

THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

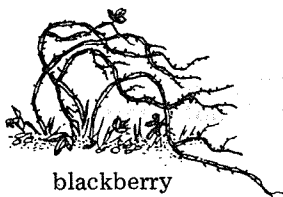
AUTUMN 1978

WHAT TO LOOK FOR — REDS

The Prairie Path continues to be a colorful place in autumn and winter, even though the leaves have fallen. Scout troops play a game in which teams choose different colors. Then they go on a hike, making lists of everything they see that is their team's color. We chose red.

These are a few of the items on our list:

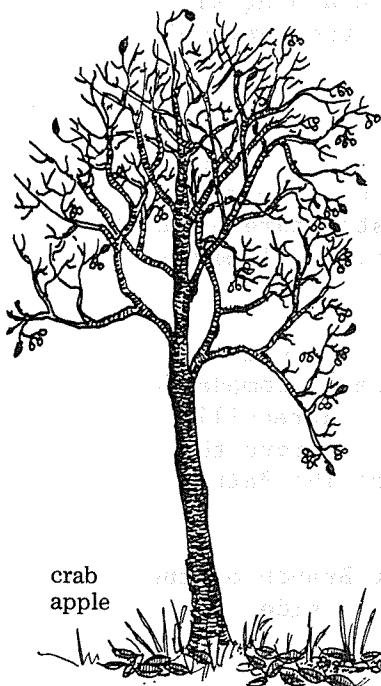
- the long thorny tangles of purple-red blackberry canes, *rubus fruticosus*.
- the dark red fuzzy berries of the staghorn sumac, *rus typhina*.
- the brown-red wrinkled crabapples, *malus hopi*, some of which hang on 'till spring when they are the favorite fermented food of returning robins and cedar waxwings.
- the viridian red of young red osier dogwood, *cornus stolonifera*, with its opposite branches.
- the tiny pink-red stems of the ends of the branches of grey dogwood, *cornus racemosa*, after the birds have eaten the white berries.
- the scarlet red of the strong smelling berries of the high-bush cranberry, *viburnum trilobum*.
- the true red of the haws of the thorny hawthorn trees, *crataegus mollis*, still clinging to the rough branches.
- and the brilliant cardinal who stays to brighten our winter.



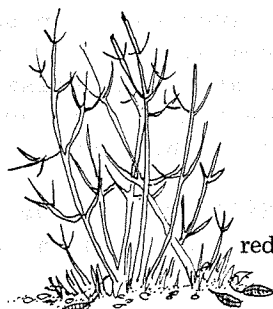
blackberry



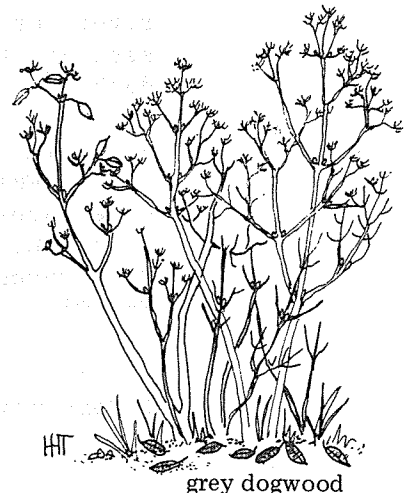
staghorn
sumac



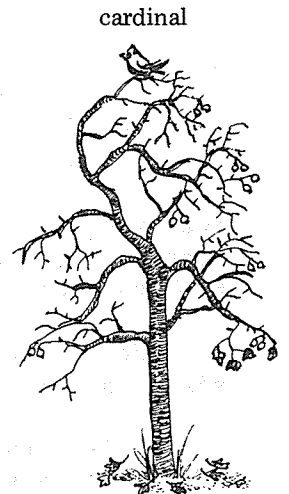
crab
apple



red osier dogwood

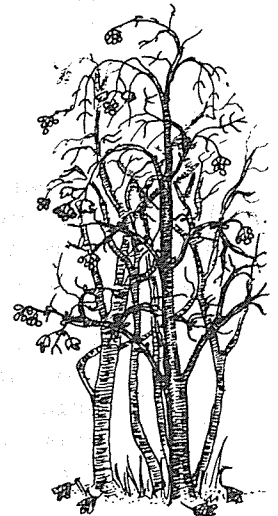


grey dogwood



cardinal

hawthorn



highbush cranberry

ANNUAL MEETING

The day of the Annual Meeting was unusually fine. So fine, in fact, it was almost a disaster for the meeting. All who entered the Arboretum from Route 53 found themselves in a creeping line of traffic. Hundreds who had come to admire the last of the fall color loitered along the roadways almost bumper to bumper. At least one Board member didn't make the meeting. There may have been others. With only seconds to spare Paul Mooring, Path president, arrived wearing the expression of a man whose patience had been sorely tried. Those waiting for him sighed with relief. Mooring had the slides, a vital part of the day's program.

