



# Friends of the Limberlost

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

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## **INDEPENDENCE DAY EAGLE PROGRAM**

**Thursday, July 4, from 2-3pm**

**ADMISSION IS FREE—DONATIONS ENCOURAGED**

Celebrate America's birthday by joining the celebration at Limberlost State Historic Site featuring a live bald eagle. Learn about our national symbol on our nation's birthday. A live bald eagle, named "Jefferson" and one other raptor, courtesy of Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab, Ft. Wayne, will be at Limberlost State Historic Site on July 4th. Also, you'll 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.



**Register for the Flat 50 bicycle  
ride—online deadline June 16**

**[www.flat50plus.com](http://www.flat50plus.com)** to register online

- \$30 online registration fee
- Or register on the day of race for \$35

**Saturday, June 22, the ride begins at Riverside Center  
231 E Monroe, Decatur, IN 46733**

**Enjoy a Fantastic Lunch & Bluegrass at the Limberlost**

- The route will have the usual options of 20, 35, 50, 62, or 100 miles starting at 7 am, with well-marked routes, maps, vehicle assistance, and well supplied sag stops as you venture through some of Indiana's finest farmland.
- Ride one of the flattest rides of the year in northeast Indiana. Travel the scenic back roads of Amish country, ride through Swiss communities, view the banks of the Wabash river, stop at the historic Ceylon covered bridge. This is the 29th year of a ride that has been honored by LAB as one of America's Finest County Tours.
- *The lunch stop for the 50, 62, and 100 mile rides is at Limberlost State Historic Site in Geneva and includes live bluegrass music.*
- The Flat 50 Plus will be timed again this year. However it is not a race. It is a noncompetitive way to challenge yourself if you so desire. If you don't want to be timed all you have to do is ignore it. Please do everyone a favor and cross the start and finish line as it is the easiest way to keep track of whether there are still people on the course.
- If you need it, tent or RV Camping in Decatur will again be an option.

## Indiana Poet Laureate 2016-2017, Shari Wagner, returns to Limberlost to conduct 4 Poetry Workshops

We are happy to announce that Shari Wagner will be conducting another round of Limberlost poetry workshops. Pleased with the success of her 2017 Limberlost workshops, she is eager to meet more people (children & adults) who are inspired to write about the world around them.

During this 2019 Arts in the Parks and Historic Sites residency at the Limberlost, she will lead four poetry workshops with writing activities designed to help participants explore the beauty, history, and ecological importance of the Limberlost, as well as its connection to renowned nature writer and novelist Gene Stratton-



Porter. Workshops will convene on Limberlost nature trails, the Ceylon Covered Bridge, and at the Limberlost Cabin. All events will include a small fee for hikes with site naturalist Curt Burnette or for tours of the Cabin with a staff member. Otherwise, these events are free thanks to an Arts in the Parks grant Shari received from the Indiana Arts Commission. To register simply send Shari an email at [sharimwagner@gmail.com](mailto:sharimwagner@gmail.com). Find the workshop you and/or your family members want to attend and register with Shari. Please note space is limited.



### INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION

Saturday, July 13, 10 AM-4 PM  
Inside Gene Stratton-Porter's Cabin:  
Poetry Workshop for Adults & High School Students

Wednesday, September 25, 10 AM-2 PM  
Sights, Sounds, & Silences:  
A Poetry Workshop for Kids at the Loblolly Marsh

Saturday, October 12, 10 AM-4 PM  
At the Ceylon Covered Bridge and Rainbow Bottom:  
A Poetry Workshop for Adults & High School Students

Wednesday, November 13, 10 AM-2 PM  
Inside Gene Stratton-Porter's Cabin:  
A Poetry Workshop for Kids

### About Shari Wagner:

"When I was growing up, Gene Stratton-Porter's writings inspired me to explore the wilderness areas in Wells County where I lived. I still love trekking through fields and forests and have written poems about many parks and nature preserves throughout Indiana. Many of these poems appear in *The Harmonist at Nightfall: Poems of Indiana*. I am also the author of the poetry book, *Evening Chore*, and *The Farm Wife's Almanac (to be released this month)*. I teach for the Indiana Writers Center and for Bethany Theological Seminary's graduate program in theopoetics and writing. For information about me, please visit my website [www.throughthesycamores.com](http://www.throughthesycamores.com)"

