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Friends of the Limberlost

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"GENEVA'S GENEVA"

OUR SIGNATURE WINE TASTING EVENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 6-9 PM

Gene Stratton-Porter's full first name is "Geneva". Her birthday is in August. The town of Geneva is where Geneva lived for 24 years, so we celebrate her life and times in a big way in an event we call "Geneva's Geneva". Sample a variety of Indiana wines or choose from a variety of craft beers. Enjoy specially prepared hors d'oeuvres. Try Chef Cary's remarkable birthday cake. All of this takes place in the magnificent exhibit space of the Limberlost Visitor Center. When you've had enough to eat and drink, stroll along the 1888-1913 timeline. Listen to live period music in the air-conditioned Limberlost Cabin presented by the talented Indianapolis singer & songwriter, Adrienne Provenzano. Her music impressed everyone who attended this event last year. Take a tour of the grounds of the Limberlost Cabin with Paxson (Gene Stratton-Porter's best Limberlost guide). Other surprises wait for you at the Limberlost to make this a memorable summer evening. Reservations are not required, but you must be 21 years old to enter. The cost of this event is \$15/person. We are so confident you will enjoy this experience that if you are not completely satisfied, we will cheerfully refund your admission price. Find out if the Land of the Limberlost is your kind of place—attend Geneva's Geneva.



LOBLOLLY WILDFLOWER SAFARI, Saturday, June 6

10 am to noon, Cost is \$3.00/person

Join Limberlost naturalist, Curt Burnette, and volunteers for a stroll along the Loblolly Marsh trails focusing on the varied spring wildflowers of the wetlands, prairie, and forest. Learn what they are and how man and animals use them.

- *Participants should meet at the Loblolly Marsh parking lot. The Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve is located on Jay County Road 250 West, which is approximately four miles to the west of Bryant on Indiana highway 18. A Loblolly Marsh sign is located on Indiana 18 adjacent to Jay County Road 250W. From Indiana 18, you will turn north on 250 West and travel approximately 1 mile. The parking lot is on the west side of the road.*

For more information, contact the Limberlost at 260-368-7428. We thank the Berne Garden Club for their sponsorship of this nature program—"you help us bloom".



LIMBERLOST SWAMP RESTORATION OVERVIEW & GUIDED NATURE HIKE

Sat., June 13, 10am to Noon, \$3.00/person

Attend a wetlands restoration overview PowerPoint presentation at 10am in the Limberlost Visitor Center classroom, followed by a guided tour of one of the wetland properties.



BALD EAGLE PROGRAM—Sat., July 4, from 2-3:30pm

Learn about our national symbol on our nation's birthday. A live bald eagle, named "Jefferson", provided by Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab, will be at Limberlost State Historic Site. You'll also be able to watch an eagle program presented by our naturalist, Curt Burnette. Eagles are currently making great strides in Indiana, successfully nesting in many Indiana counties. Attend this free event, and become more knowledgeable.



LIMBERLOST BLUEGRASS JAMBOREES

Always the 3rd Sunday of the month: July 19, August 16, and the last Jamboree on September 20. Always 2-4pm.

Jamborees are held on the grounds of Limberlost State Historic Site. Jamborees are 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. You never know what you'll hear—usually it's bluegrass, gospel or folk music, and it could be good, bad, or even ugly, but everyone seems to have a great time. Bring your instrument. Bring your lawn chair. Sit awhile and enjoy life. Refreshments provided.



SWIFT NIGHT OUT

Saturday, August 8, 7:30pm

Enjoy a presentation on chimney swifts by Alex Forsythe at the Limberlost Visitor Center classroom, and then walk to downtown Geneva and watch swifts enter a chimney to roost for the night. This event is FREE (donations are encouraged).



EXPLORING EARLY NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE

Thursday, August 27th 10:00am to 2:00pm Designed for Home School Academies

Pre-registration required, \$5.00 per student

To register call 260-368-7428

Participants discover the world of Native American technology as they engage in hands-on activities that connect them to the past.

Activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- With the help of pre-registration materials, and before arriving at Limberlost, adults will create a Native American name for themselves and for each student they bring to this event.
- Using materials and skills of the past, students will create a gorget--an ornamental neck piece
- Students will learn about and try throwing spears with the help of atlatls (a tool that uses leverage to achieve greater velocity for the spear).
- The importance of wildlife to Native Americans



LIMBERLOST KITCHEN RESTORATION UPDATE

It may seem like it's taking forever, but we are making progress on the kitchen project. The floor has been repaired. The walls only need one more partial coating of plaster (this will be the third layer). All of the electrical switches and outlets have been removed (there were 12 units altogether), and except for the ceiling light fixture, which will remain where it is, there will soon be very little evidence that the kitchen was ever wired for electricity.

The paint analysis is finished, and both the ceiling and the walls were originally painted a shade of yellow, which should be easy enough to duplicate. There was a "flower-shaped" stencil that was added along the top of the wall while Gene was living in the home, and it was painted over a couple of times since then, so more investigative work will have to be done by a qualified restoration artist to determine exactly what that stencil looked like originally.

Work will continue this summer on carefully cleaning the wainscoting (the quarter-sawn oak boards around the kitchen walls), and the holes made to install electrical outlets in the wainscoting will have to be filled in. Missing oak molding will have to be made and installed. Also work cleaning the oak floor boards and the original oak cabinets will continue. The stencil researcher will have to be hired and hopefully get started soon. In the meantime, pending the approval of a design plan, work can get started on building a replica kitchen sink and table. Gene described the table in her book, *Tales You Won't Believe*, as a "zinc covered table top".

Thanks to donations from many of you the Friends of the Limberlost have raised \$7,361.29 for the kitchen restoration project, and they have spent less than \$50 on supplies, thanks in large part to our very talented part-time maintenance worker, Bill Borne, whose skills as a carpenter, electrician, and plasterer, have saved us a great deal of money.

The Indiana State Museum paid for the paint analysis, and the museum will match dollar-for-dollar what the Friends are able to raise for this project. The large future expenses will be for reproducing kitchen fixtures and for the stencil research work and application.

The raffle fundraiser for the kitchen project continues until our December Christmas event, December 12. Raffle prizes were shown in the previous newsletter and are on display at the Limberlost Visitor Center. Cost for raffle tickets is \$2.00 ea. or six for \$10.00. We'd be happy to email you the raffle flyer, which features pictures and more information about all 4 prizes.

When I visited the Limberlost

by Sherrida Woodley

In September 2014, I was excited to be seeing something only dreamed of. Although I'd read just one of Gene Stratton-Porter's novels, *The Harvester*, the story stayed with me. It was my twelfth summer when I read it, and I remember thinking how magical it would be to have a job as harvester of nature's medicines in a land both wild and slightly alien. Little did I know, forty years later I'd write a novel that would remind me of Gene's fascination with wilderness and birds and of brave hearts trying to escape death. And that all that writing would lead me to the Limberlost itself.

My husband traveled with me, and we arrived in Geneva, Indiana, on Labor Day weekend. We're used to mountainous terrain with lots of wetlands, even here in Eastern Washington, and the country we drove through didn't seem to hold promise of anything near like the swamp I'd read about in Gene's writings. It wasn't until I listened to the people who gathered around us that I began to understand the enormity of their recent undertaking—to bring back part of the original Limberlost in places like the Loblolly Marsh, the bird sanctuary, and the wild, seasonal overruns of the Wabash River. I heard them talk of birds returning, Chimney Swifts among them, how they'd funnel together before taking refuge in local downtown chimneys. And I realized how devoted these avid birders were, how the Limberlost, what remained of her, influenced each and every one of them.

