



Friends of the Limberlost

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**Join the Friends
It does make a
difference**

LIMBERLOST IS OPEN ALL YEAR AND WINTER HOURS BEGIN SOON !

Limberlost State Historic Site is open for tours & special events all year

WINTER HOURS: Open Tues. through Saturday 9AM to 5PM

Last tour begins at 4:00PM. Closed on Sundays and Mondays.
Winter Hours begin December 10, 2017 and go to March 31, 2018

DON'T MISS OUR FAMILY-FRIENDLY DECEMBER EVENTS

Christmas at the Cabin, Dec. 1 through Dec. 31
Santa at the Cabin, Dec. 9, Saturday, 11 am—3pm

'Christmas at the Cabin' a Magical Time

A month-long celebration of the Christmas season has started at Limberlost. 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 Queen Anne-style home of Gene Stratton-Porter featuring original Arts & Crafts and Victorian décor. View rooms filled with period antiques and vintage heirlooms. Portions of the interior are beautifully decorated reflecting the sights, scents and sounds of the season. Our decorating team, made up of staff and volunteers, worked their magic and created a very special setting for this Christmas season.

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

Admission is free to members of the Friends of the Limberlost and to members of the Indiana State Museum.

**The next page has
much more about our
holiday events!**





SANTA AT THE CABIN

SATURDAY, DEC. 9 11 AM TO 3 PM

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 written for children.

ALSO ON DEC. 9, 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. 9 you can enjoy complimentary holiday refreshments. *Members of the "Friends of the Limberlost" can take advantage of the 20% gift shop discount all December long. You can join anytime! Membership form is on page 11.*



CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE

on the day "before" New Year's Eve

Dec. 30, Saturday-11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

This daytime, family-friendly, celebration at the Limberlost Visitor Center features plenty of a New Year's Hoopla and Hoop-tee-doo. It's perfect for the children or the grandkids!

Cost just \$3/child. Adults are free!

.....2018

- From 11am to Noon, children win prizes like New Year's noisemakers, enjoy crafts, games, activities & refreshments, all leading up to the countdown celebration which includes a balloon "drop".
- At NOON children assemble below the huge net of balloons to be dropped from the ceiling in the Visitor Center exhibit area.
- 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.





Indiana Birding: Crash Course! Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018

WHERE: Limberlost State Historic Site

WHEN: 2 to 5 PM

Join Indiana Audubon Society for a three hour "introduction to birding" workshop. This workshop is led by Indiana Audubon Society Executive Director, Brad Bumgardner, and features a jam packed schedule, looking at all things birding. This hands-on workshop is

designed for both beginning bird watchers and general nature enthusiasts looking to learn more about the birds around their neighborhood and where to enjoy birds statewide. A sample of the topics covered include:

- History of Ornithology
- Parts of a Bird
- Birding in Indiana
- Bird Banding and Citizen Science
- Using Binoculars and Field Guides
- Finding Birds
- Bird Sounds ID Intro
- Identifying the Common Species In Indiana

Did you know that The Indiana Audubon Society founded in 1898 is the oldest conservation organization continuously operating in Indiana. It is not a chapter of the National Audubon Society, but an independent statewide organization. Gene Stratton-Porter was one of the early members of the IAS. In 1908 she was the treasurer!

Participants should bring binoculars if you have them, and a good pair of sturdy hiking shoes. Each workshop will include indoor and outdoor portions. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Registration is required and can be made using the registration ticket system found at www.indianaaudubon.org/events. Once you are at this page scroll down to the Limberlost event and register online.

Registration is \$10 for **IAS Members** and **Robert Cooper Audubon Society** members. The registration is \$15 for non members of either society. *Limited space is available for this workshop. We think this workshop will fill-up quickly. So register ASAP.*

Statewide sponsorship for this and other IAS workshops provided by the Robert Cooper Audubon Society, Indiana State Parks, Hamilton County Parks and Recreation, National Park Service, and The Indiana State Historic Sites.

