



## Friends of the Limberlost

P.O. Box 571, Geneva IN 46740

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[www.limberlost.weebly.com](http://www.limberlost.weebly.com)

Facebook: Friends of the Limberlost—Home of Gene Stratton-Porter

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## ANNUAL MEETING FOR FRIENDS OF THE LIMBERLOST SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 5:30-7:30PM

***Please RSVP by 5:00pm, Sept. 23, if you plan to attend***

- 5:30 PM catered dinner served at the Limberlost Visitor Center.
- 6:00 PM annual meeting for the election of the Board of Directors immediately followed by the monthly Board meeting.
- After the Board meeting the Songstress of the Limberlost, Adrienne Provenzano, will perform portions of her Indiana State Museum musical celebration of Indiana Nature Preserve’s 50th anniversary.
- Nicky Ball, Limberlost Site Manager, and Ben Hess, Nature Preserve’s Regional Ecologist, will review accomplishments made since the 2016 Annual Meeting, and both will highlight future plans.
- All *dues paying members* are invited to attend and are welcome to bring a friend or family members, but **YOU MUST RSVP by 5PM, September 23. Seating is limited,** and the caterer needs to know how many are coming. Please call or email the site to let us know if you are planning to attend.
- There is no charge for those attending; *however, please make reservations ASAP.*



### THREE LIMBERLOST MANAGERS POSE FOR A PICTURE

Here’s a special moment captured in time. In this photo you can see three consecutive Limberlost State Historic Site managers. The photo shows the three standing in the front yard of the Limberlost Cabin. From left to right is Nicky Ball, the current manager, who started working in January 2017. Next to Nicky is retired manager, Randy Lehman, who worked from July 1999 to July 2016. To the right of Randy is Becky Smith, who was site manager from 1987 to 1999. All three

“managers” got together for this rare photo opportunity during Becky’s recent visit to the Limberlost this summer.



## AWESOME AUTUMN ACTIVITIES AT LIMBERLOST



### **Sept. 9, Twilight Adventure at the Loblolly Marsh 7-9pm \$3/children & \$4/adults**

Hike the Loblolly Marsh as the sun sets. Enjoy a campfire and fun activities as darkness falls. Children can make a toilet paper tube owl or snake. There will be a wildlife show & tell conducted by site naturalist, Curt Burnette. Guests will have the chance to meet a live snake, and can put their hand into the mystery boxes to try to guess what is inside (we promise it won't be a snake). As always, night vision and bionic ears will be available to try out. The evening will end with marshmallow roasting. Although this event is popular with children, usually more adults attend than children! Participants should park at the Loblolly Marsh parking lot, located on Jay County Road 250W, just 1/2 mile north of Indiana Hwy 18. It's probably a good idea to bring a flashlight and bug spray. No toddlers please. *A big thanks to the sponsors Bixler Insurance and Berne Ready Mix.*



### **FINAL BLUEGRASS JAMBOREE FOR 2017 is SUNDAY, SEPT. 17, AT 2-4 PM**

The Jamboree takes place on the grounds of Limberlost State Historic Site, and it's FREE (Donations are encouraged). This event is designed for amateur musicians. There are no paid performers. Everyone donates his or her time and talent for the good of the cause. So you never know what you'll hear, but "usually" it's bluegrass, gospel, or folk music. Bring your instrument and join the musicians, or bring your lawn chair, and just sit awhile. Listen to the music. Enjoy life. Refreshments provided.

