



## Friends of the Limberlost

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### **"GENEVA'S GENEVA"**

### **OUR SIGNATURE WINE TASTING & VINTAGE MOVIE NIGHT**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 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 with an event we call "Geneva's Geneva". Sample a variety of Indiana wines or choose from a variety of craft beers. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres & a piece of the birthday cake celebrating Gene's 153rd birthday. Watch



selected vintage movie shorts using time-period projectors. Curious about what happened in Geneva and around the world from 1888-1913, check out the timeline. Take a tour of the grounds of the Limberlost Cabin with Paxson (Gene Stratton-Porter's best Limberlost guide). Reservations are not required, but you must be at least 21 years old to enter. The cost of this event is \$15/person. Friends members pay \$10/person. We are confident you will enjoy this experience. If you are not completely satisfied, we will cheerfully refund your admission price. Dress is casual. More information about the vintage movies is on page 2. We sincerely thank our event sponsor, Inman Insurance Co., Portland, IN.

**Loblolly 5K Walk/Run  
is August 13—see  
page 10 for details!**



### **RANDY LEHMAN RETIRES JULY 9**

**Retirement Party at the Limberlost Visitor Center  
from Noon-2pm (arrive anytime)**

After working for seventeen years at Limberlost, Site Manager Randy Lehman, is going to retire. Don't worry folks, he's not retiring so that he can move to Florida. He plans to stay active as a member of the Friends of the Limberlost. Read his comments about retiring on page 4 of this newsletter. Join the party on July 9 to share this milestone with Randy, or send your regards via email: [randylehman@comcast.net](mailto:randylehman@comcast.net)



## WHAT'S SHOWING AT "GENEVA'S GENEVA" ON AUGUST 19?



Thanks to Tonick Productions for this picture of Eric

What is film historian and vintage film collector, Eric Grayson, bringing to the Limberlost on August 19 to show at our wine-tasting event? He's searched through his archives and is bringing strange and unique films, from *The Phantom Empire* (1935), the only science fiction western musical ever made, to Buster Keaton, and some surprises, including Laurel and Hardy, Charlie Chase and Ernie Kovacs.

If you're not familiar with Eric, his film collection is recognized as a major resource of rare footage. He's got vintage films based on Gene Stratton-Porter books. He's provided footage for documentaries, recorded commentary for DVD sets, and helped restore footage long thought lost. Sometimes film archives borrow prints from Eric for restoration or special shows.

### BALD EAGLE PROGRAM—Monday, July 4, from 2-3pm

Learn about our national symbol on our nation's birthday. A live bald eagle, named "Jefferson", courtesy of Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab, will be at Limberlost State Historic Site on July 4th. 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. Thanks to the sponsorship of Smith Brothers Furniture, this program is free to the public.



### CELEBRATING 100 YEARS—INDIANA STATE PARKS

#### The "ORIGINS" Story—July 9, 2pm

Free program, sponsored by Indiana Humanities

Friends of the Limberlost & Friends of Ouabache State Park

Professional storyteller Bob Sander presents "Origins"—the Foundational Story behind the entire State Parks system. "Origins" celebrates our Parks and Forests (and the visionaries whose collective will created them) by recounting the dramatic story of the Parks' historic beginnings. His storytelling performance

includes stunning video moments highlighting Indiana's varied natural environments, as well as short interviews with key individuals. The program will last approximately 1 hour and will include some audience participation.

### LIMBERLOST BLUEGRASS JAMBOREES

**Always the 3rd Sunday of the month: July 17, August 21, and the last Jamboree on September 18. 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. Sponsored by Limberlost Construction, Geneva Case & Quart, Downing & Glancy Funeral Home.







## **SWIFT NIGHT OUT & Overview of the 1916 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Saturday, Aug. 6, 7:30pm, sponsored by Jay Co. REMC**

Enjoy a presentation on chimney swifts by Alex Forsythe—our teen volunteer and an incredibly knowledgeable amateur birder. The program begins at the Limberlost Visitor Center classroom where you'll learn all about this often heard but often unnoticed bird. After the program everyone can walk or drive to downtown Geneva and watch swifts enter a chimney to roost for the night. Please bring a lawn chair so you have comfortable seating while watching the action.

