



Visitor Guide

Limeledge Botanical Garden and Arboretum

Welcome to Limeledge!

Located on a historic farmstead in Elbridge, New York, Limeledge is a public botanical garden and ecological restoration site in its early stages of development. We are excited to share our progress with you as we work to create a one-of-a-kind destination for conservation, education, and native plant stewardship.

What to Expect When You Visit

Limeledge is a Rough, Rustic Property

Visitors should expect a mix of scenic landscapes, early-phase plantings, and ongoing restoration. Much of the property remains in its natural or semi-natural state, including unmowed fields, rocky terrain, and areas with historic debris. Limeledge is not the type of botanical garden that is intended to look like a golf course.

- **Our plant collections are in their infancy.** Many woody plants are small saplings housed in steel cages, marked with stakes and flags.
- With the exception of the Brookside entrance area, most of the grassy areas are **unmowed or only mowed twice a year** to preserve wildlife habitat, including the Cook Lot.
- The **Cook Lot**, our main arboretum "tree lawn," features tall grasses and selectively mowed paths.

Our Ethos: Open, Wild, and Welcoming

At Limeledge, we believe that access to nature, beauty, and education should never come with a price tag. That's why visiting the gardens and trails is always free of charge. Whether you're here to learn, reflect, explore, or just breathe a little deeper, we welcome you—no ticket required.

Important Visitor Guidelines

1. Hours of Operation

- **Open daily from dawn to dusk, May 1 through October 31.**
- Closed during the off-season for maintenance and safety.

2. Motor Vehicles are Limited to Parking Areas

- Please do not go past the parking areas (see map). This will make for a safer environment for our visitors while also protecting the structural integrity of our trails.

3. No Bicycles or E-Bikes, Please



- To ensure a safe and peaceful experience for all visitors—and to protect sensitive trails and plantings—bicycles and e-bikes are not permitted on Limeledge grounds. We appreciate your understanding as we work to make Limeledge a welcoming space for walkers, families, and nature lovers of all ages.

4. Stay on Trails

- Please remain on **marked trails and paths** at all times.
- Terrain and the trails themselves can be **uneven, rocky, or overgrown** in places. Sometimes all three!
- Many woodland areas contain **sensitive understory plants** that are easily damaged by foot traffic.

5. Pets

- Pets are welcome, but must be **leashed at all times** in accordance with New York State leash laws.
- Leashes should not exceed 6 feet in length.
- **Pet waste must be removed** and properly disposed of. Please be respectful of other visitors and the environment.

5. Farmland and Crops

- Over **100 acres remain in agricultural use**. Limeledge is still a working farm.
- **Do not enter crop fields**, even if they appear unoccupied.
- **Do not damage, disturb, or interfere** with crops, machinery, or farm equipment.

6. Quarry Area

- The historic **farm quarry** is a key feature of Limeledge. It will soon host rare and unusual plants.
- Please enjoy this area using **designated paths only**.
- **Do not climb** on rock piles, overburden debris, or the quarry sidewall. These areas may be unstable and are being restored.

7. Caution and Construction Areas

- Barns and structures on site are **currently closed to the public** pending renovation.
- Areas marked with **caution tape or signage** are off-limits for safety reasons. **Do not remove, cross, or tamper** with marked barriers.

8. GNP Production Zones

- Some areas are used by **Go Native! Perennials (GNP)** for propagation and seed production.
- These zones are **restricted to staff and partners**. Please respect all signage and fencing in these areas.

9. Natural Hazards

- **Poison-ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) is abundant** throughout the property. Stay on trails and be mindful of vegetation. **Note** that staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) is also



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BOTANICAL GARDEN AND ARBORETUM

For every plant a place.

common but is completely **non-toxic** and harmless except to rare individuals that may have a specific allergy to that species.

- **Old machinery, tires, and debris** are still present in limited areas. Do not touch or approach them—removal is ongoing.

10. Stewardship and Conduct

- **Leave no trace.** Pack out all trash, belongings, and pet waste.
- **Do not pick or collect** any plants, seeds, or rocks. Limeledge is willing to use our plants to propagate and share whenever possible, but make sure you ask!
- **Respect wildlife** and avoid disturbing nests, burrows, or animals.
- **Smoking, vaping, alcohol, and controlled substances are prohibited.**
- Motorized vehicles, drones, and amplified sound devices are **not permitted** without prior approval.
- Children must be **supervised at all times**.

Additional Notes

Ticks and Insects

- Please check yourself and pets for **ticks** after walking through grassy or wooded areas. The high grass in many areas at Limeledge are ideal tick habitat, especially with the large population of white-tailed deer.
- Insect repellent and appropriate clothing are encouraged.

Group Visits & Photography

- Large group visits, educational programs, weddings, and photography sessions must be **scheduled in advance**.
- Commercial or professional photography requires **prior permission**.

Want to Get Involved?

Interested in volunteering or supporting Limeledge?

Visit our website to learn more about upcoming **volunteer days**, **educational events**, and ways to **donate** to support our mission.

Thank You for Visiting

Your respect for our guidelines helps protect the plants, animals, and restoration projects that make Limeledge special. Thank you for joining us in building a vibrant, welcoming, and ecologically rich future.

Questions? Comments?

Visit www.limeledge.org or contact us directly via arboretum@limeledge.org