



# Friends of the Limberlost

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## Annual Meeting for Friends of the Limberlost is Postponed COVID Uncertainty the Issue FOL Directors look to the Spring of 2022

### Statement to FOL Members

by Randy Lehman, Membership Chair

The Friends of Limberlost Board of Directors voted at their 8/16/2021 board meeting to postpone the Annual Meeting of the membership to the spring of 2022 (the exact date still to be determined).

According to FOL bylaws, the annual meeting of the membership should take place on the last Saturday of September, but with the COVID-19 infection rate increasing throughout the state and the uncertainty of how the situation could evolve between now and the end of September the board felt postponing the annual meeting was the right thing to do.

The FOL Board considered having the annual meeting at the Loblolly Pavilion (pictured above), as was done last year during a time of high COVID-19 numbers, but many board members felt that the location limited turnout of members, and most board members wanted a return to having the annual meeting at Limberlost State Historic Site (LHS), which provides easier access for senior members and includes dinner for all those attending. In-person contact between members and the board allows for feedback and suggestions. LHS also has much better facilities for doing presentations. Another contributing factor was the improving relationship between FOL and the Indiana State Museum and State Historic Sites (ISMSHS). The new agreement between ISMSHS and FOL allows FOL to have its annual meeting at Limberlost SHS.



**LOBLOLLY PAVILION**



### Why is an Annual Meeting Necessary?

The annual meeting gives ISMSHS and Nature Preserves an opportunity to do an overview of the year, and it allows the FOL Treasurer to present an annual report to the membership. The FOL annual meeting is also when Board members run for re-election, and potential new Board members are introduced to the membership. Voting takes place at the annual meeting to select the FOL Board for 2022.

The terms of 4 current board members expire at the end of 2021. Because our annual meeting has been postponed to the spring of next year, the FOL board approved a motion to extend the terms of these four board members to the spring of 2022.



## Shaun Payne is the new Site Manager for Limberlost State Historic Site

I grew up in a military family, with my dad serving in the Marine Corps for 21 years. As with most military families, we moved around the country quite a bit. I was born in Atlanta, GA, but spent many years in Yuma, AZ and Fort Meyers, FL.

After high school I went to college to study history, as it had been a passion of mine for as long as I can remember. I met my wife Ashley, a Hoosier, while in school and when she decided to transfer back to Indiana, I soon followed.

I completed my undergraduate degree in History and Political Science at Anderson University. I then went to Ball State University and earned my Masters in Historic Preservation. While at Ball State I began working at Mounds State Park as a seasonal naturalist, among many other positions. After several years there, I was hired as the Assistant Property Manager at the Turkey Run/Shades State Park complex. I spent about two years at Turkey Run/Shades before I transferred to Salamonie Lake to experience life at an Army Corps reservoir property.

Though I enjoyed my time serving Hoosiers at State Parks, I wanted to get back to my roots and get involved with history in some way. I saw Limberlost as the perfect opportunity to do just that, combining Gene Stratton-Porter's influence on the world and the natural environments of the restored wetlands and swamps. I'm excited to join the outstanding group of staff, volunteers, and partners currently working to ensure Gene's legacy, the Limberlost Cabin and Nature Preserves, are conserved and interpreted for current and future generations.

*Editor's note: Limberlost has been without a site manager since Jordan Rodden resigned in Oct. 2019. The Friends are pleased with the museum's choice of a new manager, and are looking forward to working with Shaun.*

### **TWILIGHT ADVENTURE Saturday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 7-9 PM**

Explore the Loblolly Marsh as the sun goes down. Take a twilight hike with naturalist, Curt Burnette. Enjoy a presentation about animals at the Loblolly Pavilion and enjoy other activities. All ages are welcome.

Cost is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. Members of the Indiana State Museum get a 25% discount. Here is the address of Loblolly Marsh parking lot: 8323 N 250 W Bryant, IN 47326. Once at the parking lot, you will be directed to the Loblolly Pavilion where your Twilight Adventure will begin.



