

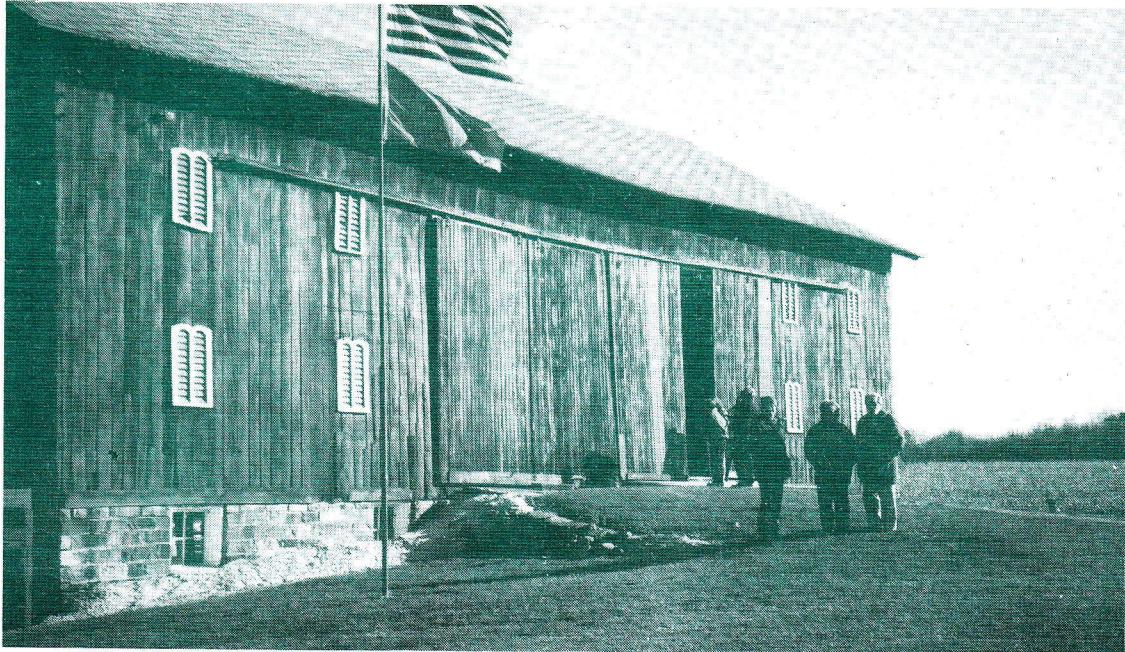
Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society, Inc.

Fall / Winter 2003-2004

P.O. Box 639 • Rome City, IN 46784



"Barn Again"



What do strange beauty secrets, bizarre festivals, chicken sayings, and duct tape have in common? Nothing! But you sure missed a great afternoon in November doing Noble County's 'Barn Again'. Our barn was one of four barns on the tour. We were host to 140 'barn people' who gave our barn quite a going over, asking many questions on the life and use of our barn. Well, what can we say...you just had to be there. So you don't miss other neat events at Gene Stratton-Porter, make sure you put all next year's events on your calendar.

In case you have never met our barn, she is about 113 years old with cedar siding, hand-cut beams, and 2" floor boards. One of the most outstanding things about the old girl is she has a finished Grain Room and I'm sure one of Indiana's first basketball hoops!!! During the summer she is home to barn swallows and bats, who do a great job of keeping all the insets in check. She is sporting a new coat of red paint and we are glad to have her as part of the Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site.

FOCUS ON THE STAFF

Robert "Bobby" Cox has been a gardener at Gene Stratton-Porter for five years under the Experienced Work Program. His roots go way back to when he was just a little spout. His mom had a garden and he remembers always liking plants. As a kid he worked in onions, apples, carrots, and mint to name only a few of his specialties. In 1954, he started working from one week before Easter until January 1st at Knolls Greenhouse and Floral Shop. He continued there for 8 years until he had to undergo cataract eye surgery. After his surgery he started a little greenhouse with a 70 x 22 frame covered with plastic. Then, he added a 12 x 70 section to it. Two years later, a new 15 x 40 structure appeared followed by a 20 x 40 salesroom. In the 60s, he got into composting. Around 1988 the owners of the IGA in Wolcottville convinced him to be a meat cutter. He worked in the meat department for 10 years.

