



# Friends of the Limberlost

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

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## ANNUAL MEETING FOR FRIENDS OF THE LIMBERLOST SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 5:30-7:30PM

**RSVP Required— deadline 9/21/16, 5pm**

- 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 there will be three presentations in the classroom:
  - ♦ The highlight of the evening—Ken Brunswick will receive a Sagamore of the Wabash presented by state representative Greg Buemer!
  - ♦ Alex Forsythe will introduce the "Bird Box" an educational tool designed for both adults and children. Anyone wanting to learn more about birds can borrow the box, at no-charge, from Limberlost SHS.
  - ♦ There will be a quick PowerPoint review of the past year's accomplishments, future plans, and challenges ahead for Limberlost State Historic Site, presented by Randy Lehman, recently retired site manager. Ben Hess, East Central Regional Ecologist, will do the same kind of review for Limberlost Nature Preserves.
- All current members are invited to attend and are welcome to bring a friend or family members. So we can order enough food, please call or email the site to let us know you are coming. *Please RSVP by 5:00pm, 9/19/16, if you plan to attend. Call or email the site. If you are a non-member who has been personally invited to attend by a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Limberlost, you do not need to contact us with your RSVP.*
- There is no charge for the meal provided at the annual meeting; however, seating is limited. Make your reservations ASAP.



**FOR SALE: "Complete collection" of 1st edition books by Gene Stratton-Porter in fair to like-new condition. For more information contact: Jack McCrory, 3306 E. Gosport Court, Bloomington, IN 47401 Phone: 812-320-4406, email: ace@kiva.net**

## Awesome Autumn Activities at the Limberlost

### SEPT.10 TWILIGHTADVENTURE AT THE LOBLOLLY MARSH

**7-9pm, \$3/children & \$4/adults** Hike the Loblolly Marsh as the sun sets and then enjoy a campfire and fun activities as darkness falls. Adults & children can make a paper owl. There will be a wildlife show & tell conducted by site naturalist, Curt Burnette. Guests will have the chance to meet a live animal or two, and can put their hand in the “mystery boxes”. The evening will end in marshmallow roasting. Although this event is popular with children, usually more adults attend than children!



### FINAL BLUEGRASS JAMBOREE FOR 2016 is SUNDAY, SEPT. 18, 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. Bring your lawn chair. Just sit awhile, and 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 2015 BLUEGRASS SPONSORS:**

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

**ALL 3 LOCATED IN HISTORIC GENEVA, IN**



### Bicentennial Torch passes through Adams County on Friday, Sept. 30

At approximately 4:30 pm, retired site manager, Randy Lehman, will be carrying the torch to honor Geneva's best known resident, “Geneva” Stratton-Porter.

### Special Program at 6 pm at the Limberlost Visitor Center on Sept. 30

In commemoration of this historic day, Indiana Poet Laureate, Shari Wagner, will do a reading and Vickie Kibellus, Gene Stratton-Porter re-enactor, will perform. Adrienne Provenzano, singer/songwriter from Indianapolis, will also perform original compositions inspired by nature hikes in the Limberlost wetlands. The program is FREE, open to the public, and refreshments will be served.



Indiana Bicentennial  
TORCH RELAY



#### More about Shari Wagner:

Shari was born in the Mennonite community of Goshen, IN and grew up on a ten-acre woods near the small town of Markle, located along the Wabash River in Wells and Huntington Counties. Her father, Gerald Miller, worked as a family physician and her mother, Mary Mishler Miller, contributed her leadership skills to many community projects such as editing the town's monthly newspaper and planning the annual town festival. In their book, *Making the Rounds: Memoirs of a Small-Town Doctor*. Shari and her father write about the healthful advantages of living in a place where people feel connected. Shari let us know that her father is coming to the event at Limberlost, and they will both be signing books. Please join us for what promises to be an outstanding evening of poetry, music, and remembrance.



