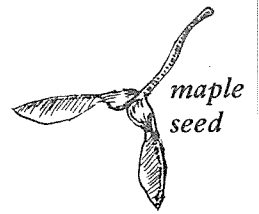
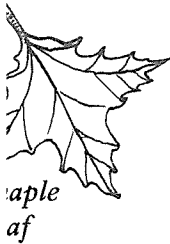


# THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1977



## WHAT TO SEE:

Fall is the time for travelers - monarch butterflies drift south - birds start their migrations - and people walk the Prairie Path to view the season's bright colors. Look for other travelers - seeds.

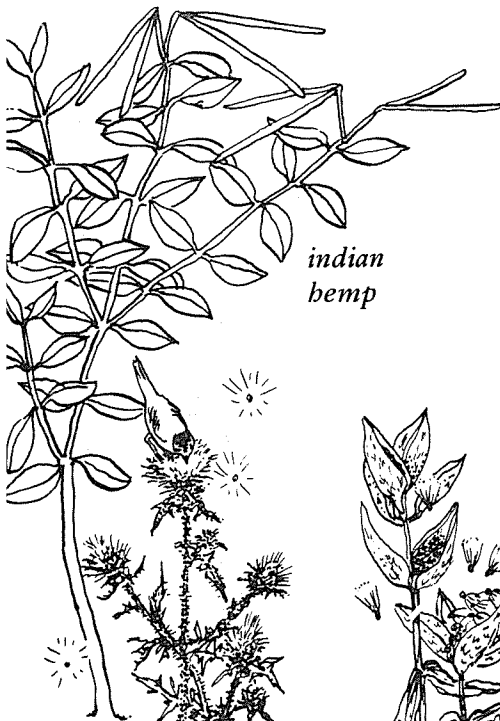
*Thistles* release almost weightless seeds that are held aloft on the wind by gossamer parachutes. The multitude of seeds in every head guarantees plenty of thistles next year in spite of the fact that they are a favorite food of goldfinches.

*Milkweed* pods explode seed as the pods dry and split open. Long skinny pods, similar to those of the milkweed, are borne also by the tall reddish-stemmed *Indian hemp*. Milkweed likes wet places; Indian hemp likes the well drained gravel sides of the PATH.

*Burdock* has huge elephant ear leaves close to the ground. The tops of the plant are brown and covered with burrs which stick to your slacks, or your dog.

The paired seeds of the colorful *maple* trees have papery wings. Familiarly known as keys, their scientific name is samara. They travel by spinning in the air like small helicopters.

Berries, especially ones too bitter for man to eat, travel in the tummies of birds. The *bitter nightshade* is a vine that climbs everywhere, uninvited. It has beautiful purple flowers with yellow centers and green berries which turn a bright red. The bitter black berries of the *buckthorn* tree are easily seen as the leaves fall.



indian  
hemp



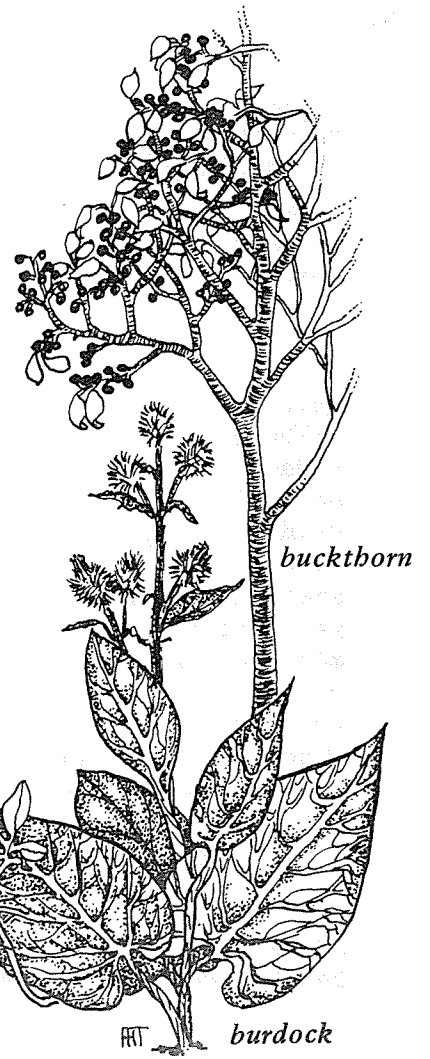
thistle



milkweed



nightshade



buckthorn

FRT

burdock

1977 ANNUAL MEETING

The 11th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Prairie Path will be held on Sunday, November 6 at 2:00 P.M. in the Thornhill building of the Morton Arboretum. Members and all those interested in becoming members are welcome to attend. Entrance to the Arboretum may be made from Park Ave. or the west entrance off route 53.

