



# Grove Gazette

Spring 2025

## Heritage, Connections, Collaboration — Keys to the Future

*Jessica Dawkins, President & CEO*

One of the reasons we love historic homes is the comfort we find in the continuity of time — especially as the world moves so quickly around us.

For a home like Locust Grove, there have been two centuries of people who round the corners of Blankenbaker Lane to see the tall brick house sitting upon the hill, surrounded by farmland, meadows, and stone buildings begging to be explored. And while the structures may seem frozen in time, the business of **Locust Grove advances toward modernity with a mission rooted in service.**

As a National Historic Landmark and Louisville Metro Park, Locust Grove serves as an asset for the People – a place where they can learn our nation’s history or become immersed in Kentucky’s natural landscape. A place to celebrate with family & friends in our outdoor pavilion, or even a place to pick up a unique holiday gift or out-of-print book.

As I orient myself to these incredibly beautiful surroundings, I am in awe of our heritage assets and the possibilities within them. As I begin my tenure here, I find myself reflecting on the experiences that led me to museum leadership.

I started my career giving tours at Farmington, wrangling students at the Portland Museum, and building community at Culbertson Mansion in New Albany. For nearly a decade, I bridged the gap between Louisville and Southern Indiana, and for the past 5 years, I’ve helped elevate the importance of Kentucky history in



Frankfort. As Executive Director at Liberty Hall, I came to understand the difference between welcoming and belonging. At my core, I believe historic sites are for YOU. From the beginning, my work has been marked by a passion for history and a desire to succeed, but **my hallmark is the importance of connection.**

Meaningful connections with visitors become an experience, and experiences become lasting memories that tie us to a particular place and time.

The human connections we create are crucial to the livelihood of our work, and my vision for Locust Grove is one embedded with the values of curiosity, compassion, and community.

I will not do things “as they’ve always been done,” but I will aim for

bold initiatives, creative partnerships, and dynamic experiences. I’ll seek new avenues of collaboration to ensure history is recognized as a vital tool for civic engagement, but that it can be super fun too! I truly LOVE history, and that feeling can be contagious.

In the years ahead, we’ll continue as stewards of this incredible land and the buildings upon it, sharing stories of the past and how we came to be. But we’ll also use it to inspire ideas of who we can be. We’ll help instill the value of history for ourselves, for our community, and for our future **because it’s not just about the past — it’s about what we do with it.**

I look forward to connecting with you! Come by and see us any time.

# 'Learning the Ways of Locust Grove'

What a warm welcome I've received since my first day at Locust Grove, even though it was the same day we got nine inches of snow! So many have reached out with flowers, cards, and good wishes to a great start.

One card came from my friend Steve Wiser, local historian and architect. In it was an old, yellowed article printed in *The Courier-Journal* on September 7, 1982. Written by columnist Joan Kay, the headline reads, "New Director Learns Ways of Locust Grove" and details the change from Frances Wood to Barbara Kozlowski.

I thought it funny the columnist first described the serenity of the grounds upon approach because I'd just written this issue's cover story with the same exact sentiment! But the article quickly refers to Ms. Kozlowski's first task: to ensure a smooth event for the 1,500 Kentucky Fried Chicken employees holding their company retreat on the grounds. The site just started renting facilities to companies, families, and other organizations – which remains to be one of our most important functions today.

The feature then describes the brand-new Visitors' Center, with its large open room to accommodate indoor events. You know this as the Audubon Room, which just received a complete restoration since its opening 43 years ago. My first days here were marked by the sounds of power tools, air brakes from large equipment and an incredible team of architects, contractors, and Board members who kept the project ready for re-opening March 4th.

Describing the adaptability required of a visitor-serving organization, Mrs. Wood commented, "You really have to keep on top of changing interests." And still today we assess our relevance within a modern, fast-paced world.

Mrs. Kozlowski remarked on the diversity of the Director's job description. "It's a multi-faceted job... It's managerial, financial, and promotional with a bit of furniture moving thrown in."

With great certainty, I attest this still rings true! While I haven't moved much furniture, I have loaded hundreds of books for Locust Grove's largest fundraiser, our Big Book Sale. But she was right in her assessment – keeping a comprehensive mindset to museum management is so important.

