

# HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE GROVE GAZETTE



## 'Voices Project' Lets Visitors Eavesdrop on Locust Grove Conversations

**W**hat would William Croghan and George Rogers Clark discuss as they shared a meal?

What did Kitt, Clark's enslaved manservant, think about his long years of service?

What did Locust Grove's walls witness 200 years ago?

Now you can "hear" these lost voices.

This summer, we've undertaken an experiment in audio reconstruction of some of the scenes that this house might have witnessed. The first five snippets of sound in our "Voices Project" are putting the people back into the rooms that they once inhabited.

With careful scripting and research, plus imaginative leaps, we're reminding our visitors of the real, thinking, feeling human beings who paced these floors, tapped the keys of that fortepiano, or whispered in the dark in those cramped slave quarters.

These thoughtful fictionalized sound reconstructions are designed especially to bring out the voices of those we seldom hear — the enslaved of Locust Grove and the women and children of the family.

By necessity, we've had to put words in their mouths, but we trust our visitors to understand that this is imaginative, not literal, truth.



Before embarking on this project, our Education Committee recommended, and the HLG Board approved, guidelines to ensure that our stories remained within the bounds of the possible and the plausible.

This summer, we're offering these new short audio presentations in five locations:

### **First Floor: George Rogers Clark's Room**

Kitt, the enslaved servant of George Rogers Clark, talks about General Clark's death in 1818.

### **First Floor: Dining Room**

We're eavesdropping on a dining room conversation in 1811 among William Croghan, notable by his Irish accent; his wife Lucy; and her brother, George Rogers Clark.

### **Second Floor: Great Parlor**

It's Lucy Croghan's role to ensure that her daughters, Ann and Eliza, are prepared for a good marriage. Here we listen to a piano lesson.

### **Outbuilding: Kitchen**

We're eavesdropping on a conversation among the enslaved cooks when Lucy Croghan comes in to arrange for a special dinner.

### **Outbuilding: Slave residence**

It's night in a small dwelling of an enslaved family. Hannah is putting the children to bed when her husband Peter comes in with news.

A simple push of a button starts the sound going. The kiosks that hold the recordings are designed to allow for new recordings to be made with the change of a small computer chip. This offers great flexibility to allow us, in the future, to use sound in many ways, including for a narrative tour.

If you would like your tour to include these new audio experiences, tell your docent that you would like to hear "Voices."

The Voices Project is made possible with funding from two generous donors, **Nancy W. Lee** and **Jean D. Miller**, and developed in partnership with Solid Light, an exhibit design firm in Louisville.



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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.**

*There are bad problems, and there are good problems.*

*Right now, Locust Grove has great problems.*

The issue: visitors, visitors, new visitors, everywhere! The combination of popular programs, our participation in Metro Louisville's summertime Cultural Pass program, and the growing interest from tourist visitors this summer has meant that we've been scrambling to keep up with demand.

Instead of sending out a tour each hour with a few visitors, we've sent out multiple tours during the same hour or relied upon "station" tours. We've pressed all of our



These are just a few of the many hundreds of people who have visited Locust Grove this summer as part of Metro Louisville's "Cultural Pass" museum promotion.

staff, volunteer docents, and even our hard-working summer interns into service. What a great problem!

It's so exciting to see the interest in experiencing Locust Grove and other museums that blossomed when the Cultural Pass offered **free** admission this summer to children in Jefferson County, with one **free** accompanying adult.

Our annual **free** Independence Day celebration drew an estimated 1,000 (!) people to picnic, tour the historic buildings, and hear the Declaration of Independence read aloud. It was amazing to witness this desire to share our nation's birthday at the home of some of the nation's founders.

However — did you notice the word "free" in the above descriptions of our newly delighted visitors? That's right — little or no revenue comes with the new crowds.

The costs of the demand for added staff hours and extra wear and tear on staff and volunteers aren't covered by these programs.

But fortunately, that's not a problem. Locust Grove has wonderful supporters — our members, our donors, and our volunteers. Their generosity allows us to share the experience of visiting this site with so many community members.