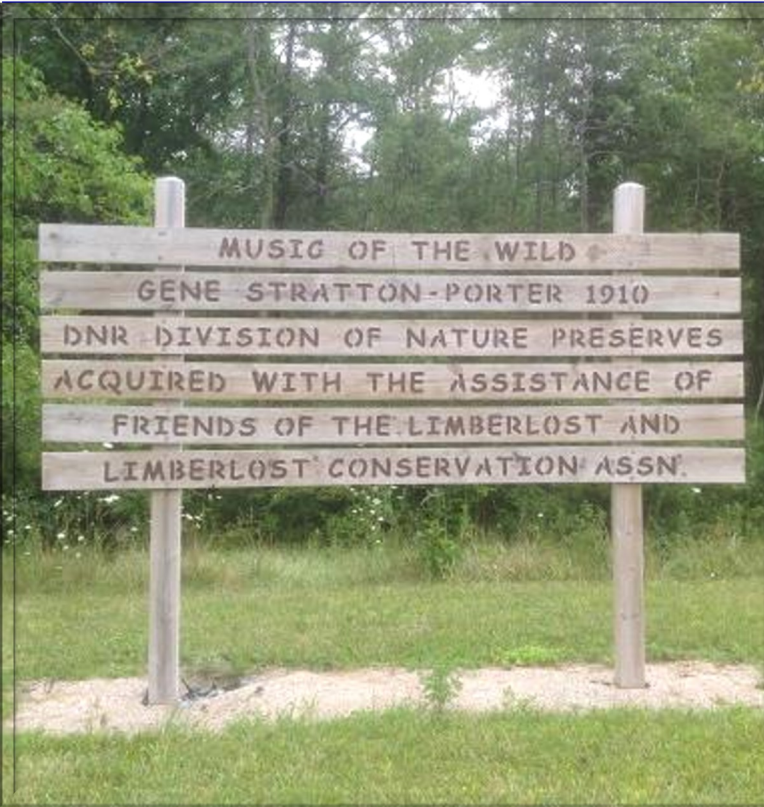
**BECAUSE A LOT OF BLUEGRASS MUSIC IS ABOUT *WORKING, DRINKING, AND DYING*, WE'D LIKE TO THANK OUR 2017 BLUEGRASS SPONSORS ALL LOCATED IN HISTORIC GENEVA, IN:**

- **LIMBERLOST CONSTRUCTION COMPANY**
- **GENEVA CASE & QUART**
- **DOWNING & GLANCY FUNERAL HOME**

*"The Limberlost Jamborees were started in 2001 by Betty Yoder and have become a much loved and highly anticipated local event carried on today by Betty's daughter, Verena Sutton, a dedicated group of very talented local musicians, and emceed by site manager emeritus, Randy Lehman"*







**GUIDED TOUR OF “MUSIC OF THE WILD” NATURE PRESERVE  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21  
9AM TO NOON, COST \$4/PERSON  
Sponsored by the Berne Garden Club**

Everyone is invited to the Limberlost Visitor Center to join site naturalist, Curt Burnette, on a hike through the “Music of the Wild” Nature Preserve located just south of Limberlost State Historic Site on Adams County Road 1200 S. This was an area very familiar to Gene Stratton-Porter. You’ll be walking in her footsteps. Gene took many photographs of this area and put them in her book, *Music of the Wild*, published in 1910, hence the name of the preserve.

You’ll first meet for orientation with Curt Burnette at the Limberlost Visitor Center in Geneva and then travel in your own vehicles to the DNR Nature Preserve Workshop parking lot, which is adjacent to the 72 acre Music of the Wild Preserve and the 40 acre Limberlost Bird Sanctuary. You should dress for the weather and the conditions of the day. For

more information about this hike, contact Curt at 260-368-7428, or [cburnette@indianamuseum.org](mailto:cburnette@indianamuseum.org)

As you hike the preserve, Curt will be reading passages from MUSIC OF THE WILD and highlighting points of interest. The book is one of Gene’s most lavish nature studies, containing 119 full-page photos displaying her talents as a photographer of nature subjects other than birds. The rural Indiana of the early years of the 20th century comes alive where people were still living much as they did during the days of settlement. The landscape photos in this book almost describe better than words the settings for her popular nature novels. You’ll feel regret that Mrs. Porter did not live in the time of modern color photography so that she could portray in color the forests and flowers that she so vividly describes. Nevertheless, as an early photographer she was forced to concentrate on composition and her artistic skill to achieve a delicate balance between light and shade to portray the essence of her subject matter. If you want to travel back in time, don’t miss this hike.

**Nov. 4, Marsh After Dark & Campfire Activities  
7-9 pm \$3/children & \$4/adults**

Join us for our final outdoor event for the calendar year. In some ways this is our favorite night event at the Loblolly Marsh. It’s late in the season. The cooler temperatures usually mean it’s a perfect time to be outdoors, and it’s time to enjoy the Loblolly Marsh one more time before winter rushes in taming the sounds, muting the colors, knocking down nature’s stage of green and gold, and putting the marsh under a spell of cold quiet. Yes, the weather can be very unpredictable—but no matter what happens, we will have this end-of-fall event for all those who love being outdoors in the company of like-minded individuals.