### SWIFTS NIGHT OUT

Saturday, Aug. 3, 7:30pm



**Admission Charge: \$1 for members of  
ISMHS & \$2 for non-members**

Enjoy a presentation on chimney swifts by naturalist, Curt Burnette. 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 to watch and count chimney swifts as

they enter a chimney to roost for the night. In previous events, we have counted from 80 to 100 chimney swifts entering this one chimney. *Please bring a lawn chair so you have comfortable seating while watching the action.*

Chimney swifts used to primarily nest in caves, cliff faces, and hollow trees. When Europeans settled North America and built chimneys, Swifts found chimneys to be perfect habitat. So thanks to human settlement their numbers rose accordingly. A recent shift in chimney designs toward covered, narrow flues, which are unsuitable for nesting, 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 for nesting swifts. A new interpretation sign and the tower will be installed at the Hart Barn.





**LIMBERLOST BLUEGRASS JAMBOREES**  
**NEW FOR 2019: TWO JAMBOREES THIS YEAR!**  
**Sunday, August 18, and Sunday, September 15**  
**Always 2-4 PM**

Jamborees are held on the grounds of Limberlost State Historic Site. Jamborees are FREE (donations encouraged). The 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, but usually it's bluegrass, gospel, or folk music. The music could be good, bad, or even ugly, but regardless of the result, we always have a great time supporting any musician willing to share in the festivities.

*So bring your instrument, or just bring your lawn chair. Sit awhile, listen to the music, and enjoy life. Refreshments are provided by Friends of the Limberlost.* The Limberlost Bluegrass Jamboree is sponsored by the following longtime Geneva businesses, committed to providing you the best in summertime entertainment: Limberlost Construction, Geneva Case & Quart, and Downing & Glancy Funeral Home.

As Randy Lehman, the emcee for the Bluegrass events, likes to say, "A lot of Bluegrass is about working, drinking, and dying, so our sponsors are a perfect match for Bluegrass. There is also a lot of religious Bluegrass music, but so far we have not been able to find a church willing to be a sponsor. If you know a church that would like to be a sponsor, please put them in contact with us!"

The Limberlost Bluegrass Jamborees were started back in 2003 by Betty Yoder, who played guitar and often performed locally with family and friends. Betty loved to perform and embraced the community of Geneva. She organized the first two Jamborees, but sadly, she passed away unexpectedly on May 26, 2005. Since then all Limberlost Jamborees have been held in her honor. Her daughter, Verena, also a talented musician, continues to help organize the jamborees and is committed to carry on what her mother started, and she encourages her musician friends to join everyone for a special afternoon of music & fellowship.



**"DISCOVER LIMBERLOST NATURE"**

**THURSDAY, AUG. 22 or AUG. 29**  
**10 AM- 2PM ALL-DAY PROGRAM**

**DESIGNED FOR**  
**HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES ONLY**

Pre-registration required.

Limited number of openings for each day.

**COST: \$5 PER STUDENT**

For details contact Curt Burnette.

Call 260-368-7428, or email:

[cburnette@indianamuseum.org](mailto:cburnette@indianamuseum.org)

This popular annual event includes both indoor and outdoor educational activities. A registration fee must be paid in advance for your homeschool family to participate. Please use the contact information provided above to reserve the day that works for you.

**Planning a visit to the Limberlost?**  
**Remember to RENT-A-NATURALIST**

Hire Curt Burnette, Certified Interpretive Guide, to take you on a guided nature hike at one or more of the Limberlost wetlands, or include a tour of historic downtown Geneva, or take the tour that highlights locations described in Gene Stratton-Porter's books.

Cost is \$40 for 90 minutes. You must schedule your tour in advance of your visit. Curt is experienced at putting together a package that will meet your needs and your interests.

Enhance your visitor experience! Take advantage of this excellent opportunity. Explore the Limberlost with a knowledgeable guide.

Call Curt at the Limberlost 260-368-7428 or email [cburnette@indianamuseum.org](mailto:cburnette@indianamuseum.org) and start planning your Limberlost adventure today!

## The Prices: Limberlost Cabin's Caretakers

by Terri Gorney & Randy Lehman

In 1893, Charles and Gene Stratton-Porter went on a holiday to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Gene was impressed by the large rustic Forestry Building. It gave her an idea for a new home in Geneva. Charles was prospering in his business ventures and agreed to the new home. In the spring of 1894, they broke ground on what would become the Limberlost Cabin. They moved into their new home in early 1895.