When we ask for general operating support through donations to our annual fund; when we encourage membership in the Friends of Locust Grove; when we ask you to donate your time as a volunteer — this is what **you** allow us to accomplish.

Thank you. We could not do it without you.

**Welcome, New Historic Locust Grove Board Members**

At its June Board meeting, Historic Locust Grove, Inc. voted in a new President, **Kate Dalton Boyer**, a journalist and conservationist, who will serve in that role for the next two years. Kate previously served HLG as Vice President and as chair of the Master Plan committee. **Rosalind Streeter**, preservationist with River Fields, is a new Vice President.

The Board thanks outgoing President **Susan Reigler**, who remains on the Board. **Liz Swearingen-Edens** leaves the Board this year due to term expiration, but she will remain on our Advancement Committee. It's her clever graphics that often welcome you to Locust Grove parties and events. Newly elected Board members, serving three-year renewable terms, are:

**Linda Beattie, Ph.D.**

Director, Doctoral Program in Leadership Education, Spalding University

**Vickie Yates Brown**

attorney in health care law with Frost, Brown, Todd and CEO of Nucleus, as well as a neighbor of Locust Grove

**Jill Cooper**

vice president of private banking for Commonwealth Bank & Trust Company.

**John Hoagland**

a partner in Hoagland Commercial Realtors, and a neighbor

**David Hook**

general sales manager with Bob Hook Chevrolet, and a neighbor

**James Statler**

a CPA with Crowe Horwath LLP, and a volunteer and supporter of Locust Grove

We look forward to working together with new energy in 2014-15!

**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.



**Andrew Jackson**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1 PM**

Considered the "historian of Western Kentucky," **William T. Turner** is an outstanding

retired history professor known for his storytelling approach. He founded several museums in the Hopkinsville area and gives delightful walking tours. Today, Mr. Turner will look at the life of President Andrew Jackson, with an emphasis on why he was as he was. He'll also discuss Jackson's home, The Hermitage in Nashville, Tenn., and Jackson's emotional attachment to it — its construction and the rebuilding after a fire. Jackson lived at the Hermitage after returning to civilian life and is buried there.

**War of 1812 and the Boys of the Beargrass**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1 PM**



Local historian, author, and Locust Grove Docent **Lynn Renau** will offer fascinating stories about the local boys who fought in the War of 1812. Kentucky supplied 65 percent of the soldiers who fought in the conflict.

Boys from the Beargrass Creek families who fought 200 years ago included George Croghan, Zachary Taylor, the Wells brothers, the Edwards boys, and George "Vulcan" Rudy. Their stories — personal, inspiring, and tragic — bring a war fought two centuries ago to life. Five of their homes still stand in the area.

**Summer Used Book Sale**

→ **New! Extended Friday Hours!** ←

**Members' Only Preview:**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 5 PM — 7:30 PM**  
**Open to the Public:**  
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 10 AM — 7 PM**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 10 AM — 4:30 PM**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 10 AM — 4:30 PM**

It's the 10th year for this popular and highly anticipated event. We'll have some 20,000 books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, even some vinyl records waiting for you to discover them. We now are staying open on Friday until 7:00 p.m. so you can stop by after school or work. See you there! (See story on back cover.)



For every Used Book Sale, local poet and Oldham County librarian **Barb McMakin** takes a vacation day on Friday so she gets an early crack at the books.

**Fall Antiques Market**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 10 AM — 4:30 PM**

Furniture, silver, jewelry, quilts, rugs, porcelain, books, textiles, dishes, dolls, serveware — just about any antiques or collectibles you're looking for are here at Locust Grove. Dealers from the South and Midwest come together for Locust Grove's semi-annual Antiques Markets.

Admission is \$6 (\$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.