Before European settlers brought chimneys to North America, chimney swifts would nest in caves, cliff faces, and hollow trees. So thanks to human settlement, their numbers rose accordingly, but a recent shift in chimney designs toward covered, narrow flues are unsuitable for nesting and may be contributing to a decline in this species' numbers. Even though chimney swifts do not seem to be a bird declining in numbers in this area, the Friends of the Limberlost are constructing and installing a chimney swift tower made specifically for nesting swifts, which they hope to showcase at this event.



**ALEX'S IDEA:** Make a \$10 donation to the project and get up to a 20 letter name or message put on a wooden chimney swift cut-out that will be glued to the new chimney swift tower.

## **LIMBERLOST WILDLIFE—"Big and Small, Timid and Terrifying!"**

**Thursday, August 25, 10:00am to 2:00pm**

**designed for Home School Academies**

**Pre-registration required, \$5.00 per student**

**To register call 260-368-7428 or email: [cburnette@indianamuseum.org](mailto:cburnette@indianamuseum.org)**

- Morning activities take place at the Loblolly Marsh and include sweep netting vegetation for insects and dip netting for aquatic invertebrates. Discoveries will be taken to the Loblolly Pavilion to be examined under a digital microscope.
- Participants will break for lunch on the grounds of Limberlost State Historic Site.
- The afternoon session will take place in the Visitor Center Classroom with an interactive, hands-on, show & tell program about the larger inhabitants of the Limberlost, and will include the opportunity to meet live animals.



**LIMBERLOST KITCHEN RESTORATION UPDATE:** By the end of April 2016, thanks to donations from many of you, Friends of the Limberlost raised \$8797.02 for the kitchen restoration project. 30 members have given gifts ranging from \$1,000 to \$10, and some have contributed more than once. Although progress on the Limberlost kitchen has been slow and somewhat frustrating, it's good to remember that restoration projects always seem to take a lot of time, and every state historic site has projects that need to be completed this bicentennial year—some of them major projects, like the new visitor center for Levi Coffin, and the drainage & landscaping work at Corydon Capitol. Limberlost will eventually get the attention it deserves; you can count on it. So please keep those donations coming.

The Indiana State Museum is matching dollar-for-dollar what the Friends raise for this project. Large future expenses will be for reproducing kitchen fixtures, like the kitchen table, the kitchen sink, and for replication of the stencil design on the kitchen walls. Additional expenses will be for kitchen shelving and time-period utensils. It is estimated that the kitchen project will cost approximately \$20,000. With the museum's 100% match of what the Friends raise, we only need to raise \$1200 more to reach this goal!

## **OH MY! RANDY RETIRES IN JULY**

Yes, I am planning on retiring soon—July 9 will be my last official day of employment as the Limberlost Site Manager. The Indiana State Museum has begun the process to find my replacement, and that process is estimated to take at least two months, which is not so bad. When Ken Brunswick retired as the regional ecologist, it took DNR six months to replace him. I know my retirement will result in extra work for everyone, so I've already told my supervisors, the Friends of the Limberlost, and staff, that I plan to “volunteer” as much as needed during this transition.

I've been working pretty much non-stop since my arrival here in July of 1999. It's easy to see many of the good things that have happened on “my watch”—the visitor center, electronic sign, the music room restoration, the relatively good condition of the cabin and carriage house, all of which improve the appearance of this site. Then there are the mostly unseen improvements that have taken place since my tenure began in August of 1999—the increase in the number of visitors to the site, the increase in programs and events, the improving visitor experience, the improving interpretation of Gene Stratton-Porter and the Limberlost wetlands.

