

**Next up: The Homeplace winter board meeting January 25. Learn more about Homeplace; complimentary chili supper; all are welcome. 6:00 Central Time (7:00 Eastern Time) Adair County Extension Office 409 Fairgrounds Street (Highway 206), Columbia, KY 42728. Please contact Homeplace Board President Billy Joe Fudge at [billy.libil@gmail.com](mailto:billy.libil@gmail.com) if you plan to attend the meeting.**



# Homeplace on Green River

***“Kentucky’s Outdoor Classroom”***

*January 2020*

## **What a great year 2019 was for Homeplace!**

This past year has seen significant changes for the better at Homeplace on Green River. This edition of the Newsletter highlights some of those changes as well as plans for 2020. The Board hopes you will be able to be involved in helping with those changes.

The 2019 year activities kicked off April 13 with a presentation of *The Gospel of John* by Lindsey Wilson College Director of Theater Robert Brock. Brock recreated the book as a storyteller, which is how early Christians were exposed to the life of Christ in an age when most people were illiterate.

Brock’s performance was followed April 27 by the annual Plow Day and Spring Festival. The festival featured more than 20 horse and mule plow teams, hay rides, an assortment of demonstrations and other early farm-related activities. Kentucky artists and crafters sold their works, and food vendors offered a great selection of good food. Homeplace traditionally has two annual festivals; the Spring Plow Day and the Fall Heritage Festival in September. The 2019 fall fest was also very well attended. The annual festivals are fun-filled family days at Homeplace. **The 2020 spring festival will be April 25 and the fall festival September 12. The only fee is a \$10 parking fee/car and purchases of the artists work and food.**

## **Homeplace receives \$82,000+ grant for several projects**

The Homeplace board has been awarded an \$82,800 grant from Schmidt Foundation to be used for hiring a site/program manager and for site improvements. An additional \$25,000 is also available if Homeplace can match it with additional gifts in 2020. The Board is confident the addition money can be raised, and is considering possible scenarios beneficial to Homeplace while meeting the requirements of the grant. Additional information will be posted as available on the Homeplace Facebook page at *Homeplace on Green River, KY*, or Web Page at [www.homeplacefarmky.org](http://www.homeplacefarmky.org).

# Trails open—Trail system update completed

This past year also saw significant work done to upgrade the 5-miles of trails at Homeplace and within the Taylor County Tebbs Bend-Green River Nature Area. While much of the trail system is located in the Nature Area, Homeplace hosts one of the two trail heads and has made significant contributions to maintaining the trails. There is also a trail head at the historic Tebbs Bend toll house on Tebbs Bend Road just before the river crossing.

The 5.23 miles of interlocking trails traverse several eco-systems including the restored Blue Heron Wetlands, forests, streams and prairies, habitats for wood ducks, cranes, eagles, wild turkeys, beaver, deer, otter and many other species of animals and birds. There are cut backs that allow hikers to walk either short or long distances. Much of the trail system is level, but some is more moderate in difficulty. An additional “agrarian trail” is being built to showcase area croplands. Most of that trail will be located on Homeplace land. Both trails have been funded by grants acquired by the Taylor County Fiscal Court.



**The trail system is open from sunrise until sunset daily. Parking is available at both trail heads where trail maps are posted. The trail map is also posted on the Homeplace Web page at [www.homeplacefarmky.org](http://www.homeplacefarmky.org)**

## Work on house continues

Additional work was done on the house at Homeplace in 2019. This has been an on-going project since the farm was first acquired in 2001. Work on the house is expensive because of the need to do all that can be done to carefully restore the home which was built in 1803-4. In 2008, thanks to a generous donation from Mr. Paul Vogt, the house was completely re-roofed. But, as roofs often do, the roof began leaking due to an unusual construction feature of the framing at one place on the roof. That problem was fixed in July.

In other work on the house this past year, guttering was repaired, and an electric range was provided for the kitchen. There is also an on-going issue with ground hogs burrowing under the house.

### Want to sell or exhibit at Plow Day?

**There's still room for arts and crafts, exhibits, and food vendors at the Plow Day/Spring Festival. If you want to participate, contact Anita Rees on Facebook at Homeplace on Green River Kentucky or email her at [acy12000@earthlink.net](mailto:acy12000@earthlink.net).**

## Join us in our mission

Homeplace's mission is to protect and promote rural American culture through the sustainability of agriculture and natural resources, utilizing education, conservation, and the economic opportunities of agritourism. Homeplace showcases the rural history of southcentral Kentucky with emphasis on Adair, Green and Taylor counties.

