

In Loving Memory



Joan Scott Veazy

The Blue Grass Trust recently lost one of our most devoted volunteers. **Joan Scott Veazy** passed away on April 11 at the age of 83. For over 20 years, Joan served as a docent at the Hunt-Morgan House. As a former teacher, Joan was dedicated to education and especially loved giving tours to children. She had an impressive knowledge of the Hunt and Morgan families, the antiques in the house, and the history of Lexington. Her favorite story to tell was that of M'am Bette, the beloved slave of the Morgan family. Joan Veazy will be dearly missed by her fellow docents and the BGT family.



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THE BLUE GRASS TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.

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for Historic Preservation, Inc.

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Preservation Matters

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Hands On Heritage

by Alison Carter



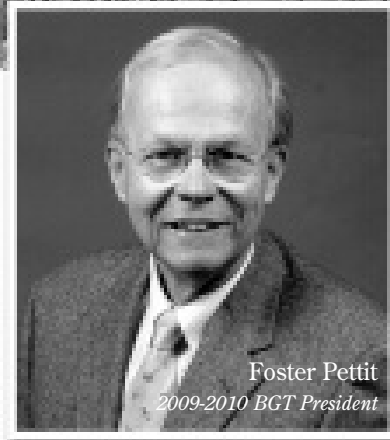
I remember visiting a house museum in Virginia Beach when I was Brownie Girl Scout. Standing on the old stairs, pretending I was back in the 1800s, I was absolutely enchanted. I absorbed every word the tour guide said, hoping that one day I could give tours at a house museum, too. Experiences like this created a passion for history that I have cherished my whole life. Now, at the Hunt-Morgan House, I have the opportunity to spark that same flame in children from all over the Bluegrass.

Last summer, the BGT launched a new initiative called Hands on Heritage. Funded through a grant from the Virginia Clark Hagan Charitable Foundation, we are able to offer events to children free of charge. Each program is a little different and includes crafts, projects, and activities. We have made homemade butter, painted floor cloths, learned how to sew, and written letters with quills and ink. In November, we hosted a Hands on Heritage about historic foodways and invited Civil War reenactors to set up "camp" in the garden. In February, we had a Victorian tea party with "Henrietta Morgan" and made some of her favorite crafts. In the future, we hope to host a Regency-era Ball for children to learn period dances.

This program makes it possible for hundreds of children to experience history in a way that is impossible to teach in a classroom. They spend time in the Hunt-Morgan House, learning about how the families have lived there over the years and interacting with the past. Through Hands on Heritage and a new Girl Scout event, we hope to create and nurture a love of history and historic preservation in children who just might, like me, grow up to turn that love into a passion, pastime, and purpose.



Message from Our President



Foster Pettit
2009-2010 BGT President

GREETINGS FROM MARKET STREET,

Lexington and the Bluegrass Region were selected for an April visit by member of the Institute of Classical Architecture and Classical America. This national organization, based in New York, is dedicated to advancing the classical tradition in architecture, urbanism, and the allied arts.

The Blue Grass Trust was asked to suggest and coordinate a tour of the many homes and buildings which exhibit classical architecture in Central Kentucky and also to view the remarkable beauty of the countryside in the spring.

The preamble to this trip, entitled "Southern Classicism in Kentucky's Bluegrass Region" is expressed by Tom Hayes, tour leader:

"Today the Bluegrass Region still retains much of its picturesque natural beauty of gently rolling hills. There are extraordinary surviving samples of Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival and Gothic Revival architecture from the late 18th and 19th centuries and newer classical architecture of the 20th century in the 15 counties that presently define the region."

The tour, which covered four days, was very exciting, and it emphasized again that visitors to our community come to see classic buildings that beautifully depict our history and exhibit the best architecture of the period.

Tom Eblen wrote an article for the March 31 issue of the *Lexington Herald-Leader* entitled "Design Can Help Cities

Function Better." He was reporting on the discussions produced at a symposium held at the Downtown Public Library. The theme of the conference concluded that "design isn't just about making cities look better; it's about making them function better. And it's too important to be left to chance and engineering."

Among the participants were Aaron Betsky, director of the Cincinnati Art Museum who has authored a dozen books and has an extensive background in international design and architecture, David Adkisson, president of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and former mayor

Mr. Betsky and Ms. Wiedemann said that "too often, development is an adversarial process of conflict on the back-end rather than brain storming on the front-end and collaboration among all the stakeholders throughout the process. Economics is always an issue, they said, but good design doesn't always have to be expensive, especially when long term value is considered."

All the panelists said "well designed development depends on citizens demanding excellence and government officials providing leadership." Mr. Adkisson noted that, "political leaders must make the case that excellent design is good for economic

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of Owensboro, Holly Wiedemann, whose firm, All Associates, specializes in the adaptive reuse of old buildings, and Casey Jones, a leading architect and urban planner who was appointed last August as a director of the U.S. General Services Administration's Design Excellence Program.

development."

Several weeks ago Joseph Riley, the nine-term mayor of Charleston, South Carolina, said during his presentation in Lexington: "Successful cities plan well and demand excellence."

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

VOTE

VOTE 2010

The registered voters of Fayette County will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 18 and vote in the primary election. The Blue Grass Trust hosted a candidate forum in February for the candidates in the 1st District Council race. We had very good attendance at this forum and we believe that everyone became better educated on the positions taken by Messrs. Marty Clifford and Chris Ford on issues relating to preservation. We decided to send a survey to the nine At-large Council candidates, seeking their views on a variety of topics that are of particular interest to our members. Six of the candidates took the time to prepare detailed and thoughtful responses to our questions. The answers of each candidate can be found on our website at www.bluegrasstrust/resources. One candidate declined to respond to our specific questions and his letter is also included on our site. Two candidates failed to provide any response to our survey.

