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# Preservation Matters

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE BLUE GRASS TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## Happenings at the Hunt-Morgan House *Restroom Project Needs Your Help*

by John Hackworth, Hunt-Morgan House Committee Chair

In addition to the seasonal docent-led tours, the weddings, and other special event rentals, the Hunt-Morgan House has been the site of lots of activity recently. The House has “new” shutters, and plans for the handicap-accessible first floor restroom are rapidly moving forward.

The shutters on the house were in such a state of disrepair that a few years ago the board decided to remove all of them. Some were in much better shape than others, but the overall appearance was a distraction to the house. Ever since the

removal of the shutters, the Hunt-Morgan House Committee has had on its agenda to replace the shutters, but the funds were lacking to accomplish this project and more pressing maintenance issues always seemed to jump ahead of shutter restoration.

Finally, good fortune has befallen the flagship of the Blue Grass Trust! The windows on the Mill Street and Second Street sides of the house once again have shutters, preserving the true historic appearance. The spirit of John Hunt Morgan must be pleased with this turn of events. His second wife’s family is responsible for this largesse, which has returned the shutters to the House. Phase IV Contractors, Inc. was able to take the

best of the shutters and restore them, making them better than those formerly in the windows. The source of the funds for this project was a grant from Mattie Ready Morgan Williamson's family. (Portraits of Mattie Ready Morgan [later Williamson] and her daughter, Johnnie Hunt Morgan, hang in the Civil War museum room. More on those portraits will be in the next *Preservation Matters*.)

The interior of the house has not been neglected either. The Blue Grass Trust is extremely appreciative of Steve Moore and his crew at American Historical Paint for all of their help with the Hunt-Morgan House. Because of their generosity, the Trust was able to paint the main stair hall, the Thomas Hunt Morgan room, the back stair

*(continued on page 3)*



GARDEN ELEVATION





## Message from Our President



Linda Carroll  
2010-2011 BGT President

### GREETINGS FROM MARKET STREET,

As I chaired the most recent board meeting for the first time and asked all of our members to introduce themselves and talk about their preservation interest and background, jaws dropped around the room. Our collective sweat equity in individual, personal, or public preservation projects and efforts spans decades. Our board brings remarkable knowledge and skill to the Blue Grass Trust and to central Kentucky. As we spoke about ourselves we realized that our efforts also brought a new sense of community wherever our preservation efforts took us. These comments reflect on only 20 people in the room. What if all of you, the members in the Blue Grass Trust told your preservation story? The dedicated amount of time would quickly move from decades to centuries and your work forever changed parts of the Commonwealth.

time) and some of the best people on earth created the Mulberry Hill Historic District. No developer or government official could achieve the same result. We live in houses ranging from circa 1797 to 1875. We stabilized a block of old buildings and we became a neighborhood with children, dogs, weddings and funerals.

It would have been easy to knock everything down and start with a clean slate but community develops because people work side by side with a common goal. As preservationists, we agree with the great Irishman Edmund Burke's observation that society is a "partnership ... between those who are living, those who are dead, and those who are to be born." We serve as stewards for the next generation. While I claim bragging rights for my own neighborhood on this

you is to have this conversation with your friends and your family members and if you find they share your values, hand them a copy of this newsletter and invite them to become a member of the Blue Grass Trust.

I am honored to be associated with this organization.

The Blue Grass Trust's service to preservation and community over the past several years (four to be specific) improved under the guidance of Julie Good as our Executive Director. As our former president, Foster Pettit said, Julie brought youth, energy and wisdom to her job. Julie recently accepted a new challenge as the Executive Director of the



Historic Beaufort Foundation in Beaufort, South Carolina. With a Master's in Historic Preservation and fine management skills, the city of Beaufort can look forward to remarkable leadership.

The Board of the Blue Grass Trust launched a national search for her replacement and the closing date for applications is set for October 1.

