

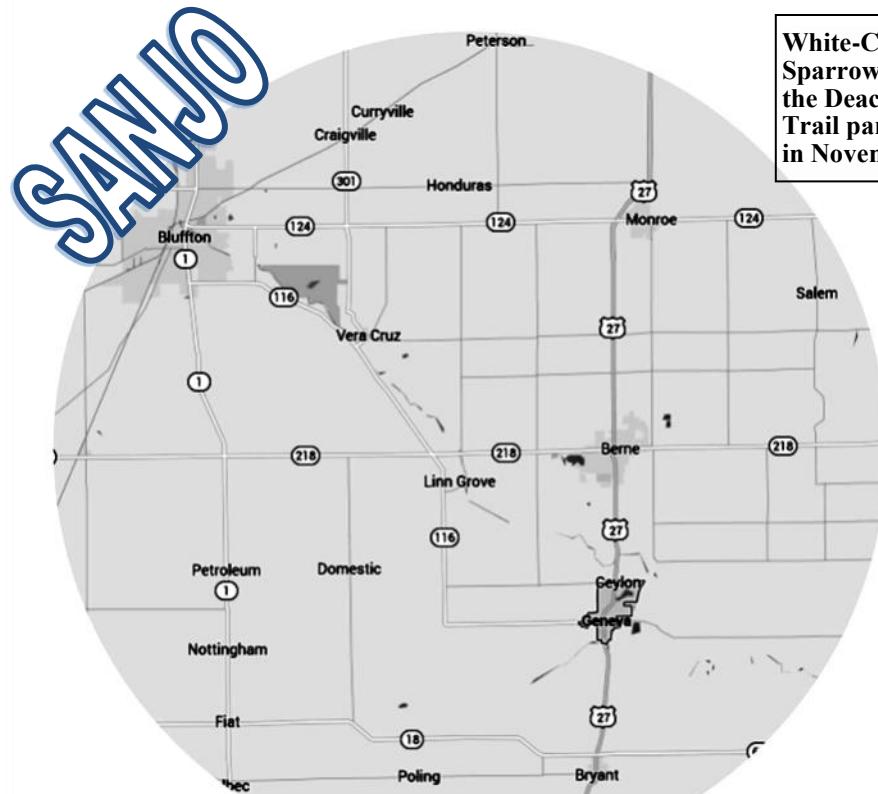
Friends of the Limberlost
P.O. Box 571, Geneva, IN 46740
www.Limberlost.weebly.com
Facebook: Friends of the Limberlost

Phone: 260-849-0308
Email: randyplehman@comcast.net



**HELP US DO THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT aka
the "SANJO BIRD SURVEY" on January 1, 2021**

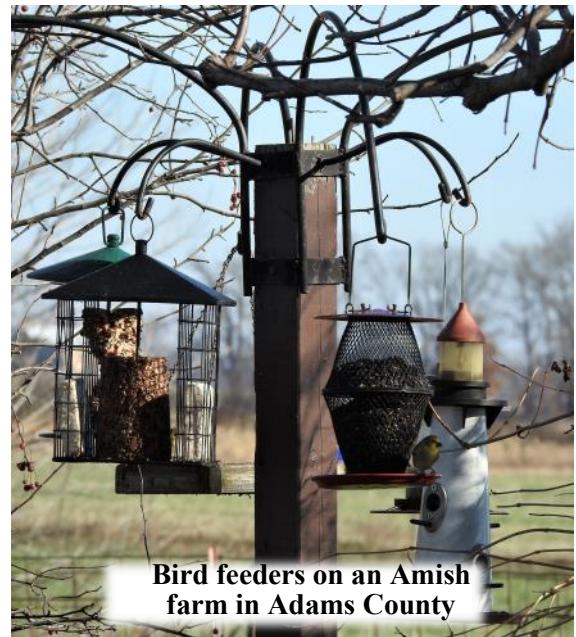
You don't have to be a birding expert, and every bird counted in the survey area on January 1, 2021, is important to the National Audubon Society. What does SANJO stand for? SA is for Southern Adams County. NJ is for Northern Jay County, and O is for Quabache State Park area in Wells County. Together SANJO roughly defines our survey area.



White-Crowned Sparrow seen at
the Deacon's Trail parking lot
in November



The circle includes the Loblolly Marsh, Limberlost Swamp Wetland Preserve, most of Bluffton and Ouabache State Park, ACRES Munro Nature Preserve, 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 and gravel pit, Fields Memorial Park, many Amish farms, and all the towns and rural areas you see in the SANJO circle to the left.



