

## Friends of the Limberlost

P.O. Box 571, Geneva, IN 46740

LimberlostSHS@embarqmail.com

www.limberlost.weebly.com

Phone: 260-368-7428

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

### WE ARE OPEN ALL WINTER

### LIMBERLOST WINTER HOURS BEGIN SOON !

The Limberlost Cabin is open for tours & special events all winter  
Winter hours begin December 11 and last through March 26, 2017

**WINTER HOURS:** Open Tuesday thru Saturday 9AM to 5PM  
 Last tour begins at 4:00PM. Closed on Sundays and Mondays.

### DON'T MISS OUR FAMILY FRIENDLY HOLIDAY EVENTS

*Details below & on pg. 2*

- **Christmas at the Cabin, Dec. 1—31**
- **Santa at the Cabin, Saturday, 11 am—3pm, Dec. 10**

### ‘Christmas at the Cabin’ a Magical Time

A month-long celebration of the Christmas season has started. This is one of our favorite times of the year, and we look forward to sharing the Limberlost Cabin’s historic charm and Christmas magic.

Tour the richly appointed Queen Anne-style home of Gene Stratton-Porter, and view rooms filled with period antiques and vintage heirlooms. The entire first floor and portions of the exterior are beautifully decorated to reflect the sights, scents and sounds of a winter wonderland. Our Christmas decorating team, led by Marla Laux, has transformed the Cabin into a very special place. According to recently retired site manager, Randy Lehman, “In the 18 years I’ve been associated with the Limberlost, I’ve never seen the Cabin look so spectacular for the Christmas season.”

Admission to *Christmas at the Cabin* is included in the regular admission price. Don’t delay your visit, the Christmas charm will disappear early January.



#### INSIDE

Page 2

► Santa at the Cabin

Page 3

► New Site Manager

Page 4

► Limberlost “Then & Now” Exhibit & Artist Reception

Page 5

► Legacy Projects

Page 6

► Lyrical Limberlost

Page 7

► Song & Slides

Page 8

► Celebrating Mrs. Porter

Page 9

► Christmas Bird Count is Jan. 1,

Page 10

► Friends Annual Meeting

Page 11

► Be a Friend of the Limberlost

# **SANTA AT THE CABIN**

## **SATURDAY, DEC. 10, 11AM TO 3PM**

**Visit with Santa**

**Enjoy Limber Jim's Swamp Show**

**Make a Holiday Craft**

**Do the Outdoor Treasure Challenge**

**Enjoy holiday refreshments**

**Admission is Free—Donations Encouraged**

Children, who successfully complete the outdoor treasure challenge, can open the Treasure Chest and pick out a prize. Learn about wetland critters during Limber Jim's Swamp Show, and visit Santa in the music room of the Limberlost Cabin from 11am-3pm. Santa will also be signing books purchased from the Limberlost Gift Shop. The gift shop sells a variety of Christmas story books that are made for children.



**ON THE SAME DAY, DEC. 10, SAVE MONEY IN THE GIFT SHOP  
FROM 9AM TO 5PM ALL GIFT SHOP ITEMS DISCOUNTED 20%**

**& Refreshments served—Compliments of the Friends of Limberlost**

The Limberlost gift shop is operated by Friends of the Limberlost & profits from gift shop sales are used to fund projects at the historic site and in the Limberlost wetlands. We have GSP books, Limberlost sweatshirts, lots of stocking-stuffers for children, and one of the best selections of Indiana nature guide books that you can find in the region. Admission to the gift shop is always free, and on Dec. 10 you can enjoy complimentary holiday refreshments.



**CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE  
at NOON at LIMBERLOST**

**End the year with a bang**

**at the *Family-Friendly***

***New Year's Eve celebration***

**Saturday, Dec. 31, 11 am to 12:30 pm**

**at the Limberlost Visitor Center**

**Cost is \$3/child**



- Before the NOON balloon drop, children enjoy crafts, games, activities & refreshments leading up to the countdown celebration at NOON which includes a balloon "drop and pop". Get ready to make some noise.
- From 11 am to Noon children win prizes and New Year's noisemakers by playing games in the Limberlost classroom.
- At NOON children assemble below the huge net of balloons to be dropped from the ceiling in the Limberlost exhibit room.
- Before the balloon drop children learn about New Year's celebrations around the world and sing "Auld Lang Syne" with family, friends, and Limberlost staff & volunteers.