### **GUIDED TOUR OF RAINBOW BOTTOM Saturday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 AM to Noon**

Orientation starts at Limberlost State Historic Site located at 600 East 6th St., Geneva, IN 46740. Curt Burnette, Limberlost Naturalist, will lead a hike through Rainbow Bend Park and Rainbow Bottom area, which was featured in the March 2020 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine in an article titled "*The Legend of Limberlost*" with pictures of Gene Stratton-Porter and the Limberlost today. Hikers will learn about the history and ecology of the area, how Gene Stratton-Porter used it as a setting for two of her novels, plus observe local wildlife and see giant sycamore trees. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Members of ISM get a 25% discount.



### **Guided Tour of the Limberlost Swamp Nature Preserve**

**Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> 9 AM to Noon:** Orientation starts at Limberlost State Historic Site. After the orientation, participants will carpool to the LSNP Deacon's Trail where Curt Burnette will lead the hike. Discover the native flora and fauna of the largest nature preserve in the Limberlost Conservation Area. Learn how Gene Stratton-Porter used this area in her world-famous novels, *Freckles* and *A Girl of the Limberlost*. Also learn about the destruction of the swamp and its restoration. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Members of the Indiana State Museum get a 25% discount.



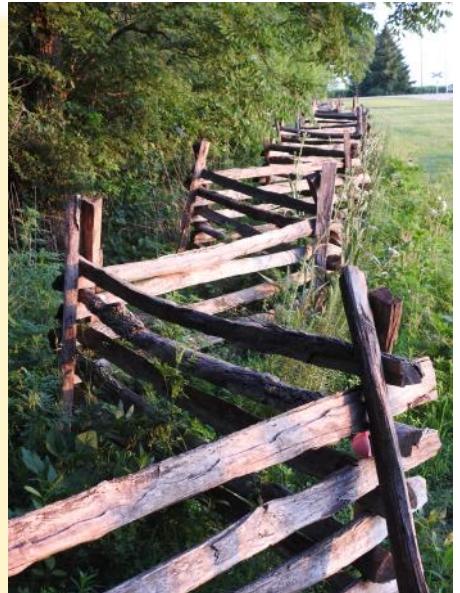
## TWO MORE FALL EVENTS AT THE LIMBERLOST WETLANDS

Members of the Indiana State Museum get a 25% discount off the listed price. Both the tour and night hike are led by Limberlost naturalist, Curt Burnette.

### GUIDED TOUR OF MUSIC OF THE WILD NATURE PRESERVE

**Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to Noon: Cost \$5 adults & \$3 child**

The tour starts at the Limberlost State Historic Site Visitor Center for orientation. Guests will then carpool to the preserve. Curt will lead a hike through the Music of the Wild Nature Preserve and the Bird Sanctuary. During the hike, participants will learn about the plants and animals living in these preserves and the ecology of this area and the Limberlost Creek which flows through it. Hikers will also learn about the history of the site and how Gene Stratton-Porter wrote about this area in her nature book, *Music of the Wild*.



### MARSH AFTER DARK

**Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, starts at 7 PM to 9 PM.**

**Cost \$4 Adults & \$3 Child.**

This event takes place at the Loblolly Pavilion at the Loblolly Marsh. Attendees pay for this event upon arrival. Here is the address of the Loblolly Marsh parking lot: 8323N 250W Bryant, IN 47326. Explore the Loblolly Marsh after the sun goes down. Bring a flashlight to help you explore the marsh at night. Learn all about animals during a presentation at the Friends Loblolly Pavilion. Roast marshmallows around a campfire to end your adventure, and show off your talents in the *Firelight Theater Variety Show*. Sing, dance, tell a joke, whatever talent you'd like to show off at the Variety Show !



### LUNA MOTHS APPEAR ON GENE STRATTON-PORTER'S CABIN

Sometimes nature can be cruel and sometimes it can be miraculous. On July 24, this Luna moth appeared on the front porch of the Limberlost Cabin clinging to the original gas porch light. A second one appeared a week later. The Luna was one of Gene's favorite moths, and it was one of several large silk moths featured in her book *Moths of the Limberlost*, published in 1912.

Gene said about *Moths of the Limberlost*, "If only one person enjoys this book one-tenth as much as I have loved the work of making it, then I am fully repaid."



