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BGT
Founders Day:
John Hackworth
honored by
Crutcher Award

Hunt-Morgan House
celebrates its 200th

BGT Plaque Program

2014 Historic Preservation
Award Winners

Follow-Up: UK's Demolition
and Eleven Endangered List

BGT deTours

July 12 Founder

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PRESERVATION

Matters

Volume 35 | Issue 2
Summer 2014

Cover Photo: May 1st Latrobe birthday Party at Pope Villa



BLUEGRASS BOURBON and BBQ

A Bicentennial Celebration

SATURDAY **SEP 13**
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200TH ANNIVERSARY
HUNT-MORGAN HOUSE
GRATZ PARK
5:00 PM TO 9:00 PM



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The Blue Grass Trust for
Historic Preservation

Blue Grass Trust for
Historic Preservation
presents

PAWS⁴ PRESERVATION



September 17, 2014, 6 to 9 pm
Pet the Night Away
@Atomic Cafe's Outdoor Patio
265 Limestone @ Third Street

Admission \$15 in advance, \$20 @ door
=1 Person & 1 Pet
Includes Light snacks for People & Pets
Fun Contests, Photo Ops & More!

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Message from our President: *Greetings from Market Street*

In many ways, the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation has been a part of my life for a very long time. Some of the big and small decisions were during various rotations on the board or different committees. I have a great appreciation for the volunteer body who has worked with me on and off over the years as we saved property, built our endangered list and challenged those engaged in inappropriate demolition. During my time with the BGT, I served as vice president twice before, but was reluctant to become the President; now, a combination of good staff, great board members and strong committees, and love of the organization make me feel a little fearful, but in a good way!

I enter into this with the greatest respect for the preservation leadership the BGT provides throughout the region. Our work would not be possible without the tireless efforts of our committees and the leadership provided by our committee chairs. The BGT currently has nine standing committees: Community Preservation and Education, Bill Johnston, co-chair; Finance, Randy Miloszewski, chair; Development, Dave Harper, chair; Hunt-Morgan House, co-chairs John Hackworth and Andrew Moore; Antiques & Garden Show, Andrea Gottler, chair; Pope Villa, Tom Moore, chair; deTours, Peter Brackney and Linda Carroll, co-chairs; Advisory Board, John Hackworth, chair; and several ad hoc committees. Each committee serves a vital role in the broad-reaching facets of the BGT and it's what I believe makes us such a unique and interesting group.

I would like to recognize and welcome our new 2014-15 board members, who serve a three year term.



*Maureen Peters,
President 2014-15, Board of Directors,
The Blue Grass Trust for
Historic Preservation*

• Bill Johnston was the recipient of the BGT's Dorothy Crutcher Award on July 12, 2013. After serving two three-year terms on the BGT board, he rotated off the board June 30, 2013. He resides on Short Street in the Historic Western Suburb with his wife Sally. Bill retired a few years ago after a long career with in computers which included IBM. In his spare time, he buys, restores, and sells historic homes in and around downtown Lexington. As co-chair of the Community Preservation and Education committee, it is clear that Bill is passionate about the preservation of our built environment and is committed philosophically and financially to the Trust's mission.

• Peter Brackney is a two-time recipient of BGT HP awards. In 2013, he received the Lucy Graves Advocacy Award for his

Kaintuckeean blog; in 2012, he and the BGT deTours team were awarded the Lucy Shropshire Crump Volunteer Award. He and Linda Carroll are co-chairs of the deTours Committee, and he serves on both the Publications committee and the Willis Green committee. Peter lives in Nicholasville with his wife Morganne, an ICU Nurse at UK Hospital, and their two children. He grew up on Short Street, graduated from UK in 2006, and from UK Law in 2009. He is an attorney with Bunch & Brock, with a primary focus in bankruptcy.

• Faith Harders is also a two-time recipient of BGT HP awards. In 2006, she received the Lucy Crump Shropshire Award, and in 2008, she won the Betty Hoopes Award. She is a long-time member of the Trust, and she has served on the BGT board in the past, rotating off in 2009. Faith has been on the BGT's Antiques & Garden Show committee for many years and is currently chair of the Complimentary Speakers sub-committee and her work has been outstanding. Faith was instrumental in the BGT's rescue of the Thomas Satterwhite Noble House at 543 West Third Street. She is the Design Librarian at UK where she covers architecture, interior design and historic preservation and has an 1835 home on W. Third Street.

2014 represents a milestone for the Trust as the Hunt-Morgan House celebrates its 200th Anniversary. We're pleased to report the Hunt-Morgan House fundraiser has been a huge success raising a total of \$42,826 to date for the endowment. Thanks especially to John Hackworth and Foster Pettit for their tireless efforts for the house. All members should make note of this anniversary and step back in time to enjoy a formal tour of this special house and its contents.

I close with a nod of respect to every current and past member of this organization. We started in 1955 with leadership who had grit and determination to protect the Hunt Morgan House and it is my pleasure to continue their good example.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve in our community.

Best regards,



Maureen Peters



Celebrating the Patriotic Concert with friends in Gratz Park (L to R:) Sheila Ferrell, BGT Executive Director; Kelly Flood, KY House of Representatives (D); Maureen Peters, BGT Board President; Mayor Jim Gray; Geneva Donaldson, Event Host; and Tom Eblen, Columnist, Lexington Herald-Leader

Upcoming BGT Events

September 13, 2014: 5 to 9 pm: Bluegrass, Bourbon & BBQ: A Bicentennial Celebration, Saturday, September 13, 5 to 9 pm at Gratz Park

Celebrate the bicentennials of the Bodley-Bullock House and Hunt-Morgan Houses with a Bluegrass concert, BBQ dinner, and Signature Bourbon Drink. Sponsors: Kirkpatrick & Co. and Community Trust Bank

Presented by the Junior League of Lexington and the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation. Advance Tickets: \$30 p/p, At the door: \$35 p/p. www.bluegrasstrust.org/events (859)253-0362



September 17: 6 to 9 pm: PAWS 4 Preservation at Atomic Café's Patio, 265 N. Limestone @ Third Street. Pet the night away at a Furry & Fun Party. Reservations: \$15 for 1 Person & 1 Pet; \$20 for Non-BGT Member and at the door. Includes Snacks for Pets & People, Contests and Giveaways! Give the BGT a Bark @ (859)253-0362 for reservations or sponsorship info!

September 19: 5 to 8 pm, Gallery Hop @ the Hunt-Morgan House, presented in cooperation with LexArts. Featured Artist: Eli Mertens (of Wood Art by Eli & TravelHost Magazine)

JBGT deTours: First Wednesday each month @ 5:30 pm. Visit BGT deTours on Facebook or call the Trust @ (859)253-0362 for tour information!

BGT's Annual Fund Drive for 2014 begins in September! Look for it in your mailbox along with some VERY exciting news!

MARCH 2015: BGT Antiques & Garden Show at Kentucky Horse Park's Alltech Arena: Gala preview party, Thursday, March 5; Show Dates: March 6, 7, & 8, 2015



BGT deTours: *Oh, the Places We've Been!*

In *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*, Dr. Seuss encouraged children with the promise that "You're off to Great Places!" But that promise came with a warning to "look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care. About some you will say, 'I don't choose to go there!'"

We can only hope Dr. Seuss was speaking only of life choices, because readers of this publication know that some of the most interesting buildings and places are tucked away in places that are too easily dismissed.

The award-winning BGT deTours program, which began January 2011 and is now in its fourth year, has provided attendees the opportunity to go up and down streets and into buildings that they may not have ordinarily chosen (or had the opportunity) to visit.

Each month on the first Wednesday at 5:30 pm, the public gathers for these free BGT deTours. Following each BGT deTour is a fun and informal AfterHour of socializing and noshing at a nearby restaurant, pub or, sometimes, at the BGT deTour site itself. Our most recent BGT deTour and AfterHour sites include:

January 2014 St. Paul Catholic Church & Rectory



With the New Year being rung in on the first Wednesday of the month, this deTour was scheduled for January's second Wednesday. Even with the schedule change and competition for attention with a University of Kentucky basketball game, a large crowd found their way into the sacred space of St. Paul's Catholic Church, where Sister Clara Fehringer led the deTours group on

a tour of one of Lexington's most prominent religious sites.

Our visit corresponded with the restoration of the ca. 1865 church's façade which placed scaffolding across the front of the building and on all four sides of the 210-foot spire. Today, the work is complete and the scaffolding removed revealing the beautiful church.

Because of cold weather, the social AfterHour following the deTour was held on site, in St. Paul's beautiful rectory, which is next door and was included on our tour.

February 2014 Colored Orphan Industrial Home



While the calendar disrupted our schedule in January, heavy snows on February 5 caused our February deTour to be postponed a week. As was the case through much of the past winter, the ground on February 12 also proved to be snow-covered. But the show went on!

Theresa Searcy and Delphine Ridgeway, board members of the Robert H. Williams Cultural Center, led our deTourians through the ca. 1912 Colored Orphan Industrial Home which provided a home, schooling, and industrial training for orphans until it closed in 1988. It has since served as The Robert H. Williams Cultural Center on the Georgetown Road corridor. Yvonne Giles, who had led our deTour of the First African Baptist Church in 2013, was on site to give tours of the Isaac Scott Hathaway Museum, which is also located in the building.

DeTour guests then went to West Sixth Brewery and Smithtown Seafood for our AfterHour, where West Sixth generously

donated \$1.00 per beer to the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation.

March 2014 University of Kentucky Athletic Facilities

Our March deTour was the first of 2014 that fell on the first Wednesday of the month. We toured the University of Kentucky's historic on-campus athletic facilities: Memorial Coliseum, Stoll Field and Alumni Gym.

Memorial Coliseum was designed by renowned architect Ernst Johnson and opened in 1950 while Adolph Rupp still coached basketball at UK. It replaced the much-smaller Alumni Gym as the home of the UK Men's Basketball team which had opened in 1924. Memorial Coliseum remains an active athletics facility as the home of UK's volleyball, gymnastics, and women's basketball teams, while Alumni Gym hosts many club and recreational activities for students. Stoll Field was once the site of football's McLean Stadium and was the host of both the first football game in the southern United States (1880) and the first SEC football game (1933).

Two Keys Tavern, a favorite student hangout, was the site of our social AfterHour.

April 2014 National Boulangerie

Our April deTour was a tour of National Boulangerie, a unique development in the burgeoning area around National and Walton Avenues. Owners Andrea Sims and Krim Boughalem led the tour of the yet-to-be-fin-



ished space. Our deTour of each and every square foot found a wonderful French-inspired bakery and a since-opened beer garden and restaurant, National Provisions. Located in what was once an old bottling plant, this adaptive reuse served up a delightful tour of spaces both finished and unfinished. With 16,000 square feet, they have plenty of space to expand.