## All We Want for Christmas is a New Site Manager

When Randy Lehman retired this past summer, on July 9, we were not sure how long it would take for the Indiana State Museum to find his replacement. As summer turned into fall, and as fall turned into winter, we began to wonder if Randy really was irreplaceable.

The very good news is that the new site manager for Limberlost has been hired, and she is scheduled to start working January 3, 2017.

Nicky Ball grew up in a small town of Algonac, Michigan, attended Western Michigan University where she studied English and Geography. In 2005 she graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a certification to teach secondary English and geography.

She found her first teaching job in Quincy, a small town in southern Michigan. There she met her husband Jeremy, a social studies teacher, and the two later began teaching in the nearby town of Homer, Michigan. Her favorite part of teaching English was helping students find a passion for reading by introducing them to books that suited her students' interests.

In 2012, while traveling out West for their honeymoon, Nicky and Jeremy visited Crater Lake National Park in Oregon. This trip eventually inspired Nicky to spend the summer volunteering at Crater Lake, where she worked as an interpretive ranger, giving guided boat and trolley tours.

The following summer, motivated by her summer at Crater Lake, Nicky worked as an interpretive naturalist at Pokagon State Park in Angola, Indiana. In this role, she gave history presentations, guided nature hikes, and helped visitors enjoy Indiana State Parks in their centennial celebrations.

Nicky enjoys reading and spending time outdoors hiking and camping, and is excited to start her new role as the site manager at Limberlost State Historic Site.

The staff and volunteers at Limberlost are just as excited to see this important position filled. We certainly want to express our gratitude to everyone at the museum who was involved in this selection process for taking the time to select someone who appears to be a great candidate. It's a Christmas wish fulfilled.



### THREE PROJECT UPDATES AT THE CABIN

► The task of painting the kitchen walls and ceiling is almost complete. Only one more coat is needed on the kitchen walls and then the stencil artist can be contracted to finally complete the painting in the kitchen.

▼ To prevent a potential leak from developing this winter, a small northeast section of the Cabin roof needed new wood shingles installed. The entire roof of the Cabin may get new wood shingles next year.



► The floor joist repair work and the floor board replacement continues on the front porch. This project should be mostly complete by the end of December; however, because of winter weather the trim work, the painting, and mortar work may not be done until next spring.



# Limberlost Celebrated Indiana's Bicentennial in Many Ways

by Terri Gorney

In 1916, Gene Stratton-Porter participated in Indiana's Centennial celebrations. She created the poem "Limberlost Invitation" and gave it to the state. 100 years later this poem became the inspiration for the exhibit "Limberlost Then and Now" for the Bicentennial of Indiana. The exhibit has been a feature at the Limberlost Visitor Center since this summer. It has been exciting to see poems, photographs, paintings, sculptures, and quilted pieces created just for this exhibit. Each work of art is based on what the Limberlost experience means to the individual artist. There are three categories (flora, fauna, and landscape) and all our visitors have been asked to vote for their favorite work.

