



THE HEART OF LOCUST GROVE — OUR VOLUNTEERS

Kaitlyn Tisdale, M.A., Director of Interpretation

Locust Grove's volunteers are our lifeblood. They bring history to life. Our volunteers embody the spirit of life-long learning, ensuring that every visitor leaves with a deeper appreciation of the past and how it connects to the community around them.

Volunteering at Locust Grove offers great rewards. Volunteers learn new skills, meet people who share a love for history, and make lasting friendships. Whether you're a history buff, a student seeking experience, or simply someone with a passion for community service, there's a place for you here.

Locust Grove is a testament to early American history and the many lives that shaped our nation. This 55-acre site offers a glimpse into the past through its rich narrative and natural landscape. Here are some volunteer opportunities:

- **Docents and Tour Guides:** Step into history as you guide visitors through the house and grounds. Share the stories of the Croghan family, the enslaved individuals who lived and worked here, and the many notable residents, including George Rogers Clark, and other people who shaped the site's history.
- **Event Support:** Help with special events such as Book Sales, Gardeners' Fair, Independence Day, and educational workshops. Volunteers assist with setup, registration, and visitor engagement.

● **Gardening and Grounds:** If you have a green thumb, consider joining our gardening team! Help ensure that the gardens remain a tranquil and inviting space for all.

● **Administrative:** Help out at our front desk and phones. This involves greeting guests, selling tour tickets and museum merchandise, or sometimes just giving directions. Or you can help with administrative tasks such as data entry, mailings, and research.

Volunteers receive comprehensive training, ensuring they are well-prepared for their duties. This includes historical knowledge, interpretive skills, and customer service techniques.

One of our long-time volunteers, **Jeannie Litterst Vezeau**, says, "Volunteering at Locust Grove has been a source of joy, friendship, education, and just plain fun. I love working with the volunteers at our great book sales and interacting with kids on school field trips."

Interested in joining our volunteer community? [Click here.](#) Or call us at (502) 897-9845 and we'll get you started.

As a volunteer at Locust Grove, you can make a significant impact. We'd love to welcome you to become a part of Locust Grove's story.

Once Again a Time of Change

Here's my big news: I have decided to leave my position here at Locust Grove at the end of this year, pending the hiring of a new President/CEO.

It's bittersweet for me. I've been here for 20 years. I've seen many of the people in this community come and go — Board members, staff, volunteers, donors, partners. I've relied on so many of them, and on you, to work side-by-side with me to continually improve Locust Grove.

When I came here in 2004, there was no exhibit gallery wing as there is now and no Pavilion with its courtyard and kitchens.

The auditorium was painted bright turquoise while the house interior walls were a subdued off-white and gray. The farm distillery was just a shed.

Jefferson County was in the process of passing the site ownership to Louisville Metro Parks. There was no annual fund drive, the membership program had just begun, and the staff was less than half the size that it is now.

Since then, we've built, we've staffed up, we've raised millions of dollars in capital and operating funds. We re-roofed and re-paved and restored.

We've changed our interpretation and expanded our story, cultivated new audiences and new partnerships, and had successes and some disappointments along the way.

Some might call this next phase for me "retirement." But I plan to do more research and writing of history which, ironically, I rarely have time for now.

I'll still be here if and when I am called on to support particular initiatives. And you can't keep me away from the Book Sale. So, it's really not a final goodbye.

Locust Grove will be fine. It will be in good hands with the current staff, Board, volunteers, and supportive community.



Welcome to our new digital version of the *Grove Gazette*! You'll receive it four times a year in your email inbox. The format will allow you to print it if you wish, and you are welcome to forward the issues to anyone who you think might be interested.

If you received this *Gazette* as a forwarded message and would like to receive it directly from us, just send a message to marketing@locustgrove.org and we'll add you to our list.