We spent some time touring Geneva, thanks to Terri Gorney, vice-president of the Friends of the Limberlost, who took us back and forth across roads both in town and throughout the countryside. Part of a morning, five of us in Terri's car wandered country roads in search of birds, many of them wading the lush wetlands all around us. I kept thinking this is "it," this is the homeland of Gene Stratton-Porter, the source of her inspiration, the hidden network of birds and moths and animals she visited day after day with an unwieldy camera and little in the way of trails. Terri told us the Wabash was low, and thankfully so, because during run-off the river dominates parts of the preserve. No wonder the time came when man finally gave up trying to tame the mighty Limberlost. "She outlasted him," I thought. Underneath all the make-over, the swampland survived.

One of my favorite moments was inside the cabin Gene had built close to her forays into the swamp. Known as the Limberlost Cabin, we toured the very place she did much of her writing, and there were moments when I thought I could detect traces of her still. The single-most reminiscent was the conservatory window fanning out from the west side of the building. Randy Lehman, Limberlost site manager, told us how the louvered panes could be adjusted to let in incoming moths and birds, where they could then be observed by Gene for short periods of time. He recounted her love of these creatures, and how some of her writing was probably based on those observances. "She had a vivid imagination," he said.

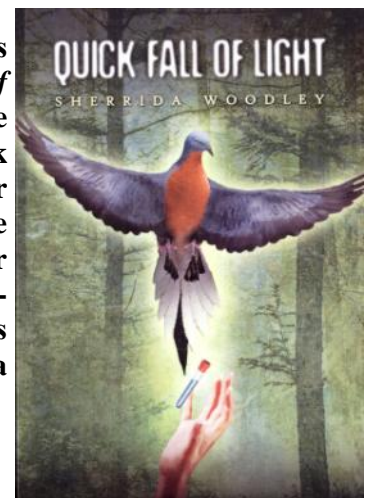
"And there came a time when she realized she would be the only one to describe what she'd experienced in those deep woods."

"I came as an invited guest. But, it turns out, I also came as one seeking comfort in a healing place"

I want to thank the people of the Limberlost, the Friends and their families, the old who remember its spirit, the young who will carry it into the future. They continue to give their

lives to its upkeep and the treasured life within it. The preserves are slowly being joined together, maybe never to be the massive 13,000 acres it once was, but a patchwork still of water-rich land, mysterious, complex and deeply valued. I came as an invited guest. But, it turns out, I also came as one seeking comfort in a healing place. A few weeks before I visited the Limberlost, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and had just had surgery a little over a month before I arrived. I've said to my husband many times since returning home that Gene's home ground, her people, and her beautiful, mysterious wetlands gave me the breath of fresh air I needed. Just like it did for her, the Limberlost has brought me the music of its wilderness. And I will never forget. (letter written by Sherrida Woodley)

Editor's note: Sherrida is the author of *Quick Fall of Light*, and visited the Limberlost last year to talk about her book and her magazine article about the now extinct passenger pigeon and Gene Stratton-Porter's sighting of this bird in the Limberlost area in late spring 1912.



Mr. and Mrs. Porter Choose an Architect, by Terri Gorney

The Limberlost cabin has been part of Geneva for 120 years but most are probably unaware of its beginnings. According to the “Geneva Herald” April 20 1894 issue, it reported that excavations were being made for the new residence of C.D. Porter. The article states that the “two-story frame building of modern design is estimated to cost over \$8,000.” Another article in the “Decatur Democrat” put the price of the home around \$5,000 and with the price of the lots would have put the home at about \$7,000. The home was begun around Charles and Gene’s 8th wedding anniversary.



At this time, Geneva was prospering from oil money and the town was booming. Charles Porter was a well-respected man in the community. In an 1895 article in the “Geneva Herald” he was described as a man of “mature experience in financial matters.” He was co-owner of the Porter and Deitsch drugstore, founder of the Bank of Geneva, and he owned several properties in town as well as a 239 acre farm in Hartford Township that had oil wells on it.

