

Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society, Inc.

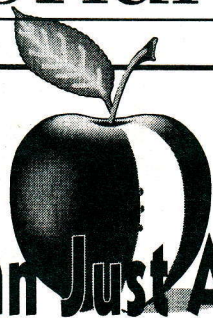
Spring 2003

P.O. Box 639 • Rome City, IN 46784



Summer
Apples;

More Than Just A Snack



The orchard at the Memorial was in full bloom this past Spring. The apple trees, especially, were beautiful.

Reach for an Apple article in Country Living magazine October, 2001, by Maggie Howe states "Autumn's most storied fruit shines as a symbol of health, beauty, longevity, and good fortune. Most everyone has heard the legend of John Chapman or Johnny Appleseed who trekked through the frontier in the late 19th century planting apple trees.

The apple is the most famous of all trees adorned by myth, says Ellen Hopman, a herbalist and author of Tree Medicine, Tree Magic. At a time in history when few sweets were available, apples were considered a delicacy and few people could imagine anything more beautiful than a land covered with apples.

There is evidence that eating apples helps keep the doctor away. They are rich in vitamins B and C, as well as magnesium, potassium and phosphates. Eating raw apples benefits the gums and liver and aids in digestion. Apple cider is an excellent tonic for the liver and kidneys, and drinking one cup of it three to four times a day rids the body of excess uric acid.

Emily Thacker's Vinegar Book states for healthy skin and hair, diluting apple cider with water makes a good skin toner. Fruit acids in the vinegar gently exfoliate the skin and helps protect against dryness and bacterial infection. Use as a hair rinse to restore a healthy shine to hair.

For longevity, combine one teaspoon apple cider vinegar with one teaspoon honey in a full glass of water and drink a half hour before meals. This aids in digestion, eases arthritis, and boosts memory.

For tired feet, wriggle your toes in warm, ankle-deep bath water to which 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar has been added.

To heal a sore throat, sip a syrup made of 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar, 1/2 cup water, one teaspoon cayenne pepper, and three tablespoons of honey.

To sooth bruises and sprains, soak a cloth in apple cider vinegar and apply to sore area for three to five minutes.

From the President...

Dear Friends and Members,

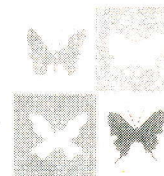
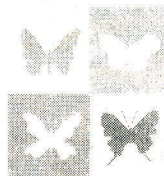


I am so excited about Gene Stratton-Porter's 140th birthday party. Starting with our float in the Saturday Chautauqua Parade featuring Gene and Charles right down to the birthday cake on the 17th - her actual birth date. The band and wild animals provided fun for all.

President Fran

Coming Attractions

It won't be long before the grounds are alive with young field trip visitors. Our guides will hit the trails and hopefully Bobby's Butterfly Garden will provide excitement as the children watch the monarchs inside and emerging from their chrysalis right here in the garden.



FOCUS ON OUR CULTURAL ADMINISTRATOR

When Margie Sweeney retired last year, the State was and is going through a budget crisis. As a result of the lack of funds at the State level, a decision was made that the position that Margie held would not be filled. That meant that Martha Schwartzlander, the Cultural Administrator, would be the acting head of the Gene Stratton-Porter Limberlost North Historic Site. Martha joined the part-time staff at the site in April 1984. She was looking for a place to work to earn some money while assisting her two boys go through college. She soon became enamored with the site and the people who worked at the site. Martha was happy to be able to use her college education in Consumer Affairs as part of her job at the site. When the opportunity for a new full-time position opened up in October 1984, there was no decision to make. She knew that she wanted to become the assistant to Margie. She and Margie did a lot of appearances to community groups in the evenings and on weekends to explain and complement Gene's writing and nature skills. They called themselves the Swamp Angels. In recent times, Martha likes to look at the progress that has been made in doing programs to serve the youth and families. The site now has four outside tour guides to work with school groups, seniors and other groups. During the year, the site also hosts periodic family funds days with the Society. The increased emphasis and ability to give tours, etc. is made possible through the use of volunteers. She has been involved in the forming of The Porters, which coordinates the volunteers at the site. One of the things that she would like to see take place while she is in charge, is the creation of an endowment program. Her husband, Guy, has been very active at the site as past president of the Society. He is the one who spearheaded the rebuilding of the Carriage House. Martha says she could not be near as effective at her job without the help of her dedicated staff, the Society and the Porters.