In the 1920 census, Chloe and Corwin are listed as living on High Street in Geneva. Dr. and Mrs. Corwin Richie Price purchased the twenty-five year old, fourteen room home from Charles and Gene in January 1920. They moved into the Limberlost Cabin April of that year, and opened their home to the public in 1926, thus turning the page to a new chapter in the Cabin's history. In the 1920s, Charles frequently dined with the Prices at the Cabin. He enjoyed their friendship and company.

Who were Dr. and Mrs. Price? Corwin was originally from Convoy in Van Wert County Ohio. He was born in 1877 to Samuel and Elmira Price. Chloe was a native Hoosier born in Allen County to Andrew Jackson and Barbara (Alexander) Criswell.

Corwin and Chloe both graduated from the Fort Wayne Medical College which is where they met. Chloe chose a career in nursing and Corwin graduated as a doctor from the medical school in April 1903. One of his professors and mentors was Charles Porter's brother, Dr. Miles Porter.

At the time of his graduation, Corwin purchased the practice of the late Dr. O.T. May and bought a home in Monroeville where he began practicing medicine. Corwin and Chloe married in a simple ceremony at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Wayne, Thursday, November 5 1903. For the next two years, the Prices resided in Monroeville before they moved to Geneva in December 1905. It is believed that Dr. Miles Porter persuaded the couple to move to Geneva. It would become their permanent home. The Prices soon became friends of Charles and Gene.

After Gene left Geneva, her devoted fans still came to see the Limberlost Cabin. Chloe gave tours in what was now the Price's private home. She enjoyed talking about Gene and Gene's former home where many of Gene Stratton-Porter's bestselling novels were written. In a newspaper interview, Chloe is quoted as saying that the money collected from the tours she gave helped pay their utility bills.

One group that came for a tour was the Indiana Business & Professional Women in June 1931. They gave the bird bath in memory of Gene. The bird bath sits on the west lawn. A story was written about this



donation in the *Indianapolis Star*. It was part of a county-wide celebration held to honor and remember the life and the legacy of Gene Stratton-Porter.

It is unfortunate that while inspecting the stone fence for repairs, Corwin had a massive stroke in July 1946. Despite the best efforts of his



wife, niece, and neighbors, he never recovered from it and died in the Cabin in October of that year at the age of 69.

From 1920-1946, the Prices took good care of the home and grounds. Chloe sold the cabin for \$10,000 on December 31, 1946 to the Limberlost Conservation Association, and that organization donated the property to the state of Indiana. The Limberlost Cabin became a "State Memorial" in 1947. Chloe remained at the cabin as the site manager until 1958 when she moved to a new home in Geneva built by the Prices' foster son, Walter Burgin.

We owe thanks to Corwin and Chloe who took loving care of the cabin and kept it very much as Gene and Charles had it. One can imagine that they met many interesting people. It is too bad that Chloe did not keep a journal of her thirty-eight years living in the Cabin. According to one newspaper account, she kept a Guest Register of the visitors. It is not known if that book (or books) survives.

Chloe died in 1970. Corwin and Chloe are buried together at the Riverside Cemetery in Geneva.





**We'd like to thank Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site for sending Limberlost this photograph c1900 of the Limberlost Cabin in Geneva. We had never seen this photograph, and it's important to us for several of reasons. Here are just a few of those reasons:**

- 1. You can see the grape arbor that Gene Stratton-Porter mentions being able to see from her kitchen windows. Today, nothing remains of the arbor except for a small remnant piece. We knew she had a grape arbor in her backyard, but we had very little idea what it might look like until we saw this picture.**
- 2. There is no "over-flow pipe" on the roof for the Porter's water tank. We always assumed the tank, (part of their running-water system) was located in the second-floor attic space. You can see this pipe sticking out of the roof today, but it wasn't there when this picture was taken. We are certain the Porters had an indoor water system, but explaining how it all worked is still a work in progress.**
- 3. There is no manual water pump located adjacent to the log smoke house in this picture. Today, and for many years before, a hand pump is something all visitors notice. We've always debated whether or not the Porters put in this pump, or perhaps it was the Prices who had it installed. Now it seems more likely that the Prices, the second owners of the Limberlost Cabin, were responsible for putting in this hand-pump.**