*It would have been easy to knock everything down and start with a clean slate but community develops because people work side by side with a common goal.*

When the Alltech-FEI World Equestrian Game visitors arrive later this month and look with awe at the Adam Rankin house, Gratz Park as a whole, our 14 historic districts, our stunning downtown churches, Paris Pike, Town Branch, our dry stone walls and more...you should take a moment and congratulate yourself for your part in any one of those efforts and know your work mattered.

Creating community takes time. My personal story starts twenty-six years ago when I took on a house in one of the worst neighborhoods in Lexington, the 300 block of North Limestone. We had prostitution, drug sales and worse as daily occurrences. The process of slow restoration (one house at a

philosophy, I can say the same about every single member of the Blue Grass Trust. You participate in this 55 year old organization because you put the rights of future generations first when the subject of preservation is raised. Now my challenge to

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Keep up to date on all of the Trust's news and events!



## 2010 PRESERVATION AWARDS



palette using simple shapes, supple textures and use of diverse natural materials such as cowhide, leather, wood, wool and luxe fabrics like cashmere and Alpaca to create an ordered space. With 9 years of retail experience and 5 years at L.V. Harkness & Co., he has been able to enhance his visual creativity and business talents within the interior design field.

Hampton's public face and work can be seen either as a member or active participant in the following organizations/benefits: the Blue Grass Trust, BGT Antiques and Garden Show, Knox Co. Historical Society, Daniel Boone Window Display, many Decorator Showcases, Freedom Fest (which benefits the Woodford County Humane Society), Iota Sigma Nu Honorary Society, Beaux Arts Balls, M.A.C. events, Jewel Balls (held at the Headley-Whitney Museum), Wine Auctions, AVOL (AIDS Volunteers of Lexington) and the JustFundKY organization.

Traveling Fellowship from the University of Pennsylvania which enabled him to conduct post-graduate study and research on European architecture, after which he was invited to teach at the University of Kentucky in the newly formed program in Architecture. He has served as Associate Dean and Acting Dean of the College of Architecture. In addition to teaching, he practiced architecture with Graves Hill Architects before opening his own firm in 1970. His architecture, which maintains a sympathetic dialogue between modernism and contemporary design and Kentucky vernacular and historic architectural precedents, shows the influence of his mentors Louis Kahn, Robert Venturi, and Romaldo Giurgola. The scale of his work ranges from residential to ecclesiastical projects.

Since 1970, Clyde has served several terms on the Board of Architectural Review both as a member and as chair. The breadth of his teaching, practice and professional service garnered him the standing of FAIA as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1998. He has received several design awards from AIA Kentucky for his architectural projects. He received a 1970 Burlington House Award for the adaptive reuse of a 19th century carriage house as a modern living space that was included in the book *Yesterday's Structures: Today's Homes* (Schiffer Publishing) and featured on Home and Garden Television shows "Extreme Homes" and "Re-Zoned." Recently, a house he designed in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, incorporating elements from an 1833 Japanese farm house, was published in a new book, *Asian Influence in Architecture and Design* (Schiffer Publishing). In June, 2010, he was presented with the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Award for Historic Preservation in recognition of his lifelong commitment to historic preservation.

### John Wesley Hunt Award

Given to an individual for lifetime service to the preservation movement in Central Kentucky.

Awarded to  
CLYDE REYNOLDS CARPENTER

Professor Clyde Carpenter, FAIA, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, is Chair of the Department of Historic Preservation and Professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Kentucky College of Design where he has taught since 1963. He was the recipient of the Schenk-Woodman



## Take a Tour with Latrobe!

As Lexington prepares to present its best side for the World Equestrian Games, the Pope Villa also received some minor facelifts! To take advantage of an international audience, the Blue Grass Trust has created a new exhibit that will guide visitors through the Pope Villa with audio provided through the visitors' own cell phones. Visitors will hear "Benjamin Henry Latrobe" himself describing each of the spaces and telling the history of the house, the Popes, early nineteenth-century Lexington, and his own influence on American architecture. The tour also includes a new brochure and exhibit banners. The Pope Villa will be open every day during the Games from 10:00-5:00. Admission is \$5.

