

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE GROVE GAZETTE



Locust Grove's Appeal Reaches Far and Wide

It's easy to understand why Americans would want to visit Locust Grove. Even if they have only the dimmest recollection of having heard George Rogers Clark's name mentioned back in the fourth grade, they intrinsically understand the pull of the West on Americans from the earliest days — the drive to settle new lands, the fervor of independence, a nostalgia for the frontier. And Locust Grove is part of that familiar story.

But what about our visitors who come from other countries? What draws them to visit this particular house in Louisville? A recent visit from a French family with strong Locust Grove connections is a perfect example of Locust Grove's international reach.

Jean-Louis Lavigne, a descendant of Rose Audubon, the sister of artist John James Audubon, contacted Locust Grove in February to arrange a visit. Jean-Louis lives at the Audubon family house in Couéron, near Nantes, in France. In late March, Jean-Louis, his sister, and four friends were on an odyssey to follow Audubon's path through America — from Pennsylvania to Kentucky to New Orleans.

John James Audubon was a friend of the Croghan family of Locust Grove. He knew of them through his father, Jean Audubon, who had met William Croghan during the Revolutionary war. When John James came to Louisville in the early 1800s, he contacted William Croghan and spent a lot of time at Locust Grove, walking the surrounding country while sketching birds.

In Louisville, Audubon tried to support his family in part by painting portraits. There was a small French-speaking community in Louisville in the early 1800s, including exiles from the French Revolution. Audubon lived among them in Shippingport, where the canal locks are located now. Some of his "Birds of America" sketches were probably made at Locust Grove. The Croghan family subscribed to his books, which supported him financially. He remained in contact with the second generation of the family, especially Dr. John Croghan, William and Lucy's eldest.

"During the tour, Jean-Louis remarked that, after seeing our Great Parlor with its French-style wallpaper, he understood why Audubon was so comfortable with the Croghans," said HLG Executive Director **Carol Ely**. "It was a home with the level of sophistication that Audubon knew from France."

The very popular 19th-century English writer, Jane Austen, brings international visitors to Locust Grove as well. Our annual Jane Austen Festival in July, co-sponsored with the local Jane Austen Society chapter, has become a destination for fans from around the country and the world.

During one recent 18-month period, visitors came to Locust Grove from some 40 different countries. As one would expect, Canada and England were well represented. But we also have had visitors from countries such as Germany, Switzerland, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ukraine, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

Friendship Force of Louisville often brings its visitors to Locust Grove. This international cultural exchange organization, which emphasizes home-hosted week-long visits between members, has introduced visitors from England, Canada, Germany, and Costa Rica to Locust Grove's people, house, and grounds.

If our visitors are not fluent in English, we have printed handouts in several languages, which are due to be updated soon. And if we have advance notice of a visit, as with the Lavigne/Audubon family, we will find a translator. One of our docents who majored in Spanish in college gave a special tour to the Friendship Force-Costa Rica visitors.

The Croghans' world was not limited to a corner of Kentucky. Apart from their own travels, they had friends and associates, business contacts and relatives all around the globe.

Visitors to Louisville — on the fringes of the frontier — in the early 1800s often made their way to Locust Grove. As our records clearly show, that international appeal continues today.



Descendants of the Audubon family from France had a special tour of Locust Grove from HLG Executive Director Carol Ely (far right).

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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.

While most of us are only just now consistently remembering to write "2014" on our checks, Locust Grove is already planning ahead for some major regional and national events next year. Here's a heads-up so you can plan to be in town in the late summer and fall of 2015!

2015 is the year of the YES! FEST. "YES!" stands for "Year of Environment and Sustainability" — a regionwide project of the Arts and Cultural Attractions (ACA) Council of Greater Louisville, Inc.

The YES! FEST brings together cultural organizations, environmental groups, educators, businesses, and foundations to teach about issues of sustainability and environmental preservation. One innovative feature of the festival will be the collaborative projects that are now in the early planning stages.

