

GROVE GAZETTE

Historic Locust Grove

561 Blankenbaker Lane

Louisville, KY 40207

(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org



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'Lecture Ladies & Bakers' Spirit Award Winners

The table is laden with trays of homemade delights — cookies, brownies, small cakes, tarts, and bars. The coffee is perked and the glasses of tea and lemonade are poured. The centerpiece adds its charm to the setting.

For more than an hour, the "Lecture Ladies" have been cutting and plating and arranging all the delicious goodies that they and the other Lecture Bakers have created.

Now it's time for the doors to open for this month's First Wednesday Lecture — and for the lecture guests to "oooh and ahhh" over the table of treats.

That's why the Volunteer Steering Committee has selected the "Lecture Ladies

and Lecture Bakers" as this quarter's Spirit Award Winners.

The "Lecture Ladies" are **Ursula Dames, Linda Fuchs, Janet Henny, Jeannie Vezeau, Nancy Wesolosky, and Jane Wilson.**

The "Lecture Bakers" who also prepare homemade delights — and sometimes lend a hand in the kitchen — include **Shirley Dumesnil, Kathy Hall, Mary Alice McAfee, Ann Roth, Janet Overman, Jane Smith, and Lindy Estep.**

Says Jane Wilson, "I've worked with many 'Lecture Ladies' over the years, and it's always fun — or I wouldn't still be doing it!"

"I love all the different goodies we get each month," says Nancy Wesolosky. "People keep telling us we should do a cookbook!"



Hosting at the March lecture are (from the left) Jane Wilson, Jeannie Vezeau, Ursula Dames, and Linda Fuchs. Missing are Janet Henny and Nancy Wesolosky.

"Baking for the lectures lets us try out new recipes (or bake old favorites) — and then get them out of the house!" laughs Jeannie Vezeau.

All the Lecture Ladies add a shout-out to **Tobe Penny** for the gorgeous centerpieces she hand-crafts each month. "The centerpieces set the mood and add such a lovely touch to the table," says Ursula Dames. "I always look forward to seeing what Tobe has created."

Yearly Events

Mark Your Calendars!

First Wednesday Lecture Series

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

Two Big Used Book Sales!

Great book bargains around the weekends of August 26-28, 2011, and March 16-18, 2012.

18th 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

Gardeners' Fair Brunch

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

Two Antiques Markets

Held on the last Sundays in June and in September.

18th 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*

Most people know that Lewis & Clark came to Locust Grove, and a sign in near our entrance boasts about all the Presidents who dined with the Croghans. But one of the most interesting visitors was an impoverished Frenchman of dubious ancestry who was obsessed with birds – **John James Audubon**.

To commemorate Audubon's connection to Locust Grove, the Board of Directors voted in February to name the auditorium in the Martin F. Schmidt Visitor Center in his honor as the "**Audubon Room**." The room will feature beautiful original and reproduction prints from his classic work, *Birds of America*.

Audubon came to Louisville in 1807 with an introduction to William Croghan through his Pennsylvania neighbor, Susanna Prevost, Croghan's first cousin.

Also, as Audubon himself noted, Audubon's father and Croghan "fought together in conjunction with George Washington and Lafayette, during the Revolutionary War." The Irishman and the Frenchman were both fascinated by the abundant wildlife of the Ohio River Valley.



Audubon wrote that one day Croghan asked him "if I had seen the trees in which the Swallows were supposed to spend the winter, but which they only entered, he said, for the purpose of roosting.... There was a tree remarkable on account of the immense numbers that resorted to it... which... proved the most remarkable I had ever met with."

The hollow sycamore tree proved to be home to at least 9,000 birds, which Audubon explored and described in all its messy detail. The swallows later featured in *Birds of America*, a monumental study that merged close scientific observation with artistic vision.

Audubon and his wife Lucy stayed occasionally with the "amiable Major Croghan and his family," perhaps sleeping in the guest bedroom on the second floor that we now call the "rose room."

Audubon recalled hunting raccoons in the Locust Grove woods with young George Croghan. At the time, Audubon supported his passion for drawing avian life with portrait drawings and paintings in Louisville and Shippingport, and also ran a store in town with little success. He later moved his family to Henderson, Ky.

Audubon also took advantage of the back-country knowledge of George Rogers Clark, who told him about the plentiful wild geese and showed him the osprey around his Indiana cabin at the Falls of the Ohio.