As I begin this journey, there is comfort in knowing my predecessors faced many of the same feelings, both joys and challenges. But it's also exciting to imagine new possibilities and opportunities, and how I might usher in my own era on the Locust Grove timeline. One thing you won't find from 1982? I'm afraid \$2.00 admission is a thing of the past.



**Jessica Dawkins, President & CEO**

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*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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## Remarkable Women and Their Remarkable Receipts

Kaitlyn Tisdale, Director of Interpretation

Locust Grove's history has no shortage of remarkable women. History has often relegated these women to the margins of the American story; but sometimes, history literally keeps the receipts.

A recently discovered receipt book from The People's Archive in Washington D.C., sheds new light on Ann Croghan Jesup (1797-1846), the eldest daughter born here at Locust Grove. At age 25, Ann married General



Anne Croghan Jesup

Thomas S. Jesup and gave birth to their first child, Lucy Ann, at Locust Grove.

Shortly after, the young family headed for Washington and built a home a stone's throw from the White House. Their receipt "book" (receipts carefully pasted

into a bound stack of newspapers) reflects a family "setting up house" in late summer August 1823.

Purchases show the family stocked household goods like tea caddies, candlesticks, coffee mills, and medicine. But upon closer examination, it's not the finances of these receipts that fascinate, but rather the stories of real life within them — particularly for Ann as a new mother. For example, on March 6, 1824, Ann purchased a "breast pipe," which is an early version of the breast pump. Mostly used for short-term solutions to establish or bolster milk supply or to provide milk for an infant too weak to nurse, this was a tool that any 19th C. mother would want on hand. Other medicinal purchases illuminate the practicality of women's health, particularly for a woman like Ann who bore nine children in rapid succession:

- **Rattle Weed Root** — to relieve pain from menstruation and childbirth
- **Castor Oil** — to relieve "false pains" during labor and assist in labor induction
- **Blue Pills** — a mercury-based treatment for many maladies, from toothaches to tuberculosis, but also pains in childbirth.

Following the births of Lucy Ann (April 1823) and Eliza (September 1824), there is a noticeable rise in candle and lamp oil purchases — and a shocking amount spent on tea and sugar. These receipts paint a picture of Ann's life in a way that sounds all too familiar.....

During frequent nighttime feeding sessions, Ann was reading by candlelight.

A receipt for books in October 1824 for books shows that Ann's choice in literature is simultaneously intellectual and progressive. She purchased titles including *Hobomok* and *Redwood*. These works, both written by female authors and featuring strong-willed female protagonists, serve as a critique of the strict societal boundaries women faced in the early 19th century.

We can infer, as with many new mothers, that Ann was undergoing her own metamorphosis. While she was shaped by the rhythms of her frontier upbringing, Ann found herself in America's capital city, and motherhood allowed her to experience new freedoms of physical and intellectual empowerment.

She took charge of her health by stocking the medicine cabinet with supplies for herself and her babies. She challenged herself intellectually by purchasing compelling narratives that undoubtedly stretched the boundaries of her comfort zone.

While we won't know if she embraced every idea presented by these texts, they almost certainly served as a catalyst for introspection on the nature of her world and the American identity evolving around her.



19th C Breast pipe (left) and a baby bottle  
Credit: The Philadelphia Archaeological Forum

# Upcoming Events

## Big Spring Book Sale

**Member Preview:**

Thursday, March 20, 10 AM – 7 PM

**Public Sale:**

Friday–Sunday, March 21-23, 10 AM – 5 PM



**“Books and doors are the same thing. You open them, and you go through into another world.”**

– Jeanette Winterson

More than 25,000 “doors” are ready to be opened at Locust Grove’s Book Sale! Thousands of gently used books at fantastic prices, organized into easy-to-find categories. Whether you’re looking for timeless classics, thrilling mysteries, delightful children’s books, fiction favorites, audio books, or inspiring non-fiction, you’re sure to find a treasure. Many books are \$1 and \$2, with special books priced at \$3 and up. Stock up on spring reads AND support Locust Grove!

## Afternoon Lecture Series

Wednesday, April 2, 1 PM



### **“Lafayette: America’s Young Hero & the Battle of Brandywine”**

Join **Bruce E. Mowday**, an award-winning author and journalist with more than 25 books on history, sports, business, and true crime. He’ll share how the Marquis de LaFayette, a 19-year-old Frenchman, built a lifelong

relationship with George Washington and ended up fighting for the independence of the new nation. This talk is part of Locust Grove’s celebration of the bicentennial of Lafayette’s 1825 visit to Louisville. Admission: \$6 for members, \$8 for non-members.



## Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Concert

**“March is for Mozart”**

Sunday, March 30, 5:30 PM

Our Chamber Music Concert Series presents music from the early 19th century, and this month, March is for Mozart! **Margaret Jamner** joins us for a stunning performance of Mozart’s Quartets K. 285 and K. 285b, two of the most celebrated works for flute & string trio.

Composed during Mozart’s 1777–78 journey through Mannheim and Paris, these works are considered among the most outstanding compositions in the genre. They offer a glimpse into Mozart’s evolving style during this formative period of music.

This concert will be in the newly renovated Audubon Room inside the Visitors’ Center - with accessibility for all. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for refreshments; the concert begins at 5:30 p.m. Admission: \$20 for members, \$22 for non- members.



## Sunset Yoga

Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 PM

This yoga practice has become a popular way find peace while enjoying the beauty of our natural landscape. It’s held in Locust Grove’s outdoor Pavilion as the sun sets over the historic grounds. You’ll be guided by experienced instructors from **Studio Hustle** in St. Matthews. This donation-based experience is beginner-friendly, and all are welcome.



# Upcoming Events

## Workshop: Floral Impressions with JamilaWorks

Sunday, April 27, 1 PM



**Jamila Young** is the founder of *JamilaWorks*, a floral company specializing in floral preservation art. *JamilaWorks* focuses on creating keepsake memorials through various wearable & displayable preservation pieces. Its mission is to produce timeless, functional, and unique art. In the workshop, you'll create a botanical print using fresh flowers and leaves to press, arrange, and transfer natural textures onto paper so you can take home your own floral masterpiece!

Added Bonus: All workshop attendees will receive a discount to the *JamilaWorks* vendor booth at this year's Gardeners' Fair! Her floral jewelry is also available in Locust Grove's Museum Store.

This workshop will take place in the Locust Grove garden.\*  
Admission: \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members.

*\*In the case of bad weather, the workshop will be in the Audubon Room inside the Locust Grove Visitors' Center.*

## Music Under the Pavilion

*This summer concert series celebrates our community's rich musical heritage. The concerts are held each month under our outdoor Pavilion and feature performances by local artists who cover an eclectic mix of musical styles. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; performances begin at 6:30 p.m. Beverages and snacks are available to purchase - no outside food please! Admission: \$15 for adults, \$5 for children 4-16, 3 & under free.*

### Croghan's Crossing (Celtic)

Tuesday, May 20, 6 PM

**Croghan's Crossing** is an Irish band based out of Louisville that plays traditional Irish music with a pinch of bluegrass influence. They love to play upbeat dance numbers or slow down into a beautiful waltz. Every once in a while, they throw in a fun drinking song.



### Johnny Berry (Country)

Tuesday, July 15, 6 PM

**Johnny Berry** started the "Outliers" in 2002 and is the seven-time winner of "Best Country/ Western Band" in the *LEO's Best of Louisville* list. He started his career "many moons ago" at the old Opryland Park. Berry's music is played worldwide.



### Tyrone Cotton (Blues & Folk)

Tuesday, June 17, 6 PM

Louisville native **Tyrone Cotton** is a singer-songwriter with a unique voice and vivid songs. He brings a soulful sound that's refreshingly honest and real. His own writing is deeply personal and pulls from and embodies a vast landscape of soul, folk, blues, jazz, & rock n roll.



### Appalatin (Latin/Bluegrass)

Tuesday, August 19, 6 PM

**Appalatin's** foot-stomping, hip-swinging sounds unite Appalachian folk & high-energy Latin music, reflecting the fusion of Kentuckians & Latin émigrés from Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.



# Gardens & Grounds

## Celebrate the 30th Annual Gardeners' Fair!

Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and 11 , 10AM – 4:30PM



Join us as we celebrate the  
**30th Anniversary**  
of Locust Grove's Gardeners' Fair!

This event marks our annual welcome to the new spring season, where we invite the community to participate in a fair that showcases Louisville's natural talent for our natural world. Featuring over 40 vendors with plants, herbs, & unique artisan goods, nature lovers can find an array of gifts and other items to get you ready for Spring.



