

# GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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## Brian Cushing – Spirit Award Winner

In period clothes or blue jeans, being George Croghan or teaching campers period dances, parking cars or serving food — that's where you can find **Brian Cushing**.

Brian's strong commitment to Locust Grove and enthusiastic support of our events led the Volunteer Steering Committee to select Brian as this quarter's Spirit Award Winner.

"About 12 years ago, I took a tour during Candlelight and was blown away," says Brian. "I've always been fascinated in living history and really got drawn in to the whole Candlelight experience."

He knew he'd like to get involved, but couldn't figure out how — until his high school teacher suggested the he could

get some extra credit in his class by working with Locust Grove.

"I immediately became attached to the people and the place here at Locust Grove, and have never left!" Brian says with a grin.

"This was one of the first places where I really felt that I fit in. "

And fit in, he does. He's interpreted Lucy and William Croghan's second son, George, for quite a few years. He serves on the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Market Fair committee, and never hesitates to help with concessions, parking cars, and working on the grounds.

Last year, he showed the kids attending Pioneer Camp how to dance the way people did in the early 1800s — one of the most popular segments of the camp.

He's also an active reenactor in military groups representing the



Revolutionary era, helping visitors understand what life was like for troops in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

"Locust Grove was support for me during some hard times in my life," he adds. "My involvement here has introduced me to so many of the most important people and activities in my life."

"I feel honored and privileged every time I set foot on these grounds," Brian says.

And we're all delighted that he "sets foot" here so often.

## Yearly Events

Mark Your Calendars!

### Afternoon Lecture Series

1:00 p.m. — the first Wednesday of the month (except January and May).

### Used Book Sale

Great book bargains to support Locust Grove's programs — held the second weekend in March.

### 18<sup>th</sup> Century Thunder

Our Revolutionary War Encampment — held the Saturday and Sunday of "Thunder Weekend" in April.

### Gardeners' Fair & Auction

Friday, Saturday, Sunday — held the second weekend in May.

### Mothers' Day Brunch

Sunday during the Gardeners' Fair. *Reservations required.*

### Antiques Markets

Held on the last Sundays in June and in September.

### 18<sup>th</sup> Century Market Fair

Held Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend in October.

### Holiday Candlelight Tours

Costumed interpreters in the house and out-buildings on Friday and Saturday in early December.

# GROVE GAZETTE

## From the Director's Desk

**Carol Ely, Ph.D., Executive Director**

What makes you happy?

In these difficult and changing times, part of the answer seems to be "museums." We've heard from you in past months, and we've learned that what we offer is important to you. Museums and historic sites make your world better.

This year Locust Grove is not scaling back at all in our plans to enrich and enhance our programs, tours, and site development. We'll continue to bring new experiences, images, sights, smells, and tastes to Locust Grove's community.

Building on last year's successful partnership with Slow Food Bluegrass, we'll jointly offer a more varied and even more fun Family Picnic in June. And watch for more food-related and family- and friend-centered programs to come.

As people renew their interest in the land and gardening, we'll be here to help you discover how to do it at our Gardeners' Fair. And we're here always for you to appreciate the beauty of our grounds.

Through workshops, programs, and summer camps, we'll show

you how things were done 200 years ago, and let you try your hand at the skills that built this place and supported the folks who lived here.

Does seeking out small treasures make you happy? Come to our Antiques Markets in June and September.

Do you love dramatic battles and the pageantry of drilling and marching? Our two re-enactor events, 18<sup>th</sup> Century Thunder in April (new games this year) and the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Market Fair (Jugglers! Acrobats! Shopping!) will surely make you smile.

Curious about the styles and patterns of life of the past? You'll enjoy watching the new restoration of the interior of our 1790s House. It will be completely re-painted, re-papered, re-upholstered, re-carpeted, and thoroughly refreshed and re-interpreted starting this spring.

