



Friends of the Limberlost

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ANNUAL MEETING FOR FRIENDS OF THE LIMBERLOST

SATURDAY, April 23, 5:30-7:30PM

AT THE LIMBERLOST STATE HISTORIC SITE VISITOR CENTER

Please RSVP by April 16, if you plan to attend

We are pleased to announce the return of our Annual Meeting to its traditional location, the Limberlost Visitor Center at Limberlost State Historic Site in Geneva, IN. With the COVID infection rate falling and mask mandates going away, Friends of the Limberlost Board of Directors approved this April meeting. We were not able to have our 2021 Annual Meeting in September, so we are looking forward to getting together on April 23, 2022. If you are a member of Friends of the Limberlost, we hope you will join us. Here's the agenda:

- 6:00 PM boxed dinner served at the Limberlost Visitor Center. *When you RSVP, you'll need to let us know if you prefer the turkey, ham, or humus sandwich.* You'll be able to choose from a variety of chips, side salads & fruit, cookies, and assorted drinks.
- After dinner "Professor Passion" returns to the Limberlost to share one of his amorous nature tales.
- Then it's time for the Business Meeting which includes:
 - ▶ Approval of the previous annual meeting minutes
 - ▶ The election of FOL board members
 - ▶ An abbreviated monthly Board meeting
 - ▶ An interactive review of the past and a look at what the future might be for Friends of the Limberlost
- All current Friends members are invited to attend. You can bring a friend or family members, but you must RSVP by April 16. Just call or email Randy Lehman (his email address & phone number are listed in the heading of this newsletter). *You can also register by sending a private message through the Friends of the Limberlost Facebook page.*
- SEATING IS LIMITED. Make reservations ASAP. When capacity is reached, we stop taking reservations. There is no charge for attending, but Free-Will donations are appreciated to help pay dinner expenses.
- Limberlost Site Manager, Shaun Payne, is eager to meet you and share what's happening at the site.



Creatures of the Night, Saturday, April 30, 2022, 8:30 pm – 10:00 pm

The evening starts with night-time dip-netting in the pothole wetland on Veronica's Trail. Then we walk up to the pavilion and have a magnified look with a digital microscope at what we caught. After that everyone can hike with flashlights on the Tree ID Trail by the pavilion to play "I Spy the Glowing Eyes" looking for plywood forest animals with reflective eyes. Then a couple of rounds of the Mystery Boxes (reach into a box and using touch only to guess what is inside). Evening ends with roasting marshmallows around the campfires. All ages welcome!

Cost: \$4/adult non-member, \$3/child non-member
25% discount for members of the Indiana State Museum

Location: Loblolly Marsh Pavilion on Jay County Rd. 250W
Street address of Lob parking lot: 8323N 250W, Bryant, IN 47326





You are invited to a Program about Archaeology Sites in the Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve

When: Saturday, April 30, at 1:00 pm

Where: Limberlost State Historic Site, 200 East 6th St., Geneva, IN

Cost: Free event—there is no charge to the public

As part of a Historic Preservation Fund grant, archaeologists from the Applied Anthropology Laboratories, Ball State University, explored the Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve and the area surrounding White Oak Cemetery in Jay County this past summer.

You are welcome to attend a public presentation to learn more about the details of this project. They will review project goals, objectives, and

results of this survey and will focus on what the features and artifacts tell us about pre-contact and historic land use in what is now the Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve and the surrounding area.

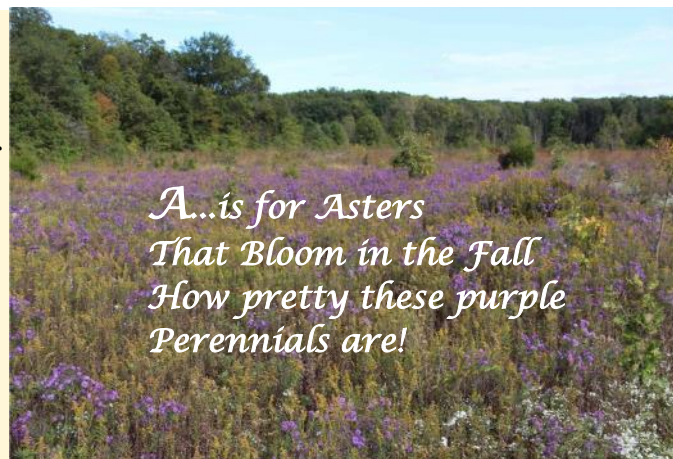
Archaeologists will have artifacts from the surveys available to view and will show images that highlight their field and laboratory methods.