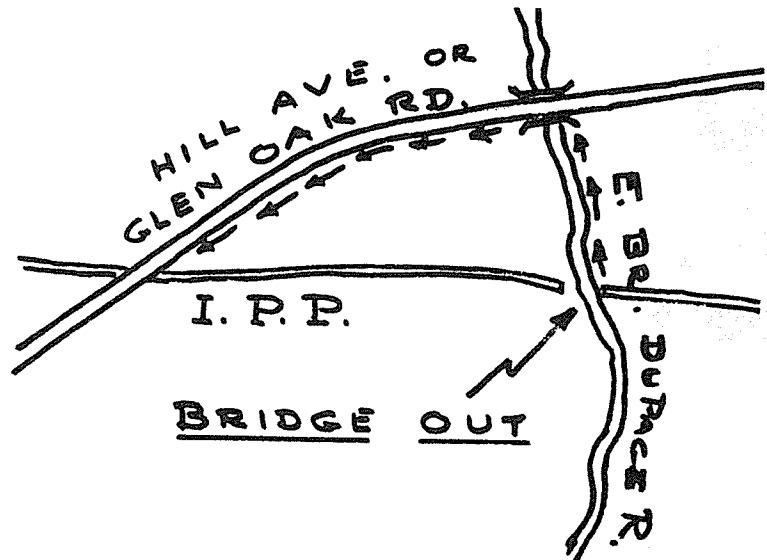
The guest speakers will represent Kane and Cook counties. Mr. Erwin Ronke, President of the Kane County Forest Preserve Commission, will speak on What is Happening in Kane County. Ted Leverenz, State Representative of the Fifth District, Maywood, will discuss the extension of the Path into Cook county through Berkley, Hillside, Bellwood and Maywood. Leverenz sponsored the amendment attached to the Illinois Department of Conservation Appropriations bill providing a \$350,000 grant for the purchase of the C.A. & E. right-of-way in the above mentioned communities.

Included in the program will be slides, the past year's report on Prairie Path progress, the treasurer's report and presentation of the nominating committee's slate of new members to the Prairie Path Board of Directors.

Refreshments and a social hour will conclude the meeting.

TROUBLE

Most of you have already heard of the burning of the bridge spanning the East Branch of the DuPage river. The partially damaged structure was repaired within a few days to avoid possible accidents. Cost to the Path was \$200. Labor was contributed by the DuPage County Forest Preserve. The repair had scarcely been completed when the bridge was again burned. This time more thoroughly. Again to prevent accidents all remaining parts of the structure were removed and a sign was erected to indicate a detour until the problem of the bridge could be resolved. The sign was metal on a metal stake sunk in concrete. You guessed it. It was no sooner up than it came down. Consideration is now being given to some type of vandal-proof structure. Cost is estimated at about \$15,000.



In the meantime it will be necessary to use the detour indicated on the map above. Signs simply don't last. We hope it is understood that this is the only thing we can do until the bridge is replaced.

MORE ABOUT BRIDGES - LOMBARD

For three years the Illinois Prairie Path Board has anticipated the building of a bridge across Finley Road by the village of Lombard - a project financed by federal funds. During the planning stage a new four lane Finley Road was considered. However, public pressure kept it at two lanes and since May of this year work has gone forward replacing the old Finley Road. The work is expected to take a year and the bridge on the Prairie Path will be installed after the road is completed. Probably by early summer, 1978, a fine new bridge across Finley Road will be available to grateful bikers and hikers.

PRAIRIE PATH REPAIRED - GLEN ELLYN

Remember the Northwestern train derailment that occurred in Glen Ellyn the summer of '76? The Prairie Path suffered from the disaster when work crews with heavy machinery rushed to the rescue down the Path. At last the damage has been repaired, thanks to the Northwestern railroad. Plantings of lilac clumps, red and gray dogwood, honeysuckle and sumac replace the wiped-out vegetation. The section of the Path roughed up by the machinery has been resurfaced with limestone screenings and all is smoothly back to normal.

A PROJECT ABANDONED

Because of recurrent vandalism and lack of interest the "Special Trails Committee" has been dissolved. Several years ago Naperville Girl Scouts sponsored a self-conducted nature walk on the south west branch of the Prairie Path in Wheaton. Almost from the start markers were destroyed and signs removed. And nature has a way of altering itself. Unless one keeps a sharp eye on it and gives it continued care a natural feature may disappear from the spot where originally indicated. Also the Path for the blind, an imaginative plan instigated by May T. Watts, was doomed by problems. Posts were uprooted, rope guide lines were cut and stolen and there was no way to prevent this senseless destruction. Both were nice ideas but unworkable on an unguarded public trail.

MOPEDS AND PRAIRIE PATH POLICY

Owners of Mopeds, the popular new pedal-motorbike, are reminded that all motorized vehicles are banned from the Path. The Prairie Path Board of Directors regard the Moped as a motorized vehicle hazardous to pedestrian traffic and must, therefore, observe the NO MOTOR VEHICLE policy.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Christmas and such will be here before you know it. A nice way to gift nature loving friends and relatives would be with Helen Turner's delightful booklet The Illinois Prairie Path - A Guide (\$1.25); or with a Prairie Path Membership (individual \$5, family \$10); or with a Prairie Path patch (\$1.00). Please send orders with your check to The Illinois Prairie Path, P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, Ill. 60187.