

Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society, Inc.

Spring 2003

P.O. Box 639 • Rome City, IN 46784



MARK YOUR CALENDERS

All the old favorites are back this year like the **Tea Party** (Aug. 11), **Gene's Birthday Party** (Aug. 17), and the **Holiday Open House** (Nov. 15 & 16). Our special Family Fun Days are growing rapidly in attendance. Some of our old events have been incorporated into these new family days along with many new activities and educational crafts and projects. Our **Spring Day** is May 3, and will feature a guided bird walk at 9 a.m., becoming part of a human living tree at 12:30 p.m., and a wildflower walk at 1:30 p.m. There will be many craft opportunities all day long. Our **Fall Day**, Oct. 11, will feature old favorites like horse-drawn wagon rides, pontoon boat rides and the bonfire. However, this year we will have a huge Nature CSI where visitors will turn into investigators and work to collect clues in order to solve the crimes. Last year we had some visitors without children come to visit on our Fall Family Fun Day. They stayed all day and had a ball. These days are guaranteed fun for everyone.

Our newest program **GoFishIN** is presented by the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife and GSP working together to get more kids involved in fishing. GSP is now a loaner site for Northeast Indiana. This means trained Crew Captains can borrow all the needed materials to run their own fishing classes. We have enough supplies for a crowd of 50 fishing children. We are also having a training for prospective crew captains on April 26th, 8 a.m. - noon. This year the program that we are having (June 7) is expanding into a full day of fun, learning and fishing. We are looking for people who have a pontoon on Sylvan Lake who could help us out for about an hour taking the kids out for a youth fishing contest. We promise this will be a most rewarding hour. This event falls on the free fishing week-end in Indiana so no one will need a license that day.

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday May 13, 2003 5:30 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Gary Tieben, Professor
University of Saint Francis
The Cardinal and Other Birds

Please return enclosed card by May 9th

The Porters

Have you ever thought it would be nice to be involved in some of the activities at Gene Stratton Porter? Do you know it is possible? The Porters will be starting their second year of service. They give tours, help in the gardens, help in the office, help with special events, and many other things. Porters do not have to sign up to work every week. They assist with the activities that interest them. In October we have a special day to say Thank You to them, give awards and have a meal together. Last year we had forty Porters helping at the site. This year we are hoping to increase that number. Why not come out and have a good time, some fun and help at the site at the same time. Call the site to request further information.

From the President...

Dear Friends of the Gene Stratton-Porter Society,

We are excited about our upcoming Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2003 again at the Rome City Methodist Church at 5:30. We are pleased to have a member of the Audubon Society, Dr. Gary Tieben, speak to us on Cardinals and Other Birds.

We are planning a very exciting year of activities at the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Site for you beginning May 3, 2003. Don't forget that you have an opportunity to be a porter. We need you.

With appreciation,

President Fran

Kendallville

Home and Garden Show



Staff and volunteers ran a both for the Home & Garden Show in Kendallville at the Cerutis' Conference Center in March. Many people stopped by to visit. A lot of adults said they had not been to the site since their own 4th grade field trip and promised to come and see us soon.

MEET YOUR PRESIDENT

For the past 3 years Fran Umbaugh has been the President of the GSP Memorial Society. Besides her society duties, Fran is a great supporter of the site and eagerly assists in multiple activities whenever there is a need. However, her special request is always to be involved with the children. Her husband, Monte, says this is not unusual. Ever since he has known her, she has had children around her. The kids love her. Fran went to Earlham College for two years, then switched to Ball State and received a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She started teaching in Kokomo at Central School. She received a masters at Indiana specializing in reading. She always taught 1st grade in the Kokomo area, the last seven years she worked with gifted and talented students. Throughout her career, Fran held several positions in the local reading association (IRA) and was treasurer for the state IRA. Fran also served on the IU Alumni Board and was in Tri Kappa. Both of her daughters are also teachers, one in Kokomo, the other in the Dayton area. For several years, she helped Monte as a hostess in his Kokomo restaurant. In the late 70s, Fran and Monte built their home on Hilltop Drive on Sylvan Lake and retired here in 1992. She is the axillary chaplain for the American Legion and is an active member of St. Gaspar's Catholic Church.



Fran and Monte Umbaugh



Into The Woods

Common Name: Jack-in-the-Pulpit

Other Names: tian nan xing

Scientific Name: Arisaema triphyllum



A pulpit is a small, enclosed platform where a preacher can stand to give a sermon. This is what the wildflower looks like, thus the name Jack-in-the-Pulpit. The plants have only one or two compound leaves made up of 3 small leaflets each. It's appearance resembles poison ivy. It can be 8-10 inches tall up to 3 feet with a leaf span of 2 feet or more. It grows best in moist, shady areas where sunlight is filtered by foliage. However, it can grow in rather dry, grassy areas of full sunlight. The best way to introduce new plants into a moist, semi-shaded area would be to plant the seeds in flower pots then transplant this slow growing plant outdoors a few years later.

Jack-in-the-Pulpits rely on insects for pollination, usually thrips and gnats. The fruit (called a berry) remain green until the seeds are mature, then the berries turn a brilliant red. Three to five inches under the soil is a big potato-like structure that botanists call a corm. The corm is part of the plant's stem system. Native Americans boiled the corms in at least three changes of water, dried them then grinded them into a kind of flour. Corms would burn your mouth if eaten raw since they contain calcium oxalate crystals, which protect it from hungry animals. There is one account stating that the Meskwaki Indians would put finely chopped root into meat they would leave for their enemies to find, principally the Sioux. The meat was flavorful, and would be consumed, but in a few hours these enemies would be in so much pain they would die. Another name for Jack-in-the-Pulpit is Indian turnip.