## Master Plan Update and Meeting with Neighbors

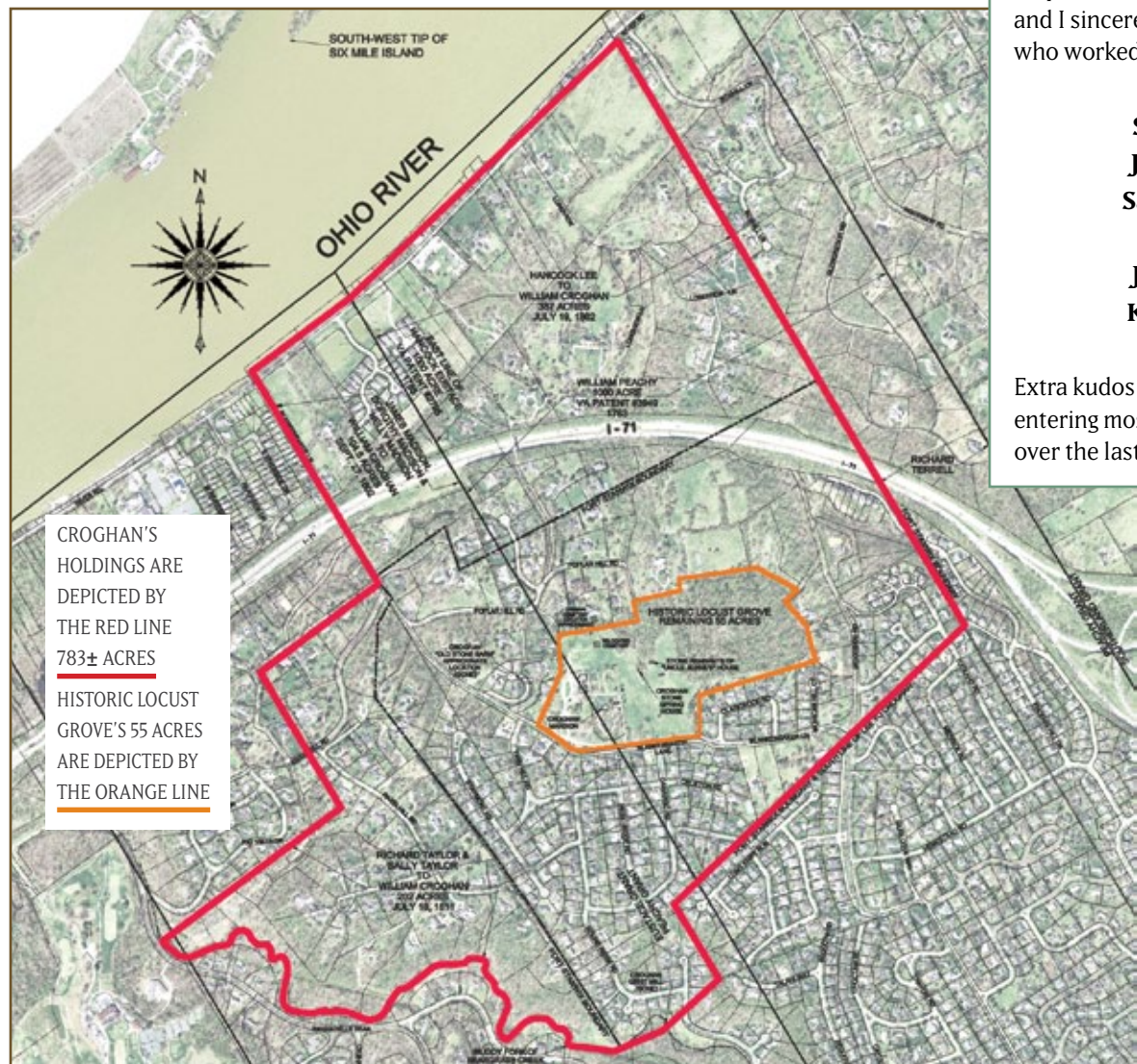
Our new Master Plan, several years in the making, was approved by the Historic Locust Grove Board in May. It will be released to the public late this summer after discussion with HLG “stakeholders” and neighbors in July. The choices and opportunities presented by the Master Plan will inform our programming and site improvements for years to come.

We’ve kept in mind the fact that today’s 55-acre historic site is far smaller than William Croghan’s more than 700-acre estate. The first phase of the Master Plan was a comprehensive land survey. When it was completed, we reached out to all of the households we could identify living today on those 700-plus acres.

