

# HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE GROVE GAZETTE



## Historic Trades — Demonstrating Worklife On a Historic Site

**H**istoric trades are those functions and skills necessary to the success of pre-industrial farms. They include weaving, woodworking, cooking, dairying, milling, and distilling.

“We are continually looking for opportunities to demonstrate Locust Grove as a farm and a workplace,” says Historic Locust Grove Executive Director **Carol Ely**. “The dairy, the smokehouse, small vegetable and herb gardens — and William Croghan operated a mill as well.”

That led to the realization that there most likely was a small-scale whiskey and brandy distillery at Locust Grove. “Making whiskey from excess corn and other grains was one of the best ways to preserve the crop. Brandy would be made from excess fruit from the orchards,” Carol continues. “Distilling was almost universally done on Kentucky estates like Locust Grove. We know that Lucy’s parents, Ann and John Clark, had a still at their home, Mulberry Hill, off what’s now Poplar Level Road.”

William Croghan appears to have purchased a still in 1808. “That helped to get the ball rolling in our goal of adding distilling to our story.”

If all goes as planned, by this fall Locust Grove should have the kind of farm-scale whiskey and spirits distillery that would have been familiar to William Croghan. It will be functional, allowing our historic interpreters to demonstrate as much of the process as possible — and legal.

Planning began with advice from Woodford Reserve Master Distiller **Chris Morris**, bourbon writer and expert **Susan Riegler**, and bourbon exhibit specialist and former president of Bourbon Women, **Cynthia Torp**.

But it was just a vision until HLG Board member **Sally Campbell**, of the famous Van Winkle bourbon family, stepped in. “Sally approached individual members of the old distilling families of Kentucky’s bourbon aristocracy, drawing on a common heritage of artisanship and community in the bourbon industry,” explains Carol. “Those families have been wonderfully responsive to our plans.”

Sally arranged for her family to donate five bottles of premier Pappy Van Winkle Family Reserve bourbon to be auctioned last November, with all proceeds going to Locust Grove’s distillery project. And she persuaded Louisville’s Vendome Copper to work with Locust Grove on fabrication of a period-appropriate still.

“Since today’s Locust Grove does not include the original probable site, we will re-create the farm distillery in the log garden shed building

at the edge of the garden quads,” says Carol. “We’ll demonstrate the distilling process but we won’t produce the actual whiskey. We’ll help illustrate farm-scale distilling through exhibits and costumed interpreter programs.”

This exciting initiative led to a focus on Locust Grove’s historic trades program — and an opportunity for Locust Grove’s Program Coordinator **Brian Cushing** to spend a few days at Mount Vernon’s distillery in Virginia. Its Historic Trades Director **Steve Bashore** invited Brian to take part in their distilling process when it was in full swing in early March.

“It was three days of hard work, going through each step in the process of producing whiskey,” says Brian. “It was faster-paced with more heavy lifting than I expected.”

Locust Grove’s operation will be on a much smaller scale, “but the process will be the same,” Brian explains. “The

Mount Vernon staff genuinely wanted to share their expertise. Not only did we get hands-on experience — which is so invaluable — but it will

save us untold amounts of trial-and-error when we’re finally able to get up and going.”

Locust Grove plans to increase its focus on other skills that were necessary to make Locust Grove run efficiently. “We’re planning more hearth-cooking classes this summer,” adds Carol. “We hope to have other historic trades demonstrations during special events this summer, with our distillery coming on line this fall.

“The more tangible, hands-on demonstrations we can offer, the better our guests will be able to understand how the world worked in the early 1800s on farms like Locust Grove.”



*Brian Cushing stirs the mash during his training at Mount Vernon’s distillery.*

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**Director's Letter** Carol Ely, Ph.D.

*A few weeks ago I participated in a round-table planning discussion for a community initiative of the Fund for the Arts — the creation of a new Louisville Master Plan for the Arts. Or maybe for “Arts and Culture.” Or maybe just “Arts” after all. They’re still thinking about it.*

I went there to speak up for “and Culture.”