The Porters chose a young and capable architect named William “Will” Christen of Decatur to design their home. At the time, Will had a small office in Decatur over Peter Holthouse’s Clothing Store. In the spring of 1894, Charles took a vacation with his brother Dr. Miles Porter. Gene wanted to work with Will on the design of the home. It would be the first of several homes that she would help design.

It is believed that the Limberlost Cabin was Will Christen’s first large commission as an architect, as he was working for the Decatur Post Office until early in 1895. Will would have a successful career as an architect that would span sixty years and create lasting buildings.

The masonry contractor for the cabin’s construction was awarded to John Schupp. John listed stone mason as his profession in the 1870s and 1880s when he was living in Decatur. It is possible that he created the stone fence around the cabin. A contractor of “fee simple” was Henry Fred Linn who was a carpenter by profession.

A few months later, Will would design the Geneva home of the Porters’ friends, Andrew and Margaret Briggs. It is a home that remains in the Briggs family to this day. Besides these two residences, Will designed the two-story school built in 1913 for the town of Bobo in Adams County. Today it is a private residence. In early 1895, Will moved with his wife, Ada, to Rockford Ohio. He built homes and businesses in that area. In his 40s, he served as mayor of that community. In 1922, he was chosen as the architect for the new Rockford high school.



One of Will’s favorite vacation places was Florida. In 1919, he designed the new school in Melbourne. Today it is known as the Henegar Center for the Arts. The town grew quickly and he built other buildings that became a school complex. In the early 1920s, he was the architect hired to create the Indialantic hotel and casino outside of Melbourne Florida. During Will’s long career, his buildings would make a lasting impression on the Melbourne Florida landscape. A historic marker there bears the name of William Christen as the architect of the famous hotel and casino. Will and his second wife, Irene Steuben Christen, were well known residents in the community. Will passed away in 1954 while Irene lived there until 1982.

We tip our hats to Will Christen, John Schupp and Henry Fred Linn who so long ago created the Limberlost Cabin and to the Porters who loved the home.

Note: Sadly the Indialantic Hotel and Casino, which was later known as the Tradewinds was demolished in 1983. The Rockford High School was demolished in 2006.



THE LIMBERLOST SWAMPER

Published Quarterly by Limberlost Swamp Remembered Committee

Limberlost Swamp Remembered
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Since my retirement, I've started writing my memoirs concerning the Limberlost Swamp Remembered Project and its beginnings. This article is part of one chapter.

Limberlost Territory by Ken Brunswick

The Limberlost wetlands are located in five different distinct areas. The first area began back in 1947 at the time the Limberlost Cabin became a State Historic Site. It was purchased by local residents and then donated to the State of Indiana. Even though I consider the entire area "Limberlost Territory" where Gene Stratton-Porter studied and wrote her books, it was easier for me to break the areas down and name them separately.

Bird Sanctuary – Started 1947

Some funds remained after the Limberlost Cabin was purchased, so the 12 acres were bought from a local farmer to begin a park area along the Limberlost Creek. Plans were made to construct a dam on Limberlost Creek near US 27. After a study was completed, the seven hundred acre project was cancelled due to the relatively short life span of a reservoir and its impact on the Limberlost Creek. In recent years, we've added an additional twenty six acres called the "Goodrich Addition".

Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve

Started 1996

The Loblolly Marsh was a very strange place to me when my family moved to the Bryant area in 1976. The farm where I grew up in Ohio was mainly black "Jack Wax" in the bottoms and lighter colored clay on the few small rises in the fields. The Loblolly is a rich black soil called "muck" that had actually burned in the past according to my neighbors.

After we were in our new home for nearly two months, it rained all night. I learned very quickly what "muck" was, and I learned that the strange area called "Loblolly" flooded and could become a very expensive area to own.

Crop losses plagued the owners. When it didn't flood, a bumper crop was harvested. Many times the year ended in sadness when the only remaining

corn to harvest was on the hills. My regret now is not recording the losses. I do know that during the 1990's decade, seven of the ten years were very costly to the farmers. The Loblolly Marsh consistently flooded over the years after the big 1888 drainage project made an easy way for Wabash water to back up the "Lob Ditch" and spill out into the drained Engle Lake.