WINTER IS STILL A GOOD TIME TO RENT—A—NATURALIST

Cost: \$30 for 90 minutes. You drive your own vehicle and follow the staff naturalist. Binoculars can be provided.

These are personalized tours. The interests and physical abilities of the group, and the time of year determine areas visited and the details of each tour. A handicap trail is available at one of the locations.

A choice of five different Limberlost nature preserves is available. The itinerary can be customized according to your interests. For more information or to make a reservation contact Curt Burnette, Naturalist, and Certified Interpretive Guide. Call the site 260-368-7428, or just email Curt today at cburnette@indianamuseum.org

**Plan your Limberlost
adventure today!**

HIKE WITH THE SWAMPTROTTERS MONTHLY HIKES TAKE PLACE AT THE LOBLOLLY MARSH

Free nature-hikes will take place this winter on the following Saturdays: Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, and March 30. The hikes always begin at 10am at the Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve parking lot—go 3.5 miles west of Bryant on Hwy 18, then turn north on 250W, and then go about 1/2 mile north to the parking lot.

The hikes are organized by board member, Melissa Fey. For additional information please contact Melissa at linngrove@live.com. Usually these hikes attract about 8 to 10 people—all ages are welcome. The hikes last about 2 hours, but participants are welcome to stay longer or end their hikes sooner.

Melissa said that it doesn't matter if this is your first hike or you're an experienced naturalist. The idea is to hike with like-minded individuals who enjoy the outdoors and who want to learn more about nature.

Our New Site Manager Gives a Fond Farewell



When Nicky Ball started working at the Limberlost on January 3, 2017, we were excited that the six-month search to find a replacement for Randy Lehman had ended successfully. The Indiana State Museum selected an excellent candidate for the job of Site Manager, and it was easy to see that Nicky was going to be good for the Limberlost. The future was looking bright, but alas, some things are just not meant to be...and so we'll let Nicky tell the rest of the story.

Dear Friends,

As many of you may know, I recently resigned from my position as site manager of the Limberlost State Historic Site. This was a difficult decision to make but was done so for the best interest of my family.

While working at the Limberlost, I was traveling to my home in Michigan each week. This schedule was not ideal for my family and certainly not fair to the Limberlost.

In September, I accepted a full-time position as an interpretive naturalist at Pokagon State Park in Angola. In this role, I am still able to work with school groups and create educational, nature-related programs, all while working just a half hour from my home in Michigan. Before coming to the Limberlost in January of 2017, I worked as a seasonal naturalist at Pokagon for eight months, so the transition was a smooth one.

The most difficult part about leaving the Limberlost was having to say good-bye to my coworkers and our Friends members. Since January, everyone at the Limberlost welcomed me with open arms, and I truly felt like I had a second family in Geneva. I have learned so much from the staff and volunteers, and if I could, I would take them with me to Pokagon.

Certainly the history of Gene Stratton-Porter and the Limberlost Swamp is what makes the Historic Site significant. However, without the dedicated and passionate people there, the site would not be as special to me and the many visitors who walk in the door. I will miss these people greatly and hope to stay involved with the site as much as I can.

Thank you to all of you who welcomed and supported me. Geneva and the Limberlost will always have a place in my heart.

Editors note: The departure of Nicky created an opportunity for the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites (ISMHS) to re-define the position of site manager at Limberlost. There are 11 “State Historic Sites” and all are managed by ISMHS in Indianapolis. The new management team at ISMHS decided to make the position at Limberlost a “regional manager” position. The next person who becomes the Limberlost Site Manager will also have management responsibilities over 3 other state historic sites in this northeast region of Indiana.