Everything takes place at the Loblolly Marsh Pavilion. Children and adults do a night hike with site naturalists, enjoy a wildlife presentation, listen to animal stories told around a campfire, and guests can participate in the Firelight Theater Variety Show, while finishing off a night of nocturnal adventure with a marshmallow roast and s’mores. Dress for the weather. Please bring flashlights. No toddlers please. Sponsored by Jay Co. R.E.M.C. & Berne Ready Mix



**September 23, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. "Among Sights, Sounds, and Silences: A Poetry Workshop for Kids and Parents with Indiana's Poet Laureate"**

- Where: Trail and outdoor shelter at the Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve.
- Who: The workshop is designed for students in the 1st grade through the 8th grade. Each child must be accompanied by a parent or other adult; event limited to 10 children + adults.
- Program ends with sharing poems during lunchtime.
- Workshop includes poetry exercises, identification of plants and animals, discussion of prompts and models, collaborative and individual writing time, and time for sharing.
- Cost: Free except for the cost of the guided nature hike which has a fee: \$3 child / \$4 adults.
- Pre-registration required. For more information and/or to register contact: Indiana's Poet Laureate, Shari Wagner, [sharimwagner@aol.com](mailto:sharimwagner@aol.com)

**October 14, Saturday, 7 to 8:30 p.m. "Spirit of the Limberlost: A Poetry Event"**

The general public is invited to the Limberlost Visitor Center for a poetry reading featuring participants from all three of the Limberlost poetry workshops that took place this summer. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. For more information contact: Nicky Ball, Site Manager, Limberlost State Historic Site, [nball@indianamuseum.org](mailto:nball@indianamuseum.org) 260-368-7428.

**Limberlost Cabin  
In Memory of Gene Stratton-Porter**

*She loved every flying thing,  
says the casement of moths.  
The moon-white wings, now still,  
stare out at us. A woman of light,  
say the square window looking toward the town,  
the guest window into the Limberlost,  
and the west-facing conservatory—  
mosaic of small panes to catch  
the afternoon sun. She used her strength  
to look outside, says the kitchen window,  
oak and heavy and open, a size  
she could walk through and return.  
She crossed tracks of raccoon and skunk,  
toes numbered by snowy drifts,  
to rescue a bird in mittened hand.  
says the iron heat register  
that warmed her feet. She gathered  
'round my warmth with stories to share  
says the fireplace holding photographs.  
Gene was a loved woman,  
says the onyx and pearl pendant  
given to her on her first anniversary.  
She stood patiently in the dark  
for nature photos to process,  
says the rusty old rose lamp.  
We knew her purposeful steps,  
say the doorways and portals.  
She welcomed every creature,  
says the stone fence built  
with apertures for squirrels and honeybees.  
Nature became the mother  
she searched for, says the flash  
of a cardinal in the trees.*

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**Limberlost poetry events  
are sponsored by an Arts  
in the Parks & Historic  
Sites grant from the  
Indiana Arts Commission**



The poem to the left and the one below are collaborative poems created by 11 members of Shari Wagner's first poetry workshop, "Inside Gene Stratton-Porter's Cabin" which took place July 22.

"Limberlost Cabin" was inspired by a tour of Gene's cabin and by a close study of former U.S. Poet Laureate, Ted Kooser's poem, "Abandoned Farmhouse." Poets each wrote what they "heard" something in the cabin saying, and then Shari assembled them into the poem presented here.

Workshop members dictated the lines for "Buckeye Butterfly" after they discussed some object poems and as they observed a Buckeye Butterfly.

**Buckeye Butterfly**  
**Headless, it smells of dust**  
**with eyes like peacock feathers**  
**or the eye of the Magic Eight Ball.**  
**It's imprinted with the Mystic Eye.**  
**It's a wooden pin hand-carved**  
**by a master carpenter.**  
**To me, it's the gossamer cape**  
**of autumn and tattered**  
**like wind shredded leaves.**  
**Though dead, there's a passive**  
**fluttering, an earthbound spirit,**  
**when once we remember**  
**the glory of spring.**





## Kitchen Restoration Update:

It's taking a lot longer than we thought it would, but we finally have some good news to report. See the pictures below for information on how restoration is proceeding.



▲ The stencil design, shown above, was recently painted on the upper portion of the kitchen walls. Finally all the kitchen walls and the ceiling are painted in the correct colors. and the stencil work is finished. Below, restoration artist, Chris Lemmon, paints the stencil design on the kitchen walls. The stencil design was determined by Chris, and visitors to the site will be able to see how she determined the stencil design by looking at a small section on one of the of the kitchen walls that she investigated and has left exposed for all to see.



▲ Photo above shows how a kitchen from the 1895 time period would look. Although Gene Stratton-Porter took a lot of pictures inside her home in Geneva, if she took any of her kitchen, they haven't been found, so we will rely a lot on time period photos to get ideas on how to "stage" the appearance of her Limberlost Cabin kitchen.



