homes

FALL HOME style

C

Featured home of the week
See page 3

Ideas, Tips & Trends
•
See pages 4-7

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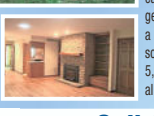
Tremendous value is found in this 5,500 sq. ft. ranch over a walkout basement on 5 gorgeous acres on Bloomington's South side! This 4 bed, 3.5 bath is in rock solid condition and has been extremely well cared for over the years. Super neat and clean w/ fresh paint this HUGE ranch is situated in an extremely private setting on a quiet country lane off Smithville Rd. in Poplar Estates. This wooded oasis is a fantastic location for easy highway access South or North. Highlights include a newer geothermal system, a wood furnace for auxiliary heat if needed, a wood burning fireplace, central vac system, a alarm system, solid surface counters, and it comes loaded w/ appliances! 5,500 sq. ft. on 5 private acres in a great location-that says it all, don't miss it! MLS#201921807



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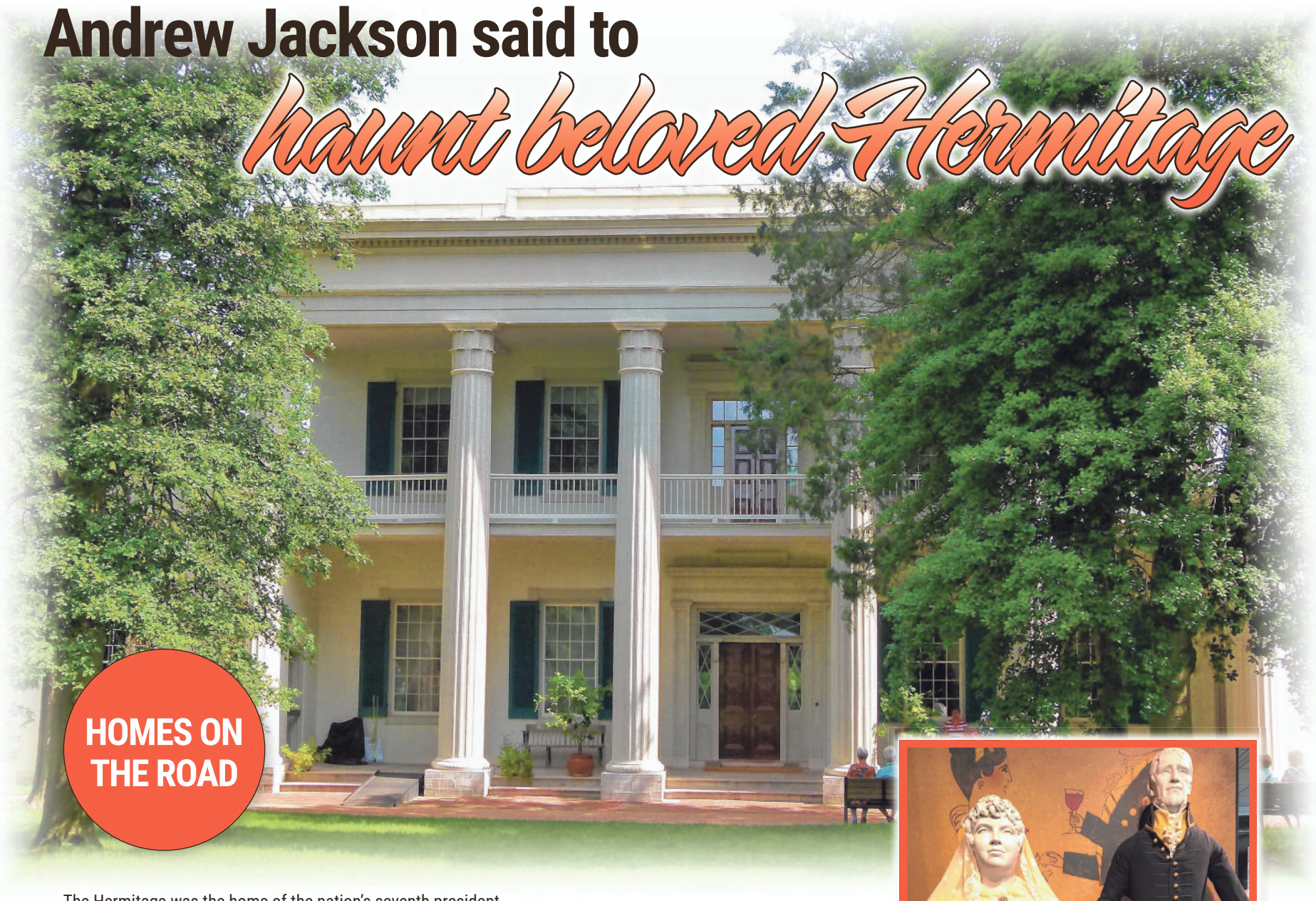
Andrew Jackson said to haunt beloved Hermitage