Limberlost Swamp Wetland Preserve

Started 1998

The flooding in the 90's took its toll on these farmers. This area quickly surpassed the Loblolly Marsh in acreage when the Wabash, Limberlost Creek, Bear Creek, Wolf Creek, and Camp Run poured their watersheds into the former Limberlost Swamp. When the farmers found out they had an option to sell their flooding land to the Limberlost Swamp Remembered Project, we made some substantial gains with our project's size.

Wabash River Rainbow Bend

Started 2000

This great area continues to grow in size since its beginning. The area now includes part of the Rainbow Bottom east of the Wabash and across from the Golf course. Include the Limberlost County Park and the land owned by Limberlost Conservation Association and we have the entire area described in "The Song of the Cardinal".

Recently, an area several miles upstream was purchased for a canoe launch. It provides a trip by river through some of the most scenic meanders of the Wabash. Then, you can remove your canoe at Rainbow Bend Canoe Launch.

Music of the Wild – Started 2002

US 27 park area is under construction. Hike the area where the "Song of the Fields" part of Gene Stratton-Porter's book was written. We have many plans for this area for expanding our hiking trails.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$\$\$ TO
LIMBERLOST SWAMP REMEMBERED! AS
ALWAYS, 100% OF YOUR DONATIONS ARE USED
FOR PURCHASING AND RESTORING THE LAND.



Restoration- Species Management by Ben Hess

On every restoration, installation, or planting of a plant community, certain species will become problems and need to be controlled. These plant species can be native or non-native, but are typically aggressive or invasive and displace other plants within the community and create a monoculture of only that species. Remember diversity equals diversity. The more plants species you have, the more diverse your insect population becomes, which in turn, will increase the diversity of other animal species.

Species management can include mowing/cutting, prescribed fire, and herbicides. In the winter newsletter we talked about cut stump treatments of non-desired woody plants species. Around the Limberlost and Loblolly area this time of year you will see examples of foliar herbicide management.

This control method is one the best solutions to control difficult and aggressive plants. To use herbicides correctly, one must learn and understand what is being sprayed and when to apply herbicide.

On applying herbicides, you must first define what you are controlling. Proper identification of the plant and knowing all the characteristics of that plant is important to properly control that species. If you cannot define leaf growth, bolting, flowering periods, and its reproductive strategy (seed/rhizomes/stolons/vegetative), you do not fully understand how to get control of its growth.

Looking at the growth stages of a plant and making an herbicide application at the right time will help utilize the full potential of the herbicide. In the spring and summer the plant is trying to bolt and start seed production. In the fall the plants are trying to store as much energy to make it through the winter. One must understand where the plant is sending its resources of water and nutrients to get the most effective control. The best control is when all the herbicide gets translocated to the roots.

For plants that are considered warm season plants, or prefer warm soil temperatures for germination and warm air temperatures for plant growth, control is best right before flowering. For cool season plants, or plants that prefer cool soil temperatures for germination and cool temperatures for growth, control is best in the fall.

Many of our invasive species are cool season plants. Thus the best time to control them is in the fall, but a close second period is during the spring cool temperatures. Fall & dormant applications are based on soil temperatures (40-55 degrees ideally), and the growth stage of the plant. A dormant application is when most plants are no longer actively photosynthesizing, but some of our invasive plants will be slowly processing nutrients if the soil temperatures are above freezing.

So to control a cool season species we would start with a fall herbicide application in September to early October, followed by a dormant application in mid to late November through March or April. We should get a good control, and any plants that survive have very little energy in its root systems and is stressed compared to others growing around it. Plus if we use two different herbicides with different modes of action we will get better results.



Restoration- Species Management by Ben Hess (Continued)

Here is a breakdown of growth stages of plant growth.