As an ACA Board member, I've been working on YES! for several years. The creativity of the partners will generate a citywide conversation and celebration that will be exciting, challenging, and different from the usual fare.

At Locust Grove, we'll explore the historical context of environmental adaptation and change to help the 21st century learn from the past. Watch for these ideas to appear in our lecture series, in special events on the grounds next year during the month of August, and through collaborations with arts groups and other museums.

In September 2015, Louisville hosts the annual convention of the American Association for State and Local History. This is a professional organization of historic sites, museums, scholars, preservationists, writers, and others working the field of public history.

I'm on the "local arrangements" planning committee to plan evening events and day tours for the attendees. This has made me even more aware of the variety and quality of the historic architecture, neighborhoods, museums, sites, and other resources in our community. Conference attendees, of course, will get a taste of Locust Grove, "Where Louisville Begins."

In October 2015, the Annual General Meeting of the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA) will be held in Louisville, sponsored by our own regional group — JASNA-Louisville. Our group was founded at Locust Grove, meets here monthly, sponsors our annual Jane Austen Festival each July, and contributes to other events at Locust Grove.

It is an enormous credit to the energy of this group that an international scholarly and popular organization like JASNA would come to Louisville for its annual meeting. We look forward to meeting "Janeites" from around the world and introducing them to Locust Grove.

So, make a note for 2015 to mark your calendars for some great events at Locust Grove next year!

Quad Gardens Go Organic



No, it's not the work of giant mutant moles. That's rich compost ready to be raked into the grass of Locust Grove's "quad" gardens. We've been working with organic techniques to improve the appearance and health of the grass in the quads, and the experiment seems to be a great success. Watch for more strange piles of dirt around the grounds in the future!

Carol Ely

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.

Undressing the Historical Lady — An Encore Lecture!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1 PM

Maggie Waterman Roberts, historical costume expert, is "undressing" again for lecture-goers. If you missed her performance last year — whether you were turned away because of overcrowding or were out of town — here's your chance to see this delightfully entertaining program about the fashion and clothing of the Regency Era (1800-1820). Mrs. Roberts starts her talk fully dressed in the clothing of the period. Then, as she removes each layer of clothing, she shares the origins, purposes, and historical anecdotes for each successive article. (Suitable for all audiences.)



'The First Oval Office' — Recreating Washington's Tent

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1 PM

Michael Ramsey is one of a team of historic trades interpreters who constructed a full-scale, working replica of the "First Oval Office" — the oval tent used by George Washington as his wartime private office and sleeping marquee. The project was a partnership between Colonial Williamsburg and the "Museum of the American Revolution" now under construction in Philadelphia, which will be the home of the actual marquee. You will learn about the 237-year history of the original artifact and be able to see and feel examples of the various textiles that went into its re-creation.



Undressing the Croghan Men

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1 PM

Locust Grove docent and historical reenactor **Brian Cushing** gives a detailed look at male fashions during the first part of the 1800s — clothing similar to what the first two generations of Croghans would have worn. He will examine the fashions themselves, how they evolved, and how and why the garments looked and functioned the way they did. Mr. Cushing's lecture, scheduled for this past February, was cancelled because of snow. (Suitable for all audiences.)



Gardeners' Fair and Silent Auction

**FRIDAY, MAY 9 TO SUNDAY, MAY 11
10 AM — 5 PM EACH DAY (See story on back cover)**



A Springtime Walk in Locust Grove's Woods

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 1:30 PM

Space is very limited; reservations are required.

Volunteer and Locust Grove neighbor **Jennifer McCormick** leads you on a tour of the 30 acres of woods at Locust Grove. Enjoy the beauty of spring plants and wildflowers, learn about native species and those introduced by settlers, and see traces of the past as you follow the forest trails. Tickets: \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6–12.

HUGE Museum Store Sale!