▲ This time period kitchen table was purchased by Friends of the Limberlost and is currently being restored by Marvin Schwartz Restoration in Geneva. Notice the similarity to the table in the top picture. Through her writing, we were able to document that Mrs. Porter had a table like this in her kitchen.

◀ The time period kitchen sink, located by Mike Linderman, site manager of Angel Mounds, was also restored by Mike, and he donated it to Limberlost. The sink was picked up by Ron Goad of the State Museum's Restoration Facility located in Madison, IN. Ron will be building a period-design sink cabinet, and once Ron finishes his work, the sink and cabinet will then both be installed in the Limberlost kitchen.

Even though, at this time, the kitchen still looks empty, which has been frustrating to say the least, now you know that progress is being made, and we are somewhat hopeful that the Limberlost kitchen project will finally get the attention it deserves.





# THE LIMBERLOST SWAMPER

Published Quarterly by Limberlost Swamp Remembered Committee  
Limberlost Swamp Remembered  
P.O. Box 571  
Geneva, Indiana 46740



We sincerely thank, once again, Creek Run Environmental Engineering employees, family, clients, and contractors for their generous contribution to be used for wetland restoration. Creek Run hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual James Peterson Memorial Fish Fry & Cornhole Tournament on August 4, 2017, in Montpelier, IN. This charity event is held every year in honor of the late James Peterson, founder of Jay Petroleum and one of the original owners of Creek Run. All funds raised from the event were donated to Friends of the Limberlost which was a charity near and dear to James Peterson. This year Creek Run raised \$7,952.00—another record amount. This money will be used to help fund restoration of wetland habitat at the Loblolly Marsh.

## Limberlost Swamp & Loblolly Marsh Fall Management by Ben Hess

As our regular growing season comes to a close in the next month or two, invasive species management continues strong. Staff have been working hard in late summer to control giant ragweed, teasel, narrow leaf cattail, and hybrid cattails on multiple sites. Additional work has begun prepping sites for fall herbicide applications on reed canary grass and other cool season species.

Certain native and non-native plant species become alive again after the energy draining task of seed production has been completed and the oppressive weather begins to subside. However, this new awakening is not the same as spring growth, this growth is for survival. As the bright summer days become shorter these cool season plants will not be exhausting energy to compete against neighboring plants. Their stems and leaves will not be elongating higher and higher to trap the sun's life giving energy. Nor are blooms blowing in the wind pollinating each other or trying to entice a lonely pollinator that wanders by to taste it's sweet nectar, unknowingly fertilizing each flower and creating the next generation of seed.

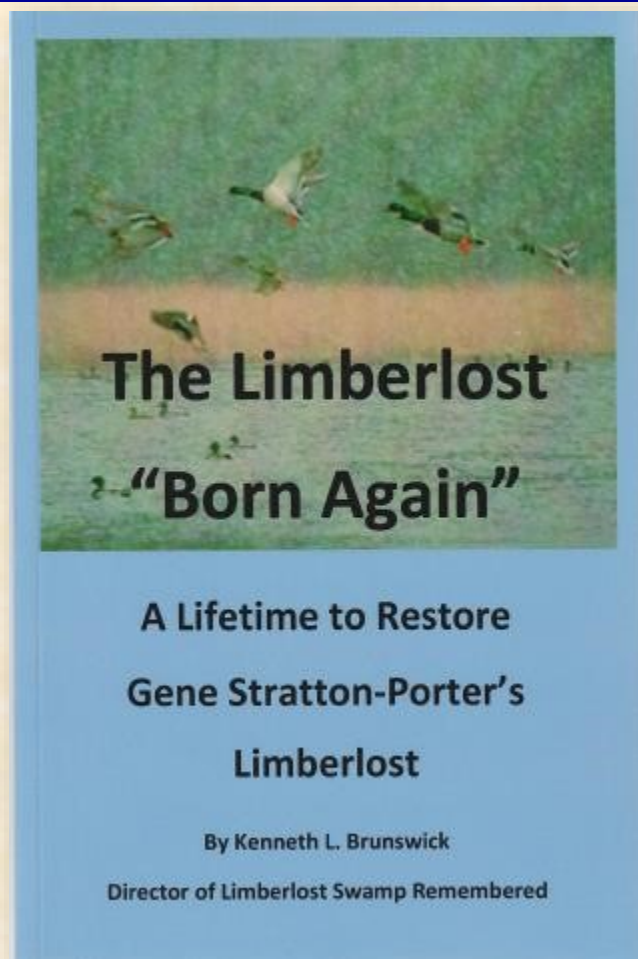
As the season of fall approaches these cool-temperature-loving plants will grow short but rugged leaves to capture energy from the sun that will translocate this free energy down into the soils where it is stored in their roots. These rugged leaves will even persist through heavy overnight frost and still function until the soil freezes around their fibrous root system and only then will they become dormant, not functioning. The roots awaken when the sun again warms the soil in spring because the plant has stored energy to survive a frozen winter.