**Like all period photographs of the Limberlost Cabin, having this picture as a reference will help guide future restoration decisions, and it will also change today's interpretation of this historic site by giving us new insights and revising previous assumptions.**



# THE LIMBERLOST SWAMPER

Published Quarterly by Limberlost Swamp Remembered Committee

*"The Limberlost Swamp Remembered Project was started by Ken Brunswick in 1992. Today, Ken is the chairperson of Limberlost Swamp Remembered, a committee of the Friends of the Limberlost."*



The Friends of the Limberlost are invited to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual James Peterson Memorial Fish Fry & Cornhole Tournament

Date: Friday, August 9

Location: Creek Run LLC Environmental Engineering  
1 Creek Run Drive, Montpelier, IN 47359

## FEATURING:

- ☐ 5K Run/Walk
- ☐ Cornhole Tournament
- ☐ Motorcycle/Classic Car Cruise-in
- ☐ Online Silent Auction
- ☐ 50/50 Raffle
- ☐ Golf Chipping Contest
- ☐ Raffle
- ☐ Cake Walk
- ☐ Bounce House for Children
- ☐ And More

## SCHEDULE:

- 8 AM- Run/Walk Starts
- 11:30 AM- Lunch/Welcome Speakers
- Noon-Begin Cornhole, Cake Walk, Cruise-in Judging, 50/50, Raffle
- 1:30 PM-Limberlost Kids Presentation
- 2 PM-Silent Auction Closes
- 2:30 PM-Drawing for Raffle, 50/50, Cruise-in Judging Ends
- 3:30 PM Approximate end to Cornhole

*If you plan to attend or plan to participate in the online auction, please RSVP Creek Run by calling 765-728-8051 or email Abby Michael [amichael@creekrun.com](mailto:amichael@creekrun.com)*

When Creek Run's co-founder James Peterson died in 2012, Creek Run's annual fundraiser, was renamed in Peterson's honor and devoted to helping Limberlost Swamp Remembered, a committee of Friends of the Limberlost, because it was a cause he cared about. Creek Run CEO, Dr. Jason Lenz, explains it this way: "We felt donating to the Friends was the best way to help them acquire more property and do more wetlands restoration." Last year Creek Run raised \$8,197.00—another record fundraising amount which was all donated to Limberlost Swamp Remembered. In 12 years Creek Run has raised close to \$29,500 for the restoration of wetland habitat at the Loblolly Marsh.

This special fundraising event at Creek Run is open to employees, family, friends and clients of Creek Run. Jason has graciously invited Friends of the Limberlost members and family, to attend the event and join everyone at Creek Run for a day of fun and support.

Just like last year, the Online Silent Auction will be open for bidding the full week leading up to the event, from August 2, 2019—August 9, 2019. All proceeds and donations raised by the Cornhole Tournament & Online Silent Auction support Limberlost Swamp Remembered.

*You do not need to attend the fundraiser on August 9 to participate in the online auction, but anyone who wants to bid needs to go to the online auction website and make an account: <http://www.32auctions.com/creekrun2019>*







## Robotic Hummingbirds: What Would Gene Think?

by Adrienne Provenzano

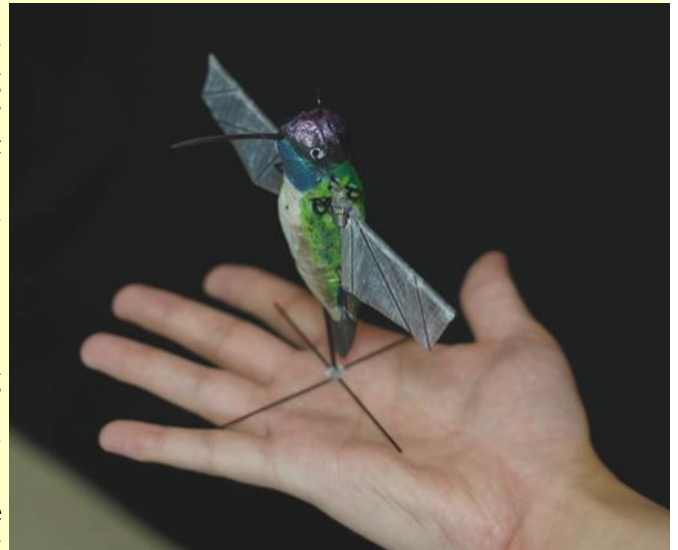
Gene Stratton-Porter loved birds. In Homing with the Birds, published in 1919, she tells of several experiences with hummingbirds. As a child, Gene's daughter Jeannette (nicknamed Molly Cotton), traded her ice cream money for a wounded hummingbird that mother and daughter nursed back to health with sweetened water. Gene writes, *"Both of us rejoiced, seeing that our bird was going to recover. I blame myself for the accident which followed."* The bird tried to fly from a temporary nest Gene had provided in the conservatory of Limberlost Cabin and fell to the floor, reinjured and unable to survive.