Their properties are part of the story of Locust Grove too, with potential archaeological sites and evidence of roadways and structures. These neighbors joined us for a special meeting last fall and will be among the first to learn about the future developments outlined in the Master Plan.

Watch for more detailed information about the Master Plan in the next issue of **Grove Gazette**. A PDF version of Locust Grove’s Master Plan will be posted online at the time of the public release and will be announced through email and the website.

*If you believe that your home stands on the original Croghan property, and we haven’t yet contacted you, please contact us so we can verify it and include you in our neighbors group. Call us at (502) 897-9845 or send an email to [ely@locustgrove.org](mailto:ely@locustgrove.org). Thank you!*



## Museum Store Inventory Heroes!

— Jennifer Jansen, *Visitors' Center Manager*

Taking physical store inventory is always a challenge, coming just after the June Antiques Market and three days before our free-to-the-public Independence Day celebration. And this year, we had an especially large number of visitors to work around because of Metro Louisville’s Cultural Pass promotion for Jefferson County school children. (See *Director's Letter*.)

Plus, we are changing our old cash register for a computerized Point-of-Sale system, so we needed to gather more information on each item than in previous years. Phew.

These are great problems to have, but challenging nonetheless. I am so grateful that so many volunteers pitched in to help. It was harder than usual this year, and I sincerely thank all these volunteers who worked so hard:

- Cathy Barker**
- Shearer Fugate**
- Jeanne Goodan**
- Samantha Hagan**
- Joan Hedges**
- Jennie Johnson**
- Kaitlyn Markert**
- Faye Weir**

Extra kudos to **Charlie Dorenkott** for entering most of the books into inventory over the last few weeks.

## HLG Expands, Fine-Tunes Staff

In line with our goals for the future as outlined in our Master Plan (*see story, opposite page*) and as supported by our increasing earned income and donation base, Historic Locust Grove is delighted to announce some exciting staff changes.

**Mary Beth Williams**, who has served as Program Director since 2008, now is Curator of Collections and Education. She will use her collections management skills to provide curatorial direction and care for the objects and documents in our collection.

Working with the Collections Committee, she will expand our capacity to use our material collections to teach. She continues to supervise school programs, exhibits, and volunteer programs.

Rejoining our staff is **Brian Cushing** who will be our Program Coordinator, which is a half-time position this year. He will oversee living history programs and demonstrations



and introduce new programs in line with the interpretive and social goals of the Master Plan. Sometimes, he will even do this dressed in the style of 1816 — often in the person of George Croghan, the second son of William and Lucy Croghan. Congratulations, Mary Beth — and welcome back, Brian!

## 2014-2014 Chamber Music Season Tickets Now On Sale

Locust Grove’s Emile Strong Smith Chamber Music Series offers concertgoers a unique opportunity. Patrons delight in music that the Clarks and Croghans would have heard in the room where they would have enjoyed it — the second-floor Great Parlor of the historic house.

Begun more than 30 years ago, the series focuses on music from the 1600s to the 1840s. The 2014-2015 season is still being solidified, but the dates for the four concerts are set — November 9, and December 7, 2014; February 8, and March 29, 2015. One of the concerts will be “The Wedding of Venice to the Sea,” featuring early Italian composers and a monumental work by Antonio Vivaldi. Another will be “1815: Napoleon’s Paris.”

Subscriptions are available now. Seating is limited; subscribers have first priority. Subscriptions include — Patron, \$200; Supporter, \$100; and Season Subscriber, \$70. Individual concert tickets are \$20 each. Please call (502) 897-9845 to purchase season subscriptions or individual tickets.

## Spirit Award Winner: Ed Leist



**Ed Leist** is actually a “most” — most willing to do whatever it takes, most reliable to help out whenever asked. That’s why the Volunteer Steering Committee has declared him this quarter’s Spirit Award winner.



Ed has been a docent at Locust Grove for three years. He does the usual tours — for school groups, for “walk-ins,” and for special groups, such as garden clubs. He even led a group of Japanese tourists who didn’t speak English — but they did have an interpreter.

