

Next Up: April 21 Plow Day/Spring Festival

And then...Shakespeare in the Barn

Homeplace on Green River

March 2017



Plow Day/Spring Festival is Back April 21

Homeplace on Green River's Plow Day and Spring Festival will liven up southcentral Kentucky again April 21. This year will see antique tractors join the horse and mule plow teams, exhibits, demonstrations, arts and crafts sales, hands-on activities, historical reenactors and all kinds of animals.

There will be oxcart rides, hay rides and a barrel train for the youngsters. Artists and crafters will be selling their Kentucky-made products. There will be food vendors and all-day live music in the newly restored and renovated bank barn. All will be geared toward a day of family food and fun. The festival is from 9:00 until 5:00 Eastern Time.

Among the many exhibits and demonstrations will be pocket knife whittling, draw knife and a shave horse demonstration, discussion on barrel racing on a horse by a professional woman barrel racer, arrowhead crafting, a grist mill and blacksmith. Hands-on activities will include butter making, a potter's wheel, and a petting farm.

The \$10 per car for admission includes all of the activities except for products purchased from vendors.

More information about Homeplace can be found at www.homeplacefarmky.org. The Web page will be updated as more information is available.

Homeplace is dedicated to the protection and promotion of rural American culture through the sustainability of agriculture and natural resources using education, conservation and the economic opportunities of agritourism.

Homeplace is maintained by volunteers and showcases the agricultural history of Kentucky's rural counties.

Quality Summer Theater Comes to Homeplace in June/July

A theater program that will likely become one of the most interesting and lasting additions to Homeplace's seasonal activities will be inaugurated this summer. The newly renovated bank barn will be the venue for three productions June and July by the Lindsey Wilson Players led by Professor Robert Brock. Called "Shakespeare in the Barn," theater performances will be annual events at Homeplace.

The 2018 season will open June 23 with an evening performance of Shakespeare's *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and be followed June 30 with a musical, *Smoke on the Mountain*. The final Shakespeare in the Barn performance, *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* will be an Imagine Children's Théâtre production July 28. The casts for the plays will include both Lindsey Wilson students and actors from the community. The two June performances will include an optional dinner.

The barn at Homeplace will be a unique venue and the evenings will be casual. Additional renovation of the barn is underway preparing for the stage performances. Ticket information will be posted on the Web page www.homeplacefarmky.org. Seating

Construction of the stage for *Shakespeare in the Barn* as of March 10. It was designed by Robert Brock and built by Bill Sublett and Donald Colvin. It will be used for events other than theatre performances.



will be limited and can be reserved by contacting Phil Hanna at 270 384-2894 or at cphanna51@msn.com.

Professor Brock came to Lindsey Wilson from the Kentucky Repertory Theater at Horse Cave where he was artistic director from 2002 until 2011. While at Kentucky Repertory Theater, Brock produced 86 plays. During his tenure the theater received many accolades, including selection as one of the top ten small regional theaters in the nation by *USA Today*. While at Lindsey Wilson he has directed a number of outstanding productions including *A Christmas Carol*, *Oklahoma*, *The Sound of Music*, *Our Town* and *The Importance of Being Ernest*, using both students and local community actors.

Professor Brock is excited about working with Homeplace and Homeplace is fortunate to be working with him.

The Homeplace Board of Directors will also be scheduling other performances in the barn including gospel, country western and other music events and performances.

This scene from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* is an example of the quality of performances by Lindsey Wilson's Theatre Arts performers. The Shakespeare play *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* is scheduled at Homeplace June 23.



There will be opportunities for individuals and businesses to underwrite the performances or support this new program in various ways. If you are interested, contact Billy Joe Fudge billy.libil@gmail.com, or George Kolbenschlag at kolbensc@gmail.com or call Homeplace at 270 789 0006 and leave a message.

For current information about Homeplace go to www.homeplacefarmky.org or check our Facebook page at Homeplace on Green River, KY

Share in Homeplace's Exciting 2018 Schedule

Homeplace anticipates our most active, rewarding and productive year ahead. We already have more going on and planned than ever before, and the present executive board is rapidly becoming overwhelmed. We desperately need your help. Here are a few ways you can help us make Homeplace live up to its tremendous potential as Kentucky's Outdoor Classroom, promotor of sustained agriculture, preserver of our rural heritage and source of cultural opportunities.

Here are some of the ways you can help on an on-going basis.