This project was funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.

Now I Know My A-B-C's

By Adrienne Provenzano

Last year, Bill Hubbard and I decided to collaborate on an ABC book about the Limberlost. As many Friends of the Limberlost probably know, Bill is a wonderful photographer as well as an accomplished educator and author, and I'm a musician, educator, and naturalist who likes to write poems and songs. That book, The ABC Book of the Limberlost, is now completed and available to view and download for free via the Friends of the Limberlost website: <https://limberlost.weebly.com> Go to the "resources" tab and then to the "teachers" section. Scroll down and you will see a link to download a pdf file of the ABC book.



In the "teachers" section, you will also find a link to the SCRIBD website. You can scroll through the book on the Friends website or read it on SCRIBD for free. If you want to download a copy from SCRIBD rather than the pdf file from the Friends website, you will need to register for a free 30-day SCRIBD account. Please note, if you don't want to continue as a paying member of SCRIBD make sure you cancel your account within those 30 days!

It was fun to put this project together! Bill sent me a selection of photos for A – Z, and I chose which ones would inspire each of the 26 poems. It was sometimes hard to choose! Bill's images of the flora and fauna of the Limberlost region captures the beauty and ecological diversity so well! My poems are sometimes a bit funny and sometimes more serious. Try reading them out loud! Ever the artist, Bill cleverly designed and arranged the images and words using different colors to highlight some of the text – for example, using red for the word "cardinal" and yellow for "yellowlegs."

I enjoyed researching the subject matter and trying to express something of what I thought and felt while viewing the photographs – while also calling on memories of my own observations when hiking the trails of the Limberlost. Above is an example of one image and corresponding poem for the letter A. You can see the rest of the Limberlost A-B-C's on the Friends website.

It is hoped the book can be useful for educators as well as anyone interested in nature and inspire those of all ages in current and future generations to enjoy and appreciate the wonders of the Limberlost!

Adrienne Provenzano is an Advanced Indiana Master Naturalist and National Association of Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC) RESULTS

& Some CBC History by Terri Gorney Lehman

17 birders gathered at Limberlost State Historic Site on the morning of January 1, 2022, to participate in the Audubon CBC for this area. Four Audubon groups were represented (1) Robert Cooper Audubon from Muncie; (2) the Mississinewa Audubon from Marion (3) the SANJO Audubon group from Adams & Jay County and (4) the Stockbridge Audubon from Ft. Wayne.

This was the 7th year of counting bird species seen within the SANJO 15-mile diameter circle on January 1. SANJO stands for “**S**outhern **A**dams County” + **N**orthern **J**ay County + **O**uabache State Park. The letters in SANJO try to cover the area included inside the circle. In 2015, following the National Audubon Society protocol, I established this 15-mile diameter circle to define the area surveyed by count volunteers.

In all seven years there have been 28 species of birds that have always been seen within the circle: Canada geese, mallards, great-blue-heron, northern harriers, Cooper’s hawk, bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, pigeons, mourning doves, red-headed woodpeckers, red-bellied woodpeckers, downy woodpeckers, hairy woodpeckers, kestrels, blue jays, crows, Carolina chickadees, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatches, starlings, bluebirds, robins, house finches, goldfinches, house sparrows, cardinals, song sparrows, and white-crowned sparrows. New to the list this year was a Gadwall found at Limberlost Swamp Nature Preserve.

“In a world where male ducks sport gleaming patches of green, red, or blue, the Gadwall’s understated elegance can make this common duck easy to overlook. Males are intricately patterned with gray, brown, and black; females resemble female Mallards, although with a thinner, darker bill. This widespread, adaptable duck has dramatically increased in numbers in North America since the 1980s.” —from www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/gadwall

On the January 1, 2022 CBC we had a total of 43 species. Several birds were only spotted by one group, so every list from every group is important. The only sandhill cranes were spotted on the Muhlenkamp farm near Geneva. The only robins recorded were at Ouabache State Park. The only yellow-rumped warbler was at Rainbow Lake. The only kingfisher was at the Loblolly Marsh, and this was the third time that Northern pintails made the list.

