



Educational Farm & Nature Preserve

Legacy Series

An ongoing series of articles recounting the history of the Stratford Ecological Center and the Warner family

Legacy Series: Part 7 August, 2011

Continuing with the story of Gale Warner's Delaware County roots...

Gale's childhood:

Gale Lynne Warner, named after her grandfather Galen, was born on June 7, 1960, in Columbus, OH. She was a joyful child, curious, and always engaged with Nature. In 1966, the family (parents Drs. Louise and Jack Warner, brother David, and Gale) moved to a country home on prime farmland in Pickaway County, Ohio. Gale's favorite place was a glade in the 8-acre woods behind the house. There, she would sit on a fallen log amid woodland wildflowers (and poison ivy) and write in her journal. She always had a special cat named Karen (there were several); one would even accompany her (albeit reluctantly) while she floated on the backyard pond in a tiny boat.

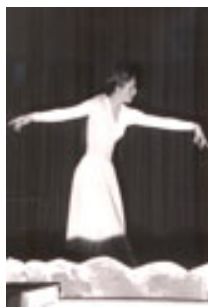
Her love of Nature was fostered by several extended camping trips led by her Mom's cousin, who had no children of her own: cousin Doris and husband, Bill, borrowed Gale, David, and their cousin Kirk, to tour the West on several occasions. What a wonderful gift for a child! All became seasoned campers and birders, and Gale revisited her favorite western wilderness areas as an adult. Two Warner family trips abroad – one to Africa when Gale was 11, and another to New Zealand and Australia at age 14 – awakened her global appreciation of biological and cultural diversity.

Gale was born to dance. She never stopped. She was also an accomplished musician, drawing crowds at high school music competitions with her flute and piccolo renditions. During high school at Teays Valley in Ashville, OH, she lettered 4 years in Track and Field, was head majorette 2 years, choreographed the musical *Brigadoon* and played the lead dancing role. She served on her school's *In the Know* team for 4 years. For her senior project, Gale cataloged (by listing and photographing) the flora and fauna of the newly designated State Nature Preserve in Pickaway County, Stage's Pond.

As a graduating senior, Gale was named 1978 Ohio Presidential Scholar – one of 121 American students chosen to represent their states at a White House Rose Garden ceremony with President Carter presiding. Her love for the West and the outdoors drew her to Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA, where she planned to major in biological sciences, and to further develop her skills in journalism and photography.



Gale Warner



Stratford Ecological Center

3083 Liberty Road • Delaware • Ohio • 43015

740-363-2548 • stratfordcenter@aol.com • www.stratfordecologicalcenter.org