In later years, when Audubon began publishing his great works on natural history, John Croghan supported his work by subscribing to *Birds of America*.

Today we remember Audubon through his works, soon to be displayed in the newly named Audubon Room at Locust Grove.

Still Accepting Silent Auction Items

Antique furniture. Haviland dishes. Sterling silver. Beautiful works of art, pottery, and needlepoint. Handmade quilts. Gift baskets from garden shops, restaurants, and designer boutiques.

Gift certificates for services from spas, B&Bs, and landscapers. Autographed basketballs, sports equipment, and books. Handcrafted and antique jewelry.

Gift baskets from corporations, coffee roasters, and photography studios. Handwoven rugs and handknit shawls. Vintage books and historic maps.

You could find these items and many more unexpected delights at Locust Grove's Silent Auction to be held during our annual **Gardeners' Fair, Friday, May 13 through Sunday, May 15.**

Our sincere gratitude goes to the scores of individuals, groups, and businesses whose generous donations make the Gardeners' Fair Silent Auction so irresistible.

If you'd like to donate an item or service, you'll receive a tax donation and our grateful thanks. For more information or to donate, please call the Visitors Center at (502) 897-9845. Thank you!



Carol Ely

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561 Blankenbaker Lane
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 897-9845
(502) 896-2433
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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Grove Gazette

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Primary Source Documents About Historic Locust Grove

Voices From The Past

After William Croghan's death in 1822, several of his grown children tried managing Locust Grove, where the widowed Lucy Croghan still resided.

William Croghan Jr., the third son, lived here only a few years before concluding, "I am sick and tired of farming, incessant toil and anxiety and no profit." He had married Mary Carson O'Hara of Pittsburgh, and they had already buried a daughter in the Locust Grove cemetery in 1826 when Mary became ill and died in October of 1827, as described in this letter.

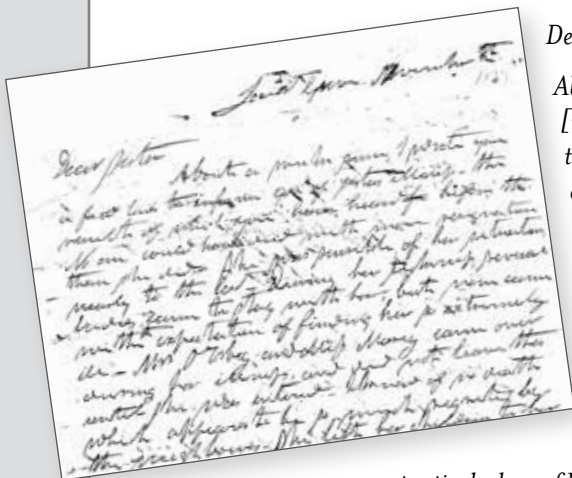
The letter is from Charles Croghan, William's younger brother, to their sister Eliza, wife of George Hancock. At this time, the Hancocks had sold their Virginia farm and were moving to Louisville to take over Locust Grove from William, who was eager to leave.

The reference in the letter to Lucy's problems with her eyes reinforces the conclusion from other family letters that she had significant vision problems and was perhaps nearly blind.

Material in [brackets] indicates editing.

From Charles Croghan to his sister Eliza Hancock, living at Fotheringay, Montgomery Co., Virginia

Locust Grove, November 1st [1827]



Dear Sister,

About a month since I write you a few lines to inform you of sister [in-law] Mary — the result of which you have heard before this. No one could have died with more resignation than she did. She was sensible of her situation nearly to the end. During her sickness, several ladies came to stay with her, but none came with the expectation of finding her so extremely ill. Mrs. Ormsby and Miss Massey came over during her illness, and did not leave there until she was interred.

I know of no death which appears to be so much regretted by the neighbours. She left her children to her mother, which was very natural and right — She was fond of all of us;

particularly so of Mama [Lucy Croghan]; indeed I do not know that I ever was or could be more affected than I was when I saw her with her arms around her neck — such a scene in any situation would have been affecting; but nothing could have been more so than it was at the crisis.