## **Next Indiana Campfires—a unique way to connect nature, literature, & Indiana’s Bicentennial**

**Loblolly Marsh, Saturday, October 8, from 4 pm to 7 pm**

To attend you must register online at “Indiana Humanities” website or call Leah Nahmias at 317-616-9804, or email: [lnahmias@indianahumanities.org](mailto:lnahmias@indianahumanities.org)

Indiana Humanities has put together a unique way for you to celebrate the restoration of the Limberlost Swamp and to learn more about what inspired Gene Stratton-Porter to write her popular novels and nature studies. You’ll enjoy a 90-minute easy hike followed by a campfire meal at the Loblolly Pavilion, which includes Upland Brewing Company beer and a discussion about Gene Stratton-Porter’s literary work and her beloved Limberlost Swamp.

During the 90 minute hike, a humanities scholar, Rachel Blumenthal, Indiana University Kokomo, will stop periodically to read aloud the words of Gene Stratton-Porter, and Limberlost State Historic Site naturalist, Curt Burnette, will point out interesting features along the walk. Participants will then gather around the campfire to discuss connections between nature, literature and place.

This event is designed for ages 12 and up. Beer available to those 21 and older. If you are interested in spending a great evening meeting others who share your interest in nature and Gene Stratton-Porter, please go [www.indianahumanities.org](http://www.indianahumanities.org) and register.

### **CREATURE FEATURE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15—TO BE ANNOUNCED.....**

It’s been busy at the site, and Curt Burnette informed us that he still needs to work through some of the details for the Creature Feature. So, as the date gets closer, you’ll have to call us or watch the Facebook page for the Friends of the Limberlost to find out what is planned. We’re sure Curt will schedule a program that you’ll want to see, but for now, “it’s still a work in progress”.

### **GUIDED TOUR OF “MUSIC OF THE WILD” NATURE PRESERVE, SAT., OCTOBER 22 9AM to NOON, COST \$3/PERSON**

Everyone is invited to the Limberlost Visitor Center to join site naturalist, Curt Burnette, on a hike through the “Music of the Wild” Nature Preserves just south of Limberlost State Historic Site on County Road 1200S. This was an area very familiar to Gene Stratton-Porter. You’ll be walking in her footsteps. Gene took over 100 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 meet Curt at the Limberlost Visitor Center and then travel in your own vehicles to the Nature Preserve Workshop parking lot, adjacent to the preserve. 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).



### **Nov. 5, Marsh After Dark & Campfire Activities 7-9pm, \$3/children & \$4/adults**

Children and adults are invited to take a guided night hike at the Loblolly Marsh with site naturalists. Enjoy an animal presentation and meet live animals. Listen to animal stories told around a campfire at the Loblolly Pavilion. Finish off a night of nocturnal adventure with a marshmallow roast. It’s all for fun and fun for all.



## Kitchen Restoration Update

David Buchanan, Curator of Decorative Arts and Furniture at the Indiana State Museum, came up with several pictures, like the one seen here, which provide a window into the past and show several features that we will be using in Gene's kitchen; for example, the shelving and the pots and pans hanging on hooks.



## Fundraising Goal reached for the Kitchen Restoration Project

We are happy to report that the Friends reached their fundraising goal raising just over \$10,000 for the kitchen restoration project, which will be matched 100% by the Indiana State Museum. Some of the larger expenses will be the construction of a kitchen sink and cabinet, a zinc-covered kitchen table, and paying a restoration artist to paint the stencil design that was around the top of the kitchen walls.

We now know that the walls of the kitchen were originally painted a shade of yellow, but while Gene was living in the Limberlost Cabin she had the walls painted a medium shade of blue, the ceiling was painted a much lighter shade of blue, and a dark blue floral stencil design was painted at the top of all the walls. A decision was made to go with the "blue phase". Almost all of the other Cabin rooms include a stencil design on the walls or on the ceiling or both. Since we now know she had a stencil design painted on the kitchen walls at one time, it would seem wrong not to include this design element in the restoration of the Limberlost kitchen.