SANJO BIRD FEEDER COUNTERS NEEDED

The SANJO survey is part of the 121st National Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC), and it begins nationally on Dec. 14, 2020 and runs through Jan. 5, 2021. In Adams County volunteers have been participating in this survey for many years, always on January 1. This is Limberlost's 8th year to host it.

The CBC is a citizen-survey providing data on bird populations. If you're interested in helping, or just want more information, please call Terri Gorney, 260-413-5671, or email bandtgorney@aol.com. "Bird feeder counters", or those who count birds in their own yards, are also welcome to participate on Jan. 1. Just email your list to Terri, or slow-mail your list to: Terri Gorney, 9024 Hickory Glen Trail, Ft. Wayne, IN 46825. Remember that your bird feeders must be in the SANJO circle. Birders at all skill levels are appreciated. We need your help!



MOU update Things are Looking up !

Dear Friends, a challenging year is coming to a close, and despite all the challenges, we have achieved a lot. After more than a year of discord, our relationship with the Indiana State Museum appears to be improving.

As you recall, our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the *Indiana State Museum* (ISM) expired in April of 2019. The terms in the new MOU were unacceptable to us, and the large majority of the other friends groups associated with ISM's historic sites declined to sign the new MOU. Two of the friends groups that initially (reluctantly) signed the MOU, opted out of the agreement after several months. As time went by only one friends group was under the new MOU with ISM. Obviously, something was wrong.

Without a mutual agreement with ISM the situation dragged on. *Friends of the Limberlost* (FOL) consulted and worked together with other friends groups to improve the situation between the friends groups and ISM. Eventually Indiana legislators (especially state representatives David Abbott and Matt Lehman, and senator Sue Glick) got involved, and through legislation and meetings, put pressure on ISM to get the issues resolved.

Now, here we are at the end of 2020, and after many meetings, we seem to be heading toward an agreement that both parties can find acceptable. Here are some of the main topics:

- For many years FOL operated the gift shop at Limberlost. ISM had granted us permission to do so in our previous MOUs. With the new MOU, ISM decided not to allow any outside groups to operate a gift shop on their premises. ISM wants to directly operate the gift shops at all the historic sites. Of course, ISM has the right to do so, because all the state historic sites are property of ISM, and all historic sites operate under its banner. We believe local management of a gift shop has some advantages—like a greater awareness

of what sells and what doesn't in your local market, but there are advantages to a central purchasing system; for example, the ability to purchase in bulk to get a better price for merchandise sold at all the state historic site gift shops. If we reach an acceptable agreement with the Museum we will consider the gift shop merchandise, that ISM took from us, to be a donation to ISM.

- The Museum has made the commitment that any revenue generated at and for a specific site will be restricted for use at that site. For example, any funds generated by FOL for support of ISM would only be used to support projects or pay mutually agreed expenses at Limberlost State Historic Site.
- Friends Groups keep control over their own funds; FOL will decide if and when to transfer funds to ISM.
- Quarterly meetings between ISM representatives and Friends Groups would provide transparency over the use of site dedicated funds as well as opportunities for coordination and cooperation in planning events, site improvements, and so on.
- Several benefits to FOL members and volunteers, such as a discount on tours and purchases in the gift shop would be restored, and a discount on ISM membership fees would be offered.
- Friends of the Limberlost would have rent-free use of the Visitor Center and office space. In return Friends of the Limberlost extends rent free use of the Pavilion at Loblolly Marsh to ISM for their outdoor nature-related programs, and ISM gets rent free storage space at FOL's Hart building in order to store materials used to maintain the Limberlost Cabin, like cedar logs.

To be clear, at the time this newsletter went to press these agreements have not been finalized, but things are looking up and are moving along. It looks like we are close to a new relationship and agreement with ISM, where we can again support the site more fully. In fact, by the time you read this, we may actually have signed agreements. We will give you full details once that happens.

**Let's keep our fingers crossed
and hope for a productive 2021**

LIMBERLOST CABIN IS DECORATED FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The pictures below give a preview of what can be seen when you tour the Limberlost Cabin in December. If it's been awhile since you've stopped and taken a look at the Limberlost, it is certainly worth your time to take another look. So many time period pieces have been added in the past couple of years, and there is so much more detail in the interpretation of the historical objects; for instance, there is now a camera display featuring a camera like one Gene Stratton-Porter could have used. The three staff members at Limberlost (shown below), who do all the guided tours of the Limberlost Cabin, are well informed, give excellent, educational, and engaging tours. They love doing what they do, and it shows. From left-to-right are Jeanne Akins, Teresa Fravel-Cox, and Curt Burnette.