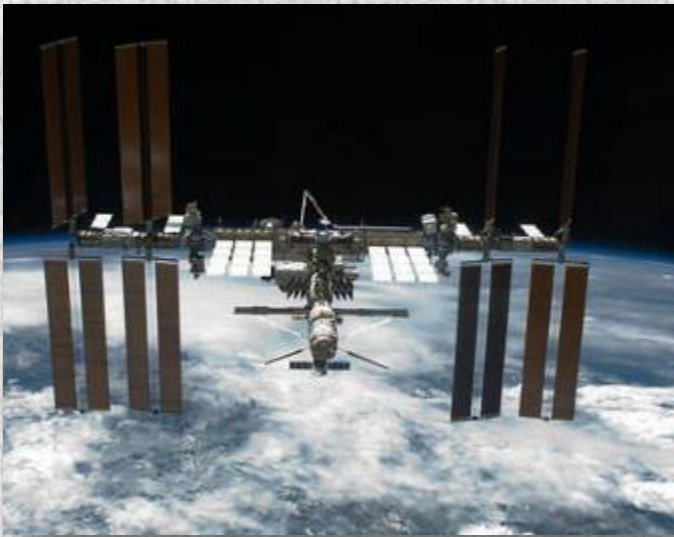
The first attempt to gather a list of potential candidates for this position ended on November 29. That's when a state job posting expired for “Northeast Regional Manager—Limberlost State Historic Site—Geneva, IN. If no suitable candidate is found in this first batch of candidates, we assume the position would be posted again. If you know someone who would be interested in this position, they could try emailing Beth Van Why, Chief Officer of Engagement, at ISMHS, bvanwhy@indianamuseum.org to check the current status of this position.

Everyone at Limberlost certainly wishes Nicky well in her naturalist position at Pokagon State Park. There's so much that Nicky did well, and we hope that the next candidate selected by ISMHS has the same qualities. Since the new manager will have to split his or her time between Limberlost and three other sites, we are concerned about being short-handed during our busiest times, but we are also looking forward to a greater supportive role by the new management team at ISMHS as they work on site development and a revamped marketing strategy for all the sites.

Bringing Gene Stratton-Porter and the Limberlost to the United Nations

by Adrienne Provenzano

As Songstress of the Limberlost, I write and perform songs to understand and share with others Gene Stratton-Porter's life and works and the places she cherished. This fall, I found another way to tell her story, in connection with another interest...space exploration. Growing up during the "Space Race" era, my awareness of space travel began early. Curiosity to learn more about the cosmos and space exploration waxed and waned over the years, like phases of the moon. When I started following construction of the International Space Station about a decade ago, I gained renewed interest in space topics and began developing expertise in aerospace. For several years I've been a volunteer for NASA's Solar System Ambassador program sponsored by NASA JPL-CalTech, which includes professional development webinars with NASA scientists and engineers.



While attending a celebration for that program's 20th anniversary this summer, I was encouraged to apply for a United Nations event about space. I was honored to be accepted!

This October, I had the privilege of participating in a meeting of aerospace experts regarding a project coordinated by United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and UN Women. The idea was to bring together women from different countries to assist with developing a project entitled "Space for Women" which will aim to further the UN's Sustainability Goals, specifically Goal #5, regarding gender equity. The project will be introduced as part of the UNOOSA +50 celebration events in 2018 and strive to positively impact girls and women in developing countries.

At the three-day gathering, I presented a talk and slideshow entitled "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star – Arts and Humanities Take Us Far: How STEAM Education Can Cultivate Gender Equity in Space Education." "STEAM Education" is an approach to

teaching STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) through the arts and humanities. On my closing slide, I included a beautiful image of the Loblolly captured by Bill Hubbard and explained a bit about Gene Stratton-Porter and the Limberlost. While my presentation was mostly focused on off-Earth exploration, I wanted to remind myself and the other participants of Earth's beauty.



Space exploration and Earth exploration are connected. In fact, the motto for the International Space Station is "Off the Earth, For the Earth." It also seemed fitting at an event celebrating and encouraging opportunities for study and work in the STEM areas to mention Gene.