Manage our Friends of Homeplace program:

The work can be done on your own time in your home. The responsibilities will be to help promote the program and keep a record of those involved. There will be no need to collect or manage funding.

Identifying grant opportunities and writing grant applications: This will require some research but can be done at your own convenience. Experience will help but is not necessary. Assistance will be available on grant preparation.



Giving record keeper: Keep track of those who make monetary contributions to Homeplace and be sure they are properly thanked and recognized. You will not be asked to actively raise money but, may help if you wish.

Trail Maintenance: Helping with upkeep and monitoring of the Homeplace/Tebbs Bend Nature Area trails.

On-going maintenance: Either specific skills or general handy man/woman help. We have plenty of need for both. This will, of course, depend on your interests and availability as projects become available.

Here are some ways you can help with specific events or activities:

Parking cars, greeters, children's activities, directing traffic, monitoring trash and recycling containers, serving as guide, assist with arts/craft sellers and exhibitors, preparation of the facilities prior to and/or clean-up after events, or being there to help where ever needed.

We would also like to schedule more activities throughout the year, and if you would like to sponsor a workshop, music event, trail walk, nature adventure or any other event that meets our criteria of wholesome learning, cultural or sustainable agriculture activities, let us know. You can respond to this e-mail (kolbensc@gmail) or call 270 789 0006 if you want to help or need additional information.



Events Calendar: Helping schedule and keep track of what's going on at Homeplace. This can be done from your home or any remote location. Most of the activity is from April through September.

Gardening/landscaping: Coordinating the upkeep of the gardens and landscaping at Homeplace. You will not be expected to do it all yourself but may need to find people to help.

Wedding coordinator: Helping schedule and accommodate weddings at Homeplace. There are typically three or four weddings a year, mostly in the spring, late summer and fall. Homeplace's responsibility is limited to facility use.

Garden Club to Build Bat Houses

Thanks to Wendy Burt for this information

Homeplace will host the Adair County Garden Club March 22 for a workshop on building bat houses and learning how to attract the bats.

Bats have taken a bad rap over the years but are quite beneficial. They can eat more than 1,200 mosquitoes an hour, often consuming their body weight in insects every night.

Unfortunately, in Kentucky the bat population is in



serious decline due to habitat loss, pesticides and most importantly white nose syndrome, a fungal disease that has killed millions of bats in North America. It was first noticed in a single cave in New York in 2007. The loss of bats to white nose syndrome is the most precipitous wildlife collapse of the past century.

The garden club's workshop, which will be led by Homeplace Board member Jerry Holt, is an effort to help preserve our bats.

Inexpensive bat house kits are available through Amazon and other on-line distributors or locally over counter at Ace Hardware, Tractor Supply, Walmart or other local stores.

Try it, It's Fun☺

We have made it easier for you to support Homeplace on Green River with your dollars. There is now a link to PayPal on the HP Web page to make your contribution. (www.homeplacefarmky.org.) You can contribute from your PayPal balance or with a Visa, Master Card, American Express or Discover credit card. **You do not have to be a PayPal member to contribute.** It's all very secure. You will receive a receipt for your taxes since Homeplace is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit. *Try it, it's fun.*

New Homeplace Board Members

At January's winter board meeting two new members were elected to the Homeplace Board. They are: Sarge Pollack, Jessie Insurance, Campbellsville, Representing Taylor County and Easton Bryant, North Century Pharmacy, Columbia, representing Adair.

Fire Protection Enhanced

Columbia Fire Chief Mike Glasgow has completed an inspection of the Homeplace buildings and installed fire extinguishers at all necessary locations at the farm.

Ag Sustainability Endangered

According to the U. S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance 81% of its members agree that customers of the U. S. crops and meat producers are growing more concerned about environmental sustainability. Included in the mission of Homeplace on Green River is the following: *"...dedication to the protection and promotion of rural American culture through the sustainability of agriculture and natural resources using education, conservation and economic opportunities of agritourism."*



Students from Green County High School are committed to annual soil sampling in an on-going soil health monitoring project to help to determine if proactive soil health programs will increase crop sustainability at reduced cost.

The bank barn at Homeplace, soon to be the venue for *Shakespeare in the Barn* theater productions, is thought to be the oldest existing agricultural structure still standing at Homeplace. It was built in the 1860s and has undergone extensive restoration and strengthening in the past three years. It has been inspected by the state and deemed ready to go for the stage productions. The house, built in 1803-04 is the oldest structure.