- Stage 1-Vegetative Growth, plant is actively processing but is not aggressively growing, early spring- (soil temps 40-55 degrees for cool season plants, and air temperatures of 70-95 degrees for warm season plants).
- Stage 2-Elongation Growth, first growth when soil temperatures and day length are right to reproduce. Its setting the stage for flowers. Its growing taller.
- Stage 3-Reproductive Growth, flower buds are forming, not open. Plants stay in this phase until a good drenching rain to begin flowering. Key time for Cirsium arvense, or Canada Thistle, and others to prevent seed production.
- Stage 4- Full Bloom, not an ideal time to spray. We may affect pollinators, and all the herbicide is not being directed to the location I want, the roots. Typically we will mow and spray it in the fall, we want to stress the plant and prep it for a good herbicide application in the fall.
- Stage 5-Mature Seed, the seed is considered mature from the time when your flower petals begin to brown out. At this point the majority of plants native and non-native will have a good amount of seed that will become viable long term. The plant is exhausted and needs to recoup that energy from seed production. Stress it by mowing and removing vegetation to add to the energy loss.
- Stage 1-Vegetative Growth, (This one repeats again, and it helps to show this as a visual for cool season plants) plant is actively processing but is not aggressively growing, early spring-late fall (soil temps 40-55 degrees). Obviously this is the most effective time to spray because all energy is going to the roots to help with winter survival.

In my opinion herbicide application depends greatly on soil temps for foliar applications. 37-55 degrees 3-4" down, we should get good control of non-desired plants. The yellowing of the leaves is slower than normal, but it happens. Not only do I carry a hand lens for plant id, but a soil thermometer, and tape measure. If I'm out, I'm checking temperatures!

My generic guidelines (nothing in life is ideal) are herbicide treatments should be conducted under the following parameters: Soil temperatures above 37 degrees. The air temperatures should be below 90 degrees, and above 35 degrees. Application of herbicide is not to be done during periods of drought or flooding. If the plant shows physical signs of stress due to environmental conditions, herbicides should not be applied.

Here is quick example of what I think when I look into the management of a plant. I go through the characteristics of the plant, figure out what growth stage it is in, and start my management plan. For Phalaris arundinacea (Reed Canary Grass), herbicide early to mid spring during vegetative growth stage and prior to the elongation growth stage. Herbicide should be applied to plants with leaf growth of 6-10" in length. If seed heads develop during the reproductive stage of growth, then mowing should be done at the lowest possible height prior to maturity of seed. Ideal herbicide application is in the fall to early winter. Apply herbicide in the late fall to early winter, on plants that put on new vegetative growth prior winter kill.

There has been over 1,100 acres restored in the area, and management is in full swing!

Nest Building Season

by Terri Gorney

In the spring and summer, Gene Stratton-Porter loved her field work in Geneva and the Limberlost Swamp. She especially enjoyed watching the courtship of birds and their nest building and the raising of their young. By her own estimation, Gene wrote that she had taken hundreds of photographs of nests. The following are some of her experiences during nesting season. Though they were made over one-hundred years ago, they could have been written this spring.

“At nesting season, for a short time, we may come into close contact with bird life,” she wrote. Gene knew of the places where different birds may nest, such as: cardinals in bushes, robins in trees, bobolinks on the ground, and martins high up in man-made structures. Gene was a superb nature photographer because she learned the habits of the birds and captured pictures of them in their native habitat.

“The greatest thing possible to do with a bird is to win its confidence. In a few days work around most nests the birds can be taught to trust me, that such nature studies can be made as are here presented [in her book “Friends in Feathers].” Gene was proud that no birds were harmed in obtaining her photographs., and she would rail against those who would disturb a nesting site in order to secure a better photograph.

When she was a small girl, she stated that “playing with birds was my idea of amusement.” One season, she found sixty nests and learned the food preferences for each bird and helped the mothers feed their young. She wrote of birds perching on her shoulder and head.