HOMES ON THE ROAD

The Hermitage was the home of the nation's seventh president.

Clothing once worn by Rachel and Andrew Jackson is exhibited at The Hermitage.

Story and photos by Jackie Sheckler Finch
JackieSFinch@gmail.com

Andrew Jackson loved his home so much that he chose to be buried there with his beloved wife Rachel. Some say that the man known as "Old Hickory" still keeps watch over his Nashville, Tennessee, plantation.

"Many people don't think that he has ever truly left," says Mike Zimmerman, interpretive manager for the Hermitage. "General Jackson has stayed around to watch over his home."

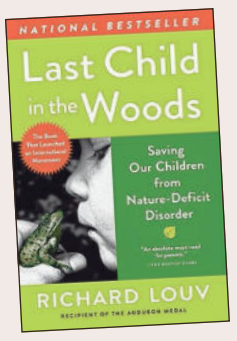
The Hermitage is preserved today almost as it was during the days of the man who became an American icon and the seventh US president. Built between 1819 and 1821, the home has almost all its original furnishings including the wallpaper, which dates to the early 1800s.

"No one but the Jacksons lived here. That's why we have so many family artifacts," Mike says. "If General Jackson were here with us, he would remember the home as it was the day when he left this world."

SEE HAUNT BELOVED HERMITAGE | PAGE C10

Natural Expressions

Endowing gardens-to-be



Richard Louv's bestseller has captured national attention. On Nov. 2 the author will address the Environmental Education Association of Indiana at McCormick's Creek State Park. (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill / Courtesy photo)

By Bob Baird
bbaird@alumni.iu.edu

'The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need.'
—Richard Louv, in his upcoming book, "Our Wild Calling: How Connecting with Animals Can Transform Our Lives—and Save Theirs"

Best-selling author Louv keeps churning out profound commentaries on our times as humans become increasingly insulated from nature at-large. The effects have become most pronounced, he says, among younger generations more prone to obesity, attention-deficit disorder, depression and suicide. His classic book "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder" is now gospel reading for educators and environmentalists trying to make a dent.

Yet, today's youngsters needn't be a Greta Thunberg, the Swedish 16-year-old climate-change activist, in order to discover the simple joys of nature through gardening and environmental exploration. Programs

SEE NATURAL EXPRESSIONS | PAGE C8

Students at Childs Elementary School release tagged monarch butterflies from the school observation deck overlooking their new rain garden. (Beth Smith / Courtesy photo)

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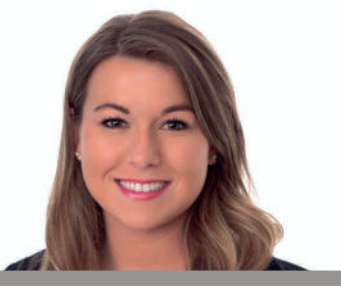

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Sixth-graders enjoy a fall nature day at Leonard Springs Nature Park. (Cathy Meyer / Courtesy photo)

Students plant trees along the outdoor track at Rogers and Binford Elementary Schools. (Shane Gibson, Sycamore Land Trust / Courtesy photo)

