafts. The museum store is open Monday thru Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Sundays, 1:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Candlelight Tours

See back page for details.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 5:30 PM — 9 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 4 PM — 9 PM

Ron Adkisson Named 2012 Kentucky History Teacher of the Year

Ron Adkisson — one of Locust Grove's veteran costumed interpreters — has been honored as Kentucky's 2012 History Teacher of the Year. Ron's "commitment and creativity to getting students interested in history" was cited as the deciding factor in determining the winner. Here Ron speaks about his teaching methods:

GG: What is the relevance of teaching history to today's students?

Ron: History is still History. It is a story of the past. We all know that if we refuse to learn from the past, we are condemned to repeat it. Unfortunately, many students have had the study of history forced on them. It frequently is taught by professors/teachers who possess all of the answers — with the role of the student being to come in and benefit from the expertise of the teacher.

"Come in, sit down, be quiet, and don't ask any questions," the students are told. Taught in this manner, the story of our past becomes a long list of meaningless dates, events, and people. It's no wonder so many people hate history!

This view of the study of history is what I've diligently tried to change. I stress — on the first day of school — that history is important. I give my students examples of why/how learning from our mistakes is important. After that brief lesson, every single moment is spent trying to help students relive the past. I tell the students and parents that we aren't really going to study history; we are going to 'Do' history.

I believe that learning not only can be fun, it *should* be fun — especially the study of history. There are so many exciting stories and events to be explored. I firmly believe that all students can and will grow to appreciate our past and have the desire to preserve our precious heritage if history is taught in an engaging manner.

GG: What are some of the activities you've created to bring history to life in your classroom?

Ron: My students participate in several big projects each year, during which they are required to dress up in some type of "period attire." We begin the year with a mock trial of Christopher Columbus.

Some people in the community don't like this one because they think that I'm trying to make Columbus bad; but the exact opposite is true. I think Columbus was an amazing person. But we can't ignore the fact that the discovery of America would lead the deaths of millions of native Americans.

We can't ignore the unpleasant part of our past. The kids will resent the fact that they had been lied to when they seek out the truth themselves. We must teach the whole story of our past before we can truly appreciate and understand it.

Some of the true highlights of the year are when my wife, **Cheryl** (a school coordinator), and I do presentations for the kids.

During our study of the American Revolution, all students are given the role of either a Patriot, a Loyalist, or a Neutral colonist. They will



Ron Adkisson and his wife Cheryl as owners of a general store in Independence, Mo. in 1849.

engage in a vigorous debate on whether the Colonies should declare independence or not.

Before the kids' Town Meeting, Cheryl and I transform my room into the parlor of George and Elizabeth Wythe from Williamsburg, Va., in December of 1775. (Wythe was Thomas Jefferson's revered friend and tutor and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.) The room is candlelit and filled with artifacts from the time period. As the Wythes, we lead the kids through the events that are bringing us to war with England.

In the spring as we start our unit on the Oregon Trail, my room is again transformed — this time into a general store in Independence, Mo., in 1849. We love to hear the kids gasp as they walk into the room for the first time and see the displays that we have created. Cheryl and I now are Elizabeth and Thomas Jefferson Yandell, owners of a general store at the head of the Oregon Trail.

This time, the students go through a wagon-loading activity as an introduction to the Oregon Trail Simulation that they will be doing for the next week. This is probably the most memorable activity of the year for my students. When I bump into former students, they always want to know if I am still doing the Oregon Trail, and always have some story of the tragic events that they "encountered" on their simulated trip west.

To finish the year if time allows, Cheryl becomes Harriet Beecher Stowe and I am William Booth Taliaferro. These two historical characters engage in a spirited debate on slavery and the upcoming Civil War in America.

GG: What is the value of learning — and understanding — history?

Ron: What's really important is that the life of our Republic lies in the hands of each new generation of citizens. We are always only one generation away from losing what we have. Many of our founding fathers understood that the only way our country would ever survive was if the people were educated.

It's my goal to teach my students their rights — but more importantly, to help them understand their responsibility. Democracy requires active participation!

CHAMBER MUSIC SEASON TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

The *Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series* allows you to experience music much as the *Croghans and Clarks* would have. Refreshments are served in the house at 5:00 p.m.; the concerts begin at 5:30 p.m. in the second-floor Great Parlor.

In addition to the four concerts this season, we'll have a special fifth concert in April featuring the *Kentucky Center Chamber Players*. This concert is included at no extra cost for subscribers; individual tickets will be \$20. Even though the October concert has passed, subscriptions still are available:

Patron, \$200

Supporter, \$100

Season Subscriber, \$65.

Individual concert tickets are \$20 each.