As stewards managing invasive species throughout the Limberlost Swamp and Loblolly Marsh we can use plant physiology to our advantage having more effective control on non-native invasive species. By mowing thick stands of non-native invasive plants, like reed canary grass or Canada thistle, stress is induced by removal of the green functioning leaves, forcing it to steal valuable energy from its root system to regrow new leaves. Additionally this aids in providing a more uniform herbicide application with all the vegetation at the same height.

Other non-native plants like garlic mustard begin to show little quarter to half dollar size rosettes of leaves along the forest floor. Once most of our native flora has gone dormant we can selectively treat areas of little green half dollars that are barely above newly fallen red, yellow, and brown leaves.

Although this is the time of year when most of the greenery will be changing to brilliant fall colors, and it's time to look forward to cool crisp air and the arrival of many migratory birds, land management continues, making way for a more diverse restored wetland. This is round three of land management for the year!





## **A LIMBERLOST LEGEND WRITES A BOOK AND GIVES US INSIGHT INTO HOW BOTH HE AND THE LIMBERLOST WERE BORN AGAIN**

By Curt Burnette

It is easy to forget that one person can make a difference in the world. It needn't be something that affects the entire planet, very few are able to do that. But many people can make a difference locally, and sometimes the impact of their effort extends far beyond their community.

Ken Brunswick, local farmer, turned ecologist, initiated and led the effort to begin the re-creation of the Limberlost Swamp and other local wetlands. Geneva author, Gene Stratton-Porter wrote about these areas in both her world famous novels and her nature books. It was after Ken witnessed farm fields flooding over and over that he connected their location to the Limberlost Swamp and Loblolly Marsh of the past. Once he understood that connection, he then remembered reading the books of Gene Stratton-Porter in his youth and realized this was the area she had written about. Those connections started a process of self-realization and environmental restoration.

Ken writes about this process in his recently published book, The Limberlost "Born Again". After his retirement from the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves, he began organizing his

notes and data, researching information he still needed, writing and rewriting, giving draft copies to friends to read for their comments and criticism, and adding and deleting everything from sentences to entire chapters. In the midst of all this work, Ken had a stroke which slowed him down, but it did not stop him. He continued working on his book while everyone encouraged him and pestered him and anxiously awaited its publication.

His book was worth the wait. Ken describes in detail how each portion of the Limberlost nature preserves was acquired. He also writes, in the first few chapters, about his boyhood in Ohio, the many jobs that gave him expertise that he would use in the future, his military experience, moving to Indiana and dairy farming, and his struggle with alcohol. It was his battle with alcohol that eventually led him to embrace his faith and to be personally born again. Once Ken had been born again, he was ready to help the Limberlost be "born again".

The Limberlost "Born Again" is the type of book that can appeal to a wide audience. Those who want to learn about wetland restoration will reap a step-by-step description of the process. Those who like to read about a person's life and what factors help to determine the person they become will appreciate the stories and anecdotes Ken relays. Local folks will enjoy reading about the history of the Limberlost area, from the Ice Age to our current time. Everyone should be interested in the true stories of the Limber Jims (yes, there was more than one!) who gave their name to the creek and swamp, a name Gene Stratton-Porter spread around the world. Ken Brunswick's book of man and Limberlost being born again is a book well worth reading.

**Editor's Note:** The Limberlost Gift Shop is now selling Ken's book for \$22.50 (paperback only). Because the sale of his book is a fundraiser for the Limberlost Swamp Remembered Committee, there is no membership discount. To order Ken's book by credit card call 260-368-7428. You can also send \$22.50 + \$5.00 shipping and handling to the Friends of the Limberlost. If the book is being shipped to an Indiana address you also need to include \$1.58 sales tax.