The entire process will be open to the public, and you can watch our progress on our new blog: [locustgrovelouisville.blogspot.com](http://locustgrovelouisville.blogspot.com). Then come and see the work for yourself.

We've learned that William and Lucy Croghan's Locust Grove aspired to be as grand as Mount Vernon or Gunston Hall, a true showplace of the West. And that's what you'll see emerging during this next year.

It will make you happy.

To be sure you know the latest on all our events, please send your email address to [wise@locustgrove.org](mailto:wise@locustgrove.org). We promise to keep your email private; we *never* share email addresses.

And when we have your email address, you'll be the first to know about each exciting adventure to be had at Historic Locust Grove.

*Carol Ely*  
P.S. Don't forget that we're now on Facebook. If you're there, too, just look for the "groups" listings, search for Locust Grove, click — and you're now a member.

## Bloomin' Fun at Gardeners' Fair, Auction, and Brunch! Friday thru Sunday, May 8-10 — 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The timing is perfect for all garden enthusiasts! Every year on the second weekend in May — which also is usually Mother's Day Weekend — Locust Grove's grounds bloom with plants, flowers, herbs, tools, flower-themed accessories and handcrafted items.



These and hundreds of other creative ideas are offered by scores of local and regional

garden suppliers and other vendors during Locust Grove's annual Gardeners' Fair. Admission, which includes a tour of the House, is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children aged 6 to 12, free for children 5 and under.

Our Mother's Day Brunch is a delightful way to honor the special women in your life. Even with three seatings — at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. — tables go quickly. Because of the high demand, paid reservations are required. Call (502) 897-9845 right away to reserve your place.

The Silent Auction features everything from antiques to gift baskets. Bidding starts at 10:00 a.m. Friday and closes on Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

Great fun, flowers and food abound! Don't miss it!

### We're Still Accepting Auction Items

Antique furniture. Dishes. Collectibles. Quilts. Heritage or new needlepoint items. Knitted or crocheted wearables or accessories. Gift certificates. And so much more! All donations are tax-deductible.

Call **Sasha Caufield** at 897-9845 to donate or for more information on how you can help. Thanks!



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561 Blankenbaker Lane  
Louisville, KY 40207  
(502) 897-9845  
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www.locustgrove.org

The mission of Historic Locust Grove, Inc. is to preserve and interpret the 55-acre site, with its circa 1790 house and out-buildings, the collection, and the gardens, as an example of early 19th century frontier America.

It is also our mission to share the stories of the many people who contributed to the history of Locust Grove, emphasizing the life of General George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War hero and founder of the city of Louisville.

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## Getting to Know Locust Grove's Costumed Interpreters

# Sharron Hilbrecht: Fanny Fitzhugh

### Who is your character?

She is Frances Eleanor Clark O'Fallon Thruston Fitzhugh. (Yes. That's her name.) She's the youngest of the 10 Clark siblings.

She moved to Kentucky with her parents when she was 11. Often described as "the black-eyed beauty of Kentucky," Fanny was married three times and had two children by each husband.

She certainly didn't let the grass grow under her when she was widowed. In no time at all, she had another husband. Her first was a doctor; the second, a military captain; the third, a judge.

Fanny also lived with brothers William and George at various times. I can imagine living with such strong men made Fanny a strong woman in her own right.

### When did you start portraying Fanny? Have you done other characters?

I first played Fanny during the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial celebration but didn't take her at Candlelight until this past year. Since 2000, I've been Diana Gwathmey Bullitt and Ann Clark Pearce, both Lucy's nieces.



*Real-life daughter Emily Hilbrecht as Mary Pearce, with Sharron Hilbrecht as Fanny Fitzhugh at Candlelight 2008.*

### How do you research Fanny?

Luckily for me, **Lynn Boone**, who played Fanny for several years, had done extensive research. I'm also reading *Dear Brother* — the letters of William Clark — where Fanny is mentioned often. And my husband recently gave me Gwynne Potts' and Sam Thomas' book, *George Rogers Clark and Locust Grove*.

