

## Guild Discusses Ingathering Plans

Meeting of the new board of the Needlework Guild, to discuss plans for the Oct. 20 Ingathering, will be held Sept. 20 at Bloomfield Hills Country club.

Mrs. Robert Woodruff leads the group as president. Assisting her will be Mrs. William Graham, first vice president; Mrs. Lloyd Diehl, Jr., second vice president and ingathering chairman; Mrs. Earleton Patterson, honorary president; Mrs. Wright Tidale, secretary; Mrs. Parsons Neff, treasurer; Mrs. James Wright, distribution chairman; Mrs. John Shenefield, chairman of junior activities; Mrs.

George Davis, assistant chairman of junior activities; Mrs. Lawrence How, Michigan State chairman; and Mrs. Donald Hutson, publicity chairman.

**Have You Met**  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald M. Breneman, new residents at 16925 Thirteen Mile road who moved there in July from Detroit? He is an associate physician in the department of cardiology at Henry Ford hospital. Affiliations are Phi Sigma Kappa and Theta Kappa Psi.

## NATURE NOW

# Natural Values Star In Wilderness Park Summer Vacation

By LYDIA KING-FREISE  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

In vacation days we live within reach of Wilderness state park, one of Michigan's most distinctive areas where natural values are of a high order.

The park's 7,656 acres lie eight miles west of Mackinac City, on the extreme northwest point of our lower peninsula.

Its northern borders face Big Stone Bay, with one of the loveliest sand beaches in our state. Its northwestern limits, reaching into Lake Michigan like a long finger, are bisected by a narrow channel thus forming Waugoussance Point and Waugoussance Island.

The park is still unpenetrable and untouched by man, with highways that have been kept at a minimum.

At three points on a system of foot trails overnight cabins have been built. There is a beautiful and convenient camping area paralleling the beach.



Mrs. Freise

WITH RICH display of shrubs, the dune area supports much creeping and prostrate juniper and bearberry. Once, we collected the tiny woolly hudsonia which might, on first glance, be mistaken for a seedling.

Among inland shrubs, spruce, dogwood and beech families are much in evidence.

The richness of the flora includes a wide range from alga to the flowering plants. For many of these, Wilderness Park represents the southern outpost for northern species.

ON HER MANY visits to the park throughout the growing season your scribe has been especially impressed with the wealth of primitive plant life. Of fungi, there is such a bewildering array that we have collected enough species in a single afternoon to occupy us for a summer's study. University of Michigan mycologist, A. H. Smith reports many rare forms as well as several that await identification.

On collecting trips from the Michigan Biological station with Dr. William Steyer, we have found lichens, liverworts and mosses carpeting the park with acres of such intricate beauty as one seldom sees. Scale mosses (intermediate forms between the leafy hepatics and the true mosses) are also abundant.

The park supports a full quota of ferns and club mosses. In all my botanizing, nowhere have I seen so luxuriant a display of Lycopodium clavatum running its forked and bristly branches over the moss carpeted forest floor.

To this autumn adds bright mosquitoes and sunbeaters creating a festive kind of beauty.

marshy banks of Little and Big Sucker creek are of great interest because of their completely natural condition.

Much of the varying terrain of the park is densely wooded and supports a wide range of forest types. The climax vegetation is northern hardwoods with sugar maple predominating.

In autumn, their colors flame in bold contrast with the dark conifer trees. The latter are represented in the more mature areas by red and white pine, in the low lying areas by white cedar, balsam fir, tamarac and black spruce.

slipper and the rare and beautiful dwarf iris are spring visitors. In summer, dune flora comes, with such unusual plants as Rocky Mountain grass, tropical dune grasses and starchy white camass.

But it is to Waugoussance point and its adjoining island that the botanist is most attracted. Spring and early summer find low marshy flats covered with such carnivorous plants as sundew, bladderwort, pitcher plant, and butterwort. These together with paintbrush, false aspidel, Michigan primrose and tiny creeping thyme made a natural rockgarden of the shore line.

Here in autumn, such flowers as lobelia, bottle and fringed gentian and purple gerardia plus a variety of mints and composites make up one of the most spectacular wild flower displays I have seen anywhere in Michigan.

The animal population, which in mammals, birds and fish is as unusual as is the flora, includes flying squirrels and water shrew. Deer and beaver are plentiful and bear are seen occasionally.

THERE IS AN imposing list of both land and water birds. A nesting record for the Parula warbler is the first of its kind in Michigan.

NATURALISTS and scientists who have studied Wilderness Park agree that it is the richest and most undisturbed area in our lower peninsula.

## Goes to Wooster

Yvonne Mealey, of Bloomfield Glen, is entering College of Wooster, O., this fall.



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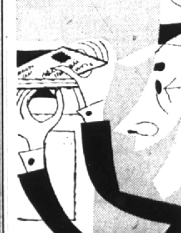
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