LIMBERLOST OPEN HOURS: 10 AM—5 PM, WEDNESDAY THRU SUNDAY, LAST TOUR BEGINS AT 4 PM

ISM MEMBERS GET FREE GUIDED TOURS. NON-MEMBERS PAY: \$7 ADULT, \$6 SENIOR, \$3 CHILDREN AGE



Due to the pandemic most winter events at Limberlost have been cancelled.

However, a movie matinee featuring two vintage films: *A Girl of the Limberlost* (1934) & *Laddie* (1940) are scheduled to be shown at the Limberlost Visitor Center on January 24, 1-4 PM.

Attendance will be limited by COVID 19 protocols. Pre-registration is required. Call 260-368-7428 or stop in at Limberlost State Historic For more details, see page 9



FRIENDS OF THE LIMBERLOST BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2021

Connie Ronald, President, Portland, IN

Melissa Fey, Vice-President, Linn Grove, IN

Randy Lehman, Treasurer, Geneva, IN

Andrew Briggs, Corporate Secretary, Geneva, IN

Ken Brunswick, LSR Committee Chair, Bryant, IN

Ellsworth Smith, Director, Ft. Wayne, IN

Jason Lenz, Director, Montpelier, IN

Sean Dedert, Director, Geneva, IN

Ladonna Habegger, Director, Berne, IN

Bill Hubbard, Director, Geneva, IN

Terri Gorney, Recording Secretary, Ft. Wayne, IN & Willy De Smet, Advisor & Consultant, Portland, IN (non-voting positions)

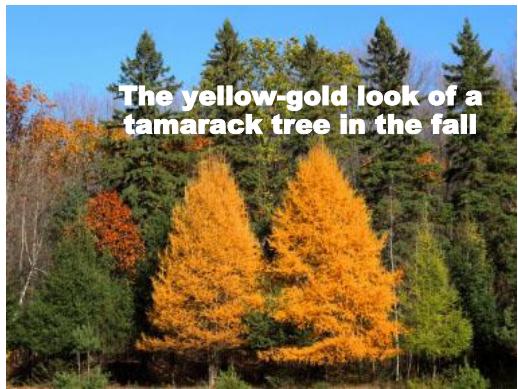
Red Cedar – Indiana’s Native Christmas Tree

By Fred Wooley

When our son was young, we had the December tradition of going to a local tree farm to cut and bring home the family Christmas tree. What fun it was to first run to the most pitiful, struggling pine tree and laugh as we'd proclaim this one to be the perfect tree! We'd recite lines from the children's Berenstain Christmas book; talk of Charlie Brown's Christmas tree (in later years, Chevy Chase's *Christmas Vacation* tree adventure), and then proceed elsewhere to find the perfect tree for the Wooley living room. It seemed that every year, the tree we picked, cut, took home, and decorated, truly was the best tree ever.

If you select a live tree, which can now be done guilt free, knowing that they come from an agricultural practice suited for the purpose, and not decimating some grand forest, you no doubt also think each year's tree is the most perfect!

Deciding which species of evergreen is most perfect, might be one decision you make. Everyone has their favorite. The choices are as boundless as the selection at any tree lot or town vendor. White or Norway spruce, balsam, fir, white or Scotch pine are the typical choices. Some are grown locally; some are trucked in, normally from the more coniferous forested regions of points further north.



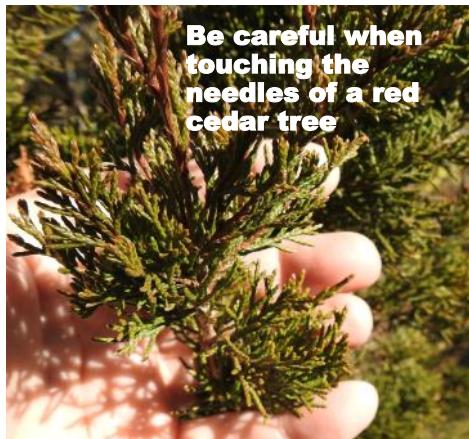
The yellow-gold look of a tamarack tree in the fall

If you like to go native, as we promote in home plantings of prairie, woodlands, and flowerbeds, and in our restored Limberlost, you can look at white pine as a nice choice. There is some debate, though, how native they really are to Indiana. It is mostly a northern species, found further up in Michigan, but there are few pockets in northern Indiana, mostly over in the Dunes region of Lake Michigan, where they occur naturally in the wild.