Louisville’s history and heritage organizations (and other non-arts museums) fall between the funding cracks. We’re not exactly Fund for the Arts, like some museums. We’re not part of Metro United Way, like organizations that provide social services. And although we provide important educational opportunities for the community, that’s not always recognized by foundations that support “education.”

History is left to make its own case. History tells us who we are, where we came from, how we got here. It ties communities together. Historic places provide touchstones for memory and provoke questions.

Louisville’s legacy and stories are passed on through museum exhibits, historic neighborhoods, iconic places — and through the family and group culture of food traditions, songs and jokes, children’s games, public celebrations, and more.

So, is “Culture” going to be seen as part of the vision of Louisville’s future? I’m encouraged by the fact that the Fund for the Arts invited participation from Locust Grove and many other organizations that might not fall into the strictest categories of fine and performing arts.

I can make the case for Locust Grove as an arts organization:

- ❁ We display some of early Kentucky’s finest decorative arts.
- ❁ Our costumed interpreters perform museum theatre throughout the year as well as partner with Kentucky Shakespeare,
- ❁ We present chamber music concerts in an 18th century setting four times a year, and
- ❁ We even explore literature through the annual Jane Austen Festival.

I want the recognition for the “and Culture” part of what we do as well. This is a society that moves fast, that forgets the past. And there’s so much value in learning about, remembering, and re-imagining the lives of people from the past.

In the coming months, Fund for the Arts representatives will be calling for public input in the creation of the new plan. If you care about the history and heritage of Louisville (and I know you do!) please take the opportunity to make your thoughts known and urge that the plan include history, heritage, and preservation as part of Louisville’s current strengths, and our future.

Learn more about the planning process and opportunities for comment at [www.greatertlouisvillearts.com](http://www.greatertlouisvillearts.com). Here’s hoping that the Fund for the Arts rises to the challenge of “and Culture”!




*Events at Locust Grove — such as “Faces of Freedom” which featured the journey of a freed slave returning to lead others to freedom — mix arts and culture.*

**21st Annual Gardeners’ Fair — Butterflies, Bees, Flowers, Trees and So Much More**

Have you ever tried kombucha — made using a centuries-old process that turns tea into a naturally effervescent beverage? Or been up-close-and-personal with an alpaca? These are just two of the newest experiences awaiting you at this year’s Gardeners’ Fair.

The Butterfly Lady is returning, as well as many intriguing vendors with their yard sculptures and art, butterfly houses and birdhouses, garden furniture, annuals and perennials, houseplants, garden antiques, vegetable and herb plantings, native plants, watercolors with a garden theme, greenhouses, trees, and, oh, so much more.

We’ll have speakers on a variety of subjects, including beekeeping, basic pruning techniques, nuisance wildlife, soil performance, and lawn and garden irrigation. The Kentucky Hempsters — the group determined to reintroduce industrial hemp to Kentucky— also will be on hand to answer any and all questions on this product that was so important to Kentucky until the 1930s. (*Schedules will be posted around the fairgrounds.*)

*It’s all part of the 21st Anniversary Gardeners’ Fair and Silent Auction the second weekend in May — Friday, May 13 through Sunday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. each day.*

Again we’ll supplement onsite parking with a free shuttle to Locust Grove. You can park your car at Dunn Elementary School on Rudy Lane (past Fresh Market at the corner of Brownsboro Road and Rudy Lane). Shuttle vans will operate continuously throughout the fair for your convenience. See [www.locustgrove.org](http://www.locustgrove.org) for details.

And remember to check out the wonderful items in this year’s Silent Auction in the Visitors’ Center Audubon Room. This year’s offerings include prints from local artists, gift certificates to restaurants and caterers, gift baskets, and many more great items. Bidding ends 3:00 p.m. on Sunday!

Admission: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6–12, free for children under 6. Food and drink will be offered for sale. All proceeds support Locust Grove’s educational and preservation programs.