Grove Gazette is published by Historic Locust Grove, Inc. for members, volunteers and supporters of Historic Locust Grove. ©2024
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Louisville, KY 40207
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www.locustgrove.org

The mission of Historic Locust Grove is to preserve and interpret the historic landscape and buildings of Locust Grove, the final home of Louisville's founder George Rogers Clark, and to tell the stories of all the individuals who lived and worked here, both free and enslaved, cultivating a deeper understanding of the present through a richer understanding of the past.

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ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE WEEK: EXPLORING HISTORY TO LEAD TO HEALING

Kaitlyn Tisdale, M.A., Director of Interpretation



In early June, **Jerome Bias** served as our “Artist in Residence” at Locust Grove, dedicating a week to sharing his expertise as a master craftsman, furniture maker, historian, and hearth chef.

Jerome engaged visitors through historical reflections and education, offering workshops in carpentry, hearth cooking, and genealogy that showcased how exploring the history of our ancestors can lead to healing generational trauma today.

The week culminated in a dinner featuring delectable dishes prepared in the hearth kitchen by Jerome and some Locust Grove volunteers. This special event honored descendants of Locust Grove’s enslaved community as our honored guests.

“We are grateful for the gathering, festivities, enlightenment, and the healing that took place at Locust Grove,” says **Debra Smoot Middleton**, a descendant from two people enslaved at Locust Grove. “I was overjoyed to experience this with my nieces. The food was amazing; we loved the setting; and the tour was phenomenal. We all still have not unpacked all that our hearts felt!”

Jerome concluded the week with a unique tour of Locust Grove, emphasizing the vital contributions of its enslaved residents and humanizing them in a way we have never experienced before. It was a truly incredible and transformative week.



The “Descendants’ Dinner” included delights like pork, gravy, greens, sweet potato pone, cornbread stuffing, and other treats — all made in the hearth kitchen and absolutely delicious.



Jerome’s two-hour “Chisel & Plane” workshop taught attendees hands-on skills such as planing wood and the basics of construction and carpentry.



The Artist-in-Residence program kicked off with Jerome Bias’ sold-out immersive, hands-on workshop in the hearth kitchen. “A Taste of History” included lessons in culinary techniques passed down through the generations.



Enslaved community descendants celebrated at the dinner included (from the left) LaShawnda Holmes, Chaunia Holmes, Lorraine Dobbins, Jordan Dixon, Debra Middleton, Sarina Müller.



On the final day of Jerome’s residence, he hosted a sold-out tour, “Layered Lenses,” in which he dove deeply into the history of Locust Grove’s enslaved community — shifting the perspective away from the Croghan family and onto the humanity of the men and women enslaved at Locust Grove. He also pointed out a fingerprint embedded in a brick possibly made by an enslaved worker.

Kaitlyn Tisdale, volunteer Madeline Rosenberg, and Jerome pause during their hard work preparing the meal for the “Descendants’ Dinner.”



LECTURES

Hear a variety of speakers on unusual and interesting topics that relate to the lives of the Croghans, Clarks, and the people of the region. **Doors for the Afternoon Lectures will open at 12:50 p.m.** for desserts and beverages, with lectures beginning at 1:15 p.m. **Doors for Locust Grove's Evening Lectures will open at 6:00 p.m.** for savory and sweet bites and beverages., with lectures beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The Evening Lecture on November 19 will be held at the Filson Historical Society.

[Click for More Info and Tickets.](#)

Treaties, Expansion, and the NW Territory from the Indigenous Perspective

Wednesday Afternoon, Sept. 4, 1:15 PM



Join Locust Grove Program Director **Raina Melvin** (Comanche) for a captivating lecture that sheds light on the Indigenous perspective during the era of treaties and expansion in the Northwest Territory. Discover the significant impact these historical events had on

Native communities, their reactions, and the enduring legacy of their resistance and resilience.

Cost: \$8, non-members; \$6, LG members.