## GENE'S STONE WALL GETS REPAIRED

By Randy Lehman

In the summer e-newsletter it was reported that a section of Gene Stratton-Porter's stone wall had collapsed (see picture to the left). The collapse was concerning, but it was not surprising—other sections of the wall had collapsed in the past. This particular section of the wall had been leaning for years, and it finally fell over.

Other sections of the wall had collapsed after the Porter's sold the Limberlost Cabin to Dr. Price and his wife Chloe, in 1920, and after Limberlost became a state historic site in 1947 some sections had to be rebuilt.



It's not an easy wall to rebuild since there are openings between stones and the top course of the wall has stones standing on end which make the wall look taller and more impressive. The repeating pattern in the wall's design and the many different sizes of stone make it a challenge to rebuild a fallen section. Looking at rebuilt sections done by other stone masons, you notice that recreating the pattern in the wall is not easy.

So we were a little apprehensive to see how the Indiana State Museum's approach to correcting this latest collapse would turn out. The museum hired Hagerman, Inc., a company founded in 1908 and headquartered in Ft. Wayne.



On their website, Hagerman describes itself as a full service general contracting company with offices also in Fishers, IN and Louisville, KY.

The foreman of the job at Limberlost was Jerry Loar, and he readily approved my request to take pictures of the wall restoration process. His crew was also very helpful and informative. They started work on the morning of Monday, August 16, and by the end of the week the collapsed section of wall was repaired. They also took an adjacent section apart that had not fallen but was clearly heading in that direction, rebuilding that section with the same diligence and thoroughness that they used on the collapsed section. So how did it turn out? I think the pictures in this article speak for themselves, but don't take my word for it. Next time you visit take a look at the wall.



Assuming that their work will stand the test of time, and assuming weather and moss will put a nice patina on the new mortar joints, it appears the Hagerman crew did an outstanding job.

I imagine even Gene Stratton-Porter, who loved working with stone, would approve of their work and appreciate the stone-working skills of the Hagerman crew.

# OTTER FAMILY RECENTLY SPOTTED IN THE LOBLOLLY CREEK NEAR RED GOLD

The photos used in this article were all taken by J. Swygart, on August 29, 2021

The information that follows is from the Nature Conservancy website: [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)

## What Makes River Otters Special?

The river otter is an amphibious mammal known for its grace and playful nature. The otter's strong swimming skills come in handy when playing in the water or while in pursuit of a meal—be it fish, mollusks or other small invertebrates. It has vibrissae, or sensory hairs, on its snout to sense water turbulence and help it locate prey.

Though wary of strangers, the river otter can be sociable and is easily domesticated. Incredibly playful, otters can be seen wrestling, chasing each other around and even sliding down slick or snow-covered riverbanks. Otters are active year-round thanks to a layer of fat right underneath the skin and thick fur to protect them in the coldest of waters.

## Threats to River Otters

The river otter's fur consists of two layers—a coarse, waterproof outer coat and a softer, finer layer that keeps the animal warm. Underwater, air bubbles cling to the outer hairs, covering the otter in what appears to be a silvery sheen. Unfortunately for the otter, humans have taken great interest in its luxurious-looking fur. The popularity of otter fur outerwear has contributed to the dramatic decrease in river otters for the past 200 years.

Historically, river otters were found in great numbers in the waterways and coastal areas throughout Canada and the United States. Sadly, habitat loss, water pollution and the fur trade have greatly reduced the otter population. River otters have been virtually eliminated in many parts of their original range. Heavily populated areas in the Midwest, East Coast and the Southeast United States have been greatly affected. However, successful reintroduction efforts are slowly restoring otter populations in many states.

## Did You Know?

- River otters are solitary animals. Males do not associate with females until mating season. Then pairs will chase, dive and corkscrew through the water together.
- River otters can hold their breath up to 8 minutes. Their eyes are adapted for underwater vision, leaving them nearsighted when out of water. On land, otters rely on their sense of smell, hearing and touch to get around.
- River otters are territorial and will mark their territory with feces (or spraint) as a warning to others. They will charge and scratch other otters who get too close.