With such great food on-site, there was no need to leave for our AfterHour. We stayed to eat and socialize at National Boulangerie, and the BGT hosted some light beverages.

May 2014 AU Associates & ARTEK Lofts

May is National Preservation Month and our deTour was, appropriately, of AU Associates, a preservation-minded company founded in 1990 that specializes in the development of



AU principal, Holly Wiedemann

affordable housing. Their offices are in the early 19th century Abraham S. Drake House, located on Old Georgetown Street in the Western Suburb Historic District. For most of the twentieth century, the Drake House served as an American Legion Post, but working with the neighborhood association in 2003, AU Associates acquired the building and fully renovated it as office space.



Behind AU's office is a modern infill development by AU Associates called ARTEK Lofts, built in 2007. In designing ARTEK, AU principal Holly Wiedemann reimagined

the varied rooflines and materials of downtown to create this delightful, environmentally-friendly complex.

Following our deTour of AU Associates and ARTEK Lofts, we walked to Nick Ryan's Saloon for our AfterHour. Owned by Don and Barb Wathen, Nick Ryan's is located in an excellent infill building on Jefferson Street. Don and Barb were one of the winners of the BGT's Lucy Graves Advocacy Award for their advocacy leadership in supporting the historic preservation movement.

June 2014 Cross Gate Gallery



Last year, our deTour of the Bell Court neighborhood left us wanting the opportunity to explore the large Colonial Revival home built circa 1906 and designed by Louis Des Cognets. deTourians had the opportunity in June when Cross Gate Gallery opened its doors to the beautiful art and architecture inside the door, although we had to delay to the next day because of severe weather warnings. Director Bill Evans Meng led the tour and shared the house's extensive history, as well as discussed the wonderful art on display.

Cross Gate Gallery was founded in 1974 by Greg Ladd and is an internationally recognized 'sporting art' gallery with an emphasis on 19th and 20th century equine-related art. The Gallery has called Bell Court its home since 1998.

The Blue Grass Trust was also happy to have Zee Faulkner Kurfees in attendance. She was a previous owner of the building, and undertook an award-winning restoration of the building in 1990.

Following the tour, deTour guests headed across Main Street to The Julep Cup for the social AfterHour, who held our reser-

vation from the previous evening.

July 2014 South Hill Historic District Walking Tour

On a hot July evening, BGT deTours headed



BGT's Director of Preservation, Jason Sloan with Hayward Wilkison, owner of Stilfield Cabin

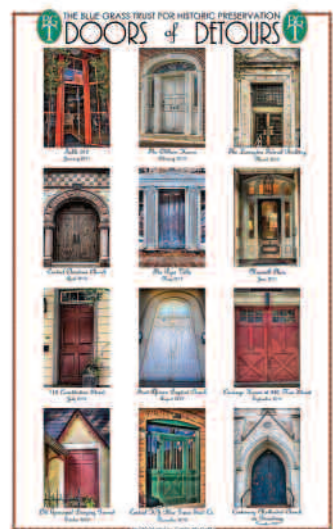
to the beautiful South Hill Historic District for a walking tour. One of Lexington's most historic neighborhoods, South Hill is listed on the National Register and is a local historic district (or H-1).

We explored three historic structures on the tour. Our gathering place was the circa 1805 Stilfield Cabin located at 361 S. Upper, saved by the Blue Grass Trust in the mid-1990s. The BGT restored the exterior of Stilfield Cabin before Hayward Wilkison purchased the property and continued to renovate it. Hayward gave an excellent history and tour of the structure for the deTour, which fell on his birthday.

Following the tour of Stilfield Cabin, we headed across Mill Street to the circa 1901 house at 354 S. Upper. Our tour ended at the Studio of Lee Thomas Photography, located at 427 S. Mill Street. Lee Thomas told the unique history of the building, and discussed his beautiful photography.

Following our walking deTour, we headed to SABIO restaurant, located in the historic Dudley Square.

Oh, the places we've been! Thank you to all deTour and AfterHour hosts, and to all deTour attendees. We look forward to seeing you at our next BGT deTour! 🍷



Doors of deTours: Limited Editions & Posters

Featuring the photography of historic preservation photographer/artist Carol Peachee, deTours Committee Member Whitney Rhorer designed a lovely poster depicting selections from twelve of the deTours from the first three years. Each of the literal doors represents the varied and diverse experiences of deTours.

Signed, limited editions of *Doors of DeTours* are available for \$50. Each limited edition is 15" x 24", dry-mounted, signed and numbered by artist Carol Peachee. (Edition #1 of 25 was auctioned for \$550 at the BGT's Holiday Party.) 11" x 17" prints of *Doors of DeTours* are available for \$10.

You can purchase the prints at each BGT deTour or by contacting the BGT office at 859-253-0362.

Paint the Town with the BGT's Paint Partnership

Founded in 1955 with the mission of education, service and advocacy, the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation has worked hard to shed light on a range of structures with varying architectural and historical importance. The Trust finds Federal and Italianate mansions, shotguns and bungalows, and commercial and academic buildings all equally important to Central Kentucky's built heritage, working in various capacities to advocate for and preserve historic places. One way in which the Blue Grass Trust has worked hard to promote the preservation of vernacular architecture in the Bluegrass is through the Paint Partnership Program, designed to provide paint and painting supplies to low and moderate income families.

Funded with grants from the National Trust Loan Fund and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the BGT's Paint Partnership Program seeks to help those in need rejuvenate the exterior of their home with a fresh coat of paint. Supplies such as plastic ground cover, caulking, primer, and environmentally sensitive paint are covered by the program.

During this prime painting season, the Blue Grass Trust hopes to find individuals, families and neighbors with historic homes that need a little bit of preservationist care. Please share information about the program with anyone you know that may be eligible and is looking to spruce up their historic property. Applicants do not need to be members of the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation, just share our care for Central Kentucky's history.

In order to be eligible for the program, houses must be at least fifty years old, residential, and owner-occupied. Houses must need paint and be in paintable condition, with no major structural or aesthetic repairs needed. Application forms can be found at the Blue Grass Trust's office, 253 Market Street, or online at http://bluegrasstrust.org/documents/ApplicationForm_000.pdf.

Income analysis is based on guidelines held by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, with preference given individuals who are disabled, elderly, and/or low-to-moderate income.



The Willis Green House, Waveland in Danville, KY

Built in 1800, the Willis Green House was sold at absolute auction for \$87,200 in June, 2013 to a consortium of four preservation minded groups. The groups assembled the funds to insure the protection of the historic property, also known as Waveland or the Erskine House in the Danville area. The groups are the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation, a 59-year-old non-profit preservation organization in Lexington, Kentucky; Angela and Jess Correll of First Southern National Bank in Stanford who represent the best of what private individuals can do for preservation, (you need look no further than Stanford to see their great



retreat of spectacular beauty, situated in a modest neighborhood. Historic details can be perfectly united with modern conveniences to the exacting standards of the buyer.

This is an opportunity to own a piece of history and become a cherished member of the historic community of Danville in Boyle County, Kentucky. Photos reveal this will be a major restoration undertaking, but an opportunity beyond anything offered in the United States. This project is eligible for Kentucky tax credits.

The Blue Grass Trust, in conjunction with the Boyle Landmark Trust, held an open house at the Willis Green House on June 1 and had 75 guests attend the event.

For more information or to establish a viewing, please call Linda Carroll at 859-221.1514.



work); the James Harrod Trust, a non-profit advocate for historic preservation which strives to protect the heritage of Harrodsburg and Mercer County to enhance the quality of life for this and future generations; and the Crutcher Family Foundation in Lexington, who has long stood for preservation and is active in the Blue Grass Trust.

This storied residence can be purchased for \$87,200. The four organizations participating in the consortium hope to recover their investment and establish façade easements on the house. The easements will be in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior standards for preservation. The 2.5 acre lot offers a secluded

The Blue Grass Trust Heritage Society

The Heritage Society is a special group of individuals who made a commitment to the future of the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation by naming the Trust as a beneficiary in their wills or whose estates include gifts, revocable or irrevocable, to the Trust. All too often such gifts go unrecognized because they come at the end of the donors' lives. The Heritage Society was created to honor these individuals for their generosity and support. Their patronage enables the Trust to continue its mission of education, service and advocacy. Please consider including the BGT in your estate planning and join the growing number of those whose legacies benefit the Trust. For more information please call us at 859-253-0362.

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University of Kentucky Brings Out Its Wrecking Ball

When questioned about the University of Kentucky's expenditure of \$4 million to demolish eight buildings on or near UK's campus, many of which are historic and/or important architectural works, former Vice President for Facilities, Bob Wiseman, asserted that student recruitment and retention is hurt by aging dormitories. He provided no proof for that assertion, assuming that the reader would readily agree that when it comes to dormitories, old is bad and new is good. But, what if Mr. Wiseman is just flat wrong? What if UK's permanent destruction of several "old-style" dorms is exactly the opposite of what UK should be doing for its student body?

The results of an exhaustive ten-year study completely contradict UK's thinking. In his new book "How College Works," sociologist Daniel Chambliss describes the factors that make for a positive college experience. He recommends that as freshmen, students should live in an old-fashioned dorm with long hallways and communal bathrooms. Suite-style dorms look nice but "they are isolating and disastrous for freshmen." College should be all about the people that you meet and interact with (fellow students and faculty alike), not modern dormitories or classroom buildings.

Mr. Wiseman and the planners at UK have no doubt heard the grumblings of Mommy and Daddy as they move their young adults into dormitories. These grumblings translate into UK's belief that to attract students, it must give them the most modern living facilities. But, that's all wrong

according to Dr. Chambliss. It is form over substance. Colleges should work on the simple things—smaller classrooms; encouraging more interaction between professors and students; interesting and engaging classroom instructors, etc. But, this is UK and as we have all seen over the years, UK plays by its own rules. The Blue Grass Trust was invited to contribute to the hiring of consultant Omar Blaik of U3 Ventures in Philadelphia to work with the University on the issues that would make the campus better and the community better. We are not a wealthy organization, but our contribution gave us a seat at the table with the University, so we contributed \$1,000. Other commu-

nity organizations also contributed to the effort. After visiting the campus, meeting with interested parties and making some initial observations, U3 Ventures was quickly dismissed by UK and replaced by Sasaki from Boston, Massachusetts. While the BGT often listened to and attended Sasaki planning discussions, there was never any movement from Sasaki's initial plan. The University likes to act like it plays well with the community. It apparently had no intention of working with the firm that

had solved serious community problems at the University of Pennsylvania and was prepared to do the same at UK.