*Sarah with the first crop of hemp grown in Louisville in 50 years.*

**Sarah Sutherland — Locust Grove’s Master Gardener**

A few years after her first visit to Locust Grove, **Sarah Sutherland** answered an ad for a gardener at Locust Grove. That was 15 years ago — and she and Locust Grove’s 55 acres have not been the same since.

“I already was gardening using modern methods and plants; but I was developing an interest in heirlooms, thanks to my father,” Sarah says. “When I saw that ad, I realized it was a chance to unite my love of gardening with the research skills I learned at Berea College while getting my art history degree.

“Did you know that the plants, nuts, flowers, fruits, and trees that artists put in their paintings can tell about the people of that time?” she asks. “If we’re going to track down the exact shade of *verdigris* for the farm office, the same effort should go into the plantings and grounds to fully restore Locust Grove.”

Sarah has focused a great deal of effort on finding the correct plants and trees that might have grown at Locust Grove, always keeping in mind that our climate is not what it was 200 years ago. “It takes a lot of poking around and asking to find heirlooms that will work, but it’s so worth it. If we don’t plant them, old varieties are gone forever. We still need that biodiversity and may have to call upon it one day to save the species.”

Her forward-thinking and ingenuity attracted the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to select Locust Grove as one of few places to grow industrial hemp — a product that was one of Kentucky’s most important until the 1930s. “It’s a tightly controlled, by-permit-only research project that the department hopes will result in crowd-sourced knowledge of how best to grow and process hemp here in Kentucky.”

Keeping Locust Grove’s grounds looking good is a dauntingly huge project for this part-time gardener. “I could use a lot of help keeping the weeds at bay, helping with events and clean-up, and assisting with plantings and pruning,” she adds. “So if you have a few hours a month or a grandchild you can bribe, call me at (502) 897-9845!”

**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

**Quilt Art: Examining the Narrative in Kentucky Quilts**



**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1 PM**

**Dr. Pearl M. Johnson**, assistant professor of Pan-African Studies and Art History at University of Louisville, has been studying quilts made by women in all cultural groups. Join us as Dr. Johnson shares the results of her oral history interviews with a small, yet powerful, group of quilters from across Kentucky. Her work explores women's history, storytelling, identity politics, and empowerment. Dr. Johnson's study of quilts is aimed at examining cross-cultural parallels in technique and assemblage, as well as revealing unique designs. (This lecture is sponsored in part by the Kentucky Humanities Council.)

**The Inside Story of Flax**



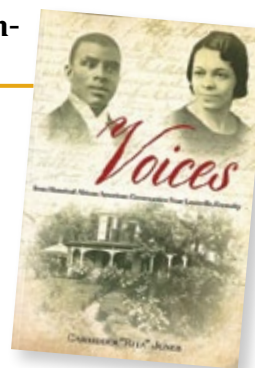
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1 PM**

Learn about the history of this fascinating and important plant in America's history. Locust Grove historic interpreter and reenactor **Rod Smothers** knows a lot about flax. He'll share the "inside story" of this plant that holds the fibers used to make linen. Ron will discuss how flax is grown and harvested, and then he'll demonstrate the process used to "brake" the flax — a laborious task that eventually extracts the linen fibers within. It's guaranteed you'll have a deeper appreciation of those clothes and other goods that bear the "100% linen" label.

**Voices From Louisville's African-American Communities**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1 PM**

Louisville, like many cities in the south, was home to many African-American neighborhoods and hamlets — places to which residents moved because of shared experiences and family ties. Join us as historian **Carrider (Rita) Jones** shares stories of these neighborhoods found in her oral history book, *Voices*: From Historical African-American Communities near Louisville, Kentucky. A former Locust Grove weekend manager, Rita is a historian and playwright. She is the founder of Women Who Write — a non-profit organization for women writers in the Louisville area.



