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 Couëron, 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.
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 — “Year of Environment and Sustainability” — a region-wide 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 talk 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 city-wide 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 who work 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 historical 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 and its history.

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 going quite well. Watch for more strange piles of dirt around the grounds in the future!

Quad Gardens Go Organic

[SPRING 2014]

Calendars

First Wednesday Lecture Series

Our lecture series offers a variety of interesting speakers and unusual topics that relate to the lives of the Croghans. Talks and the region. Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for January and May. Desserts and beverages are served at 5:30 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, 5PM

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 delightful entertaining portrayal 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.)

In the “First Oval Office” — Recreating Washington’s Tent

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1PM

Michael Ramsey is one of a team of historic trades interpreters who constructed a full-scale work, replays the “First Oval Office” — the oval tent used by George Washington as his wartime private office and sleep court-marque. The project was a partnership between the Smithsonian Institution 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 history of the original artifact and be able to see and feel examples of the various textiles that went into its creation.

Huge Museum Store Sale!

SATURDAY, JUNE 7 — SUNDAY, JUNE 29

15% off 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, EDs, historical-themed children’s items, and Kentucky-made foods, crafts, and gift items.

Museum Store hours

Monday — Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The Museum Store will be closed on Sundays.

Summer Antiques Market

FRIDAY, MAY 9 TO SUNDAY, MAY 11

10 AM – 5 PM EACH DAY (See story on back cover)

Gardener’s Fair and Silent Auction

FRIDAY, MAY 9 TO SUNDAY, MAY 11

10 AM – 5 PM EACH DAY (See story on back cover)

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FRIDAY, MAY 9 TO SUNDAY, MAY 11

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Field and Garden Silhouette Auction

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10 AM – 5 PM EACH DAY (See story on back cover)
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:

- **1816 PRAIRIE TOWN** 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 townpeople, take a lesson in the schoolhouse, earn some wages by helping with chores, and spend your earnings at Whittaker’s Store.

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

**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 Gardener’s Fair,” LaMar says. “That first year, we had about 30 vendors. This year, for the 10th Gardener’s 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 to continue making your own books. All materials are included.

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

For more information, call LaMar Gaston at (502) 897-9845 or e-mail: mwilliams@locustgrove.org to reserve a space.

**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 Bonnie Wise, originator and coordinator of Locust Grove’s annual Jane Austen Festival.

Regency attire is not currently 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 Shoppin’” — when festival-goers can shop at vendors from throughout the Midwest and Canada who specialize in Regency-era wares, such as fabric, bonnets, jewelry, tea, and more. The “Twilight Shoppin’” 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 “Heffle 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.jasnlouisville.com. Online pre-registration begins on June 2.

**Nature Camp**

Held at Locust Grove in conjunction with Jefferson Memorial Forest

Monday, July 7 – Friday, July 11, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m

for ages 7-12, $395 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) 568-5504.

**Craft Camp**

Wednesday, July 16 & Thursday, July 17, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m

for Ages 9-13, $85 per camper

for ages 7-12, $195 per camper

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.

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

**Enrollment/New Renewal from January 1 through March 31, 2014**

A hearty “thank you” to all of those people who recently renewed or joined us in support of Locust Grove’s mission, and to all of our new friends who joined us! 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.

Claire Alagia & Greenthomp Marsden
Dr. & Mrs. P. Alagia
Tommy B. & Nina Ayers
Steve & Carol Ayers
G. Brenton Ballard III
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Barnes
Olivia Beneske
Karon & Tom Bibb
Vic & Colombia Bitter
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Bleven
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Boone
Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence Brean
Ann Bobila
Mary Jo Bloomberg
Tom & Jill Smith
Brittany & Julia Brouder
Mandy Brown
Marla Barton
Gloria Carth
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Carnaghn
Mary Casey
Barbara Castellanese
Robert Cutler Jr.
Gayle & Linda Countryman
Ursula & Tom Dames
Juliet Davenport
James Davis
C. Leslie Dawson
Carolyn Dauer
Alison Virginia Dodd
John, Jr. Donker
Brian Dowling
Rutan Baker Dossenil
Mary & David Durham
Paul Epstein & Pat Krall
Eric Flaherty
John Flaherty
Sue Franklin
Donald & Linda Fuchs
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fugate
Dr. Lynn Gant & W. Eugene March
William Gardner
Eric George
Jeanne George
Jacqueline C. Gibbs
Donna L. Gray III
Holly Gray
Susan F. Grubb
Bobbin Gurney
Christian Hales
Ellyn Hamilton
Lawrence Hamilton
Chop & Jennifer Harneck
Dennis & Rick Hanson
Mrs. Barbara Hardy
Jenny Hardy
Kathy W. Hall
Sherry Hamilton
Sally & Bill Harrell
James Hill
Paul I. Hughes
Rebeccah Humbert & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Johnson

**Donations received from January 1 through March 31, 2014**

Many thanks to the people of hopefull Locust Grove’s mission, and to all of our new friends who joined us! 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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James Hill
Paul I. Hughes
Rebeccah Humbert & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Johnson

**In Memoriam**

We note with sadness the recent deaths of many members of our Locust Grove family. We recognize their generous contributions to Locust Grove’s time, energy, support, and enthusiasm.

Thank you.

Mrs. Virginia Bickel - Helen Franklin
David Kremer - John Quesenberry - Joyce Rufra

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**New Docent Classes To Begin in June**

The three-part training session for Locust Grove docents (four 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 two months, and easily go up and down two flights of stairs. “Being a docent is 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 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 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) 857-9845 if you’d like to experience the rewards (and ‘chills’) of being a docent at Locust Grove.

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**Best Used Book Sale Ever!**

Winter weather has occasionally played havoc with Locust Grove’s “first weekened in March” Used Book Sale. But this March, what looked to be a cure became a blessing.

The sale started out great—with more than 20,000 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 20% off bag or box 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 many people who braided 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 80,000 books and brought in $62,116 in sales! Many thanks to Used Book Sale sponsors Lynn Renau and Jeannie and John Vezear, our especially dedicated volunteers, our book donors, without whom none of this is possible, and those 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.

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**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 winterstorm 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.
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.