Another native conifer, mostly to just our northern Indiana, is the tamarack. This wetland loving species would never make a good Christmas tree for the simple reason it loses its needles every year. Like its relative from the southern tip of Indiana, the bald cypress,

the tamarack is a deciduous conifer in that its leaves, the needles, turn yellow-gold every fall and then drop leaving bare branches all winter. Now that would be a Charlie Brown Christmas tree!

There are two native cedars in Indiana, but one is quite rare. The white cedar is common in northern Michigan. In Indiana, cultivars of the white cedar, sometimes called arborvitae, are commonly planted in lawns and yard landscapes. Native white cedars, even in northern Indiana, are quite rare.



Be careful when touching the needles of a red cedar tree

The other native cedar is the red cedar. It is widespread throughout Indiana and occurs in sandy, dry soils, sometimes disturbed conditions. You find them scattered in old, abandoned fields and along roadsides. You will see them in old fields and fencerows around the Limberlost. Red cedar needles are truly needle-like in sharpness, but tiny, 1/8 to 1/4-inch-long, sometimes are flattened and scale like. While pyramidal in shape, the tree is not the rich green or blue green of most evergreens. Red cedars appear a dirty green or even a bronze green from a distance.



Red cedar tree in a backyard in Geneva



An old red cedar on a trail in east central Indiana

Being less striking in color and prickly to touch, red cedar is not often a Christmas tree choice. It was likely used more as a Christmas tree in earlier times when commercial trees were not as prevalent (...)

The red cedar tree is popular though. Many know its very aromatic red heartwood. A cedar chest or jewelry box is both a thing of beauty and a burst of pungent Northwoods aroma. The bark is thin and shreddy and often stripped for catbird and red squirrel nests.

Unlike most conifers that produce cones, red cedar trees provide clusters of tiny, BB to sweet pea-sized berries. They range from whitish to gray to deep blue and are dear favorites of birds. The Peterson *Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs* claims some 50 species of birds enjoy the fruit. The most notable might be the appropriately named cedar waxwing.

It's a treat to see a waxwing any time of year, but to see one against the dark green of a red cedar on a snowy winter day in the late afternoon sun, blue fruit in its beak.... It's the ultimate outdoor ornament of the holiday season.

Keep an eye on the Christmas red cedar!

*** *Fred Wooley is a naturalist, writer, and land preservation/ restoration enthusiast. He lives on part of an old farm overlooking an extensive fen in northern Steuben County. He can be reached at fwooley@frontier.com.*

MORE NATIVES ARE MOVING IN !

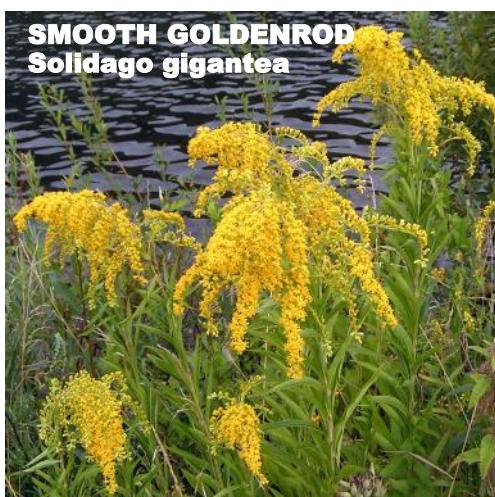
On October 28, a hearty group of volunteers gathered together at Rebecca Stafford's farm to dig up and transplant three car loads of native plants to the Music of the Wild Nature Preserve in northern Jay County, adjacent to US Highway 27. The effort repeated an activity that took place about the same time last year, only this time, a lot more plants were transplanted—about six times the number as last year.

The increase in both the number of plants and the work required to transplant them was based on the success of last year's effort. Readers may recall an article in the winter 2019-2020 newsletter that mentioned Rebecca Stafford. She owns a property north of Dunkirk, Indiana with several acres of prairie grassland. She grows many species of native wildflowers for distribution around east central Indiana. Following the success of the effort last year, Rebecca offered Friends of the Limberlost more of her plants to enhance the Music of the Wild property.

An area about 6 ft. x 50 ft. was planted last year. This year the area planted was about 6 ft. x 250 ft. along the snake fence that was installed in June 2020 by Richard (Doc) Yoder and his Amish crew.