### How did you become involved in costumed interpreting?

In 1997, my seventh-grade students were studying the American Revolution. When some Sons of the American Revolution made a presentation to the class, I met **Dan Klinck**, Locust Grove volunteer and husband of docent **Patricia Klinck**. Next thing I knew, Patricia asked me to help with the George Rogers Clark 250th anniversary celebration.

The next year, I was asked to be an interpreter, but decided to serve refreshments instead. When I saw the interpreters dressed in their finest, though, I signed up for the following year.

I always envied the costumed tour guides on "the other side of the ropes" when my parents took me to historic homes. I love history, and was in drama in high school and college. It all just fit.

### How do you bring Fanny to life?

I think Fanny would have been on the cutting edge of fashion. So I finally made a turban to wear with my dress, though I'm not crazy about the look. But I think the "black-eyed beauty of Kentucky" would definitely wear one.



*Sharron as Fanny Fitzhugh during the 2006 Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.*

### What makes costumed interpreting worth the time?

My ancestors came to Kentucky about the same time as the Clarks and Croghans. Portraying the women of the Clark family has given me a way to honor their courage and sacrifices.

Plus, it's a family affair for me. My son Kyle, now 13, and daughter Claire, 9, both have been involved since they were six. Currently, Kyle is working as an apprentice in the carpenter's shop. And Claire, who loves to dance, can hold her own with any of the adults on the ballroom floor.

My youngest, Emily, who's 7, participated for the first time this past December, playing one of Fanny's great-nieces. We were in the parlor when one of her classmates came in. He looked at her and said, "Mom, I think that's Emily from school."

Emily didn't bat an eye. She looked at him and said, "No, my name is Mary Pearce. My mother teaches me at home."

She was so convincing that his mother said to him, "See, John, she doesn't go to your school. Her mom teaches her."

## New Renovation Brings Back the Old

William and Lucy Croghan's Locust Grove is about to be revealed anew. Verdigris green, rose, ochre, bright white — and lots and lots of wallpaper — will show the home as they knew it in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Historic Locust Grove's Board of Directors voted in January to accept the Restoration Committee recommendation to re-restore the interior finishes of the historic home. This new restoration is based on the detailed research and painstaking chemical analysis done by expert **Matthew Mosca** last summer.

A generous foundation grant will allow us to undertake a paint renovation that will return the interior of the Croghan home to the appearance that reflects — as best we can determine — the era of George Rogers Clark's residency from 1809 through William Croghan's death in 1822.

Today's science (which was not available during the House's original restoration in the 1960s) tells the following things about Locust Grove:

- ◆ The stair banister and wood paneling of the Parlor and Dining Room never have been painted. Nearly all of the interior walnut doors remained unpainted.
- ◆ The walnut paneling was painted in George Rogers Clark's Room, the Family Dining Room, Lucy's Room (also referred to as the Master



*Locust Grove's ballroom wallpaper was just the beginning. Other rooms will be papered as well.*

Bedroom) and, later, in the second floor northeast room. (By the way, many room names are going to change with our new understanding of the uses of these rooms.)

- ◆ Wallpaper was detected in several areas and will be replaced with appropriate papers of the period.
- ◆ No paint ever was applied to the wood in the third story, making this floor the most historically pure within the house.

◆ The original palette is entirely in keeping with paints available at the close of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and with interior paints ordered by other men of means at the time. George Washington ordered white lead, yellow ochre, lampblack, Spanish brown, verdigris, Prussian blue, and red paints for Mount Vernon in 1785. Each of those paints was found at Locust Grove — where the red was mixed with white to create a coral-pink.

The first phase will be painting. The Restoration Committee is in the process of reviewing bids, and the work should begin by May. The House will remain open to visitors throughout the process so that everyone can see the work being accomplished, watch the painting techniques, and ask questions.

Watch our blog for updates. Just go to: [locustgrovelouisville.blogspot.com](http://locustgrovelouisville.blogspot.com).