Call (502) 897-9845 for information or to purchase season tickets.



2012–2013 Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series

Christmas Pastoral

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 5:30 PM

Since Biblical times, shepherds and their flocks of sheep have been a central part of the Christmas story. **The Locust Grove Chamber Players** take you on a musical journey inspired by the shepherds of Europe and early America — including *Silent Night* in its original 1811 version, played on Locust Grove's 1806 Broadwood fortepiano.

Piano Trios on the Locust Grove Broadwood

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2013, 5:30 PM

Early Music Specialist **Bill Bauer** leads a program of delightful piano trios by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Joseph Boulogne.

The Plucked Corde

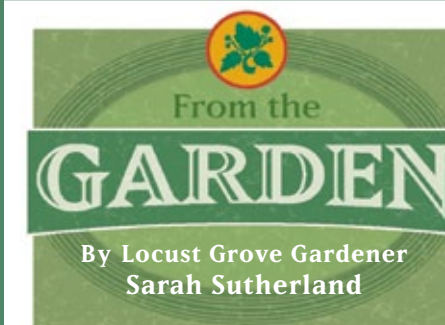
SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2013, 5:30 PM

Harpichord virtuoso **Dr. Charles Metz** returns to Locust Grove with his 1590s-era Italian pentagonal Italian Virginal, attributed to the Florentine maker Francesco Poggi. Locust Grove favorite **Dr. Jeffrey Noonan** joins Dr. Metz for a concert of music for the virginal and lute.

Romantic Chamber Music

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2013, 5 PM

In this Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series bonus concert, **The Kentucky Center Chamber Players** perform music from Cataloube, Prokofiev, and Brahms. This concert will be held in the Audubon Room of the Visitors' Center. Please note that this concert starts a half-hour earlier than the other Chamber Music concerts.



Join In Holiday Decorating Fun



On Tuesday, December 4, we will decorate our historic house for the annual holiday Candlelight Tours — and we'd love your help! We're seeking talented

decorators to volunteer their design skills to create holiday settings for tables, mantels, doors, and other areas of our beautiful house. We'll provide the materials, such as pineapples, fruits, and greenery for the arrangements. With your help, we can awe our visitors and delight our costumed interpreters. If you'd like to join the fun, please contact Program Director **Mary Beth Williams** or myself by Thanksgiving weekend. Call us at (502) 897-9845.

Thanks to Garden Volunteers

Have you noticed how nice the plants in the garden are looking this year, despite the wimpy winter of 2011-2012 that did nothing to kill off weeds and the miserable drought this summer? A big "Thank you!" goes out to **Mike Madryga** and **Kate Boyer** for their weeding fingers, gardening contributions, and excellent company!

We're always looking for other volunteers who might like to help with projects for Locust Grove's heritage gardens. In the winter, we package the seeds from our Locust Grove garden to sell in our museum store the next spring. This coming spring, we plan to have a booth at Locust Grove's annual Gardeners' Fair. If you have questions or want to volunteer, please contact me at (502) 897-9845 or at sed@locustgrove.org. Thanks!

Enrollment/Renewal from July 16, through October 15, 2012

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 WOULD 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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In Memoriam

☛ Mary Lou Brock ☛ Connie Guthrie ☛ Samuel W. Thomas ☛

We note with sadness the recent deaths of these members of our Locust Grove family. We treasure their generous contributions to Locust Grove of their time, energy, support, and enthusiasm. Thank you.

Donations received from July 16, through October 15, 2012

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.

- Anonymous
- In Memory of Joe Wesolosky**
Nina Ayers
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Crescent Hill Trading Company
Derby City Antique Mall
Dover House Antiques & Mercantile
Dreamlight Arts & Crafts Antiques/ Mid-Century Modern
Judd & Karen Fults.
Andrew Gentile Antiques, LLC
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Nussbaum Antiques & Fine Art
The Ruby Rooster Antiques & Collectibles
Oakridge Antiques
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Publishers Printing
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For people donating \$250 and up to Historic Locust Grove from July 16, through October 15, 2012.
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Thank You!

Sincere thanks go to GE Appliances and Robert Posthauer, GM Home Depot Sales and Marketing, for the generous donation of a French Door refrigerator to Historic Locust Grove. It's great to see such community involvement! See this and other exciting GE Appliances products at www.GEAppliances.com.



Federal/Regency Era Costuming

SATURDAY, JAN. 19, 11 AM

Locust Grove and the Greater Louisville Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA) will sponsor a free workshop on Federal/Regency era dress (late 18th and early 19th century). It will be led by **Bonny Wise**, regional coordinator of JASNA, and **Maria Clements**, JASNA member, reenactor, and theatre costumer — both of whom have been making Regency costumes for many years.