He volunteers for “station tours” during Locust Grove’s special events, such as the 18th Century Thunder encampment in April and the big Jane Austen Festival in mid-July.

“For the past two years at the Gardeners’ Fair, I’ve helped with the vendors — marking off the booths, checking in the vendors, spreading straw, and doing general problem-solving,” says Ed. “For this year’s fair, I designed a new parking plan — researching options, mapping the space, painting the grid, and managing the parking volunteers.”

Ed is a Louisville native and a proud St. X alum. He earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree with a specialty in pediatrics from the University of Kentucky. After a few years in Eastern Kentucky, Ed returned to Louisville for the rest of his career, recently retiring as Director of Pharmacy at Kosair Children’s Hospital. He also trained pediatric residents at the University of Louisville in pediatric drug therapy. His wife, **Cathy**, has been active as a volunteer at Locust Grove, as well.

Ed decided to volunteer at Locust Grove because he loves history and historic homes and wanted to help people know more about this historically significant property and the people who lived here.

“I also enjoy meeting people and sharing my interest in Locust Grove with them,” he says. “And I find it very satisfying at the end of a tour if the visitors or students tell me how much they liked the tour. I did my job.”

Curator of Collections and Education **Mary Beth Williams** points out that from the very beginning, Ed has been doing a great job at Locust Grove.

“Ed has been a huge help to me,” Mary Beth says. “He is a reliable docent, always willing help as much as he can. He docents for innumerable school groups and the last couple of years has been an invaluable asset with special events, particularly with the Gardeners’ Fair. Thank you so much, Ed.”



## Jane Austen Festival Breaks Guinness World Record!

Locust Grove's Jane Austen Festival-goers broke the record for the number of people in Regency attire, which had been held by Great Britain since 2009! An unofficial count of 491 participants "promenaded" throughout Locust Grove's grounds on Saturday, July 19, during the festival held that weekend. The video is still being reviewed to confirm all were properly outfitted, but the record most likely is Louisville's. "That is, until the Jane Austen Festival in Bath, England, this September," laughs Louisville's Festival Co-director and Locust Grove's Marketing Coordinator **Bonny Wise**. "I'm sure they'll try to break our record. But, if so — there's always next year."

*In the photo, bagpiper **Karen Brumley**, leads off the Promenade; behind her is Bonny Wise; third from the right is the other Festival Co-director, **Kathy Chopra** (in purple).*

## What Would Lucy Wear?

Apparently, Lucy would wear a mustard-gold striped silk-and-wool high-waisted gown with puffed sleeves. At least, she would if the dress attributed to her ownership really was her fashion choice.

costumed interpreter program at Locust Grove, I wondered at the possibility of seeing Lucy's dress while we were in the D.C. area," says Heather. "[Locust Grove's Executive Director] **Carol Ely** graciously

The collection of Dumbarton House in Washington, D. C., the headquarters of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America, owns such a dress. It was donated with a story attached that it belonged to Lucy Croghan. Lucy lived in Washington for many years with her daughter, Ann Croghan Jesup, so it's quite possibly true.

The dress dates from the early 1820s and was remade in a later fashion in the late 1820s. Recently, some of Locust Grove's costumed interpreters had a chance to view the dress, thanks to the kindness of the staff curators at Dumbarton House.

**Heather** and **Jason Hiner** are chapter sponsors of the Kentucky Junior Historical Society, sponsored by Locust Grove. Three of their students — **Catherine Bache**, **Julia Bache**, and **Clare Egan** — qualified for the finals of the National History Day competition, along with **Noah Hiner** as an alternate. They, along with several others from Locust Grove, traveled to the University of Maryland/ College Park where the finals were held.

"When I realized all of our National History Day students this year were a part of the



*Dumbarton House Curator Jerry Foust (center) shows this dress which probably belonged to Lucy Croghan to his Locust Grove visitors who were in the D.C. area for National History Day. From the left, they are Lisa Bache, Julia Bache, Catherine Bache, Clare Egan, Lynn Egan, Noah Hiner, Heather Hiner, Jason Hiner, and Jocelyn Hiner (down in front of her father).*

contacted the curator at Dumbarton House and set up a time for us to see the dress."

