



Friends of the Limberlost

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OWL PROGRAM Sunday, March 26

2-3 pm at the Limberlost Visitor Center

Program is Free (donations encouraged)

Presented by Upper Wabash Interpretive Services

A live barred owl and screech owl are part of this program

Program sponsored by

VALENTINE FEED & SUPPLY, PORTLAND, IN

LIMBERLOST GOLDEN EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 15, Egg hunt begins

"eggsactly" at 11am, Cost: \$2.00 per child

(ages 12 & under welcome)

Find a golden egg and win a special prize

Petting Zoo opens 10:15 am.

- *Before the hunt....*Enjoy the petting zoo provided by Roll Farms; check out Professor Curt's egg display and his "Joke Board"; visit with the Easter Bunny.

- *After the hunt...*Attend Professor Curt's "Bunny Class" and graduate as an official "Limberlost Harebrain." Participate in yard games and win more candy.

**WE THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS FOR PROVIDING PRIZES
AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR OUR EASTER EVENT**

Crossroads Pantry in Geneva, Portland Wal-Mart, Berne CVS Pharmacy,
Dreams on Wings in Geneva & Friends of the Limberlost



MORE SPRINGTIME PROGRAMS AT LIMBERLOST STATE HISTORIC SITE

CREATURES OF THE NIGHT, Friday, April 21

At the Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve Pavilion

GPS Address: 8323N 250W, Bryant, IN 47326

Starts at 8:30 pm, COST \$4.00/ADULT & \$3.00/CHILD

Naturalists help you discover what creatures lurk around wetlands in the darkness. Meet at the Loblolly Pavilion. Three miles west of Bryant, IN on Hwy 18, turn north on County Road 250W. Program is designed for children and adults. No toddlers please. Moderate hiking required.

Bring your flashlight!

- ▶ Enjoy dip-netting for aquatic creatures. Identify frog calls.
- ▶ Using the digital microscope, Curt will project aquatic critters and other specimens on the big screen at the Pavilion.
- ▶ Enjoy “I Spy the Glowing Eyes Game” --our critter ID game.
- ▶ What’s in the Mystery Boxes?
- ▶ Put on the “BIONIC EARS.” Enhance your “NIGHT VISION.”
- ▶ Sit around the campfire and roast marshmallows.



GUIDED TOUR OF RAINBOW BOTTOM PARK

Saturday, April 29, 9:00 am to Noon

Starts at the Limberlost Visitor Center

Cost \$4.00/Person

Follow Curt Burnette, Limberlost naturalist, to Rainbow Bottom Park, a 270 acre park near the Ceylon Covered Bridge for a hike through the preserve to learn about the history & ecology of this area, how Gene Stratton-Porter used it for the setting of two of her novels, and also learn about local wildlife and wildflowers.

This year’s hike will include portions of the 102 acre Bicentennial Nature Trust property, which was added to the Rainbow Bottom area in 2015. Curt has never lead a nature hike into this area.

This will be no less than a two-mile hike. Participants should dress appropriately and not wear open-toed shoes. This hike will take place rain or shine.

▲Curt pictured in front of one of the giant sycamore trees you will see at Rainbow Bottom.

Pearl Berry Augsburger

by Randy Lehman

A few months ago, Friends member, Stan Mosser, brought in a delightful 20" X 24" nicely framed painting of the Limberlost Cabin by a local artist named Pearl Berry. Since I was embarrassed to admit that I had not heard of Pearl, I decided to find out more about her and to share what I learned with the Friends.

I had a feeling that Connie Smuts, longtime resident of Adams County and one of Limberlost's veteran tour guides, could help me locate Pearl. As it turns out, many years ago when Connie was a hairdresser, Pearl was a customer, so she was also curious to know how Pearl was doing. It wasn't long before Connie had located Pearl living comfortably in Berne, with her second husband, Justus (Bud) Augsburger. They've been married for 38 years. Her first marriage was to Neal Berry, and that lasted 32 years. She's certainly no stranger to long lasting relationships!

Ray is her maiden name, and Pearl was born in Jay County to Thomas Franklin Ray. Her father died when she was just 2 years old. According to Pearl, his truck stalled in a rainstorm, and he got soaked trying to get home, caught pneumonia and died. Pearl was the middle daughter in a family of three girls.

