What Lies Beneath

Underneath the rolling acres of Locust Grove, stories lie buried. This fall, we’ve gotten a peek at what might be underground through a just-completed comprehensive archaeological survey.

The survey was performed by Louisville’s Corn Island Archaeology LLC under the supervision of Anne Bader and Mindi Wetzel. As part of Locust Grove’s Master Plan, this comprehensive survey will help us understand the history of the landscape as we envision the future of Locust Grove’s 55 acres.

Funded by the Gheens Foundation and the Metro Council’s Neighborhood Development Fund, this comprehensive survey is the first to test the entire site for buried historical resources.

Over the last four decades, we have done a number of localized archaeological excavations around the house and in fields where it seemed that significant structures might be hidden. Those digs yielded much of the information that has helped us re-create the material world of the Croghan family. But we always knew that this was only a part of the story.

After a thorough review of past excavations and all relevant documentary evidence, the archaeological team made nearly 1,000 “shovel probes.” These are test pits laid out on a grid to systematically cover the entire property including woods, slopes, and creek beds. The archaeologists used modern GPS positioning to ensure accuracy.

In this small sample, 3,627 artifacts were found. They span more than 10,000 years — from stone spear points of the Paleo-Indian period to patent medicine bottles of the Waters family occupancy of the site (1882-1961).

Finds include ceramic sherds of all kinds of pottery — yellowware, creamware, and blue porcelain from the Croghans’ table, as well as earthenware for food storage. They also found glass, nails, bricks, marbles, hooks, chains, even a broken leg from a doll.

In a few areas, artifact concentrations suggest the former presence of a building and invite further study in the form of a more intensive and thorough excavation. We know that there were other structures on the 55 acres that remain of William Croghan’s farm. And we know where some of those structures were, such as the stables.

But where was the “apple house”? The forge? Croghan’s office “in the garden”? Where were the quarters for the enslaved workers? The new survey points to areas for more investigation.

The survey also reminds us of the thousands of years of life on this land before white and black settlers arrived, with notable finds of artifacts related to the Native Americans who camped, lived, and hunted here for generations.

All of these current and future findings will be part of the story told on Locust Grove’s grounds. These interpretations will be defined in our Master Plan, a project that will continue throughout 2013.

Observations from the Archaeologist

From Anne Bader, project principal investigator with Corn Island Archaeology:

“The team at Corn Island Archaeology LLC feels very privileged to have participated in this exciting project. The opportunity to work on an internationally renowned archaeological site such as Locust Grove was truly special.

“Our goal in completing the fieldwork was to identify unrecorded buried archaeological materials at the property. We believe that we have located several areas that appear to contain intact remains that may be associated with the Croghan era. These finds, which require further exploration, appear to signal the presence of former structures that once stood on the plantation. “In addition, we identified artifacts in the areas surrounding known structures that can prove to be very informative regarding the day-to-day activities that occurred in and around those buildings. We are truly fortunate to be able to contribute to the ongoing discovery of Locust Grove’s site’s history.”
It was a distinct pleasure, one Sunday last November, to walk the gardens and grounds of Locust Grove in the company of Peter Hatch. He is the former grounds and gardens manager of Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia. This man knows historic plants. Just by looking at the bare twigs of each of our November shrubs, he knew the species, its history, its care, and he could assess just what we needed to do to keep it healthy. It was magic.

Peter was here to present a special lecture for us based on his recent book, A Rich Spot of Earth: Thomas Jefferson’s Revolutionary Garden at Monticello. The lecture was made possible by a bequest from our beloved late volunteer, Marguerite Beatty. A hundred guests came to hear the presentation and sample seasonal, locally sourced treats prepared by Farm to Fork Catering included in their hour d’oeuvres were raspberries and herbs grown here at Locust Grove.

We’ve been thinking more about the potential to create the kinds of gardens found at a place like Monticello. Of course, there was only one Thomas Jefferson, who was as much a gardener as a statesman. But he was part of a generation that enjoyed experimenting with new cultivars from Europe and from newly opened parts of the Americas.