The meeting did get underway. Mooring conducted a brief business meeting that included re-election of five Board members to serve another term. They were: Donna Albue, Lombard; Lillian Lasch, Morton Grove; Ray Nelson, Wheaton; Keith Olson, Elmhurst; and Louise Headen, Wheaton.

Jerry Glenn, Prairie Path vice-president, reviewed the Prairie Path progress since the signing of the lease with the County in 1966. Dates of special note were:

- 1971 the Path was honored by United States Secretary of the Interior who designated it as a "Recreation Trail of the National Trail System".
- 1972 the Kane County segments of the C A & E right-of-way were acquired by the Illinois Department of Conservation and leased to the Forest Preserve commission for use and development as an extension of the Prairie Path.
- 1976 the Prairie Path was one of 200 projects in the United States chosen to participate in Horizons on Display, a Bicentennial program of HUD and the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. The Horizons program highlighted achievements that represented successful efforts to deal with community needs.
- 1976 a foot-bridge was built over the West Branch of the DuPage river made possible by a generous response to a fund raising program. This bridge was an important safety measure and qualified the remaining six miles on the southwest branch of the Path for inclusion in the National Trails System.
- 1978 in review:

An all metal bridge was erected over the East Branch of the DuPage river replacing the several times vandalized wooden structure. Added security was provided by a 3/8 inch, diamond embossed, steel plate decking.

Surfacing of the Path with limestone screenings from Winfield Rd. to the West Branch of the DuPage river has been partially completed. Other areas to be improved are from Williams Rd. near Warrenville to the E.J. and E. tracks. Funds are being raised to improve the Path through Warrenville by the Warrenville Friends of The Path. The City of Warrenville will provide the labor.

A serious drainage problem from Hill Ave. to the East Branch of the DuPage river has been corrected. Ditching along either side of the

Path and crowning of the Path itself will, hopefully, prevent erosion of the Path. The Forest Preserve and the County Highway Department will cooperate on laying the limestone screenings.

The Great Western right-of-way, paralleling the Prairie Path in Elmhurst, has been converted to a linear park. Benches have been installed providing Prairie Path users a pleasant place to rest.

In Lombard and Elmhurst curbs have been cut down at Prairie Path intersections.

The City of Wheaton has widened and renewed the Path surface throughout Wheaton. Where a water pipe was installed under the Path making removal of vegetation necessary shrubs and trees will be replaced.

Slides were shown depicting many of the above problems and improvements.

Guest speaker, Dan Newport, superintendent of Elmhurst Park District, spoke on the importance of stimulating public awareness and interest in parks and leisure time opportunities. Legislation by the State of Illinois and the United States is anticipated to promote programs for use of public lands for trails and parks. Conferences will be planned to research and analyze recreation areas and possibilities for others. Newport represented the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association. He replaced Kay Kastle Forest who had originally been scheduled to speak.

Following the meeting there was a social hour and refreshments provided by Vi Kolze and other members of Warrenville Friends of the Path.

OTHER TRAIL NEWS

A "Trails Symposium" next spring will launch a major trail planning program by the Illinois Department of Conservation. The program is in response to increased statewide interest in, and demand for, additional facilities for hiking, biking, backpacking, etc. Inventory of available public lands and feasibility of establishing a state wide trail will be investigated.

Plans for the development of "The Great Western Nature Trail" in Kane county are underway located along the abandoned right-of-way of the Chicago & Great Western RR from St. Charles in Kane County west to Sycamore. So far three miles of the new trail have been covered with gravel and limestone screenings.

WARNING

Path users take note. The pheasant season is open and will be until the middle of January. No firearms are allowed on the Path, but be alert to hunters using farmland on both sides of the Path especially along the western sections. Wear something red! a cap, jacket or bandana.

HOLIDAY SUGGESTION Prairie Path patches, \$1.00, and Helen Turner's The Illinois Prairie Path, A Guide \$1.25, make charming small gifts for nature loving friends. Send check with order to: The Illinois Prairie Path, P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, IL 60187.