The mother never remarried. She and the three girls lived in Monroe "on welfare," as Pearl put it, but she has very fond memories of growing up in Adams County in this small Indiana town. She was interested in art as a young girl, but "art" was not part of the school curriculum back in those days. Even as a very young girl, she can remember being fascinated by color. One might say she was born to be an artist.

As she got older, Pearl took some art classes in Portland, taught by Ruth Starlin, but she felt that she knew as much as the teacher, so she didn't learn much about art from that experience. She decided to study art via a correspondence school located in Westport, Connecticut. For three years she took courses through this correspondence school, and she feels that experience helped her a lot. As it turns out Pearl is an alumni of The Famous Artists School, a correspondence art school that featured Norman Rockwell as its figurehead.

She had an art show in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. In addition, her work was always part of the annual Swiss Days art show (which she helped organize for 2 years) held at the Ford dealership in Berne. Over the years Pearl has become a well-known local artist doing paintings of the Ceylon Covered Bridge, barns, and animals. She still does art work on commission and has many local customers, and she is still painting subjects that matter to her.

We looked at her painting of the Limberlost Cabin, and she said that the trees she painted were all there—she did not add any trees. I asked her if she knew who was living at the Cabin at the time, but she was not certain. I'm glad I got to meet this talented and determined artist. She's a real "pearl" as far as I'm concerned. The painting featured in the photo above is hanging in the Limberlost Visitor Center for all to enjoy.



Raymond Miller

First Assistant in Field Work

By Terri Gorney

Raymond Miller, according to Gene Stratton-Porter in her book, *Homing with the Birds*, was “First Assistant in field work in the region of the Limberlost. For him, no day was too hot, no tree too high, no swamp too treacherous. In years of field work, he never refused any hazard I suggested we undertake.” Raymond was a young man when he worked for Gene.

Erland (Earl) Raymond Miller was the son of Andrew Jackson and Sarah (Aspy) Miller. He was born April 27, 1890. Raymond was the younger brother of Gene’s secretary, Lorene Miller Wallace, who was her assistant from 1908-1915. The Miller and Aspy families were early settlers of Geneva and well known in the community. Gene knew the family well and even photographed



some of her bird pictures at the Aspy farm.



On some days you might find three Miller children at the Porter home. It is likely that Sarah Miller is in the photograph to the left. She’s playing with Jeannette Porter, Gene Stratton-Porter’s daughter and only child. Sarah is the girl on the left side. The photo was taken by Gene in the late 1890s in the dining room of the Limberlost Cabin. Jeannette is leaning against a backrest, part of her father’s collection of Native American artifacts. Sarah was close in age to Jeannette and was one of Raymond’s older sisters.

According to his WWI Draft Registration 1917-1918*, Raymond was tall, with hazel eyes and light hair. Gene has a picture of Raymond in a suit on page 62 in *Homing with the Birds* (see photo above). It is possible that Raymond started working for Gene about the time he graduated from high school. Perhaps he was looking for a summer job, and it was about that time that Lorene also began working for Gene.

We don’t know exactly how long Raymond worked for Gene, but we do know that he served five years in the Marine Corp according to his military records. This period was probably 1910-1915. His service

ended before the U.S. officially declared war against Germany in 1917.

In August 1919, Raymond married Loretta Glynn, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Glynn. The Glynn’s lived in San Francisco. Thomas, Loretta’s father, had been the County Recorder. He was retired when the couple married. The newlyweds lived with her parents for a couple years then moved to southern California. While living in San Francisco Raymond became a salesman and engineer for Miller & Lux. It was a meat packing company. “Miller” in the name of the company seems to be just a coincidence. Raymond and Loretta had no known children.

Raymond and his sister, Lorene, were close throughout their lives. Raymond listed Lorene on his 1942 draft registration card.** At the time, he was employed at the U.S. Veterans Hospital at American Lake in Pierce, Washington. It is unknown if as a civilian or through the army. When Raymond died in 1958, he was buried at the Los Angeles National Cemetery in California.

*World War I, Draft Registration 1917-1918, #3447, No. 173, Earl Raymond Miller, born Apr 27, 1890, Geneva, Indiana. Most men, even older men, were required to register for the WWI draft.

**World War II, Draft Registration (men born on or after Apr 28, 1877 and on or before Feb 16, 1897 were required to register for the draft). Serial Number U1903. Earl Raymond Miller.