Martha Swartzlander



ALONG THE TRAIL

What do Charles Lindbergh, Martin Luther King, Amelia Earhart, Mark Twain, Lincoln, Chief Logan, Clara Barton, Patrick Henry, Lewis & Clark, and Gene Stratton-Porter have in common? You can visit a part of them all here at the Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site Heritage Tree Trail. This new trail which is along the outside of the corn and bean fields at the Sowers Farm is home to twelve historic trees and soon 12 Leopold benches for your comfort.



We are planning to get trees or shrubs from historic areas in Indiana in the next year or two to add to our national trees. It is a living trail for visitors to see and experience for years to come.

Just a post note: We are sending in a nomination of Gene's favorite tree, the chinkapin oak, as a national historic tree. Watch this space for more information!

OUR TREASURER

Judy Richter has served the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society as treasurer since 1985. She has also helped with many of the special programs and events at the site. Her interest in Gene was sparked early as she read many of her books as a youngster.



Judy Richter - Treasurer

Judy has been married 44 years to Robert (Bob) and has three children (2 daughters and 1 son), 7 living grandchildren (4 girls and 2 boys), and 1 deceased grandson. Her family is very important to her and as a result the family is very close. They worship together at St. John Lutheran Church, a very important part of their lives. Once a year the whole family takes a vacation together.

Along with her activities with the society, she is very interested in genealogy, having gotten many of her and her husband's family lines back to the 1500 and 1600s. This is a hobby that she has gotten her whole family involved in and now two grandchildren are doing their own genealogy, too.

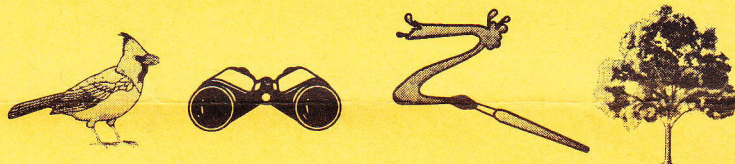
Judy belongs to many genealogy societies, serving as vice president of Noble County group and treasurer of the DeKalb group. She is also on the board of directors for the Noble County Historical Society and a member of the American Revolution, serving as treasurer of the Colonel Augustin de la Balme chapter.

When the children were young, Judy was a stay-at-home mom. After the children were all in school, she joined the work force and was employed at Autojectors, Inc., as an electrical technician for 32 years, having retired in 2001.

The Porters

WANTED

- Anyone who enjoys nature, children, people and, of course, Gene and her house and literature. Our wonderful group of volunteers, "PORTERS" is always willing to welcome a new helper. No set hours or minimum hour requirements. Volunteers work when they want, on projects they enjoy. Our special events needs lost of extra hands. Please think of offering yours.
- We are looking for interesting and newsworthy articles for this newsletter. If you have a favorite item, receipe or historial fact which would pertain to Gene, her time, her environment, etc., we would welcome previewing it for publication.



Saturday, August 9th, was another first at Gene Stratton-Porter. Seventy girl scouts along with thirty-five leaders and/or parents attended an all day program called "Wild Art Sampler Day." The girl scouts came from four different counties and were all levels - brownies, juniors, cadettes and seniors. The purpose of the day was to do activities which would count towards their badge work. Such activities included a study of Gene and her "The Song of the Cardinal", a lesson on birds, a walk through the grounds to study wildlife and nature with a camera and binoculars, a water color bird painting session, a little poetry, the making of a bird feeder, a bird house, and a bird hike.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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

Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society, Inc.

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

Name _____

Business or Organization Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Fall Family Fun Night

Saturday, October 11, 2003

One price for everything: \$6.00 Adults ~ \$3.00 child age 3 - 12

Become an investigator and work the
Gene Stratton-Porter nature crime scene.
Solve the mystery and win a prize!



Take a horse-drawn wagon ride
and a pontoon boat ride



sock hike

Kids - bring your home-grown pumpkins to our pumpkin contest.

Explore the grounds and gardens
Tour the cabin
Visit the gift shop



Learn about bats



Fun Crafts

Bonfire supper



WANTED



We are still searching for:

- blond human hair
- roller skate wheels
- glass eye droppers
- bird feathers
- thermometers
- Q-Tips
- Corks (all sizes)

- Old keys
- Snake skins
- Old chewing tobacco
- Crow's sweat gland
- Eye of a newt
- Ostrich egg
- Yellow leotards size ExL

THE CARRIAGE HOUSE VISITOR CENTER

Many of you remember when the Carriage House was rebuilt but in the past four years, since it's completion, the Society has added many new members and this information will bring them up to date.