From vendors who have been with us from the beginning, like **502 Hemp** or **Pine View Nursery**, to our newest vendors like **Jamila Works**, this event carries all varieties of plants, herbs, and botanicals, as well as handcrafted goods including pottery, candles, jewelry, and garden art. Vendor tents and displays fill the shaded lawns of Locust Grove, complete with local food trucks, and even our volunteer **Judy Chang** brings the goodies with her annual Bake Sale fundraiser.

Find inspiration and connect to the land with Locust Grove!  
Admission: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children 6 – 17; children 6 & under Free  
All proceeds support the work of this treasured National Historic Landmark.

Don't forget about our **Tea in the Garden** held the same weekend.  
Watch our socials or locustgrove.org to reserve your spot - tickets will sell out!



## Spring Is Popping Up at Locust Grove

Sarah Sutherland, Gardener

Welcome Spring! While it may look & feel like the end of winter, we already see the first blooms of the season – reviving our spirits and giving our resident bees some much needed fuel.

As the snow melts, you may notice a haze of purple, cup-like blooms carpeting lawns and parks throughout the city. These are *Crocus tommasinianus*, also called **Tommie or Snow Crocus**.

At Locust Grove, they poke up near the cemetery in the dappled shade of the trees along the fence. You will also see **Snowdrops**, or *Galanthus nivalis*. Another European native, these flowers bloom even earlier than the Snow Crocus and push their tiny white bells through snow and ice, totally unharmed.



**Tommie Crocus**



**Snowdrops**

They bloom in clumps all over Locust Grove but are easiest to find against the log cabin, along the walkway to the house. Soon after, you can spy *Leucojum aestivum* – or **Summer Snowflake** – putting on a show along the stone wall.

They look like snowdrops but taller, with leaves much like their daffodil neighbors. Native to central Europe, this spring bloomer has two to three white bells per stalk and a little green dot on the tip of each petal.

These are just a few of our earliest flowers, but I hope you'll visit Locust Grove yourself to discover the many surprises growing here on the land.

# Education

## Field Trips Connect Our History to Our Future

**Kaitlyn Tisdale and Ronnie Dreistadt**

Since opening in 1964, Historic Locust Grove has offered students comprehensive educational experiences on many aspects of history — the beginnings of our nation & state, westward expansion, enslavement, and an array of cultural practices of the past.

But after 6 decades, we learned these experiences are more than just connecting students to core curriculum. Director of Interpretation **Kaitlyn Tisdale** and Education Coordinator **Ronnie Dreistadt** developed new pathways for students to understand history as a tool to help shape their future.

*“Through new educational initiatives at Locust Grove, we strive to cultivate students into global thinkers and civic do-ers,”* says Kaitlyn.

Each field trip option includes an introduction to our site and its history, a guided tour of Locust Grove, and exciting new interactive programs on subjects like math, science, and of course, social studies.

These hands-on activities allow students to engage with historical content in meaningful ways — calculating measurements used in 18th-century farming, exploring scientific innovations of the time, or analyzing the social dynamics of early America.

By integrating these disciplines, Locust Grove provides real-world examples that support all learning styles.

*“We love taking students on an unforgettable journey back to when Louisville, and our new nation, was just beginning,”* adds Ronnie. *“As our community continues to evolve, these experiences remain vital in helping the next generation understand and value the past while looking toward the future.”*

We believe our educational programs are an opportunity to build connections to our community’s heritage. Students leave with a greater appreciation for the people who shaped Louisville’s early history and the enduring lessons their stories offer. We invite teachers and students to join us on this unforgettable journey through time and discover the rich history that lies at the heart of Louisville.”



## Renovated Audubon Room Now Complete!

We stayed busy this Winter with a complete restoration of the Audubon Room. Working with architects at deLeon & Primmer, Woodbine Construction, and dozens of subcontractors, this beautiful space received more than just a fresh coat of paint. Upgraded installations include a state-of-the-art Audio/Visual system, new restroom facilities, an indoor classroom space, and more. Now ready for rentals, programs, and other events!



**Artist's rendering of the new Audubon Room.**



**Taken March 1st, 2025**

# Spirit Award: Jennifer McCormick

**Jennifer McCormick** personifies the spirit of Locust Grove. Sporting her trademark hat and boots, she is always ready to help with enthusiasm and dedication. Not only is she a supporter of our mission, but she goes the extra step to support the Locust Grove Board, Staff, and fellow volunteers. Because of these commitments, the Volunteer Steering Committee (VSC) selected Jennifer as this issue's Spirit Award winner.