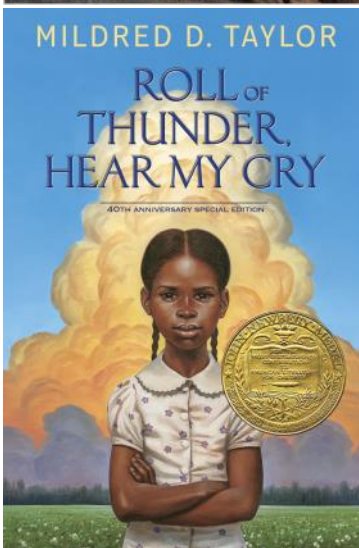
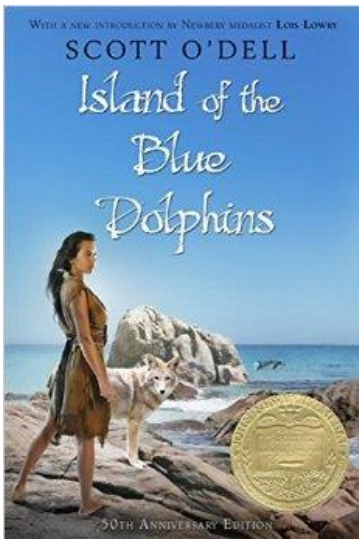
Writer’s Note: This is part of ongoing research for Limberlost State Historic Site; it is hoped that more will be learned about Raymond.

NICKY'S NOTES

My favorite day of the week in elementary school was “library day.” I was an avid reader, and one day a week when I got to bring home a new book, I couldn’t wait to crack the cover and get into the story.

My family and I lived in a home surrounded by five acres of the Michigan woods, so when the weather was nice, I would take my newly-acquired novel to the best reading location—a cottonwood tree at the end of the driveway. The tree had four large trunks all emerging from one at its base. Not only could I climb into it, but its nooks and crannies provided “book shelves” where I could place my novels during dinner and then return to my tree later in the evening.

The other day I was hiking through the Loblolly Upland Trail when I spotted a similar tree. Immediately, I thought back to my cottonwood and the many evenings I would spend reading in it. One of the books I remember enjoying in the tree was a children’s biography of Mother Teresa. It was a book I probably checked out once a month, and as I could tell from the librarian’s due date stamp, I was the only student in the entire school who had checked it out in the last few years. I loved reading about this selfless woman who bravely did what she thought was right for those in her community.



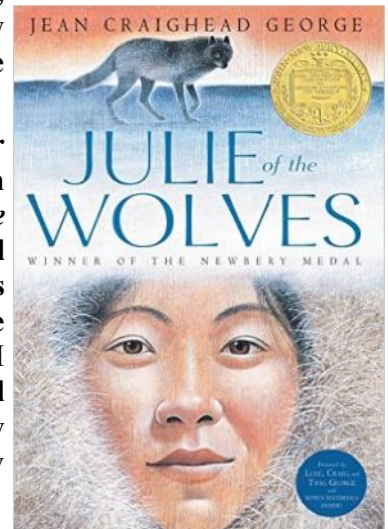
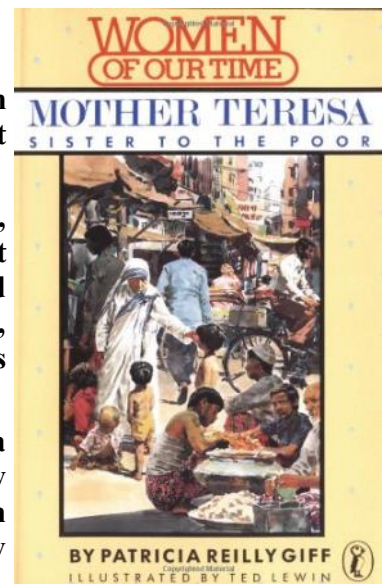
As I thought about that book, I tried to recall other novels I was reading at that young age. In fourth grade, I remember reading *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O’Dell—the story of a young girl who is isolated on a Pacific Island for eighteen years who teaches herself to forage for food and make weapons and clothing. That same year in school, I chose to read *Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George. In this tale, a young Eskimo girl runs away from home and survives in the Alaskan tundra by gradually becoming part of a wolf pack.