## Locust Grove's Used Book Sale Is Best Ever



Fifteen thousand-plus books and an extra day for the public to shop. That formula brought in some 1,400 shoppers — who bought enough books to help us raise more than \$14,200 for Locust Grove's education and preservation programs. It was the best Used Book Sale since we began having them five years ago.

We also had more guided tours of the House that weekend, sold more memberships, and our museum store did very well, too.

We thank all the many volunteers who lifted and sorted, straightened and sold, and kept on smiling through it all — especially **Charles and Bonnie Bartman, Lynn Boone, Jeannie Vezeau, Jennifer McCormick, Jane Smith, and Nina Ayers**, as well as staff member **John Moses**.

## Did You Know...?

Born a slave in 1821, **Stephen Bishop** gained notoriety and fame as a trail-blazing guide in



*Image believed to be Stephen Bishop.*

the caverns of western Kentucky known as Mammoth Cave.

In 1839, Dr. John Croghan of Locust Grove, the eldest son of Lucy and William Croghan, purchased the property in which Mammoth Cave was located with plans to make it a tourist attraction and a hospital. At the same time, he purchased the slave guide, Stephen Bishop.

Bishop's knowledge of geology, his expertise in exploring the cave, and his ability to engage his visitors with exciting stories of the cave made him a highly requested guide — and something of an attraction himself.

In 1841, Dr. Croghan brought Bishop to Locust Grove and helped him create an extensive map of the caverns. This map was eventually published in an 1845 book on the cave titled, *Rambles in Mammoth Cave*. Stephen Bishop received full credit for the map.

At John Croghan's death in 1849, provisions in his will called for the manumission of all his slaves after they had been hired out for seven years.

Records show that Stephen Bishop continued to give tours at Mammoth Cave, including guiding poet and author Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1850 and singer Jenny Lind in 1851.

Stephen Bishop died in 1857, one year after obtaining his freedom.

And now you know.

We're also most grateful to the many friends who donated boxes and bags of books, some making several trips! And don't forget — **we can take your tax-deductible book donations throughout the year.** Thanks to all!

## 2009 AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES

*This year's theme is "The Material World: Art, Architecture, and Design in Early Kentucky." Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for January and May.*

*Desserts and coffee are served at 1:00 p.m., with the lecture immediately following. Admission is \$5, or \$3 for Friends of Locust Grove.*

### PAINTING & PAPERING EARLY AMERICA

Wednesday, June 3, 1:00 p.m.

Matthew Mosca has just completed a detailed paint analysis of the interior of the historic house at Locust Grove. This afternoon, he'll share some of his findings and discuss his insights about how early Americans decorated and embellished their homes.



Matthew Mosca, as he analyzes paint on a window at Locust Grove.

### DRESSING THE NEW REPUBLIC: CLOTHES & FASHION

Wednesday, July 1  
1:00 p.m.

Our speaker will discuss the clothing fashions and styles that would have been worn in the Louisville area during the years that the Croghans and Clarks lived at Locust Grove. Please check our website: [www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org) for further information.



### FOOD AND DINING IN EARLY KENTUCKY

Wednesday, August 5, 1:00 p.m.



Susan Reigler, regional food writer and former caretaker for Locust Grove, will bring insights about the kinds of foods that people would have eaten in Kentucky during the time of the Clarks and Croghans.

She'll also include stories about where and how the food would have been prepared and the manner in which it would have been served.

## 18TH CENTURY THUNDER: A REVOLUTIONARY WAR ENCAMPMENT

Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19  
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



You'll hear the thunder of muskets, the clang of the blacksmith's hammer and the melodies of the fife and drum. Companies 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. They'll also conduct a formal military memorial service to their leader.

Men, women and children in Revolutionary War-era gear will transport your family to another time — a wonderful opportunity to bring history to life. Admission: \$6 adults, \$3 children 6-12, free for children 5 and under.