While Gene saw herself as a nature lover, rather than a naturalist or scientist, she well understood about seasons and Earth's rotation and revolution. She was curious about astronomy and other topics and once wrote the following:

"There were some pretty fine astronomers in the old days. They had a great many things concerning the planets figured out as clearly as they have ever been since; and in my day I have lived to see the greatest telescope ever made, and to know about a new camera just being completed. Both of these cover stretches of space never before examined by any man on this earth, and both of these instruments prove that beyond any space concerning which we have definite knowledge there stretch on and on, other suns, moons, and systems such as that of which our earth is but a part. There is no end to space. We are scarcely a drop in the bucket of the universe."

That said, Gene encouraged each of us to do as much as possible to live fully. For her, each drop in that bucket was precious and held great value and potential.

There are so many who find artistic and other inspiration at the Limberlost – including me! I am glad to count Bill Hubbard as one of my many Friends of the Limberlost. His photograph and the rest of my presentation slides are now archived with the UN, carrying on Gene's tradition of sharing the Limberlost with others through the arts and humanities!



THE LIMBERLOST SWAMPER

Published Quarterly by Limberlost Swamp Remembered Committee



Grants Help Fund Interpretive Signs & More



The Friends of the Limberlost were recently notified that they will receive a \$600 grant from the Indiana Parks Alliance. The funding called “Indiana State Parks and Nature Preserves Project Assistance Program” is designed to help State Parks and Nature Preserves with small grants that help enhance outdoor recreation and nature related experiences to visitors and users. The grant will be used to plant more

native wildflowers and native plant plugs in the area at the end of Veronica’s trail at the Loblolly Marsh in order to increase plant diversity.

THE INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY—the Friends of the Limberlost also received a \$4,999.00 Heritage Grant from IHS, funded by Eli Lilly. The grant is to be used for a number of projects: to replace worn-out interpretation signs at the Loblolly Marsh that have deteriorated due to age and exposure to weather; to install two new “interpretation stations”—one at the end of Veronica’s trail that will give visitors an overview of the Loblolly Marsh wetland restoration project, and the other interpretation station that will be installed at the trailhead on the Hart property (a 38 acre wetland) at Geneva. The Hart interpretation sign will give visitors information about the chimney swift—a bird that nests in and around Geneva and is commonly seen flying around the town during the summer months. *With financial assistance from the Cooper Audubon Society of Muncie, Indiana,* the Friends are installing a “chimney swift tower” at the Hart property to give the swifts an extra place to roost at night or a place to use during the nesting season.



Hi! My name is Heather Zengler

I am the new intermittent worker for the DNR, Division of Nature Preserves at Limberlost. Ben Hess, the East Central Regional Ecologist, is my supervisor, and I work with his crew: Fred and Al.

I grew up in Portage, a town in Northwest Indiana. My family would go on yearly camping trips. These trips would consist of hiking, tent camping, and canoeing. I grew up loving to explore the outdoors, and to this day I still enjoy camping and backpacking.

I started playing softball at a young age and it just seemed to click. After a year or two I took to pitching like a natural. This is what led me to go to college at the University of Saint Francis and to play on their softball team. After changing my

major a few times, I settled into a double major in Biology and Environmental Science.

After my junior year of college I got an internship at Eagle Marsh in Fort Wayne as a Property Steward. It was hard work, but it was rewarding. The work that we did was similar to the work I now do for the DNR, including control of invasive species and trail maintenance. This internship helped me realize that I want to go into natural resource management, conservation, and education. I think it is important for people to learn about the world around them and to help conserve and restore it. This is why the work that I am a part of at Limberlost is a great opportunity to expand my knowledge.

Because of my love for the outdoors and my desire to learn whatever I can about the world around me, I have acquired the following certifications: Wildland Fire, Red Card, FEMA, and PADI SCUBA Open Water. I enjoy the work I do for the DNR and I look forward to seeing what the future holds!