I never saw more interesting and beautiful children than William and his sister. Brother is more anxious than ever to go to Pittsburg. Mama is well, but in consequence of her eyes, cannot write. Hancock is now and has been for the last ten days in Louisville. In a few more he goes to Nashville. Mrs. Preston, I should mention, came out with Mrs. Ormsby. I have abandoned my Southern tour, though it is one which my health requires me to make. I hope you will be out early in the Spring. I am glad that Mr. Hancock has found no difficulty in finding a purchaser. You seem to think an apology necessary for the length of your letters. Be assured that your letters can never be long enough for me. I am sorry that the Col. and his lady did not make a longer stay with you. I purchased about a month ago a very handsome barouche [fancy carriage]. Remember me to all at [?] and believe me to be your affectionate Charles

I have been rather remiss in writing to sister Ann, but I shall make up for it in future.

[Postscript by William Croghan Jr.]: *I wrote to you yesterday. Do let me know dear Eliza how soon you can come out! I am merely remaining here on your account & I ought to leave here. I am miserable. W.C.*

Within five years of the writing of this letter, both the writer and the recipient were dead. Charles Croghan, who wrote the letter, died in 1832 in Paris of tuberculosis. His sister, Eliza Croghan Hancock, died at Locust Grove in 1833, probably of cholera.

1960s' Restoration Preserved in Miniature

Thanks to HLG Board member and docent **Nancy Lee**, Locust Grove now has an exact replica of what the original restoration of Locust Grove from the early 1960s looked like.



This exact replica of Locust Grove as it looked after the original restoration is a gift to Locust Grove from HLG Board Member and Docent Nancy Lee.

the real House, and this dollhouse allows us to show the look of the original 1960s' restoration that so many people can remember."

This exact replica of Locust Grove was commissioned in the 1970s by the Louisville Preservation Alliance and was created by Woodford Landing Antiques and Miniatures owners **Evelyn Lovell**, **Barbara Fort**, and **Patricia Norwood**, along with **Ron Neurath**. To create this replica, they measured the House and consulted restoration blueprints and photographs.

Elements of the structure were individually hand-crafted with great care. The dining room paneling alone used more than 70 pieces of wood and the "ballroom" wallpaper was hand-painted. The paint colors were duplicated by Porter Paints to exactly match the colors used in the 1960s' restoration of the House. Many of the furnishings and decorative objects were crafted as exact duplicates of the collection as it was presented at that time.

Slave Life Event a Success



A great variety of visitors came to Locust Grove over the recent February 26-27 weekend for tours that focused on the life of slaves at Locust Grove. Here, Tiffany Caesar as seamstress "Hannah" tells visitors what her life might have been like, prompting many interesting and thoughtful questions from the visitors. All docent-led tours of our site now include a visit to the slave residence, and we plan to have more Slave Life weekends with other costumed interpreters.

"We knew that the dollhouse was in a private collection when, a few months ago, we heard that the dollhouse was going to be auctioned," says HLG Executive Director **Carol Ely**. "Nancy Lee offered to go to the auction and bid for the house on behalf of Locust Grove — and then she donated it to Locust Grove after her successful purchase.

"It was so very generous of Nancy to make this once-in-a-lifetime purchase of the dollhouse. We had just re-restored the interior of the

After the auction, members of the Louisville Miniature Club, including **Nancye Johnson**, **Kelly Hanna-Carroll**, **Kimberlee Baldwin**, **Jane Ernst**, and **Patrice Will**, undertook the repair and restoration of the dollhouse. They used non-detrimental techniques and materials to conserve the structure and furniture according to the highest standards of miniatures restoration.

"Dollhouses and miniatures are a fun introduction for many children to the idea of different historical styles of decorating homes," adds Carol. "We are incredibly grateful to Nancy Lee for this priceless gift."

Adds Nancy, "I've loved that dollhouse ever since I saw it in the early 1990s and have always felt that its rightful place is here at Locust Grove. I'm glad I was able to make sure that lovely dollhouse is here to stay."

Did You Know?

The Civil War began 150 years ago this year.



As its sesquicentennial begins, we're researching the story of Locust Grove during this era.

The history of this site between John Croghan's death in 1849 (he was the eldest son of Lucy and William) and the purchase of the property by the Paul family almost 30 years later is complicated and murky.

After John died, Locust Grove was inherited by St. George Croghan, the son of John's brother George. St. George and his wife Cornelia had been running Locust Grove a few years before John died, and did it very badly and without enthusiasm.

When the Civil War began in 1861, probably Covington Arterburn was the tenant. By 1862, the family of William Price Smith was in residence.

Smith's grandson later wrote that "the war ruined him financially. His horses were stolen & taken to war and the slaves were freed and it ruined his income."

