

My Favorite Place in Indiana

By: Ellen Osterman, Allisonville Elementary School

The expression on my face as we pulled into the parking lot was enough to tell my parents that I was overjoyed by the unexpected visit. It was more than just the setting in 2 of my favorite books, it was a real place. The 14-room Queen Anne rustic log cabin stole my heart almost immediately. Gene Stratton-Porter had done an extraordinary job on her cabin, in Limberlost swamp.

In the 1900's the swamp started getting destroyed by loggers and oil drillers. Seven years later people began to try to restore the swamp, and still are today.

During the tour we saw a music/sitting room, with an organ, violin, etc. The headboard in the bedroom was wooden and covered in woodland creatures. The wall paper was exquisite. Colorful, yet settle. There were several small holes in the low gray stone fence. They allowed the yard to be a safe haven for small animals. Her paint job was amazing, a rusty red with hints of green and white.

Originally the swamp was 13,000 acres, hardly half of that now. We still need help to save the Limberlost. That surprise trip is one I will always remember. The delicate beauty and the harsh reality of survival struck deep in my heart.