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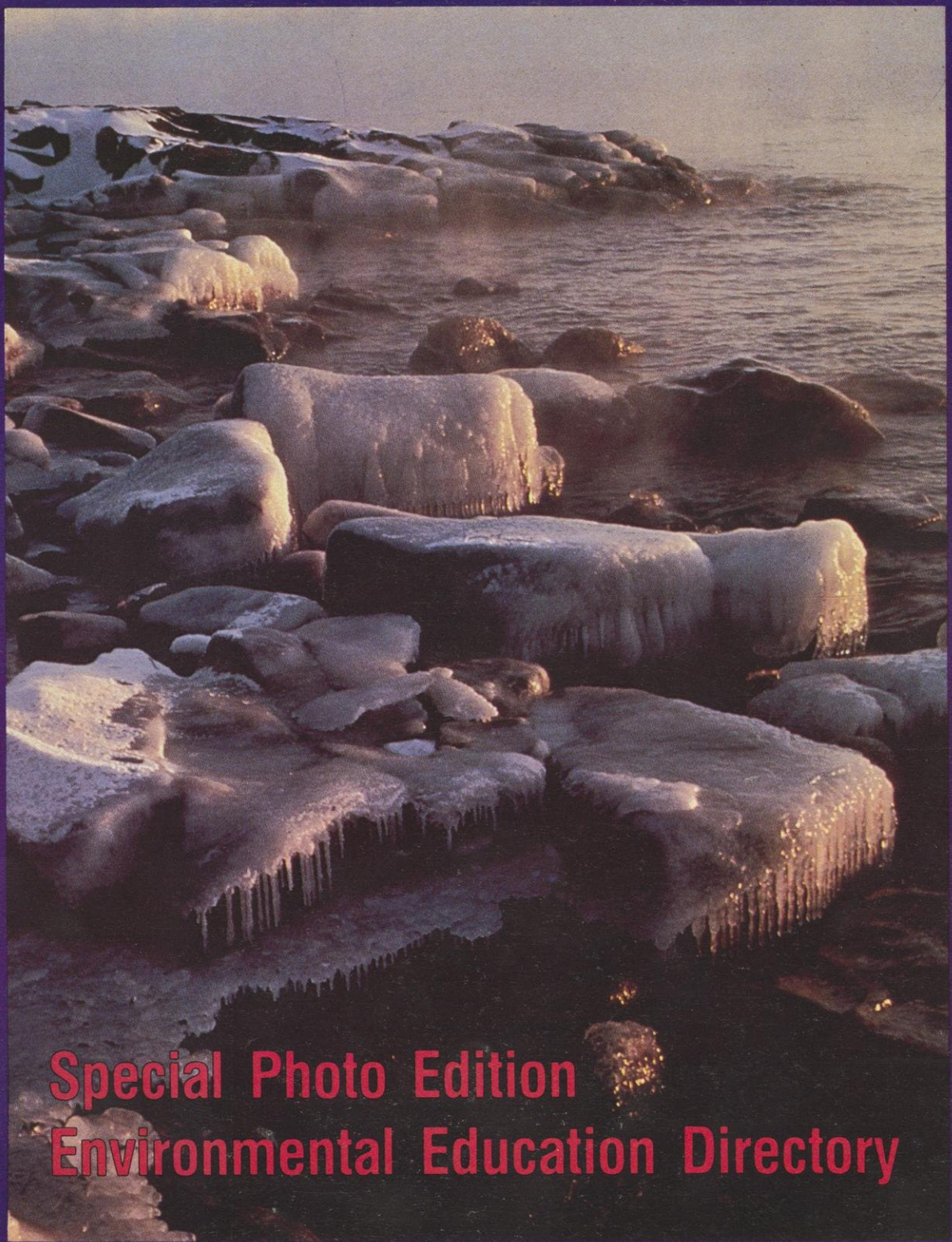
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Wisconsin

NATURAL RESOURCES

January-February 1985 • Volume 9, Number 1

\$2.50



Special Photo Edition
Environmental Education Directory



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Where the wild things are: A directory of Wisconsin's environmental education and nature centers.