By middle school, I was reading (and re-reading) *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor. This is part of a series based on young Cassie Logan whose African-American family is living in Mississippi during the Great Depression. Unlike many of their sharecropping neighbors, the Logan’s own their own land, and it is the tie to this land that keeps the family together.

Although I was unaware at the time, my taste in books had many common threads. Strong, independent female main characters. Struggle and survival. A connection to nature. Now here I am, a few decades later, working at the home of Gene Stratton-Porter, whose novel *The Girl of the Limberlost* brought to life the strong, independent Elnora and her connection to the land of the Limberlost. Had I known of Gene’s books when I was a child, you can be sure they would have found their way to my cottonwood bookshelf.

There were many factors that brought me here to the Limberlost, yet I can’t help but wonder if my time spent reading in that tree was in a small way preparing me for this role. Geneva has quickly begun to feel like home, and being here is a lot like returning to that old cottonwood. As the weather warms up and you head out on the trail, don’t be surprised to see me reading amongst the trees, finding adventure in the pages of a book. Or perhaps I will be creating my own adventure here at the Limberlost.

Editor’s comment: We’ve asked Nicky Ball, the new site manager, to make regular contributions to the newsletter, and this the first of what we hope will be many contributions.





THE LIMBERLOST SWAMPER

Published Quarterly by Limberlost Swamp Remembered Committee

Limberlost Swamp Remembered
P.O. Box 571
Geneva, Indiana 46740



A Mild Winter

Winter management of the Limberlost properties typically starts when green leaves have wilted and fallen, the ground has been made solid by frigid temperatures, and much of the fauna has headed south for warmer temperatures; however, this winter season has been different. Nature Preserve staff has been busy with non-native woody invasive management for a while now and has treated hundreds of stems, but the warmer weather has made foliar treatment of invasive species possible as well.



Applying herbicide to early-growth garlic mustard

This dormant season has been a great opportunity to extend our management of garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) by foliar treatments. Treating garlic mustard with herbicide foliar treatments should reduce the number of flowering plants that mature in early spring, reduce off-target damage to native flora, and prevent soil disturbances that allows more garlic mustard seed to germinate.

Garlic mustard is capable of photosynthesizing under thin layers of snow and when air temperatures are at or slightly above 32°. Herbicide applications at this colder temperature requires patience, as the translocation of the herbicide is at a slowed pace, so leaf damage will not show for possibly up to a month or more from the time of application. Staff will continue to monitor areas treated, and as soil temperatures rise with air temperatures, more flora will begin to emerge and foliar applications will transition to flower removal in mid to late spring.

Applying herbicide to garlic mustard plants is a welcome change from the more labor-intensive management practices needed to remove the larger woody species across the Loblolly Marsh and the Limberlost Swamp. Working day after day with chainsaws can sometimes be a physical challenge for Nature Preserve staff.

Spring Fires

Former Friends of the Limberlost board president, Dave Kramer, and current board president, Willy DeSmet, assisted Nature Preserves staff on a prescribed burn during February's mild temperatures. Our burn went as planned, and we were able to burn a section of Loblolly Marsh just north of Veronica's trail.

The purpose of using fire as part of our management plan for Loblolly Marsh and Limberlost Swamp is that it allows us to restore and maintain the plant communities that provide many different habitats for our fauna and visitors and is typically done from February to early April. A main intent of prescribed fire is to reduce the woody competition that has displaced our desired restoration efforts.

Many of the nature preserve sites were intensely farmed for decades and the depleted soils have only begun to heal with the establishment of deeply rooted native plants. Some native and non-native woody species may grow too aggressively early on and create an imbalance with the herbaceous plants and need to be set back to allow for the perennial herbaceous layer to develop to its full potential into prairie, sedge meadow, savanna, or open oak woodland. (Continued on the next page)



Cutting down mulberry trees



Cutting down multi-flora rose

Woody species that tend to grow rapidly and displace other species are raspberry, blackberry, maple trees, ash trees, cottonwood trees, dogwoods, honeysuckle, autumn olive, and multiflora rose and are just a few that are typical targets of a prescribed fire. These species are not as fire tolerant as oaks and hickory trees and their thin bark allows for a high reduction in their population, which results in species diversity.

Prescribed fire also helps in other management efforts by removing the previous year's herbaceous growth that has died creating a thick thatch layer. This thick thatch layer may inhibit our herbicide applications to eliminate invasive species in the next growing season. Among many other ecological benefits the fire also releases nutrients into the soil and stimulates seed germination.