President Capilouto has basically turned the



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University's back on Lexington. Becoming a part of Lexington does not fit into his plans. Other leading universities have brought their business and law schools into downtown areas in Chicago, Washington DC and Philadelphia. While it destroys many historically significant buildings to provide room for new construction, UK has elected to save one of the least significant buildings on campus AND destroy the 100+ year old Mathews House and Garden in order to expand the footprint of the College of Law building. Meanwhile, several downtown infill locations would provide a perfect site for a new UK College of Law building and give its students the opportunity to interact with the local legal community.

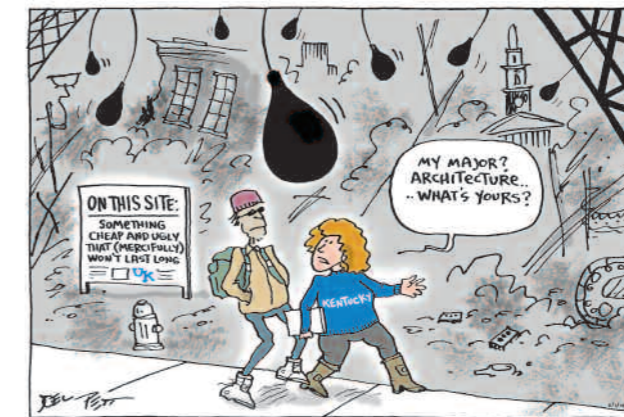
UK has historically ignored its place as a citizen of Lexington and has implemented policies that purportedly improve UK but cause damage beyond its campus boundaries. UK chose to eliminate alcohol on campus and push it to the surrounding neighborhoods. UK's problem became the City's problem. UK's actions transformed once quaint neighborhoods from havens for single families to party districts where 8-10 students are crammed into houses bastardized with big box additions and cars are parked in front, back and side yards and furniture ends up on the curbs. But, it isn't UK's problem. UK is a resident of this City but it could care less about this City. UK's problems become the City's problems but the City's needs are meaningless to UK.

For several years, Dr. David Stevens, and then Steve Kay, chaired the Infill and Redevelopment Committee of the LFUCG. Its membership was a cross-section of business interests, government employees and private citizens. One of the primary concerns that the Committee examined was the UK-City relationship and planning and code enforcement issues involving the neighborhoods surrounding UK's campus. While UK had a dedicated spot on the Committee, it failed to send any representative to the monthly meetings of the Committee for the better part of the year during which the UK-City discussion was at its height, despite Mr. Kay's continuous pleas to UK to become involved. UK demonstrated a complete disregard for the entire process. For UK, it is always a one-way street.

The Rupp Arena/Entertainment District situation is another case in point. Whatever one's position is on that project, the fact of the matter is that UK was an early participant in and contributor to the discussions that lead to the creation of the plans to renovate Rupp Arena, build a new Convention Center and develop the surrounding area. UK had several representatives on the Arena, Arts and Entertainment Task Force, including Mitch Barnhart. Remember the "CatWalk" that would connect the campus to this area? UK was in full support of the plans. But once the Mayor and the City undertook the work of seeking funding for the project, UK reversed course. The City proposed to spend millions of dollars to improve the arena where UK pays pennies per seat in rent to play its men's basketball games but rakes in millions of dollars annually in ticket, Blue-White Fund and advertising revenues. But when he was asked to support the ultimate funding proposal, President Capilouto sent

a letter to the City that has charitably been described as condescending and arrogant. But, that's UK. Condescension and arrogance are what they do best.

President Capilouto has said little, if anything, regarding UK's demolition of its historic and iconic buildings. UK has spoken through Mr. Wiseman or Jay Blanton, its chief of public relations and marketing. President Capilouto has shown absolutely no appreciation for the City's historic fabric and even less for UK's rightful place in that



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fabric. He has pursued a scorched earth policy that will result in the permanent loss of several architectural jewels created by one of UK's own geniuses, Ernst Johnson. But, President Capilouto has not uttered a whisper of acknowledgment that he has any understanding of his actions and, as someone who never visited Lexington before assuming his position at UK, perhaps he doesn't.

On the other hand, when some 50-year old UK phone directories and campus maps

were uncovered in a time capsule at one of the many demolition sites, President Capilouto suddenly found his voice. And what treasure within that junk pile caused him to wax poetic about history and preservation? A football program which contained a photo of the man who was his high school coach in Alabama. That was all it took for President Capilouto to convene a press conference, speak in reverent terms about his old coach and Alabama homeland, and direct UK to carefully preserve these garage sale items. So, Dr. Capilouto weeps over some scraps of paper that can readily be found in the archives in the UK Library, but thinks nothing of destroying one-of-a-kind historic structures that cannot be duplicated.

Is UK an important part of this community? Absolutely. Does UK make positive contributions to this community? Of course. But, as a member of this community, UK should give due consideration to Lexington's interests whenever it makes decisions that affect all Lexingtonians. And, destroying structures which are important to the cultural and

architectural history of Lexington, for reasons that may very well be unfounded, simply confirms UK's legacy of putting UK's interests first and turning its back on Lexington and its citizens.

"You can't make these things up," said Capilouto at his time capsule press conference. That is well put sir, you certainly can't.



The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation mourns the loss of the historic Wenner-Gren Laboratory, 600 Rose Street on the University of Kentucky's campus.

Designed by renowned architect Ernst Johnson, the Wenner-Gren Aeronautical Research Laboratory was an architectural marvel when it was completed in 1940. Streamline Moderne in style, the building had the look of an airplane, representative of the ground-breaking work that was done there, including designing aircraft engines and preparing America's first astronauts: chimpanzees. Lacking an appreciation for state, local and national history, the University of Kentucky has chosen to demolish this architectural and historic gem.

Preservation Matters is a bi-annual newsletter published by the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation for its membership.

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Endangered List Update

In the Winter 2014 issue of *Preservation Matters*, the BGT presented its Endangered List: Eleven in Their Eleventh Hour. On Thursday, January 30, the BGT held a press conference to announce the Endangered List properties. All of the properties listed are owned by the University of Kentucky, and all but one of them are on the main Lexington campus.

As we had hoped, we were able to get UK's attention. On Monday, March 3, at the University's request, we scheduled a lunch meeting at the Hunt-Morgan House. Several people from the university attended including Eric Monday, UK's Executive Vice President / Office of Finance and Administration and Bob Wiseman, Vice President for Facilities Management & Chief Facilities Officer.

During that cordial – but frank – meeting, we did learn that Patterson Hall (number 5 on our endangered list, and the oldest residence hall on campus) is to be renovated. We learned as well that the Carnahan House (which can be seen from Newtown Pike) had recently seen a \$500,000 renovation, including a new roof. That was good news. We specifically requested that the original part of the iconic Ernst Johnson designed Wenner-Gren building be spared (number 8 on the list), and that the elegant Italianate 19th Century Hamilton House (number 6 on the list) be spared. Wenner-Gren is being demolished as we go to press, and the demolition fence is up around Hamilton House.

Since that meeting, in spite of many *Lexington Herald-Leader* editorials, articles, op-eds, letters to the editor, letters to the individual trustees

and to President Capilouto, the University is plunging ahead with its original demolition plans without further public comment.

Few can take issue with the fact that through the years UK has let its facilities deteriorate to such a disgraceful level that something quickly needed to be done. Couple this somewhat urgent situation with new leadership at the top: who are not from Central Kentucky, who have little investment in Lexington's heritage, who have minimal knowledge and feelings for the university's history, who are operating with very limited financial resources, who have minimum

interest or understanding about preservation, who are blessed with a board of trustees that always votes with the administration, and who are razor-focused on quick results. This is not an atmosphere conducive to coming up with innovative ideas and creative adaptive-reuse solutions. Hence, we end up with a get-rid-of and start-from-scratch approach to updating the campus.

But, while some valuable treasures are lost forever, some still remain – and are not slated to come down for several years. Now should be the time for UK to establish a preservation and adaptive reuse plan for all of the remaining buildings on campus, making use of the abundance of talent readily available in Lexington. This is done at many of the universities with which we want to compete. We all want our university to be special in all respects. With a little extra planning, UK can renovate, adapt and reuse the remaining architecturally significant buildings (and there are still many left) to meet current day standards, and do it with the same or less money, ending up with our own unique and special institution.



The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation completes exterior restoration of the ca. 1830s Carriage House at the Hunt-Morgan House.

With grants from the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels and the Morgan's Men Association, the Carriage House project began with foundation stabilization in November 2013. In May 2014, the BGT contracted Phase IV Construction to undertake restoration, including rebuilding the cupola, extensive masonry (funded by the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels), stabilizing the shed roof, and all new paint. We hope you will admire the polishing of this gem with these accompanying pictures, which show each phase of the project. Our future goal is to include the carriage house as part of the Hunt-Morgan tour.



Top Photo: Carriage House after restoration. First two rows show the damage that was repaired and the work process. The bottom row shows work as it was completed. The BGT thanks the craftsmen for their work, and the Kentucky Colonels and Morgan's Men for the grants that helped pay some of the costs of restoring this 1800s gem.

Day Trips: Architectural Diversity in Two Indiana Towns

By Guest Columnists John and Carolyn Hackworth

It was a leap along the architectural spectrum to go from the early 19th century homes and buildings in Madison, Indiana, to the mid and late 20th century world-class architecture in Columbus, Indiana. Yet such a “leap” to visit these two southern Indiana towns can easily be made from Central Kentucky. A two-hour scenic drive up US 421 takes you to Madison. As the local Chamber of Commerce is forever reminding us, the late Charles Kuralt in his *On the Road* television program called Madison “the most beautiful river town in America.”

Madison was established in 1809 and with its location on the Ohio River, it soon became a favorite port for farmers to bring their goods and produce for shipment on the river. In the early 1830’s, the construction of the Michigan Road made Madison a major transportation hub connecting it not only with central and northern Indiana but with the rest of the Northwest Territory as well. By the mid-19th century, Madison could match any city in Indiana in its urban development. A railroad built in the late 1840’s further stoked the economic engine of the town.

The success of the city is clearly reflected in its architecture. As we drove into Madison on Main Street in search of the Visitors Center, we were immediately struck by the beautifully preserved buildings that line both sides of the street. From the Visitors Center, it is a quick walk across the street for a guided tour through the Lanier Mansion. Designed by architect Francis Costigan, this 1844 Greek revival mansion is touted as the “Crown Jewel” of the Madison historic district. Restored in the 1990’s and returned to its original grandeur, the mansion became a National Historic Landmark in 1994.