If you want nesting birds, Gene recommended planting some of their favorite foods. She gave the example of the goldfinch and planting lettuce and letting it “go to seed in the garden” and other seeds. Taking Gene’s advice, I plant coneflowers and leave them up all winter for the goldfinch to feed on their seeds.

Gene said that blue birds are “friendly” and will nest in bird boxes close to a home. I have personal

experience with a blue bird nesting on my property. They are very friendly and meal worms are their favorite food. If you have a box to their liking and meal worms in a dish for them, it will not take them long to find it.

If Gene were making her observations this spring, she would be out with her camera photographing all of the nests of her favorite birds native to Indiana and she would find some in the same location that she photographed them so many years ago.

The one bird, that Gene did not get to photograph nesting in Geneva, that now nests close to the Limberlost Cabin, is the bald eagle. On one of her vacations to Michigan, she wrote, “Every morning a large eagle with a golden head, either fishing or preying on water birds, hung above the lake, and how my guide and I did hunt for the nest of that bird!” She never did find the nest. Eagles nest early in the year and Gene was there in the summer which was probably the reason. Even as big as their nests are, when the leaves cover the trees, they are normally hard to locate.

The writings of Gene Stratton-Porter for this article were taken from her book “Friends in Feathers” which was published in 1917. It was dedicated to her good friend and number one nest finder, Bob Burdette Black. She would enjoy a life-long friendship with Bob and his wife.



Eagle's nest close to the Limberlost Cabin. Picture taken in March. With the leaves out, the nest can no longer be seen.

Limberlost's Rare Birds of April

by Terri Gorney

Gene Stratton-Porter would be excited to know that her beloved Limberlost lives again and attracted some rare birds this spring.

In April, some of our winter birds were still at the Limberlost Swamp Wetlands Preserve (commonly called the County Line Road by local nature enthusiasts). The short-eared owls and the northern harriers were still seen flying over the grasslands area. They have been spending the past four winters here. Their return is anticipated every year.



On April 18, twenty members of the Stockbridge and Robert Cooper Audubon Societies met for a joint field trip to Limberlost. It was a good day for birding and most spent the day. The highlight was a Merlin which was spotted by Sandy Schachf and seen by several members of the group. This was a new bird to the Limberlost Bird List. The Crossley Guide book describes it as similar to a very small Peregrine Falcon and always looks more compact than an American Kestrel.

A pair of black-necked stilts made an appearance for the third year in a row on April 25 (top photograph). According to Jim Haw this was a record in northeast Indiana for the month of April. This is a southern bird that has slowly been moving north. In 2013, this was the first time they were seen in Adams County. The closest that they nest to this area is

Sullivan County Indiana. Since they have been seen at the Limberlost Swamp Wetlands Preserve for the past three years, there has been speculation that they will possibly nest here.

The highlight of the month which caused birders around the state to notice Limberlost was Jim Haw's sighting of a yellow-headed blackbird on April 30 (photo to the left above). This bird is common in the western United States but not in Indiana. Jim has been keeping birding records in northeast Indiana since 1969 and this was the first time he'd seen a yellow-headed blackbird in this part of the state. The bird was cooperative and allowed itself to be photographed many different times by many different birders. It stayed seven days. Rare bird alerts and the Limberlost—what's next?



LOBLOLLY 5K—Fundraiser for the Loblolly pavilion, for trail maintenance and nature programs

Formerly the Limberlost Trailblazer, the Loblolly 5K Run/Walk will take place on Saturday, October 10, at 9:30am. (a kids Fun-Run starts at 9:00am—cost \$5.00 and no shirt included). This race is part of the Run Jay County 5K Circuit, which features 9 races.. The first race took place on April 11 and the last race in the series is the Loblolly 5K. To see the complete list of races in the series go to www.runjaycounty.com

To register for any of the races in the series go to the website to get contact information. To register for the Loblolly 5K, contact Bill Hubbard, at LoblollyBill@yahoo.com or call 260-368-9990. Cost to participate in the Loblolly 5K: Pre-registration is \$20 which includes a shirt, or \$15 no-shirt. Race day registration is \$20 no shirt included.