There were a record number of mourning doves— 225

Also a record number of starlings were counted— 833

I searched the local Berne and Decatur newspapers for historical information on the Adams County CBC. I discovered the first one was held in 1948, the same year the Cardinal Chapter of the Indiana Audubon Society was formed (later called the Cardinal Club, Berne). They disbanded around the time the SANJO CBC was formed. January 1 has been the date of CBC for this area since around 1968.

The CBC compiler is the person who verifies & compiles all the data (bird species and numbers of birds seen by the CBC birders) and is authorized to enter all the data into the National Audubon Society database. Larry Parker, of Decatur, was the compiler for many years before I became the compiler. Larry asked me in early 2014 if I would like to be the compiler. I miss hearing Larry’s reports of rare bird sightings in Adams County. Larry passed away in October. He was a great birder. He will be missed. He was one of the last of the Cardinal Club members. I know Larry was active with the group for at least the last 40 years.

The weather for this year’s CBC was not the best—it was mostly a rainy day and many areas were flooded. But I send out a BIG thank you to everyone who helped with the January 1, 2022, SANJO CBC (including the 7 bird-feeder counters). I hope to see everyone again in 2023!



MALE GADWALL DUCK



NORTHERN PINTAIL DUCK

www.allaboutbirds.org



REMEMBERING LONG TIME FRIEND OF THE LIMBERLOST & FORMER BOARD MEMBER

Carl R. Yoder, 88, of Berne, Indiana passed away on November 25th, 2021 at Swiss Village in Berne. He was born on March 4, 1933, in Berne to the late Wilman Yoder and the late Gladys (Augsburger) Yoder.

Carl proudly served in Nancy, France in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged on August 9, 1956. He was a volunteer wildflower guide at the Friends of the Limberlost in Geneva for many years (which he is pictured doing to the left) and also served as a Board member for the Friends of the Limberlost from 2007 until 2016. In addition to serving his community he served on the Swiss Heritage Village Board.

Carl was a 1951 graduate of Adams Central High School. He took many computer classes throughout his younger years to lead him into his occupation working at IBM for 10 years and then working at Control Data for 26 years before retiring on January 1, 1987. The hobbies he enjoyed throughout his life were woodcarving, genealogy and wildflower identification.

One of the not very well-known things about Carl is that he carved the faces into two trees on the south end of the parking lot at Limberlost State Historic Site in Geneva. He did this before the Limberlost Visitor Center was built, and his "art work" has since been enjoyed by countless visitors to Limberlost. Carl referred to these carvings as "tree spirits", and he maintained these spirits by regularly applying a layer of varnish about once a year.

You can easily see Carl's tree spirits by driving to Limberlost State Historic Site and parking near the two large trees at the south end of the parking lot. To save you some travel time, the two tree spirits are pictured below. You can see the Limberlost Visitor Center in the background.



Carl is survived by his brother, Earl (Nancy) Yoder, Berne, IN; sister, Gloria (Allen) Sprunger, Saginaw, MI; loving friend, Geraldine Gray, Berne, IN, and several nieces and nephews.

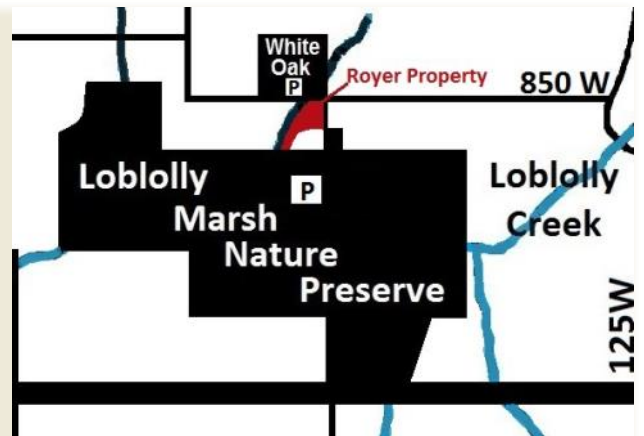
Carl retired from IBM where he worked on computers often times for government contracts. He once said that lap-top computers today can produce the type of information that would have required a computer 'the size of a football field' back when he was working on computers.

