

The Natural History Society of Barrington

FOUNDED IN 1945

BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

NOVEMBER

1987

Nature is not benevolent; Nature is just, gives pound for pound, measure for measure, makes no exceptions, never tempers her decrees with mercy, or winks at any infringement of her laws.
--John Burroughs

As the Gateway controversy clearly illustrated, Barrington's concern for Baker's Lake extends beyond the lake's shoreline. Actually, until the 1930's, there was no shoreline because there was no lake. Instead, there was a peat bog that periodically flooded or burned. Next to that peat bog grew a bur oak savanna. A savanna is a combination of grass-land and forest in which the grasses are the dominant species despite the conspicuous presence of a few, scattered trees. The ground vegetation is a mix of prairie and forest species with the prairie types predominating. Early Barringtonians chose to build a campground in the Baker Lake savanna. The campground's recent removal has cleared the way (if you'll pardon the pun) for the savanna's restoration. How is this done? How can you help? Well, the first step is to come to the basement of the Methodist Church on THURSDAY, NOV. 12, at 8:00 PM and hear Wendy Paulson and friends talk about the plans for the Baker's Lake savanna.

Does anyone object to moving our meetings up to 7:30 PM? If so, please talk with Sue Allman or Mark Spreyer. If not, future meetings will be advanced a half hour.



According to Senator Alan Simpson (R-WY), wolves will, "...take a tasty human being occasionally..." Also from a letter to the Billings Gazette (May 18, 1986) we learn that, "Wolves can only decimate hunting by slaughtering game animals, wolves can be and surely will be used as an excuse to deny hunters access to public lands." Where else could one find inflammatory and unfounded rhetoric such as that but in the old West? Unfortunately, this kind of rhetoric has put the much publicized plan to reintroduce the wolf to Yellowstone National Park on hold. The whole situation reminds me of an old joke, "Don't bother me with the facts, my mind is made up." Hopefully cooler heads will prevail and the westerners will learn to coexist with the wolf as folks in northern Minnesota do.

Wild bird expert Andrea Kane will present a bird feeding program at Glacial Park's Wiedrich Homestead Barn at 9 AM on Nov. 21. This free slide talk complete with feathered guests is sponsored by the McHenry County Conservation District. Call (815) 338-1405 for details.

THANKS to all who helped with our annual sunflower seed sale!



12 NOVEMBER 1987

SUE ALLMAN OPENED THE MEETING AT 8:00pm BY CALLING FOR THE SECRETARY'S REPORT. A CORRECTION WAS NOTED: WAYNE SCHENNUM WAS NOMINATED FROM THE FLOOR FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAM. THE MINUTES WERE ACCEPTED WITH THE CORRECTION.

JACK SCHAEFFER REPORTED \$2666.90 PROFIT FROM THE BIRDSEED SALE.

THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY SHIRLEY PETERSON SHALL DONATE MONEY TO THE RIDGES SANCTUARY, NATURE CONSERVANCY, STILLMAN NATURE CENTER AND EAGLE VALLEY. ALL OF THE PROCEEDS ARE DONATED TO CONSERVATION EFFORTS. CARYL WILDER AND GEORGE LUEHRING VOLUNTEERED TO BE ON THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE.

SUE PRESENTED THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR NEXT YEAR: MARK SPREYER, PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAM, WAYNE SCHENNUM
VICE PRESIDENT-PUBLICITY, ZEOULIA PEIRCE
TREASURER, NET MULLEN
SECRETARY, ELIZABETH NYSTROM

THE SLATE WAS VOTED IN BY THE MEMBERS.

~~28/11/87~~

THE NEXT MEETING SHALL TAKE PLACE AT
7:30 pm IN JANUARY.

SUE REMINDED THE MEMBERS OF STILLMAN
WORK DAY ON 21 NOVEMBER FROM 9^{am} TO NOON.

THE MEETING WAS TURNED OVER TO
WENDY PAULSON WHO LED US THROUGH
THE HISTORY OF BAKER'S LAKE CAMPGROUND,
WITH SLIDES OF OLD PHOTOGRAPHS AND A
SELECTION OF BIRD SLIDES BY TONY SZABADOS
WE HAD AN INFORMATIVE ENJOYABLE
~~MEETING~~ PROGRAM.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT
9:36 pm FOR A SOCIAL HOUR.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
Elizabith Tlustova
SECRETARY

PROGRAMS January 1986 to November 1987

- Jan 86 Urban Deer Research Project by Jim Witham
- Feb 86 Members Night
- March 86 Wildlife Rehabilitation by Andrea Kane
- April 86 Chicago Academy of Science Collections by Ron Vasile
- May 86 Canadian Wilderness Voyage Program by Steve Waller
- Sept 86 Bird Songs by Paul Baker
- Oct 86 Lincoln Park Zoo's Lemurs and Monkeys by Pam Dunn
- Nov 86 Antarctic by Dr. Nancy Sachs
- Jan 87 Southwest England by Wendy Paulson and Gill Moreland
- Feb 87 Members Night
- March 87 Medicinal Plants by Cathy Hein
- April 87 Ecological Significance of Baker's Lake by Joel Greenburg
- May 87 Surly Surveyor by Rob Nurre
- Sept 87 Chicago Peregrine Release by Mark Spreyer
- Oct 87 William Stimpson by Ron Vasilie
- Nov 87 Savanna Project at Baker's Lake by Wendy Paulson