While the Lanier Mansion is open year round, several of the other historic museum homes were closed for the season during our

early November visit. Although we were sorry to miss viewing the interiors of the Francis Costigan House and several other museum houses, we were able to enjoy seeing their exteriors as we wandered the streets of Madison. And it is indeed a town that lends itself to wandering. Practically any street you happen onto offers fascinating examples of 19th century architecture. Most extraordinary is that the houses have been restored and maintained and are still homes today. For a town of 13,000 people, it is amazing that there are more than 1,500 historic structures that remain a vibrant part of the town’s architecture. The entire downtown area is listed on the National Register of Historic



Typical Main Street store fronts in Madison

Places and the downtown historic district has received National Historic Landmark designation.

A walk along Madison’s riverfront, center of much of the town’s activity in the 1800’s, provides another look

at the town’s history. The city of Madison has created a River Front Walk along the river with periodic signage along the way telling the history of the port as well as of the floods that have occurred through the years. A delightful find along the River Walk was the Crystal Beach Pool and Bath House. Built in 1938 as a part of the Work Progress Administration (WPA), the pool and bathhouse reflect the Craftsman style of the 1930’s and 40’s. The pool was constructed in the shape of a shell and was originally bordered by sand to create the illusion of being at the beach. Although the sand was long ago removed, the pool remains a popular swimming spot. The Craftsman-style beach house also remains in use. When you grow weary of wandering, down-



Carolyn and John Hackworth

town Madison offers numerous shops, restaurants, and coffee spots. All, of course, are housed in historic buildings. Nearby Hanover College adds vibrancy and diversity to the town as well. Although we covered a lot of territory during our quick 24-hour stay, we had just enough of a taste to draw us back for a future visit.

The following Friday we again headed north into southern Indiana, this time to Columbus, at the opposite end of the architectural spectrum. Long recognized as a mecca of some of the finest modern architecture in the country, representing work by some of the most respected names in architecture, Columbus is only an hour’s drive north of Madison on Indiana Highway 7. So a visit to both towns is actually quite possible in one trip.

While the Lanier Mansion is a must-see in Madison, you cannot leave Columbus without touring the Miller House. Built in 1953 for J. Irwin Miller and his wife Xenia Simons Miller, the exterior was designed by Eero Saarinen, the interiors by Alexander Girard, and the landscaping by Dan Kiley. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 2000, the house now belongs to the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Although we were initially a bit taken aback by the tour fee of \$20.00 per person, by the end of our tour we felt that the fee was well worth it. Considered representative of the Modernist style, the home was built with an open layout with a flat roof and stone and glass walls. The



Hidden behind the stark lines of the exterior of the Miller House is an incredible interior, only accessible through a guided tour by the Visitors Center. This unique residence, designed by Eero Saarinen, is a must-see in Columbus.

rooms, built beneath a grid pattern of skylights that provide lighting throughout the house, are furnished with Girard-designed furniture and textiles of unusual designs and brilliant colors.

The Columbus Visitors Center, housed in the historic 1864 John Storey House, offers an architectural bus tour in addition to the Miller House tour. Or if you choose, as we did, to take a self-guided tour, there is a map with an accompanying audio tour available through your smart phone.

Given the size of Columbus, with a population of around 45,000, meandering was not as simple as it was in Madison. Columbus’s downtown encompasses a much larger area and requires a great deal more walking. In fact, we saw parts of the city on foot and other parts from our car.

J. Irwin Miller, visionary of his family-owned Cummins Diesel Engine Company and owner of the earlier-described Miller House, was the impetus behind the introduction of modern architecture into this midwestern town in the 1940’s. In 1947 he commissioned Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen to design a new building for The First Church of Christ. A freestanding matching bell tower complements the very nontraditional



St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, designed by Gunnar Birkerts in 1988

building. This was just the beginning of modern design in Columbus churches. In 1964 the North Christian Church, designed by Eero Saarinen and landscaped by Dan Kiley, was built, followed by the First Baptist Church, designed by Harry Weese in 1965.

St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, built in 1988, and St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, built in 2002, are more recent modern additions.

Miller continued his quest to bring modern architecture to Columbus in 1954 with a plan to build new public schools designed by leading architects. The movement to build structures in Columbus with cutting-edge design grew in subsequent years, spurred on by the Cummins Foundation’s offer to pay all the architect’s fees for new public buildings in Columbus as long as the architect was chosen from a short list, which the foundation provided. This effort has been so successful that the American Institute of Architects ranked Columbus the sixth most important city in America for architectural design behind Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Boston, and Washington, D.C. Examples of more recent intriguing designs abound. Among these are a round jail (1990) located downtown with a mesh domed recreation area and the Mill Race Center (2011), a community recreation center overlooking Mill Race Park, which is another interesting destination on the edge of downtown Columbus.



Large Arch, designed by Henry Miller in 1971, stands in front of the public library, designed by I.M. Pei

I.M. Pei with its Henry Moore “Stonehenge” sculpture, there is much to see in the historic downtown that comes from 19th century architects. The 1864 Irwin home and gardens, which is beside the library, is one example. Another is the 1874 Bartholomew County Courthouse. This Second Empire-



Bartholomew County Memorial for Veterans in downtown Columbus

style building is very much the same as it was when it was built and is still in use today. Within the courthouse square and in stark contrast with the old courthouse, is the 1997 Bartholomew County Memorial for Veterans composed of 25 limestone pillars, each 40 feet high. The columns are engraved with the names of those who gave their lives, along with selected letters to and from the soldiers. Though large and somewhat foreboding, the memorial offers an intimate and contemplative moment well worth experiencing.

Not to be missed is The Commons, which is on the other side of the courthouse. The first thing one sees upon entering the building is a massive sculpture called Chaos I. This unique multi-purpose community building contains, among other things, a playground with an amazing multi-tiered climbing tower, which is a delight to any adventurous and imaginative child. As we walked along the main street in Columbus on Saturday morning, we noticed many families with young children scurrying past us. They were all heading for the playground! The excitement and energy of the indoor public park is inviting for children of any age.



The multi-tiered climbing tower is the main attraction of the indoor playground inside The Commons.

Although it is quite possible to visit both of these southern Indiana towns in one trip, we found that dividing our visits into two weekends allowed us to digest what we had seen and learned in each. However you choose to do it, we highly recommend visits to Madison and Columbus for a look at some beautiful and intriguing architecture. 📍

Latrobe's Pope Villa: *Birthday Party, Architect Visit, and Art Exhibit*



Griffin VanMeter doing an on-camera interview with architect and Pope Villa committee member Haviland Argo at Pope Villa

In the Creative Making

In early July, director Dave Anderson and his video crew came to Lexington to photograph footage for a planned television series about creative placemaking in American cities. The pilot episode will focus on our fair city, with Lexington's own Griffin VanMeter as the show's host. Here, Griffin interviews Haviland Argo, BGT member and project manager for the construction of Lexington's 21c Museum Hotel, at the Blue Grass Trust's historic Pope Villa. Haviland shared his recipe for what makes a good city great, noting the importance of historic preservation as a key ingredient.



On May 1, 2014, the Blue Grass Trust celebrated architect Benjamin Latrobe's 250th birthday with our biggest celebratory bash yet, welcoming more than 400 people to the Pope Villa – the largest crowd in the event's three-year history. The party also marked the beginning of National Historic



This is MY Old Kentucky Home photograph taken on May 1st at Latrobe's Pope Villa celebration for Latrobe's 250th Birthday!

Preservation Month, dedicated to increasing awareness about national, state and local heritage. Guests enjoyed a beautiful Thursday evening complete with free birthday cake, BBQ and beverages along with complimentary tours of the Pope Villa at 326 Grosvenor Avenue, one of three of Latrobe's residential structures still standing.

From 5:00 to 8:00 pm, Blue Grass Trust board members, Pope Villa committee members and BGT staff met guests who had learned about the event via emails and social media, as well as a wonderful article by *Lexington Herald-Leader* columnist Tom Eblen. Many people had never been in the house before, which has been owned by the Blue Grass Trust since 1987. At 6:00 pm, attendees gathered in front of Latrobe's Pope Villa to take a photograph for the Kentucky Heritage Council's *This is MY Old Kentucky Home* campaign, a photo contest during the month of May designed to increase awareness specifically about the Commonwealth's special historic places.

The Pope Villa was built for Senator John Pope and his wife Eliza, who was the sister-in-law to John Quincy Adams. Completed in 1813, the house is considered Latrobe's most avant-garde design – a perfect square, with a domed rotunda in the center of the second story. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Aylesford National Register District.

Currently, the Blue Grass Trust is working to list the Pope Villa individually on the National Register while also pursuing National Historic Landmark status, which would broaden the Trust's grant and funding opportunities.

Architect Visit

Architect Jeff Baker visited Lexington and the Pope Villa on June 18 and met with the PV committee members. Baker, a principal at Mesick, Cohen, Wilson & Baker, is the current architect-of-record for the house. We shared with him recent developments involving the structure and the many ideas that arose from the community workshop held in November 2013.

BGT, in cooperation with the Lexington Art League, to present INTERSTRUCT Exhibit at Pope Villa in October 2014

The BGT is pleased to be working with the Lexington Art League and artists from Expanded Draught on the art installation INTERSTRUCT at Pope Villa at 326 Grosvenor Avenue in October. For more details on the INTERSTRUCT Art Exhibit at Pope Villa, scheduled to open October 3 and run through October 19, visit www.bluegrasstrust.org or contact the Lexington Art League at (859)254-7024 or on-line at www.lexingtonartleague.org

Preservation Friends Across the Commonwealth

Founded in 1955 and serving Central Kentucky, the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation enjoys strong and supportive relationships with preservation groups across the Commonwealth. We work often with Craig Potts, Executive Director of the Kentucky Heritage Council and State Historic Preservation Officer. Whether it's a BGT Advisory Board meeting which Craig serves on, or the July 12 Founders Day event, the conversations are always livelier when Craig is in the room. Former BGT Board President Linda Carroll now serves on the Kentucky Heritage Council and does a terrific job keeping the BGT's Community Preservation and Education committee up to speed on state-wide preservation issues. The Trust has hosted several Home Owner Workshops (sponsored by a grant from



Craig Potts, Executive Director of the Kentucky Heritage Council, SHPO

Thanks to preservationist Barbara Hulette, the Boyle Landmark Trust (BLT) and the Blue Grass Trust (BGT) have numerous opportunities to work together. Hulette has served on the BGT's Advisory Board for 22 years and counting (and its chair for 21 years!) and has worked diligently with the Boyle Landmark Trust since moving to Danville eight years ago. In June, the BGT and the BLT co-hosted an open house at the historic Willis Green House; in May, the Trust's Executive Director Sheila Ferrell attended the BLT's



Barbara Hulette, BGT Advisory Board member

2014 "Landmarks to Watch" which was presented in collaboration with Heart of Danville and Main Street Perryville. Founded in 1971, Perryville was the first major project of the Boyle Landmark Trust.