## River Otter Quick facts

- Weight: 11-30 lbs.
- Length: 35 - 50 inches
- Habitat: riparian - living or located near a body of water
- Diet: primarily consumes fish, mollusks & other invertebrates
- Reproduction: once yearly with an average litter of 2-3 and up to 6
- Predators: includes the bobcat, coyote and birds of prey and man
- Lifespan: Average of 9 years in the wild, possibly up to 20 years



Editor's note: Indiana prohibited hunting and trapping river otters in 1921, but the animals still disappeared from Hoosier waterways. Beginning in 1995, the DNR collected about 300 river otters from Louisiana and released them in northern and southern Indiana watersheds over five years. Trapping of river otters is allowed today in parts of Indiana, at least until an annual quota is reached.



## CREEK RUN DOES IT AGAIN !

FOL Board Member, Jason Lenz, reported that the Creek Run raffle and silent auction raised about \$5,000 each for a total of \$10,000.

In eight years, Creek Run has raised about \$50,000 for the Friends of the Limberlost wetland projects, which are spearheaded by FOL's Limberlost Swamp Remembered committee.

Jason encouraged all FOL board members to donate items for the online auction next year – gift cards, hotels stays, prepare a meal, donate a weekend at a lake home, etc. If you have an auction item or idea, contact FOL by emailing [randyplehman@comcast.net](mailto:randyplehman@comcast.net) or call/text 260-849-0308.

Jason is the Creek Run CEO and founder—a company he started in 1993. Creek Run is a full-service consulting firm that provides environmental services throughout Indiana and surrounding states. Their services range from basic site inspections to the design and implementation of engineered remediation systems to risk-based closure strategies within a variety of regulatory programs. Their goal is to achieve closure of impacted sites in the quickest, most cost-effective manner by combining the best people with the appropriate technology.

Their headquarters is in Montpelier, IN. Their website is [www.creekrun.com](http://www.creekrun.com). We applaud the men & women of Creek Run who help to organize this annual event that raises money for the Friends of

## LEUCISTIC BARN SWALLOW SEEN IN SOUTHERN ADAMS COUNTY

On August 3, 2021, John L. Hilty, an Amish farmer who lives on Adams CR S50E, let us know that he had seen a white barn swallow flying with regular barn swallows when he and his brother were baling hay. Randy Lehman went to the farm and found the leucistic barn swallow, pictured below, resting on a windmill tower next to two normal looking barn swallows. It is not an albino swallow because it has black eyes. An albino swallow would have pink eyes. As far as we know, these were the only pictures taken of the white barn swallow. Several other attempts to find the bird in the weeks that followed failed.



## WHY DOES INDIANA CELEBRATE GENE STRATTON-PORTER?

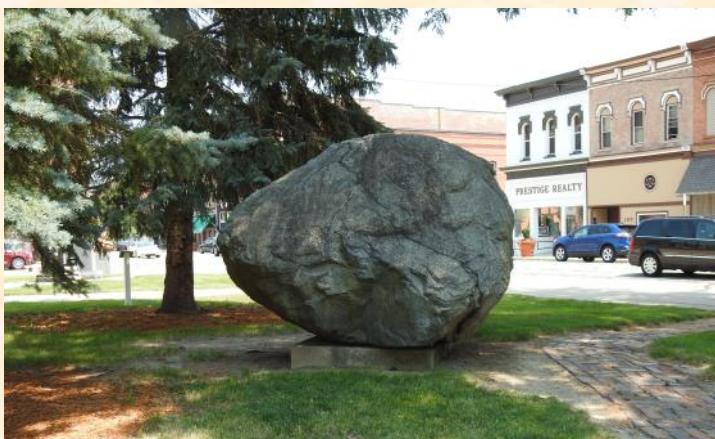
By Curt Burnette

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, 1924, the United States lost one of its most popular and beloved authors, Geneva's most famous resident, Gene Stratton-Porter. It is somewhat difficult now, 97 years after she perished in an automobile and streetcar collision in Los Angeles, to imagine the impact her death had at the time.