## SPRING AND SUMMER WORKSHOPS

### PAINTED FLOOR CLOTH

Saturday, April 18

11:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., and

Sunday, April 19

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Virginia Tucker, owner of The Virginia Floor Cloth Company in Louisville, will lead participants as they create a versatile floor covering for their homes.

The art of making floor cloths (a precursor to linoleum) became popular in the 1700s. Virginia uses the patterns of John Carwitham who published a book in 1739 called *Various Kinds of Floor Decorations in both Plano and Perspective*. The workshop will be held in two sessions so the paint can dry. The cost of the workshop is \$80, which includes frames, canvas, paint, brushes, and the pattern. Call (502) 897-9845 for reservations.



Historic Locust Grove  
**CALENDAR**

### CARING FOR YOUR COLLECTIONS

Saturday, May 30, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Local author, collector, and historian **Lynn Renau** will show you how to research, record, store, and care for your collections. Fee is \$10 with advance registration, \$15 on the day of the workshop. Call (502) 897-9845 to register. *Co-sponsored with Preservation Louisville.*

### DECORATING WITH ANTIQUES AND CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE

Saturday, June 27, 2:00 p.m.

**Clarence Smith** of Dover House Antiques presents a lecture and discussion on how to decorate with both antique and contemporary furnishings. This lecture is preceded at 1:00 p.m. by a special 45-minute tour of Locust Grove, focusing on the treasures of the furniture collection. Admission is \$8. Reservations are required. Please call (502) 897-9845 to reserve your place.

### PAINTED CANVAS CLOTH (FOR AGES 7-10)

Wednesday, July 29, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

and

Thursday, July 30, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Virginia Tucker** leads this workshop, which is similar to her adult version offered in April — but specifically geared towards children 7 to 10 years old. Kids will make and decorate a 6 1/2" x 8" painted canvas. They can use historical patterns or create their own design. Cost for this two-day workshop is \$45, with all frames, canvas, paint, and brushes provided. Call (502) 897-9845 to register.

### SPECIAL TOURS

#### THE WOODS OF LOCUST GROVE

Sunday, May 17, 1:15 p.m.

Volunteer and neighbor **Jennifer McCormick** leads you on a tour of the 30 acres of Locust Grove that are wooded. Learn about native species and those introduced by settlers. See traces of the past as you follow the forest trails. Reservations requested. Meet at the Visitors' Center. Tour is at our regular prices.

**Be sure to check our website –  
[www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org)  
for the most up-to-date information on  
Locust Grove's exciting events.  
To receive updates about our events via email,  
please send your address to:  
[wise@locustgrove.org](mailto:wise@locustgrove.org) with "email" as the subject.  
We always keep email addresses private.**

### LOCUST GROVE/SLOW FOOD BLUEGRASS SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, June 14, 12 noon – 4:30 p.m.

It's our second Summer Family Picnic! Return to the days when food was slow and family was fun.

In conjunction with Slow Food Bluegrass and its affiliated farmers and chefs, we'll help you remember a time before quick snacks, fast foods, multi-tasking, and too much busy-ness.

This year, we're having an **"Iron" Chef Cooking Contest** — where all the food will be cooked in cast iron pots, skillets, and other vessels over an open fire!

You'll be able to purchase great food prepared by local chefs using local products. Area farmers will be on hand, and "slow"



craftspeople such as weavers, basketmakers, and potters will be demonstrating their skills. There'll be music, children's games, and lots of opportunities to learn more about the slow food lifestyle.

Admission to the Summer Family Picnic is \$5 a carload! Walkers and bikers are free.

### SUMMER ANTIQUES MARKET

Sunday, June 28, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12, free for kids 5 and under, and includes tours of the House. Proceeds support the continued operation and preservation of Historic Locust Grove.



## Sign Up Now for Locust Grove's Great Camps for Kids

Summer's just around the corner, so it's time to start thinking of camp. We'll have our two popular week-long camps — plus a new two-day adventure into archaeology. Call (502) 897-9845 to reserve your child's place in history.