We'd like to thank all the people who contributed so generously to the kitchen restoration project. It's donors like you who make good things happen:

Andrew Briggs  
Sarah Briggs  
Pamela Brown  
Emily Cooper Bunyan  
Sharon DeBolt  
Betty & Steve Drinkut  
Mary Feitler  
Ruth Gottschalk  
Duane & Hayden Gray  
Chris Heidegger  
Loretta Heiniger  
Ed Hutter  
Joan Kelly  
Cindy Kirkpatrick  
Louise Larsen  
Gretchen Lautzenheiser  
Randy Lehman  
Miriam Ludy  
Patricia McCabe  
John McKillip

Sue McLaughlin  
Maranda Michaels  
Toni Miller  
James Morin  
Paul & Sheila Nollen  
Rose Rush  
Judy Schroff  
Becky Smith  
Connie Smuts  
Cynthia Sommer-Hudson  
Bruce & Galen Sprunger  
Barb Stedman  
Betty Walters  
Robert & Mary Williamson

In addition we'd like to thank the 60 people who bought raffle tickets during the fundraising raffle for the kitchen project, and we'd like to thank the people who contributed the 4 raffle prizes for that fundraiser:

- Monica Berg
- Sharon Buzard
- Melissa Fey
- Terri Gorney

Also, the Friends contributed \$4,000 in gift shop profits for the kitchen project, so if you've purchased something from the Limberlost Gift Shop, we'd like to thank you, too.

We sincerely regret any names that were left off this list (always the problem with publishing lists) but we so much wanted to thank our kitchen project donors.

Please let us know if you were left off this list and we'll make it right in the next newsletter.



## A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As our Annual Membership Meeting draws close, I want to invite you all to come and meet with the Board and fellow members. One of the issues we will address at this meeting is the revision of the Bylaws of our Organization.

Last year during our work on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites (ISMHS), we noticed that The Bylaws of the Friends needed to be reviewed and updated. We've been working on it, and on 15 August 2016, the Board approved the revised Bylaws.

These changes to the Bylaws will need to be voted on at the General Membership Meeting on 24 September. The full text of the previous Bylaws as well as the proposed revised Bylaws will be available at the Annual Membership Meeting on 24 September. There will be an opportunity for members to discuss the proposed changes prior to the vote. These are the general changes:

- Removing a Director or Officer for cause has been added, since that was not specified in the 2003 bylaws. The previous Bylaws appear to allow the Board to appoint additional Officers (beyond those listed) and do not specify procedures for removing an Officer from his or her office or for removal of a Director from the Board. Article VI.8 that previously dealt with the Power to Fill Vacancies now describes the procedure for the removal of an Officer from his or her office, or for the removal of a Director from the Board. Power to Fill Vacancies is now integrated into VI.2 Vacancies.
- When the most recent Bylaws of our Organization were adopted in 2003, historic sites were administered by a division of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). That is no longer the case. Limberlost State Historic Site ("the Cabin") is still managed and operated by the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites (ISMHS), but several years ago ISMHS removed themselves from the organizational umbrella of DNR and became a separate state corporation. The Limberlost wetland restoration projects, however, are still supported by Limberlost Swamp Remembered (LSR), which is a committee of the Friends of the Limberlost. LSR continues to work closely with DNR's division of Nature Preserves, which oversees and manages the Limberlost wetland restoration projects. The Friends of the Limberlost effectively work with two separate state agencies. This is reflected in the changes we made.
- We included provisions for the use of more current means of communication like email.
- Some paragraphs were rephrased because they were hard to read or understand.
- A couple of paragraphs that are no longer relevant were removed.

Contact me if you want to read the new Bylaws in full or discuss the changes in advance of the annual meeting. I can be reached at the following email address: [desmet38@hotmail.com](mailto:desmet38@hotmail.com) . I can provide you with the full text of both the 2003 Bylaws and the revised (2016) Bylaws proposal as well as a list of the specific changes.

Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting. Remember if you plan to attend the annual meeting, you'll need to register in advance by contacting [cburnette@indianamuseum.org](mailto:cburnette@indianamuseum.org) . Or call 260-368-7428 to register.