Here's what got planted:

- Purple Coneflower
- Blazing Star / Liatris
- Golden Alexander
- Wild Quinine
- Rattlesnake Master
- Light Blue Aster
- New England Aster
- Blue Indigo
- Little BlueStem
- Bergamot / Bee Balm
- Smooth Goldenrod



Editor's note: Gene Stratton-Porter's home in Geneva (Limberlost Cabin) and her home in Rome City were constructed with white cedar logs from Wisconsin, so the story goes.



Pictured left to right, Willy De Smet, Randy Lehman, Connie & Jack Ronald. Ladonna Habegger took the picture.



MUSIC OF THE WILD

This preserve is called Music of the Wild after Gene Stratton-Porter's book by the same name. Song of the Fields, part two of the book, describes the nature along this area of the Limberlost Creek, the farms and the Burris Cemetery.

Words from Gene Stratton-Porter

In full force it (Limerlost Creek) crosses the road again, states below the roadbed bridge, rounds the hill, then in a series of sharp turns dips down on its banks, ploughs through the upper corner of the old Limberlost swamp, hurried across the road once more and so comes singing into Schaffer's meadow.

Gene Stratton-Porter
Music of the Wild

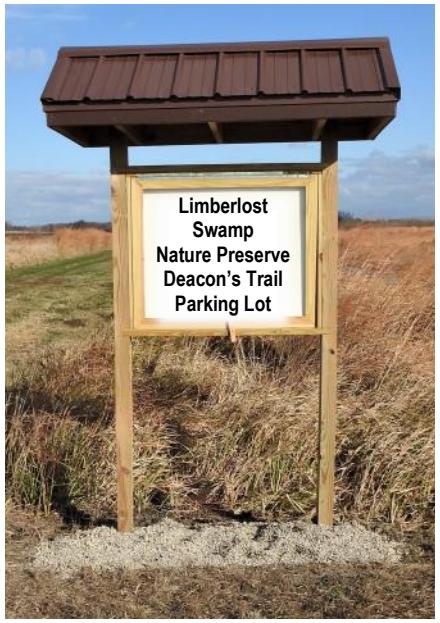
Heritage Support Grants are provided by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources
LIMBERLOST CREEK
WILDERNESS AREA
LIMBERLOST CREEK
WILDERNESS AREA

KIOSKS INSTALLED

In 2019 the Goodrich Family Foundation let us know that we received \$1,616 for various improvement projects. We used that money to put more stone on the Bird Sanctuary parking lot and mulch on the Tree Trail at the Pavilion. The same grant paid our Amish contractor to build & help install a new kiosk to replace an old one at the Bird Sanctuary—the one you see on the left side of this page.

Another grant that we received from the Indiana Parks Alliance in 2019 was used to pay for a new kiosk at the Limberlost Swamp Nature Preserve parking lot on county line road—the one you see on the right side of this page. Both of the kiosks were installed recently in late October of this year.



PLANNED REPAIRS AT RAINBOW BEND & RAINBOW BOTTOM COMPLETED

Thanks to Ken Brunswick and the contractor for completing these much needed repairs before winter sets in and before spring flooding takes place along the Wabash River in 2021.

If you are not familiar with this area, you should hike the trails, read the interpretive signs posted along the trail, and enjoy a place that's great for birding and is representative of the Wabash River bottomlands written about in Gene Stratton-Porter's book, The Song of the Cardinal.

If you really want the entire package, you should "Rent-a-Naturalist" and have Curt Burnette, Limberlost naturalist, show you the large sycamore trees, and tell you why this 242 acres is so significant. Call Curt at 260-368-7428, or email: cburnette@indianamuseum.org



CHIMNEY SWIFT TOWER INSTALLED AT THE “Friends” HART BARN

(located at the end of West Shakley Street in Geneva)

As Gene Stratton-Porter put it “—a flock of chimney swallows (swifts) living in the belfry of the village schoolhouse about two blocks away...came chattering, dozens of them in a flock, and dashed into the rain for a bath or a drink on the wing”

Chimney swifts are communal, and groups of several hundred can roost in a single chimney. Unfortunately, swift populations have been in decline. Possible causes for the decline include pesticides in their diet, threats on their wintering grounds, and loss of suitable chimneys for nesting. They spend the winter in the upper Amazon River basin of Peru, Ecuador, Chile, and Brazil

This tower provides a nesting site for chimney swifts. It is hoped that by creating more nesting structures chimney swifts will continue to soar through Geneva’s skies.



Chimney swifts fly all day catching and eating insects as they fly. Unless feeding their young, they rarely land until they roost for the night. They drink while in flight, skimming the surface of water.



Chimney swifts historically nested and roost in large hollow trees. With the arrival of European settlers, and the loss of forest habitat, swifts adapted to a new nesting location: chimneys. With more chimneys being capped, screened, or torn down, swifts have suffered.