George Rogers Clark shared Jefferson’s interest in botany, and the two frequently corresponded. In the next generation, John Croghan, who lived at Locust Grove for most of his life, enjoyed the fruits he grew at Locust Grove. He was proud of the variety of his fruit trees, his grape arbors, the quality of his peach preserves, and the diversity of what could successfully be grown in this climate using the principles of the new scientific farming.

Peter Hatch encouraged us to continue thinking about what the gardens could say to visitors about life in early Kentucky — about food and farming, gardening and beauty, and the pleasure of growing things.

Our gardener, Sarah Sutherland, is well versed in the cultivation of historic varieties of plants herself. She and Peter began envisioning a better, more true-to-the-period and more-sustainable configuration of Locust Grove’s gardens, farm fields, and buildings in support of agriculture and food of the good life of a country gentleman. They could see in their minds the combinations of the beautiful and the useful — shoots and abooms and manures, roses and chicken runs, all of which may have once surrounded the Croghans’ home.

We have the opportunity now, as we embark on the creation of a new Master Plan for the grounds, to incorporate parts of that vision. I can’t wait to see it bloom.

Grove Gazette
Jeanne L. Rainer, Executive Editor
Martin Mutch, Layout and Design
Photography: Gary Brown
Jeanne L. Rainer, Mary Beth Williams

YPA’s ‘Brave Hunters of Kentucky!’

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 6:30 PM
(permissions note the time change)

Kentucky’s role in the War of 1812 is celebrated in this patriotic 30-minute musical production focusing on Kentuckians during that war. Performers by students of Jefferson County’s Youth Performing Arts School (YPAS). The show tells the Kentucky war story from the perspectives of Henry Clay. United States Court of the Peace, the House of Deputies; Governor and militia leader Isaac Shelby, and two couples who stood on opposing sides — one, pioneer; the other, Shawnee.

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

CaleNDAR

FEBRUARY 4 – FEBRUARY 22
VISITORS’ CENTER AUDITORIUM ROOM

The Louisiana and the Clinton Club, which oversaw the restoration of the Locust Grove dollhouse, will display dollhouses and other miniature worlds created by their members. Stop by the Visitors’ Center during regular operating hours February 4 - 22 to marvel at the intricacy and skill evident in these charming miniature scenes.

KNITTING WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23
10 AM – 3 PM

Learn to knit or refresh your skills at this 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. $35.

FREE TOUR FOR MEMBERS ONLY –
Locust Grove’s Decorative Arts

MARCH 1 – MARCH 3
See page 4 for details.

PLACES AND FACES OF FLOYD’S FORK
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

The new 3,700-acre Parklands of Floyd’s Fork project, stretching 19 miles along Floyd’s Fork in Eastern Louisville, is one of the finest projects of its kind in the United States. Retired Courier- Journal columnist and Parklands historian Bob Hill will describe the project and take an in-depth look at the park’s namesake, John Floyd. He was among the first to survey the Louisville area in the 1790s and fought with George Rogers Clark in the Revolutionary War.

DG/HTG’s Spring Used Book Sale
SUNDAY, APRIL 7
Go to our website at www.locustgrove.org.

MORE THAN MINT – CELEBRATING THE JULEP
APRIL II
See page 5 for details.

The Plucked Corde

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 5:30 PM
Harpischord virtuoso Dr. Charles Metz returns to Locust Grove with his 1990s-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, 5:30 PM
In this Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series bonus concert, The Kentucky Center Chamber Players perform music from Catalafoi, Prokofiev, and Brahms.

 Piano Trios on Our Broadwalk

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 5:30 PM
Early Music Specialist Bill Bauer leads a program of delightful piano trios by Schubert, Amadeus Mozart and Joseph Boulogne.

18th Century Thunder — A Revolutionary War Encampment
APRIL II – APRIL III
See back page for details.

Tour of Charleston, S.C., and the Biltmore Estate
JUNE 17 – JUNE 22
See page 5 for details.

2012-2013 Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series

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. Individual concert tickets are $20 each. Call (502) 896-2435 for information or to purchase tickets.

Director’s Letter

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

The museum of Historic Locust Grove is to preserve and interpret the remaining 15 acres of William Croghan’s estate, Locust Grove, with its circa 1750 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 veteran and founder of Louisville.