—Willy De Smet, President FOL





# THE LIMBERLOST SWAMPER

Published Quarterly by Limberlost Swamp Remembered Committee  
Limberlost Swamp Remembered  
P.O. Box 603



We thank Creek Run Environmental Engineering employees, families, clients, and contractors for their generous contribution to be used for wetland restoration. Creek Run hosted their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual James Peterson Memorial Fish Fry & Cornhole Tournament on August 5, 2016, 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 Limberlost Swamp Remembered—a committee of the Friends of the Limberlost—which was a charity near and dear to James Peterson. This year Creek Run raised \$4,838.16—a record amount. The money will be used to help fund restoration of Limberlost wetland habitat.

## A DRY WETLAND IS GOOD?

One year a record flood, the following year drought-like conditions. The wetlands within the Limberlost Swamp are highly versatile and dynamic ecosystems. The soils of the not so distant past were cleared, trenched, and tiled to make way for man's defeat of the wildness of the Swamp. However these scarred soils of the newly restored wetlands create a mosaic of plants that germinate from new seed banks based on these extreme transitions each year by what the skies bestows upon it, thus the wetlands are dynamic and versatile.

Through restoration efforts native species were selected to enhance what native seeds already existed within the soils but were kept at bay with mowing, herbicides, and crops of years past. Now these new and old seeds are able to grow, spread their leaves to consume the rays of the sun and in turn provide a food source for the fauna and to create the next generation through seed, so that in time they too can fill their niche within this world.



A healthy and diverse wetland will and should dry out. There is a necessity within a wetland that they must dry out, making way for these “new species” or plants that only seem to show their leaves when conditions seem unbearable for hydrophilic species to grow to maturity because the soils lack the much needed water. This allows for a wetland to still function during drought conditions, it is still providing food, shelter, and in the lowest spots moisture. Plants change based on soil moisture, but vegetation is always present, sometimes thicker than we are used to seeing. The plants that currently abound throughout much of Loblolly Marsh and the Limberlost Swamp like when the saturated soils begin to dry out, the soil temperatures increase from exposure to the sun's strong rays, and competition has not yet begun for resources.



Plants such as rice cut grass, beggar's tick, barnyard grass, smartweeds, giant ragweed, and cocklebur start a nonstop battle reaching for heights to trap the sun's ray through multiple large flat leaves, creating hardship for other plants by making unwanted shade beneath, similar to sugar maples in the forest. Some plants, like the cocklebur, can produce a toxin that reduces competition early on and prevents other species from germinating until the plant has nearly matured and may even kill small seedlings. Other perennial plants that spread by underground roots, or rhizomes, take advantage of bare soil as well. This includes species like bur reed, cattail, river bulrush, rushes, and sedges.

As our plant species change so does the fauna around it. The Great Blue Herons become but a memory of long stick like legs slowing moving through open water looking for the unaware frog, fish, or snake. Ducks, cormorants, and geese are no longer heard from afar as they loudly take off when one walks too near their resting spot. We now see songbirds hopping from one smartweed to barnyard grass to maybe perching on a beggar's tick. We see more acrobatics in the sky, swallows, bobbing and weaving collecting insects.

Change is good. Wetlands that dry out in late summer are good for the habitat; it becomes more stable over time because it is dynamic from the plants continuing to amend the soils with their roots, fill the depleted seed bank, recharge local aquifers, and keep a balance within the species it supports. It is easy to see as the wetlands become dry, hydrophilic species begin to wilt, shorebirds disappear, and the soils crack from lack of moisture; however, new plant species fill the niche, protecting the soil from the summer heat providing food and shelter for different fauna that prefer a little drier site.

When you return to the Limberlost Swamp look for what is there, not what is missing. Experience how dynamic wetlands are and how they provide habitat based on what the climate bestows. It will survive now that the plow has stopped turning the earth, tiles no longer drain, and native species are allowed to flourish. There is no doubt that this year has been very dry. Before long the soils again will soon be saturated with water. The Great Blue Herons will once again dominate our view in every direction, and the duck calls will once again fill the air.