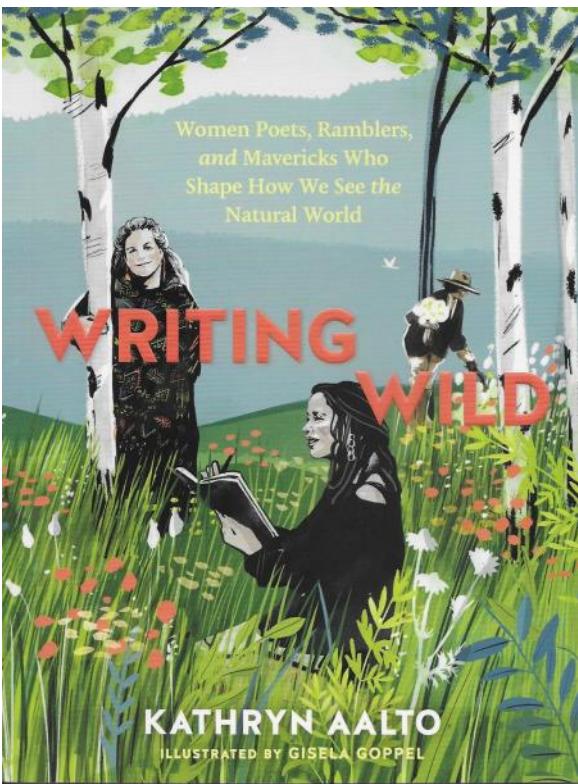


WHO STARTED OUR CHIMNEY SWIFT PROGRAM ?

It all began in 2014, when 15 yr. old Alex Forsythe volunteered to put together our first two annual programs on chimney swifts. Curt Burnette has continued the programs since then, and he still uses the PowerPoint and many of the props that Alex designed when she first put the program together. At sundown on the event night in August, we usually count around 100 chimney swifts fluttering down into the chimney where they like to roost. It was a great idea that Alex had in 2014, and we've been carry on her legacy ever since.

So what is Alex doing today? She's now into her 3rd undergraduate year at Indiana Tech, Ft. Wayne. During the summer she has a fulltime paid internship at Intel Corporation in Hillsboro, Oregon (close to Portland). Intel manufactures semiconductor chips for computers. Her work involves designing the main chip in computers, the CPU, the chip responsible for carrying out all the computer tasks.

NEW BOOK IN THE GIFT SHOP: WRITING WILD



The book celebrates 25 women whose influential writing helps deepen our connection to the natural world. The author, Kathryn Aalto, is an American writer who lives in Exeter, England. Gene Stratton-Porter is one of those women she included. We would have been very surprised if she had not included Gene. Kathryn was here at the Limberlost about a year ago doing a story on Gene Stratton-Porter and the Limberlost Swamp for the Smithsonian magazine. The beautifully written 15-page article came out in March of 2020, and people are still coming to Geneva to take the tour of the Limberlost Cabin and to hike the trails at the Limberlost wetland properties because they read Kathryn's article.

As the book jacket states, "*Writing Wild* celebrates 25 women whose influential writing helps deepen our connection to the natural world. These inspiring wordsmiths are scholars, spiritual seekers, conservationists, scientists, novelists, and explorers. They defy easy categorization, yet they all share a bold authenticity that makes their work both distinct and universal." The book is on sale in the Limberlost gift shop for \$24.95

If you haven't read the Smithsonian article, here's the link: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/gene-stratton-porter-americas-fading-natural-beauty-180974161/>

Quotes from Gene Stratton-Porter:

"I am a creature so saturated with earth, water, and air that if I do not periodically work some of it out of my system in ink, my nearest and dearest cannot live with me." from *Lady of the Limberlost*

"I live in a world of light, fragrance, beauty, and song. No wonder it overflows in my books" —attributed to Gene Stratton-Porter by Barb Morrow in her excellent biography of GSP entitled *Nature's Storyteller* also for sale in the gift shop for \$17.95

CREEK RUN AND THE FRIENDS OF THE LIMBERLOST ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP

In August of 2021, Creek Run Environmental Engineering of Montpelier, IN, will hold its 15th annual fundraiser to honor the late James Peterson, founder of Jay Petroleum, and one of the original owners of Creek Run, L.L.C.



This annual fundraiser has been organized in part to help a not-for-profit that James Peterson liked to support—the Friends of the Limberlost and their efforts to bring back portions of the Limberlost Swamp. Over the years Creek Run's fundraiser has been one of the most successful efforts to raise money for Limberlost wetland restoration projects.