A more successful rescue occurred when a Ruby-throated hummingbird chilled by cold was delivered to her by a Geneva resident. *"Before I reached the Cabin it showed signs of life, so I put a drop of brandy into a few drops of water, added a few grains of*

*sugar and gave it a drink. The time was late fall and there had been a heavy frost the previous night,"* writes Gene. She then photographed the bird on a rose bush by the cabin and it revived. Two pictures were taken and then, she explains, *"As I reached for the bulb to make a third exposure the familiar hum of wings above my head told me that my subject had taken leave of me. As far as I could see the little creature, it headed its flight due south."* Both experiences are written about at greater length in her books What I Have Done With Birds, published in 1907 and expanded and published in 1917 as Friends in Feathers.

Knowing of Gene's interest in hummingbirds, it was with great interest that I read of research at Purdue University to create robotic hummingbirds! By studying the motions of real hummingbirds (in Montana, rather than Indiana), these researchers have developed a robot that flies like these unique creatures. According to a Purdue press release, "Artificial intelligence, combined with flexible flapping wings, also allows the robot to teach itself new tricks."

A team of students, under the direction of Dr. Xinyan Deng, developed the robot. It is believed such a device could help with rescues in special settings. Dr. Deng is part of Purdue's Bio-Robotics Lab. She notes in an interview with Evan Ackerman of the IEEE Spectrum that "We have demonstrated that a truly bio-mimetic robot has the potential to perform like a real hummingbird." She explains that "Flapping-wing hummingbird or insect



robots can be employed in a variety of applications such as search and rescue, environmental monitoring, entertainment, etc. They are also suitable for tight spaces with obstructions as no components would get entangled. With a biomimicking morphology, they are friendly and less intrusive flying vehicles while being fast and agile." Video of the robotic hummingbird can be seen at [https://youtu.be/GCEbEL\\_EmyQ](https://youtu.be/GCEbEL_EmyQ)

The idea of creating technology inspired by the natural world is not a new idea. Friends of the Limberlost newsletter readers are probably familiar with the hook-and-loop product Velcro, which was inspired by burdock burs. The sticky toe pads of geckos have also inspired innovations in creating adhesives.

Gene considered herself a nature lover, rather than a naturalist or scientist. She brought a tenacity of purpose to her observations, sleeping with moth cocoons on her pillow so as not to miss a hatching, and exhibiting great patience during fieldwork in the Limberlost swamp. I like to think she would be intrigued by these robotic creatures, and appreciate the efforts of the researchers to understand the hummingbirds through attention to detail. She certainly appreciated how the developing technologies of her day – such as cameras, automobiles, and labor saving household devices – could transform and improve lives. Perhaps someone will name a robotic hummingbird after Gene!

Adrienne Provenzano is an Indiana Advanced Master Naturalist and National Association for Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide. She's also known as *The Songstress of the Limberlost*.





Jeanette Johnson lives with Henry, her husband, on a farm in southern Adams County. Her volunteer position involves taking care of the plants at the Limberlost Cabin in Geneva. She's been volunteering at the Limberlost since last March, and she says it's a great place to be for anyone who loves nature and history!

## LIMBERLOST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

by Randy Lehman

There are many volunteer opportunities at Limberlost, but before I list them, let me say that I've been volunteering ever since I retired as the site manager in July of 2016, and before 2016, I worked with, supervised, trained, and encouraged many volunteers at Limberlost.