An Early Louisville Murder: The Killing of Joseph Frederick at Oxmoor Farm

Wednesday Afternoon, Nov. 6, 1:15 PM



Join **Shirley Harmon**, Curator for Historic Oxmoor Farm, as she tells the tale of a murder at Oxmoor Farm. In 1816, Armistead Churchill knocked on the cabin door of Joseph Frederick, the overseer at Oxmoor Farm. When Frederick opened the door, Churchill shot him dead. The motive behind

the murder involved the treatment of enslaved people at Oxmoor Farm and a power struggle for control of the estate. Churchill's trial in 1817, defended by notable lawyers John Rowan and Benjamin Hardin, created a rift between early Kentucky families and even led to a challenge to duel. Join us to discover how this early Kentucky murder trial concluded and the lasting impact it had on those prominent families.

Cost: \$8, non-members; \$6, LG members.

19th Century Mental Health Care and Its Modern Progress

Tuesday Evening, Sept. 10, 6:30 PM



Kaitlyn Tisdale

Engage in a discussion of the history of mental health in the early 19th century and its progress today. Locust Grove's Director of Interpretation **Kaitlyn Tisdale** will delve into Locust Grove family members' struggles with mental health that have been revealed through family letters and historical records. University of Kentucky Professor **Dr. Claire Clark** will describe the history of mental health care in America, highlighting significant milestones and ongoing efforts for improvement.

Cost: \$12, non-members; \$10, LG members



Dr. Claire Clark

Kentucky Unsettled

Wednesday Afternoon, Oct. 2, 1:15 p.m.



In the aftermath of the French and Indian War, the Proclamation of 1763 marked the land that became Kentucky as an Indian Reserve. However, a surge of settlers disrupted this balance, leading to land disputes and coercive treaties that reshaped Kentucky's landscape. Join The

Filson Historical Society's Native American Collections Specialist **Kelly Hyberger** as she explores the nuanced history of Indigenous displacement in Kentucky and examines the complex interplay of Colonialism, property ownership, and sovereignty.

Cost: \$8, non-members; \$6, LG members.

Sovereign Nations, American Citizens: 100 Years of Indigenous Citizenship

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. Third Street



Celebrate Native American Heritage Month at a panel discussion about Indigenous Sovereignty and Citizenship. Leading the discussion will be **Dr. Burgundy Fletcher (Peoria)** and **Dr. Liza Black (Cherokee Nation)**, who will offer their insights on this pivotal

topic. Locust Grove's Program Director **Raina Melvin (Comanche)** will moderate the discussion.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Snyder Act, which granted U.S. citizenship to Native Americans, a milestone that continues to resonate deeply within Indigenous communities.

This is a partnered event between Historic Locust Grove and The Filson Historical Society. It will take place at The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. Third Street in Louisville.

[Click for tickets here in mid-September.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunset Yoga with Studio Hustle



Immerse yourself in the soothing sounds of nature and join us for a calming experience. Connect with your breathing and let the tranquility sweep away the stress of the outside world. Guided by experienced instructors from **Studio Hustle**,

you'll unwind and stretch in a serene park setting. This class is open to all experience levels. Join us on these Sunset Yoga dates:

Tuesday, August 20, 6:30 PM

Suggested donation: \$10.

Tuesday, October 15, 6:30 PM

Suggested donation: \$10

Fall Antiques Market

Sunday, September 29, 10 AM – 4:30 PM



Check out the treasures at the Antiques Market! There's something for all tastes and every budget. Featuring dozens of professional dealers from around the region, the Antiques Market offers fine and country furniture, books, textiles, jewelry, ephemera, silver, china, and more.

Admission includes the historic house museum beginning at 1:00 p.m. Food and drink are available. Cost: \$10 for adults, free for all under 18 years of age.

Big August Book Sale!

Members' Preview: Thursday, Aug. 22, 10 AM–7 PM

Public Sale: Friday–Sunday, Aug. 23–25, 10 AM–4:30 PM



"I love the way that each book is its own journey. You open it, and off you go."

