



For media inquiries, please contact press@laurapalooza.com. For questions about the conference, write beyondlittlehouse@gmail.com.

You can learn more about LauraPalooza at www.laurapalooza.com, or visit us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter @LIWLegacy](#) or on the [Beyond Little House blog](#).

About the Laura Ingalls Wilder Legacy & Research Association

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Legacy & Research Association (LIWLRA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of Laura Ingalls Wilder through research, events, awareness, and unwavering support for the museums and sites across the country that honor her, her family, and her series of Little House books.

About LauraPalooza

LauraPalooza is the only academic and fan gathering of its kind, celebrating the literary, historical, and cultural impact of Laura Ingalls Wilder, Rose Wilder Lane, and their families. It was first held in 2010 in Mankato, Minnesota, where it won the Greater Mankato Convention and Visitors Bureau's Bring It Home Award. It returned to Mankato in 2012. The third LauraPalooza conference, [Through Laura's Eyes: Imagery, Illustrations, and Impressions from the Little House](#), will take place July 16-17, 2015 at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota.

LauraPalooza 2015 is sponsored by the Laura Ingalls Wilder Legacy and Research Association. Co-chairs are Sarah S. Uthoff, LIWLRA president, and Barbara Mayes Boustead, LIWLRA board member.

Barb Mayes Boustead's childhood interest in both weather and Little House has culminated in her being the biggest Little House fan who also happens to be a meteorologist. Born in Michigan and now based in Omaha, Nebraska, she has turned Little House weather into her special field of study (complete with her blog, Wilder Weather) and has presented at the last two LauraPalooza conferences.

Sarah S. Uthoff is a widely respected authority on Laura Ingalls Wilder who has been visiting Laura's homesites in the Midwest on a regular basis since 1983. Much in demand as a speaker on Laura and other topics, Sarah has presented at several of the homesites, spoke at the last two LauraPalooza conferences, and hosts a Laura Ingalls Wilder-themed podcast. Based in Iowa, Sarah is a reference librarian in Cedar Rapids.

LauraPalooza In The News

Print

LauraPalooza is mentioned in [this Associated Press story about *Pioneer Girl*](#), printed in newspapers across the country, including the New York Times.

[The Chicago Tribune recounts LauraPalooza 2012.](#)

[Mankato Free Press](#) interviews attendees at LauraPalooza 2010

[LauraPalooza!](#) Fans and scholars of Laura Ingalls Wilder will gather in Mankato this summer to study all things Half-Pint

[Minneapolis Star Tribune, 2.7.10](#)

TV

[A Minnesota TV spot features LauraPalooza 2010.](#)

[PBS NewsHour](#) talks to *Pioneer Girl* editor Pamela Smith Hill in December 2014.

Radio

LIWLRA board member Connie Neumann joins Dean Butler, Karen Grassle, and Pamela Smith Hill [on WUBR's *On Point* radio show.](#)

Co-chair of LauraPalooza 2015, meteorologist Barb Boustead, [talks to Michigan Public Radio](#) about weather around the little houses.

Blogs

The Wilder Life author Wendy McClure [recounts LauraPalooza 2010.](#)

[Even people who can't attend the conference talk about it.](#)

The Heroine's Bookshelf author, Erin Blakemore, [shares 5 things she learned at LauraPalooza 2010.](#)

[They're Wild for Ingalls-Wilder at LauraPalooza .](#)

['LauraPalooza' coming to the big city .](#)

Past Conferences

LauraPalooza 2012: What Would Laura Do?

Photos [here](#)

July 12-14, 2012 in Mankato, Minnesota

Laura Ingalls Wilder Legacy Award presented to Barbara Walker and Shirley Knakmuhs. Featured guests included LIW biographer William Anderson, William, Alison "Nellie Oleson" Arngrim, The Wilder Life author Wendy McClure, Dean "Almanzo Wilder" Butler, and Dale Cockrell of Pa's Fiddle Recordings.

LauraPalooza 2010: Legacies

Photos [here](#)

July 15-17, 2010 in Mankato, Minnesota

Laura Ingalls Wilder Legacy Award presented to LIW biographer William Anderson. Featured guests included Anderson, *Becoming Laura Ingalls Wilder* and *Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little Town* author John Miller, *Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Writer's Life* author Pamela Smith Hill, best-selling novelist Wendy Corsi Staub, and Dean "Almanzo Wilder" Butler and his documentary, *Life Before Laura*.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is LauraPalooza?

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Who else does conferences like this?

Nobody. That's why we started it.

Who runs the conference?

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Legacy and Research Association and its volunteers. For LauraPalooza 2015, co-chairs are Barb Mayes Boustead and Sarah Uthoff.

Is the conference always in the same place?

No. The first two (2010, 2012) were in Mankato, Minnesota, and the third (2015) moved to Brookings, South Dakota.

How often does LauraPalooza happen?

There was a three-year gap between the second and third conferences, but from now on it will happen every two years.

What's with that weird name?

The conference combines academic and research-oriented topics with hands-on activities and sociable. "LauraPalooza" captures the festive atmosphere of this group of scholars and enthusiasts.