Much work was done to prepare the Pope Villa for its new exhibit. Student volunteers from UK's Fusion program spent a day with staff members Jason Sloan and Maddie Lyerly. The team worked hard cleaning and preparing the house and grounds. The floors of the walkways were mopped and repainted and a new, temporary staircase has been constructed. Also, the historically accurate sash locks for the windows have now been installed so that the wooden blocks that were holding the windows closed could be removed. The Pope Villa is ready for company!







# 2010 PRESERVATION AWARDS



sons, Mitchell and Owen, who are both currently UK students. The Duross family has lived in their 1920's-era bungalow in the Hollywood Terrace neighborhood since 1989.

Although *Pigs in the Parlor* was never intended specifically to "...[support] the historic preservation movement in Central Kentucky...", Dennis admits that he has been, "shamelessly using whatever means were at my immediate disposal in order to agitate for changes in our zoning ordinance to protect university area neighborhoods from the actions of those who view them as little more than a revenue stream."

To the extent that *Pigs in the Parlor* played a role in LFUCG's recent overhaul of its ordinance, and to the extent that those changes protect the historic neighborhoods that surround the university, Dennis says, "I guess that makes me an advocate."

## Clyde Carpenter Adaptive Re-use Award

Given to an individual or group for outstanding efforts towards the rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of a building or buildings with Central Kentucky.

*Awarded to*  
**KEITH CLARK**

**Keith Clark** is the founder of The Grey Goose Restaurant & Bar at 170 Jefferson St. in downtown Lexington. It is located 1 1/2 blocks off of Main St. at the west end of Rupp Arena. A historically rich neighborhood surrounds this building that has been in continuous retail service since its construction in the middle 1800s. Formerly known as Ballards Market, it once served the Western Suburb as a grocery and dry goods provider and was also reputed to house a well known 'bookmaking' (the gambling kind) operation in the early 50s and 60s. Prior to its recent 2009 renovation, it was operated by Mr. Joe Lyons, a decorated U. S. Marine Veteran who was a favorite of the many school children attending the Harrison Elementary School next door. Mr. Lyons always had a smile and candy for his young customers.

The property was purchased by Zeff Maloney in 2005 who later sold it to Keith and Cheri Clark, the owners, renovators, and operators of The Grey Goose. Keith Clark is the former co-founder and co-owner of Cheapside Bar in downtown Lexington. His construction expertise and passion for historical renovation were cemented in the Cheapside project. They presently reside in their personally renovated Second Street 1870s Italianate cottage that adjoins the Grey Goose property at the rear property line.

In this latest endeavor, Clark completely gutted the first floor down to the dirt under the front floor and the floor joists of the second. He hand dug a deeper cellar floor at the rear half of the structure to allow for a functional commercial basement.

He clear spanned the new basement with laminated beams and covered the new subfloor with reclaimed red, white and black oak fence planking that was provided by Tommy and Laura Whitaker of Many Moons Designs. The original hog hair plaster covered walls were sandblasted to reveal the wonderful Flemish bond brick work and the walls were clear sealed to retain their new stunning appearance. The installation of an antique mahogany (circa 1859) Brunswick Arched Barrel Column Back Bar top completed the inviting feel of this new neighborhood gathering place.

A fifty foot addition to accommodate new restrooms and a commercial kitchen were added over a poured wall basement further expanding the functionality of this venture. Hardiplank concrete siding in the correct period width was installed as specified by the Architect, Ken Parr, of Wilmes & Assoc. Structural stability was monitored and verified by Chris Kelly of Poage Engineers of Lexington. Clark's son, Derek, and Max Flannery of Flancon Construction completed the project with a fifty-by-twenty basket weave brick patio at the rear of the structure which seats 60 diners behind a cedar and lattice privacy fence.

The Clarks own four more parcels in the immediate vicinity and plan to keep improving their neighborhood as the economy allows.

## Betty Hoopes Volunteer Service Award

Given to a volunteer or volunteers from the Antiques & Garden Show Committee.