Continued on page 2

Here at Gene Stratton-Porter, Bobby's favorite project is his butterfly garden. He believes when Gene was here the gardens must have been filled with butterflies. He has worked very hard to draw Monarchs into the garden. Milkweed is the only food source for Monarchs. He believes the more plants we have, the more we will draw moths, butterflies, and insects. This past summer, he planted four different varieties of milkweed to attract more Monarchs.



At home, Bobby says he has more to do than time to do it. He is establishing a butterfly garden, working on his Iris project, getting into ornamental grasses, has lots of annuals, and wants to get a herb garden going as well as more strawberries. Bobby also helps out at the Farm Store in Kendallville on weekends and as needed.

We are very lucky to have him at Gene Stratton-Porter with all his hands on knowledge and great love of plants. When visitors and children wander into the gardens with questions, Bobby is there! They get so much more than just answers - they get an education.



Robert "Bobby" Cox



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<input type="checkbox"/> Single	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Org.	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Life (40 yrs. of age or older)	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Husband & Wife	150.00

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

A good time was had by all! In the Carriage House visitors enjoyed a cup of hot, spiced cider and cookies while listening to our wonderful storyteller, Lou Ann Homan. A stop at the Garden Shed was a must to participate in the craft activities. The Cabin was filled with the melodious music of Nancy Blough and the aroma of bread baking in Gene's kitchen. Each guest was given a gift of a loaf of bread. Our own Father Christmas (Pat Bolman) could be seen making lists and giving out juicy apples. The evening candlelight walk was beautiful - an inspiring walk through Gene's woods to the Cabin. Approximately 750 guests joined the staff and volunteers in this joyful event.

Mark your calendars now for November 13 & 14, 2004, so that you do not miss all the fun.

**Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society, Inc.**

P.O. Box 639

Rome City, IN 46784

(260) 854-3790

www.genestratton-porter.com

Name _____

Business or Organization Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

The Fall Family Fun Night was very successful.
Well over 100 turned out to become nature CSI's.

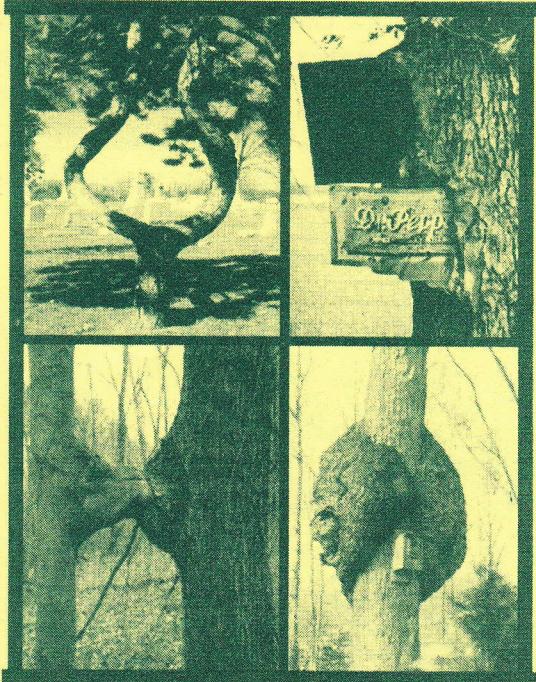
COLD CASE CLOSED - SPRING CRIME SOLVED

The staff at Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site couldn't do it alone. They had to get help. They called in the police, CSI supervisors, and many young and old CSI's to assist with the crime and the clues. Everyone worked hard and together the case was solved. It all started with a deer grazing under a hornet's nest one fine sunny Spring day near the picnic pavilion. Soon the deer was joined by a hungry friend. Suddenly, both animals shied away from their favorite clump of clover because they sensed snake scent on it. The deer wandered down to Porter's Spring for a drink of cool water and saw the sunshine glowing softly on the beautiful shells and dancing on the gentle waves out on Sylvan Lake. Walking along the shore line and passed Morning Face Bench, he enjoyed the wonderful chorus of chirps and songs coming from all the nesting birds. Now the plot thickens. The deer decided to wander through Laddie's Clearing (one of his favorite spots) and saw something interesting directly ahead of him - a chicken crossing the road.