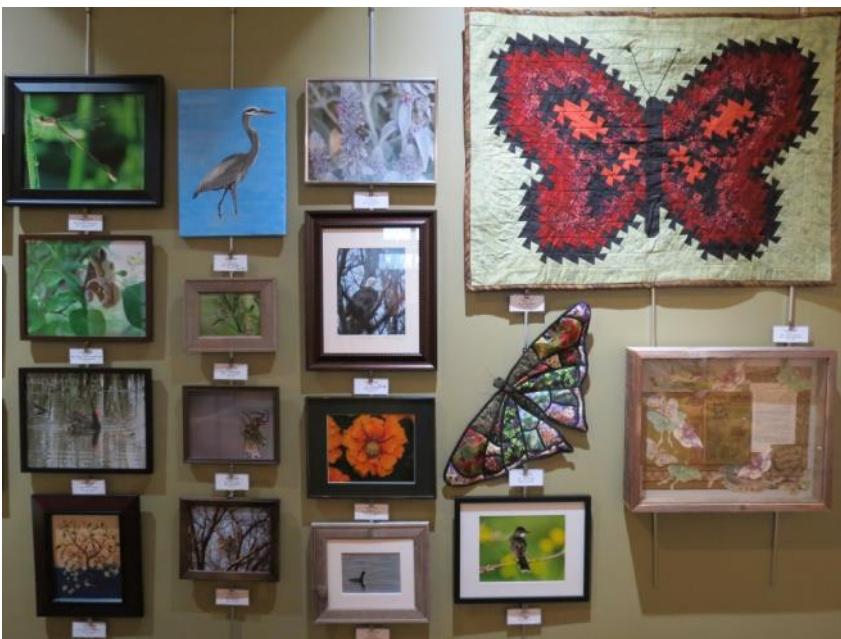


## Reception for Artists Dec. 10, 2pm

We encourage any artist who participated in this exhibit to attend the appreciation party at the Limberlost Visitor Center on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 2pm. If you just want to meet the artist who created your favorite work of art, you are also welcome to join us at the same time.

Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Limberlost, and winners of the popular vote will be announced at this gathering.

Individual entries can also be returned to each artist at this time. Deadline to pick-up artwork is Dec. 31.



The Limberlost Then & Now Exhibit was just one of 12 Limberlost Bicentennial Legacy Projects that took place as part of Indiana's Bicentennial Celebrations. Here are the other eleven Legacy Projects:



- Nature Day at Limberlost took place on April 1 & 2. Forty people participated in this two-day nature related event.
- *Birding with Gene Stratton-Porter at Limberlost*—a birding app and iBook were created by volunteer Scott Forsythe.
- Chimney Swift Tower—done in partnership with the Robert Cooper Audubon Society, Alexandra Forsythe, and Curt Burnette.



- Friends of the Limberlost logo was created by John Lindsey, Indiana Audubon Facebook administrator and editor of the Audubon's newsletter.
- The Limberlost Bird Box was put together by Scott and Alexandra Forsythe based on the Education Trunks at the Indiana State Museum. This educational resource for public school teachers, homeschooling families, and for the general public can be borrowed from the Limberlost Visitor Center at no charge.
- In 2016 the Friends reached their fundraising goal of \$10,000 for the restoration of Gene's kitchen in the Limberlost Cabin. This amount was matched by Indiana State Museum & Historic Sites (ISMHS).
- Adrienne Provenzano, singer & songwriter from Indianapolis, put Gene's 1916 poem "Limberlost Invitation" to music. Bill Hubbard collaborated with Adrienne to create a music video to bring the poem to life. Adrienne and Bill are working on other projects for 2017.
- With the assistance of Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust funds (BNT), the Friends purchased an additional 119 acres at Rainbow Bottom as part of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor.
- Also with assistance of BNT funding and \$37,000 from the Friends of the Limberlost, DNR Nature Preserves purchased the 39-acre White Oak property north of the Loblolly Marsh.
- 30 native trees were planted on the back lot of Limberlost State Historic Site on September 8 with the financial assistance and cooperation of ISMHS. In addition, Red Gold, Inc. contributed \$1,000 to this project, and over \$400 in memorial donations were made in memory of Bev Schwartzkopf.
- On October 8, Indiana Humanities held a sold-out "Trek and Talk" at the Loblolly Marsh. It was co-hosted by Limberlost State Historic Site. It was a wonderful way to put land and literature together using Gene's words. The event included a guided nature hike and dinner around a campfire.

**The Bicentennial Torch Relay** In addition to all the Legacy Projects listed above, Limberlost participated in the statewide torch-relay festivities in the following way: on Sept. 30, the Bicentennial Torch came through Adams County. There were four torch bearers with a Limberlost connection: Bill Hubbard, Limberlost naturalist and community volunteer; Veronica Rambo, for whom Veronica's Trail at the Loblolly Marsh is named; Stan Mosser, Friends member and Geneva Chamber of Commerce President, and retired site manager Randy Lehman carried the torch for Gene Stratton-Porter. After the Torch Celebration in Adams County, Limberlost hosted a Bicentennial party. Indiana Poet Laureate, Shari Wagner, gave a reading, and Vicki Kibellus, local actress and singer, portrayed a musical and poetic Gene Stratton-Porter.