My success is directly proportional to the good help I have had through the years from the Friends of the Limberlost, the dedicated staff at Limberlost and the Indiana State Museum.. Here are a few who deserve special mention: the financial support of Andrew Briggs at the Bank of Geneva and his late father, Jim Briggs, resulted in many of the improvements at the site. Many past board members of the Friends went way beyond what I could have expected: Treasurer, Sid Austin, and his wife, Fran, were always so dedicated to the Limberlost; One of our best volunteers, Rosie Puterbaugh, was legendary in her commitment to whatever was needed to make Limberlost successful, and her early death during heart surgery was so unexpected and such a loss for a number of local organizations, and I have to mention David Cramer, who set the standard for future Friends presidents, being equally committed to the long-term success of the site and the wetland projects.

Years back some Friends board members went through difficult times when the DNR was considering making the Limberlost a strictly “volunteer run” facility. I sincerely thank all of them for sticking it out during those stressful times: Janie Scheiderer, Florence Cottrell, Dwane Ford, Betty Overdorf, Pat Elick, and Jackie Donnally to name a few.

Then, of course, I have to thank my current staff, most of whom have been working with me for many years: retired high-school biology teacher, Bill Hubbard, our part-time naturalist, started working at Limberlost in 2005, and ever since then I have appreciated his

friendship, wise counsel, community connections, and attention to detail. Connie Smuts & Marla Laux, tour guides & housekeepers, have evolved into indispensable staff members, often able to work flexible schedules, keepers of local history, and stellar examples of Hoosier hospitality. Then there's Curt Burnette, who has been here for fewer than 5 years, but his skills as an interpreter, naturalist, and storyteller, have added so much value to the site.

Others have contributed much to the success of Limberlost and have allowed me to share in some “reflected glory”. I'm referring to Ken Brunswick, “Keeper of the Limberlost”. When I arrived 17 years ago, Ken was already on track to make the Limberlost great again with all the wetland restoration projects that he so aptly steered through many challenges and difficulties. His remarkable tenacity and vision means today people can enjoy the Limberlost much like Gene Stratton-Porter did over a hundred years ago.

To the Indiana State Museum the site owes a debt of gratitude to people like former director, Kathleen McLary, whose untiring efforts to gain support from state government helped move the Limberlost visitor center project forward. Back in 1999, as I remember it, the director of state historic sites, Tom Gross, and his associate, Rachel Perry, both encouraged me to take the manager position at Limberlost—a wise decision.

There are so many Friends of the Limberlost I have gotten to know over the years, and I want you all to know that I plan on being an “active” member of the organization. I'll be doing what so many of you have been doing for the Limberlost for many years—giving time and/or making donations to support the organization. I know from experience that the Friends play a crucial role in the success of Limberlost. A well tuned Friends group is a beautiful thing!

I'd like to thank my social media team: Alex Forsythe, administrator of the Friends of the Limberlost website, [Limerlost.weebly.com](http://Limerlost.weebly.com) and Friends V.P., Terri Gorney, who administers the Friends Facebook page. Without this pair, the Limberlost voice would be much more muted. A special thanks, also, to Alex's brother, Scott, for designing the Limberlost birding app.

I can't end this “fond farewell” without saying more about Terri Gorney. Her skills as a researcher have resulted in numerous updates to our Limberlost interpretation plan. Her skills in marketing have meant much more name recognition for Limberlost and Geneva. Terri is always searching for new ways to promote the “Land of the Limberlost”. She's a loyal friend and someone I've grown dependent on. She's a great person to have next to me as I close one chapter of my life's story and begin the next.

## **“THE LIMBERLOST LIVES AGAIN” EXHIBIT**

### **You can be a part of it! Calling all artists!**

Indiana’s 13,000 acre Limberlost Swamp, located in southern Adams County and northern Jay County was ditched and drained by 1913, causing Gene Stratton-Porter, one of Indiana’s most celebrated authors, to move to Noble County. Today the



Limberlost Swamp restoration projects have returned a large portion of the Limberlost to a natural state that Mrs. Porter would recognize and celebrate.

The Friends of the Limberlost want to encourage everyone to enjoy the Limberlost much like it was enjoyed by Gene Stratton-Porter from 1888 to 1913 by participating in a unique art exhibit at the Limberlost State Historic Site Visitor Center in Geneva.