Unexpectedly, a car appeared and swerved to avoid hitting the chicken but hit the deer standing in a blind spot along the edge of the road instead. No one knew a hiding wood chuck witnessed the whole scene. He refused to go into the protective witness program and later lost his head for seeing and knowing too much. Meanwhile, the chicken's near miss scared him to death and he took flight. He got tangled in a rope that was hanging from a tree in the woods and met his fateful end. The deer, hurt and failing, went off into the wood and fell to his death crushing an unlucky rabbit on his way down. The only question remaining - why was the chicken crossing the road? Of course, we all know the answer to that one - to get to the other side!



WANTED



WEIRD TREES

ARBOR DAY 2004

To celebrate Arbor Day 2004, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, is searching for Indiana's "weirdest" trees. Maybe the tree has almost completely swallowed a sign or other object; or maybe it has the most misshapen trunk you've ever seen. But for whatever reason, this tree just stands out as different! To enter, take at least two color photographs of the tree that captures its uniqueness. On the back of each photo, write your name, address, phone number, and specific location of the tree (including county). Send these non-returnable photographs to Sam Carman, Division of Forestry, 402 W. Washington, Rm. W296, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Digital photos, along with the above information, can be emailed to: scarmen@dnr.state.in.us. Indiana's district foresters will select the "weirdest" tree for each county, and these will be included in "Invasion of the Weird Trees" on the Division of Forestry's website. (To view the current "Invasion", go to:

www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/pdfs/invasion2002.pdf.

Adobe Acrobat Reader required to view.)

Entry Deadline ~ April 15, 2004

SAVING YOUR FAVORITE BOOKS



Most people have treasures and fond memories of fragile old books. Maybe even an original First Edition by Gene Stratton-Porter is in our collection. The number one rule is storing in a cool and dry place. Heat and humidity encourage mold. To rid mold, brush off with a camel hair brush. Place in the sun for one hour.

To mend tears, gently place edges back together with a needle. Then apply a small amount of wheat paste on tear. Place a blotter on both sides of the tear, weigh down and change blotter after 5 minutes. Do this again for another 5 minutes. Replace blotter with wax paper and leave between weights overnight.

If pages are dirty, dusty or greasy, brush off surface dirt with a soft brush. Then, gently clean with dry eraser powder or art gum eraser on stronger paper. An inside piece of soft white bread rolled into a soft ball can be used as a substitute for an eraser. This can be used on paintings also.

Stains from cellophane tape can be removed by applying a mixture of one part acetone, three parts alcohol, and three parts toluene, a solvent very carefully. When dusting the top of a book, keep the dust away from the spine. Avoid displaying your books in direct sunlight. Block ultraviolet light from fluorescent bulbs also. Store your books in an acid-free box to insure no more damage will occur from paper made from wood pulp. Always remove a book from the shelf to dust it. Try to push the book out a little. With the book jutting out slightly from the shelf, you'll be able to get a good grip on it with your whole hand. When dusting, hold the book very firmly, its spine upward, keeping it closed so dust does not seep into the pages. Then, gently dust the top of the leaves where the dust has settled. Have a brush to be used only for books. Never pack books together tightly. Crowding can damage bindings.

Tucked newspaper clippings into books can destroy pages it touches. The high acid content of newspapers will damage the pages. Also, pressed flowers will do the same.

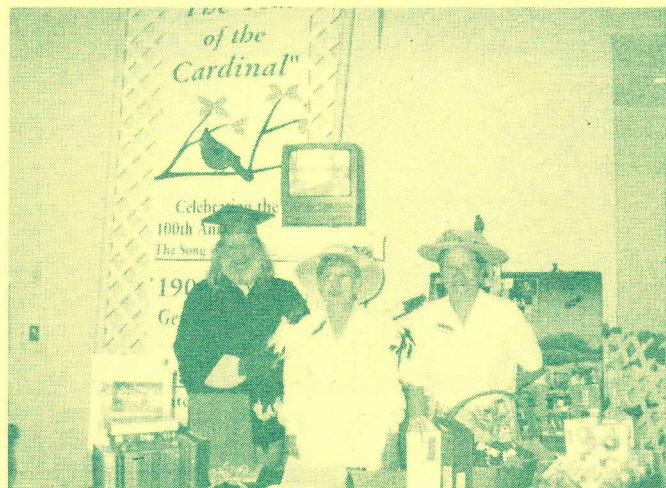
Be aware of the humidity and temperature levels in the room where your books are kept. High humidity leads to mold and mildew. Too little leads to brittleness. Ideal humidity is between 55 - 65%. Temperatures is between 60 and 70 degrees.

