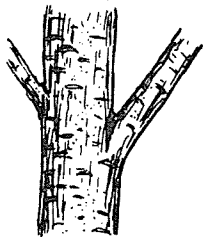


THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1974



Black Cherry

WHAT TO SEE – COLOR AND FORM

With trees and shrubs leafless, winter is the best time of the year to enjoy their form and color. In summer we may not be aware of the sooty black of the walnut, or the "morse code" on the trunks of young cherry trees, or the frosted bloom on twigs of boxelder.



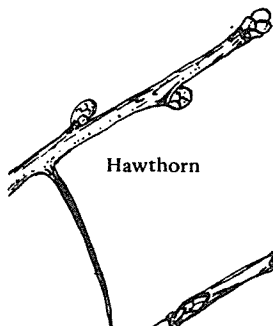
White Pine x 5

We may think of winter as a season of white and brown, but on a sunny, snowy day, you can find all the colors of the rainbow.

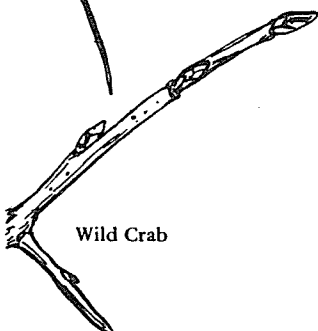


Bittersweet

Violet is in the shadows and **blue** in the sky. There is more **green** than you might expect; you can see a green stain on many tree trunks (actually it is a primitive one-celled plant). Maybe it will serve as a compass for you, since it is usually more abundant on the north side of the trunk where it is shielded from the prairie sun. Then there are the pine, spruce, and other conifers planted on or near the Path. They are the evergreens.



Hawthorn



Wild Crab

Yellow is easy: There are a few yellow osier dogwood shrubs bordering the Path and the yellow twigs of weeping willows planted nearby are conspicuous. The fruit of bittersweet, found in a few patches, is **orange**. **Red** is perhaps the most spectacular. You can't miss the vivid beauty of the red osier dogwood. The arches of raspberry are very common, though you may have to rub off the bloom to see the deep red color. Less obvious but worth examining are the red buds of the wild crab and hawthorn. And perhaps you will find the red fruits of the hawthorn still hanging - conspicuous against the white of the snow.



ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting, held at The Morton Arboretum on Nov. 4, was well attended. Those of you who were there were privileged to hear *Anthony Dean, Illinois Director of Conservation*, tell of other paths being developed in our state, and see the exquisite pictures of prairie flowers taken and shown by *Torkel Korling*. Bobbie Lively was elected to the Board of Directors, filling the place of Eugene Pomerance. He has been a member of the Board for years and will be greatly missed.

OFFICERS

The Board of Directors announces the following officers:

Chairman Emeritus - Mrs. May Watts
Chairman - Helen Turner
President - F. Paul Mooring
Vice President - Mrs. Robert Headen
Secretary - Eugene Lewis
Treasurer - Mrs. Corwith Hamill

Mrs. Sam Holmes and Mrs. R. C. Kumb will continue their invaluable services as corresponding and recording secretaries.

SPECIAL TRAILS

The Raymond Watts Special Trail. The basic ground work for this trail, near Warrenville, is completed. It is being planned for everyone. There will be labels in braille, objects to see, feel, hear, and smell. It is a very special trail and is a memorial to a special man, Raymond Watts, one of the founders of the Path. A number of people, including Alice Monroe and Chris Bonebrake who are blind, inspected this site in November. Their comments will help us with our continuing plans.

The Charlotte Marous Trail was dedicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Dec. 13. This is a self-guiding nature trail developed by the Senior Girl Scout Troop #488 of Naperville. Teresa Jones is chairman of the committee responsible for bringing this trail to completion. Self-guiding nature sheets are available; the requirements for the Tree and Shrub badge were considered in the making of this work sheet. They can be obtained by writing the Illinois Prairie Path. Girl scouts may get them from the council headquarters at 20 S. Park Ave., Glen Ellyn.

PRAIRIE PATH PATCHES

There have been many requests for our patches. We now have them -- cost \$1.00. They may be purchased by writing to Box 1086, Wheaton 60187.

PROGRESS REPORT

A fine comprehensive plan for Villa Park has been submitted. It shows the location of the footpath in relation to other planned activity areas -- and guarantees our continuity.

We had hoped to report that several more miles of the Path had been surfaced with limestone screenings -- but winter snow came too early. The Board of Auditors of Milton Township has appropriated funds to purchase screenings for the section from Orchard to Shaffner, the township line. The Prairie Path will buy enough more to extend the good surface to St. James Farm, and the DuPage County Highway Department has agreed to lay the screenings.

Lombard has started work on the Path, filling in some of the low places in preparation for a new surface.

All this must now wait for a thaw!