NEW MEMBER JOINS THE LIMBERLOST NATURE PRESERVES CREW

Hello everyone! My name is Amber Davis, taking on the intermittent position as Nature Preserves Land Steward. I am excited to be working with East Central Ecologist, Ben Hess, and his crew, Fred and Al. I wanted to share with you a bit about myself and my experiences that have lead me here.

I grew up in a small town called Milton, which is located in South Central Wisconsin. I lived a hop, skip and a jump away from Lake Koshkonong. My back yard was this lake, the woods, and wetlands where I would spend most of my time pretending to be Davy Crockett. I have always had a passion for the outdoors, whether it was fishing and hunting with my dad, or catching night crawlers in the middle of a summer night.

Not only do I love the outdoors, but I also was a multi-sport athlete throughout my life. I live for competition; this could be due to having two older brothers. Being blessed with an opportunity to develop my athletic career, I took an offer to play Division I soccer at Western Illinois University. I graduated from WIU (located in Macomb, Illinois) with my undergraduate degree in 2015. After making a decision to continue my education, I took an assistantship at Western Illinois University's environmental facility -Horn Field Campus. There, I was the Natural Resource/Facility Management Graduate Assistant. I was in charge of maintaining the facility, grounds and various restoration projects. I assisted in planning, scheduling, and implementing natural resource management projects such as forest and prairie restoration, controlled burns, and the eradication of invasive species. I graduated with my Master's in Recreation & Parks Administration from WIU this past fall.

In addition, I have been out in Washington State for the past three summers playing semi-pro soccer and working for the City of Bellevue. I had the opportunity to expand my skills and experiences as a supervisor for an environmental program in Washington, for the City of Bellevue. The Well KEPT (Kids Environmental Project Training) Program is a summer youth employment opportunity designed to provide environmental education, job skills, and career development training in the field of natural resource management. At Well KEPT, I was directly involved with hiring, determining program needs, safety orientations, coordinating events, environmental education, and evaluating students as they progress through the program. We dealt with various environmental concerns such as invasive plant removal, trail maintenance, and restoration. I oversaw a variety of tasks in order to protect, maintain, and repair the City's parks and open spaces. After my second season, I gained an abundance of knowledge in regard to the environment and was able to educate private landowners on how to properly remove and address invasive species concerns.

I am a certified Wilderness First Responder and have taken training for wildfire suppression and prescribed fire management. I am also looking into getting a herbicide applicator's license in the near future.

Curiosity Leads to Surprising Discoveries

(Pseudo scorpions and Phoresy) by Willy DeSmet

As I was stacking dead ash tree logs in our yard last June, this beetle scurried away. Some people would ignore something like that; some would try to squash it. Me, I got curious. I wanted to know what it was, so I caught it. After some searching I identified it as a Red-headed Ash Borer, *Neoclytus acuminatus* (one of the Long Horn Beetles. See top photo to the right—it's only half an inch long).

The larvae of this beetle feed on the sapwood of dead or dying trees (not only ash, but other hardwoods as well.) They don't really attack healthy trees like the Emerald Ash Borer does. They can weaken young trees, e.g. in a nursery, but in the woods they generally are beneficial because they help decompose dead wood - making nutrients available - and by making space for new trees. The red and yellow stripes make it look a little like a wasp and that probably helps to deter some predators.

I wanted to take some pictures of course, but the beetle would not sit still. I took the clear top from a spindle of blank CDs, turned it upside down, put it on my desk and put the beetle in it. Now it couldn't run very far and I could take pictures more easily. Then I noticed the little critters hanging onto its legs and I got even more curious. See arrow pointing to one on top picture. ►

Are these mites? No! Looking closer I recognized them as pseudo-scorpions. So is this Ash Borer plagued by parasites? After some more research I found out: no; these pseudo-scorpions are only catching a ride (phoresy). They do not harm the Ash Borer. If you're this small, you can't fly, and you want to move to a different tree, it can save you a lot of time and effort if you can grab a hold of a larger animal that can fly.