Robert Anderson, who was Lucy's nephew and the cousin of the Croghan children, was the Union commander at Ft. Sumter at the start of the War.

St. George Croghan, still the nominal owner of Locust Grove, enlisted in 1861 in the Confederate 10th Virginia Cavalry and was killed later that year at McCoy's Mill in West Virginia.

His son, George Croghan (the great-grandson of William and Lucy Croghan), inherited Locust Grove. It was managed by trustees until it was finally sold to James Paul in 1878.

And now you know what we know ... and we'll keep looking.

2011 FIRST WEDNESDAY LECTURE SERIES

Our lecture series this year offers a variety of interesting speakers and unusual topics that relate to the lives of the Croghans, Clark, 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.

A GENTLEMAN PHYSICIAN

Wednesday, June 1 — 1:00 p.m.

Historical interpreter **Albert Roberts** brings to life an 1812 frontier doctor — compete with surgery equipment and a “demonstration” of the surgical techniques of the day. You’ll hear about topics such as bleeding, dentistry, musket ball removal, amputation, and even cranial surgery. In the 21st century, Albert is a visual communications teacher at a high school in Hendersonville, Tenn.



SO CLOSE FROM HOME

Wednesday, July 6 — 1:00 p.m.

Locust Grove docent and historical researcher **Lynn Renau** will bring stories about the early families who settled the area around Locust Grove — insights she gleaned while researching her book, *So Close From Home*. You’ll learn about how these early settlers and property owners interacted with each other and set the stage for the development of the communities in which we live today.



SLAVE LIFE IN THE LOUISVILLE AREA

Wednesday, August 3 — 1:00 p.m.



Dr. Alicestyne Turley, head of University of Louisville’s Underground Railroad Research Institute, will talk about what life was like for slaves in the Falls of the Ohio area during the late 1700s and early 1800s. Dr. Turley is an assistant professor in the University of Louisville’s Pan African Studies Department.

GARDENERS’ FAIR, AUCTION & BRUNCH

Friday, May 13 through Sunday, May 15

GARDENERS’ FAIR: 10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. each day

SILENT AUCTION: Bidding through Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY BRUNCH: Seatings at Noon and 2:00 p.m.

Each year, the second weekend in May finds Locust Grove’s grounds abloom with plants, flowers, herbs, tools, flower-themed accessories, clothing, foods, and handcrafted items. Scores of local and regional garden suppliers are on hand to get your gardens and lawns ready for the season. Admission, which includes a tour of the House, is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under.



One of the most popular events at the Gardeners’ Fair is the Sunday Brunch with a wide variety of delicious entrees, salads, and desserts. Before and after the brunch, you can place your bids at the Silent Auction and find great garden items in the booths. Because of the brunch’s high popularity and limited space, paid reservations are required. Reservations are being accepted now. Please call (502) 897-9845 to make brunch reservations.

MUSEUM STORE SPRING SALES

Monday–Saturday, 10:00 a.m. –4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1:00 p.m. –4:30 p.m.

ONE-DOLLAR SALE!

Monday, May 9 through Monday, May 16

Selected spring merchandise will be reduced to \$1. Other items will be marked down as low as we can go!

INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE

Friday, June 17 through Thursday, June 30

Huge inventory reduction sale! We’d rather sell it than count it. All items (except candy, snacks, and sodas) will be 20 percent off for everyone. “Friends of Locust Grove” members and volunteers will get an additional 10 percent off. Our museum store carries a wide array of books, toys, stationary, and Kentucky-made crafts. Mark your calendars for this great sale!

SPECIAL LECTURE: ORIENTAL RUGS

Saturday, June 4, 11:00 a.m.

Learn all about oriental rugs in general and the beautiful new Oushak rug that's in Locust Grove's Great Parlor. **Justin Vorel**, a specialist from Frances Lee Jasper Oriental Rugs, will bring examples of different kinds of oriental rugs and answer your questions. Admission is \$5 or \$3 for Friends of Locust Grove.



PLEIN AIR 'PAINT-OUT' WORKSHOPS

Thursday, June 16 — Children's Paint-Out
Saturday, June 18 — Adult's Paint-Out

Douglas Simms Stenhouse, nationally renowned "Plein Air" watercolor artist, will be in residence for two days at Locust Grove from June 16 to June 18. He'll lead two "paint-outs" for aspiring artists who would like to learn techniques for painting landscapes in the open air. The grounds and gardens of Locust Grove offer an inspiring setting for plein air watercolor artists.