– Sharon Creech, children's book author

So many journeys await you at Locust Grove's big August book sale. The entire auditorium will be filled with more than 22,000 books — including a special children's book room. All the

books are organized into categories including history, fiction, mystery, cooking, religion, New Age, travel, and literature. Plus, there's even a big selection of jigsaw puzzles.

Most books are \$1 for paperbacks and \$2 for hardbacks. There's also a special area for individually priced finer books still at great prices.

Thursday's Members' Preview is a special "Thank you" for those who provide ongoing support for Locust Grove.

Members get the first chance to browse and purchase books before the sale opens to the general public. Memberships are available [here](#) or at the door during Thursday's Preview. Proceeds from book sales support the educational and preservation programs at Locust Grove.



Frankenstein

Performed by Kentucky Shakespeare

Date: To Be Announced, 7 PM

Join us for a hauntingly memorable evening as **Kentucky Shakespeare** presents a staged reading of Mary Shelley's classic *Frankenstein* in the Pavilion at Locust Grove. This Halloween event promises to be a chilling and atmospheric experience. Come in your best costume if you'd like and immerse yourself in the eerie tale of ambition and monstrosity. This is the perfect way to celebrate the spooky season with a touch of literary drama. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments by Crowler Catering will be available for purchase. No outside food or drinks allowed.

Cost: \$22, non-members; \$17, LG members

Tickets will go on sale in early October.



Fall on the Farm

Saturday, October 19, 10 AM – 3 PM

Join us for demonstrations, foods, vendors, artists, and hands-on activities to see what it would have been like for the Clarks, Croghans, and the enslaved community to prepare for the winter

(More information on page 7)

IRENE RAWLINGS — NEW AUDREY PILKINGTON AWARD WINNER

The 16th recipient of Locust Grove's prestigious Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award is **Irene Rawlings**.

The award recognizes volunteers who have offered a lifetime of dedication and support to Locust Grove.

Begun in 1998, the award was named for Audrey Pilkington in 2000 in recognition of her pioneering work and positive energy in nurturing Locust Grove's volunteers. The award now has been granted 16 times over the past 27 years to volunteers who set an example of constant attention and unfailing enthusiasm for all that Locust Grove does.

Director of Interpretation **Kaitlyn Tisdale** presented the award at the Volunteer Appreciation party in May, describing Irene's many contributions to Locust Grove over the last 18 years.

"Irene is the epitome of an excellent Locust Grove volunteer. She exemplifies all of the qualities that the Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates," said Kaitlyn during the awards ceremony.

"Irene goes above and beyond in her service to our beloved historic site. Her unwavering dedication, passion,



and tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on all who have had the pleasure of crossing paths with her."

Visitors will find Irene on the first floor of the historic home during events and leading tours. She's active with Locust Grove's book sales and chaired the Volunteer Steering Committee for two years — giving Locust Grove more than 2,000 volunteer hours since 2006.

"It is not only her actions that set her apart," added Kaitlyn, "but the warmth of her smile, the kindness in her words, and the genuine love she exudes for our site, its history, and its many volunteers.

"To Irene, we extend our deepest gratitude and admiration. You are an inspiration and your contributions will be cherished for years to come."

The first recipient of the Audrey Pilkington Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998 was **Emilie Strong Smith**, followed in successive years by **Martin Schmidt, Fred Atkinson, Dorothy Martin, Bob Pilkington, LaMar Gaston, Gwynne Potts, Shirley Dumesnil, Nancy Lee, Preston Thomas, Alberta Baker, Jeannie Litterst Vezeau, Lynn Swetnam Boone, George Plager, and Diane Statler.**

Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Concerts — 2024-2025

Locust Grove's Chamber Music's 41st season continues to present the music that the Clarks and Croghans would have enjoyed in the early to mid-1800s. In recognition of Locust Grove's commitment to accessibility, this season's three concerts will be enjoyed in either the historic house, in Locust Grove's Audubon Room, or in the outdoor covered Pavilion. In appreciation of our subscribers, each level also will receive a certain number of tickets to our new *Music Under the Pavilion Summer Concert Series*.