SATURDAY, JUNE 7 — SUNDAY, JUNE 29

It's Locust Grove's once-a-year inventory reduction sale! You'll receive a 20-percent discount on all purchases during the sale. The museum store carries a wide array of books, toys, CDs, stationery, historic-themed children's items, and Kentucky-made foods, crafts, and gift items.

The Museum Store hours:
Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.;
Sunday, 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Summer Antiques Market



SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 10 AM — 4:30 PM

This semi-annual Antiques Market features professional dealers from the South and Midwest displaying their wares on the lawn at Locust Grove. In addition to American country antiques, the show features formal furniture, books, textiles, jewelry, and silver.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-12. Admission includes tours of the historic house museum. Concessions are available. Proceeds support the continued operation and preservation of Locust Grove.

Independence Day



FRIDAY, JULY 4, 10 AM — 4:30 PM

Free to the public all day! Celebrate our nation's Independence in the style of the early Republic. Bring a picnic lunch, enjoy the grounds of Locust Grove, and tour the house for free today.

Jane Austen Festival

**FRIDAY, JULY 18, 6 PM — 9 PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 19 & 20
10 AM — 5 PM (See story, page 5)**

Explore Indiana History at Conner Prairie on Saturday, June 7



Calling all volunteers and Friends of Locust Grove! Join us for a day trip to Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, just outside Indianapolis. There you'll find 200 beautiful, wooded acres and discover exciting and memorable ways to experience the past.

We'll leave Locust Grove at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, June 7, arriving at Conner Prairie about 11:00 a.m.. You can spend the day exploring the themed historic areas that comprise Conner Prairie — the Smithsonian's only Indiana affiliate. Current activities at Conner Prairie include:

1836 PRAIRIETOWN Many of the 15 structures here date from the 1800s and have been restored, faithfully adhering to their history. Prairietown includes a blacksmith shop, general store, schoolhouse, inn, and more. Meet the townspeople, take a lesson in the schoolhouse, earn some wages by helping with chores, and spend your earnings at Whitaker's Store.

LENAPE INDIAN CAMP Learn the Lenape (Delaware) language and experience firsthand what life was like when Native Americans lived in this area.



CONNER HOMESTEAD Step into the Animal Encounters Barn and get up-close to the animals. Dip candles; tour the Conner House; try your hand at weaving at the Loom House.

1863 CIVIL WAR JOURNEY Cross the covered bridge and you're in Indiana in 1863 — in the midst of John Hunt Morgan's "Raid on Indiana." This technological experience puts you right in the middle of soldier and civilian life during the Civil War in Indiana. Would you have made the same choices about whom to support and believe as did the citizens 150 years ago?

Lunch options include Café on the Common, or bring a sack lunch for a picnic. Please wear comfortable footwear, and don't forget your water bottle. We'll depart Conner Prairie at 4:00 p.m. to return to Locust Grove about 6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$50 per person, which includes transportation on a deluxe motorcoach and admission to Conner Prairie

Space is limited and the deadline to sign up is Monday, May 19. Call **Mary Beth Williams** at (502) 897-9845 or e-mail: mwilliams@locustgrove.org to reserve a space.



Spirit Award Winner: Norma Adams



For nearly two decades, **Norma Adams** has been involved with gardening at Locust Grove. Starting as a volunteer in the gardens, she also helped with special events in those first years after her retirement from International Paper here in Louisville.

Then, when Locust Grove began its Gardeners' Fair event, Norma thought she might be of assistance. Indeed.

"Without Norma, the Gardeners' Fair would not be the success it has become," says Gardeners' Fair committee chair **LaMar Gaston**. Which is why Norma Adams has been selected as this quarter's "Spirit Award Winner."

"Norma single-handedly recruits the vendors for each Gardeners' Fair," LaMar says. "That first year, we had about 30 vendors. This

year, for the 19th Gardeners' Fair, we'll have more than 75 vendors — all of whom have developed special relationships with Norma."