INDIANA MASTER NATURALISTS ANNUAL GATHERING AT LIMBERLOST



132 Master Naturalists from all over the state of Indiana met at Limberlost on Saturday, Oct. 7, for a day of workshops, tours, and hiking. The weather was perfect, and everyone enjoyed the activities that were offered: a guided tour of the Limberlost Cabin given by Randy Lehman, retired site manager; an overview of the life of Gene Stratton Porter given by site manager, Nicky Ball; a moth & butterfly program given by President of the Friends of the Limberlost, Willy DeSmet; a nature hike at the Loblolly Marsh given by Curt Burnette, site Naturalist; and finally an overview of the Loblolly Marsh wetland restoration project given by Ben Hess, N.E. Regional Ecologist for the Division of Nature Preserves.

In addition to the above activities everyone enjoyed a catered lunch on the Ceylon Covered Bridge and many enjoyed an early morning hike of the Music of the Wild preserve led by Curt Burnette. Participants had time to shop at the Limberlost gift shop. Their purchases set a sales record on that day.

The IMN Gathering was a two-day event. The first day of activities were held at nearby Ouabache State Park, Bluffton, IN. So most attendees spent the night at area hotels or at the at Ouabache campground.

We thank Jody Heaston, IMN State Coordinator, for selecting Limberlost to host the second day of activities, and for helping Limberlost staff and volunteers get ready for this busy day. Limberlost received \$1,254 in facility use and program fees on that day (according to Randy Lehman this has to be one of the top revenue making “events” that Limberlost has ever done).

Friends members also provided many hours of volunteer service planning for this event, and members also helped with the programs and activities on Saturday. A special thanks to Melissa Fey and Smith Brothers Furniture, Berne, IN, for donating the use of their company tables and chairs on the covered bridge, and we thank the Berne Boy Scout Troop #67 for volunteering to help with the lunch set-up at the covered bridge, and for helping to serve food, and for helping with clean-up afterward!

THE LIMBERLOST CABIN GETS NEW ROOF

During most of October and almost all of November old shingles were torn off and replaced with fire-resistant cedar shingles. The work was done by Exterior Wood Restoration Company from the Indianapolis area. The work was contracted & paid by the Indiana State Museum & Historic Sites. Looks good. Thank you!



Limberlost State Historic Site Staff—left to right:
Jennifer King (part-time guide & housekeeper)
Bill Hubbard (part-time guide & naturalist)
Curt Burnette, Nicky Ball,
Art Booth (part-time maintenance)
Rosalyn Hilty (part-time gardener/guide/housekeeper)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC) IS JANUARY 1 FOR LIMBERLOST



On Monday, Jan. 1, Limberlost State Historic Site is hosting the CBC. This is the 118th National Audubon Christmas Bird Count, and it begins nationally on December 14 and runs to January 5. In Adams County volunteers have been participating in this survey for many years. This is Limberlost's 5th year to host it.

The count is essentially a citizen-survey providing data on bird population trends. Due to the time of year, volunteers sometimes have to brave snow, wind, & rain, to take part in the Christmas Bird Count. The Limberlost Visitor Center will be open Jan 1. to birders helping with this count.

If you're interested in helping with this survey please call 260-413-5671, or email Terry Gorney at bandtgorney@aol.com. You can also help with the CBC from the comfort of your home. Do you have bird feeders at your house? "Feeder Counters" are those who count birds in their own yards. On Jan. 1 watch your feeders and send us a list of birds you see. Just email your list to Terri, or stop in the Limberlost Visitor Center and drop off your list.

The CBC has provided the Audubon Society with decades of bird data. Audubon scientists will tell you about remarkable studies that result from using 117 years of bird count data. The other nice thing that the CBC does for participants (the expert and the amateur, the young and the old) is to create a great community that can bond together on one day to do something special for bird life everywhere.

The circle above, named SANJO, shows the territory that will be covered by birders participating in the CBC at Limberlost. The Audubon Society requires that a circular area with a diameter of 15 miles be surveyed if your data is to be included in surveys conducted during the three weeks that the national CBC takes place.