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Editorial

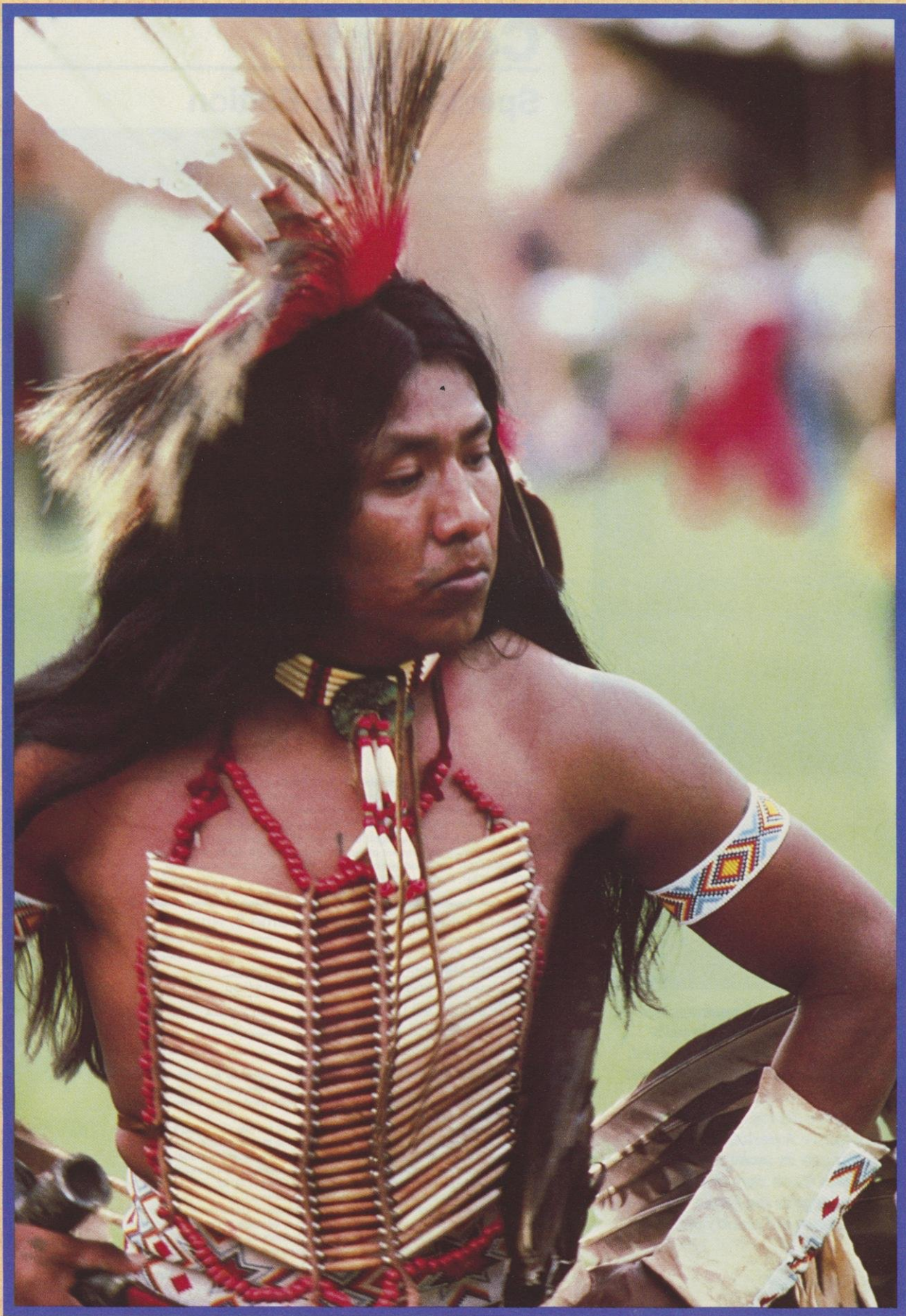
Everybody shivers in Wisconsin's January freezeup, but there are compensations. The energetic do all that fun outdoor stuff — ski, snowshoe, toboggan, ice skate, ice boat, ice fish, even snowmobile — pretty faithfully until winter howls in at 20 below and turns with the rest of us. Then it's time to crack the nuts gathered last fall, worry about the fuel bill, knit, sharpen knives and read Wisconsin Natural Resources.