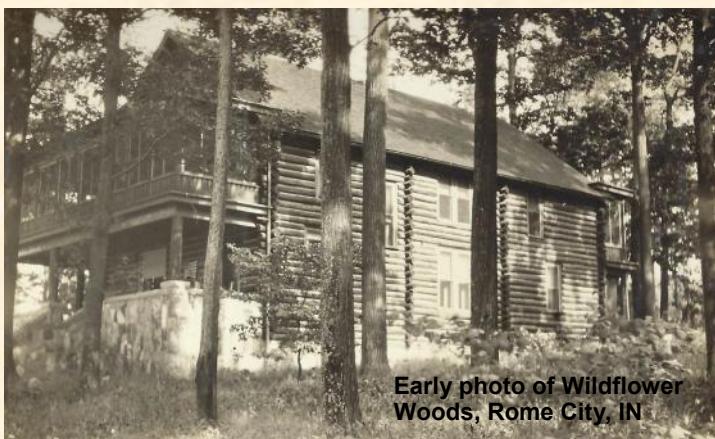
Mrs. Porter was one of the most beloved authors of her time, a popular literary figure, and a strong social influence. As a Logansport, Indiana newspaper stated a few weeks after she died, in an editorial on January 13, 1925: "The news of her death in her prime, will bring sorrow to many young hearts and to many an American home." Meredith Nicholson, another best-selling Indiana author of that time, paid tribute to Gene by saying she brought great honor to Indiana by her writings.

It would be expected that Hoosier newspapers and fellow Hoosiers would lament the loss of one of their own, but Gene's fame stretched much farther afield than her home state. Of course, the newspapers in Los Angeles made her death front page headline news. But newspapers around the country, in cities big and small, also mourned her passing. For example, the newspaper in Corsicana, Texas said that "...there was universal sorrow: for truly this great woman's fame as a novelist and nature-lover was world-wide."

Such a phenomenon was Gene Stratton-Porter that the tributes and memorials did not stop a few weeks or months following her death. Almost two years after her death, the last week of September of 1926 was designated as Gene Stratton-Porter Week. This was a nation-wide observance. Different events and activities were held in many parts of the country, such as public meetings, informal memorial services, and tree plantings. Tree plantings were held in states such as Alabama, Georgia, West Virginia, and many others. In November of 1926, a memorial forest of 10,000 white pine seedlings was planted along a New York state highway in the Adirondack Mountains honoring Gene. This was only the second such memorial in New York. The first had been planted in honor of Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross. In Indiana, Governor Jackson called on all Hoosiers to celebrate the special week, and he attended a tulip-tree planting ceremony on the Statehouse lawn.



In Adams County, where Gene had lived for about 28 years both in Decatur and Geneva, other types of tributes were created, such as the "Elephant Rock" which still stands next to the county courthouse in Decatur. The inscription on the bronze tablet attached to it states it was dedicated by the school children of Adams County, 1926. And, of course, possibly the finest tribute to one of Indiana's most famous citizens, was the creation in 1947 of two State Historic Sites to memorialize her legacy as a writer, naturalist, and early environmentalist—her cabin at Wildflower Woods in Rome City, and the Limberlost Cabin in Geneva, where she soared into worldwide fame as the Bird Woman of the Limberlost.



## Spicebush. It's a Plant. It's a Caterpillar. It's a Butterfly— by Willy DeSmet

In 2018 my wife Phyllis raised Monarchs from the eggs and caterpillars that we found on the milkweed in our yard. Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed. Other caterpillars are not so picky. We found a rather non-descript caterpillar (not on milkweed), and since Phyllis was curious, she decided to raise it to see what the adult looks like. It was pretty amazing, and I've told that story in a different article:

<https://limberlost.weebly.com/blog/archives/09-2018>



Fig. 2 early instar:  
bird dropping



Fig.1 the first instar

Another caterpillar that we found, on our Spicebush, is much easier to identify, especially in the later instars. It's a Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly. When the caterpillar emerges from the egg, it is brown and looks prickly—Fig 1.

It will eat what's left of the egg as its first meal. In later early instars the caterpillar is white, brown and black; it looks like bird droppings—Fig 2.