*Awarded to*  
**EMILY DEXTER PENDLETON AND ROB HAMPTON**

**Emily** was raised in Owensboro, KY and graduated from U.K. in 1999 with a BA in Interior Design. She has worked as an interior designer in Lexington since 1999, most recently at L.V. Harkness & Co. Her work has been featured in *Better Homes & Gardens Magazine* and was voted one of Lexington's top designers by *ACE Weekly Magazine*. She has worked on special projects such as the Lexington Decorator's Showcase, the Woodford Co. Humane Society's Freedom Fest, and the Blue Grass Trust Antiques & Garden show in addition to working with residential clients in Lexington and across the U.S.

**Robert M. Hampton** grew up in Barbourville, in Southeastern Kentucky. He moved to Lexington in 1992 and attended U.K.'s College of Human Environmental Sciences where he graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Family Studies. He then pursued graduate work in Interior Design, Merchandising & Textiles. By combining his family-oriented upbringing in the Appalachian Mountains, with his passion for design he formed his earthy modern style. He starts with an earthy

*(continued on next page)*

## Happenings *(continued from front)*

hall, the upstairs landing, the warming kitchen/gift shop, the Federal bedroom, the children's room, as well as the area by the upstairs Palladian window. Their dedication to quality is evident in their work throughout the Hunt-Morgan House. Please be sure to stop by and see what a difference the paint has made!

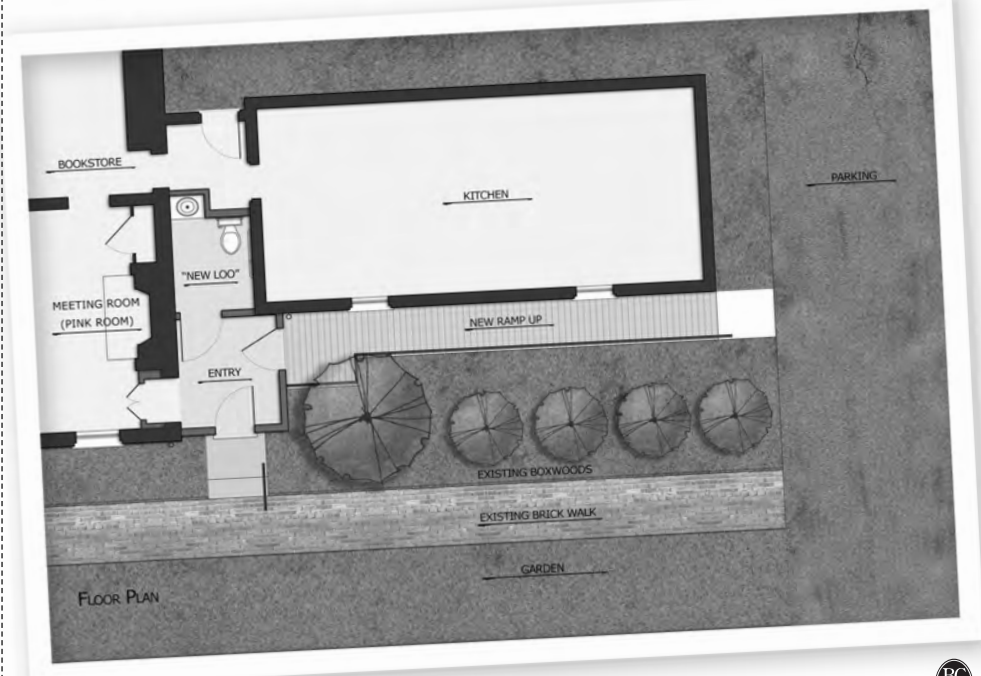
The other exciting happening at the Hunt-Morgan House is the project to construct a handicap-accessible restroom in the space between the house and the former slave quarters on the garden side of the house. This plan will help our nearly 200-year-old house meet the needs of today's patrons by providing handicap access to the first floor of the house as well as to the restroom. The restroom will also be accessible to those enjoying a party or reception in the garden. It will no longer be necessary to go through the house and to the second floor to use the restroom.

This sympathetic addition, which will only be visible from the garden and the parking lot, will greatly enhance the viability of the house for tourists, parties, and other guests. The house will become a much more attractive venue with this

important addition.