Bill & Randy take a break after Torch Relay



# THE LIMBERLOST SWAMPER

Published Quarterly by Limberlost Swamp Remembered Committee



## ***The Lyrical Limberlost* by Adrienne Provenzano**



On a recent crisp November day, I had a chance to visit the Rainbow Bend woods with Limberlost State Historic Site naturalist Curt Burnette. During much of the year, due to poison ivy, stinging nettles, and sometimes swampy conditions, this area would be inaccessible, but after several frosts, it becomes an interesting area for a hike.

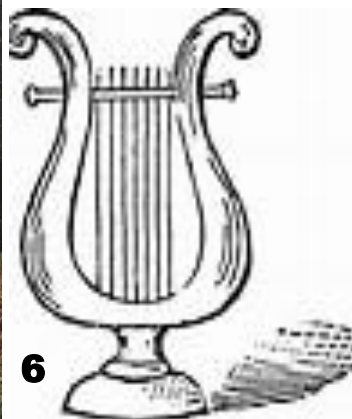
“Through the sycamores, the candlelight is gleaming, on the banks of the Wabash far away.” So says the Indiana state song...and while there was no candlelight gleaming as it was a daytime excursion, there were certainly sycamores to enjoy viewing and, indeed, not far from the older and newer banks of the Wabash.

After viewing one of these giants up close – appreciating its scaly bark, and even peering inside a hollow in the trunk, we moved on to another tree. The unexpected sight of this majestic resident of the forest brought a tear to this musician's eye – the trunks clearly outlining the shape of a gigantic lyre – an ancient Greek music instrument, similar to a harp. This sentimental moment quickly turned to laughter, as Curt had walked on ahead of me and popped up through an opening between the trunks.

Gene Stratton-Porter often described the natural world in musical terms. Curt reminded me that she discussed talking trees in [A Girl of the Limberlost](#). I later located the following passage about the oaks and beeches, those so-called talking trees that retain their leaves in the winter: “All other trees are harps in the winter. Their trunks are the frames, their branches the strings, the winds the musicians. When the air is cold and clear, the world very white, and the harp music swelling, then the talking trees tell the strengthening, uplifting things.”



It seems to me some of those “strengthening, uplifting things” are that one can walk such paths as Gene Stratton-Porter herself wandered, observe some of the same treasures, and find and discuss her written descriptions as well, to inspire a hike in advance or to enhance it during or afterwards. The connection between literature and nature is very evident in the Limberlost in every season. Perhaps some readers will venture forth when the world is white to learn what the talking trees have to say to them.



**Editor's Note:** You can venture forth with Curt Burnette. Don't forget you can rent-a-naturalist anytime of the year. The cost is only \$25 for 1 hr. Curt will gladly tailor your hike based on your interests, but you must make a reservation in advance of your visit.  
Call: 260-368-7428

## **Limberlost Then and Now in Song and Slides**

### **by Adrienne Provenzano**

If she were alive in our era, Gene Stratton-Porter would likely have a blog and website and be tweeting out information on her latest bird sightings – and laughing at the idea of calling the posting a “tweet.” She was a woman who embraced the technology of her day, including becoming involved in the movie business as a producer.

Inspired by her use of written and visual media to share her love of the natural world as well as her appreciation of music, earlier this fall I suggested to Bill Hubbard, part-time Limberlost State Historic Site naturalist and Friend of the Limberlost, that we combine some of his photographs with my musical compositions to share with the Friends of the Limberlost and others. This collaboration thus far has resulted in one slideshow, Limberlost Invitation, which will be shown at the December 10<sup>th</sup> event at the Visitors' Center to celebrate the conclusion of the Limberlost Then and Now multimedia arts exhibit. There are also plans to share the slideshow via the Friends' Facebook page and Weebly site.