2024-2025 Chamber Music Subscription Levels:

Subscriber: \$60: Admission to all three Chamber Music Series concerts and one ticket to a concert of your choice in the Music Under the Pavilion series.

Supporter Level: \$100: Admission to all three Chamber Music Series concerts and two tickets to Music Under the Pavilion series.

Patron Level: \$250: Admission to all three Chamber Music Series concerts plus four tickets to the Music Under the Pavilion series.

Individual Tickets: \$22

Doors open at 5 PM; concerts begin at 5:30 PM

Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, 5:30 PM, Historic House *Tudor Music from the Bottom of the Sea.*

In July 1545, King Henry VIII's Flagship, *The Mary Rose*, sank near Portsmouth, England, during a battle. In the hold was a cache of instruments. The ship was raised in 1988, and some 19,000 artifacts, including two Renaissance fiddles, were recovered. This program of Tudor music will be played on faithful reproductions of those fiddles.

Sunday, March 30, 2025, 5:30 PM, Audubon Room *March is for Mozart.*

These marvelous quartets for flute and string trio were composed in 1777-78 during Mozart's first extended tour without his father. They are considered to be the most outstanding works in the genre. **Margaret Jamner** joins the **Locust Grove Musicians** for Mozart's K285 and K285b.

Sunday, June 1, 2025, 5:30 PM, Outdoor Pavilion *Joseph Haydn: Trios from Three Countries*

A concert of trios written in England, France, and Hungary. Join the **Locust Grove Musicians** for this light entertainment performed *en plein air* in our Pavilion.

[Click for More Info and Tickets.](#)

FALL ON THE FARM — 18th Century Style

Raina Melvin, Program Director

Autumn was an especially busy time on a farm like Locust Grove, with preparations for the winter ahead.

Provisions made on the farm were smoked, dried, fermented, and distilled. Warmer textiles were readied for beds, curtains, and clothing. And winter housing had to be prepared for the farm animals.

This **October 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, we invite you to a fun day of family-friendly and hands-on activities, demonstrations, and vendors — offering a variety of experiences that highlight the unique history and vibrant community of early Louisville.

Learn about 18th- and 19th-century skills and trades with live demonstrations from volunteers and local non-profits. Local artists and performers will bring the spirit of Locust Grove to life with their talent and creativity.

Details and pricing to be announced.



Locust Grove Unveils Its New Website



After months of consulting and writing and organizing and then doing it all again and again, Locust Grove is proud to present its [new website](#).

Instrumental to the success of the project is the Nashville, Tenn.-based small business, **Landslide Creative** — a company with a stellar reputation for working with small museums.

The new website is a comprehensive, user-friendly resource for all things Locust Grove. Visitor advice, an up-to-date calendar, lots of options for historical data, easy-to-access membership information, tickets, even an audio and virtual tour — all at the click of a mouse.

“This digital upgrade is making it easier to update the site, allowing us to let users know about last-minute changes and opportunities,” says President and CEO **Carol Ely**. “We’ll also be able to be more creative in providing in-depth historical research and online exhibits.”

The development process was a collaborative effort spearheaded by Program Director **Raina Melvin**, Marketing Coordinator **Harlan Dawkins**, and Director of Interpretation **Kaitlyn Tisdale**.

“We meticulously identified essential requirements,” says Raina. “We were determined to have a website that was easy to use and provided a rich, accessible experience for our visitors.”

“We invite everyone to explore the new site and discover the wealth of historical information and resources on it.”