Located in nearby Mercer County, the James Harrod Trust (JHT) is also a strong and active local preservation group the BGT has proudly partnered with. Led by Helen Dedman, the JHT added their support and financial backing to the consortium group that purchased the Willis Green House.

Based in Frankfort, Preservation Kentucky's (PK) Board of Directors appointed Betsy Hatfield as its Executive Director this summer. One of Betsy's first stops when she took the helm of PK was to visit the BGT in Gratz Park. Betsy's career includes nonprofit administration, public relations, fundraising, government and historic

preservation. Betsy is a Kentuckian by birth and by choice, and has lived in Louisville, Owensboro and Lewisport. She currently resides in Simpsonville, Shelby County, where she is an eclectic enthusiast of all things preservation, antiques, classic literature, history, music and college basketball.



Betsy Hatfield, Executive Director of Preservation Kentucky

Rachel Alexander, a committee member of the award-winning BGT deTours and a 2012 graduate of UK's historic preservation program, joined Preservation Kentucky in 2013 as its Membership Coordinator. Since that time, she has grown with the organization and now serves as its Director of Operations. With PK, Rachel has traveled the width and breadth of the Commonwealth and through its people and the places they are saving, she has come to know and love her home state even more. She hopes to continue championing Kentucky's heritage and promoting the work of Kentuckians saving it through creative programs, partnerships and social media. You can find PK at www.preservationkentucky.org and on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



Rachel Alexander, Director of Operations of Preservation Kentucky

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Third Annual Founders Day, July 12:

John Hackworth Receives Dorothy Crutcher Award; Mayoral Proclamation from Jim Gray honoring Hunt-Morgan House 200th Anniversary

Newly-elected Board President Maureen Peters was at the helm of the third annual BGT Founders Day event July 12, where she presented John Hackworth with the Dorothy Crutcher award for 2014, and welcomed Mayor Jim Gray, who presented a proclamation in honor of the Hunt-Morgan House celebrating its 200th anniversary this year.

The many guests in attendance at the Hunt-Morgan House learned from Peters the origins of both the Trust and the subsequent July 12 Founders Day, now an annual event. She said “our original incorporation papers are dated July 12, 1955. For an organization, your incorporation papers are the closest thing you have to a birth certificate. So we decided to celebrate with our membership, our July 12th ‘birth’ each year with a Founders Day Celebration.”

“It was thanks to a group of citizens of Lexington and Central Kentucky who came together to save this house we stand in tonight, from demolition in 1955.” She added her personal thanks to everyone for continuing to play an active and vibrant role in the Trust’s ongoing and important mission to this day, saying “we know we won’t win every preservation fight, we can’t save every building. But with your help, your membership, and your involvement – we promise you, we will never stop fighting the good fight.”

Before welcoming Mayor Jim Gray to the podium, Peters noted the 200th anniversary celebration of the Hunt-Morgan House, a beautiful Federal-style house built in 1814 by John Wesley Hunt. It was made famous during the Civil War by his grandson John Hunt Morgan,

and of course, his horse Bess. In 1876, the HMH was the birthplace of Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan, who in 1933, would become the first Kentuckian to win the Nobel Prize.

Mayor Gray began his remarks by sharing a wonderful story about his mother and Gray Construction’s ties to the Hunt-Morgan House, which went something like this: Years ago while still a fledgling

from Glasgow to Lexington, and with the Gray siblings working as servers, Gray Construction held a Derby Eve party, its first big event at none other than the Hunt-Morgan House! You can imagine what a roar of approval the story’s conclusion received. Gray then read the Mayoral Proclamation honoring the Hunt-Morgan House’s 200th anniversary, and the work the Trust’s member-



BGT Board and Committee Members with Mayor Jim Gray and KHC's Craig Potts at the July 12, 2014 Founders Day party

company in Glasgow, Kentucky, his mom, Lois Gray, wanted and needed to build a client base in Louisville and Lexington, so they decided to host a Derby Eve party. Problem was, they couldn’t afford to do it in Louisville. Gray was a small company and darn close to broke. But they had luck finding a great and affordable site in Lexington. So that year, with his mom fixing all the food, hauling it

ship has done over the past 59 years. The BGT Board and committee members then joined Mayor Gray for a photo.

Next came the presentation of our Founders Day award for 2014. The BGT’s Community Preservation Committee, with the full Board’s approval, elected in 2012 to add a new award to the Blue Grass Trust annual Historic Preservation Awards and

to make it a part of the Founders Day celebration each year on July 12, the date of our historic incorporation in 1955, fifty-nine years ago.

The award is named after long-time member and supporter, someone who continues to support and watch over us from her heavenly home, Dorothy Crutcher. Dot, as we all affectionately called her, left us in 2008 at the age of 90.

Dot started early in the preservation movement in Kentucky. In the late 70’s she saved 609 West Short. She also saved a rare half-timber in the 700 block of Short Street around the same time, which is the current home of Bettye Lee Mastin.

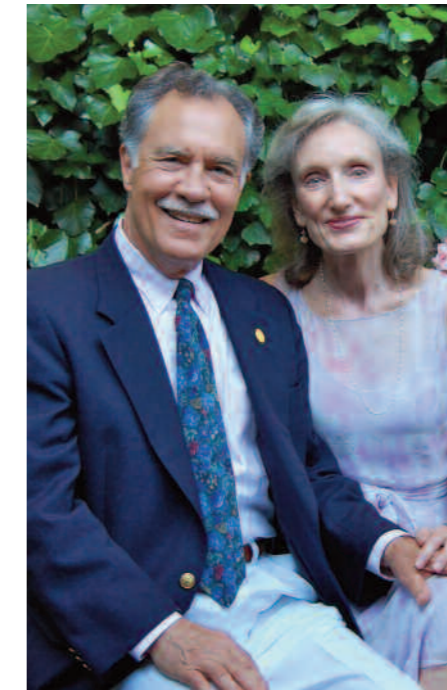
After the Pope Villa fire, she was on the scene the next morning with Patrick Snadon and Clay Lancaster and her quiet determination from that moment on led to the purchase of the Pope Villa by the BGT. Every aspect of her life focused on the greater good so it is with great pleasure the BGT honors her memory with this award in her name.

And, for the 2014 recipient, we wanted to honor someone who dove into the BGT around 2000 and has been a loyal, active, hardworking and dedicated member ever since.

So this year we honored John Hackworth. One of his former students attended the Rebecca Bruce portrait dedication John led in June 2013, and she said to several of us, “I loved Mr. Hackworth.” It was a sentiment felt by everyone in the room.

John Hackworth grew up in Shelbyville, Kentucky. He met and fell in love with Carolyn in high school. When he went off to Kenyon College and she to Centre, he knew he wanted to get married, and they did. Carolyn moved to Kenyon where they were one of the two married couples on campus. Upon graduation they returned to Lexington and John started working at Sayre as a 6th grade teacher under headmaster, Don Hollingsworth. Carolyn finished her degree at UK and also joined Sayre. Then, in 1979, Don Hollingsworth visited the Hackworths from his new job

in Kuwait, and he recruited them to join him there teaching at the American School. At that time, they owned a home on Elsmere and had no interest in moving,



John and Carolyn Hackworth

until they woke up the next morning! So, between February and August they packed up for a new life. They would go on to spend two years in Kuwait, six in Saudi Arabia, and 12 years in the United Arab Emirates.

Twenty years later, in 1999, they returned to Kentucky and a townhome on Central Avenue that they had acquired over the years. John was immediately rehired at Sayre. In 2000, just for fun, they toured a home at 220 Market Street during an open house. Carolyn said they walked through it, didn’t say a word to each other, stood outside and John said, “I think we can do it!” And they did!

This was important because that move brought John and Carolyn closer to the BGT and the Hunt Morgan House and began what is now a fourteen-year commitment to this organization.

John joined the Board in 2003 and served as president from 2004 to 2007, three consecutive years during a tough time for

the BGT. He served twice on the board rotating off again just this year. He serves on the Finance Committee, and the Hunt Morgan House Committee as Chairman. He is also the newly appointed chair of the Advisory Committee.

And there is more!

- He likes to get a brown bag and pick up walnuts in the Hunt Morgan House garden, with Carolyn in tow.

- He likes to get Carolyn to help him clean and polish the display case in the Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan Room.

- He likes to keep the sycamore leaves picked up from the front of the Hunt-Morgan House, but Carolyn doesn’t help.

- He likes to get Carolyn and together they wash windows and clean the light fixtures on the porch at the Hunt-Morgan House.

- He weighed the nails he pulled out of the floor in the Civil War room and those he pulled out of the stairs. Almost four pounds. (Carolyn must have had something to do with this project too!)

- He painted the Civil War room, with Carolyn.

- He took the portrait of John Hunt Morgan to Nashville for restoration, Carolyn rode along.

- He picked up the portrait of Rebecca Bruce Morgan in Florida while returning from vacation with Carolyn; he then took Rebecca Bruce to Cincinnati for restoration. Carolyn was on that trip too.

We conclude the story here by thanking John for all the things he does for the BGT. He is a lovely man and we cherish him and Carolyn for their lifetime of large and small acts of good will. It was an honor for the Blue Grass Trust to recognize John Hackworth with the 2014 Dorothy “Dot” Crutcher Award. 🍷

BGT Annual Members' Meeting and 2014 Historic Preservation Awards

Each year, in conjunction with its annual membership meeting, the Blue Grass for Historic Preservation presents its Historic Preservation awards to individuals, groups and business in recognition of their exemplary work in a number of categories. Held on Sunday, June 22, at 5:00 p.m. on the grounds of the



BGT members enjoying an al fresco summer supper at Annual Meeting & HP Awards event

BGT's historic Hunt-Morgan House, outgoing Board President Tom Meng presided over the meeting and awards ceremony. Incoming Board President Maureen Peters delivered the BGT's financial report, as prepared by Board Treasurer Randy Miloszewski.

Board member John Hackworth presented the nominating committee's slate of officers for 2014-2015 of Maureen Peters, President; Bill Johnston, Vice President; Randy Miloszewski, Treasurer; and Faith Harders, Secretary; and new board members Peter Brackney, Faith Harders, and Bill Johnston. A motion and second arose from the membership floor and the nominations were unanimously approved. Special recognition was given to the Hunt-Morgan House, built in 1814 and celebrating its 200th anniversary this year, and to the successful "200 for the 200th" fundraising campaign for the HMMH endowment, spearheaded by John Hackworth and BGT Advisory Board member Foster Pettit.