Gene Stratton-Porter
STATE HISTORIC SITE
is open April through November



WANTED

Now is the time to get your family skeletons out of your closet. How long are you going to let your dead goldfish float? We need him now! As you dig into spring house cleaning and dig up mummified creatures, keep us in mind. We need strange, dead things or parts thereof - bones, teeth, antennae, beaks, fins, feet, skins, tails, eyeballs, shells, fossils, cocoon fish scales, bird nests, owl pellets, track molds, and old hunting trophies of every kind. Sound gruesome? We are collecting for a huge Nature CSI coming fall to our very popular Family Fall Fun Day. Got questions? Call Pat or Cheri at the site.

Also needed are old socks, the larger the better and holes are not a problem. Any kind of art and craft supplies that you might have around and want to get rid of is greatly appreciated. Our children's programs are growing and we are using lots of things for our crafts and projects like buttons, wall paper samples, ribbon, and sequins to name only a few.

BEFORE YOU KILL THEM - READ THIS

Dandelion - Taraxacum officinale (or T. Taraxacum)

Dandelions are beginning to find a regular place in both market gardens and city markets. Uses for dandelion leaves include as a potherb and in salads. Young leaves can be covered with boiling, not cold, water to remove much of the herby taste. Leaves may also be blanched by covering them during their rapid growth and then prepared as a salad. The best salad is prepared from cold, cooked greens thoroughly chilled, chopped and served with a proper dressing. In the past, strong plants (crowns with 2-3 inch roots) were brought into the cellar and raised during the winter, they were covered with litter or coal ashes and would provide a splendid salad. Dandelion greens have a wholesome effect on digestion.

In times of famine roots were cooked and used for food. Today, dandelion roots are used as a market substitution for coffee.

Dandelion flowers (always a favorite in a child's bouquet) can be washed, separated and added to any light cookie recipe such as a sugar, shortbread, spritz, and even chocolate chip.

For the wine lover, dandelion wine is an old favorite. Dandelions also show up in the frying pan in many ways. You can take any dip and add garlic and chopped dandelion greens to it. Below is a favorite spring dip.

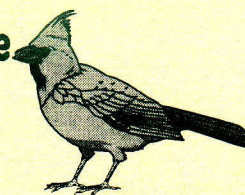
Dandelion Dip

½ cup of young dandelion leaves, chopped finely
½ cup of cottage cheese
½ tsp. salt
dash of pepper
1 tsp. chopped chives or onions
sesame seeds



Put dandelion leaves, cottage cheese, salt, pepper, and chopped chives or onions into a blender. Chill before serving. Blend with sesame seeds and serve with crackers or veggies.

One very old bird on site this year, all year



The cardinals are everywhere, everyone is celebrating, and the color is red. Have you read it yet? Greatly affected by a horrible scene she witnessed involving a beautiful red bird, hunters and guns, Gene put pen to paper and wrote her very first novel "Song of the Cardinal" 100 years ago. A wonderful story told from the heart about a pair of loving Kentucky Cardinals. Five different songs from the bird will come to live in this book which will bring enjoyment to both bird watchers and nature lovers of any age.

This brightly colored backyard songbird is the state bird for Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. Cardinals have beaks strong enough to crack tough seeds and open pine cones. The male is wrapped in scarlet robes with a headdress pointing to heaven. Through his black mask he sings what, what-cheer-cheer-cheer. Read "Song of the Cardinal" to see what songs Gene's bird sings.

Treasurer's Report

as of March, 2003

Operating Checking	\$ 4,376.68
Operating Savings	\$ 2,019.35
Program Savings	\$ 1,843.98
Land Aquisition	\$ 808.96
Operating CD #1	\$ 3,000.00
Operating CD #2	\$ 1,000.00
Operating Total	\$13,048.97
Gift Shop Checking	\$ 5,332.44
Gift Shop Cd1	\$ 5,000.00
Gift Shop Total	\$10,332.44
TOTAL FUNDS	\$23,381.41

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- ☐ Single \$ 10.00
- ☐ Family 15.00
- ☐ Sustaining 20.00
- ☐ Non-Profit Org. 25.00
- ☐ Business 25.00
- ☐ Life (40 yrs. of age or older)
- ☐ Single 100.00
- ☐ Husband & Wife 150.00



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P.O. Box 639
Rome City, IN 46784
(260) 854-3790

Name

Business or Organization Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Gene Stratton-Porter STATE HISTORIC SITE

Limberlost North, Rome City, Indiana

EVENTS 2003

Celebrating 100 years with Gene Stratton-Porter, 1903-2003. Gene's first novel, *The Song of the Cardinal*, was published in 1903.

SPRING FAMILY FUN DAY

May 3

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. activities; 9 a.m. bird watching; 1:30 p.m. wildflower walk.

FAMILY FISHING DAY

June 7

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. activities.

TEA PARTY AT THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

August 11

A traditional tea with refreshments and entertainment.

12 noon - 1:30 p.m. tours of Cabin and Gardens.

2 p.m. tea at the Carriage house. Program by "The Hat Lady." Jean Leakey. Music by Nancy Blough. Reservations required. Tickets on sale June 3, 2003.

Gene Stratton-Porter 140th Birthday Party

August 17

1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Activities for all ages. Cake and ice cream. Animals from the Black Pine Animal Park.

Fall Family Fun Night

October 11

1 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. activities and Nature CSI.

October Halloween Surprise

Activities and times to be announced.

Holiday Open House

Site decked out for the holidays. Storyteller, Lou Ann Homan. Music by Nancy Blough. Children's activities. Holiday refreshments.

Saturday, November 15, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Candlelight Walk, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Sunday, November 16, 12 noon - 5 p.m.

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