Do enjoy your books for years to come and pass them on to future generations.

THE EDUCATORS WORKSHOP

On Thursday, September 18th, Martha, Pat and Cheri loaded the van and headed to Indianapolis for the Educators Workshop. After setting up a booth with books, birds and give-aways, they were ready to meet and greet over 200 home school parents as well as public

and private school teachers. The purpose of the event was to be available to show and discuss how visiting our site would benefit the children. Notebooks filled with our programs and events, samples and projects showed how well our activities fulfill state standards in education. Pat, dressed as Professor Guano Bird, was a big hit and kept our booth one of the more active spots of the evening.



FOCUS ON THE BOARD

John Kessen
First Vice President

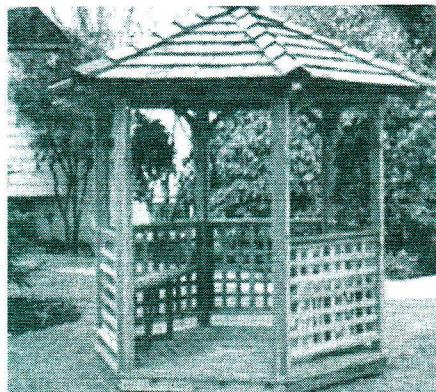


The board decided that it is time to do an article on our First Vice President, John Kessen. This is his third year on our board. John took an early retirement from the University of Saint Francis in December 2000 after spending thirty-five years in college business administration. His last position at the university was Vice President of Operations. In preparation for his varied business career, John attended International College and received an Associate BSC in Professional Accounting. He then attended Saint Francis College where he completed his AB in Business and MS in Education. Later, he attended the University of Omaha doing graduate work in Business Administration for Higher Education. During his business career he has served as an automatic pinsetter serviceman, owned a bowling alley, worked in Industrial Pricing, worked in a Trust Department, taught college, and served as chief business officer and vice president in higher education. In 1973 he earned the designation of real estate broker and today is utilizing his vast background as a broker/associate with Orizon Real Estate, Inc. in Kendallville. This is the job he has looked forward to doing for many years.

Over the years, he has done a lot of volunteer work. He has served as a committee member and presenter for the National Association of College and University Business Officers and as Treasurer and a member of the board, committee chairman and committee member for the Central Association of College and University Business Officers.

John has and does serve the Anthony Wayne Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He has served in a number of leadership positions including the position of District Commissioner for the Thunderbird District. John has served and does serve his church in many ways.

John and his wife Cheri have been married thirty-three years and have two children. They are both very happy to have made Sylvan Lake their permanent home. They have both been involved in the Gene Stratton-Porter site. John started when their son, Jonathan, did his Eagle Scout project at the site. He built Laddies Clearing. John and Cheri started the new volunteer group, the Porters, and John is responsible for boat tours in addition to his work for the board.



Heads up everybody! Wouldn't this gazebo look wonderful in the gardens? It would be placed in the formal gardens close to the large magnolia tree. You could sit and watch the birds, enjoy the gardens, read a book, or even take a nap. This gazebo kit costs \$2500.00 and the staff will put it together. Wouldn't you like to donate to this project? Any amount would be appreciated. Just send a check to the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society earmarked for the gazebo. It would be great to have this erected by Memorial Day. A big THANK YOU for every donation.

Gene Stratton-Porter STATE HISTORIC SITE

Limberlost North, Rome City, Indiana

EVENTS 2004

May 1 - Spring Family Fun Day

June 12 - Family Fishing Day

Aug. 9 - Tea Party at the Carriage House

Aug. 14 - 15 - Gene Stratton-Porter

Chautauqua Days

Oct. 9 - Fall Family Fun Night

Nov. 13 - 14 - Holiday Open House



The children had a fun-filled day
during the Educator's Workshop!

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