

See you at the Homeplace Fall Heritage Festival September 10



Senate honors HPGR as Kentucky's Outdoor Classroom (Page 3)

Homeplace on Green River

Kentucky's Outdoor Classroom

June 2016

Taylor Students Help Launch Outdoor Classroom

Homeplace on Green River hosted about 75 Campbellsville 5th graders and their teachers for a day on the farm in mid-May. One group of about 15 students from Kentucky Christian Academy was introduced to various small animals native to Kentucky in a program conducted by Campbellsville University's Clay Hill Memorial Forest. They were guided on a nature hike by Homeplace volunteer Suzanne Ince. A second group of about 60 students from Campbellsville schools also went on nature hikes led by Homeplace vice president and retired Kentucky forester Billy Joe Fudge, learned about various environmental issues including the impact of Green River Lake on our communities in sessions conducted by Homeplace executive committee member Brother Mike Caldwell, took a hay ride and completed a "Quest" hike where they learned about barn owls and the history of Homeplace. Both outings were funded by a grant from the Taylor County Health Department through the Taylor County Wellness Coalition. Taylor County schools were also scheduled but were rained out and will be rescheduled in the fall. The visits fit well with Homeplace on Green River's role as Kentucky's Outdoor Classroom. Work is underway to extend the outdoor programs to other school districts throughout Kentucky.



Students from Kentucky Christian Academy visit with a "friendly" snake under the watchful eye of Clay Hill Memorial Forest's Amy Berry.

Like us on Homeplace at [Homeplace on Green River, Kentucky](#). Our Facebook page has brought a lot of positive attention to Homeplace, and the more "likes" we get the more it increases our readership. Also take a look at the Homeplace Web page at www.homeplacefarmky.org for more detailed information.

Extraordinary Progress So Far in 2016

and there's more to come

Much has been accomplished at Homeplace so far in 2016, and much more is planned. Here's a brief summary of some of the projects completed and advanced since the beginning of the year.



- Work has continued on the **barn lot corral** with the addition of a large fenced corral behind the barn. Plans for the rest of this year include fencing the adjoining field and restoring two rooms in the barn. The area was used extensively for the April plow day/spring festival.

- The 200-year-old **American Chestnut log tobacco barn** is reassembled and stands cloaked in a plastic weather cover waiting construction of a permanent enclosure. That should be completed by year's end pending additional funding.

- Much progress has been made this year on the largest and one of the oldest buildings at the farm, the **bank barn** built in the 1860s.



The bottom level has been cleared of many years' accumulation of composted manure and given a new gravel bed. The much needed structural renovations are about completed with replacement of

the huge 12x12 vertical timbers. Replacement of the siding will begin this month. The barn has already had much of its flooring replaced.

- Work continues on a butterfly garden featuring Kentucky native



plants. The garden is adjacent to the pond behind the feed lot and will include four plots and a landscaped pathway around the pond. Butterflies and other insects play a vital role in a healthy ecology,

and are threatened by urbanization and the use of insecticides.

Soil Health Cover Crops

Cover crops require additional investments in time and money and farmers need to know if the cost of planting soil cover crops to increase biological activity is more cost effective than fields without cover crops. A project is underway with base-line soil samples being taken by Green County agriculture students who will continue to monitor soils in the selected cover crop area for the next four years.

Students currently involved are Jessica Clark, Kaitlyn Beard and Halli Griffin. They are being supervised by agriculture teacher Samantha Clark.



Students are careful to measure and record areas where soil samples are taken. It's important that future samples come from the same locations to assure accurate and dependable data.



The house is beginning to look like a home. The redone parlor will have original antique furnishing from the early Tate home returned to Homeplace by the late Robert Hancock and Mrs. Robert (Verna) Hancock.

- **The house** finally has a new fully functioning bathroom and new kitchen plumbing. New sub-flooring and floor support is complete and installation of finished flooring should be completed this year. With the installation of updated heating and cooling and completion of new wiring this past year, the home is now being used for meetings for the first time in many years.
- Several **agricultural efforts** designed to improve crop production while protecting the environment are underway or scheduled to begin this year. All of these efforts are in cooperation with government and private groups who are providing most of the funding. Those efforts include a soil health cover crop project (see insert on page 2), an agrarian trail and a major project to measure water contamination and run-off from active farm fields.
- A gift from Mrs. Verna Hancock will be used to restore and relocate the **historic headstones** from some of Homeplace's earliest settlers. The stones were removed from their original location on an adjacent farm a number of years ago and given to Homeplace. They will be located near the house in a memorial plot.
- In addition to the capital improvements, **programming** at Homeplace continues to expand. Several items in this issue of the newsletter address some of those projects. Included are the expansion of the farm's role as Kentucky's Outdoor Classroom, an agrarian trail and several organized efforts to bring more school children to the farm for an outdoor experience.

Kentucky's "Outdoor Classroom" Affirmed by Senate



The Kentucky Senate passed a resolution March 3, 2016 recognizing the "efforts and accomplishments" of Homeplace on Green River. In the resolution the Senate commended Homeplace and declared their "appreciation to this historic farm and all its volunteers for their dedication to the protection and promotion of agriculture in the Commonwealth and for providing strong and unique educational opportunities to individuals of all ages." The resolution concludes, "When the Senate adjourns today,

it does so in honor of Homeplace on Green River, Kentucky's Outdoor Classroom." The resolution was co-sponsored by Senators Max Wise and David Givins.

The 2017 Fall Heritage Festival promises to be our most exciting, with more activities for all ages. If you are an artist/crafter and would like to sell or demonstrate your wares at the festival, contact Anita Rees at info@markscustomshoeart.com.

April Plow Day a success; To Be Repeated April 2017

More than a dozen Horse and mule plow teams gathered with their owners for the Homeplace on Green River Plow Day and Spring Festival Saturday, April 23. The day featured a variety of displays and activities that were part of Homeplace's early days. Hundreds of area residents came to watch teams of draft horses and mules plowing as they did prior to the use of tractors and to enjoy the live music, mule and ox cart rides, butter making, leather tooling, a farrier shoeing horses and lots of friendly animals. There were also food vendors and historical reenactors. Planning is underway for the 2017 Plow Day and Spring Festival April 27, 2017.



The Short List

Contact Information: The board has every intention of making 2016 a banner year for Homeplace, and we are off to a great start. However, we depend on volunteers and financial support. If you want to be an active part of our effort to encourage sustainable agriculture and promote the rich agricultural heritage of our region, please do join us. Contact us at Homeplacefarmkentucky@windstream.net or call us and leave a message at 270-789-0006.

The historic Green River Bridge at Tebbs Bend is being replaced and the old bridge was moved to the Tebbs Bend/Green River walking trail late last year. The builders of the new bridge have done an amazing job of retaining the appearance of the former bridge while making it much safer. It is scheduled to be completed in August weather permitting.



The summer board meeting will be Thursday, July 21, at the Taylor County Extension Office. Homeplace meetings are open and are a good opportunity to meet board members, exchange ideas and learn more about Homeplace. The business meeting portion is brief. The majority of the time is spent with updates and discussion of future plans for Homeplace. The meeting will be from 6:00 until 8 p.m. Eastern Time. A salad/sandwich/dessert dinner will be served.

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