Another wonderful thing that Carl did was to set up a designated endowment fund in 2007 at the Adams County Community Foundation that provides an annual check to the Friends of the Limberlost. This annual donation can be used for whatever the Board of

Directors decides, but it was established many years before Carl passed away, and we always asked Carl where he wanted his donation to be used. Often it was used to purchase bird seed and bird-feeding station supplies and any other items needed to maintain the bird viewing room and the bird viewing area at the Limberlost Visitor Center. We certainly miss Carl very much.



Picture taken by Randy Lehman of a Kingfisher at the Loblolly Marsh in February 2022. The Kingfisher is resting on a honey locust tree branch that is leaning out over the Loblolly Creek giving the bird a good view of any fish that might be swimming by.



ROYER PROPERTY RESTORATION UPDATE

In the Fall 2020 newsletter we reported that the Friends of the Limberlost were able to acquire 10.42 acres of land adjacent to the Loblolly Marsh creating a land corridor between the Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve and the White Oak property (see map above). It was such a gratifying fundraising experience. 52 donors contributed \$20,504.84 toward the purchase of 6.42 acres of this property. Board member, David Rezits purchased an additional 4 acres with his own money, signing an agreement that includes his 4 acres in the Royer wetland restoration plan, and guarantees that when he dies his 4 acres will become property of the Friends of the Limberlost.

Many wetland restoration projects in Indiana that are managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service were delayed due to COVID, and our Royer restoration project was one of them. So, it was a good sign to recently receive an update from Scott Fetters, the Private Land Biologist for the USF&W Service (Northeastern Indiana Habitat Restoration Office in Warsaw, Indiana). Scott will be managing the restoration of the Royer property. We've worked with Scott before. He's very experienced and knowledgeable—a great person to have working on the Royer restoration.

Scott told us that his goal, for now, is to have the entire Royer restoration project completed this year. He'll need Mother Nature's help, because this can be a difficult site to work on, due to its potential for flooding. So, while we wait for Scott to begin the restoration work this summer, knowing that restoration work could be delayed well into the fall if too much rain falls, the Friends will likely repeat what we did last year to keep invasive weeds from spreading on the Royer property. We can plant soybeans again to keep the weed pressure at bay during the growing season, or we can leave it fallow and spray it two or three times during the growing season.

You may remember Ken Brunswick worked with a local farmer last year who planted soybeans on the Royer property. The farmer was lucky last year. The land did not flood during the growing season, so the soybeans were actually harvested last fall. But this year, according to Scott, an agreement will have to be worked out with the tenant farmer that the soybean crop (or part of it) will likely be destroyed during the summer construction of the wetland. After the wetland restoration process is complete, we could plant the native seed mixes later this fall to December. If the tenant farmer wishes to harvest whatever beans aren't destroyed in the field during the wetland restoration process, that would be his choice.



◀February 2022 view of the Royer property looking south. The soybean plant stubble in the foreground is left over from last year's growing season. The David Rezits property is the dark strip of land in the background. It is a little higher than the land that gets planted in soybeans, so it won't be needing much restoration, and David had it seeded in native wildflowers last year. The hill with the trees and buildings on it is private property not owned by the Friends, although someday, it would be nice if the Friends could own this property or at least have it owned by someone who lets the area return to wildlife habitat.