It is impossible to tally the number of hours Norma spends throughout the year recruiting vendors for the fair.

"Norma makes sure all the Gardeners' Fair vendors are placed in good spots and feel welcomed and satisfied by their experience," says Locust Grove Executive Director **Carol Ely**. "This care helps ensure loyalty from the vendors who return, year after year."

Norma loves to garden, which is why she started at Locust Grove in the first place. And her involvement in the Gardeners' Fair is a great joy to her.

"Norma is such a sweet person, with a fun, dry sense of humor," adds **Mary Beth Williams**, Locust Grove's program director. "She has such an unassuming manner that I think a lot of people don't realize the amount of work she contributes each year to the success of the Gardeners' Fair. And we are so grateful that she does."

Jane Austen Festival Features New Events, Fun Favorites



On Saturday, July 19, you just may hear the sound of a record being smashed. Hundreds of people in early 19th century clothing again will try to break the Guinness World Record for the number of people in Regency attire.

"We were so close last year — only about 50 short of the record of 409 set in England in 2009. This year, the record is ours!" proclaims **Bonny Wise**, originator and coordinator of Locust Grove's annual Jane Austen Festival.

Regency attire certainly is not required to attend the festival. However, some 60 percent of the participants — male and female, young and old — do show up in Regency clothing, enhancing Locust Grove's historic grounds. The original residents of Locust Grove would feel quite at home were they to return during the Jane Austen Festival.

Breaking the Guinness World Record is only one event in the jam-packed weekend of July 18 — 20. This year, two Jane Austen experts from England will give talks; reenactors of "His Majesty's Royal Navy" will make camp on Locust Grove's grounds; and "Punch and Judy" marionette shows will delight the crowds.

There's a new Friday evening event — "Twilight Shopping" — when festival-goers can shop at vendors from throughout the Midwest and Canada who specialize in Regency-era wares, such as fabric, bonnets, jewelry, teas, and more. The "Twilight Shopping" experience also will feature music, Kentucky-inspired food and drink, and other entertainment.

Now in its seventh year, the Jane Austen Festival has grown by leaps and bounds. "Our festival now is the largest Jane Austen event in North America. Last year, some 1,700 people attended from 18 states, Canada, and The Netherlands," Bonny says.

Games, puppet shows, lace-making, style shows, and workshops are among the many scheduled events. And this year, male participants will have special workshops and can relax in their exclusive "Hellfire Club." The ever-popular and often sold-out Afternoon Teas again will feature a Children's Tea on Sunday, with special activities for the children and a souvenir teacup and saucer.

Information for festival passes and tickets for individual events are on the JASNA-Greater Louisville's website: www.jasnalouisville.com. Online pre-registration begins on June 2.



Summer Fun for Kids!



Nature Camp

Held at Locust Grove in conjunction with Jefferson Memorial Forest

Monday, July 7 — Friday July 11, 9 am — 4 pm

for ages 7-12. \$195 per camper



Travel back in time more than 200 years to discover nature and people through Locust Grove. Track native wild animals, experience Native American hunting and survival techniques, and discover life in the 18th century for the first European settlers and Native Americans. This hands-on nature camp will take kids on an adventure back in time! Be sure to bring a sack lunch.

To register, please call the Jefferson Memorial Forest Welcome Center, (502) 368-5404.

Craft Camp



Wednesday, July 16 &

Thursday, July 17, 9 am — 4 pm

for Ages 9-13. \$85 per camper (\$75 for HLG members)



Make your own book at this two-day workshop in the art and technique of making books, papermaking, printing, binding, stamping, paper marbling, and more. Create journals, albums, and other projects to take home, and learn about the methods and supplies you'll need to continue making your own books. All materials are included.

Wear clothes you can get messy in and bring a sack lunch.

To register, please call Locust Grove at (502) 897-9845.

Enrollment/Renewal from January 1 through March 31, 2014

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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Best Used Book Sale Ever!