## **Geneva: Bird Town #1**

by Terri Gorney

In September 2013, Geneva became the first designated Bird Town by the Indiana Audubon Society. Since then Geneva has seen many

birds “flocking” to the town as well as bird watchers to see the birds. Bird notes of the last three years fill ten pages.

Highlights include the strong return of our national symbol, the bald eagle to this area. There are at least three nests in the area. As many as 16 eagles were spotted in one day in 2016. It is a bird that Gene Stratton-Porter had on her “bucket list” to photograph but was never able to accomplish.

Alexandra Forsythe created the Chimney Swift “Program” and “Sit” that has taken place annually for the last three years. It starts with her program at the Limberlost Visitor Center and a “Sit” in the alley on the south side of Line Street. This year participants watched about 100 chimney swifts drop into one chimney to roost for the night. In addition to presenting nature programs at Limberlost, Alexandra designed the Friends website: [limberlost.weebly.com](http://limberlost.weebly.com) and regularly posts blogs about birds. There is also a resource tab that contains further information about studying birds.

With the continued wetland restoration, the rare bird alerts have not been that rare. Some of Geneva’s visitors have included: king rail, bobwhite, yellow-headed blackbird, glossy ibis, American avocet, Tundra swans, American bittern, yellow-crowned night heron and black-crowned night heron.

Limberlost State Historic Site now hosts three Audubon chapters with regular field trips: Mississinewa (Marion), Robert Cooper (Muncie) and Stockbridge (Fort Wayne). These same chapters now participate with our annual Christmas Bird Count and the May Count. With

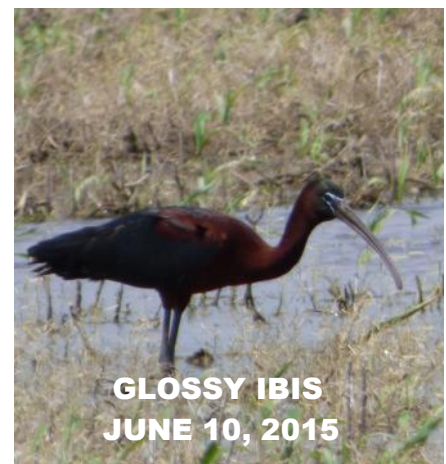
the good press the counts have received in local newspapers, it has encouraged many backyard birders to participate for the first time.

Since becoming a Bird Town, Limberlost has received two Mumford & Keller grants from the Indiana Audubon Society. The grants have been used to further the education of school age children on the benefits of our native birds. Many of these children will perhaps be the future caretakers of Geneva’s natural history. Birding programs have been given in the local public schools and in the local Amish schools for the past three years.

In 2015 Limberlost received a grant from INPAWS (Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society) for native seeds and plugs for placement at the site and the wetlands for pollinators.

Limberlost programs focused on birds or birding are a regular feature on our annual calendar of events. In September 2015, the Deacon’s Trail was established at the Limberlost Swamp Wetland Preserve which allows visitors to hike several miles into an area known for its good birding opportunities.

We’re certain that Gene Stratton-Porter would have been pleased to know that her hometown for 24 years was designated Birdtown #1 by the Indiana Audubon Society. We think she would also be happy to learn that that the Limberlost Bird List now has an incredible 217 bird species recorded on it (a list that was started in 2006), and new species are added to this list every year.



**GLOSSY IBIS**  
**JUNE 10, 2015**



## PLANTING TREES TODAY FOR A BETTER VIEW TOMORROW

When Red Gold built a new warehouse in 2015 and a semi-truck parking lot adjacent to the back lot at Limberlost, the visual impact to this historic site was significant. Red Gold does good things—they are the largest employer in Geneva, and they continue to pay for the school tours that take place at all the state historic sites operated by the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, but all that good doesn't solve our problem, so, we have been working on a way to make the situation better. The Friends of the Limberlost had a landscape plan to create a buffer between Red Gold and Limberlost, but they were unsuccessful in getting the grant needed to fund that project, which was a great disappointment.