### **Photos, poetry, paintings, sculpture will be on exhibit beginning July 1**

This multi-media exhibit is part of the Indiana Bicentennial celebrations. The exhibit will put a focus on the Limberlost wetland restoration projects that started in 1997. The exhibit will feature a poem that Gene Stratton-Porter wrote for the Indiana Centennial, *Limberlost Invitation*, and some of her photographs of the Limberlost Swamp. The public can submit their artwork, perhaps a photo taken recently in the Limberlost Territories featuring the way that the Limberlost looks today or anything connecting the audience to the theme of the exhibit “*The Limberlost Then and Now*”.

### **Rules & Guidelines: a multi-media exhibit, open to anyone of any age**

- Subject matter categories—Limberlost fauna, flora, or natural settings located within the Limberlost Territories.
- Type of entries accepted: photographs, paintings, poetry, and small sculpture. For details about whether or not your entry will be accepted call 260-368-7428 or email [cburnette@indianamuseum.org](mailto:cburnette@indianamuseum.org)
- Individuals are limited to one entry per category (exceptions can sometimes be granted) so typically 3 is the maximum number of entries that will be accepted from one person.
- Limberlost staff is solely responsible for determining the eligibility of an entry.
- Photos, paintings, and poetry entries must be framed, wired, and ready for exhibition display. Mat & frame sizes should be 8 x 10, 11 x 14, or 16 x 20. Custom-sized entries within limits are acceptable (call for details). Failure to follow these rules may result in your entry not being displayed.
- All entries, unless hand delivered, must be packaged in a protective manner. Entries should be dropped off or mailed no earlier than June 1 but no later than Oct 1, 2016. Entries should be mailed to: Limberlost State Historic Site, PO Box 356, 200 East 6th St., Geneva, IN 46740
- Drop off times are 9am to 5pm Tuesday through Saturday at the Limberlost Visitor Center.
- A “Thank You Reception” will be held for all participants on Dec.10, at the Limberlost Visitor Center.
- All entries will be on display until Dec.10. All entries can be picked up after Dec. 9, and all photos should be picked up no later than Dec. 31, 2016, or they may become the property of Limberlost Historic Site.
- Neither the Indiana State Museum, Limberlost State Historic Site, or Friends of the Limberlost or any of their agents assume liability for lost, damaged or misrouted entries.
- This is not a juried show or contest; however, members of the public will be invited to select their favorite entries in each of the three categories. Based on this “Best of Show” voting, winners will receive an award certificate at the “Thank You Reception” on Dec. 10.
- The sponsors of this event reserve the right to correct, amend, or clarify these rules.
- Selected entries will be on display from July 1 until December 10.
- An “Official Entry Form” for the Limberlost “Then & Now” Multi Media Exhibit must accompany any entry. This entry form can be emailed to you , or it can be found on the [Limberlost.weebly.com](http://Limberlost.weebly.com) website. *The entry form is also included on the last page of this newsletter.*





# THE LIMBERLOST SWAMPER

Published Quarterly by Limberlost Swamp Remembered Committee

Limberlost Swamp Remembered

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## **Future Acquisition of property north of the Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserves by Ben Hess, East Central Regional Ecologist**

The Division of Nature Preserves is in the process of acquiring approximately 39 acres north of Loblolly Marsh to add to our conservation area. The property is half agricultural and the other is the woodland surrounding the *White Oak Cemetery*. This land purchase is being done through the Bicentennial Nature Trust and the Indiana Heritage Trust fund, with the financial support of the Friends of the Limberlost and ACRES Land Trust. Many organizations, including the Friends, have been utilizing the Bicentennial Nature Trust Fund prior to its end in 2016 to save many acres from being lost or to restore what we lost in the past.

Too many times these natural wonders become but a memory of our past, saved only in a photo or written about in journals. However there are a select few individuals who take action and save nature's splendor for future generations to experience. We would like to thank you as a member of the Friends of the Limberlost because with your financial support, our Division is able to utilize grant funding like the Bicentennial Nature Trust, so that Nature Preserve's can continue protecting our natural resources and preserve a piece of Indiana's natural history.