In 1985 the magazine will feature plenty to help you wile away the weather in any season. This photo edition is a first and the Environmental Education Center Directory will give you and your group things to do and places to go all year round. March-April will feature a report on the state of the environment in Wisconsin from the DNR perspective and a special story on toxics. Another big fishing issue is scheduled for May-June along with the regular Anglers Almanac, plus a separate feature on

state parks. And later this year, two additional in-depth supplements will discuss recycling and the cooperative work done by DNR and the Department of Transportation to protect the environment during highway construction. Not to mention the dozens of regular stories and beautiful pictures on subjects that range all the way from hunting to outdoor crafts and endangered plants. Whatever the weather, the browsing here should be pretty good — for both the energetic and the rest of us.
 J. WOLFRED TAYLOR

These dry seed heads of rattlesnakemaster wear icy helmets after freezing rain pelts the prairie. This plant, with its spiny-edged, yucca-like leaves lives on dry to medium wet prairies and in open woods, mostly east of the Mississippi River. Its roots were used medicinally by Native Americans and others. The plant gets its name from the mythical belief that it can cure the bite of a rattlesnake. It belongs to the genus Eryngium, which means "prickly plant" in Greek.

Photo by Jules Rosenthal



Traditional dancer at one of the many Wisconsin powwows wears a bone chestplate, deer hair roach and eagle feathers that symbolize honor.

Arvid A. Widvey

The readers write

I would like to comment on the Indian treaty situation. Do magazine readers know that:

- 1) There were between 80 and 100 Indian treaties signed in Wisconsin and at present we are only dealing with four.
- 2) This problem is happening in more than 35 states.
- 3) Hunting and fishing are only the tip of the iceberg in demands that involve all natural resources — land, water, grazing, mineral, timber, etc. Included are jurisdiction and taxation rights in some states.
- 4) An 1825 treaty gives rights for all of Wisconsin and Michigan, two-thirds of Minnesota and Upper Illinois and Iowa.
- 5) Non-Indian Americans living on reservations are subject to tribal laws and constitutions, and have no say or vote in what is done on the reservation.
- 6) Federal court systems, the federal government, the president and Congress are to blame for this.
- 7) Negotiating is not the answer, and maybe is even part of the problem. National legislation is the only answer.

Superiority of one American citizen above another cannot work.

LARRY PETERSON,
Vice President of Equal
Rights for Everyone, Park Falls

The Indian has been dealt hard blows by the white man — death, destruction and land theft. Anything we can do to make it up is probably not enough. Why all the fuss over a couple hundred deer a year for Indians when the rest of us take a couple hundred thousand?

JERRY PINZAK,
Milwaukee

The United States Supreme Court has upheld the reserved treaty rights of Wisconsin Indians as valid and intact. Since this is the law as ruled upon by our own court system, and because there are constitutional guarantees protecting the integrity of these treaties, the state of Wisconsin will abide by the law.

American Indians have contributed heavily to the public coffers, having opened up millions of acres of land for settlement and ceded the mineral and timber resources of northern Wisconsin. What they did not cede to the U.S. they reserved for their own use, such as the reservations, and the right to hunt and fish off the reservation.

The entire negotiation process now being undertaken is a method for modernization, clarification and limitation of the exercise of treaty rights in a manner compatible with resource management and public safety. To date the tribes have utilized the off-reservation resource in a responsible manner.

Indians, like all of us, pay taxes. From 1980 to 1983 the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe alone paid \$4.2-million in federal, state income and social security taxes. This does not include individual Indians residing off trust land and paying state/county property taxes or Indians working for someone other than tribal government, where all regular state income taxes apply.

Treaties made between governments of people should not be taken lightly. If you cannot trust the word of our own government how can we expect other nations to have respect for our critical stance against nations who impose their political and social values upon weaker ones? I find it hard to believe anyone would simply want to abrogate a treaty because they find it inconvenient to honor. Great nations, like great individuals, are judged by the promises they keep.

I recognize that the next few years will be a period of significant adjustment in resource use in northern Wisconsin. However, if both tribal and non-tribal members act responsibly, the resources will be well protected.

Governor Anthony S. Earl

In regard to the article "Coulee smallmouth: plowed under and suffocated," which dealt with possible reasons for the disappearance of smallmouth bass from some southwestern Wisconsin streams:

The article stated that fish kills generally occur after heavy, late spring or summer rains. It concluded that kills seem to result from a combination of lethal chemicals — herbicides, insecticides and fertilizers — animal waste and siltation.