Won't you please join us in this endeavor? Homeplace has grown significantly since its inception in September, 2001. Our growth is dependent upon volunteers and gift dollars.

**Here are a few areas where you can help:**

- \*Maintaining the landscaping at Homeplace**
- \*Keeping our buildings safe and in good repair**
- \*Working with school children who come to Homeplace by the bus loads during the school year**
- \*Identifying grant opportunities and helping prepare grant applications**
- \*Helping establish and maintain a “Friends of Homeplace” program**
- \*Helping with activities at the Homeplace show barn.**

**If you wish to help contact Billy Joe Fudge [billy.libil@gmail.com](mailto:billy.libil@gmail.com).**

# This Old Plow finds its forever home at Homeplace

*By Billy Joe Fudge, Board President, Homeplace on Green River*

This Old Plow made its way to Homeplace on Green River just after noon Tuesday, November 5, 2019. It was brought to its forever home by Mr. David A. Meyer and his wife, Mrs. Christine M. Meyer, who reside on Martins Creek Road in Casey County, Kentucky.

Mr. Meyer, who is in his 80s, did not want the story of This Old Plow to die and be forgotten in the annals of time. After attending the Homeplace Fall Heritage Festival, he decided to honor Homeplace with this prized family possession and a little bit of its story. I'm sure his grandfather would be pleased with his grandson's gratitude and commitment by placing This Old Plow where it will be a memorial to him in perpetuity.



Mr. Meyer said, "The walking plow, sometimes called the bull-tongue plow or a one-horse plow, belonged to my grandfather, Joseph Henry Meyer. He owned a farm near Camp Denison, Ohio, probably purchased about 1920.

"All work was done with horses. They had a dairy and hauled milk daily to the railroad at Camp Denison to be shipped to Cincinnati. They raised truck crops (vegetables) and peddled them in the suburbs of Cincinnati. Corn was shocked and later husked and used to feed the farm animals."

Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are super people, and I cannot wait to see them at the Homeplace Plow Day Spring Festival April 25— if not sooner!

## Winter cover crop planted

Soil health cover crops are one of the most cost-effective tools in realizing maximum financial return and soil sustainability. Their enhancement of the health of our soils and the role of increased cost-effective production and reduction of water pollution are only beginning to be tested and appreciated by the scientific and agriculture communities. This past October we planted the fall/winter cover crop including cereal rye, crimson clover and Austrian winter peas which will mature over the winter and spring, decay, and return residual fertilizers and nutrients to help provide a bumper soybean crop for our 2020 lease holder.

## New tree honors mom

Homeplace Board member Anita Rees and her brother and sister honored their mother, Florence Polens, on her 100th birthday by asking friends to forego the usual birthday gifts and "just plant a tree in her honor." So arrangements were made by a friend of Anita's to plant a tree at Homeplace in honor of Mrs. Polens. The tulip poplar was placed adjacent to the location set aside for food vendors who come to the festivals. Tulip Poplars are fast growing, and the tree was planted where it can provide shade for diners when it matures.

Homeplace will be glad to plant a tree in memory or honor of your loved one in return for a small gift to the farm. The trees will be identified on a plaque with the name of both the donor and the person being remembered or honored. Planting trees is in keeping with the Homeplace mission!

# Are barn owls to be a new Homeplace attraction?

.....*We hope so*

Homeplace is participating in an effort by The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife to increase the population of barn owls in Kentucky.



Although the species is one of the most widely distributed birds in the world (found on all continents except for Antarctica), it is currently considered rare to uncommon in many regions of the United States, including Kentucky. In 2006 the barn owl was included as a species of greatest conservation need in our state. That same year the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife started a program to install barn owl nest boxes in suitable habitat on Wildlife Management Areas and in likely other nesting sites. Although there has been some evidence that the number of barn owls in our state is increasing, in the last comprehensive survey in 2016 there were still only 76 nesting sites identified in Kentucky.

In November, Kate Slankard, avian biologist from Fish and Wildlife, and Fish and Wildlife's master owl nest installer Jim Barnard, came to Homeplace to install a barn owl nesting box. On a previous visit to Homeplace Kate found barn owl pellets (droppings) and a barn owl feather in the silo in the feed lot across from the red tobacco barn. They installed a nesting box and hopefully the owls will establish a recurring nesting site there.

Want to know more about barn owls? Google "barn owls" or "Kentucky Fish and Wildlife barn owls."

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The barn owl is not that common in Kentucky. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources would like to increase the population of barn owls in our state, but they need our help. Please report barn owl sightings or nests to Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at 1-800-858-1549 or email [kate.slankard@ky.gov](mailto:kate.slankard@ky.gov).