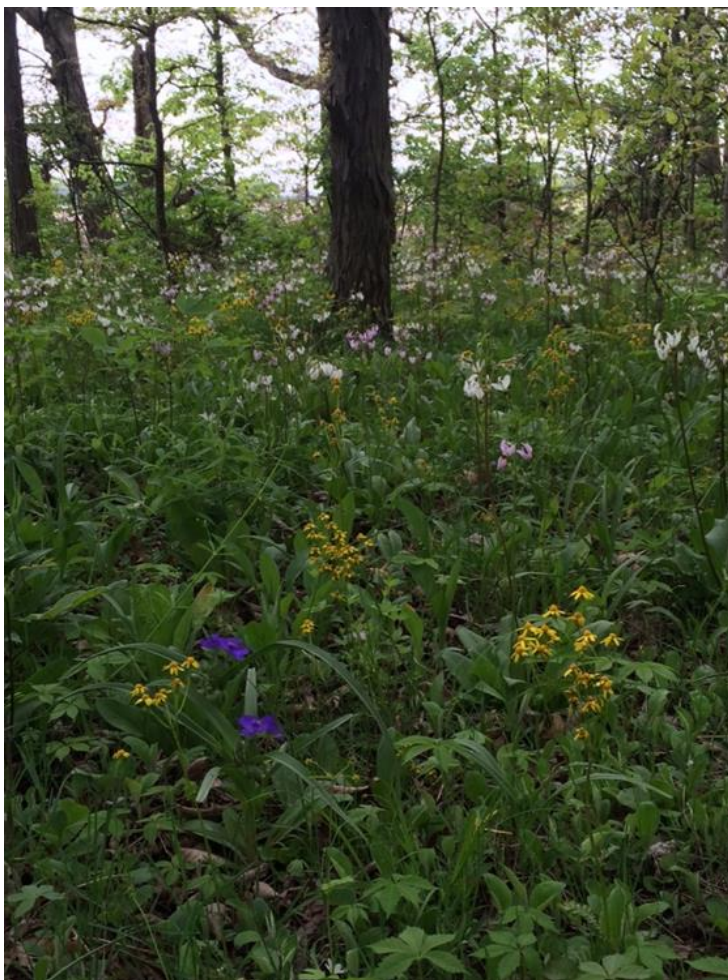


With the support of non-profits like the Friends of the Limberlost, the Division of Nature Preserves is able to protect a small piece of natural history that we believe is open oak woodland that contains some very unique plants. We have found Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*),

Fire Pink (*Silene virginica*), Starry Campion (*Silene stellata*), and Virginia Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*) throughout the woodland.

The White Oak Cemetery, deserving a separate article in a future newsletter, is the final resting place of individuals who once served in the Civil War, and it has some very unique plants as well including White Wild Indigo (*Baptisia leucantha*), Prairie Violet (*Viola pedatifida*), and Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium albidum*). Less than a decade ago, prior to its current management, it contained many other native prairie plants in its one acre sanctuary in the heart of the former open oak woodland.

In the future we hope to work with the local Jay County township trustee on a restoration plan to bring some of the native flora back to this high quality area within the boundaries of the cemetery, and that process certainly could become a future story for this newsletter!



## **Loblolly & Limberlost Swamp Repairs and Enhancements** by Ben Hess

As Loblolly Marsh and the Limberlost Swamp continue to heal from years of drainage tiles that removed water from the soils and farming practices that depleted soil nutrients and soil structure, we are still finding that the land bears these “scars” of the past. As the wetlands absorb the flood waters from the Wabash River and surrounding land and then slowly recede, we are able to find these scars. The flooding that the Marsh and Swamp have



experienced in the past few years has helped our staff find an additional 18 farm drainage tiles that continue to remove water from our wetlands, but in the near future all of those tiles will be plugged through our agreement with NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service).