The lyrics are from Gene Stratton-Porter's 1916 poem, *Limberlost Invitation*, written to celebrate the Indiana Centennial. The work is prominently displayed in the Visitors' Center. The music is by the Songstress of the Limberlost (that's me!), and Bill gathered the images, primarily from his own photographic efforts. He also included one of Stratton-Porter's photographs. The audio was recorded in the music room in Limberlost Cabin, a truly unique and special place to work on such a project.

Bill created the slideshow and added the audio. It was a privilege to have this opportunity to collaborate with so many at the Limberlost State Historic Site to make this idea a reality. It is hoped these images and music can inspire more visitors to journey to the Limberlost and experience it for themselves. It is also a window to Gene Stratton-Porter's world for those who may only visit “virtually.” The slideshow includes closed-captioning of the lyrics.

Terri Gorney kindly has submitted this slideshow as a Bicentennial legacy project. She was also instrumental in encouraging me to submit a project entitled *Music of the Limberlost Then and Now* for that designation. I am pleased to report the designation was granted, and all are invited to the December 10<sup>th</sup> event for the world premiere of my new composition “*Limberlost Then and Now*,” inspired by Gene Stratton-Porter's life and works as well as my visits to the Limberlost Nature Preserves. I'll also perform piano and vocal music of Gene Stratton-Porter's era.

Bill and I plan to create a slideshow for “Limberlost Then and Now,” and also for “Loblolly Lullaby”, a song which Terri suggested I create by setting to music a poem by site naturalist and program developer Curt Burnette. The creative and collaborative spirit is indeed alive and well at the Limberlost, continuing to add to the lasting legacy of this historic site and its natural surroundings!



# Geneva and the Nation Celebrate Mrs. Porter

By Terri Gorney



Gene Stratton-Porter's life ended suddenly on December 6, 1924. Family, friends, and fans were devastated. By August 17, 1925, on what would have been her 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday, plans were being organized around the country to remember and celebrate her life.

The week of September 26 – October 2, 1926 was chosen as the time for the memorials. The only other American woman given a full memorial week is Clara Barton who created the American Red Cross. Mrs. William Randolph Hearst was one of the national organizers. French Quinn, a well-known Adams County historian, was a local organizer. French would go on to create another Memorial to Gene in Decatur when the Elephant Rock with the inscription was placed on the Court House lawn in September 1928.

Geneva was recognized as Gene's "home town" in the newspapers. Geneva and Adams County were at the forefront of creating memorial celebrations for the state. The whole county wanted to celebrate its most famous daughter. It was a county where she lived for twenty-seven years, twenty-five years in Geneva, the town once surrounded by the swamp she made famous with her Limberlost books.

In Adams County, Wednesday, September 29 was chosen for the day of the Memorial Celebrations. It was a beautiful fall day. Ten schools from around the area brought 1,785 pupils. It was said that Berne's students sang a wonderful rendition of "On the Banks of the Wabash." Each of the ten schools was given a set of Gene's books—the ten books written while she lived in Geneva. As one editor noted, Gene's appeal was "a phenomenon of literature." Her writings were timeless and it was hoped that future generations would read her books.

It was reported that there were about 3500 people attending the festivities (Geneva's population at the time was 1400 people). VIP's included Governor

and Mrs. Edward Jackson. They were only planning to come for the morning part of the program, but they were having such a good time and decided to stay until evening. Mrs. Jackson was a fan of Gene's writings. The Jacksons were given a tour of the Limberlost Cabin by Dr. and Mrs. Corwin Price who were friends of the Porters and had purchased the Limberlost Cabin in 1920.

French Quinn introduced Governor Jackson. The Governor did not write a prepared speech but urged the pupils gathered "to seek the lessons from nature that they may walk in broad paths." He said, "I am always glad to come to this part of Indiana and I am especially pleased to come on this particular occasion to meet with these people gathered to do honor to one who has lived in your midst and the expressions of whose life have reached far beyond the confines of her country, state and nation."