Pseudo-scorpions are not insects; they are more closely related to spiders, scorpions and mites (class Arachnida). Pseudo-scorpions prey on other (small) arthropods like mites. They live under tree bark, in bird and rodent nests, beneath stones, in mosses and leaf litter, even in caves. One species (House Pseudo-scorpion, *Chelifer cancroides*) is sometimes found inside buildings.



Although they use poison (from their pincers) to paralyze their prey, they are harmless to people. There are about 420 species of Pseudo-scorpions in North America (about 350 according to one source, but that may be an older count), and you need a microscope to identify to species level.

I read that when a male boards his ride, he will allow as many females on the same ride as will fit, but if any other male tries to get on, he will chase him off.

Pseudo-scorpions are not the only ones catching rides on other species. I remembered having seen and photographed something similar before and went looking through my photographs. This Roundneck Sexton Beetle (*Nicrophorus orbicollis*) for example (photo to the left) came to my UV light in June last year and landed on my moth sheet—it's about an inch long. Sexton Beetles find dead animals and bury them. That's their food. Notice the mites on its "neck."

While some mites are parasites (think of the red mites often found on Harvestmen/Daddy Longlegs), these are not. The mites here (genus *Poecilochirus*) are getting a ride to the Sexton Beetle's "dinner."

The mites want to get there as well because they eat the eggs and larvae of the blow flies in the carcass. The blowfly larvae compete with the Sexton Beetle for the same food (the dead animal) so the mites in fact reduce that competition, leaving more for the beetle. The beetle finds the carcass and transports the mites to it.

Not all relationships between the passenger and the rider are mutually beneficial (symbiotic); and phoresy is not limited to insects or even to animals. I started out stacking logs, and curiosity lead me to learn about the lives of a few small critters that most of us would not even notice.



The Limberlost: A Place for Creative Collaboration

by Adrienne Provenzano

On December 10, 2016, a slideshow entitled “Limerlost Then and Now” premiered to an appreciative audience at the Limerlost State Historic Site. The slideshow was created by naturalist Bill Hubbard using a song I composed to celebrate the Limerlost Then and Now multi-media art exhibit on display last year. If you visit the Friends of the Limerlost website, www.limerlost.weebly.com and click on the video tab you can see and hear that video and several other creative collaborations.



The slideshow was designated an Indiana Bicentennial Legacy project thanks to the efforts of Terri Gorney and is part of an ongoing effort at the Limerlost State Historic Site to create and share music, photography, and other arts inspired by the life and works of Gene Stratton-Porter, including the landscapes where she lived and worked.

Here's the chorus of “Limerlost Then and Now” :

*So the life wheel turns,
Things fade away,
But we're not so far from yesterday.
And we're keeping a light on
In the cabin window.*

*And the memories last,
The stories, too.
The Land of the Limerlost's
Ever new.*

*And we're passing a torch
By the cabin window.*

Limerlost Then and Now.

A series of visits to the Limerlost State Historic Site, walks in downtown Geneva by Charles Porter's Shamrock building, research in the Geneva Public Library, reading Gene's works, and hikes in the



nearby nature preserves all served as inspiration for the lyrics and music. Conversations with site staff and volunteers and others in the area also helped “connect the dots” between then and now.

As a singer-songwriter who likes to use music and visual images to connect past, present, and future, I found the project challenging and compelling. Music and lyrics were created together, with ideas jotted down “old school” with pen and paper, eventually becoming a complete song. Bill and I discussed possible visual images for the slideshow. I knew he'd taken a great photo of the cabin with a light in the window...and that was to be a recurring image...as well as a photo of Bill passing the Bicentennial torch to Randy Lehman, former site manager. I'd been present as the Bicentennial Torch Relay passed through Geneva last Fall, and it was especially meaningful to remember that special day by including it in the song and slideshow. As Bill worked to gather images, I prepared a recording of the song and he connected the audio to the images.

We are all torch bearers and torch passers in one way or another. We keep lights on and connect with generations past, present, and future. Bill and I are now working on several other slideshow projects. One will be in commemoration of April 2017 as the 100th Anniversary of America entering WWI by using a poem by Gene about the war entitled “Peter's Flowers” as lyrics that I will set to music. As with the slideshow of Gene's poem “Limerlost Invitation,” which can also be found at limerlost.weebly.com, I'll be combining Gene's words with my music and Bill's photographs and other images. As I like to think of it, we'll be keeping the light on and passing the torch using the history, the spirit, and the inspiration that Limerlost provides for us. We hope you'll soon be enjoying our creative collaboration.