Since its beginning over 14 years ago this annual Creek Run fundraiser has raised close to \$50,000 for Limberlost Swamp Remembered, a standing committee of the Friends of the Limberlost focused on the restoration of the Limberlost Swamp.

Today Friends of the Limberlost works closely with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Nature Preserve, and there are over 1800 acres of restored Limberlost wetlands and uplands located in northern Jay County and southern Adams County Indiana with miles of hiking trails open to the public.

You can help this fundraising effort. Two of the main Creek Run fundraisers in August are the raffle and online auction. We need donations of prizes for either one of these events. If your company or business has something that would make a good raffle prize or a good online auction item, let us know! Contact Abby Michael, Administrative Assistant & Events Coordinator, at Creek Run (phone: 765-728-8051, email amichael@creekrun.com) or Randy Lehman for the Friends of the Limberlost (260-849-0308, email randylehman@comcast.net) and we would be happy to make any arrangements necessary to get your donated item(s) in our fundraiser. Because the Friends of the Limberlost is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, your donation is tax deductible.

LIMBERLOST MOVIE MATINEE

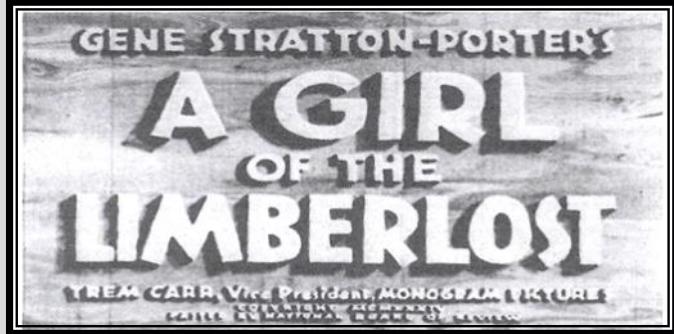
SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, from 1-4 pm

RESERVATION REQUIRED

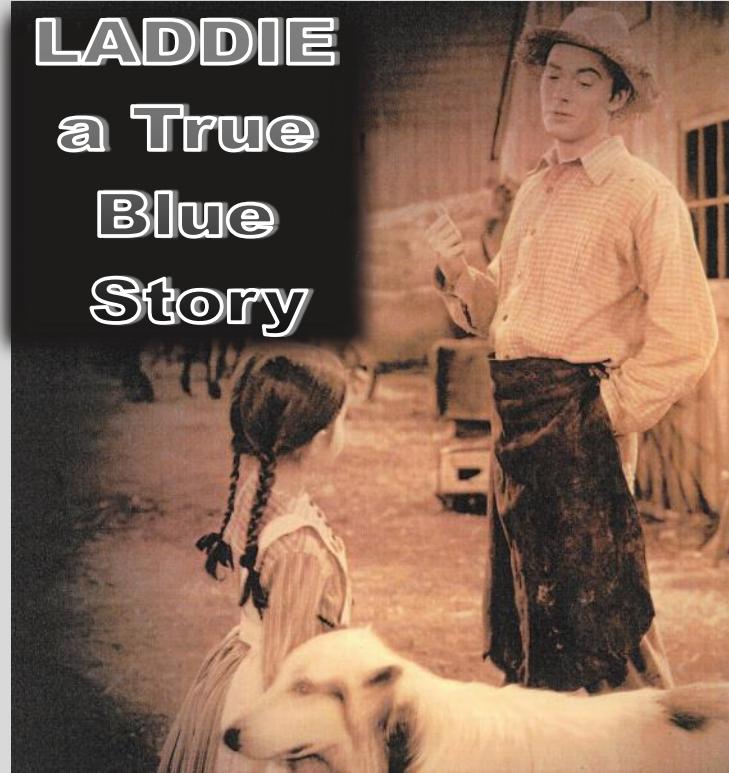
FEATURING 2 VINTAGE MOVIES

BASED ON GENE STRATTON-PORTER NOVELS

SEE THE 1934 FILM



AND SEE THE 1940 FILM



Please note that due to COVID-19 protocols the number of reservations are limited. The wearing of masks will be required and attendees will be expected to follow social distancing requirements

Vintage movie lovers and fans of Gene Stratton-Porter's novels are invited to Limberlost State Historic for an afternoon showing of two movies based on two of Mrs. Porter's most popular books:

**A GIRL OF THE LIMBERLOST
&
LADDIE
A TRUE BLUE STORY**

An overview of the production will be given by site staff.