It seems that the author has completely overlooked the rain as a possible cause. Those are the seasons when acid rain is at its worst.

Studies have shown that the pH level in lakes has fallen after certain rains. Rain has been recorded below a pH level of three. (Seven is neutral.) If a lake can be affected, could not a comparatively shallow stream be even more so?

It seems prudent to determine the pH tolerance of smallmouth; take pH measurements of the streams before and after rains and take pH measurements of the rain itself.

JOHN W. KNOPPE,
Delafield

Research has found that acid rain is not a factor affecting fish in southwestern Wisconsin streams.

While smallmouth are sensitive to low pH, southwestern Wisconsin streams have rarely, perhaps never, been reported to have a lower pH than seven and most are over eight at base flow. The limestone bedrock and associated "hard" water in these streams provide a tremendous capacity to neutralize acid rain.

As the magazine article points out, the interaction of topography and land use makes it impossible not to point to some agricultural practices as being involved. What we don't know is which factors will prove to be the primary culprit(s).

The readers write

Wisconsin owns all the deer, fish, waterfowl and other creatures within its borders and licenses the privilege to hunt or fish. But hunters and anglers are often at the mercy of landowners who can post no hunting or no trespassing signs and deny this purchased privilege. This happens all too frequently. There must be something wrong here.

Have you ever tried to find out who owns a particular parcel of land that looks ideal to hunt? This might mean a trip to the county courthouse and purchase of a plat book only to find the land is owned by some estate or absentee owner. How then do you get the owner's consent?

When you locate landowners, many are concerned about having property damage done — a cow shot or a gate smashed. They have heard of such occurrences and want to be certain the hunter is careful and responsible.

This is what I think:

"No hunting" or "no trespassing" signs should be allowed only where:

- a. The hunter might be in danger.
- b. The hunter might endanger others or endanger property — residences, buildings, cattle etc.

Hunters should identify themselves at the point of entry to a property and be held responsible for any damage.

Landowners are entitled to a "thank you" whether monetary or otherwise.

I love the privilege to hunt, and it burns me to find signs saying I cannot. I also appreciate the landowner fearing damage and the fact he would like to meet and know the hunter on his land.

F. N. PETERSEN,
Cashton

In the special boating safety section "Steady as you go," there was a chart on the amount of alcohol you drink and the amount in your blood. I think it would be an excellent idea to enclose these charts with drivers licenses or license plates.

GERALD BINGEN, JR.,
Racine

I greatly enjoyed your article on fish growth in the special issue on fisheries. It appears, however, that the growth-length labels on the axes of your rate-of-growth graph should be interchanged. Do you agree?

THOMAS C. EHLERT,
Wauwatosa

Yes, indeed. Thank you for pointing that out.

The March-April issue about intensive forest management for the primary purpose of economic benefit greatly disturbs me. People value woodlands for reasons other than timber production.

If future demand for wood is going to outstrip production, perhaps we should be looking for ways to reduce demand rather than methods to increase production. What are the great social benefits of junk mail and use-it-once-and-throw-it-away packaging, for example? Landfills?

Aldo Leopold said it well: "Our bigger-and-better society is now like a hypochondriac, so obsessed with its own economic health as to have lost the capacity to remain healthy. Nothing could be more salutary at this stage than a little healthy contempt for a plethora of material blessings."

Leopold understood the ecological pitfalls and dangers of an over-indulgent society. Unfortunately, our over-indulgent society hasn't yet reached that same level of understanding. Neither have the foresters who work for that society.

KURT SROKA,
Elkhorn

Your issue highlighting Wisconsin state parks is very interesting. Coordinating that project must have been quite a challenge.

We have visited many of the spots on excursions and in-state vacations. All have met our expectations with one exception. Our experience biking on part of the Ahnapee Trail from Maplewood to Sturgeon Bay leaves much to be desired. In each case — 1976, 1980 and 1983 — this stretch was rough with ruts, gravel, loose sand, holes from burrowing animals and overhanging brush. Although a fee is charged for state bike trails, this trail seemingly had seen no maintenance work during that period of time.

On the positive side, the condition of the Elroy-Sparta bike trail on every visit from 1972 to last summer was good to excellent. The road surface in the tunnels could use some leveling — but, in general, this trail is always a fun experience.

And, we would like to see the bike trail from Heafford Junction to Minocqua completed soon.