Three architects – Greg Fitzsimons, Reese Reinhold, and Maureen Peters – have worked on refining the plans, which have been approved by the Board of Architectural Review. Each has provided valuable input. The BGT Board plans for construction to begin in late fall. We need your help to make this

happen. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$70,000. While the recent Lobster Fest for the Loo raised \$3000 and donations are currently at a bit over \$8000, we are still a long way from the construction estimate. A donation envelope accompanies this issue of *Preservation Matters*. Please join us in helping this very worthwhile project become a reality. We look forward to honoring donors in a future *Preservation Matters*. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



## Welcome to Jason Sloan!

We could not be more pleased to welcome **Jason Sloan** to the Blue Grass Trust! Jason comes to the BGT from Nashville, Tennessee where he has been interning at the Tennessee Preservation Trust and working for a general contracting company. Jason has a master's degree in American Studies and Historic Preservation from the University of Hawaii and he completed his undergraduate work at the University of Western Kentucky.

Jason will be the BGT's Programming Assistant. His responsibilities will include, but are not

limited to, the Hunt-Morgan House, the Pope Villa, membership, and the plaque program. As we move forward with the handicap accessible bathroom and entrance at the Hunt-Morgan House, Jason will act as the BGT's liaison on the project due to his extensive construction experience.

We are excited to have Jason join us. Please email Jason at [jsloan@bluegrasstrust.org](mailto:jsloan@bluegrasstrust.org) to introduce yourselves and to welcome him to Lexington!





# Lobster Fest

for the **LOO**



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# The Blue Grass Trust Heritage Society

The Blue Grass Trust Heritage Society consists of individuals whose estates include gifts, revocable or irrevocable, to the Trust. Their patronage enables the Trust to continue its mission of education, service, and advocacy. Please consider including the Trust in your estate planning and join the growing number of those whose legacies will benefit the Trust. If your estate planning includes the Trust and your name is not on our list, please call the Trust office at 859-253-0362. We are most grateful to the Heritage Society members for their generosity.

## BLUE GRASS TRUST HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS as of July 1, 2010

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| Mrs. Hazel Bush                   | Mr. Tom Moore                      |
| Ms. Rose Jewell Collier           | Dr. and Mrs. William N. Offutt IV  |
| Mr. and Mrs. Richard DeCamp       | Mr. and Mrs. Foster Pettit         |
| Dr. and Mrs. Elvis Donaldson, Jr. | Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Rowland        |
| Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Floyd      | Mr. Jeff Ritzler                   |
| Mr. and Mrs. John Hackworth       | Mr. David Stuart                   |
| Ms. Liz Harper                    | Prof. and Mrs. John R. Thelin      |
| Ms. Gail Hendrickson Hart         | Ms. Joyce Vanlandingham            |
| Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hulette      | Mr. and Mrs. Arlyn Wagner          |
| Ms. Norma Jean Gibson             | Mr. E.M. "Jack" Webster            |
| Mr. Charles Jones                 | Ms. Vivian M. Weil                 |
| Mr. and Mrs. William Johnston     | Mr. and Mrs. William T. Young, Jr. |

## Breaking News... Hunt Morgan House Accessibility

As we go to press with this newsletter, the Blue Grass Trust accepted a **Kentucky Colonels Grant Award** to help us achieve accessibility with the Hunt Morgan House and bathroom. The Kentucky Colonels awarded a matching grant of \$22,995 for our project with specific interest in using their money for the primary accessibility components of the construction.

This opportunity challenges all members to use the attached envelope to donate to this worthwhile project.



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*Yes*, I would like to support The Blue Grass Trust's mission to preserve the heritage of Central Kentucky!



### Membership Levels\*

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|---|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Preservation Advocate    | \$25   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Preservation Advocate | \$50   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Advocates                 | \$100  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunt-Morgan Society              | \$250  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clay Lancaster Society           | \$500  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Reading Hammer Society   | \$1000 |

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Enclosed is my first year's dues for \$\_\_\_\_\_ or Miscellaneous Donation for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please make checks payable to The Blue Grass Trust.





