



Little Houses, Mighty Legacy: Celebrating 150 Years of Laura Ingalls Wilder

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 took place in 2015 in Brookings, South Dakota and the fourth LauraPalooza, [Little Houses, Mighty Legacy: Celebrating 150 Years of Laura Ingalls Wilder](#) will take place July 12-14, 2017 at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield, MO.



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LauraPalooza 2017 is sponsored by the Laura Ingalls Wilder Legacy and Research Association. Co-chairs are Barb Mayes Boustead, LIWLRA president, and Karen Pearce, LIWLRA treasurer.

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 three LauraPalooza conferences.

Karen Pearce's love of all things Laura began as a child watching reruns of the television show in the 1980s. This led to a love of the books a few years later, and a deep interest in the real life of Laura Ingalls Wilder. While always a fan, Karen's interest and excitement for LIW skyrocketed in 2011 when she discovered the Beyond Little House website, the LIWRA and a community of other LIW enthusiasts. During the summer of 2012, Karen visited several of the homesites in addition to attending Laurapalooza 2012. Karen is a professional musician and maintains a large studio of clarinet students in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. She also plays the hammered dulcimer recreationally, which adds another dimension to her love of all things rustic and pioneer.

LauraPalooza In The News

Print and TV

[The New York Times' 2017 Anniversary Calendar](#) mentions LauraPalooza



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2017

The [Washington Post](#) talks about LauraPalooza 2017 in its 150th anniversary roundup

A story on the science of Little House in [Smithsonian](#) mentions LauraPalooza

[Towson University](#) features frequent LauraPalooza presenter [Ann Weller Dahl](#)

Argus Leader in South Dakota [previews](#) and [reviews](#) LauraPalooza 2015

[Report from Keloland TV in South Dakota on LauraPalooza 2015](#)

[Report on LauraPalooza 2015 from KSFY in Sioux Falls, South Dakota](#)

[KDLT, the NBC affiliate in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, reports on LauraPalooza 2015](#)

[Watertown, South Dakota Public Opinion previews LauraPalooza 2015](#)

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



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[Minneapolis Star Tribune, 2.7.10](#)

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

Radio

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

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

[Posts mentioning LauraPalooza in Pamela Smith Hill's blog of the Pioneer Project](#)

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](#)



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[‘LauraPalooza’ coming to the big city](#)

Past Conferences

[coming up] LauraPalooza 2017: Little Houses, Mighty Legacy

July 12-14, 2017, in Springfield, Missouri

Laura Ingalls Wilder Legacy Award presented to Jean Coday. Featured guests included LIW biographer William Anderson leading panels of citizens and acquaintances of the Wilder family in Mansfield, Friendly Family LLC CEO Trip Friendly, *Libertarians on the Prairie* author Christine Woodside, *Pioneer Girl* editor Pamela Smith Hill, *Library of America* collection editor Caroline Fraser, horticulturalist author Marta McDowell, and several recurring fan favorites. The conference concluded with a guided tour of sites around Mansfield, MO.

LauraPalooza 2015: Through Laura's Eyes

Photos [here](#)

July 16-18, 2015, in Brookings, South Dakota

Laura Ingalls Wilder Legacy Award presented to biographer John Miller of Brookings, South Dakota, and Sally House of New York. Featured guests included LIW biographer William Anderson, *Pioneer Girl* editor Pamela Smith Hill, author Melanie Fishbane, Dr. Beth Tarini, Japanese translator Yumiko Tamiguchi, and a lively panel that included author Erin Blakemore,



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author Sandra Hume, and Eddie Higgins. The conference concluded with a guided tour of sites around De Smet, South Dakota.

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, Alison “Nellie Oleson” Arnglim, *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, *Almanzo Wilder: Life Before Laura*.

Frequently Asked Questions



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What is 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, was held July 16-17, 2015 at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota.

The next LauraPalooza conference will be held 12-14 July 2017 at University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, Missouri, with the theme: *Little Houses, Mighty Legacy: Celebrating 150 Years of Laura Ingalls Wilder*.

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 2017, co-chairs are Barb Mayes Boustead and Karen Pearce.

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. The next conference will be 12-14 July 2017, in Springfield, Missouri.

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.



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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.