"The staff at Dumbarton were incredibly generous with their time and knowledge," Heather continues. "They pulled the dress out of storage and answered all of our questions — and then followed up with a private tour of the home. It was a highlight of the trip for us."

The dress is too fragile to display, but some of Locust Grove's volunteers are already thinking about making an accurate copy if they can find a similar fabric.

## Volunteer Steering Committee Presents 2014 'George Awards'

During the annual Locust Grove Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held this May, the Volunteer Steering Committee (VSC) presented its second annual "George Awards." The awards are named for significant family members and friends of the Croghans and Clarks.

Most of the winners of the 2013 awards were on hand to present their category award to the 2014 winners. Congratulations to the following winners in 2013 and 2014.

### AUDUBON AWARD

*for dedication to Locust Grove*

2013: **Diana Swindler**

2014: **Shawn Eve**

### ZACHARY TAYLOR AWARD (2013)

*for being a good neighbor*

2013: **Jennifer McCormick**

### STEPHEN BISHOP AWARD (2014)

*for helping to "map out" our success in special events and always ready to lend a hand*

2014: **Ed Leist**

### LUCY CLARK CROGHAN AWARD

*for the hostess with the mostest, always smiling, gracious, and knowledgeable*

2013: **Lynn Swetnam Boone**

2014: **Jane Smith**

### WILLIAM CROGHAN AWARD

*for multi-tasking, reliability and talent*

2013: **Diane Statler**

2014: **Bob Smith**

### GEORGE ROGERS CLARK AWARD

*for overall leadership, great initiative, dedication to sharing, and love of Locust Grove*

2013: **George Plager**

2014: **Jeannie Litterst Vezeau**

## Thanks to Our Recent Donors

### Donations received from April 1 through June 30, 2014

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.

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*For people donating \$250 and up to Historic Locust Grove from April 1 through June 30, 2014.*

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Susan Reigler & Joanna Goldstein

**Illinois Regiment Society (up to \$999)**

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Phillip L. Wallace

### In Memoriam

◀ Yvonne Rapp ▶

*We note with sadness the recent death of a member of our Locust Grove family. We treasure her generous contributions to Locust Grove of her time, energy, support, and enthusiasm. Thank you.*

## July Fourth Event Draws Some 1,000 Visitors



Guests listen as Dr. John Croghan, the eldest son of Lucy and William Croghan (as interpreted by **Keith Stevenson**), reads the Declaration of Independence in full. Gorgeous weather, a desire to find a unique way to celebrate our country's independence, and free admission brought about 1,000 people to Locust Grove this past Fourth of July.



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**FALL ANTIQUES MARKET {Sunday, September 28}**



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[SUMMER 2014]

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### Summer Used Book Sale

(SPECIAL MEMBERS' PREVIEW, THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 5 PM – 7:30 PM)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 10 AM – 7 PM

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 & 24, 10 AM – 4:30 PM

In March, we opened our doors with a record 21,000-plus books — all sorted and ready to buy. We expect to have as many in this Summer Used Book Sale! These are gently used, antiquarian, or new books in many categories — history, biography, mysteries, reference, fiction, travel, cookbooks, children's, Kentucky, art, crafts, gardening, and much more! We've recently received big donations of books about the Civil War, World War II, art, and lots of golf books, many of which are signed by famous golfers and very collectible.

Most paperbacks will be \$1; most hardcover books, \$2. On the other side of the room divider, you'll find a number of books bargain-priced at

\$3 to \$8. And, as always, we'll have a fascinating selection of illustrated, rare, collectible, autographed, and sets of books at various prices, all of which are great bargains, too.

Note that on Friday, the first day of the public sale, we're open until 7:00 p.m. so you can shop after school or after work! Our volunteers and staffers continually add books to the tables (and floors) during the first two days. On Sunday, all books are half-price, or you may fill a bag of books for \$10.

Proceeds from our semi-annual Used Book Sales support all of Locust Grove's programs. Thank you!



HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE

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