CONRAD AMACHER,
Wisconsin Rapids

Because the Ahnapee Trail is receiving very little biking use and the cost to maintain the surface is high, continued use for biking is currently under review. If the decision goes against biking, the public will be notified. However, 18 miles of the Bearskin State Trail (formerly known as the Minocqua-Heafford Junction Trail) are now surfaced for bicycles.

I am interested in wildlife, and this is proof. I keep two bird feeders — one with sunflower seeds and one with thistle seeds plus 10 bags of suet hung in trees. As soon as temperatures drop, I start the electric heater to keep water from freezing. I have a lot of beautiful birds. There were 35 to 40 goldfinches here today.

SELMA A. MOSENG,
Viroqua

Sports writers of the past described Wisconsin as a place to bag a small buck or bear. Although some thought an occasional trophy-class animal might show, most agreed that record-sized antlers and skulls would never come from the Badger State.

In the early '60s, the Wisconsin Buck and Bear Club took on the challenge of locating trophy animals and found out that the writers were wrong. Many old trophies were found in attics, basements, recreation rooms and taverns. And many new trophies are still being taken in our state.

No other state, except Saskatchewan in Canada, has as many whitetails recorded in Boone and Crockett's *Records of North American Big Game*. In fact, the world record typical whitetail is a Wisconsin deer — a massive 10-pointer shot in 1914 near Danbury by James Jordan — with a score of 206%.

A sprawling 22-point non-typical whitetail was shot with a bow by Dennis Shanks in 1979 in Dane County. This trophy ranks among the top five in North America. Our state produces many bow trophies as recorded in Pope and Young's archery record book.

Wisconsin is one of the top states for trophy black bear hunting. Archer Bob Fau Fau of Tomahawk took our state record bear in Lincoln County in 1981. It is number two in North America at 555 pounds, field dressed, with a 22-inch skull. This surpassed Ed Strobel's 585 pound bear that had a 21-15/16 inch skull. It was taken in 1953 in Vilas County.

Wisconsin is not only a fine trophy state but a world leader in trophy animals.

BOB HULTS, President,
Wisconsin Buck and Bear Club,
Germantown

The article on Wisconsin's wetland mapping program was very interesting. It sounds like the actual mapping procedures are very thorough. But it is a shame that the protective mechanism for them is so weak. I realize that wetland areas in shorelands are afforded some protection, but these comprise less than half of the state's remaining wetlands.

It is time to enact laws to protect wetlands that are not in shoreland zones. In my part of southeastern Wisconsin, one only has to take a short ride into the country to see wetland filling and draining going full tilt. This activity must be made illegal, or at least much more tightly controlled if we are to have any wildlife left. A locally produced duck or pheasant is a rarity in southeast Wisconsin. The law should require that all drain and fill projects be subject to public hearings in which the applicant would be required to prove the benefits of his proposed work. Increased crop acreage or more building land does not hold precedence anymore; people are becoming more aware of the monetary value of wildlife in addition to aesthetic or recreational value. Let's make it difficult for these projects to take place before there are no wetlands left to protect.

KEVIN SPAIGHT,
Union Grove

I feel I must take issue with the article in the September-October issue "Trapping: a benefit to Wisconsin."

I was surprised the authors used history as their beginning. Their statement of the thriving fur trade gradually fading as life styles and fashions changed does not tell the whole history of this "heritage." The fact is that trapping was responsible for the extinction and severe depletion of fur-bearing animals to the point where it was no longer possible to make a living trapping. Beaver, marten, otter and others were wiped out in many parts of the state as well as across the country. Legislation had to be enacted to save the few remaining species from extinction. This is a heritage to be ashamed of!

Further on, the article lists the animals protected by law such as lynx, timber wolves, pine martin etc., and a bit later would have you believe traps can be set

to selectively catch only a particular species. The truth is that traps are non-selective and that a vast majority of traps are baited with lures that will attract many curious animals. Cold steel jaws cannot tell the difference between the leg of a pine marten...an endangered species, and a weasel or raccoon or domestic cat or dog. I defy any trapper to show me a trap guaranteed to catch only one species of fur-bearing carnivore.

The authors would have you believe that trapping is a solution to disease outbreak in animals. They ignore that trapping is only seasonal and rabies and tularemia are carried and passed on by rabbits, squirrels and other animals not on most trappers' lists.