SANJO stands for "S"outhern "A"dams county, "N"orthern "J"ay county, and "O"uabache State Park. The circle includes the Loblolly Marsh, Limberlost Swamp Wetland Preserve, most of Bluffton and Ouabache State Park, Munro Nature Preserve, a lot of the Wabash River in Adams and Wells Counties, Limberlost Creek, Loblolly Creek, Music of the Wild Nature Preserve, the Limberlost Bird Sanctuary, Rainbow Bottom, Rainbow Lake, Lake of the Woods, the old stone quarry, the old gravel pit, Fields Memorial Park, and many Amish farms, and all the towns you see listed on the map above.

If you are a Limberlost CBC "Feeder Counter", your feeder must be located within the boundaries set by the SANJO circle. If you are a birder helping to identify and count birds during our CBC, you must also be birding within the confines of the SANJO circle.

A chili lunch will be served at Noon at the Limberlost Visitor Center to all participating birders. If you participate in this survey, you are welcome to check in at 8:00AM at the Limberlost Visitor Center, 200 East 6th St., Geneva. If possible contact Terri before Jan.1 to make sure that you are not birding an area that has already been assigned to someone else. There is plenty of good birding territory for all.

We welcome any and all "Feeder Counters". If you are just counting birds on Jan 1 at your bird feeder, you do not need to show up on Jan. 1 at Limberlost, but please let Terri know in advance, if possible, that you are participating in our CBC.



We sincerely thank everyone who is planning to help during the SANJO CBC on January 1, 2018.

Cat Got Your Tongue? Life and Death in Our Front Yard by Willy DeSmet

The Pearl Crescent, *Phyciodes tharos*, is a very common butterfly in our yard. Not long ago I noticed one in our front yard that was behaving in a way that I had not seen before. You could say I found it puzzling. The edge of our pond is lined with Boneset, *Eupatorium perfoliatum*, and Water Horehound *Lycopus americanus*, among other wildflowers. (Water Horehound is sometimes called American Bugleweed, but some people use the name Bugleweed for a different plant, *Ajuga sp.*). These wildflowers attract lots of butterflies and other interesting creatures, so I frequently take my camera out there. ►►►



This Pearl Crescent was fluttering near a Water Horehound plant in an unusual way. It reminded me of the way a kite will flutter when you are running with it on a short string trying to get it airborne. You could say it looked like the butterfly was tethered to the plant. I took a closer look and in a way that was literally the case.

On the plant was a Jagged Ambush Bug, *Phymata americana*, and it was holding the butterfly by its (long) tongue! I wrote about Ambush Bugs in another story (“Jumper Jumps and Assassinates Assassin”) featured in the previous newsletter.

Ambush Bugs will hide near or underneath flowers and attack other insects visiting the flowers. As I was watching and taking pictures, the Ambush Bug was pulling the butterfly in, “hand over hand.”

The butterfly put up a fight and its wings got pretty beat up in the process; but eventually it got away. You can see the Ambush Bug’s beak or “stinger” in this picture (it is light green and right in front of the butterfly’s tongue; see insert) and you can see how the Ambush Bug is pulling on the butterfly’s tongue.



Such an encounter is usually very fast and short: the Ambush Bug grabs its prey and immediately paralyzes it with its stinger. Maybe this time it missed the butterfly or maybe its timing was off. This butterfly got a chance to fight for its life, and eventually won!

Read more of Willy’s article about Ambush Bugs and their prey on the next page.





Here is another Jagged Ambush Bug; it caught a bee. You can see that it holds the bee by the tongue (again). The bee's tongue is shorter than the butterfly's, so the bee didn't have much of a chance. This encounter took place on Late-flowering Thoroughwort, *Eupatorium serotinum*, which is related to Boneset. (In contrast to the previous pictures, I didn't take this picture in our yard, but at Cooper Prairie in Muncie). Ambush Bugs belong to the family of the Assassin Bugs (Reduviidae). They sit in ambush on or underneath a flower. They then grab visiting insects and quickly use their long mouth parts (the beak or "stinger") to kill their prey and suck out the soft inside. You can see in this picture that it has its beak stuck in the bee's head. This one did not get away...