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Tricia Langley

Newly:
Diane Statler
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Locust Grove Remembers Dr. J. Blaine Hudson

We note with sadness the recent death of Dr. J. Blaine Hudson, Dean of Arts & Sciences at the University of Louisville. Besides his many contributions to the Louisville community and to African-American history, Dr. Hudson served on the Board of Historic Locust Grove from 1998 to 2004. During that time he was of great assistance in developing our interpretation of the experiences of enslaved African-Americans at Locust Grove, drawing from his own extensive research on the history of slavery in Kentucky.

Later, as a Dean at the University, Hudson joined in the creation of the Arts & Culture Partnership to unite the resources of the University of Louisville with the resources of local historical and cultural organizations. Locust Grove was invited to be one of the first members of the new organization, which has been of great benefit to us through internships, joint grant-writing, and partnerships with related organizations.

Dr. Hudson will be remembered for his openness to all people and all ideas. A genial spirit, he brought a sense of humor and a good nature to his work.

INFORMATION TO DONATE

To go to support Locust Grove’s educational and interpretation programs.

Help to pack and deliver your donations, just call us at (502) 897-9845 for assistance. And find out at Locust Grove, adds Sarah.

Indiana University Southeast Biology Students Lend a Hand With Locust Grove’s Landscape

Biology students from Indiana University Southeast have been involved in several projects at Locust Grove — from mapping the trails in the woods and showing where invasive bush honeysuckle is growing to volunteering in the gardens.

This past summer, IUS students Deanne Cooper and John Kelly received an Undergraduate Fellowship Grant to survey the trees and wildlife of the woodlands at Locust Grove. supervised by IU Southeast Biology Research Associate and HLG Board Vice President Susan Reigler. The students presented their findings to the Board of Directors in September.

In October, other volunteers from IUS’ Biology Club spent a Saturday morning in Locust Grove’s gardens, helping HLG Gardener Sarah Sutherland to dig, divide, and replant daylilies. “We were delighted with the IUS students’ involvement and appreciate their giving up a Saturday to help out at Locust Grove,” adds Sarah.

Great Stories Make Volunteer Trip to Vincennes A Delight

On a gorgeous November day, two dozen volunteers enjoyed a day in Vincennes, Ind. — hearing about George Rogers Clark’s feats during the Revolution and delighting in a costumed interpreter’s stories of life in the early days of Indiana’s first capital. The interpreter hoped and inspired all the volunteers with his portrayals of these different historical residents of old Vincennes.

EXPLORE CHARLESTON, S.C. AND VISIT ASHEVILLE’S BILTMORE ESTATE IN JUNE WITH LOCUST GROVE

More than Mint — Celebrating the Julep

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 5:30 PM - 7 PM

There’s more to julep-making than mint. Peach, strawberry, chocolate, and even ginger are just some of the other flavors for mixing fabulous juleps and other bourbon-based drinks. Just in time to inspire Derby entertaining, Joy Perrine and Susan Reigler, authors of The Kentucky Bourbon Cocktail Book will concoct traditional and new juleps for sampling. Weather permitting, attendees may stroll the gardens as they sip their juleps and enjoy hors d’oeuvres. Admission is $30, $20 for Friends of Locust Grove. Attendance is limited, so please call (502) 807-9845 to make your reservations soon.

New Docent Classes To Start in April

If you’d like to join Locust Grove’s corps of docents (four guides), here’s your opportunity. Classes will start this spring at a time convenient for trainees.

“Formal training lasts for three months, during which time the trainees learn the material, shadow different docents, and attend class once a month,” says Mary Beth Williams, Locust Grove’s program director. “Participants learn to dig, divide, and replant daylilies. “We were delighted with the IUS students’ involvement and appreciate their giving up a Saturday to help out at Locust Grove,” adds Sarah.

Requirements for being a docent include an ease of speaking with the public, an interest in history, availability to volunteer at least twice a month, and the ability to go up and down two flights of stairs easily.