The caterpillar lays down a mat of silk on a leaf. When the silk dries it causes the leaf (or part of it) to roll up, providing a shelter that the caterpillar uses to stay out of sight during the day (they eat mostly at night) and while it molts. In Fig 3, you can see that the caterpillar, which is still pretty small, has chewed two cuts in the leaf towards

the midrib. The result is that only a small part of the leaf (the tip part) is rolled up. When the caterpillar gets larger, it will roll up a whole leaf as a shelter.



Fig. 4

Through several molts, it becomes bigger, turns green and develops rows of light blue spots.

Notice the spots that look like eyes and a mouth. It's pretty convincing; there also are bumps that intensify the impression of eyeballs and mouth and the "eyes" even have a white spot that looks like a reflection on a wet eye.

This imitation of a snake may fool a lot of would-be predators and make them go look elsewhere for dinner.



Fig. 3 rolled up  
leaf shelter

**Fig. 5**  
**Changed to**  
**yellow/orange**  
**& started to**  
**put down silk**



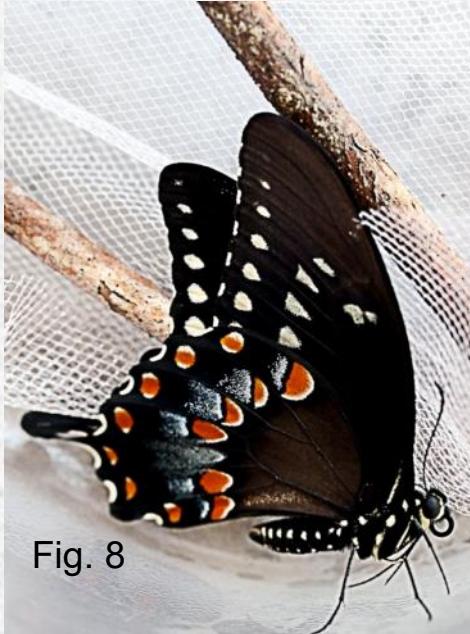
We noticed that this caterpillar then changed its color to yellow/orange—Fig 5. We didn't know it at the time, but it's a sign that it was getting ready to turn into a chrysalis. It next started spinning and built a carpet of silk threads on the side of the plastic bowl we were raising it in.

We did not witness this transformation, but the next day a chrysalis was attached to this “carpet” by the bottom; and something like a silken seat belt kept it hanging at an angle off the wall of the bowl—Fig. 6.

I found out that normally the caterpillar goes down the plant and looks among leaves for some twigs on a different plant to turn into the chrysalis (hence the yellowish color as camouflage).

When our next caterpillar got close to the chrysalis stage we were not caught off guard. We provided some sticks and this time the chrysalis was attached to the stick. The caterpillar did not have to lay down a “foothold” of silk on the side of the container. This shows they are adaptable, and that we can learn from our observations.

**Fig. 7**



**Fig. 8**

has spines, looks distasteful, looks dangerous, has camouflage colors etc. It also has an organ called osmeterium that it can pop out (“eversible”). This looks like a yellow forked tongue and is covered with chemicals that the caterpillar produces. If a predator, like an ant, gets too close, the caterpillar may try to rub these chemicals on the enemy.

The adult butterfly gets some protection by mimicking the color pattern of the Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*), which tastes bad and is poisonous.

As I mentioned in a previous article (*Cecropia and Promethea Decline – Blame it on the Fly*, Spring 2019 newsletter) the tachinid fly *Compsilura concinnata* which was imported to combat the Gypsy moth problem and kills a lot of Cecropia and Promethea caterpillars also kills Spicebush Swallowtail caterpillars.



**Fig. 6**  
**Silk Mat for Attaching Cocoon**

Fig. 7 is an empty chrysalis, after the butterfly got out. Notice the pattern resembling leaf veins.

Fig. 8 is what an adult Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly looks like. This caterpillar uses several different defenses against predators (some at different stages): it hides,

As the name implies, the Spicebush butterfly has some connection to the spicebush plant. The caterpillars will only eat certain plants; spicebush being one.