Two maple trees were planted by the bandstand on Line Street in Geneva. One was planted by Dr. Corwin Price and the other was planted by Harlon "Harl" Hollingsworth. Music for the occasion was furnished by the Geneva and Berne bands. Where the trees were planted, a Memorial Rock to Gene would be dedicated at a later date – a smaller version of the Elephant Rock in Decatur (see picture below). Neither of the maple trees survive today.



On September 28, a tulip poplar tree was planted at the State Capital by Governor Jackson with Frank and Lorene (Miller) Wallace in attendance. Lorene, a Geneva native, was Gene's private secretary for seven years. Frank worked for Gene when she was building the home at Rome City. Gene wrote a letter to Governor Ralston asking him to appoint Frank Wallace as the state entomologist. The governor did, and it was a position that Frank held for forty-three years.

*(continued on the next page)*

In New York on September 27, 1926, 10,000 white pine seedlings were planted along a New York state highway in the Adirondack mountains close to Lake George known as the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Forest .

Other states had tree plantings such as Georgia, Alabama, and West Virginia and all were noted for their Memorial Celebrations in the newspapers of the time. Jeannette (Gene's daughter) and her husband, J. Leo Meehan, attended a memorial service in Los Angeles. She spoke on her mother's ideas of life and literature. Fort Recovery Ohio, a short distance from Geneva, had a Memorial program in their school with two speakers, Iva Miller and Kenneth Shoemaker, who knew Gene and were from Geneva.

In his speech, D.B. Erwin of Decatur, said "Every individual is a builder. Everybody leaves behind him a legacy to the world. Each and every person, whether he is conscious of it or not, builds in his lifetime some kind of a structure and leaves it for those who come after him.....[some leave] a rich and lasting inheritance." Gene was gone but her life was celebrated and her words live on for future generations.

## **YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES & DONATIONS HELP A LOT**

It may sound a little cliché , but your membership dues make quite a difference. Your contributions really allow the Friends to support Limberlost State Historic Site and Limberlost Nature Preserves in a variety of ways.

It helps pay for special projects, like the kitchen restoration or the recent purchase of the 39-acre White Oak Preserve. It helps pay for almost all of the educational events and programs put on during the year. It also helps pay operational expenses.

Operating account funds were cut again this year by 3% at the state level. It seems that every year there is less money provided for the daily operation of the site. The Friends came to the rescue several times during this year and spent over \$2,000 on operating expenses, helping the site pay yard, garden, and maintenance expenses, even helping to pay for a printer and printer ink.

As a support organization, the Friends definitely "support" both DNR Nature Preserves and the Indiana State Museum. But none of that would happen without your "support." So on behalf of the staff and volunteers at Limberlost, "thank you for your generosity" and "we hope you'll continue to support us in the future".

## **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC) IS JAN. 1**

On New Year's Day, Limberlost is hosting, once again, the Christmas Bird Count—the 117th National Audubon Christmas Bird Count. There is a specific methodology to the CBC, and all participants must make arrangements to participate in advance with the circle compiler within an established 15-mile wide diameter circle, but anyone can participate.

Count volunteers follow specified routes counting every bird they see or hear all day. It's not just a species tally--all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day. If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher.

If your home is within the boundaries of a CBC circle, then you can stay at home and report the birds that visit your feeder on count day as long as you have made prior arrangement with the count compiler. What is the Christmas Bird Count? The CBC is a long-standing program of the Audubon Society, with over 100 years of citizen science involvement. It is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the US, Canada and many countries in the Western Hemisphere, go out over a 24 hour period on one calendar day to count birds.

If you are interested in helping with this survey, either in the field with other birders or at home counting the birds showing up at your feeder, please contact Terri Gorney by email: [bandtgorney@aol.com](mailto:bandtgorney@aol.com) or call her at 260-413-5671.



## ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

44 people attended the Friends of the Limberlost annual meeting held on Saturday, Sept. 24, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. They all enjoyed a catered meal provided by the Palmer House from Berne, IN. They elected Andrew Briggs to serve another 3-yr. term on the Board of Directors, and they got to see Becca James receive a plaque honoring her 9 years of service on the Board of Directors (the Friends have a term limit of 9 consecutive years on the board). Randy Lehman, retired site manager, is shown presenting the plaque to Becca. ►



Of course, the highlight of the evening was watching Ken Brunswick receive a “Sagamore of the Wabash” certificate presented by state representative, Greg Buemer. Mr. Buemer’s legislative district covers Jay County, where Ken lives, and it was Greg, along with state representative, Matt Lehman, who worked together and got Governor Pence to approve this recognition for a very special Hoosier.