## Jumper Jumps Assassinating Assassin or Life and Death in Your Back Yard

by Willy De Smet

President, Friends of the Limberlost

Last week I was standing on our back porch waiting for the dogs to finish their “business”. I usually look around in the shrubs and plants growing next to the deck while waiting. I have even been known to turn over leaves and look underneath. No need to turn over leaves this time as something caught my attention immediately. I found this colorful insect on the fence.



It is a nymph (an immature stage in the life cycle of many insects) of one of the Assassin Bugs. I am not sure which Assassin Bug exactly. I haven't found much about identifying Assassin Bug nymphs.

The family of the Assassin Bugs (Reduviidae) has several subfamilies. According to one source there are 184 species in North America. Some of them I've seen before, but most I haven't. They vary in size and shape. Assassin bugs have a long mouth part that they use to stab their victims to death. It folds underneath the thorax (“chest”) in a special groove when not in use. Later in this article, I'll try to show you this “stinger”.

Looking at the size I'm thinking it could be a Wheel Bug, *Arilus cristatus*. Wheel Bugs belong to the Assassin Bug family, and adults get up to about an inch and a half long. And I've seen Wheel Bugs around here before. Here's an adult I photographed in 2010.



Both adults and nymphs can give very painful and slow healing bites/stings to people if handled carelessly. You can see the wheel bug's stinger in the picture below.



I then thought of the Jagged Ambush Bug, *Phymata Americana*. It also belongs to the Assassin Bug family, but doesn't quite reach the half inch size as an adult. I frequently see those around here as well.



So, going by the size and having seen the adult Wheel Bug around here several times before, I'm thinking that could be it. But as mentioned earlier, it's difficult to identify Assassin Bug nymphs.



As I was taking pictures I noticed this Bold Jumping Spider (*Phidippus audax*) climbing into sight from the back of the fence. I took some pictures of her (males have an additional white stripe around the abdomen). The spider had definitely noticed the nymph and approached in brief sprints.



As I was considering switching the camera to video, the spider jumped. I had asked myself how a confrontation between these two predators would turn out. Obviously the spider (with the "knife") was much faster than the bug (who didn't have a chance to wield the "sword".)



The spider appeared to win the confrontation and dragged the nymph away both disappearing down the back of the fence.



If you look carefully at the photographs of the spider and the nymph, you can see the nymph's orange stinger. It may be a little more difficult to see the stinger in a black & white image, but look for it protruding from the head of the nymph.

Anyone can take the time to explore this mostly unnoticed world of predator and prey. Even letting the dogs out can bring you face to face with "life and death in your back yard."

Editor's Note: "Bugs live in just about any situation or climate. Nearly everyone will have some type of problem with insects at some time in their life. Some insects eat crops or food in storage; others bite or sting us, our livestock, or our pets. However, certain insects are helpful to us (for example, honey bees). Some pollinate our crops, or attack pest insects. Most insects have no importance to our daily life except that they are interesting to observe." University of Kentucky Entomology Dept.

## **Come Hike With Us—Saturday, Sept. 9, 9am 465 acre Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve 8323 N 250 W Bryant, IN**

**Loblolly Nature Preserve Parking Lot is located 3.5 miles west of  
Bryant on Hwy 18 and then 1/2 mile north on County Road 250 W  
Meet at the Parking Lot**



The hike is being organized by Melissa Fey, an Indiana Master Naturalist and board member of the Friends of the Limberlost. The goal is to see if there is enough interest to get together and hike trails at the wetlands on a regular basis. For more information or any questions, please contact Melissa at 260-849-0967.







## Friends of the Limberlost Receive Third Monarch Waystation Certification

By Terri Gorney—photos by Melissa Fey

In April, The Loblolly Marsh became the latest area to be certified by *Monarch Watch* as a Monarch Waystation. It is registered as the “Loblolly Marsh Monarchs.” There are two other certified Monarch Waystations established by the Friends of the Limberlost—one is at Limberlost State Historic Site, which is registered as “Gene’s Garden”—and the third one is at the Limberlost Swamp Wetland Preserve known as “Gene’s Limberlost.” According to the Monarch Watch website, as of August 10, 2017, there have been 17,567 Monarch Waystation habitats registered with Monarch Watch. On their website, here’s how Monarch Watch describes their program:

*“Each fall, hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies migrate from the United States and Canada to overwintering areas in Mexico and California where they wait out the winter until conditions favor a return flight in the spring. The monarch migration is truly one of the world’s greatest natural wonders, yet it is threatened by habitat loss in North America - at the overwintering sites and throughout the spring and summer breeding range as well.”*