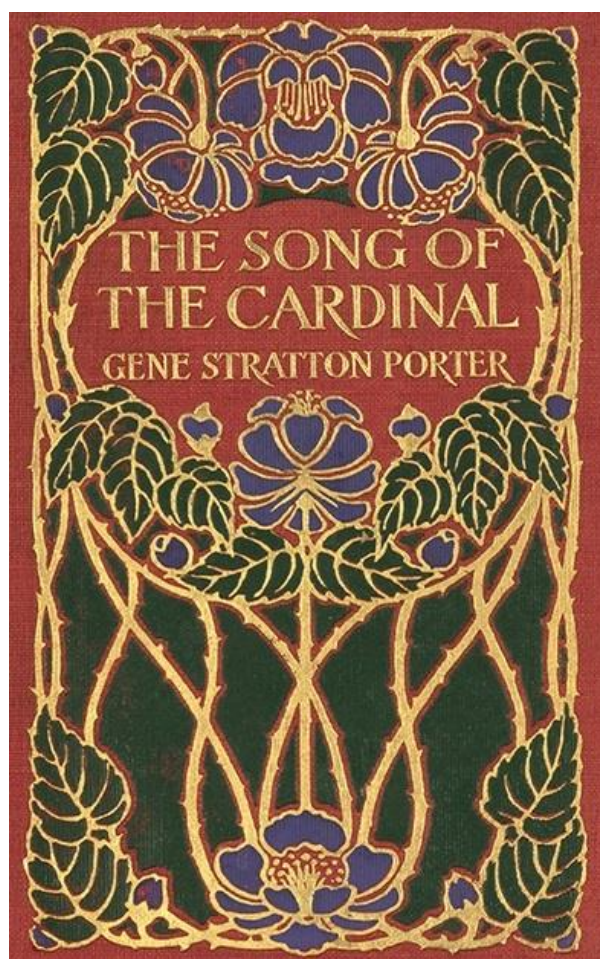
SHARON DWYER BUZARD

By Randy Lehman

Sharon is a Lifetime member of the Friends of the Limberlost, and I don't remember exactly when I first met Sharon, but it had to be around 2005 or 2006 when she donated artwork for a Friends' fundraiser. In 2009, when I was still the site manager at Limberlost, Sharon and fellow Rochester, New York, artist, Marguerite Thomas, donated two Girl of the Limberlost dolls to Limberlost State Historic Site to help the site celebrate the 100th anniversary of the publication of A Girl of the Limberlost (see pictures of the dolls on the next page).



© Copyright by Sharon Dwyer Buzard



Marguerite designed the dolls in authentic costumes. The plans were approved by the Indiana State Museum. The dolls are still on display in the Limberlost visitor center, and they remain an important part of the site's guided tour.

The next summer Sharon brought her mother, Doris Stratton Dwyer, from her home in Zionsville, IN, to the Limberlost Cabin where she was given a private tour by me. As Sharon puts it, her mother was ecstatic—the visit was a highlight of her life.

I asked Sharon to explain why she and her mother have such a deep and abiding connection to Gene Stratton-Porter and she said, “I am originally from Indiana, and when I was ten years old, my mother put a copy of A Girl of the Limberlost in my hands saying that it was her favorite book from childhood and had made her a lover of nature. The family had always hoped they were related to GSP, but Ancestry shows that it is a different set of Strattons.”

So it is no surprise that the “cardinal print” you see above is a collage Sharon created based on Stratton-Porter's first published book, The Song of the Cardinal.

Here is what Sharon had to say about her Cardinal collage:

“It is my own drawings, vintage patterned wallpapers, and this time leaves from nature. I have the original in a shadowbox as was the Girl of the Limberlost collage that was displayed [at the Limberlost] some years back. [The collage] has the Indiana state flower represented in peony leaves, the state bird, and a leaf from the state tree—the Tulip Poplar.” The book in the collage has been deemed one of the ten most beautiful Art Nouveau book covers ever created.”



The Song of the Cardinal came out to good book reviews across the country in the summer of 1903 and thus Gene Stratton-Porter's career as an author was launched. In 1933, the cardinal became the state bird of Indiana. The book would be translated into nine languages and braille in the first twenty-five years of publication. But be warned...the covers of the modern versions of The Song of the Cardinal are not even close to the beauty of this vintage cover. The modern versions of the book often don't even include her photographs, or if the photos are included, the quality of the photos is very poor.

Shown above is another collage by Sharon, which she calls—*Sunflowers and Finches*—a collage made with her own drawings and vintage print wallpapers.

Sharon does sell greeting cards of these two collages. You can purchase the “Cardinal” or the “Sunflower and Finches” greeting cards, with envelope and plastic sleeve included, for \$4.00 plus shipping.

If interested, you can purchase the 12x18 archival print of the collages for \$75 and the 18x24 print for \$95 + shipping. They both have margins around them so they can be framed without matting. Sharon Dwyer Buzard can be contacted by going on Messenger on her Facebook page.

**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 randvplehman@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

☐ 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

STEP TWO

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

☐ 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 _____

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☐ 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?