Gene Stratton-Porter, STEM-girl?

by Adrienne Provenzano

“Imagine having a career that lets you be creative, active, and well-paid, all while changing the world for the better. Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) can help you get there!” So states the Girl Scouts' site on Imagine STEM, a unique hands-on program to help girls experience STEM activities.

In 2012, the Girl Scout Research Institute published a study entitled Generation STEM: What Girls Say About Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The study determined that many girls are interested in such subjects, but do not necessarily pursue STEM courses in high school or college, or a career in a STEM area. Of the girls in the study, 74% were interested in STEM; however, overall, about 25% of STEM jobs in the United States are held by women, much less in some fields, such as physics. Moreover, there is a shortage of qualified STEM workers to fill available jobs in many STEM areas.

The qualities of a STEM-girl as described in the 2012 report include interest in learning, asking questions, solving problems, making a difference in the world, and helping people. This description sure sounds like Gene Stratton-Porter herself...or her characters, such as Elnora of A Girl of the Limberlost and the Swamp Angel of Freckles!

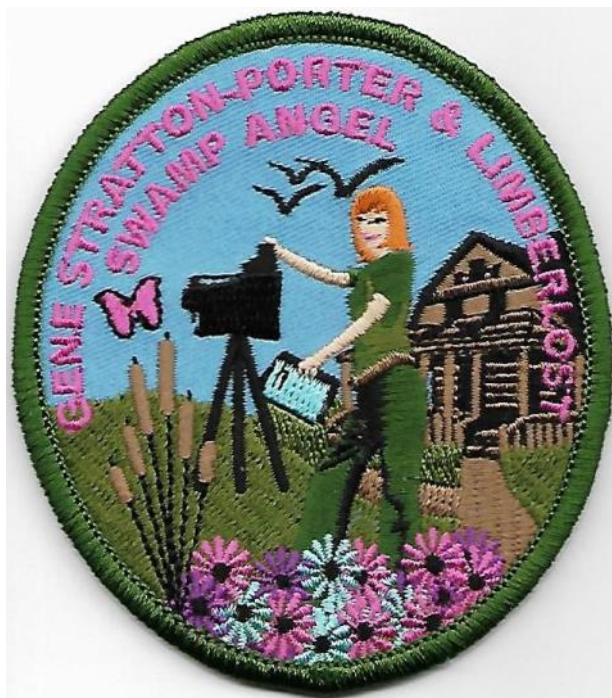
Interestingly, when Gene was doing her research in and around Geneva and publishing Moths of the Limberlost in 1912, Juliette Low of Savannah, Georgia, founded the Girl Scouts. Juliette Magill Kinzie Gordon Low (1860 – 1927) was “a sensitive, curious, and adventurous girl known for her sense of humor, compassion, and concern for others. She was interested in athletics, the arts, animals, and nature – attributes that would one day become central to the Girl Scout Movement.” (www.girlscouts.org)

Juliette Low had a hearing loss due to childhood injuries and wanted her organization to be inclusive. The Girl Scout website history section notes: “From that first gathering of a small troop of 18 culturally and ethnically diverse girls, Juliette broke the conventions of the time – reaching across cultural, and ethnic boundaries to ensure all girls, including those with so-called disabilities, had a place to grow and develop their leadership skills.”

Girl Scout troops have visited Limberlost State Historic Site in the past and are likely to continue to do so. Whether or not girls are

Scouts, young girls can certainly be encouraged and inspired by Gene's accomplishments as a self-taught naturalist, artist, author, and photographer – which included experimenting and learning to use camera equipment and developing her own photographic prints with special chemicals provided by her husband and pharmacist, Charles Porter. As the Girl Scouts organization strives towards “building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place,” so too did Gene endeavor to inspire girls and boys, women and men, through her life and works.

It is still possible for Girl Scouts to visit Limberlost State Historic Site and earn the “Swamp Angel Patch” seen below. Scouts (Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors) can choose to do 5 to 7 activities from a list of 12 activities provided by Limberlost staff. Any troop leader interested in providing this opportunity, contact Curt Burnette (cburnette@indianamuseum.org) or Nicky Ball (nball@indianamuseum.org) at Limberlost, and they would be happy to work with your troop and email you the activity list.