Tom Meng did an excellent job delivering the 2014 BGT Historic Preservation Awards (list follows) noting the background and work of this year's deserving winners. The ceremony ended with Maureen Peters'

good words of recognition in thanking Tom Meng for his term as President, and presenting him with a signed copy of Pieter Estersohn's new book, *Kentucky: Historic Houses and Horse Farms of Bluegrass Country* of which the BGT's Pope Villa is one of the featured houses. The meeting adjourned and the 165+ guests enjoyed a delectable al fresco summer supper prepared by Donna Potter and her talented crew of Catering by Donna.

Preservation Craftsman Award – Given to a building industry craftsman who has exhibited strong commitment to quality craftsmanship for historic buildings: 2014 winner, Nathaniel Hensley, of Hensley Studio.



R to L: Tom Meng, Nathaniel Hensley, and his mother

Nathaniel Hensley graduated from UK's art program with an emphasis on metal arts, and is a craftsman of rolled steel. It is an old craft and his work is visible at National Boulangerie, County Club, the Belle's bar sign, and the Fox House. He also built a custom dining room table/ping pong table for community activist, Griffin VanMeter. After graduation, Nathaniel honed his skills in Pittsburgh, PA before returning to Lexington to work at Tuska Studio before founding his own, Hensley Studio. We loved the modest way he described his craft: I cut, I weld, I grind, and then I install.

Public Service to Preservation – Given to a government agency or official for service to the preservation movement or to a specific project: 2014 winner, David Buchta.

David Buchta, the Commonwealth's Director, Division of Historic Properties and State Curator, is a native of Evansville, Indiana; but he is a Kentuckian by choice. David



L to R: David Buchta and Tom Meng

served as State Curator for almost a decade and transformed the way our Kentucky heritage is preserved. He organized and oversaw centennials of both the State Capitol and the Governor's Mansion, and worked hard to secure recognition and assure preservation of our state treasures in an economic climate where it was not always easy to do so. A graduate of the University of Kentucky Historic Preservation Department, David lives in a wonderful historic home in downtown Frankfort, and is a valued leader in the Kentucky preservation community.

Clay Lancaster Heritage Education Awards (3) – Given to individuals or groups for service in researching and disseminating information about the Central Kentucky Region: 2014 winners: Sarah House Tate; Dr. Robert Kelly; Lexington Herald-Leader, notably Joel Pett, Linda Blackford, Tom Eblen, Vanessa Gallman, Jaci Carfagno, Mary Meehan, Peter Baniak.



L to R: Bob Kelly, Sarah House Tate, Tom Meng

Three entities did all they could to educate and create out-cry about the extensive demolition at the University of Kentucky. Bob Kelly and Sarah House Tate both successful architects, each prepared thorough research and presented lectures on the Ernst Johnson buildings which are being demolished on the UK campus. Their research told us how

Johnson's intricate masonry was a part of his own upbringing and work within the craft and his appreciation for his exposure to detailed masonry in other countries.

The Lexington Herald-Leader, our local newspaper, also stepped up the pressure on the University of Kentucky's extensive demolition of architecturally significant buildings and the lack of respect for historic preservation in Joel Pett cartoons, incisive editorials, thorough articles, well-observed columns, and with op-ed pieces submitted by the community.

The BGT was saddened by the actions of the



L to R: Sheila Ferrell w/ H-L's Tom Eblen, Vanessa Gallman, Jaci Carfagno, Peter Baniak, Joel Pett, & Tom Meng

University and we, on the behalf of our community appreciated the efforts Bob Kelly and Sarah Tate put into the fight and, recognized the journalistic excellence of our local paper, the *Lexington Herald-Leader*. It is noteworthy that this award and winners received a spontaneous standing ovation from the events' attendees.

Community Preservation Awards (3) – Given to a non-governmental group for service to the preservation movement: 2014 winners: Providence Montessori School Board; the Friends of the Kentucky Theatre; Dr. Marc and Cindy Ford.

This award recognized three deserving enti-



L to R: Rob Brown, Amy Sither, Tom Meng

ties this year. The first was the School Board of Providence Montessori. In early 2014, the

School Board of Providence Montessori determined that there was a need and the parents supported the decision to start a Middle School serving 7th and 8th grades. A committee was formed to look for properties that fulfilled the requirements for a Montessori Middle School. One of the determining necessities was land. Luckily one piece of property was found that not only had a history but grounds to support this very interesting program.

Almost simultaneously, the Florence Crittenton Home for Girls and Women, housed in a 160-year-old house on West 4th Street since 1894 was forced to close. This historic house was on the verge of being purchased and then demolished as part of Transylvania University's expansion program. Several of Providence's parents - and their parents - stepped up with the money to quickly purchase the threatened building. The beautiful historic former Florence Crittenton Home at 519 West Fourth Street in Lexington sits on 2.5 acres of land in between the campuses of Transylvania University and the Bluegrass Community & Technical College. The land allows children to have the Erdkinder experience in the midst of a downtown, urban setting. The location its neighbors. Interestingly, the new facility will be two doors down from where it all started in 1965 on the St. Peter Claver campus. This building was most threatened by Transylvania University who expressed a strong interest in acquisition for demolition. This is an outstanding and appropriate adaptive reuse. Amy and Robin Sither and Rob and Janee Brown accepted this award on behalf of their Board of Directors.

The second award recognizes the hard fundraising done by The Friends of the Kentucky Theatre to renovate much of the interior of this wonderful space and upgrade their sys-



L to R: Harold Tate, Isabel Yates, Bill Fortune, Tom Meng

tems. The Friends of the Kentucky Theatre are a special group of dedicated fundraisers and theater enthusiasts, and the Kentucky Theatre is a treasure to everybody in downtown Lexington. Isabel Yates, Bill Fortune, and Harold Tate were on hand to accept the award.

The last award in this category went to Dr. Marc and Cindy Ford who have been the devoted stewards of the Colby Tavern at 2185 Becknerville Road in Clark County



L to R: Dr. Marc and Mrs. Cindy Ford, Tom Meng

since 1998. In its heyday in the mid-nineteenth century this roadside inn and tavern hosted Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay among countless others. Between 2007 and 2014 the Fords, with the help of architect VanMeter Pettit, meticulously renovated and added to the existing structures. During the design process for an addition the Fords discovered that the Griffith Tavern in Harrison County was slated for demolition. The Fords purchased every salvageable piece of building fabric from the property and reused it on Colby Tavern for a design inspired by the lost structure. The cut stone, brick, trim work, doors, and three-story staircase of Griffith Tavern were all carefully reused. The result is a marriage of existing and reconstructed historic materials that honor and reflect the two storied landmarks. (Note: The August 6th deTour was held at the Ford home in Clark County, with 150 guests enjoying the tour.)

The Barbara Hulette Award – recognizes preservation of our heritage, built environment, landscape, archaeological resources, sense of community and significant endeavors, 2014 winners: Jess and Angela Correll.

Something transformative happened in the marriage between our next award winners, Jess and Angela Correll. This couple met, fell in love and started changing communities for the better. They single-handedly restored



L to R: Maureen Peters, Garlan VanHook (representing Jess & Angela Correll), Tom Meng

Stanford, Kentucky. They transformed their bank building, restored cottages for overnight B&B accommodation, developed stores to support the products coming out of their farm, and in Danville, Kentucky, they have taken on a couple of additional projects. Then, they led the team in the purchase of the Willis Green House in Danville and continue to help us find a good owner. The Corrells had a schedule conflict and couldn't attend the ceremony, so their architect, Garlan VanHook, accepted the award on their behalf and confirmed the special and unique fire the Corrells have for preservation.

The Lucy Shopshire Crump Volunteer Award – is presented to an individual or group who provided exemplary service to the BGT throughout the year, 2014 winner: The Town and Country Garden Club
Take a walk in Hunt-Morgan House Gar-



Members of the Town and Country Garden Club, with Tom Meng

den and you can imagine what life in Lexington might have felt like in the early 1800's. From a young girl's writings in the book – *Window on the War*, we know the garden had a greenhouse and many flowers. So when the BGT acquired the house in 1955, soon after came an enthusiastic group to recreate a 19th century flower and herb garden. Fast forward to 1970 and this year's award winner, the Town and Country Garden Club, offered to maintain the garden. Since then, they have toiled on hand and

knee, fundraised, added sprinkler systems (twice), and memorialized their own past president in this garden. Paula DeBoor accepted this award as Garden Chair.

The Lucy Graves Advocacy Awards(2) – is presented to an individual or group who has exhibited Advocacy leadership in supporting the historic preservation movement in Central Kentucky, 2014 winners: Don & Barb Wathen; Lester Miller & Aumaine Mott
This award is going to recognize two different couples who transformed their respective neighborhoods.

Don and Barb Wathen admit openly, “we love a project.” They aren't new to the restaurant business but when they decided to develop Nick Ryan's on Jefferson Street they contributed dramatically to the transforma-



L to R: Barb Wathen and Tom Meng

tion of a neighborhood. The Western Suburb neighborhood is better for their presence there. They are now moving around the corner to West Second with a continuation of good food and memorable spaces. And, the BGT cannot forget their purchase of 543 West Third after the BGT rescued the boyhood home of Thomas Satterwhite Noble from a legal and banking nightmare. The Wathens are wonderfully active members of their Jefferson Street corridor neighborhood, and have hosted numerous events at Nick Ryan's to benefit the BGT. We are grateful to them for everything they do to make Lexington an enjoyable place to live, work and play.

The next award recognized Lester Miller and Aumaine Mott who bought a house (ca. 1912) on North Limestone Street to restore at the time of their marriage over a decade ago. Their home at 617 North Lime (NOLI) was three doors north of Al's Bar. Not quite two years later, with sympathetic friends, they purchased and re-opened Stella's Kentucky Deli in the Western Suburb neighbor-

hood, beginning the chain reaction of restaurant development and renovation along Jefferson Street. A year after Stella's had been re-imagined, the decision was made, for better or worse — evoking the spirit and deter-



L to R: Aumaine Mott, Lester Miller, Tom Meng

mination of Lucy Graves herself — to try to transform the notorious corner of West Sixth Street and North Limestone: the center of prostitution and the drug trade in Lexington. As neighbors already, they knew the only way to create the transformation was to purchase Al's Bar. After some negotiation, Al's Bar had new owners, and the future of the neighborhood was far more hopeful. Following the purchase of Al's, Aumaine and Lester bought the building immediately next door, formerly housing a bar, as well as a barbershop. The bar has been renovated as Al's Sidecar, the barbershop has remained in business, and a beer garden is developing at the rear of the property. The houses on the two lots further north were also in poor condition and were purchased by Aumaine and Lester. The most southerly structure was beyond salvaging, and has become a garden space for the community in the front, and a garden in the rear to grow produce for use at Stella's and Al's. The second house, immediately next to their home, is being renovated and restored as apartments. Both on Jefferson Street with Stella's, and on North Limestone with their home, Al's Bar and the adjacent land and buildings, Lester Miller and Aumaine Mott have exhibited advocacy leadership par excellence in supporting the historic preservation movement in the Bluegrass. Their continual efforts for over a decade have both preserved the historic fabric and renewed the neighborhoods in which they live and work.