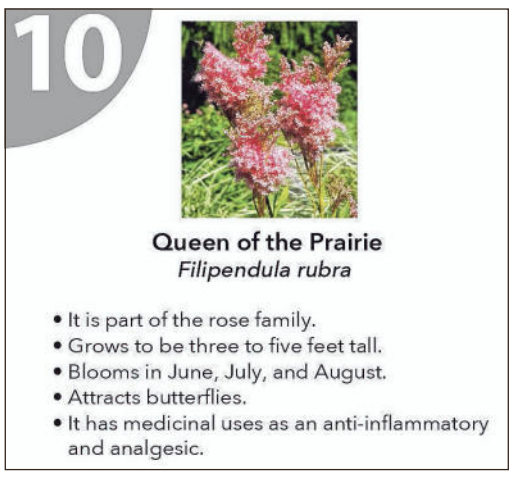
Celia Molotiu scoops out compost made from a worm-composting station at Childs Elementary. (Beth Smith / Courtesy photo)

NATURAL EXPRESSIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

funded by the Bloomington-based George E. Archer Foundation make these realities possible.

Success stories of all kinds, of kids getting their hands dirty in the outdoors are told by educators, parents and students themselves involved with programs in the eight-county area supported by the philanthropic organization. Named after a simple, solitary man who farmed, worked in a factory and gardened, living to the ripe old age of 100, the non-profit organization has an equally simple mission, taken from Archer's own words: "to help boys and girls learn about gardening."



A sign for a rain-garden native plant was prepared by Girl Scouts at Childs Elementary. (Beth Smith / Courtesy photo)

The Archer Foundation is successor to the former Hilltop Educational Foundation that was instrumental in fund-raising for the administration building at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center on the Indiana University campus, and funding the children's summer garden program founded there in 1948 by late IU botany professor Barbara Shalucha. After receiving a major endowment from Archer, the foundation changed its name in 2010 to reflect his simple mantra. One-half of his bequest went directly to Hilltop, underwriting new greenhouses; the other half funds a range of gardening and environmental activities in southcentral Indiana.

The foundation endows all manner of kid-focused gardens—naturalistic ones with emphasis upon native plants, pollinators such as butterflies and moths, and organic methods;

SEE NATURAL EXPRESSIONS | PAGE C9

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Students at Child Elementary School plant tomatoes in the school vegetable garden. (Beth Smith / Courtesy photo)

Two-year-old Alexandra Hawes, left, watches as 3 1 / 2-year-old Orion Mann shakes a tree during a nature hike. (Cathy Meyer / Courtesy photo)

NATURAL EXPRESSIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C9

raised and in-ground plots at schools and day-camps; and at Jackson Creek Middle School in Bloomington, legacy gardens dedicated to teacher Mary Harmer, who had been instrumental in planning their garden, but died before they were completed.

Other funded programs have included tree plantings; woodland restoration; gardening and nutritional endeavors through food banks and Head Start programs; college internships, scholarships and educator workshops; the Cummins Child Development Center in Columbus; and partnership with the WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology, where major changes are underway to the display garden.

Perhaps the most ambitious undertakings have been at Childs Elementary School, spearheaded by self-proclaimed "experimental gardener" Ellee Spier, where parents, students, teachers, volunteers and the business community turned out in collective stewardship. Vegetable plots and worm-composting operations led to installation of an 800-sq-ft rain garden, prefaced by weekends of community-wide installation of underground drainage pipes beneath the school playground eroded by stormwater.

After enlisting her father-in-law Ron, a retired surgeon, into concocting a home worm-composting set-up, she approached school officals with the same idea. Her children Austin and Orlee had asked why so many food scraps went to waste at the school cafeteria, so she received the go-ahead to apply for funds to install a 12-bin system. Ellee enlisted the help of 20+ local companies who offered construction equipment, plumbing supplies and in-kind contributions, and recruited hands-on assistance from parents, neighbors, Master Gardener volunteers and high school students. On a "learning day" in May of last year 22 classrooms in succession planted the rain garden with black-eyed Susans, milkweed, lobelia, goldenrod and prairie dropseed.