Spicebush was the first native plant I added to our property, a decade ago—Fig. 9. This year our lone/bachelor (male) spicebush finally got a mate.



FIG.9



Fig. 8

Spicebush is one of these plants that have separate male and female plants. The technical term is “dioecious.”

The male plants have male flowers and the female plant have female flowers—Fig. 10. The flowers are small and open before there are any leaves. Only the female plants will have berries.

The berries are bright red and shiny when ripe—Fig. 11. Spicebush is not the only plant with separate male and female plants (persimmon is another one e.g.) but the majority of plants are not dioecious. If you want to, you can teach yourself how to sex a spicebush shrub based on the flower to determine exactly which shrubs will be the autumn berry-bearers, here's a link that might help: <https://wildfoods4wildlife.com/monographs/common-spicebush>

I've tried a few times to grow new Spicebushes from berries, but so far no luck. It's supposedly easier to grow new plants from cuttings. I think I may give that a try.

Besides Spicebush, the Spicebush Swallowtail caterpillar also eats sassafras. These are the two preferred “host plants” for the Spicebush Swallowtail caterpillar in our area. They can occasionally, but much less commonly, be found on a few other plants like Tuliptree.

Sassafras was one of the next native plants that I added to our “yard.” We have Spicebush Swallowtail caterpillars on both the spicebush and the sassafras almost every year.

Spicebush is not a very showy plant, neither in foliage nor in flowering, as visitors have pointed out to me over the years. I agree, but that's not the point. I love the smell, and I love the Spicebush Swallowtail caterpillars that munch on its leaves. Our spicebush thrives despite the munching. Sometimes showiness is not why we are here.



FIG.10—Spring: Flowers



FIG.11—Fall: foliage with berries

## Seeing Red by Fred Wooley

In autumn I think we all find great enjoyment in the many colors that explode once the green chlorophyll of food producing leaves fades and reveals below the pallet of explosive pinks, purples, yellows, oranges, reds, and all their shades and mixes.

So many outdoor changes from September to October, the one I probably find most refreshing is the pulling on of a heavy, long-sleeve shirt for my outdoor ventures. In that comfort, I'm out noting all colors and always enamored with that of October red.

Some reds, we get year-round, that in birds for instance. There is cardinal red, though I would argue it to be more an orange-red. We call it the "redbird," but really, watch your feeders and wait for a male cardinal to feather up next to a male red-winged blackbird. Now that red epaulet of the redwing is *truly* red! Or compare Mr. Cardinal's red to the small patch on the head of a male downy woodpecker, or if lucky, the flame-red crest of the magnificent pileated woodpecker! You want even a more *vivid* red? Consider the red-headed woodpecker. It's on a pallet all its own, sporting a deep crimson red velvet hood. Lucky is the viewer, to catch it in bright sun.



As the sun shortens in daily duration, we take note of the red now in leaves. One of my favorite authors, naturalist, and wildlife biologist, Aldo Leopold, in his classic *A Sand County Almanac*, writes of October "red lanterns." He refers to the deep maroon-red of changing wild blackberry leaves, fired in October sun. They light and guide his way from bramble thicket



to bramble thicket on his October hunts in search of partridge. I find great delight in doing the same in our two-acre, oak-savanna restoration project, bagging my game with binoculars.

I'm seeing red everywhere. I'm amused by the red of Virginia creeper as they flame skyward up tree trunks from their ground cover of forest floors. Look closely, if you have this creeper in fruit, and enjoy the deep purple fruits, held in a very loose group, each one clinging to a thick, deep red-purple peduncle. Peduncle is the botanical word for fruit stalk, and I could have said, "fruit stalk," but you never pass up a chance to say red-purple peduncle.





Fall roadsides lined with red-turning staghorn sumac. So named with fuzzy twigs reminiscent of the velvet on antlers of stag deer, it's the deep red of their compound leaves that grabs our attention in October. Closer inspection shows not only deep red leaves, but a deep red, turning-brown, cone-shaped cluster of fuzzy seeds.

