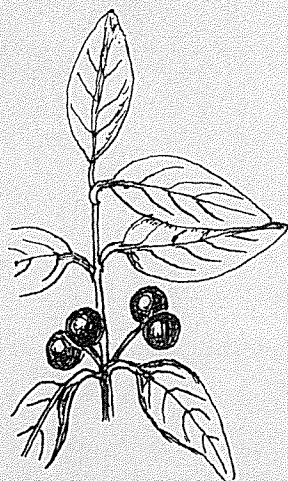
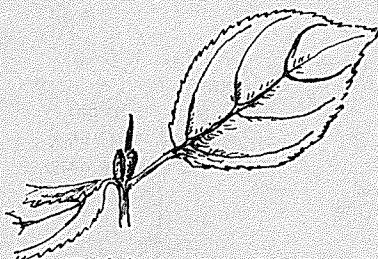


THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

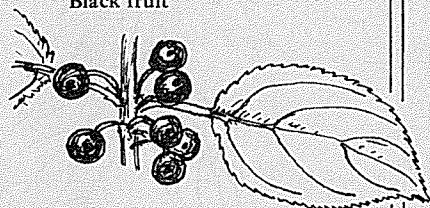
FALL 1973



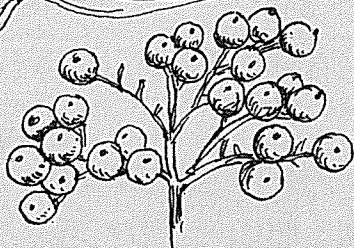
Honeysuckle
Red or orange berries



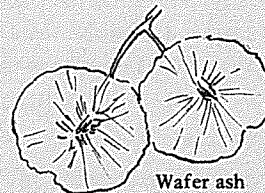
Buckthorn
Black fruit



Gray dogwood
White fruit on
red stems



Hazelnut



Wafer ash

WHAT TO SEE . . . FIVE SHRUBS

Ten years ago the shrubs that now edge the Path were either quite small or non-existent. Now they are mature and widespread, creating an inviting passage for hiker or biker. You do not have to know their names to enjoy them, but some, either scientific or common, suggest that they have been known for a long time. Some of these shrubs were brought back from Europe for people's gardens. Their names hark back to a time when man thought about his native plants and was aware of their qualities.

Did you ever try to suck the honey from a *honeysuckle*? Bees do. The Anglo-Saxons called it *hunnisuccē* because they could suck the nectar from the flowers.

Buckthorn gets its name from the sharp thorn at the end of the twig. It has distinctly opposite branching and was called *Korsved*, crosswood, by the Danes. You might want to plant it as protection against witches because of its cross and thorns (other people have).

The native *dogwood* so prevalent along the Path is *Gray dogwood*. The name dogwood comes from its European relatives; the English boiled their fruits making a concoction for shampooing dogs as a cure for mange. It was also called skewerwood or dagwood (dag . . . a skewer) because the wood is very hard.

The scientific name of *hazelnut* is *Corylus*. It was probably of Greek origin (corys . . . a helmet), from the "helmet" covering the nut.

Wafer ash. The scientific name is *Ptelea*. This word is the Greek name for elm and was given to the shrub because its seeds are so like those of the elm.

Today the honeysuckle, buckthorn and dogwood are very common along the Path. One wonders what changes will occur during the next ten years.

September 25, 1973

Dear Prairie Path Member -

FUTURE FOOTPATH?

Naperville, Sept. 25—We are human beings. We are able to walk upright on two feet. We need a footpath. Right now there is a chance for Chicago and its suburbs to have a footpath, a long one.

The right of way of the Aurora electric road lies waiting. If we have courage and foresight, such as made possible the Long trail in Vermont, and the Appalachian trail from Maine to Georgia, and the network of public footpaths in Britain, then we can create from this strip a proud resource.

MAY THEILGAARD WATTS

This is part of the letter printed in *The Voice of the People* that initiated the Prairie Path. Now, on our *tenth birthday* we take stock of the changes that have occurred on the old right-of-way. In 1963 the Path was only one person's dream. Today, it is the dream of over 1,000 - our members who volunteer services and give us financial support. The hope was for 54 miles from the DesPlaines to the Fox River. At present, we have 40 miles in DuPage and Kane Counties. No, we don't have Cook County. Its status has not changed much during the past months, but we do feel that the extension of the Path into that county is coming closer.

When we first explored the old road-bed, we were appalled! The going was rough. Ballast was never designed for comfortable walking, and the nature of the long strip invited dumping. Now we have a good surface on more than twenty miles. The most recent development is in *Lombard*, where many crews worked to clean the Path, bury the blocks of concrete, and cart away the brush and junk. The Village has not yet put down the new surface for which funds have been allocated, but we expect the job to be completed this fall.

Another repair job has been carried on by *John Dichtl*, a *Warrenville* scout. He has repaired many of our signs and trimmed away the brush to make them more visible.

Girl Scout Troop #231 of South Elgin, with *Mrs. Ford*, leader, has taken on the BIG job of developing the Path between Dunham Road and Highway 25 in *Kane County*.

We still fight against great odds. The construction company for *School District 200* used the Path as a road for their heavy equipment between Schaffner Road and Center Street, a distance of about one-quarter mile. It will be a long time before that scar is healed.

One of our early needs was just to be known, and we started a program of walks and talks. We still conduct walks and meet with civic organizations and clubs to tell about the Path and its hopes. The schedule for our *Fall Walks* has been mailed to all members. They are to be:

Saturday, October 20th . . the annual walk to which the public is invited
Sunday, October 28th a bicycle ride - 20 miles round trip
Saturday, November 3rd . . long hike covering a distance of about 11 miles

Did you see our booth in *Wheaton Memorial Park* on September 22? *The Wheaton Friends of the Prairie Path* prepared the exhibit and represented us in the *Autumn Harvest Days Celebration*.

The 32-page booklet *A GUIDE TO THE PRAIRIE PATH* with some revisions, is again available. Price - \$1.00.

We view our achievements with pride: miles of inviting trails, national recognition, a lease drawn up with DuPage County extending to 1983, and State ownership of the Kane County section. And - we look forward to more progress! The special section within *St. James Farm* being made into a trail for all people, including the blind, is taking shape. Progress on this path has been slowed because the posts on which a guide rope was strung were pulled up, but a large, undaunted crew is at work, setting the posts in concrete. The Path committee working on this project (with much help from *Barney Dale* and *Dave Lederman* of *St. James Farm*) includes *Ann Carlson*, *Janet Dykhuisen*, *Elizabeth Holmes*, *John Lengle*, *Ardis Pitello*, *Helen Turner* and *Nancy Wilson*.

And now we feel that it is time for a celebration! Won't you join us at our Annual Meeting? It will be held on Sunday, November 4th, at 2 p.m. in the *Thornhill Building* on the west side of the *Morton Arboretum* in *Lisle*. A card will be mailed to you soon giving more details.