We appreciate the effort made by those candidates who did take the time to respond. As our members are aware, as a 501(c)(3) organization, the BGT cannot and does not support any particular candidate for public office. However, we believe that our members are entitled to know where the candidates stand on issues that are important to the BGT and we hope that our forum and survey will make all of our members better educated when they step into the voting booth on May 18. We encourage all of our members to vote on May 18.

BGT CALENDAR OF EVENTS. GET INVOLVED IN THESE UPCOMING EVENTS.

Thursday, April 8

The Hunt-Morgan House opens for tours. Wednesday-Friday 1:00-4:00; Saturday 10:00-3:00; Sunday 1:00-4:00. Tours begin on the hour. Admission: \$7 Adults; \$4 Students. Parking on site behind house.

May 8-9

Mayfest Arts Fair in Gratz Park. The BGT will have a booth and host an open house at the Hunt-Morgan House. Saturday 10:00-6:00 and Sunday 11:00-5:00. Free.

Tuesday, May 11

Mayoral Candidate Theresa Isaac will make a presentation on her views of preservations. Noon at the Hunt-Morgan House. Free.

Saturday, May 22

Hands on Heritage: Architecture and the Hunt-Morgan House. Students ages 12 and up will learn about the history of American architecture with a focus on the Hunt-Morgan House. 1:00-4:00 pm. Call to register (859) 253-0263. Free.

Sunday, May 23

Sunday Stroll. Several historic buildings including the Hunt-Morgan House, the Bodley-Bullock House, and Old Morrison will be open for free tours from 1:00-4:30. Christ Church will host an organ concert featuring Brian Jones at 4:30 and Choral Evensong at 5:00. See the BGT website for more information.

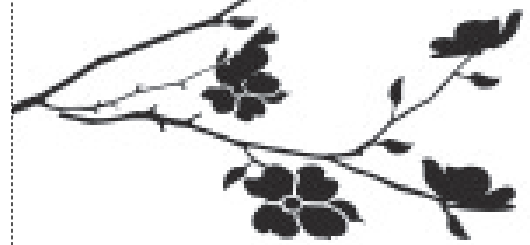
Tuesday, July 20

Mayoral Candidate Jim Gray will make a presentation on his views of preservations. Noon at the Hunt-Morgan House. Free.

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Thank you to all our sponsors who made who made the 13th Annual Blue Grass Trust Antiques & Garden Show a success.

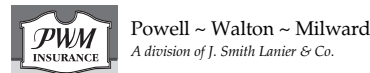
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*A Little Spring Cleaning
at The Pope Villa*

The Pope Villa probably hasn't been this empty since it was first built in 1812! After John and Eliza Pope moved out in 1816, the house was occupied by other families and was eventually altered into apartments. By 1987 when a fire destroyed the roof, the building was virtually unrecognizable as the grand, avant-garde design of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, America's first professional architect. The Blue Grass Trust purchased and secured the building and began the process of restoration. Over the years it became a collection point for everything from charred roof members, display units and exhibit boards to construction equipment, and old doors and windows.

Today, the house is almost completely empty. With the help of BGT members, volunteers, and students from the Historic Preservation program at UK, the Pope Villa has been cleared, cleaned, and swept. It took two work days, a lot of muscle, and many trips to our storage unit where all of the historic materials are securely stored. We filled a dump truck donated both days by Brad Leasor of Dirty Bird Services. Several items were donated to the Habitat for Humanity Restore.

Now, with the house cleared, its original grandeur is more visible. Original brick, plaster, flooring, and even wallpaper remain throughout the house. In August, the Trust plans to open a new exhibit at the Pope Villa funded by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Visitors will be able to walk through the house and experience the spaces as Latrobe designed them. The tour will be self-guided and visitors will use their own cell phones to access the audio tour narrated by "Latrobe" himself. The tour will highlight Lexington as the Athens of the West, Latrobe and his design for the Pope's Kentucky villa, and the continuing efforts to preserve the house and grounds.

Many thanks to all who volunteered at our work days. We couldn't have done it without you!



BGTeam

The Blue Grass Trust is launching its Paint Partnership Program to provide environmentally sensitive paint for low income historic property owners. We are excited about this opportunity to assist homeowners by providing exterior paint for their historic homes, but we feel like we can offer even more. So, in conjunction with the Paint Partnership, the BGT is also launching a new initiative called BGTeam.

BGTeam is a volunteer opportunity for Trust members. When homeowners apply for the Paint Partnership Program, they can also request assistance from the BGTeam. By volunteering to paint houses, stabilize porches, and help with other minor repairs, BGTeam volunteers will restore historic properties in a hands on way, get to know neighbors, and promote the Trust as a visible presence in the community. BGTeam opportunities will be listed on our website and we encourage all members to sign up. Maintaining our historic resources is the best way to preserve them and by preserving one house at a time, we preserve the character and charm of our communities as a whole.

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Spring Walking Tours

Spring is the perfect time of year to take a walk through Lexington's beautiful historic districts. The BGT has walking tours available to guide you through several of the downtown historic districts. Brochures are available at the BGT office or for download from our website. Now, you can also download our walking tours on your iPod or iPhone! Don't have an iPod? Stop by the office and borrow one of ours! The tours are narrated so you can listen as you walk or bike!

Vote

Vote! It's time to make important decisions about the future leadership of Lexington. The BGT sent surveys to all At-Large Council Candidates asking important questions about historic preservation and their goals for the city. Candidate responses can be found at our website.



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



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- Hunt-Morgan Society \$250
- Clay Lancaster Society \$500
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