Leaving fields and roadsides, and progressing into the wooded edge, we encounter spicebush. The spicy, when crushed, leaves are currently dark green, but their once dark green, shiny berries, are now brilliant, waxy red. They are loosely scattered and in their dark green, leafy background, do give a hint of Christmas colors to come. Soon, those leaves turn a buttery-yellow and the October contrast with their bright red berries is no less striking.

A lower growing, red clump of berries, now barely holding onto a wilted stem sagging to the damp forest floor, is Jack-in-the-pulpit. It produced a flower under a springtime spathe, resembling Pastor Jack preaching from his pulpit. If the Jack flower produces fruit – hmm, Jill, or Jackie-in-the-pulpit?... – it is a plum-shaped, tight cluster of berries. They too, were bright green a month ago, but now a brilliant, bright, scarlet-red. If the blackberry brambles are the red lanterns of October, you could argue the Jack-in-the-pulpits are the torches that ignite them.

We feast on all these red leaves and berries visually. The red berries are best left for eating by birds and other animals. Jack-in-the-pulpit berries contain calcium oxalate



crystals, which would leave you with a biting, stinging, burning tongue, if you were tempted to taste. For me, it's enough to just look. Get out this fall, search and wander from red lanterns to red lanterns, hunt for your own red October.

\*\*\*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](mailto:fwooley@frontier.com).



## Blue-faced Meadowhawk

### *Sympetrum ambiguum*

This rare dragonfly was seen at the Goodrich Addition to the Bird Sanctuary by Mark Weldon on August 25. Mark is the retired Curator of the Ft Wayne Children's Zoo. He thought the Bird Sanctuary had the right habitat for this kind of dragonfly, and he was correct. It likes temporary pools with sedges, wetland grasses, and often mosses. It's found usually in woods.

Mark told Curt Burnette where to look for it. Curt told Terri and Randy Lehman, and Randy was able to get the picture you see here a couple of days later.

Although black rings over the top of the abdomen make this one of the easiest meadowhawks to ID, it is not seen very often. Because this dragonfly is not listed as being in Jay County, it's more evidence that many species of dragonflies found in Jay County go unreported.



## **FRIENDS OF THE LIMBERLOST NEW MEMBERSHIP & MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

Friends of the Limberlost is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation. We support Limberlost State Historic Site, which is owned and operated by the Indiana State Museum. We also support the IDNR—Division of Nature

Preserves which manages the restoration of wetlands in the Limberlost Swamp Conservation Area. Your membership dues and extra donations are vital to the many projects honoring the memory and legacy of Indiana author, naturalist, and nature photographer, Gene Stratton-Porter.

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

- Choose the Limberlost Historic Site Friends who support projects and help pay expenses associated with the improvement or the betterment of Limberlost State Historic Site
- Choose Limberlost Swamp Remembered, a committee of the Friends of the Limberlost, which is primarily focused on Limberlost Swamp restoration projects
- Or you can support both missions of the Friends of the Limberlost

As a member you receive our quarterly newsletter. You get one free tour of the Limberlost Cabin, a 10% discount on Limberlost Gift Shop purchases, and you get a 15% discount if you purchase a membership in the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. As a member of the Friends of the Limberlost you help us preserve the legacy of Gene Stratton-Porter and help us restore the environment by bringing back 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](mailto:randyplehman@comcast.net)

Please make checks payable to: FRIENDS OF THE LIMBERLOST. Mail both your check and completed membership form to: PO BOX 571, GENEVA IN 46740

### **STEP ONE**

Select which mission of the Friends Group you want to support by checking a box to the right

### **STEP TWO**

Choose the type of Membership you want by checking a box below

Limberlost Historic Site Friends—dues and any additional donations 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 restorations 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

Older Adults—\$10

Business—\$50 (Please enter the name of a contact-person below)

Other Individuals—\$20

Family—\$35

Lifetime—\$1,000

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Check the box if you want your newsletter mailed to you via the US Postal Service. We'd like to EMAIL the newsletter to you because it saves us money and time, and the e-newsletter is in color and has more pages. However, we are happy to mail you a "paper copy" of the newsletter, if that is what you prefer—just check the box. If you check the box and give us an email address, we will send you both versions of the newsletter.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED (additional donation appreciated!): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ANY COMMENTS?