Volunteering is for all age groups. It's fun, important, and meaningful. Typically, Limberlost volunteers have been retired or semi-retired, but many great volunteers have been younger and have provided important service and performed vital tasks. Depending on how involved you want to be, volunteering can be a year-round commitment, or something you do on a seasonal basis, on weekends, or just during special events. We can be as flexible as needed to accommodate your schedule. We want your volunteer experience to be rewarding and fulfilling, and that takes commitment from both you and the staff at Limberlost.

Here are some of the main volunteer opportunities at Limberlost:

**Gardening & grounds keeping:** This is what Jeanette enjoys doing, perhaps you would too? Flower gardens and the grounds need attention. If you like gardening, perhaps you have taken a Master Gardener course, then you will find plenty of opportunity to use your gardening skills.

**Gift shop clerking:** Often point-of-sale volunteers are the first people that our guests encounter, so you can help answer a lot of questions, and help with orientation and the sale of gift shop merchandise. Gift shop merchandise needs to be inventoried, re-ordered, priced for resale, and shelves re-stocked. Operating the cash register requires some training.

**Giving guided tours:** The main requirements for giving a great guided tour are familiarity with the subject matter, an ability to share that information in an interesting and accurate way, and an ability to always be hospitable and helpful. If giving guided tours is something you'd like to try, then we will be happy to train you.

**Helping with events and programs:** Events require planning, preparation, and clean-up, and it's good to have help with those things. Any help offered is greatly appreciated since we typically offer many events and programs at Limberlost.

**Helping the Friends of the Limberlost with record keeping.** If you are a detail-oriented person, and happy to focus on computer work, there are several record keeping tasks that need week-to-week attention and updating. You can help the Friends be a more effective and professional not-for-profit.

**DNR Nature Preserves sometimes uses volunteers.** Typically, volunteer help is limited to maintenance task and invasive plant removal. Volunteering to work with DNR staff requires direct contact with that office. Ask to be put on their volunteer contact list by emailing the East Central Regional Ecologist, Taylor Lehman, at [tlehman@dnr.in.gov](mailto:tlehman@dnr.in.gov) or call 260-368-7594.

**After 40 hours of volunteer service with Limberlost Historic Site you earned an ISMHS membership:**

- Free admission to the Indiana State Museum and 11 State Historic Sites for 2 adults and all dependent children or grandchildren age 21 and under.
- 10% discount at the Indiana Store at the Indiana State Museum and at the Limberlost Gift Shop.
- Reciprocal benefits to participating Association of Science-Technology Centers ([astc.org](http://astc.org)) and North American Reciprocal Museum Association institutions ([narmassociation.org](http://narmassociation.org))
- You'll be an associate of the Friends of the Limberlost, which includes a complimentary Friends of the Limberlost newsletter and lapel pin.

If you have questions about volunteering at Limberlost, or want to start volunteering now, stop in at Limberlost Historic Site or call: 260-368-7428.



## The Hairstreak's Deceit

by Willy DeSmet

A couple of years ago this butterfly caught my eye in our yard. It's a Gray Hairstreak, *Strymon melinus humuli*.



I'd seen them before, at Loblolly Marsh, "puddling" with other species of butterflies. (More about "puddling clubs" later.) But this time I managed to get closer and take some pictures. The top of the wings is dark gray, but you don't get to see that very often or for very long, because they often perch with the wings folded up.

Later, looking at my photos, I saw more details than I did in the yard. What strikes me right away is the orange "eye" spot. Eye designs sometimes work as a "startling" or deterring pattern for predators. Here it doesn't give much of a startling effect, but it draws the attention to the back end of the butterfly. You may also notice that there are two thin "tails" sticking out, that look like antennae. The butterfly wiggles them by rubbing the wings together, strengthening the impression of antennae. The real antennae don't move all that much. The false eye and the false antennae give the impression that this is the head of the butterfly. I think the rounded/ flared structure here also reinforces the 3D impression of a head.



A predator (a bird or lizard for instance) usually goes for the head, to disable the prey. If it's fooled and hits the back end of the butterfly, then the butterfly may be able to get away, losing only a bit of the back wing in the encounter. This type of misdirection is not unique to this Hairstreak.

I have read that some other Hairstreak species reinforce this deceit by additional "tricks". Another species of Hairstreak (from Ecuador) for instance confuses predators even more by flipping around immediately after landing. A watching predator may see the approaching butterfly and knows that the head is in the lead. Right after landing however, it's the false head that is pointing in that direction. In our native Banded Hairstreak, *Satyrrium calanus falacer*, lines on the wings appear to radiate out from the false head, looking like wing nerves. That's a third way of drawing attention to the back end.