### WOODWORKING CAMP



Mon., June 15 –  
Fri., June 19

**Ages 11-14:**  
9:30–11:30 a.m.  
**Ages 7-10:**  
12:30–2:30 p.m.

Locust Grove carpenters will lead students in learning the basics of woodworking.

Students will learn about types of wood and historic and modern woodworking tools. With the assistance of our carpenters, campers will complete a project to take home.

Cost: \$75 per camper. All materials are included.

### NEW! ARCHAEOLOGY CAMP

Thursday and Friday, June 25 and 26  
Ages 9-11, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

It's new this year! Come learn history Indiana Jones-style! During this two-day camp, kids will participate in an actual archaeological dig on the grounds of Locust Grove. Help trained archaeologists discover what is hidden beneath the surface. Cost: \$40 per camper.



Happy Pioneer Campers on last day of camp in 2008.

### PIONEER CAMP

Mon. July 6 –  
Fri., July 10

**Ages 7-10**  
9:00 a.m.–  
12 noon

This exciting camp provides a wonderful sampler of early pioneer life. Students participate in crafts such as weaving, writing with quills, and hearth cooking. They take part in activities such as storytelling, historic games, and nature walks.

Cost: \$80 per camper. All materials are included.



## Friends of Locust Grove

Enrollment/Renewal from January 1, through March 7, 2009

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'd like to become a Friend, please go online to [www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org), or call us at (502) 897-9845 for further information and details.

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Yearly memberships in the Friends of Locust Grove are available in three categories:

Individual — \$35

Family — \$50

Student — \$15

For membership information and details, please call us at (502) 897-9845.

**Remember:**  
"Friends of Locust Grove" always receive a 10% discount at the Museum Store!

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### *Underwriting of Gardeners' Fair*

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## Two Ways to Donate!

### Donate Online!

We now accept donations online through the secure servers at **Network for Good**.

Go to [www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org), click on "Participate" and then click on "Donate." Go to the "Donate Now" box on that page and you'll be sent directly to a secure page for Locust Grove.

You can determine the amount you'd like to give and even set up monthly automatic payments, if you'd like. You may designate what the gift is for and if it is in memory or in honor of someone.

### Donate By Mail

If you'd rather send your check through the mail, you may print out the form on our website or just send your check with a note.

If the donation is in honor or in memory of a person, please include where and to whom you would like us to acknowledge your donation. Send your check and note to:

Carol Ely, Executive Director  
Historic Locust Grove  
561 Blankenbaker Lane  
Louisville, KY 40207

All donors will receive an acknowledgment, along with our sincere thanks for your donation. All donations are tax-deductible.

## Volunteering at Locust Grove – Great Fun, Grand Friends, Good Feelings

Looking for a little something to do that's not the same ole-same ole? Have we got a deal for you! Volunteer at Locust Grove—and you'll have great fun, get to know wonderful people, and feel pleased that you're not only doing something for yourself, but also helping make Historic Locust Grove better than ever.

### Docent Bob Pilkington

There are many kinds of activities that you could do, such as leading tours, working with school kids, helping in the garden and in the Visitors Center, demonstrating crafts, participating in special events — and so much more.

Our wonderful corps of Locust Grove volunteers give not only of their time, but of their spirit, their energy, and their enthusiasm.



Volunteers (L-R) Jennie George, David Kremer, and Downey Gray.

Some of our current volunteers will be on hand

for our **Volunteer Open House on Saturday, April 11**. Stop by anytime between 10 a.m. and 1p.m. to hear from volunteers themselves what it's like to give your time and energy to Locust Grove and to see the many areas where you could volunteer.

If you're unable to make it to the Open House, please contact Program Director **Mary Beth Williams** at (502) 897-9845 or [williams@locustgrove.org](mailto:williams@locustgrove.org).

As we read somewhere: **"Volunteers aren't paid — not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."** We'd love to have you join us.



Cook Jane Smith