# 2010 PRESERVATION AWARDS



On their trips to Carlisle, Phil and Trudy always drove through downtown Paris. It seemed to them that this town is an architectural jewel and the best jewel in the crown was the Varden's Building. Friends owned it, and when they were ready to sell, it was clear that the property could easily fall into hands that might not appreciate its beauty. Varden's is a magnificent antique pharmacy from 1891. It has the best tin ceiling Phil has ever seen and its mahogany cabinetry ornamented with bronze fleur-de-lis ormolu is perfect. The former owners, whose grandfather was Dr. George Varden, told Phil and Trudy they were offered \$100,000 by the Smithsonian for the cabinetry but turned it down. Trudy and Phil restored the first floor of the pharmacy into a coffee/sandwich/gift shop in 2006. They found a great manager in Mr. Steve Walton, who loves the building as much as they do. To expand the business they purchased the building next door, which also has a cast iron facade, and reconfigured it into Varden's Bistro, a full service restaurant bar and patio. Chef Matt Corbin is doing great things for dining in Paris.

The Athens School project started with an article in the *Herald-Leader* that the building might be turned into a dormitory for migrant workers or be torn down. The school is of classic design and reminded Phil of his elementary school in northern Kentucky. By serendipity, they met Doug Rood and Taft McKinstry, a couple who lived near the school and were concerned. They formed a partnership, bid on the building and won. They had always enjoyed the Angliana Ave. antiques & collectibles show. When it closed Phil and Trudy talked to Mr. Gene Rose, who had run the show, and they now work with the Rose family in operating the school as a monthly antiques & collectibles show. The school has been repaired and is being maintained to a high standard. In short, Phil and Trudy's love of history translated into practical outcomes. As Phil says, "These wonderful buildings can sustain themselves if given a chance."

## Lucy Shropshire Crump Volunteer Award

Given to an individual who has provided exemplary service to the Blue Grass Trust throughout the year.

*Awarded to*  
**JOAN VEAZEY**

Born in Hanson, KY, **Joan Veazey** was a daughter of the late Aubrey Scott and Lorene Scott King. Joan received her Bachelors degree in Home Economics from U.K. and her Masters in Family Studies from Northern Illinois University. She spent 24 years in education at both the elementary and secondary levels in Illinois, Virginia and Kentucky. While Chair of secondary Home Economics Departments, she developed

curriculum and introduced pilot programs in Child Development and Commercial Food Preparation.

After retirement, Joan taught courses at Morehead State University and UK, and became a member of the American Association of Family and Consumer Scientists and the Nutrition Team, Gerontology Extension Program at UK. She was an active member of Anchor Baptist church, a life member of Hopkins County Historical Society and served as a Docent at the Hunt-Morgan House. As a former teacher, Joan was dedicated to education and especially loved giving tours to children. She had an impressive knowledge of the Hunt and Morgan families, the antiques in the house, and the history of Lexington. Her favorite story to tell was that of M'am Bette, the beloved slave of the Morgan family.

Joan was a Mended Hearts Accredited Visitor at St. Joseph Hospital for nearly 20 years. A life member of NARFE, Chapter #97, Joan served various offices, most notably the Region 10 Alzheimer Coordinator/Chairperson. From 2002-06, she served as Chair for the National Alzheimer's Committee and in 2007, was inducted into the NARFE Hall of Fame. She spent 42 years as a member of the American Assoc. of Family & Consumer Scientists, serving in various official capacities and committees. She was a member of Phi Delta Kappa education fraternity, and was a Life Member of the UK Alumni Association and UK College of Human Environmental Sciences Alumni. In 2007, she received the prestigious UK Human Environmental Sciences Centennial Laureate award. The Blue Grass Trust is especially grateful for Joan's years of service as a Hunt-Morgan House docent and for help with the Hunt-Morgan House Committee.

## Lucy Graves Advocacy Award

Given to an individual who has provided exemplary service to the Blue Grass Trust throughout the year.