*“Monarch Waystations are places that provide resources necessary for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration. Without milkweeds throughout their spring and summer breeding areas in North America, monarchs would not be able to produce the successive generations that culminate in the migration each fall. Similarly, without nectar from flowers, these fall migratory monarch butterflies would be unable to make their long journey to overwintering grounds in Mexico. The need for host plants for larvae and energy sources for adults applies to all monarch and butterfly populations around the world.”*



Gene Stratton-Porter was an early conservationist. The Friends of the Limberlost try to carry on Gene’s legacy by helping to restore and to conserve her beloved Limberlost and the birds, plants, animals and insects that inhabit it. “*Monarch butterfly populations are declining due to a loss of habitat. To assure a future for monarchs, conservation and restoration of milkweeds needs to become a national priority,*” according to Chip Taylor, Director of Monarch Watch. The milkweed plant is the only food source for monarch caterpillars.

At the Limberlost Territories many are working together to make good habitat for the monarch: Friends of the Limberlost, Ben Hess (East Central Regional Ecologist for DNR Nature Preserves), the

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing financial help and expertise, and many volunteers are all pitching in to help create a healthy ecosystem where monarchs and other butterflies can thrive.

Three species of milkweed (common, swamp, and whorled) can be seen blooming at the Limberlost Swamp Wetland Preserve. Veronica’s Trail and Trail 1 at the Loblolly Marsh feature nectar bearing flowering native plants, and more are being planted for the adult monarchs and other insects who depend on them.

A new book that was just published in April is “The Monarch: Saving Our Most Loved Butterfly” by Kylee Baumle. It is a good resource with plenty of pictures and activities for youngsters in it. I would encourage others to learn more about what you can do to help the monarchs.

Many communities have programs based on helping monarchs. Jody Heaston, Indiana Master Naturalist coordinator for the IDNR, is one of the experts in our area on the monarch butterfly. Jody works out of Ouabache State Park in Bluffton, IN, and she gives great programs on what you can do to help save the monarch. You can contact Jody at [jheaston@dnr.in.gov](mailto:jheaston@dnr.in.gov).

For information on the Monarch Waystation program check out the website [www. MonarchWatch.org](http://www.MonarchWatch.org)



Citizen scientists release “tagged” monarchs to help determine how far monarchs travel



## **FRIENDS OF THE LIMBERLOST**

### **NEW MEMBERSHIP & MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

The Friends of the Limberlost, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation, supports both Limberlost State Historic Site and the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves. Nature Preserves manages the restored wetlands in the Limberlost Territories. Your membership dues and extra donations are vital and support the many projects honoring the memory and legacy of Gene Stratton-Porter.

**You decide how your annual dues will be spent. You direct your donation to one of the following:**

- Limberlost State Historic Site to support projects & public programs at the site and at the restored wetlands.
- Limberlost Swamp Remembered, a committee of the Friends of the Limberlost, primarily focused on the Limberlost Swamp restoration projects.
- Or donate to both groups.

Your annual dues to Limberlost Historic Site Friends or Limberlost Swamp Remembered include admission to Limberlost State Historic Site, a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, and a 10% discount on purchases at the Limberlost Gift Shop. A description of additional membership benefits will be mailed to you with your membership card. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please fill out the form below to renew your membership or to sign up as a new member. If you have any questions regarding your membership in the Friends Group, call Limberlost State Historic Site. (260)368-7428.

Please make checks payable to: **FRIENDS OF THE LIMBERLOST** and mail both your check and completed Membership form to **PO Box 571, Geneva, IN 46740**.

#### **Step One:**

**Select your desired Friends membership.**

Choose where you want your Donation to go.

☐ **Limberlost Historic Site Friends—dues and any additional donation you make supports Limberlost State Historic Site and associated events, projects, and programs**

☐ **Limberlost Swamp Remembered Friends—dues and any additional donation you make supports Limberlost wetland restoration projects managed by the Indiana Division of Nature Preserves**

☐ **Combination Limberlost Historic Site and Swamp Remembered Friends—dues and any additional donation are equally shared by both groups**

#### **Step Two:**

**Choose the cost of the membership you want by checking the appropriate box below.**

☐ **Senior Citizen/Limited Income—\$10**

☐ **Business—\$50 (please enter contact name below)**

☐ **Individual—\$20**

☐ **Family—\$35.00**

☐ **Lifetime—\$1,000**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check the box if you want to get the newsletter mailed to you via the U.S. Postal Service. We'd like to email the newsletter to you because it saves us money on postage, and it also saves us time, and the "e-newsletter" is in color! However, we are happy to mail you a "paper copy" of the newsletter rather than the electronic version of the newsletter, if that is what you prefer—just check the box.

