Creating a plan for the future is an exciting but daunting task. It requires visionary thinking, facing cold realities, and balancing competing values, hope, and risk.

Last May, the Historic Locust Grove governing board approved a Master Plan that had been years in the making — from initial “community conversations” through surveys and mapping to the final draft.

A small committee guided the work of a consultant team (see sidebar) to produce the Master Plan report, which is available online at http://locustgrove.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/LocustGroveMASTER-PLAN.pdf.

Many of the ideas have been under discussion for years, while others emerged from the process of discussion as well as the consultants’ research and insights.

The plan is not a radical document. The planning team was always mindful of preserving and conserving the unique setting of a late 18th century Kentucky house on acres of its original land — “a place of national significance with significant resources of exceptional quality and integrity.”

The goal was to design a Locust Grove for a 21st century audience — focusing on historic resource preservation; public education and enlightenment in the broadest sense; and effective operations for outstanding visitor services.

Beauty, pleasure, and delight are part of the mix, as are insight, empathy, and curiosity.

The plan creates zones to protect historic structures. Major festivals and events will move north near the Visitors’ Center, with a semi-permanent tent pad as a base.

Visitors will arrive at the site through a drive moved slightly to the east (toward the house) for better sight lines, and they’ll park in a revamped lot.

The existing Visitors’ Center will be upgraded, rearranged, and expanded slightly to the north towards the field. This new space will allow room for an improved museum store, classroom and workshop space, and an area for temporary exhibits or presentations.

Access to the 55 acres will be easier with a new path system. A formal symmetrical path will surround the house and gardens. Other more informal paths will wind through gardens, fields, and woods. The woods will be gradually restored as we continue to remove invasive species. Archaeological sites will be protected and, when possible, investigated.

Gardens, farming activities, and areas for visitor interaction will vary the landscape. Programming of all kinds will be created to expand upon existing interpretation of farm life and the food of the period, as well as on the American Revolution and post-Revolutionary America.

The outcome of Locust Grove’s Master Plan won’t be a new Locust Grove or a bigger Locust Grove. It will be a better Locust Grove.
“Life is what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans,” as the saying goes. And while we were busy Master-Planning the future of our 59-acre site, the historic house reminded us very dramatically about what’s most important to preserve.

A leak developed in the ceiling of the “rose room” or “best guest room” that is next to the Great Parlor on the second floor.

An air-conditioning unit in the house’s attic had malfunctioned and sent a slow and growing pool down to the plaster ceiling of the room an entire floor below, which cracked and started to bulge. Fortunately a docent spotted the problem when the crack first developed, and the staff quickly cleared the room of all of the movable furnishings and objects (including the beautiful serpentine chest!). Plastic went down on the floor before the serious drops started. The custom-woven wool rug did get a little wet. But we slit it along the seam lines and peeled it back to dry. The only casualty was the rug’s under-padding, which we cut away so the wood floor could dry. Fans and a dehumidifier are still working to dry out the room as I write this in late September.

Metro Parks sent contractors to repair the attic unit and plasterers came to assess the ceiling damage. A section about eight feet by eight feet will have to be replaced, but that area of the ceiling has been opened up and dried out before the repairs can begin. The room will be off limits to visitors for an indefinite time. (But, just in time, images and descriptions of every room are now available on our new website.)

While no serious damage appears to have been done to the collections or to the structure, this is a real wake-up call about the pressing need to replace aging infrastructure. The house’s heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system badly needs updating to modern safety standards. And we need to complete our study of the building’s “envelope” — the outer perimeter — more effectively. In addition, a new roof must be installed sooner rather than later.

In partnership with Metro Parks, we have a responsibility to do all that we can to ensure that this important National Historic Landmark structure survives into another century. We have funding to begin the repairs with support from Metro Council, and the rest may very well depend upon you!

We’ll be in touch…

Director’s Letter
Carol Ely, Ph.D.

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 a 10:00 a.m., with the lecture immediately following. Admission is $5, or $3 for Friends of Locust Grove.

A Generous and Merciful Enemy
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1 PM
University of Louisville Associate Professor Daniel Krebs brings to light what life was like in captivity for German (Hessian) prisoners of war during the American Revolution.

Thousands of the 75,000 soldiers from six German principalities were imprisoned by the American revolutionaries. Krebs also will explain the motivations of the German states that provided these contract soldiers for the British army. After the lecture, I’ll be glad to sign copies of his new book, *A Generous and Merciful Enemy: Life for German Prisoners of War during the American Revolution*.