**21st Annual Gardeners' Fair**

**FRIDAY, MAY 13 THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 15. 10 AM — 5 PM**  
See article, page 3



**Kentucky Hemp History Week Celebration**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1 PM**

Join Locust Grove and the Kentucky Hempsters as we celebrate Hemp History Week with a small ceremony and gathering. The Hempsters will host a ribbon-cutting for the second hemp crop at Locust Grove, followed by a discussion in the auditorium about Kentucky's early hemp history and evolution. We'll have refreshments — including some hemp-based delicacies! Admission: \$5; \$3 for members.

**Books, Collectibles & Art Sale**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 10 AM — 4:30 PM** (Free admission)  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 10 AM — 4:30 PM** (With \$8 admission to Antiques Market)  
**Charles Bartman, Julius Friedman, Richard Young, Harvey Venier** and other local and national book and art dealers show and sell out-of-print, remaindered, and other special books, maps, prints, posters, and fine papers. Includes books donated to Locust Grove and benefits the education and preservation programs of Locust Grove. Certified appraiser **Charles Bartman** will appraise books at no cost on both days.

**Fabulous Free Fourth of July**

**MONDAY, JULY 4, 10 AM — 4:30 PM — FREE ADMISSION ALL DAY!**  
Join the Clark and Croghan families as they celebrate Independence Day 1816. General George Rogers Clark's soldiers return to honor him and all who fought. Hear readings of the Declaration of Independence and remember why we celebrate this day. Food and drink for sale, or bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds.

**Jane Austen Festival — North America's Largest Jane Austen Event**

**FRIDAY, JULY 15, 6PM — 9 PM**  
**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 16 & 17, 10 AM — 5 PM**

Some 1,700-plus Jane Austen fans are expected to attend the 8th annual Jane Austen Festival in mid-July, many in Regency dress — transforming Locust Grove into what visitors might have seen in Lucy and William Croghan's days. The festival-goers hope again to break the Guinness World Record of people in Regency attire in one place during their promenade on Saturday, July 16.

The weekend is full of activities of the Regency period, including a style show, shopping, music, food, afternoon teas, workshops, a "Duel Between Gentlemen," bare-knuckle boxing, archery, bobbin lace-making, and a grand ball.

"As part of this year's theme of 'Eat, Drink, and Be Merry in Jane Austen's England,' we'll have two special food events in addition

to our always sold-out teas," says **Bonny Wise**, festival chair and Locust Grove's marketing coordinator. "We're having a recipe contest for the best scone, and **Kirstin Olsen**, author of *Cooking with Jane Austen*, will be our featured speaker."



For further information, please go to [www.jasnalouisville.com](http://www.jasnalouisville.com).



**The Clay-Wickliffe Duel at Locust Grove**

**SUNDAY, JULY 31, 1 PM — 5 PM**

See a thrilling display of manly valor and cool demeanor as you witness a reenactment of the Cassius Marcellus Clay — Robert Wickliffe duel of May 1841. Includes an 1840s exhibit and a picnic on the grounds. Guests are invited to wear clothes of any period (including the present). Period refreshments will be on hand, or you can bring your own picnic. \$6 adults; \$3 children.

**Hemp Festival**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, NOON — 7 PM**

Learn about the past, present, and future of hemp cultivation for fiber, fuel, and food. Locust Grove's hemp crop — only the second hemp crop in Louisville in more than 50 years — will be in full flush. As well, we will have last year's harvested crop to show off through processing as we demonstrate hemp growing, "braking," and spinning.

We'll have children's activities, speakers, and a Q&A session in the afternoon. Come early for the hemp-based foods at the Hemp Cafe, plus you can shop for hemp products from our vendors. We'll also have food trucks, plus hemp beer and local craft brews as you listen to some great music. Admission: \$5 per car, bikers and walkers free.



**SUMMER THURSDAYS AT LOCUST GROVE**

**Concert — Music in the American Wild**

**Thursday, June 9, 6:30 pm**

This kickoff to Locust Grove's Summer Thursdays features a collaboration of seven instrumentalists and 11 composers established to honor the 2016 centennial of the U.S. National Park Service. This Eastman School of Music-affiliated ensemble will premiere new works of classical music inspired by the grandeur and conservation of the American wilderness in several of our country's celebrated parks, including Mammoth Cave National Park.