They would also have you believe that trappers are responsible, knowledgeable folk who share information of scientific and census value with their local DNR representative. The fact is that the vast majority of trappers do not report kill information and have no research background by which to organize meaningful data.

As far as economic opportunities are concerned, the average \$500.00 annual income (with most making much less), is a poor investment of time, money for equipment and license, and animal life (50¢ for a weasel skin?). Opportunity seems to exist only for the fur buyer, sporting goods store and DNR.

I am not a member of any special interest group against trapping. I occasionally hunt and will continue to when I find the time so the "bleeding heart environmentalist" label won't stick to me.

I feel that half-truths were presented as facts to propagandize what I feel is an unnecessary and cruel activity.

JAMES P. KOSTOHRYS,
Des Plaines, IL

The readers write

So nice to see a pro trapping article in a resource magazine.

ALLEN G. SKINNER,
Anchorage, AK

As an earnest reader of *Wisconsin Natural Resources*, I was delighted to see an article on the Petenwell and Castle Rock flowages which are near my home. Jack Zimmerman's article was very interesting and informative. However, I was very disappointed to see the accompanying photograph of a holding pond alongside a paper mill as representative of the pollution control efforts of this industry. This is a serious misstatement of paper industry efforts to improve the state's water quality. For example — Nekoosa Papers' expenditures to date for water treatment approach \$30 million.

LLOYD L. CHAMBERS III,
Nekoosa Papers, Wisconsin Rapids

Thanks for the note. Your point is well taken. The paper industry has indeed done a commendable job.

Nekoosa's modern treatment facilities.

I oppose the boat launching fee that the Dane County Parks Commission has voted to charge. In fact, there was 100% opposition at a public hearing on the fee December 1, 1982. Some of the launch sites that people will have to pay to use were given to Dane County and were improved by clubs, groups and individuals.

The state boating program received \$1,230,500 from boat registration fees in 1983. I would like to see each county get 30% of its own boat registration money back for public boat launching sites. Counties get a percentage of snowmobile registration money back for trails — not so with boats. Counties get 75% of dirt bike registration money — not so with boats.

Also, fish managers should not stock fish in any waters without free public access. I like how the National Park Service provides access sites on Wisconsin's wild rivers. That's the way it should be at every launching ramp in the state.

HALVOR R. BJORNSON,
Oregon

Some time ago you carried an insert entitled "Research News." As Director of the Bureau of Research I was generally quite pleased with these articles. However, I would like to call your attention to the article entitled "Wisconsin Tops in Trout Stream Research and Management." The article stated that certain management techniques were developed by research. Actually, these techniques were developed by fish managers in the field. The bank cover-current deflector technique was conceived and installed in several central Wisconsin streams by Robert B. Heding (former DNR employee) as early as the mid 1950s. The Bureau of Research has since conducted several studies scientifically documenting the positive results of these techniques.

I want to make sure that Bob Heding and other fish managers are given proper credit for their pioneering work in this area.