*"Jennifer is a kind, giving, wonderful person,"* says volunteer **Judy Chang**. *"She volunteers hours and hours, doing whatever needs to be done"*

Adds volunteer **Martha Alexander**, *"Jennifer is everywhere and in a great way. And I think she does a lot of things quietly. I've seen her several times filling her car with Locust Grove recycling to take to the recycling center."*

After moving into a house adjoining Locust Grove's woods in 1989, Jennifer says she *"began roaming the woods and fields and attending every event open to the public."*



She volunteers in the gardens & woods, and she makes sure to keep the trails clear, even leading nature walks with visitors!

She is on hand at every book sale - setting up books, packing up book purchases, and helping clean-up.

*"Jennifer is our children's books expert,"* says **Brenda Tuckson**, VSC chair and volunteer coordinator for Locust Grove's book sales. *"She seems to know nearly every book in our children's section."* Jennifer worked as a social worker with foster children and pediatric patients, which opened her heart to children. *"I love finding books that appeal to children. I am thrilled when I can point them to books they're looking for or introduce them to a new treasure."*

Above all, she loves her friendships with volunteers and staff. She says, *"Locust Grove draws amazing people who cherish green spaces, community, ideas, and stories - people who are determined to establish and defend 'a more perfect union' for everyone."*

## Making History More Accessible:

### Locust Grove Partners with Blue Star Museums & Museums for All

Locust Grove is now an official **Blue Star Museum**, and a member of the **Museums for All** program! Through Museums for All, we offer free admission to those receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) who show their EBT card and ID upon arrival. As a Blue Star Museum, we offer free admission to active-duty military personnel and their families from Armed Forces Day (Saturday, May 17th) to Labor Day (Monday, September 1st, 2025). This is just one way we can give back and provide access to our history and heritage here at Locust Grove. For more information on either program, visit our website and follow the links to each page.





# Support

**Donations received from November 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025.  
Many thanks to the hundreds of people who support Historic Locust Grove.  
We deeply appreciate your generosity and involvement.**

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Kentucky Historical Society

## Annual Fund Societies

***For people donating \$250 and more to Historic Locust Grove from November 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025.***

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Presented by the Kentucky Trust for Historic Preservation  
in collaboration with Locust Grove





**KENTUCKY HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION SUMMIT**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025**  
10am-4pm Historic Locust Grove, Louisville, KY

Join us for a one-day conference to discuss the future of historic preservation in Kentucky, and how to build capacity & sustainability in the Commonwealth.

Guests will hear from **Valecia Crisafulli**, President of Partnerships at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and **J. Myrick Howard**, author of *Buying Time for Heritage* and former President of Preservation North Carolina.

Registration is \$55 per person and includes a light breakfast, boxed lunch, and a copy of *Buying Time for Heritage*.

Visit [www.kthp.org](http://www.kthp.org) for tickets.



## Louisville Celebrates Lafayette's Visit 200 Years Ago

In 1824, President James Monroe invited the Marquis de Lafayette to visit the United States as the last living Revolutionary War General. For the past two years, events across the nation have been tracing Lafayette's visit in the exact order, on the exact dates in commemoration of his service to the newly formed nation he helped build.

For this historic bicentennial, the celebration begins on **Saturday, May 10**, celebrating Lafayette's arrival at the Portland Wharf. It includes the unveiling of a marker, followed by festivities at the Wharf, and activities at the Portland Museum. The celebration continues with **"The Lafayette Bicentennial Dinner & Ball"** at the Pendennis Club.

The events culminate on **Monday, May 12 at the Big Four Waterfront Park**. A Marquis reenactor will be escorted by the Old Guard Army Fife & Drum Corps, and the public is invited to join the *Parade of Flags* across the bridge to Jeffersonville for the dedication the Unknown Revolution War Patriots Memorial at Jeffersonville's Veteran's Memorial Park.

Guests will return to Louisville for food, drink, and toasts to the heroes of the American Revolution, with an additional event at the York St. Scottish Rite Temple that evening.

To learn more about each event, including registration information, please email Sue Rogers at [scoutrogers@yahoo.com](mailto:scoutrogers@yahoo.com).