Betty Hoopes Volunteer Service Award – recognizes those who give as much to the Trust as Betty Hoopes, a tireless member of the Antiques and Garden Show Committee, 2014 winners: Dr. Elvis and Mrs. Geneva

Donaldson
Dr. Elvis and Geneva Donaldson were outstanding as Honorary Chairs for the 2014



L to R: Dr. Elvis & Mrs. Geneva Donaldson, Tom Meng

Antiques and Garden Show. They generously share their time, talent and resources with the Trust year-round, and the circle of giving continued with their tremendous work on the 2014 Antiques and Garden Show. It included an introduction to artist Marjorie Guyon for a collaborative art project that benefitted the Trust and two separate salons with Marjorie to promote an auction of original art, volunteering in the Trust office, working on the table centerpieces at the show that included terrariums of miniature plants and brought such a unique feature to the lecture hall, a completely charming commercial of WLEX-TV to promote the show that also reveals the spunk in this special couple, and the constant opening of their home for hospitality.

The Clyde Carpenter Adaptive Reuse Award (3) – is given to individuals or groups for outstanding efforts toward rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, 2014 winners: County Club, Belle's Cocktail House, BC Wood Properties.

County Club is in a little building on Jefferson Street which once served as a storage facility for various bread manufacturing companies starting in the early 1900s, but had sat empty for many years prior to being acquired by the West Sixth group. The restaurant now exudes an industrial-like feel with tall wooden booths, long paneled win-



L to R: Hunter Guyon, Chesney Turner, Tom Meng

dows, a chandelier, a buffalo head from the original Buster's bar, and antique-like silverware. County Club also features a front terrace patio, as well as a bocce court and outdoor movie screen set up for summer viewings. Board Chair, Tom Meng, went on to also describe the food, noting the winners thought a long time about smoked meat and now serve some of the most fabulous tastes you could find in Kentucky. Accepting the award were Chesney Turner and daughter Hunter Guyon.

The next award went to Belle's Cocktail House, located in a little building on the corner of Market and Church Street. For many, many years it was the law firm of “Denney, Morgan and Rather” then it became Denney, Morgan, Rather and Gilbert when Theresa Gilbert joined them several years ago. Edwin Denney was the GOP candidate against Happy Chandler for Governor in 1955. But things change, and the law firm moved out and a for sale sign went up and then we started to see change. Belle's Cocktail House, named for Lexington's famous madam Belle Brezing opened its doors as a stylish and sophisticated bar. No longer does it house lawyers but welcomes young and old with an interest in a cocktail to enjoy the outstanding adaptive reuse. Business partners in this project, Larry Redmon, Bob Eidson, Seth Thompson and Justin Thompson were un-



L to R: Maureen Peters, Brian Wood, Tom Meng

able to be at the event.

Last in the Adaptive Reuse category is BC Wood Properties in the Central Kentucky Bluegrass Seed Company at 321 Henry Street, built by the renowned entrepreneur, James Ben Ali Haggin. Rising three stories, the warehouse has massive load bearing walls to support the heavy machinery that was once a part of the business. The industry died out completely around the 1980's and the building fell ultimately into disrepair. Initially, exterior work was taken on by Dr. Mike Cavey and Dr. Nancy Temple and

craftsman Karl Lumley with Pearson and Peters as the architects. But the interior and the stunning reuse of this building is to the credit of Brian Wood and King Offutt who again turned to Pearson and Peters to create an office building with great respect for its National Register status and historic nature. The architectural integrity of this building is very much intact and visitors can fully appreciate another era that once thrived in this location. Founder/CEO Brian Wood accepted the award.

The Landscape Preservation Awards(2) – is given to an individual or group for the preservation, design, stewardship, restoration or enhancement of an historic cultural landscape in the bluegrass, 2014 winners: Marcia Farris, Dr. James Krupa.
Marcia Farris, who recently retired as the first director of the Arboretum after 15 years



L to R: Sheila Ferrell, Marcia Farris, Tom Meng

of service. The Arboretum, is also known as the State Botanical Garden for Kentucky, thanks to Marcia. Under her leadership, more than two hundred acres delight out community with a visitor center, the children's garden, the Walk Across Kentucky, educational programs, bird house weekends and a memorial to those who lost their lives on Flight 5191.

Noted garden designer, Jon Carlotis, said, “When I was at UK from 1982-86, our Arboretum was a small space nestled in between the buildings of the Ag College. One of the activities we did as a class in Sharon Bale's Annual/Perennials was to transplant some of the material to the new arboretum space. I remembered looking at the blank hillside and thinking that it would take forever and a day to make that into something beautiful. How could they get people to come visit a blank hillside?”

Jon goes on to say, “Of course, 30 years later and over 100,000 visitors per year, the UK Arboretum is one of the most loved places in

Lexington. People are fiercely loyal to this spot and it continues to grow, touching people of all ages and cultures. Marcia Farris has been the catalyst, nurturer, kind overseer, and the reason why the Arboretum has been a huge success. There's no small minded politics here, just forward thinking, smart ideas, all accepting leadership. Marcia is truly amazing and all of Kentucky owes her much gratitude for steering that big ship in the right direction for all of these years. When I think about the Arboretum, the first thought is Marcia's kind, welcoming embrace...now that's a legacy." The BGT took great pride in recognizing Marcia Farris.

The next award recognized Dr. James Krupa, another person involved in the continued battle with the University of Kentucky. It is a battle that started brewing last year when the BGT learned of a possible law school expansion that would take out the Ligon House, the Mathews House and the Mathews garden. The Mathews House was built by Clarence Wentworth Mathews for his family, he was the first dean of the college of agriculture. The house and Garden were gifted to the University of Kentucky in 1968 by Miss Ruth Mathews, the daughter, and she lived there until her passing in 1986. But this award is about the person who has tended the garden, a biologist, Jim Krupa, who has cultivated over 350 species of plants and trees native to Kentucky. He uses the garden as a teaching tool on the campus. Mr. Krupa is quoted by Tom Eblen with the following: "Administrators have always called this a weed patch," Krupa said of Mathews Garden. "But it's only a weed patch if you're ignorant. I'm up against ignorance, arrogance and a lot of faculty that are afraid to take on the administration." BGT President Tom Meng added a note of thanks in recognition of Dr. Krupa's work in light of the vast demolition at the University of Kentucky

and the still undetermined fate of the Mathews House and Garden and he especially thanked his boldness and care of this significant place on campus. Dr. Krupa was unable to attend the event.

The John Wesley Hunt Award is given to an individual or group for lifetime serv-



L to R: Dr. James and Mrs. Martha Birchfield, Tom Meng

ice to the preservation movement in Kentucky, 2014 winners: Dr. James and Mrs. Martha Birchfield.

Dr. James and Mrs. Martha Birchfield's constant efforts over thirty years of documenting the past and promoting preservation of the historic fabric in the Bluegrass for the future demonstrates their lifetime of dedication defined by this award.

When they first arrived in Lexington in the 1980s, Jim and Martha immediately began preservation efforts on their house on West Third Street, the other half of the birthplace of the painter Thomas Satterwhite Noble. They had been encouraged to come to Kentucky from their Florida home by BGT founder and fellow librarian Carolyn Reading Hammer. After their first restoration and preservation efforts, they undertook what is a

lifetime preservation project itself, Elley Villa on Linden Walk, one of John McMurtry's most important domestic buildings. The Birchfields have restored the exterior magnificently, employing the assistance of a number of local craftsmen, and are gradually finishing the interior, furnishing it beautifully as it might have been at its creation in the mid-nineteenth century.

Over the years Jim — assisted by Martha in all ways — has served as a member of the boards of the Blue Grass Trust, the Henry Clay Memorial Foundation, and is a founding board member, trustee and past president of Clay Lancaster's Warwick Foundation. He has curated major exhibitions relating to the artist Thomas Satterwhite Noble of Lexington, the first director of the Cincinnati Art Academy, and the Countess Mona von Bismark (née Strader) of Lexington, the only Kentuckian to be painted by Salvador

Dali. Jim served as editor of *The Kentucky Review* while Curator of Rare Books at the University of Kentucky. He not only enlarged Special Collections at UK with an eye to local history and culture, but used *The Kentucky Review* to promote its preservation and dissemination. Jim has curated a number of important photographic exhibits at The Lexington Public Library, co-sponsored by The Filson Club, The Blue Grass Trust and The Warwick Foundation, including the *Kentucky Houses of Stratton Hammon, Robert W. Tebbs and his 1927 Kentucky Architectural Photographs, Lexington Bungalows*, as well as Clay Lancaster's *Kentucky: Photographs by a Preservation Pioneer*, published as a book by The University Press of Kentucky. The Birchfields received a standing ovation at the Award Ceremony. 🇺🇸

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Hunt-Morgan House

The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation has been celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Hunt-Morgan House by ensuring the preservation of this historic house for the next 200 years. In April, with the help of Foster Pettit and John Hackworth, we launched our "200 for the 200th" campaign in hopes at least 200 individuals would each donate \$200 to the Hunt-Morgan House Endowment Fund.



The Trust acquired the Hunt-Morgan House in 1955. In fact, the Blue Grass



Hunt Morgan House by Henry Faulkner, used by permission

Trust was specifically organized to save the Hunt-Morgan House from the same fate as the Hart-Bradford House just across Second Street. (The destruction of that property created a parking lot, which has been there ever since.) As the flagship of the Blue Grass Trust, we felt compelled to do something quite special to commemorate this very significant milestone. When John Wesley Hunt

moved to town from his farm on Tates Creek Road and built his home on Second and Mill Streets in 1814, little did he know that the BGT would be caring for his property all these many years later. What better way to celebrate the 200th anniversary than to ensure the preservation of this historic house for the next 200 years. To this end, the board launched a campaign called "200 for the 200th." Our goal was to enlist at least 200 individuals to each donate \$200 to the Hunt-Morgan House Endowment Fund.