*Music in the American Wild* also is bringing its new American art music to historic sites and museums in cities near each park, encouraging a new generation of audiences to connect with the preserved and protected places in their own communities through the power of music. Admission: \$15 (\$12 for members). Reservations required.

**Hemp History and Legislation in Kentucky**

**Thursday, July 21, 6 pm**

Join us for a discovery workshop as the Kentucky Hempsters talk about the basics of hemp, the history of the hemp industry in Kentucky, and modern day uses and applications of this versatile crop. Admission: \$10.

**Books in Early Kentucky**

**Thursday, August 11, 6 pm**

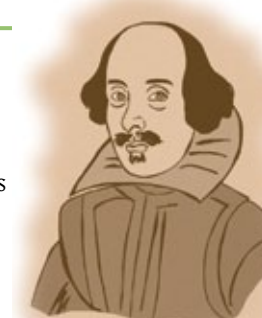
Book expert **Charles Bartman** speaks on book printing, publishing, and selling in early Kentucky. Admission: \$6; \$3 for members.

**Camp Shakespeare — Ages 7–15**

**MONDAY, JUNE 6 — FRIDAY, JUNE 10**  
**HALF-DAY: 9 AM — NOON; FULL-DAY: 9 AM — 4 PM**

Kentucky Shakespeare is offering a unique camp experience at Locust Grove. The aspiring thespian-campers will get an introduction to theatre and to Shakespeare's works. Campers will learn how to build an ensemble-based performance piece through collaboration and teamwork. The camp will be customized to the theatrical experience of each camper. Full-day campers should bring a sack lunch. \$100 for the half-day session; \$175 for the full-day session.

For further information or to register, call Kentucky Shakespeare at (502) 574-9900 or email [education@kyshakespeare.com](mailto:education@kyshakespeare.com). Registration deadline is June 1.

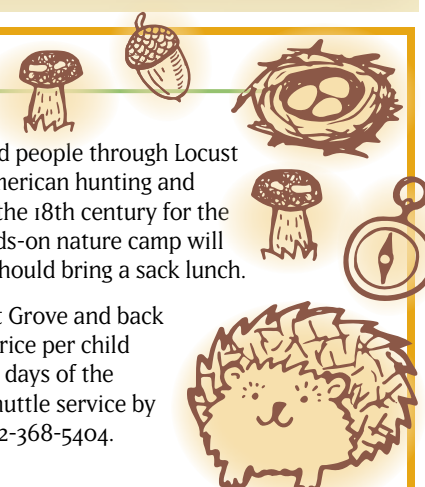


**Nature Camp — Ages 7–12**

**MONDAY, JUNE 27 — FRIDAY, JULY 1, 9 AM — 4 PM**

Travel back 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 what life was like in the 18th century for the first European settlers and Native Americans. This hands-on nature camp will take campers on an adventure back in time! Campers should bring a sack lunch.

**NOTE:** There will be a shuttle to take campers to Locust Grove and back from George Rogers Clark Park on Poplar Level Road. Price per child for the camp, \$195; optional shuttle service for the four days of the camp, \$30 per camper. Register for the camp and the shuttle service by calling Jefferson Memorial Forest's Welcome Center, 502-368-5404.



**Sign Up Now for Summer Camp Fun!**

**Enrollment/Renewal from January 1 through March 31, 2016**

A HEARTY "THANK YOU" TO ALL OF THESE PEOPLE WHO RECENTLY JOINED OR RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIPS, AND TO ALL OF OUR LONGTIME FRIENDS OF LOCUST GROVE! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A FRIEND, PLEASE GO ONLINE TO [WWW.LOCUSTGROVE.ORG](http://WWW.LOCUSTGROVE.ORG), OR CALL US AT (502) 897-9845 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND DETAILS.

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**Spirit Award Winner: Martha Eddy**



On most Tuesday mornings, visitors to Locust Grove are greeted with a big smile and gracious hospitality from this quarter's Spirit Award Winner, **Martha Eddy**.