*Awarded to*  
**DENNIS DUROSS**

**Dennis Duross** is the writer of the blog *Pigs in the Parlor* that focuses on local issues, especially issues relating to city planning and historic preservation. The blog is based on a concept from the quote: "...A nuisance may be merely the right thing in the wrong place, like a pig in the parlor instead of the barnyard." Through the blog, Dennis advocates for the protection of Lexington's established neighborhoods.

Dennis Duross hails from Toledo, Ohio. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from Ohio State University, a Masters in Fine Arts from Washington State, and was a recipient of an Individual Artists Grant from the Kentucky Arts Council in 2000.

Dennis and his wife Becky work as graphic designers for the University of Kentucky. They have been married for 28 years and have two

*(continued on page 10)*



**Lobster Fest**  
for the **LOO**







# 2010 PRESERVATION AWARDS



On Sunday, June 27, the Blue Grass Trust hosted its Annual Meeting and Preservation Awards at the historic Four Roses Bourbon Distillery. The Trust was pleased to be able to honor such a deserving group of people with this year's awards. A special thank you is extended to Al Young and everyone at Four Roses for making the afternoon so special!

## Preservation Craftsman Award

Given to a building industry craftsman who has exhibited a strong commitment to quality craftsmanship for historic buildings.

*Awarded to*  
**LONGWOOD ANTIQUE WOODS**

Longwood Antique Woods has been in the business of reclaiming and recycling old wood for eighteen years and has supplied countless material solutions for floors, doors, bars, beams, furniture art, and much more. The antique wood in their collections is salvaged from historic barns, warehouses, and cabins slated for destruction throughout the Bluegrass of Kentucky. Their mission is to supply a green product with a unique history; whether it is from the barn of highly recognized War Admiral or rural farmer Papa Shepard. These products add to the architect's "green" ratings and the end user's sense of environmental responsibility, all within an historical context without harvesting a single tree. The wood is meticulously saved by our team of craftsmen, restored and reused rather than being lost forever.

Longwood Antique Woods consists of a dedicated team of historical craftsmen motivated by the dual purpose of conserving environmental resources and preserving American architectural history.

The team at Longwood is committed to their role as caretakers of early American architecture. They meticulously disassemble buildings slated for destruction, and recycle the antique wood to produce their unique range of products and historic collections. Each building's past is researched with respect and appreciation for its historic and aesthetic importance. The salvaged wood is then restored and reused.

Eighteen years ago, Longwood's founder George Gatewood watched as bulldozers ripped through the 200-year-old Mount Sterling house where he grew up. "That broke my heart," he said. The home was torn down to make

way for an industrial park. "It was such a waste." Now Gatewood has found his own way to preserve history, one piece of wood at a time.

"It's neat how a 100 year-old piece of wood in some old, weathered barn that has sheltered cows and horses and has become an eyesore can come alive again once it's sanded and stained," he says. "It's one of the most beautiful things you'll ever see."

## Public Service to Preservation

Given to a government agency or official for service to preservation movement or to a specific project.

*Awarded to*  
**DAVID O'NEILL, FAYETTE COUNTY PVA**

Born in Grant County and raised on a tobacco and cattle farm, David O'Neill developed a strong work ethic at an early age. He attended Williamstown and Grant County public schools through his freshman year in high school, when he moved with his mother and stepfather from Williamstown to San Antonio, Texas.

Though he returned to Kentucky right after his high school graduation, David began to understand his calling to public service as a young man in Texas. He volunteered on numerous campaigns, was elected VP of the Bexar County Young Democrats and attended the 1982 Young Democrats National Convention. In 1983, he had the distinction of serving as a Congressional Page for Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez in the United State House of Representatives.

After graduating from high school, David returned home to Kentucky to attend the University of Louisville. He was a member of the inaugural class of the Equine Industry Program and received a bachelor of science in business administration. During and following college David worked in Kentucky's signature Thoroughbred horse industry for over 20 years.