The Hunt-Morgan House continues to be a significant part of the history of Lexington and Central Kentucky. The donors to this campaign to date are acknowledged on page 16 in this issue of *Preservation Matters*.



Thanks to everyone who added their support for the continued long life and good health of the Hunt-Morgan House. As of August 20, more than 200 people had donated to the campaign, and "200th" donations continue to arrive weekly.

Thanks to our HMH 200th donors, the house John Wesley Hunt built in 1814; that John Hunt Morgan made famous during the Civil War; and where Kentucky's first Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Thomas Hunt-Morgan, was born will continue to play a significant role in the historic fab-



ric of Lexington and Central Kentucky. The BGT will continue to welcome thousands of visitors each year for house museum tours, art exhibitions, rentals, and community-wide events.

Thanks to a caring community and the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation, the Hunt-Morgan House, a magnificent 1814 Federal-style house at 201 North Mill Street begins its third century in great shape and will continue its long life as the jewel of Gratz Park in the heart of downtown Lexington and the Bluegrass. 🇺🇸

"Prettiest Show Ever," 2014 Antiques & Garden Show Shines!

The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation thanks the thousands of guests who enjoyed and supported the BGT's 2014 Antiques & Garden Show (AGS) held at the Kentucky Horse Park's Alltech Arena in March.

We are happy to report the 2014 show was a true success! Overall, show revenue was up 20% over the previous year. We welcomed ninety-three exhibitors, up 26% from 2013, and our gate was up 28%. And, we were delighted to hear many of our guests thought it our "prettiest show ever."

As we celebrated our 29th successful AGS season, we believe our decision and efforts to be a regional attraction by offering a wider array of quality dealers and exhibitors, to continue to present world-class lecturers and speakers, and market to wider audiences each year have played major roles in our continuing growth and positive numbers. This event serves as the Trust's largest fundraiser and outreach event each year.

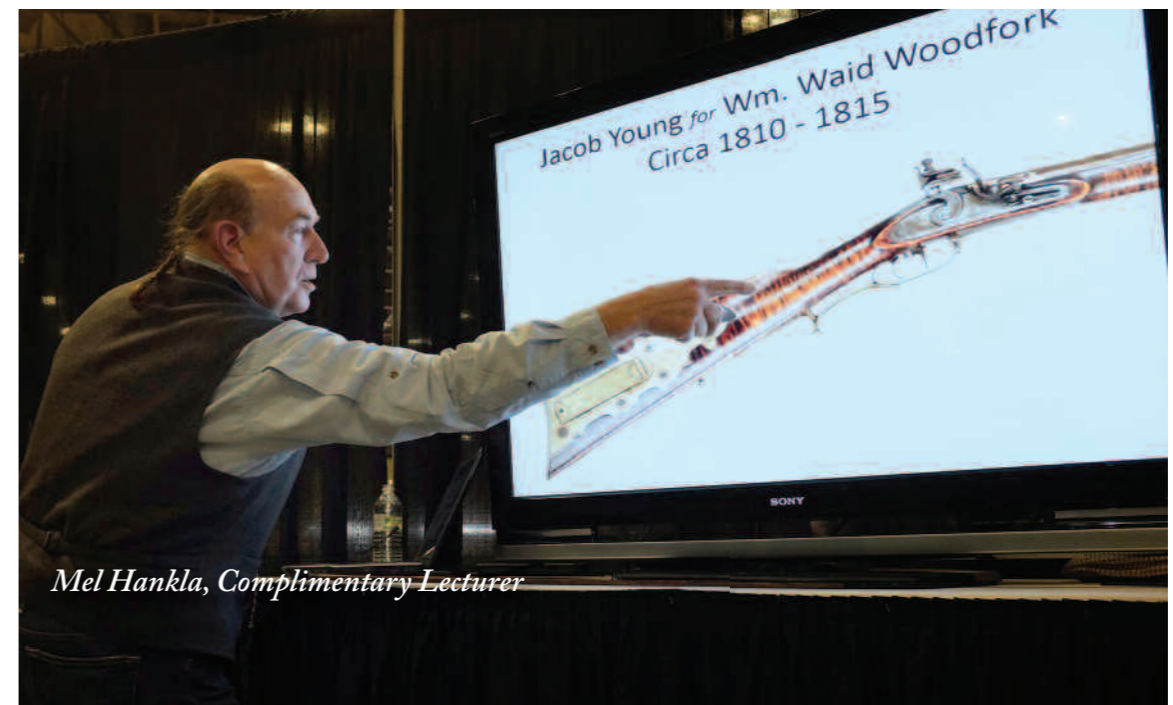
The other key to our success is you. Your support and your participation are the cornerstones we depend and build upon each year.

We hope you will save the dates of March 5 for Gala Preview Party, and show dates of March 6, 7, and 8 and plan to join us again in 2015 when we celebrate our 30th BGT Antiques & Garden Show at the Kentucky Horse Park's Alltech Arena!





Dr. Elvis and Geneva Donaldson, 2014 Chairs



Mel Hankla, Complimentary Lecturer

Save the Dates for the 2015 Antiques & Garden Show:
Gala Preview Party: March 5
Show Dates: March 6, 7, 8, 2015
At the Kentucky Horse Park's Alltech Arena

Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation's Plaque Program

The Blue Grass Trust's plaque program began in the early 1970's to call attention to buildings that are at least 50 years old with architectural or historical significance. The eligibility and criteria remains the same today.

Plaque applications

Filling out a BGT plaque application takes a little digging. "But by no means do you have to be an architectural historian or a trained preservationist to find the information," said Jason Sloan, the BGT's Director of Preservation.

Not many houses have had a significant event or a significant person associated with it, but that doesn't mean the house can't get a plaque. "As much as anything, a plaque is a reward for the person who makes the effort to document their house, to find out about the history and architecture, whether the house turns out to be significant or not," Sloan said.

Since the program was established, the BGT has awarded about 800 plaques. A majority of plaque applications are approved, Sloan said. He tells people to fill out as much information as they can find. If you get stumped, take the application to the BGT office and Sloan will help fill in the gaps and do some fine-tuning. "I'm more than happy to help," he said.

Applications are available at the BGT office, 253 Market Street, in downtown Lexington (Gratz Park). Call: 859-253-0362.

Cost of an aluminum plaque: \$100 for a BGT member; \$150 for non-BGT mem-

bers, which includes the plaque and a one-year BGT membership. Bronze plaques are \$200 for BGT members; \$250 for non-BGT members, which includes the plaque and a one-year BGT membership.

Frequent misconceptions about BGT plaques, corrected:

- A house only has to be 50 years old, not 100 years+ to be eligible for a plaque.
- A plaque does not protect a building from demolition.
- A plaque is not the same as being in an H-1 historic district. It carries no restrictions on how a building is used, the color it is painted or changes to the exterior.



Surrounding counties

The BGT has awarded plaques in many surrounding cities including Danville, Nicholasville and Frankfort, even as far away as Grant County. "It's one of those things where you don't want to discourage any preservation efforts," Sloan said. "We're always looking to get the word out about preservation."



Ready to get started? Here are a few tips on researching your house.

- First step, get a BGT Plaque application form from the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation office 859-253-0362 or on-line at www.blue-grasstrust.org
- At any time during the process, the BGT staff is available to help answer any questions.
- Next, if you live in Lexington, call the city's Division of Historic Preservation 859-258-3265. Ask if they have done a historic survey of the house.

Over the past 40 years, this office has completed a Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory survey on 25,000 houses in Fayette County.

If your house is on the inventory, you're in luck because much of the architectural and historical information requested by the plaque application is on this form. Attach a copy of the historic survey to your application. The City's Historic Preservation office is in the Phoenix Building, 101 East Vine

Street (corner of Vine and South Limestone). Bettie Kerr is the Director of LFUCG's Historic Preservation office.

- Where to start if your house has not been inventoried. Start in the Kentucky Room of the Central Branch of the Lexington Public Library and check the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. That will help you figure out when the house was built. These maps began in 1886 in Lexington, and were updated every few years.

Work your way back until the house stops appearing on the maps. That will give you a clue about when a house was built.

"Finding the exact date when a house was built is not a realistic expectation," Kerr said. "You do the research and gather information. The information begins to meld. The story comes together from various resources. But you probably won't find the precise date."

The Sanborn maps have a key that gives information about the exterior of the house – like brick, frame, brick veneer, and subsidiary structures like a carriage house or garage. Some of that is helpful on the plaque application.

- Lexington City Directories. These directories provide a fairly complete list of occupants who lived at a single address. City Directories are in the Kentucky Room of the library.

The earliest directory for Lexington was 1806. Until 1887, property was listed only by the owners' name. Starting in 1887, City Directories listed street addresses, i.e. East Main Street, and gave the owner's name and where they were employed. In the 1900s, they began using house numbers.

- Library's digital file of newspapers including the *Herald-Leader*.

Take the names of former owners and run them through the library's electronic file of old newspapers to see if there are stories, wedding announcements or obits that give information about these owners.

- Fayette County Clerk's office

- The deed to your house is filed in the Fayette County Clerk's office at 162 East Main Street.

The county clerk's staff will show you how to



start researching the deeds, also sometimes called running the title. "This is the only legal document of ownership of an individual property," Kerr said.

Start with the current owner and work your way back.

Deeds don't tell when a house was built. You have to figure that out by looking at the value of the property. If the value suddenly spikes between one owner and the next, you can figure a structure was built. But to truly understand who owned your house, tracing it through the deeds is the only way to do it.

The deed books also give the name of each owner of the property.

If you find that 12 people have owned your house, and no particular name like Henry Clay jumps out, you can take those names, especially the older names closer to when the house was built, and compare them to old City Directories, or run them through the library's newspaper files and find out something about these previous owners.

- The Division of Building Inspection has pretty good records of building permits starting in the 1940's going forward. Again, work backwards until the house doesn't show up anymore.

- Determining architectural style. The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation, the city's Historic Preservation office, and the public library all have books to help identify architectural styles.

A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia and Lee McAlester (New York: Knopf, 1984) is very usable for people not schooled in architecture. "It shows pictures of more normal houses and not just showplaces," Kerr said. She would specifically name this

book as a resource on the plaque application.

Once you submit your BGT Plaque Application and accompanying photos to the Trust for review by the Community Preservation & Education Committee, you will receive notice in 2 to 3 weeks.

The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation is launching a community outreach program for their Plaque Program. If you are interested in having BGT staff and representatives come speak to your group about the program, please give us a call at 859-253-0362. ☎