

Julie Frances Miller is the coordinator for the annual Wayside Cabin Activities, held at the Little House Wayside (7 miles north of Pepin on County CC). She has been a volunteer at the cabin for Laura Days since 2012.

Julie's love of all things Laura Ingalls Wilder started when she began reading the Little House books in the third grade. There are many similarities to the books and her life, as she grew up on a Century Farm near Gowrie, Iowa (in northwest Iowa). Her farm included 2½ acres of real prairie, as well as the words "The Homestead" prominently displayed on the brick barn.

As a former first and second grade teacher, Julie has always had a love of working with children. She takes great pleasure in sparking people's interest in Laura Ingalls Wilder and pioneer life. Julie gives presentations in libraries and schools in central Iowa for children and adults. Since 2013, she has also facilitated activities for children at the Laura Days festival in Burr Oak, Iowa. In June of 2016, she was honored to give a presentation at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum about growing up on a Century Farm and the similarities to Laura Ingalls Wilder (the presentation can be viewed at the "HooverPresLib" channel on YouTube). Julie also gave a shorter version of this same presentation in July 2015 at "LauraPalooza," a research and fan-based conference for adults about Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Currently, Julie is a private piano teacher at her home in Polk City, Iowa (just north of Des Moines) and lives with her husband, Mike, and their son, Luke. Her hobbies include playing the piano, making miniature quilts, volunteering at her son's school, and reading about the Ingalls and Wilder families.

Visitors to the "Little House in the Big Woods" during Laura Days can see the cabin decorated with quilts and period items, hear a story and play a game while learning the names of quilt blocks, make their own 9 Patch quilt design, learn to hand-sew squares of fabric together to make a quilt block, play with pioneer toys, and listen to music from the late 1800's. Hours for the cabin activities will be Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 11-4.



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