SPIRIT AWARD



Martha Alexander

Cheerful. Enthusiastic. Knowledgeable. Kind. Upbeat. Reliable. These and many more adjectives abound when people are asked to describe this issue's Spirit Award Winner, **Martha Alexander**.



Although a volunteer at Locust Grove only since last year, Martha has become a vital participant in activities at the historic site. You'll find her as a docent, leading tours and student field trips. She's a regular worker at Locust Grove's book sales and makes delicious treats for Locust Grove's lectures. And she jumps into helping at special events wherever she's needed.

"Martha's commitment to volunteering is matched only by her cheerful demeanor and wonderful spirit," says Director of Interpretation **Kaitlyn Tisdale**. "She consistently shows overwhelming kindness that enhances the experience for everyone involved."

A native Kentuckian, Martha grew up "mostly in Somerset" among other cities around the commonwealth. After graduating from the University of Kentucky, she worked as a speech-language pathologist with adults and children. She lived in Atlanta for some 30 years where she taught at Emory University and worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("the CDC").

"A few years after I retired, I moved to Louisville in 2022 where I have family," Martha says. "I've always been interested in history, which led me to take an excellent tour of Locust Grove the next year. I'd been looking for somewhere to volunteer and realized that Locust Grove would be a great place to spend my time."

Around the same time she was studying to be a docent, Martha met Locust Grove Board member **Brenda Tuckson** at another organization's volunteer event.

"When I learned that Martha was getting involved at Locust Grove, I asked if she had heard about our great Book Sale events," says Brenda. "She said she hadn't yet but that she loves books. She accepted my invitation to volunteer at the next sale — and now she's a regular."

Martha adds that she's delighted to be involved at Locust Grove and enjoys all the activities she's been a part of, as well as interactions with guests, staff, docents, and volunteers.

"I have loved history since I was young," she adds. "History was a part of many of our family vacations. In fact, I remember visiting Locust Grove when I was in elementary school and, in particular, being amazed by the Ice House!"

LOCUST GROVE HOSTS A NATURALIZATION CEREMONY ON THE FOURTH OF JULY

On July 4th, 37 people hailing from 18 countries took the Oath of Allegiance in Locust Grove's Audubon auditorium. Proud family members and friends overflowed the room to witness this significant moment for their loved ones, waving American flags and sporting their red, white, and blue attire.



Before the swearing in, Locust Grove docent **Troy Overton** led his Scouts in the Presentation of Colors. U. S. Congressman **Morgan McGarvey** opened the event along with singer **Carolyn Dawson's** beautiful rendition of the National Anthem.



Locust Grove Program Director **Raina Melvin**, an American citizen and a citizen of Comanche Nation, gave a powerful speech during the event. "Since the Declaration

of Independence was signed in 1776, it took 92 years for African Americans and 148 years for Indigenous people to gain American citizenship," she said. "Your journey to this moment has been filled with challenges and triumphs, perseverance and hope. Today as you sit here, you embody the spirit of the resiliency and pursuit of the American dream."

[Click here to see video of the ceremony.](#)

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE DONATIONS

Donations received from April 1 through July 31, 2024.

Many thanks to the hundreds of people who support Historic Locust Grove through memberships and various kinds of donation. We depend upon and deeply appreciate your generosity and involvement.

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Prentice E. Brown
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IN MEMORIAM

William O. Alden, Jr.
TJ McAfee
Jean Miller
Gladys Pope

We note with sadness the recent death of this member of our Locust Grove family. We treasure his generous contributions to Locust Grove of time, energy, support, and enthusiasm.

Commemorating Lafayette's 1825 Tour



Locust Grove is pleased to support our friends who are working to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Marquis de Lafayette's 1825 tour of America, including Louisville.

Due to timing, Locust Grove will not be involved directly in the May 2025 events. But on **Sunday, Sept. 25**, you'll hear more about the celebration at this Tea and Regency Style Show. Ticket information is at the bottom of the invitation or on the QR code.



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