We generally think of butterflies as delicate creatures, living a life in beauty and refined taste, sipping nectar from pretty flowers. So you may be shocked when you see several butterflies, even several different species together, gathered by a puddle on the ground, on urine, on dung or even rotting carrion.





Red Spotted Purple, *Limenitis arthemis astyanax*, on dog feces !



These butterflies are not after sugar. They are getting salt and amino acids. Usually they are recently emerged males. While this behavior is not fully understood in all the details, you could say that these nutrients give them a leg up in the dating/mating game. (Help them mate more often and have more progeny.) Not all species of butterfly do puddle, and some moths puddle as well.

Butterfly caterpillars are generally herbivores. The Harvester (*Feniseca tarquinius tarquinius*) however, is the only carnivorous butterfly in North America. Harvester caterpillars live among Woolly Aphids and eat them. Aphids are often herded by ants, for the honeydew that the aphids produce (a sweet sticky liquid that the ants like). Ants will protect their herd from predators. But the ants do not attack these caterpillars. The caterpillars rub against the aphids, and the chemical substances rubbed off on the caterpillars make the caterpillars “smell” like aphids, so that the ants can’t tell the difference.

Life can be tough for a butterfly: how to eat, not be eaten, live on in your children.

For more information on why some butterflies & moths congregate around, mud, dung, and even decaying flesh check out this website: <https://www.earthtouchnews.com/in-the-field/backyard-wildlife/mud-puddling-the-butterflys-dirty-little-secret/>

### REGAN WAKEMAN'S TRIBUTE TO GENE STRATTON-PORTER

Carmel, Indiana, High School freshman (now Sophomore), Regan Wakeman, brought a display to Limberlost that she created for a high school National History Day project. Her project was entered in the state-level competition where she was awarded the Gene Stratton-Porter Prize, and her project was one of only a few Indiana projects that was considered for entry in the National History Day Competition.

Regan told us that her interest in Gene Stratton-Porter was inspired by the way in which people in her family were able to connect with and enjoy her stories. Being interested in creative writing, history, and nature also helped Regan make a connection to Gene Stratton-Porter.

Regan said that her ideas for the design of the project are derived from the metaphorical representation of a tree showing growth. She feels that Gene's response to being a witness to the destruction of Indiana's wetlands was to use that frustration to grow and blossom as writer focused on rejuvenation of the land and focused on preserving the remaining natural surroundings by creating stories that help people appreciate the natural world around them.



We applaud Regan for helping to keep Gene's legacy alive. You inspire us to keep her flame burning!



## **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 the box if you want to get the newsletter mailed to you via the U.S. Postal Service. 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. If you get the digital version of the newsletter via email, it saves us money on postage, it also saves us time, and the “e-newsletter” is in color!

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

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





Did you know that the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites (ISMHS) is made up of the Indiana State Museum and 11 state historic sites, and Limberlost is one of those historic sites. Please check the Indiana State Museum website: [www.indianamuseum.org](http://www.indianamuseum.org) to read about why you should visit them all. Click on “Historic Sites” to confirm a particular State Historic Site’s open/closed hours and to see a description of upcoming programs and events at each site.

Did you know that the Friends of the Limberlost is one of seven Friends groups working with the Indiana State Museum? These volunteer 501(c)3 not-for-profit Friends groups partner with the Indiana State Museum and they work within their local communities to help support the site they most care about.

Every few years the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites and each one of the Friends groups representing a particular state historic site must sign a “memorandum of understanding” (MOU) which lays out the obligations between the Museum and each of the seven Friends groups.

On Friday, May 31, the Friends of the Limberlost represented by President Willy DeSmet, Vice-President Terri Gorney, and Treasurer Randy Lehman met with ISMHS CEO Cathy Ferree and Chief Development Officer Kate Brownlee to discuss the latest iteration of the MOU. Andrew Briggs, former CEO of the Bank of Geneva and director on both the ISMHS Board of Directors and the Friends of the Limberlost Board of Directors, also attended this meeting. Many organizational changes were outlined and discussed. The changes, if implemented, will transform the way this Friends group operates. In the weeks ahead we will be working together to make this partnership the best it can be, so please stay tuned for updates and explanations.