**Swamp Angel patch shown above
is the actual size**

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 contribute to 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 by checking the appropriate box on the right.

☐ **Limberlost Historic Site Friends** — dues and any additional donation support Limberlost State Historic Site, and associated events, projects and programs.

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

Step Two:

Choose your specific type of membership by checking the appropriate box below.

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

☐ **Senior Citizen/Limited Income** — \$ 10.00

☐ **Business** — \$50.00 (please enter a contact name)

☐ **Individual** — \$20.00

☐ **Family** —\$35.00

☐ **Lifetime**—\$1000.00

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ **EMAIL ADDRESS :** _____

☐ Check box if you wish to receive the digital (email) newsletter
To receive the digital newsletter, you must give us an email address

☐ Check box if you DO NOT want a paper newsletter mailed to you

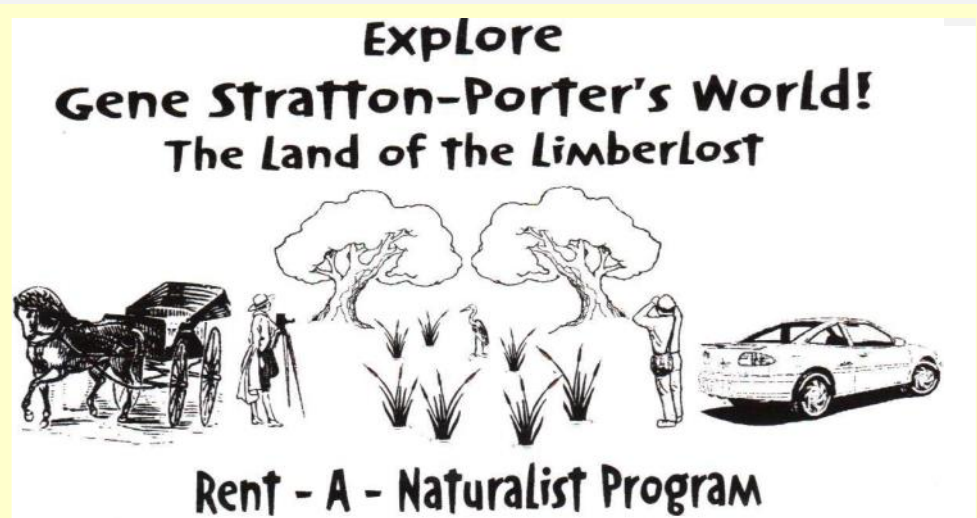
AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Additional donation appreciated): \$ _____

COMMENTS:



Kroger has a program called “KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS”, designed to let their customers use their Kroger’s “PLUS CARD” to help not-for-profit organizations like “Friends of the Limberlost” earn cash rewards from Kroger. If you’d like to help the Friends earn these rewards, here’s what you need to do:

- Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com. Click on “Create an Account.”
- Put in your email address, zip code, and create a password, Click “Find.”
- Clicking on favorite store and agree to the terms and conditions, Click on “Create Account.”
- Have your Kroger Plus card handy.
- Enter your Kroger Plus card number—found on the back of your card. Enter your last name. Click “Save.”
- If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
- Enter organization number which is 70650, or “Friends of the Limberlost State Historic Site” confirm.
- You will then get an email letting you know that you are registered.
- You must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger Plus card when shopping in order for each purchase to count.
- The Friends have been receiving a monthly check from Kroger thanks to those who have registered their card. It’s been averaging about \$40 a month. If more of you register, we could do even better! It doesn’t cost you anything. The Friends receive a rebate based on how much registered customers purchase from Kroger.



Rent - A - Naturalist Program

Cost: \$30/for 90 minutes

You drive your own vehicle and

Follow the naturalist to get to the preserve(s)

Tours begin at the Limberlost State Historic Site Visitor Center.

These are personalized tours. The desires, interests, and physical abilities of the group and the time of year determine the areas visited and the details of each tour.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) trails are available at two of the locations to accommodate the elderly and handicapped.

The Limberlost Nature Preserves

**Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve
Limberlost Swamp Wetland Preserve
Rainbow Bend & Rainbow Bottom Park
Limberlost Bird Sanctuary
Music of the Wild Nature Preserve**

Advance Registration Required

**Contact Curt Burnette
Naturalist/Program Developer
Certified Interpretive Guide
260-368-7428
cburnette@indianamuseum.org**