

The Natural History Society of Barrington

FOUNDED IN 1945

BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

FEBRUARY 1987

The lore of owls, I am inclined to think, takes too little notice of such intelligence as the owl surely has; the bird merits a wider appreciation and some course in public instruction designed to teach mankind something more of his way of life.
--August Derleth, 1952

THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 8:00 PM bring your favorite slides to MEMBER'S NIGHT. Now this doesn't mean you are going to come empty handed and watch Wayne or Mark show their slides...No, THIS MEANS YOU! Also, bring a friend along.

Did you notice the following item in the latest Early Winters catalogue? "Perfect skipping stones. You don't drive in anything less than a Rolls Royce, so why don't you demand the best for your skipping stones? Our World Class Skipping Stones are laboratory designed and tested, and have our trademark 'dimple' in the center design...Can of 40." Ad nauseum.

What's next? How about the Polyester Whittling Stick, guaranteed to last twice as long as the regular wooden stick with none of the mess caused by those nasty shavings. Or perhaps a Video Constellations cassette. Why stand in the cold and struggle to focus through smoggy city skies when you can view the seasonal constellations of your choice from the comfort of your own sofa? Enough said.

Dr. Wayne Schennum, McHenry County Conservation District's Natural Resource Manager, will be teaching a 3 credit course entitled "Natural Areas Management Course" at the Wiedrich Barn. The course is offered through Northeastern Illinois University and will meet on Fridays from 4:45 to 7:00PM from Feb. 27 to May 29. There are also four Saturday field trips. Call the M.C.C.D. office at (815) 338-1405 for details.

Here's some interesting recycling facts from the Illinois Association of Recycling Centers.

- Recycling one 12 ounce aluminum can saves 6 ounces of oil.
- In Illinois, 40% of all aluminum cans manufactured are recycled.
- Every minute, 52, 325 aluminum cans are recycled in the U.S.

Here are some of my favorite titles from the latest Fish and Wildlife Reference Service Newsletter (with your editor's comments).

Abilities of Trout to Swim Through Highway Culverts (I assume the author concluded that they did it head first!)

Effectiveness of Fish Ladders in the Grand River (I guess they wouldn't need fire escapes.)

Sneed and Lee Pincushion Cacti Recovery Plan (Sneed and Lee? Who were they?)
Recovery Plan for the Chihuahua Chub (Wonderful alliteration.)

DUES ARE DUE. Individual member:\$5. Family membership:\$8. Pay Net Mullen at the meeting or send her your check at 90 Hart Rd., Barrington, 60010.

February 12, 1987

The February meeting of the Natural History Society of Barrington was called to order by president Sue Allman.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

The treasurer reported that \$1701.00 had been paid for the sign for Baker Lake. Checks have also been written to all of the conservation areas approved, and thank you letters have been received. Balance on hand is \$1077.54.

Shirley Peterson announced she is collecting commemorative stamps, also foreign stamps and stamps in series for the Illinois Audubon Society for their sanctuary fund. Members were asked to bring any of these they may have.

Nature observations included lots of robins, kestrels, red-wing blackbird, shrike, and unusual numbers of Canadian geese by the Fox River.

Wendy reported that all Cook County forest preserves are to be closed at 5 P.M. this year. By special permission she will continue her 3:30 Wednesday afternoon nature walks past the designated time. These will start in April. Item of interest - the Citizens for Conservation newsletter this month will contain a history of the Natural History Society.

The March meeting will be a program on the medicinal use of plants.

The February meeting is traditionally members night, and

it was a delight this year to have 9 members participating. Slides ranged from hedgehogs to ankingas, from rocks to flowers, streams and trees, from far north to far south and lovely areas in between.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments.

Ruth Kittredge

Sec. pro tem.