IDNR has been working closely with the USDA-NRCS office over the past year to get much needed repair work done around the properties within the Limberlost Swamp and Loblolly Marsh. In addition to the new “scars” that have been found we are looking at repairing six different water control structures or levees that have been damaged over the years.

Once these repairs have been completed NRCS will provide funding to enhance over 270 acres with high quality seed mixes and plant plugs that have been designed by Nature Preserves staff to add diversity across these great wetlands. Remember Diversity equals Diversity!

Some of the areas were being invaded by non-native invasive species like Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), creating areas of monoculture stands of one plant species, resulting in areas unused by wildlife, but with aggressive management practices used by our staff to remove these invasive species, we will now be able to fill that niche with desirable native species which will benefit migratory and local fauna.

The amount of new species that call our wetlands home, or frequent our wetlands during their long migrations continues to grow and amaze anyone who stops. One just needs to listens for amphibians, look through binoculars for rare birds, or just experiences the many textures, colors, and shapes of the flora around them at the wetlands. Everyone’s experience is unique and their own, and with the additional diversity in our plant species that will only make the next few years even more exciting to experience.

We are hopeful that this project will begin this year and continue into 2017 until all work has been completed. NRCS is helping with funding the needed repairs and providing additional seed and plants to increase diversity, and we appreciate their enthusiasm and support.

However, our greatest motivation comes from those who experience the land we steward. People tell us what they experience, share photos of their time on the wetland, or we see cars parked and tripods out to capture that one shot of something rare. Their experience is our reward.

The Friends of the Limberlost meet each month to discuss what work needs to be addressed, provide funds and support to complete ideas that create those experiences for others. That is our highest motivation! Thank you for your continued support and hope to see you in the Land of the Limberlost soon.



## **Smoke on the Water** by Willy DeSmet

A few years back, a passer-by got rather upset seeing us doing a controlled burn. He started yelling at Dave Cramer (previous President of the Friends of the Limberlost) and accused us of ruining the Loblolly Marsh nature area. I agree that a burned area may look rather devastated for a while. Fire can be destructive, no doubt, but in this case he was mistaken.

So why do we do controlled burns? Although prescribed or controlled burns can also be used to fight or prevent wild fires, at the Limberlost we use the fire for vegetation management.

### **1. Encourage and stimulate plant growth**

Nutrients in dead plant material get recycled and made available for new growth. The regular process relies on insects, molds, fungi, earthworms to break down dead plant material and return the minerals to the soil. This process is relatively slow. When we burn this dead plant material, nutrients are quickly returned to the soil and are available for the plants to re-use much quicker.

Burning also removes the thick mat of plant material covering the soil. This layer slows down the germination and sprouting of new plants. After a burn, new plants come up quickly and in abundance (given proper temperatures and rain).

### **2. Decrease unwanted plants**

Burns can help in the removal of unwanted volunteer trees if we want to keep the area open, like a prairie or meadow landscape. Sometimes it is easier to get rid of these unwanted trees after a burn, even if the burn itself did not completely take care of it. The same goes for other “invasives”.

### **3. Increase desired plants**

Burning encourages the growth of native grasses. Native grasses generally have a deeper root system than cultivated/ imported grasses. Burning therefore affects native grasses less than the non-natives and gives them an advantage in the competition. This is not a black and white situation, and grasses are less affected by burning than “flowers”, so it is not just a case of the more (often) the better. Burning is just a management technique/procedure to be used together with other tools.

Of course we don't just set fire whenever and wherever the mood strikes us. This is all planned in advance, taking many things into consideration, and all people who participate in the burn have taken the proper courses and exams.

Preparation starts the year before, when detailed burn plans are drawn up, and firebreaks are created by mowing. Often the area that will be burned will be divided up in sections. It is easier to keep the fire under control when the area is burned in smaller sections or even in strips.

We usually don't burn the same area every year. How often we burn a certain area depends in part on where in the restoration process the area is. We don't burn all areas at the same time (in the same year) because we want to make sure that there is cover available every year for nesting and for wildlife to hide in.