This past May students at Rogers and Binford Elementary Schools helped plant five trees along the school track, collaborating with

SEE NATURAL EXPRESSIONS | PAGE C15

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A cafeteria worker feeds food scraps into worm-composters at Childs Elementary. (Beth Smith / Courtesy photo)

NATURAL EXPRESSIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C9

A class at Fayettesville Elementary School outside Bedford prepares raised beds. (George E. Archer Foundation / Courtesy photo)

Sycamore Land Trust. Second-grade teacher Cindy Creek was impressed how students researched specific trees, such as tulip poplar, dogwood and redbud, and created artwork that will be included on tree signage.

Author Louv paints sobering appraisals of how, "for a new generation, nature is more abstraction than reality." Too often, he says, "nature has become something to watch, consume, wear—or ignore." Yet, he remains hopeful that "thoughtful exposure to nature" through innovative programs can offer therapy to children with attention-deficit-disorder and other disabilities, and for many others, "heal the broken bond between our young and nature."

Local educators echo these sentiments. During hikes and environmental activities, Monroe County naturalist Cathy Meyer enjoys seeing youthful reactions—from her two-year-old granddaughter Alexandra responding to animals; high-school biology students catching aquatic life along Griffy Creek; and sixth-graders looking at red-headed woodpeckers through binoculars at Leonard Springs Nature Park. "Wow! I see it! I never saw one before," she quotes them as saying.

Landscape designer Bob Baird can be reached at bbaird@alumni.iu.edu.

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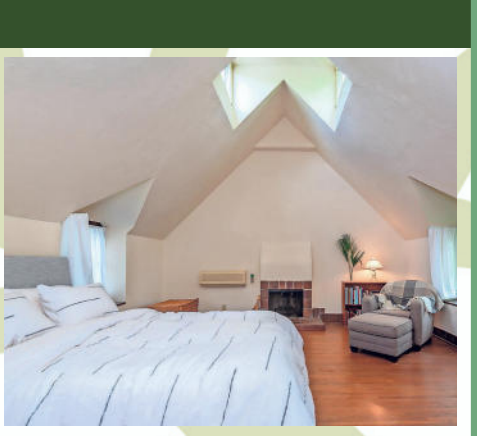

Historic "Merrill House" is one of the most unique homes in Monroe County, designed by one of America's renowned architects. In 1928, the founding dean of IU's School of Music commissioned NY-based Beaux-Arts architect Ernest Flagg to design a limestone house; the result was a remarkable 3000-sq-ft residence that comforts and inspires those within its 16-inch thick walls. The expansive great room, with red oak beams supporting a cathedral ceiling filled with dormer sky light windows, is at once a grand entertainment space and an intimate family room. Flagg's use of Greek proportions creates superior acoustic properties. A beautiful bronze, copper, and brass fireplace hood radiates a warm intimacy from one end of the room; at the opposite end is a spacious dining area under a hand-wrought candelabra. The updated kitchen (2006) tempts chefs and guests alike with its cheerful enameled, imported Lacanche range (five gas burners, separate gas and electric ovens). Three bedrooms and two baths are on the main level; one bedroom with an external entrance is currently used as an office (with custom-made red-oak dual desk and bookshelves), another features an inviting fireplace. The second story is a private master suite: a large bedroom with vaulted ceiling and dormer skylights, fireplace, closets, cedar storage closet, roof access door, and bath. Perhaps most wonderful of all -- the house is built around an utterly private, central court yard and garden, visible only from most rooms in the house. Gazing up at the recently restored (2013) Vermont slate and copper roof and turret, this calm oasis offers a distinctly Old World ambiance. This one-of-a-kind home is located at the top of the Vinegar Hill historic district neighborhood, on a .26 acre lot, with a fenced back yard, within walking distance of Indiana University, Bryan Park, downtown Bloomington, restaurants, schools.
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