KENT E. KLEPINGER, Director
DNR Bureau of Research



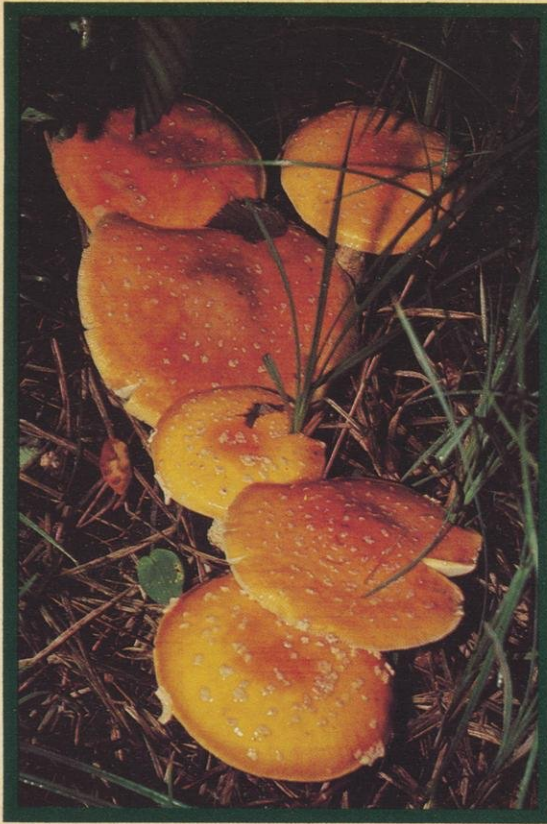


Special Photo Edition

Photographs are images that capture moments in time. A good picture exudes an essence of the reality it portrays and is just different enough to demand attention. The flower seems more fluorescent, the fern more frondlike, the animal more wild or the bird more avian than in real life. For the photographer, this requires mastery of the equipment, an eye for detail, knowledge of composition and a sense of identity with the subject. The pictures in this special photo edition illustrate these qualities. They were chosen from a file in the magazine office contributed free by photographers from around the state. Some have been waiting years for publication because no appropriate story appeared for them to illustrate. Needless to say, these photographers have exhibited remarkable patience, and as you can see, remarkable talent. *Wisconsin Natural Resources* says, "Thank you." Contributions from others are always welcome.

Hygrophorus, one of the most colorful genera of gilled mushrooms.

Allen F. Hillery



The toxic mushroom,
Amanita muscaria.

Barbara Mulvaney

Pitcher plant, the insect
eater.

Dale Lang

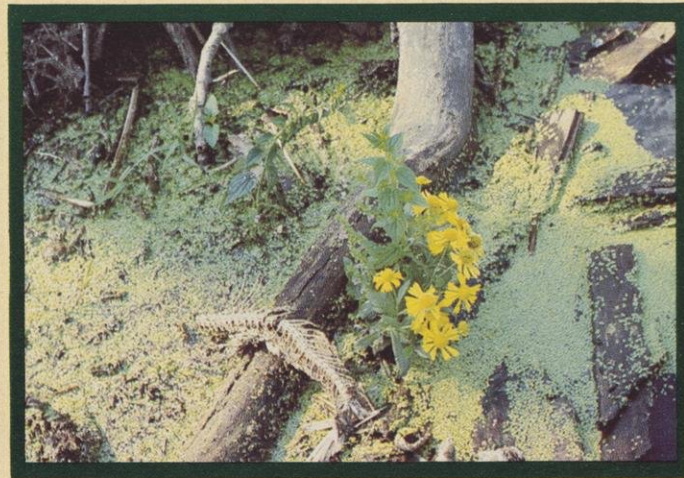
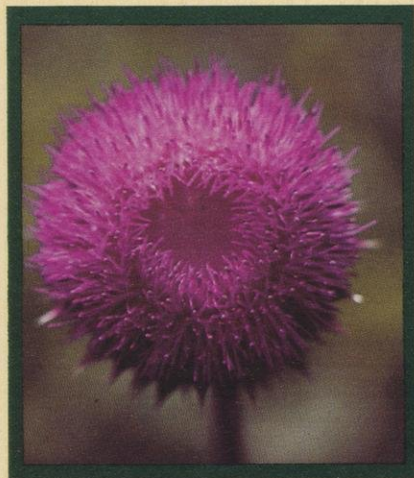
Lichens combine algae and
fungi to form a new plant.
This is the genus *Cladonia*.

Greg Scott

Haircap moss and acorns.

Allen F. Hillery

Life nurtures life in
an unending cycle.
Fungi spring from organic duff
and even plants devour insects.



Life grows,
blossoms and bears fruit
in unique and beautiful profusion
— until the end.

Sunflowers.

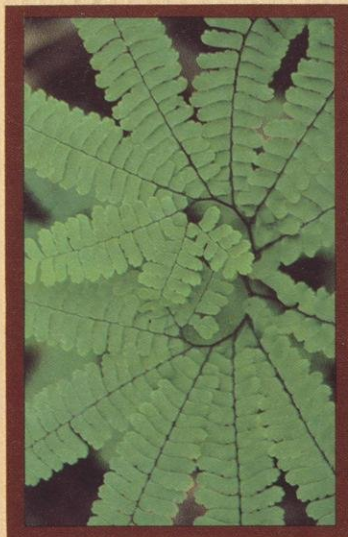
Greg Gent

Canada thistle.

David L. Misterek

Sneezeweed and skeleton.

Ed Anderson



Nature's designs can be delicate,
whimsical or threatening,
but they are always symmetrical,
sometimes fearfully so.

Groundspider necklace.

Don Blegen

Maidenhair fern.