Burning is usually done in early spring before ground-nesting birds start nesting. It can also be done in the fall after the nesting season is over. Certain conditions need to be taken into account as well: wind speed and direction, relative humidity of the air. Sticking to these parameters helps insure that the burn achieves the goal, stays controlled, and causes the least inconvenience for other people like residents nearby and road users. Fire creates smoke and you want to prevent smoke from crossing roads or blowing towards residences if possible.

If the burn is done properly, and the weather cooperates, the resulting growth of new vegetation can be amazing.





## **Indiana Audubon Society's Big May Day Bird Count in Adams County**

by Terri Gorney

The Big May Day Bird Count was held on May 14. Adams County has participated for over forty years. It was a cool, rainy and windy day but the birds were good. Last year in Geneva, with good weather conditions, 81 species were counted; this year 80 species were counted. Adams County had 98 total species recorded last year and 96 this year. We had 19 counters around the county. For some this was their first year.

The count provides valuable data of the bird populations. The number of birds in each species is counted. Thanks to Gene Stratton-Porter's writings, we know that the town of Geneva had chimney swifts for over one-hundred years. Gene wrote that a swallow [in her time they referred to them as swallows] in your chimney brought good luck. Gene would be pleased to know that Geneva, Berne and Decatur have chimney swifts as summer residents and are noted on the count.



◀For a number of years, Decatur has had nighthawks as summer residents. Both the chimney swifts and nighthawks have been in decline in recent years. It

is nice to know that they still find places to nest in the county and return each year. Both are good at eating insects like mosquitoes.

All of the areas of the county contained northern cardinals, mourning doves, white-breasted nuthatch and blue jays. These birds are year round county residents.

With the wetland restoration, shorebirds are being seen in good numbers that would not have been here fifteen years ago. Highlights of the day were: a white pelican, yellow-bellied flycatcher, blue grosbeak, a variety of sandpipers, great egrets and bald eagles. We have at least three known eagles' nests in the county. We counted a

female northern harrier and pine siskins which are late winter birds. The dickcissels have returned from South America to nest in the county. While standing in his backyard, Bill Hubbard took photos of a flock of dunlins flying over Lake of the Woods. ▼



Larry Parker of rural Decatur has participated for 37 years in Adams County count. He knows the birds and their habitats in the northern part of the county very well. Dave Reichlinger of Fort Wayne has participated in the count for over 30 years. Two years ago Dave gave up his territory in Noble County to help with the count in Adams County. As he said, "you can find great birds with a lot less effort." Thank you to all of our bird counters – every list is important. Some lists contained the only species, like the winter wren, yellow-billed cuckoo, and grasshopper sparrow. A special thank you to J Swygart for his nice article in the *Decatur Daily Democrat* newspaper about the Big May Bird Count.

The Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for January 1, 2017. In 2016, this count was changed to meet the National Audubon's criteria of a 15 miles circle which covers most of Adams County and Ouabache State Park of Wells County and the Loblolly Marsh, Music of the Wild and the Bird Sanctuary in Jay County. I would like to encourage anyone who has an interest in birds to think about joining us. We have a lot of fun and meet for a lunch at the Limberlost Visitor Center. It is a great way to start the new year!



## **A Hybrid among us?**

One unique plant that is in the White Oak Cemetery and along the edges of the woodland on the outside border of the cemetery is Prairie Violet (*Viola pedatifida*). As this amazing little plant hangs on during the aggressive mowing management being done in the cemetery, it is not the only little violet there. Like many plants in the same genus, it can hybridize with other violet species that are present in the surrounding area particularly with the Common Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*) which is abundant.

Look at the picture and notice how the lobes of the leaves do not go as deep as the picture in the “future acquisition” article (pg. 6). At first glance we would believe this plant to be a naturally occurring hybrid between the two species. As we work to obtain a botanical inventory of both sites, it will be interesting to see if this is a true hybrid or if there are other hybrids among the plants!

## **Moving On!**

Lorraine Shier, IDNR-seasonal staff, has recently taken a full time position with USDA-NRCS in Mercer County Ohio. In Lorraine’s time with our Division she has helped get our management to where we are today through her strong work ethic and devotion to the restoration of the Limberlost Swamp.