The novels will be compared to the movies.

Important scenes in the movie will be discussed.

Your questions will be answered.

An intermission will occur between the movies.

Cost to watch both movies is \$7 for Adults and \$4 for children.

Members of the Indiana State Museum get a 25% discount off the regular movie price.

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED
CALL 260-368-7428
FOR MORE INFORMATION
or email
cburnette@indianamuseum.org**

Every person attending the matinee will get a free raffle ticket, and a drawing will take place. You could win a vintage copy of the book: [A Girl of the Limberlost](#) or [Laddie A True Blue Story](#).

Books donated by the Friends of the Limberlost.

Observing One Small Square: A Winter's Journey by Adrienne Provenzano

Several years ago, I came across a series of books entitled One Small Square. Each book highlights a different location, including backyard, woods, pond, seashore, and swamp. The basic premise is that much can be learned and appreciated by close, repeated observation of a small area, about 3 feet on each side. It's a meaningful activity for any time of year, including winter.

2020! This year the importance of technology in our daily lives has increased. While being plugged in, booted up, and virtually connected yields many benefits, unplugging and powering down is important, too.

Author Daniel Silver writes in One Small Square: Backyard: "Explore just one small square of a backyard – your own or someone else's – and you will uncover clue after clue about how nature works. Put all the clues together and you will be able to figure out how living things all over the Earth are connected."

Of course, please ask permission first before studying someone else's yard. If a backyard isn't an easy option, perhaps there's a nearby park to visit, woods or pond, creek, river, swamp or shore. You can observe by going outdoors or looking through a window.

Not much is needed for such observations... pencils, pens, a notebook, a magnifying glass and binoculars if possible, gloves, a tray to study objects before returning them to the site. Maybe add a flashlight with a bit of red cellophane to place over it for night viewing. Take appropriate safety precautions! The ones you'd have done before the coronavirus and those new ones as well (mask up, socially distance, handwash and hand sanitize frequently).

You might choose a regular time of day every day or different times and days of the week to do your observations. Find examples of journals online or invent your own form of record keeping!

In the Geneva, Indiana area with sites such

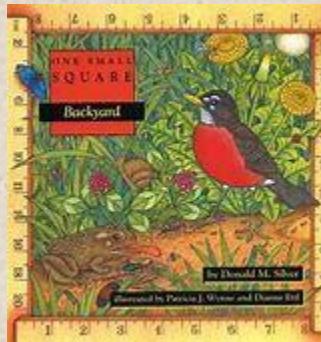


Photo courtesy of
www.acornnaturalist.com

as the Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve, Rainbow Bend, Limberlost Swamp and many others, it's easy to find a good spot to be your focus area, but no matter the place you choose to observe even a few minutes once a week can yield much to notice and enjoy.



Look and listen carefully! Do you have any field guides? Something tucked in a bookshelf and long forgotten? Your local library might be able to supply some helpful books to identify plants and animals and to learn about weather and other aspects of an ecosystem.

Rediscover your childlike "sense of wonder" that the conservationist Rachel Carson eloquently wrote about. You might enjoy drawing, writing poetry or stories, composing songs, sharing your observations with others, or discovering what's new simply for your own enrichment.

Choosing to use technology to record what you see and hear as photographs, audio, or video - or in all three formats - is certainly an option as well. Indeed, there's a whole world to discover in a very small square! Appreciate the many changes of winter as a nature detective looking for clues, and in a few months, as you come to the end of your

Editor's note: The One Small Square series of science and nature books is recommended for children ages 6-9. However, each book includes fantastic full-color illustrations of each habitat and its creatures, suggested experiments and activities, along with clear, diagrammed instructions and safety tips. As Adrienne rightly points out in her article, you don't have to be a child to appreciate and learn from close and detailed observations of a particular subject .

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.

As a member you receive our quarterly newsletter. Join our Facebook page to stay in touch. Other benefits are being negotiated with the Indiana State Museum—perhaps a discount on gift shop purchases, free tours of the Limberlost Cabin, & discounts to Limberlost events and special programs. In the meantime, please know that your contribution is very important to the Friends. It helps us to preserve the legacy of Gene Stratton-Porter & helps to restore the environment, by bringing back portions of the Limberlost Swamp.

If you have any questions about your membership, please call or text Randy Lehman, membership chairperson, at 260-849-0308, or email randyplehman@comcast.net

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.

Step Two:

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

Senior Citizen/Limited Income—\$10

Individual—\$20

Family—\$35.00

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

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): \$ _____

Any comments?