Program details, including times and fees, will be available soon on Locust Grove's website, www.locustgrove.org. You can sign up for our email



Stenhouse's "Horneblende Mansion"

notices at lghh@locustgrove.org.

THE ART OF THE BOOK

Saturday, June 25, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This special day is devoted to "all things book" — paper making, paper marbling, printing, and book-binding. Attendees will choose one subject for the morning session and one for the afternoon — with demonstrations and hands-on experiences in each session. All materials needed for the workshops will be included in the cost of the workshops. Related book arts materials, supplies, and books will be available for purchase for those who would like to continue creating their own papers and books.

Because of the hands-on nature of these workshops, attendance must be limited. Attendees may also pre-order a box lunch featuring Locust Grove's famous chicken or tuna salad sandwiches, side item, drink and dessert. Workshop details and fees will be available by May 1. Please check Locust Grove's website — www.locustgrove.org — or call the Visitors Center at (502) 897-9845 for further information and to make reservations.

SUMMER ANTIQUES MARKET

Sunday, June 26, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This 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, books, textiles, jewelry, and silver. Admission is \$6 (\$3 for children 6-12). Admission includes tours of the historic house museum. Concessions are available. Proceeds support the continued operation and preservation of Historic Locust Grove.



INDEPENDENCE DAY AT LOCUST GROVE

Monday, July 4, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Free to the Public

Celebrate our nation's independence in the style of the early Republic. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the grounds of Locust Grove — along with a free tour of the house museum.

JANE AUSTEN FESTIVAL

Presented in conjunction with the Greater Louisville Chapter, JASNA

Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10
10:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

People stroll Locust Grove's grounds dressed in their lovely early-1800s' outfits. Vendors sell clothes, material, books, and other Jane Austen-era items. Style shows feature the "latest" in fashion, and entertainers charm their audiences with shadow puppet shows and kid-friendly peep shows!

This year, actress and playwright **Karen Eterovich** will give two performances of her one-woman show, *Cheer from Chawton: A Jane Austen Family Theatrical*. There'll be a duel between two gentlemen, a fencing demonstration, and up to 10 women may register for a ladies archery competition. There will be workshops on dressing in the Regency style and making a garden pincushion.

Festival admission is \$10. The one-woman show, four-course afternoon tea, archery competition registration, and workshops have additional fees. Make reservations after June 1 at the Greater Louisville Jane Austen Society's website: www.jasnalouisville.com.



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

Summer's coming soon, so it's time to sign up for camp. We'll have one two-day camp and three week-long camps — one of which is the new Camp Shakespeare at Locust Grove! Call (502) 897-9845 to reserve your child's place in history.

WOODWORKING CAMP

Monday, June 20 – Friday, June 24

Ages 11-14: 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Ages 7-10: 12:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Build a birdhouse, or a stool, or another fun project out of wood. Learn the basics of woodworking and how to use tools from experienced Locust Grove woodworkers. You'll learn about types of wood, how to safely use historic and modern woodworking tools, and you'll complete a project to take home. All materials are included. Cost: \$75 per camper.

NEW! CRAFT CAMP

Thursday and Friday, July 14 and 15
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

For Ages 8-14

Learn handicrafts from the 19th century! During this two-day camp, learn how to sew, embroider, and make your very own "housewife" — a small sewing kit used to store sewing tools and mementos in the 1800s. Housewives were owned not only by women but also by soldiers, who used it to mend their own clothes. All materials are included. Cost: \$60 per camper.



PIONEER CAMP

Monday, July 18 – Friday, July 22

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

For Ages 7-10

Explore the past through projects and hands-on activities. Experience 18th century living first-hand, using the house, gardens, grounds, and woods at Locust Grove. Experience the tasks and games of early Kentucky children. We do new projects each year — so if you've attended before, come back again! Materials are included. Cost: \$80 per camper.

NEW! CAMP SHAKESPEARE

Monday – Thursday, July 25 – July 28

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

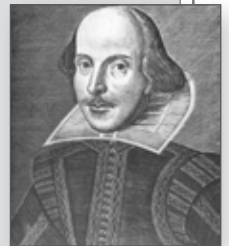
Friday, July 29 (performance at 6:00 p.m.)