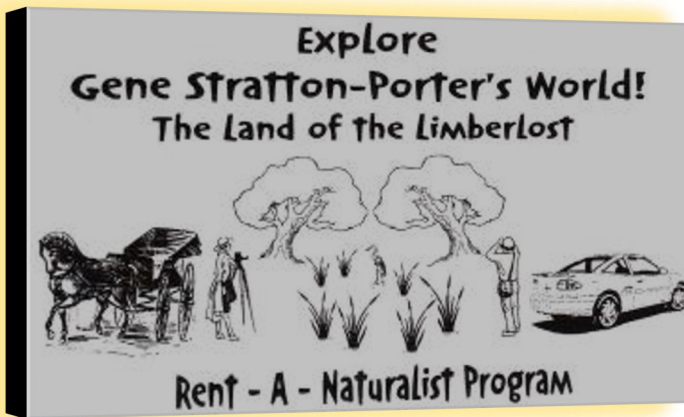
AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Additional donation appreciated): \$ \_\_\_\_\_





## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Thank you to the 1,535 people who have “liked” us on Facebook. Terri Gorney, Vice-President of Friends of the Limberlost is the administrator for the Facebook page, and does a great job keeping the page up-to-date & full of great pictures. There are quotes from Gene Stratton-Porter and pictures taken at events and pictures of the cabin and the restored wetlands. Check us out on Facebook at “[Friends of the Limberlost-Home of Gene Stratton-Porter](#)”. Also read weekly blogs on many different Limberlost topics on the website: [Limberlost.weebly.com](http://Limberlost.weebly.com)



**RENT-A-NATURALIST:** Cost: \$30 for 90 minutes. You drive your own vehicle and follow the staff naturalist. Binoculars can be provided.

These are personalized tours. The interests and physical abilities of the group, and the time of year determine areas visited and the details of each tour. A handicap trail is available at one of the locations.

A choice of five different Limberlost nature preserves is available. The itinerary can be customized according to your interests. For more information or to make a reservation contact Curt Burnette, Naturalist/Certified Interpretive Guide.

Call the site, or email [cburnette@indianamuseum.org](mailto:cburnette@indianamuseum.org). Plan your Limberlost adventure today!



## LIMBERLOST TO HOST INDIANA MASTER NATURALIST (IMN) ANNUAL “STATEWIDE GATHERING” OCT. 6 & 7

Limberlost State Historic Site will co-host the 2017 IMN Gathering. Workshops and programs for the 115 participants will take place at both Ouabache State Park in nearby Bluffton and also at Limberlost State Historic Site in Geneva. The number of registered participants has already reached capacity. The staff and volunteers at both Limberlost and Ouabache State Park are ready to help make this one of the best “Gatherings” the master naturalist have attended.

Limberlost is offering master naturalists the chance to take a guided nature hike with Curt Burnette in the Music of the Wild Nature Preserve, an area that inspired Gene Stratton-Porter’s book by the same name—see article on page 3. Participants will get an overview of Gene’s career as a nature writer & nature photographer. They will get a guided tour of her Limberlost Cabin and grounds, and they can learn about moths and other night-flying insects. At the Loblolly marsh participants will take a guided nature hike, and they will learn about wetland restoration from Ben Hess, DNR’s regional ecologist, in charge of the Limberlost wetland restoration projects. Other activities being offered at Limberlost are a botany & tree ID hike, lunch on the Ceylon Covered Bridge, a visit to an Amish School and an Amish midwife’s home. Doesn’t it make you want to be an IMN? For more information about IMN visit: [www.indianamasternaturalist.org](http://www.indianamasternaturalist.org)



## SONGSTRESS OF THE LIMBERLOST FEATURED AT THE INDIANA STATE MUSEUM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2-3 P.M.

Our very own, Adrienne Provenzano, will be a featured performer at the state museum. She will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of Indiana DNR’s Division of Nature Preserves. Her multi-media presentation will include piano, vocals, and narration, and will have a special focus on the Loblolly Marsh, which was designated Indiana’s 250<sup>th</sup> Nature Preserve by then Governor, Mitch Daniels. Gene Stratton-Porter’s Limberlost Swamp will also figure prominently in Adrienne’s performance.

An abbreviated version of this concert will be presented at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Limberlost on September 30. Please go to the Indiana State Museum on September 24 to show your support for Adrienne. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Limberlost.