You'll learn about pattern and fabric selection, inspiration and purchasing resources, measurement techniques — covering day, evening wear and accessories for men and women. This workshop is free for anyone interested in Regency attire — especially to wear to Locust Grove's Historical Ball the next week (January 26) or to the Sixth Annual Jane Austen Festival in July.

Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Locust Grove at (502) 897-9845. Forward questions to Bonny Wise at wises4@insightbb.com. Admission is free.



Spirit Award Winner: Claudia Runge



For nearly 20 years, **Claudia Runge** has been volunteering at Historic Locust Grove. This quarter's Spirit Award Winner has served on HLG's Board of Directors, the education committee, has worked scores of special events, and has just finished training as a Locust Grove docent.

After many years as a seventh-grade language arts teacher at Kammerer Middle School in



Historical Ball

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 7 PM — 10 PM

Celebrate winter with a dance for all ages! Dress in period clothes from the era of your choice — from ancient Rome to Elizabethan, from the Revolutionary and Civil War periods to the 20th century. A live band will play music from various periods — with special instruction in some of the 19th century dances. Light refreshments will be available for purchase.

Space is limited and reservations are required. Cost: \$20 per person; \$15 for Friends of Locust Grove and children 13 years of age and younger. Reservations will be accepted beginning December 1.

Co-sponsored by the Louisville Chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America.

Weaving Workshop

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 10AM — 4 PM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1 PM — 4PM

Create small woven projects while learning basic weaving techniques in this two-day workshop. A weaver from Louisville's **Little Loomhouse** will lead students as they create small items on Lou Tate's "Little Looms." Cost includes supplies and the use of the Little Looms. Bring your lunch, scissors, and wear comfortable shoes! Class size is small, so space is very limited. \$150.

Miniatures Workshop

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 10AM — 4PM

Ages 10 to adult. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

You've seen the Locust Grove dollhouse; now you can learn to make your own miniatures. Members of the **Louisville Miniature Club** will lead participants as they make a historical vignette. Included in the price are wallpaper, flooring, trim, table and chair. The Louisville Miniature Club oversaw the restoration of the Locust Grove dollhouse on display in the museum gallery. \$40.

Knitting Workshop

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 10AM — 3PM

Learn to knit or refresh your skills at this knitting class from Locust Grove Education Coordinator and long-time knitter **Diane Statler**. You'll learn several patterns as you create a scarf. Please bring a pair of size 8 knitting needles, a cable hook, a skein of worsted-weight yarn, and your lunch. \$25.

eastern Jefferson County, Claudia joined the Kentucky Department of Education in 1994 to help develop educational standards. That same year, she become involved at HLG.

Claudia has served on the HLG's Board of Directors for several terms and has been on the Education Committee as member and now as chair. She works as many special events as she can fit into her schedule, and really loves her new duties as a docent.

"I have enjoyed the opportunity to introduce visitors to Locust Grove," she says. "I feel so privileged each time I get to tell them about the people and events that make Locust Grove so special."

Claudia adds that she is "inspired by the numerous volunteers who give many hours of their time as well as their talents and treasures to this organization.

"Like many of our Locust Grove volunteers, I love this place. When I enter the Visitors' Center or walk up to the house, the hustle bustle of daily living seems to slip away. Locust Grove is a lovely, peaceful property, rich in the history of our community and our state."

HLG Board President **Gwynne Potts** says that there's nothing Claudia cannot do. "Her contributions are characterized by thoughtfulness, preparation, enthusiasm, kindness, and a great sense of humor," Gwynne says. "Every time I see her, I smile."

Adds Program Director **Mary Beth Williams**, "Claudia's dedication to improve the interpretation of our site and her educational expertise is invaluable to all of us here at Locust Grove."



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[Fall 2012]

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Candlelight Tours

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 5:30 PM — 9 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 4 PM — 9 PM

The candles cast soft shadows on the decorations as Clark and Croghan family members greet their guests. Mantels and stairs are draped with fresh greens, while fruited arrangements grace tables and window sills. Music and dancing keep the spirits alive in the Grand Parlor upstairs — where everyone is welcome to join in. In the kitchen, the cook directs the preparation of desserts for the guests, taking time to chat with visitors entering her warm space.



In the Visitors' Center Audubon Room, music and refreshments await all. Children are invited to create holiday crafts that the Croghan children might have made. Everyone can shop for gifts in the Museum Store and browse for that special present at the Holiday Book Fair. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 12 years and under — with a maximum cost of \$18 for the entire family.

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE

GROVE GAZETTE

Lucy Clark Croghan (Mandy Dick) is ready to greet her guests during Candlelight Tours.

www.locustgrove.org