12:00 Noon – 7:00 p.m.

For Ages 7-13

Camp Shakespeare and Historic Locust Grove join forces to present a unique playwriting camp in a historic setting. During this weeklong introduction to theater, you will play theater games, learn elements of playwriting and costume design, and write your own short play!

On Friday, you'll get to perform your play for family and friends at 6:00 p.m. Email **Melinda Crecelius** at melinda@kyshakes.org or call her at (502) 574-9900 to register. Campers should bring a sack lunch. Cost: \$225 per camper.



Many Thanks to Our Donors

Donations Received from January 1 through March 31, 2011

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.

Thanks to the following people for their most recent donations.

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Dace & William King Brown Stubbs

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Enrollment/Renewal from January 1 through March 31, 2011

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, or call us at (502) 897-9845 for further information and details.

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Mr. & Mrs. LaMar Gaston, Jr.
Eric George
Jennie George
Robert & Barbara Gillogly
Miss Holly Gray
Rick & Ann Guillaume

Tiena Haag
April Hall
Chip & Jennifer Hancock
Mr. & Mrs. John Hancock

Marty & Marvin Hanka
David Hasty
James Hill
Hal T. Hughes
Michael Johmann
Jennie Johnson
Mary Lou Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Jordan

Kim Kirkwood
Richard F. Koeniger
Nancy Kratt

Stephen C. Lannert
Charles & Sally Lehman
Robert Logan
Hunter G. Louis
Carlton Lowe

Dr. Duncan & Norma MacMillan
David & Susan Mann
Theresa & Michael Mattei
Beth McClure
Mr. & Mrs. R. Douglas McFarland
Mary Lib McFarland
Julia Meadows
Bill Moss
Marty Murphy

Richard Page
John & Eugenia Potter

Mr. & Mrs. K. Derrick Powell
Lucy & John Quesenberry

Ann F. Rankin
Irene Rawlings
Lynn S. Renau
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Reynolds

Richard Sauer
Lynn Schwenning
Anne Snider
Mrs. Floyd Sooy
Joyce St. Clair
Lorena M. Stierle
Mary Margaret Stipp

Barbara Taylor
Barbara Terry-Porter
Byron Tharpe
Betty A. Thirlwell
John Tilford
Gayle C. Trautwein

Sally & Thorne Vail

Amy & Bill Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Walther
Virginia Wells-Winn & Marsha Wells-McWhorter
Jim & Colleen Wilson
Cornelia Wright

Volunteer Steering Committee

The Voice of HLG's Volunteers

There's a suggestion box in the volunteers' room, with paper and pen nearby — ready for volunteers to submit ideas for new programs, make suggestions for improvements, express concerns, and even pay some compliments. Volunteers also may make suggestions via email to HLG Program Director **Mary Beth Williams** at Williams@locustgrove.org.

"We empty that box and check all emails before each month's Volunteer Steering Committee meeting, discuss all comments, and if we have a name, get back to the person with the results of those discussions," says **Nina Ayres**, chair of Locust Grove's Volunteer Steering Committee (VSC). "We encourage volunteers to tell us what's on their minds so we can deal with issues quickly."

VSC members represent various volunteer areas including docents, the visitors center, education, special events, and costumed interpretation. Volunteers can nominate a person for the committee or nominate themselves. "We currently have openings for at least two more members," says Mary Beth.

VSC members have planned volunteer trips to places such as Mammoth Cave, the Jack Jouett House, and to two historic sites in Lexington, Ky. The VSC also has planned the upcoming June trip for volunteers and members to Charlottesville, Va.

"And we love to celebrate achievement with awards," adds Nina. "We evaluate nominations and decide whether to award Locust Grove's highest volunteer honor — the Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award. And we select the Spirit Award winners for the *Grove Gazette* each quarter."

They also nominate the other "fun" awards that are given by Locust Grove during the annual Volunteer Appreciation party, such as the "Unusual Visitor Experience" award and the "Saves the Day" award.

"We are here to represent our volunteers, to answer questions, to celebrate excellence, and to deal with any problems that are not being resolved," adds Nina. "That's the Volunteer Steering Committee's mission — to be the voice of our volunteers."



VSC members include (left to right from the back row) Kelly Stevenson, Mary Beth Williams, Nancy Lee, Nina Ayres, and Kathy Hall. Not pictured are Ted Wright, Sandy Dempsey, and David Kremer.