*(continued on next page)*



# 2010 PRESERVATION AWARDS



From 1988 to 1991 David worked in the communications offices of Churchill Downs and Turfway Park. He was hired by Equibase – horseracing's official database - as the Kentucky "trackman" on the company's first official day of operation – January 1, 1991. David advanced steadily at Equibase over his 18-year career and was named Senior Manager of Operations in 2004. It was in this capacity that David gained expertise in supervising a large staff, project and process management, managing data and developing statistics.

On February 11, 2009, after achieving a high score on the qualification examination, David was appointed Fayette Co. Property Valuation Administrator by Governor Steve Beshear.

David's service in Kentucky didn't begin, though, with his appointment as Property Valuation Administrator. In 2003, he was appointed by the Mayor to the LFUCG Greenspace Commission. He also served on the Good Foods Co-Op Board of Directors, as well as the board's Vice-President.

In April 2004, David was elected to the Executive Committee of the Fayette County Democratic Party, and was elected Chairman, as well as a member of the Kentucky Democratic Party State Central Executive Committee, in May 2005. He was unanimously reelected as Chairman in 2008, and was selected as a member of the Kentucky delegation to the Democratic National Convention in Denver. It was during these years of volunteer service that David developed the leadership and organizational skills to provide thousands of Fayette Countians the opportunity to become active in their community and participate in democracy.

David has lived in the same house in the Twin Oaks area of South Lexington for 16 years, is active in the business community and supports the arts and various charities throughout Fayette County and the Commonwealth.

## Community Preservation

Given to a non-governmental group or individual for service to the preservation movement or to a special preservation project.

*Awarded to*  
**THE BLUEGRASS CONSERVANCY**

Bluegrass Conservancy is a private, nonprofit land trust founded in 1995. Their mission is to protect the Inner Bluegrass Region of Kentucky through land conservation for future generations. They encourage the preservation of these lands through the use of conservation easements for agricultural viability, natural habitat, rural heritage, and scenic open space. Their service area includes but is not limited to Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Jessamine, Mercer, Scott, and Woodford counties. The Conservancy currently holds 68 conservation easements permanently protecting 10,356 acres and they are working

with numerous other landowners committed to charitably conserving thousands of additional acres.

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements between a landowner and Bluegrass Conservancy. These flexible agreements are tailored to the landowner's objectives and property in order to conserve the land for agriculture and/or other open space activities, thereby ensuring that our unique Bluegrass landscape is protected for future generations. These conservation easements protect a critical mass of history-laced land, from the birthplace of one of 2009's most successful and celebrated racehorses, Rachel Alexandra, to a family farm of Kentucky's first and fifth governor, Isaac Shelby. No public dollars are spent on these easements that save our endangered cultural landscape, contribute to our local economy, reduce our cost of community services, honor our unique brand identity and "sense of place," and cover extensive scenic road frontage, geologic formations, water sources, key soils, forests, wildlife habitat, and historic resources.

## Barbara Hulette Award

For efforts in preservation of Central Kentucky's history, heritage, built environment, landscape, archaeological resources, sense of community or significant endeavors.

*Awarded to*  
**PHIL AND TRUDY TIBBS**

Trudy and Phil are both interested in American and English history. The question to them was how to translate such an interest into something practical and tangible rather than academic. This desire, coupled with a fascination with architecture, led them to Forest Retreat, which is a simple and pure example of what Phil would term "country Federal" design. They purchased Forest Retreat (built circa 1814) in 2001, and had a great deal of pleasure in restoring and furnishing the home. The BGT Antiques Show and its lectures were educational for them in selecting historically appropriate furnishings. In Carlisle, Kentucky they met a small circle of community activists who were restoring the Neal Building, a former general store, into a community center. To enhance the downtown resurgence in Carlisle, Trudy and Phil wanted to do a project that might get a little notoriety. They met Jan Wesley Taylor, a teacher and doll collector, and they agreed to purchase and restore a dilapidated building next door to the Neal Building if Jan would curate and lead The Kentucky Doll and Toy Museum. It was a case of "if we build it, they will come." The project is managed jointly with the Nicholas County Historical Society. Local collectors and volunteers helped to get the project going.

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