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 also receive the newsletter as a .PDF file

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

AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Additional donation appreciated): \$ _____

COMMENTS:

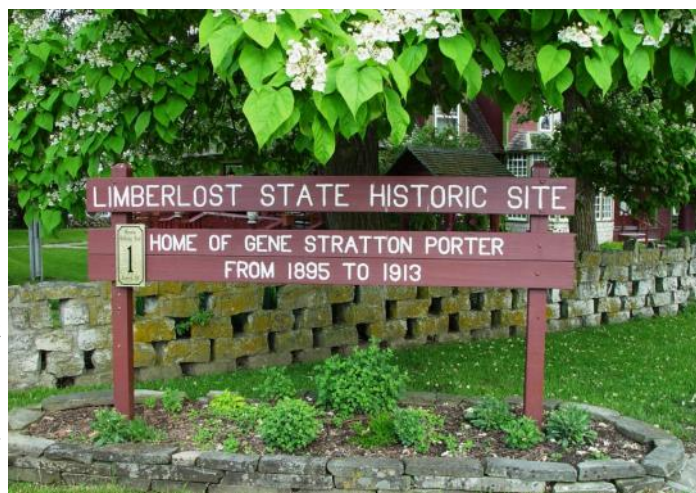


Kroger has a program called “KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS”, designed to let their customers use their Kroger’s “PLUS CARD” to help not-for-profit organizations like “Friends of the Limberlost” earn cash rewards from Krogers. If you’d like to help the Friends earn these rewards, here’s what you need to do:

- Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com
- Have your Kroger Plus card handy & register your card with Friends of the Limberlost after you sign up.
- If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
- Click on Sign In/Register
- If you are a new online customer, you must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the ‘New Customer?’ box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter NPO number (which is 70650) or “Friends of the Limberlost State Historic Site” and click on confirm.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see the name “Friends of the Limberlost” on the right side of your information page.
- Purchases will not count for Friends of the Limberlost until after you register your card(s).
- 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.

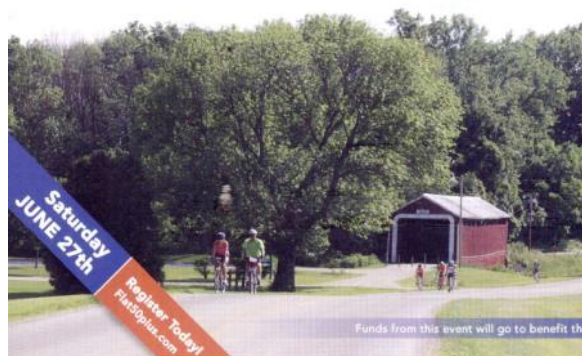


FRIENDS OF THE LIMBERLOST have a Facebook page. It features up-to-date information about events, programs, and other things going on at Limberlost. Want to know what we are doing to promote the legacy of Gene Stratton-Porter and her interest in Nature? Learn about the Limberlost Swamp restoration projects. See what’s going on and find out what’s happening next. Just search for “Friends of Limberlost State Historic Site—the Home of Gene Stratton-Porter”.



INDIANA'S FAVORITE BIKE TOUR

The Flat 50 Plus Bike Tour 2015
Presented by Fleetwood RV & Allied Recreation Group



GET READY FOR INDIANA'S FAVORITE BIKE TOUR!

Join Blazing Saddles Bicycle Club of Decatur

June 27th for the 25th Annual Flat 50 Plus Bike Tour.

- Choose your route: 20, 30, 50, 62 or 100 miles. All routes begin at Belmont High School in Decatur, IN at 7am. Family route of 18 miles starts in Berne, IN at 10am.
- Enjoy a pleasant ride through the Hoosier Heartland. Enjoy lunch with live Bluegrass music at Limberlost State Historic Site
- To register online and for more information visit Flat50plus.com
- Or email info@flat50plus.com
- Facebook.com/DecaturBlazingSaddles