Wintry weather has occasionally played havoc with Locust Grove's "first weekend in March" Used Book Sale. But this March, what looked to be a curse became a blessing.

The sale started out great—with more than 21,000 books, all meticulously sorted and displayed for easiest viewing. We were flooded with book lovers from the Thursday evening Members' Preview through the regular sales days on Friday and Saturday. Shoppers loved that we extended sales on Friday evening to 7:00 p.m., giving them the chance to find great bargains after the kids got home or after work. And all day Friday and Saturday, there were hardly any times when the aisles weren't crowded.

And then came Sunday, with dire predictions of a major winter storm to arrive at any moment. When we opened at 10 a.m., the terrible weather had not yet arrived – and shoppers were lined up out the doors, ready to fill bags with books for \$10/bag or half-price. We had decided to close as soon as the storm arrived. But the storm moved slowly, so we remained open, hour-by-hour, until our regular closing at 4:30 p.m.

Throughout Sunday, we continued to be amazed at the many people who braved the forecast and came for the bargains. Because we were prepared to shut down at the first sign of sleet, we offered special deals to those shoppers who ventured out. Our generous book buyers overwhelmed us.

Over the three days of the sale plus the Thursday evening preview, we sold more than 18,300 books and brought in \$26,162 in sales! Many thanks to Used Book Sale sponsors **Lynn Renau** and **Jeannie and John Vezeau**; our amazingly dedicated volunteers; our book donors, without whom none of this is possible; and the buyers who braved the weather.

We already have a good start on book donations for the August sale (August 22–24). And we're always needing more. Bring your books to Locust Grove anytime we're open. And be sure to get your tax receipt.

Thanks to all our book donors and purchasers! You help make Locust Grove's Used Book Sales successful.



New Docent Classes To Begin in June

The three-part training session for Locust Grove docents (tour guides) will begin in June, with the other two sessions in July and August. To be a docent, you must be comfortable speaking with the public, be interested in history, be available to volunteer at least twice a month, and easily go up and down two flights of stairs.

"Being a docent is so much more rewarding that I ever expected it to be," says **Nina Ayers**. "There's great satisfaction in being able to share Locust Grove's story with others.

"I love being in the house and looking at just one little part — a brick, a section of the floor, the handrail of the banister — and thinking about the people who made that item or those who stood where I'm standing," Nina continues. "Gives me chills."

Locust Grove's Program Director **Mary Beth Williams** explains that the three months of training gives new docents enough time to learn the material and to shadow experienced docents. "And, of course, training never stops," Mary Beth adds. "We have in-service sessions for all volunteers, monthly lectures, and a rich source of books and other materials in our library."

Please call Mary Beth at (502) 897-9845 if you'd like to experience the rewards (and "chills") of being a docent at Locust Grove.

Winter Storm Damages Large Tree



Visitors may notice slightly less tree cover shading the oval drive south of the house this spring. One of our oldest, largest oak trees lost a major limb in a windstorm in March. Metro Parks arborists believe that they can save the tree for now, but we are all keeping close watch on the aging trees around our historic structures.



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Locust Grove is accredited
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Ready for Spring! Locust Grove's Annual Gardeners' Fair and Silent Auction

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY MAY 9, 10, & 11
10 AM — 5 PM**

This annual event offers visitors the chance to purchase flowers, herbs, and plants, along with a variety of tools, plant accessories, and artistic and practical gardening items. Among other delightful finds are wrought iron sculptures, water gardens, antique yard furniture, and many other creative and useful outdoor delights.

The **Silent Auction** is a fundraiser for Historic Locust Grove, with scores of offerings from antiques, quilts and other handiwork to art, gardening accessories, and valuable gift certificates. Bidding closes at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

General admission to the event, which includes a tour of the historic house museum, is \$6, or \$3 for children ages 6 to 12. Admission is good for all three days.



HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE
GROVE GAZETTE