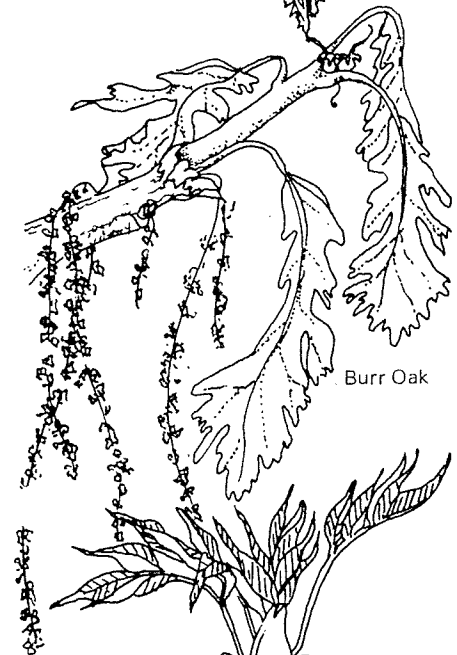


THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1975



Hawthorne



Burr Oak



White Ash
male flowers

Green Ash
female flowers

WHAT TO SEE: TREE FLOWERS ON THE PATH

Spring is the time to renew our acquaintance with sights and sounds only remembered since a year past. While walking along the Path, we are first attracted by the drone of insects about a flower, or perhaps we catch a fragrance on the breeze and look about for the source. Some flowers attract our attention not by their beauty, but by the agony their pollen causes our breathing apparatus; a sneeze is a clue to a hidden bloomer. We look down to see the herbaceous plants of forest and wayside — and forget to lift our heads to see what nature weaves in her garland for the sky.

The hawthorne does not share a lovely odor with most of the rose family; it has a mustiness that is unpleasant in close quarters but not unbearable in the outdoors. Its blooms are complete, having both male and female parts in the same flower.

Oaks have male and female flowers that are separate but bloom on the same tree. We see the spent male catkins under the oak but must look carefully to find the minute female flowers which will produce acorns later this year or next.

The white and green ash trees that line many miles of the Path have their male and female flowers on separate trees. The female tree is evident later in the season when the dry fruit which is often mistaken for a seed hangs in the branches.

All higher plants have flowers, however small. It is up to us to seek them and enlarge our nature vocabulary. There are many wonders in the world that are visible to those who know how and where to look for them. Let this be your invitation.

PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

A survey of the numbers of people and kinds of use on the Path is needed for environmental impact statements. The DuPage Audubon Society is conducting such a survey on Sunday, June 22nd. Any organization willing to help in doing a "people-count" at any time or place along the Path can obtain useage cards and information by calling Dick Wilson at 299-7882, or writing to him at 2111 Nimitz Drive, Des Plaines, Il.-60018.

Glen Ellyn The Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce has appropriated \$75.00 to purchase for the Path a bench to be set in concrete in Pins Park.

Wheaton The City of Wheaton has budgeted \$6,000 for Path improvement. This will include extension of the Path down Carlton Street, the pruning of excessive growth along the Path, a supply of screenings for the Demonstration Area and additional black dirt along the Northwestern R.R. platform, plus more screenings where needed elsewhere in the City and erection of Prairie Path signs through Wheaton Center.

CLEAN-UPS

Villa Park Volunteers should meet on April 26th at the intersection of the Path and Ardmore Avenue, where the project will take place from 9 - 12 a.m. Bags will be provided.

Lombard May 3rd is the date of the clean-up, with a rain date of May 10th. Workers meet at the intersection of the Path and Main Street at 9 a.m.

Wheaton The Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission will take part April 21-27th in "Earth Week". Persons 12 years and over are encouraged to assist in a general city-wide clean-up project that will include the Path. The EIC suggests that "clean-uppers" take along plastic trash bags.

DuPage Audubon Society Performed their bluebird house clean-out on March 8th. No signs of bluebirds having nested there were evident, but wrens, chickadees and an owl have made their homes there.

BULLETIN Of vital interest to Prairie Path members will be the public meetings soon to be held concerning future development of Highways FA 431 and Rte. 53. For the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, the consultant firm of Consoer, Townsend & Associates are doing an environmental study. Its purpose is "to disclose the environmental impact of FA 431 to the public, and also to study methods and to recommend ways of reducing the impact."

We will keep you informed as to the possible effect on our Path as shown in these studies. Path continuity (via overpasses in this area near the Glen Ellyn/Lombard boundary) still carries the Division of Highways guarantee we struggled to achieve in 1968.

MEMBERSHIPS Today, our membership stands at 1224; renewal notices will be going out to you about May 1st. Work on the Path is still financed almost entirely by your membership dues. Without this support and your help as volunteers, the Path could not continue to exist in its present form. We thank you.

Note: You can add greatly to your enjoyment of the path itself by owning a copy of Helen Turner's illustrated "Guide to the Illinois Prairie Path" (32 pages - \$1.00). It provides details of local geology, history and botany, as well as listing native birds and animals. Please send orders to - Box 1086, Wheaton, Illinois - 60187.