Annual Holiday Concert
DECEMBER 3, 2014, 7 PM

Locust Grove’s traditional holiday kick-off brings back the popular players of the Louisville Dulcimer Society. Members play holiday favorites on Kentucky’s official musical instrument — the Appalachian lap dulcimer — along with banjos, hammered dulcimer, a washboard, fiddle, guitar, and more as the audience is invited to sing along. Be sure to arrive early to get your seat and enjoy the seasonal treats prepared especially for you by the Lecture Bakers.

Next year, we’ll add an hour to our schedule from Memorial Day to Labor Day. And we’ll be open on Thursday evenings during the special programs, to be announced.

February 11 to Memorial Day and Labor Day through December 10
Saturday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Sunday, 1 PM to 4:30 PM

NOTE: We’re closed during January and on major holidays. If unsure, check our website: www.locustgrove.org

Lyman C. Draper Manuscripts
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015, 1 PM
Join the Filson Historical Society’s Curator of Collections Jim Holmberg as he brings a little bit of adventure to our lecture series. He’ll relate the story of Lyman Draper, who intended to chronicle the lives of the pioneers of the “First American West,” especially George Rogers Clark and Daniel Boone. Draper visited Kentucky and other states beginning in the 1830s in search of the sources needed for his work. He interviewed people and kept extensive correspondence in search of information. But he never wrote more than a few pages. And now, these Draper Manuscripts are one of the most significant collections of primary source material about the history of the First West and its people.

"Life is what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans," as the saying goes. And while we were busy Master-Planning the future of our 59-acre site, the historic house reminded us very dramatically about what’s most important to preserve.

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Locust Grove Costumed Interpreter Creates Extraordinary Interactive Production

Faces of Freedom: Preserving the Stories of the Underground Railroad

The performers have agreed to do two encore performances at Locust Grove on Saturday, November 8 at 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The entire production also will be presented in October at a house that was on the Underground Railroad in Ripley, Ohio.

After the final performances, Catherine will give the scripts to the National Park Service’s “Network to Freedom,” which will make her production available to sites across the country.

At the conclusion of the performance, she related the accomplishments of the historical characters being portrayed. She also pointed out that slavery is still very much in evidence today—particularly through human trafficking.

The audience left with a lot of myths and truths about both the Underground Railroad and human trafficking. And also with the conviction that Catherine Bache has a great future before her.

Catherine Bache (center) and Julia Bache talk to Brian West who played escaped slave William Wells Brown.

Spirit Award Winner: Greg Hudson

If you’ve ever attended Locust Grove’s Spring Encampment or 18th Century Market Fair, you’ve seen this quarter’s Spirit Award Winner, Greg Hudson.

In fact, it’s hard to miss the tall figure in the Revolutionary War uniform and tricorn hat—assimilating his men, leading them into battle, or recruiting young boys and girls who eagerly volunteer to “be a soldier” and learn to march.

For nearly 24 years, Greg has helped to make military re-enactments at Locust Grove authentic and true to the spirit of George Rogers Clark’s Illinois Regiment of Virginia—the regiment that Clark led during the American Revolution.

“Our company, which formed in 1982, is one of four in the Illinois Regiment,” Greg says. “But the four companies in the regiment didn’t work together until we had that first Spring Encampment at Locust Grove in about 1990. That’s one reason why this beautiful site is so special to me.”

Greg is an Indiana native. Purdue University grad, and Erlanger, Ky., resident. He first visited Locust Grove more than a quarter of a century ago while on a weekend trip to discover Louisville and Bardstown.

“The docent who guided us through the house noticed my period haversack and asked if I were a reenactor,” Greg recalls.

“When I said yes, she introduced me to the then-program manager—and the rest is history. Whoever that docent was, I thank her profusely!”

A master leather craftsman, Greg owns Weeping Heart Trade Company with his wife, Julie, where they make and sell historically, beautifully accurate leather goods and clothing.

It’s Greg’s desire to teach people—especially kids—about military history and George Rogers Clark’s amazing story that keeps him going.

“The Regiment and I are like the Post Office—neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night will keep us from teaching history at the ‘Grove.’ And we’ve seen plenty of wild weather over the years,” he laughs. “And the opportunity to teach in such a setting truly is an honor.”

The Locust Grove Chamber Musicians will perform at two Emile Strong Smith Chamber Music Concerts this season.

Emile Strong Smith Chamber Music Series

Locust Grove’s Emile Strong Smith Chamber Music Series offers concertgoers a unique opportunity. Patrons delight in music that the Clarke and Coughans would have heard it—“the second-floor Great Parlor of the historic house. Refreshments are at 5:00 p.m.; the concert in Locust Grove’s Great Parlor begins at 5:30 p.m.

Season subscriptions may be purchased by calling Locust Grove at (502) 897-9845. Categories are Patron, $100; Sponsor, $100, and Subscriber, $70. Individual concerts are $20 each. Please join us!