Now a combination of circumstances has come together to make one aspect of the Friends Landscape plan more likely to happen—planting a border of trees and shrubs along the south and east edge of the back lot. It will take some time for this “landscape” project to effectively conceal the modern sights and sounds resulting from Red Gold's expansion, but as time passes there's a high probability that it will be successful.

So what changed to make implementing this landscape plan possible? First, Keller Lawn & Landscape Service of Berne, IN, is going out of business and is willing to sell 20 native trees and 10 shrubs at half-price.

We'll be planting maple, elms, and basswood (aka linden). The shrub (small tree) will be Viburnum, which will be planted between the larger trees. When mature, the trees should grow to be 80ft to 100ft tall and the Viburnum should grow to be 30 to 40 ft. tall. This should, eventually, create the wall of “green” that will separate Limberlost from Red Gold. ISMHS also agreed to pay for the cost of the trees.



Steve McBride, of Jay County, recently donated \$400 to the Friends of the Limberlost, and he agreed that this donation could be used on this tree-planting project.

Steve recently lost his fiancé, Bev Schwartzkopf, and much of this donation is from friends and relatives of the family. Steve feels this project is something Bev would have supported, and she would have enjoyed seeing the trees grow creating the “wall of green”.

Finally, the Friends of the Limberlost will pay the cost of planting and the maintenance costs, but we hope a donation from Red Gold and/or the Bank of Geneva will help offset all or part of this expense. Just so you know, a memorial sign listing donors, is not part of the plan for this tree project. Although we certainly appreciate any donations for this tree project, installation of signs presents long-term maintenance issues, and signs can potentially interfere with future plans at the site. If you give dollars to this project you'll just have to be happy that you are contributing to a much needed site project.

## **FRIENDS OF THE LIMBERLOST TO HOST GATHERING OF STATE PARKS FRIENDS GROUPS**

On November 12, Friends groups from various Indiana State Parks will be meeting at Limberlost for an all day gathering to learn more about the Friends of the Limberlost and to network among themselves.

The Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites has a long history of encouraging and working with Friends groups. Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs has been actively promoting the establishment of Friends groups, and has been encouraged by the response at various properties. Friends Groups are seen as a potential source of much needed volunteer and financial help, and this often under-utilized human resource can energize staff and contribute greatly to the success of any organization.

The Friends of the Limberlost (FOL) have been an organization assisting Limberlost since the 1980s. FOL incorporated in August of 1994, and became a 501(c)3 not-for-profit in 1995. The Friends of the Limberlost will be talking about their successes as well as talking about some of the challenges that need to be addressed in the future.

In terms of the successful operation of Limberlost SHS and the establishment and management of the Limberlost wetland restoration projects, FOL has played a key role and will continue to be an integral part of what is going on at Limberlost currently and in the future.

### **FEATURED SPEAKER AT GARDEN CLUB OF INDIANA'S SEPTEMBER 15, WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP**

Curt Burnette, Naturalist and Program Director for Limberlost State Historic Site, will be the first speaker at the Indiana Garden Club's workshop in Marion, IN. Previously, he was a zookeeper at Columbian Park Zoo in Lafayette, then at the Indianapolis Zoo in Washington Park. Curt relocated to New Orleans in 1984 to the Audubon Zoo. He worked for the Audubon Nature Institute until 2005 when Hurricane Katrina destroyed the Audubon Louisiana Nature Center, where he was the Managing Director. Heartsick, Curt returned to the Indianapolis Zoo where he was hired as Senior Zookeeper of the Encounters Area. After 5 years, Curt moved to his current position at Limberlost State Historic Site. He is a natural storyteller, and his programs there are extremely popular. Curt's program is: "She Planted Wildflowers in Her Word Gardens"-a recurring floral theme in the works of Gene Stratton-Porter". For more information about this workshop visit [www.gardenclubofindiana.org](http://www.gardenclubofindiana.org)

### **FRIENDS OF THE LIMBERLOST A REGISTERED CHARITY ON SMILE.AMAZON.COM**

Shop AmazonSmile and get the same savings you always get from shopping AMAZON, and 0.5% of the purchase price will be donated by AMAZON to Friends of the Limberlost. It doesn't cost you anything, but the Friends would benefit a little bit. On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping—just choose Friends of the Limberlost. AMAZON will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation. Word of caution...it will take a lot of shopper's to generate a significant donation; for instance, a \$50 purchase by you only generates 25¢ for the Friends, but if a lot of AMAZON shoppers include the Friends it could add up. We just hope shopping at AMAZON SMILE doesn't make you stop giving directly to the Friends of the Limberlost. Also, donations made by the AMAZON Foundation to the Friends are not tax deductible by you.