A number of years ago at one of the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society Board meetings, the then Curator, Margie Sweeney, said that one of her dreams was to have the Carriage House, which burned down many years ago, rebuilt as a visitor center for the site. The Society and Site personnel searched records but no date of this fire could be found.

The Gene Stratton-Porter Board discussed the possibilities of rebuilding the Carriage House in many of its meetings but it was felt such an undertaking was more than the Society could handle. However, some Society members heard of the board's desire to rebuild the Carriage House and started sending in money designated for this project. At the March 15, 1993, board meeting, a separate account was established in the treasurer's books with \$200.00 as the initial entry. More designated monies were received so the board decided to investigate the possibilities of constructing a building..

At the May 1995 annual Society meeting Pat Bolman, the site naturalist, outlined financial plans for obtaining funds for rebuilding the Carriage House. The Society started work on the necessary papers and documents for permits, clearances, and a 501 (C) (3) non-profit status. They then applied for various grants.

Several log-building supplies were reviewed and at the May 13, 1997, board meeting, the Wilderness Log Homes in Wisconsin was selected to supply the material when the board felt enough money was in hand and it was positive the building could be built and paid for. The ground breaking took place on a dark, cold, rainy day in the spring of 1998. The building would be built over the foundation of the old Carriage House with a window in the new foundation to allow visitors to see a corner of the old foundation. By June, the footings were in place and the logs were on the site. work proceeded very slowly and it was soon realized that the hoped for dedication date of August 4, 1998, was impossible and it was rescheduled for May 1, 1999.

The Society had been corresponding with Gene's grandsons in California and they decided that this would be an ideal time to carry out their grandmother's wish to be buried near her favorite tree at Wildflower Woods. On April 22, 1999, Gene and her daughter, Jeannette, returned to Wildflower Woods. A beautiful mausoleum would be their final resting place under the branches of a chinkapin oak tree. It was decided to combine the dedication of the new building and a memorial service for Gene and Jeannette on May 1, 1999. In this way, the grandsons and their families could attend both events.

At the dedication of the Carriage House Visitor Center the building was given to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites debt free and in return the State agreed to maintain and man the building.

A total of \$338,119.49 was received for this project and upon completion with all expenses paid, the Carriage House Fund had a little less than \$100.00 as a balance. On the first floor of the Carriage House are an exhibit room with Porter memorabilia, the gift shop, site office and restrooms. The second floor has a large multipurpose room with additional exhibits, a kitchen, storage room, and rest rooms. A handicapped lift operates between the two floors and a ramp at the front of the building makes everything handicapped accessible. The visitor center has allowed for additional exhibits, for additional and expanded educational programs and has been a valuable asset to the Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site.

The impossible was accomplished by the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society, Inc., through the donations of society members, local businesses, grants from local organizations, memorial gifts, the State of Indiana, and many hours of work by both the dedicated historic site staff and the society members.

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.

Fall Family Fun Night

October 11

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

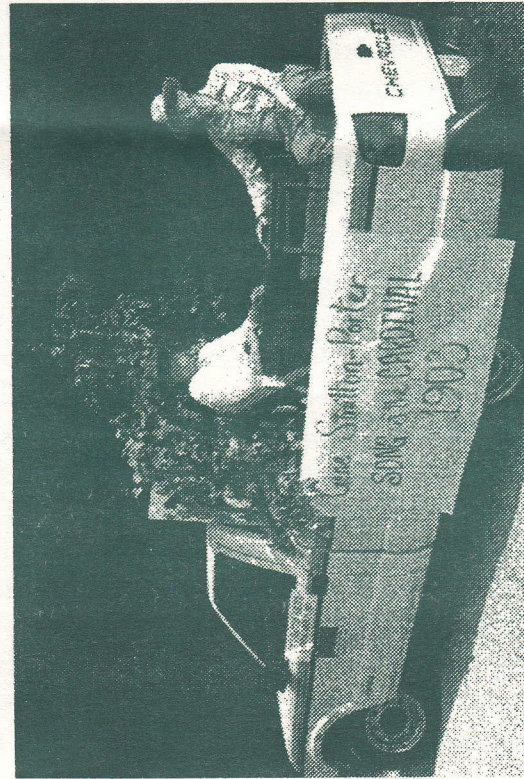
Holiday Open House

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.



GSP Memorial Society in the Chautauqua Days parade, Saturday, August 16, 2003. The float portrayed Gene & Charles.



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UNITED STATES



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