The Locust Grove Chamber Musicians will perform at two Emile Strong Smith Chamber Music Concerts this season.

Moscow on the Seine

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2015, 5:30 PM

Such Sweet Melodie presents music of Merula, Schmelzer, Monteverdi, and Campion.

www.locustgrove.org
Locust Grove’s Dairy is Being Restored

That square stone building just outside the hearth kitchen and a few steps away from the wall is a reconstructed dairy — the place where the Croghans’ milk would have been stored and cheese would have been made. It has been a vital part of the interpretation of Locust Grove — until now.

Locust Grove Weekend (and former intern) Hannah Zimmerman has been researching 18th and 19th century dairy practices and making suggestions “to bring our dairy out of theblahs and back into the tidy splendor of the very short and we’d really appreciate your thoughts. Thanks!”

Hannah has learned that period dairies needed to be cool and clean, with floors made of wood, stone, or tile so they could be easily cleaned. “Ours had a floor of dirt; but now we’re building a reclaimed wood — making us one step closer to a dairy the Croghan family might recognize.”

Dairies during this time period typically had two rows of shelves — one about waist-high from which to work; and one overhead for Dairies during this time period typically had two rows of shelves. “We could not be so successful otherwise,” Hannah says.

She stresses that Locust Grove safeguards the historical integrity of the site and is as accurate as possible to the time period and the records that are available. “Our dairy is the same size and shape as an 18th century dairy should be.”

There’s one element that still puzzles Locust Grove’s researchers. “We can’t explain — or fix — the vertical wall slits,” Hannah says. Typically, this was achieved with horizontal vents at the top of the structure that were latticed and screened with muslin. We just don’t know why our dairy was built with vertical slits.

As soon as the work is completed on the restoration of Locust Grove, it will be a part of our interpretive model of the dairy. “In a few years, I think we’ll have plenty to tell,” Hannah adds.

Check Out Locust Grove’s New Website!

Locust Grove’s website — www.locustgrove.org — has a new look and a ton of information! Get a month-by-month listing of events. Take a virtual tour of the house, with descriptions for each room. Learn about the family, or restoration projects, or volunteer opportunities. Become a member. View volunteer opportunities. Become a member. View volunteer opportunities. Become a member. View volunteer opportunities.

In Memoriam

- Charles & Bonnie Barton
- Mary Nash Fund
- Mr. & Mrs. A. B. Hoskins III
- The King Family
- The Rhawn Family
- The Swank Family
- The Underwood Family
- The Uhr Family
- The McLean Family
- The Nash Family
- The Pusey Family
- The Sall-google and in VolVetion. In our last issue, the professional affiliation of an incoming Board member was listed incorrectly. We are sorry. For the record, the Board consists of Richelle Smith, Patti Scott, and Tami Scudder.

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CORRECTION

Locust Grove may offer an exclusive tour of Ireland next year, which would include visits to areas that William Croghan would have known before coming to America in 1769. To gauge interest, we’ve just asked four questions on the “Survey Monkey” site at www.surveymonkey.com/s/5W7FJGICN. The survey is very short and we’re really appreciate your thoughts. Thanks!

Locust Grove’s Dairy is Currently Undergoing Construction.

Locust Grove’s Dairy is currently undergoing construction. In the coming months, the dairy will be restored to its original state. This project is made possible through the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. William LeBlanc, who have generously supported the restoration of Locust Grove.

Visit to Ireland

Locust Grove may offer an exclusive tour of Ireland next year, which would include visits to areas that William Croghan would have known before coming to America in 1769. To gauge interest, we’ve just asked four questions on the “Survey Monkey” site at www.surveymonkey.com/s/5W7FJGICN. The survey is very short and we’re really appreciate your thoughts. Thanks!
18th Century Market Fair

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 AND 26
10 AM – 4:30 PM BOTH DAYS

The Amazing Budabi Brothers will be tossing their flaming torches to each other. Commonstock, with their hobby horse costumes and puppets, will make you laugh. Lisette LeFoux will ply her Tarot cards to predict your future. Silas Moore will be delighted to show you the rat he caught, and Maggie Delaney will be slaving away at her huge, cast-iron washtub. Rod Smothers will be breaking flax to prepare it for spinning the fibers into linen thread. And Hen House Forge will demonstrate the skill and strength it takes to be a blacksmith.

British, American, Hessian, and Scottish soldiers and their families will be camping on the grounds, ready to show you what soldiering is all about — including mock battles filled with noise, guns, cannons, and lots of excitement. Merchants and food vendors will tempt with goods and treats that are hard to resist. Admission is $8 for adults, $4 for children ages 6–12, and free for children 5 and under. Admission includes a tour of the historic house museum and is good for both days of the fair.