When you see an insect (bee, butterfly,...) hanging down from a flower like this, take a closer look. You may get to meet an Ambush Bug.

2017 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

44 Friends members attended the Friends of the Limberlost annual meeting held Saturday, Sept. 30. They all enjoyed a catered meal provided by the Palmer House from Berne, IN. They got to hear the "Songstress of the Limberlost" Adrienne Provenzano sing about the Limberlost, and they got site & wetland updates from site manager, Nicky Ball and Ben Hess, N.E. Regional Director for Nature Preserves.

Two "new" people were elected to the Friends of the Limberlost Board of Directors. Randy Lehman (retired Limberlost manager) and Connie Smuts (former Limberlost tour guide) were elected to their "first terms". Both are Geneva residents and are pictured here.

Re-elected to serve their last 3-yr. terms were Willy DeSmet (from Portland) and Terri Gorney (from Ft. Wayne). Willy and Terri were also re-elected as President and Vice-President of the Board respectively. Brett Fisher (from Ft. Wayne) was re-elected to another 3-yr. term, and Connie Ronald (from Portland) was re-elected to a 3-year term.

The Friends of the Limberlost have a nine-year term limit for Directors, and they have a total of 13 positions on their Board of Directors.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE LIMBERLOST 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 what 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. These monthly meetings take place at the Limberlost Visitor Center in Geneva. We welcome anyone interested in learning more about the organization and what volunteer opportunities are available—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. 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**

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 the box if you want to get the newsletter mailed to you via the U.S. Postal Service. We'd like to email the newsletter to you because it saves us money on postage, and it also saves us time, and the "e-newsletter" is in color! However, we are happy to mail you a "paper copy" of the newsletter rather than the electronic version of the newsletter, if that is what you prefer—just check the box.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Additional donation appreciated): \$ _____



LIMBERLOST WINTER 1918 (drawing from a tire ad in a Nov. 23rd, 1918 Leslie's Magazine)

We'll soon be putting up with old man winter and finding it a little more difficult to reach our destinations. We hope you successfully get through all the challenges that winter can bring. Here are several ways you can help us get through the winter and the next year, too!

Go to <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>. "Create an Account" and then sign in and select "Friends of the Limberlost". Once you are registered, every time you shop at Krogers, we will receive a rebate based on your total purchases. Organization number for Friends of the Limberlost: 70650 *

Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a *charitable organization*. Make the *Friends of the Limberlost State Historical Site* your "charitable organization". So every time you shop Amazon, go to Amazon Smile, and the Friends will get a rebate based on your purchases. The customer prices are the same on Amazon Smile and on Amazon.com. The *AmazonSmile Foundation* will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected *charitable organization*. *

* Whenever the Friends receive a rebate from Kroger or Amazon, the rebates are shared equally by the Limberlost Swamp Remembered Committee and the Friends of Limberlost Historic Site.

Monetary gifts can be made at anytime to a number of specific project accounts managed by the Friends of the Limberlost—donations made to these specific accounts can only be used for the donor's chosen project: Please make all checks payable to the "Friends of the Limberlost". Mail to: PO Box 571, Geneva, IN 46740. Here's a list of current projects:

- The Limberlost Cabin Kitchen Restoration
- The Bird Viewing Room (money is used to purchase bird seed, bird feeders, and used to make improvements to the bird feeding area, or improvements to the bird viewing room).
- Nature Displays (money is used to enhance the Limberlost Visitor Center exhibit area with nature displays & animal mounts to increase the visitors awareness of the Limberlost Swamp as it was and as it is now).
- Limberlost Swamp Remembered Committee (money is used for a wide variety of projects all having to do with wetland restoration; for example, native plants and seed, tools and machinery needs, plant and land management supplies, kiosk & interpretive sign maintenance, and property purchases). For more information contact Ben Hess: bhess@dnr.in.gov