She was a huge asset for our Division during her time here and especially between Ken Brunswick’s retirement and when I began here two years ago. We are hopeful within the next month or two that we can fill her position. Lorraine will be greatly missed, but we wish her luck in her new position and future wedding!! Thanks Lorraine!



## **LOBLOLLY 5K, Saturday, August 13—Fundraiser for the Loblolly pavilion, trail maintenance, & nature programs**

The Loblolly 5K Run/Walk will take place on Saturday, August 13. Race day registration starts at 8:30am at the Loblolly Pavilion, and the 5K race starts at 9:30am. A kids “Fun-Run” starts at 9:00am—cost for the Fun-Run is \$5.00 and no shirt included, and a prize is awarded to all participants.

The Loblolly 5K race is part of the Run Jay County 5K Circuit, which features 8 races. To see the complete list of races in the series go to [www.runjaycounty.com](http://www.runjaycounty.com). To register for any of the races in the series go to the website to get contact information.

The last day to pre-register for the Loblolly 5K is August 11. You can pre-register for the Loblolly 5K online, or contact Bill Hubbard, at [LoblollyBill@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

The Loblolly Pavilion is located 3.5 miles west of Bryant, IN on Hwy 18, and then 1/2 mile north on County Road 250W. Address: 8323N 250W, Bryant, IN 47362



## **FRIENDS OF THE LIMBERLOST**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Step One:**

**Select your desired Friends membership.**  
Choose where you want your Donation to go.

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

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

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

☐ **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.

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

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

## Official Entry Form for the Limberlost “Then & Now” Multi-Media Exhibit

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If entering a photograph, where was the location?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(optional but greatly appreciated)

If entering photograph, what date was photo taken?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(optional but greatly appreciated)

Entry Title \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider this entry in the following category (check only 1)

\_\_\_\_\_ Flora

\_\_\_\_\_ Fauna

\_\_\_\_\_ Landscape & Natural Setting

I place a value of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on this entry for insurance and/or sale purposes.

I WILL / WILL NOT (please circle one) accept offers to buy this entry. I understand that Limberlost Historic Site will charge a commission of 30% if the item is sold.

I offer the above listed art work for exhibition in the Limberlost Visitor Center anytime during July through December 10, 2016. I warrant that I am the creator of the above mentioned art work and the owner of all rights and title. I grant permission for the above artwork to be photographed and reproduced only for educational and publicity purposes in connection with this Limberlost “Then & Now” exhibit. I have read the rules and guidelines and will comply with them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of entrant, parent, or guardian

**Photo of Randy Lehman and unidentified guest taken at a reception for the new “Curator” at Limberlost State Historic Site . An article about the reception, written by Deb Perry, appeared in the Berne Tri-Weekly’s August 27, 1999, issue of the newspaper. Below are some excerpts ▼.**



Lehman spent four and a half years as an interpreter and assistant curator at the Culbertson Mansion State Historic Site in New Albany. Although the 25-room Victorian mansion on the Ohio River differs greatly from Gene Stratton-Porter’s 12-room period log home on the edge of the Limberlost Swamp, Lehman sees similarities. “Both sites are house museums,” he explained as he relaxed in his rustic office on the second floor of the home, “so the standard operating procedures do not vary much. The state-required paperwork doesn’t change, whether there are 25 room or 12. The care of the house, the grounds, the artifacts and collections are also very similar.”

As for passion—with a master’s degree in environmental science from Indiana University, Lehman hopes to use the current restoration of the 450+ acres of Stratton-Porter’s wetlands as a tie in with the site.

“It is very unusual to have that much land connected with a historic site,” Lehman said. “They are doing something very unique here. The transition from farm fields back into heavily forested wetlands will take awhile, but things have already begun.

“My hope is to form a real connection between what Gene Stratton-Porter stood for and the wetland restoration project. What benefits one, benefits the other”....

Lehman is pleased with the strong community support for the Lady of the Limberlost.