"The front desk is a challenging position," says **Jennifer Jansen**, Visitors' Center manager. "In addition to knowing the history of the site, our volunteers have to know how to work the new cash register, our brand-new phone system, and three AV systems. They also need to handle the myriad of 'if-then' situations that continually arise."

All of which Martha does extraordinarily well. But that's not all she does at Locust Grove. Besides her weekly duties in the Visitors' Center, Martha is part of the Used Book Sales team — sorting books, cashiering during the sales, and helping with the clean-up. She also serves on Locust Grove's Volunteer Steering Committee.

"And I love to help out at all our special events, either in the Visitors' Center or at Locust Grove's concession stand," says Martha. "The energy and excitement of 18th Century Thunder in April, the Gardeners' Fair in May, our Antiques Markets in June and September, the fabulous 18th Century Market Fair in October, and our beautiful Christmastide celebration in December — I want to be a part of them all!"

Five years ago after retiring from 40+ years as a pediatric nurse, Martha attended a volunteer fair at Locust Grove. "I always liked American history and thought this would be a good way to learn more about Kentucky's early history — and it has been."

**Mary Beth Williams**, Locust Grove's curator of collections and education and coordinator of volunteers, appreciates Martha's willingness to pitch in and help out with whatever is needed. "When Martha's here on Tuesday mornings, we know our visitors are in good hands," says Mary Beth.

Adds Jennifer, "Martha always brings her positive can-do attitude to Locust Grove, is willing to take on any task, and is eager for new challenges. She also rolls along with 'Plan B' — an enormous asset for volunteers who work at the front desk."

**In Memoriam**

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

☞ Mary Gerstle ☞ Alice Littlefield ☞

**Tour Mammoth Cave With Locust Grove**

Volunteers, members, and friends are invited to celebrate the National Parks Services' 100th birthday on a tour of Mammoth Cave National Park, Saturday, June 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. — designed specifically for Locust Grove.

The focus will be on the Croghan family's involvement with Mammoth Cave — an involvement that lasted some 90 years. Dr. John Croghan — eldest son of Lucy and William Croghan — purchased Mammoth Cave and the seven slaves who acted as tour guides in 1839.

In 1841, Croghan briefly ran an ill-fated tuberculosis hospital in the cave, the vapors of which he believed would cure his patients. But the cave's damp and chilly temperatures and the effects of torch lighting on the cave caused him to abandon that project and focus on the tourism attraction.

After the last of the Croghan heirs died, a group of private citizens formed the Mammoth Cave National Park Association in 1926. The area was declared a National Park in 1941.

Locust Grove's Mammoth Cave schedule:

9:00 a.m. — Air-conditioned coach departs Locust Grove

☞ 11:15 a.m. — National Park staff presents an illustrated program about the Croghans and Mammoth Cave

☞ 12:15 p.m. — Boxed lunch (included)

☞ 1:30 p.m. — Locust Grove's personalized tour of Mammoth Cave

☞ 4:00 p.m. — Coach departs for Locust Grove to arrive about 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$55 per person

**Registration deadline: Sunday, May 15.**

To reserve your space, please contact **Mary Beth Williams** — [mwilliams@locustgrove.org](mailto:mwilliams@locustgrove.org) or (502) 897-9845, ext. 105





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### SUMMER ANTIQUES MARKET

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 10 AM - 4:30 PM**

From delicate bibelot to mahogany breakfronts . . . from humble handkerchiefs to ornate sterling teapots . . . from vintage plows to china teacups . . . from the 18th century to mid-20th-century modern — the Summer Antiques Market has something for all tastes and every budget.

Featuring dozens of individual dealers from around the region, Locust Grove's Antiques Markets offer fine and country furniture, books, textiles, jewelry, ephemera, silver, and much more.

Admission includes tours of the historic house museum. Food is available to purchase. Proceeds support the continued operation and preservation of Locust Grove. Admission: \$8 adults; free for ages 12 and under.



HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE  
**GROVE GAZETTE**