Please call Mary Beth at (502) 807-9845 if you’d like to join our family of docents. Classes will begin in April; class times are flexible.
Thanks to Our Recent Donors

Donations received from October 16 through December 31, 2012

PANDY THANKS TO THE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT LOCUST GROVE THROUGH YOUR MEMBERSHIPS AND TO ALL OF OUR Longtime FRIENDS OF LOCUST GROVE! WE WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A FRIEND, PLEASE GO ONLINE TO WWW.LOCUSTGROVE.ORG, CALL US AT (312) 807-9595 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND BREAKS.

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Mr. & Mrs. William O. Alden Jr.

Dr. William H. Baker
Lucy Mandell Bell

Oliva Bellino
Esther B. Bennet

Mr. & Mrs. C. Barrett Birnsteel
Daniel Brown

Emma Worth
Henry Worth

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Nobel Klein

In Memoriam
We note with sadness the recent deaths of these members of our Locust Grove family. We have greatly appreciated their contributions to Locust Grove of their time, energy, support, and enthusiasm.

Mary Lou Brock 1924-2012
Evelyn S. Brown 1931-2012

Dr. George Rogers Clark Society ($5,000+)
Illinois Regiment Society ($250-$999)
Wardman Fund
Moninger Fund

In Honor of Charles Dorenkott
In Memory of John Diebold
In Memory of Jan R. Carew
In Memory of Alberta Baker
In Memory of Mary Bailey Fitts Van Meter
In Memory of Charles Moyer
In Memory of C. Barret Birnsteel
In Memory of Mary Louise Fitts Van Meter
In Memory of Helen Pemberton
In Memory of Dorothy Rice
In Memory of Martin F. Schmidt

That first year in 2005, only three or four people worked on the sale — the Book Sorters — but the word got out and donations increased, we quickly realized that we needed a team to keep the donations under control. And The Book Sorters were born.

The core of The Book Sorters has been working together for nearly all of Locust Grove’s Used Book Sales.

“Sorting books into boxes is categories is some of the hardest work any volunteer can sign on to do,” says Charlie Bartholomew. “The Book Sorters are highly efficient and work together with remarkable speed and precision. Sorting requires significant coordination as well as a high degree of mental and physical agility on the part of each individual.”

“Who ya gonna call?” was the Book Sorters’ tagline back in that first year. Charlie Bartholomew considers the Book Sorters “bears” — the heart of Locust Grove’s Used Book Sales.

The Book Sorters’ devotion to the sale and their untiring quest to make Locust Grove’s Used Book Sales the best in the region have earned them this quarter’s Spirit Award. The Spirit Award is sponsored by The Mark Gaston Family.

Spirit Award Winner: The Book Sorters

For people donating large and up to Historical Locust Grove from October 16 through December 31, 2012

$10 for adults. Judging will be done by Faye Weir, the Book Sorters’ fanatical focus on organizing the book donations and their untiring quest to make Locust Grove’s Used Book Sales the best in the region have earned them this quarter’s Spirit Award.

The Book Sorters team — led by Charlie Bartholomew and Lynn Boone — includes Nina Ayers, Bonnie Bartman, Bob Boone, Martha Eddy, Shearer Fugate, Joe Matheally, Irene Rawlings, Lynn Renan, Jane Smith, Harvey Venier, Jeanne Veezuo, and Faye Weir.

To participate in the sale, you must be a member of LOCUST GROVE and to all of our Longtime Friends of Locust Grove! We would like to become a friend, please go online to www.locustgrove.org, call us at (312) 807-9595 for further information and breaks.

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A Revolutionary War Encampment

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 & SUNDAY, APRIL 21
10 AM — 4:30 PM

Volunteers representing General George Rogers Clark’s troops from the Northwest Campaign will re-enact life in a military camp, including surveying, cooking, drilling, and other demonstrations.

Chat with the soldiers and their families to learn what life would have been like for a soldier 200-plus years ago. Sign up your boys and girls to “volunteer” as a soldier and learn to drill. Hear the roar of cannons and see the smoke from muskets as the reenactors participate in mock battles.

Concessions will be available and tours of the house are included. Admission: $6 for adults, $3 for children 6-12, and free for children 5 and under. Admission is good for both days.