## **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 Nature Preserves

#### **Step Two:**

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

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

☐ **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 box if you want the e-newsletter. To receive the e-newsletter you must give us an email address.

☐ Check box if you DO NOT want a PAPER newsletter mailed to you. This saves us the cost of postage.

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

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_



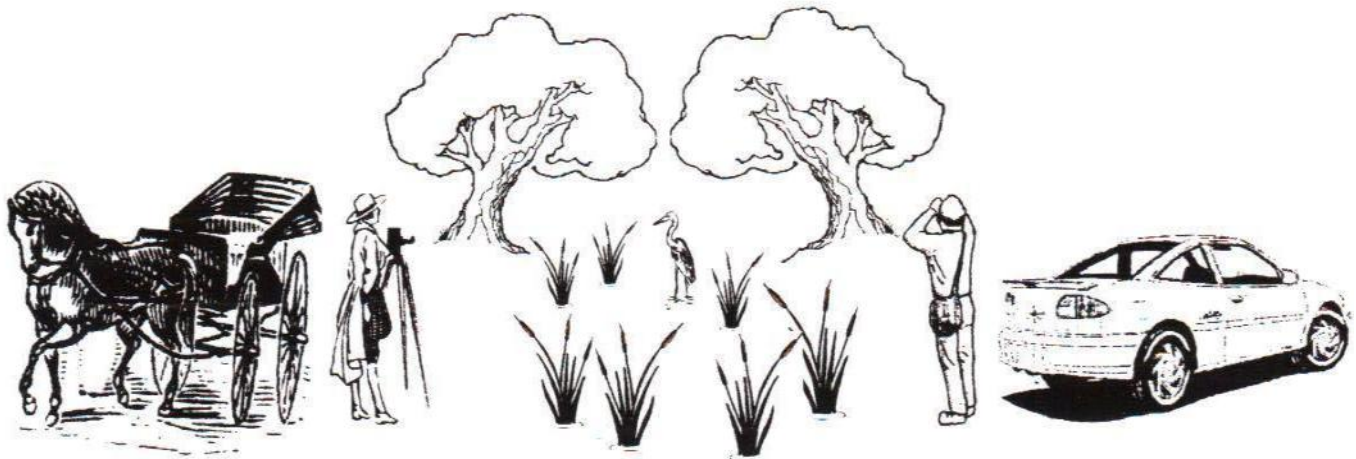


## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Thank you to the 1240 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. Check us out at the “*Friends of the Limberlost-Home of Gene Stratton-Porter*” Facebook page.



# Explore Gene Stratton-Porter's World! The Land of the Limberlost



## Rent - A - Naturalist Program

### HOW TO RENT-A -NATURALIST:

**Cost:** \$25 per hour for a group up to 8 people (\$2 for each additional person). 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.

If interested contact Curt Burnette, Naturalist/Certified Interpretive Guide. Call the site, 260-368-7428, or email [cburnette@indianamuseum.org](mailto:cburnette@indianamuseum.org). Plan your Limberlost adventure today.



The bird is a Nelson's sparrow. The photograph was taken by Ryan Sanderson of Indianapolis. You can see more photos of this sparrow on Ryan's flickr page: [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com). This photo was taken last year in October. A Nelson's was spotted this month by Terri Gorney, Vice-President of the Friends of the Limberlost in the same general area it was seen last year, on County Line Road in the Limberlost Swamp Wetland Preserve, but it's much harder to see this year because the vegetation is more dense than it was last year.