Ken was recognized for the many years he worked to reclaim portions of the Limberlost Swamp, sometimes as a paid employee of the Indiana State Museum, and sometimes as an employee of DNR Nature Preserves, but often as a volunteer, especially in the early years when he was trying to convince others of the value of wetlands and working tirelessly to get wetland restoration projects started at what is known today as the 470 acre Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve.

When Gene Stratton-Porter left Geneva in 1913, she thought the Limberlost Swamp was gone forever. Thanks in large part to Ken Brunswick’s efforts, today we can enjoy the Limberlost much like Gene did over one hundred years ago. Anyone who knows Ken recognizes that he is a modest guy likely to give others credit for bringing back portions of the Limberlost Swamp. In the book, A Conservationist Manifesto, first published in 2009, authored by Scott Russell Sanders, he asks Ken “if this preserve would have been established without inspiration from Stratton-Porter,” and Ken answers, “Absolutely not. She’s the reason the Limberlost has survived in the minds and hearts of so many people. She’s the reason there’s water here now at the Loblolly Marsh”.

The picture to the right shows Terri Gorney, Vice-President of the Friends of the Limberlost, pictured with Ken. It was Terri who first contacted Matt Lehman and Greg Buemer and began to work with them to secure the Sagamore award for Ken.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR LIMBERLOST STATE HISTORIC SITE OR FOR LIMBERLOST NATURE PRESERVES?

Volunteering can be a rewarding and meaningful way to interact with people who share your interests and your enthusiasm for nature, community, and history.

A good way to find out about things you can do for the Limberlost is to attend the monthly Limberlost Swamp Remembered Committee meeting and the monthly Friends of the Limberlost Board of Directors meeting. Both meetings take place on the 3rd Monday of the month. The committee meeting starts at 6:30pm, and the board meeting follows at 7:30pm. Meetings take place at the Limberlost Visitor Center in Geneva. We are a “friendly” group—please join us!

**FYI: There are no meetings in December!**



## **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. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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

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

### **Step One:**

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

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

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

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

### **Step Two:**

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

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

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

☐ **Individual—\$20**

☐ **Family—\$35.00**

☐ **Lifetime—\$1,000**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

☐ **Check 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:** \_\_\_\_\_



## **BEN HESS GIVEN AWARD**

We are very pleased to announce that on Nov. 14 at their Annual Conservation Awards Banquet, the Robert Cooper Audubon Society, of Muncie, Indiana, gave the Phyllis Yuhas Wildlife Habitat Preservation Award to Ben Hess, the East Central Regional Ecologist for DNR Nature Preserve. The award was given “for development or preservation of habitat that contains significant wildlife and/or native plant life populations”.

As many of you know Ben replaced Ken Brunswick as the DNR employee in charge of the Limberlost wetland restoration projects, but Ben is also responsible for the management of DNR Nature Preserves in 14 Indiana counties; however, one of his main priorities is managing the 1,800 acres of restored wetlands around Geneva (in southern Adams County and northern Jay County), known as the Limberlost Territories. As a trained botanist, he uses his expertise to improve habitat for birds, mammals, and insects. Congratulations to Ben on this recognition.



## **2016 INDIANA STATE PARKS FRIENDS GROUPS ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT LIMBERLOST STATE HISTORIC SITE**



On November 12, the Friends of the Limberlost hosted Friends Groups representing 13 different Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs. It was an all-day get together, and included a session where Willy DeSmet, Terri Gorney, and Randy Lehman shared how the Friends of the Limberlost operate and function. The picture above shows the different Friends Groups talking about their successes and how new members are recruited. In the afternoon, Marilyn Fauth, from the Paul Clarke Nonprofit Resource Center at the Allen County Public Library, talked about recruitment and retaining strategies for younger generations.