Barbara Peterman

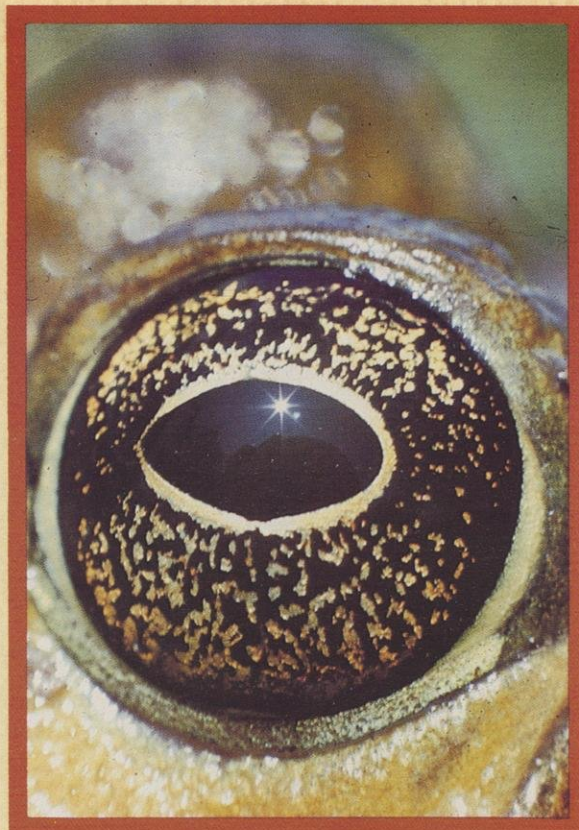
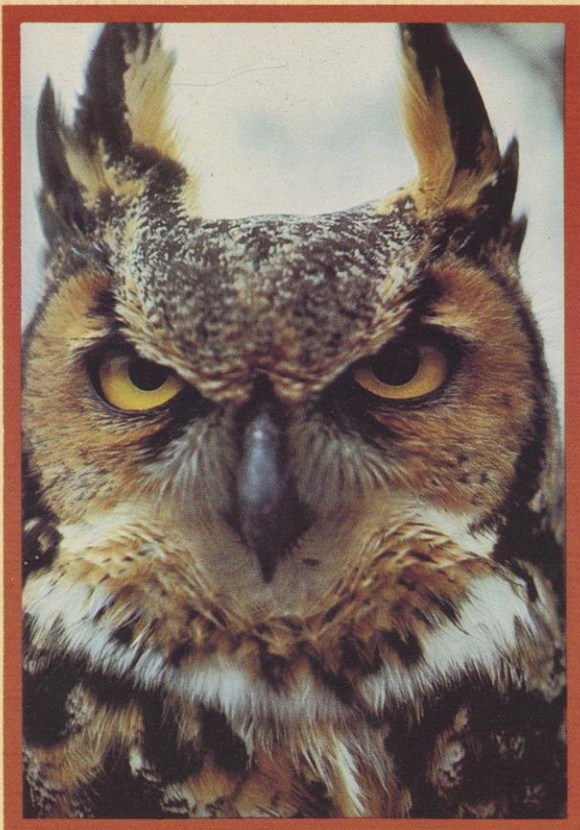
Fern, just beyond the
fiddlehead phase.

Chris Mattison



Big brown bat.

Greg Scott



Great horned owl.

Victor Apanius

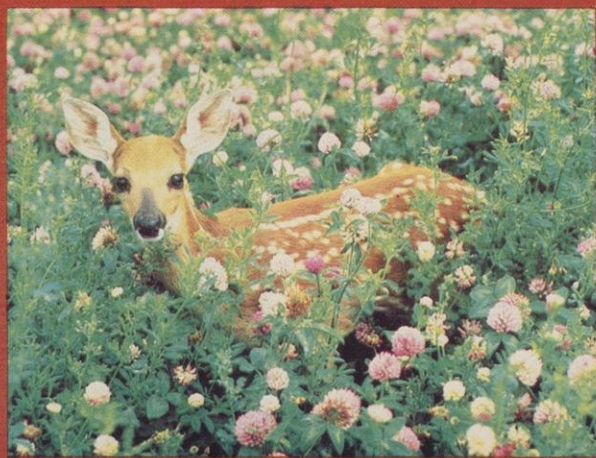
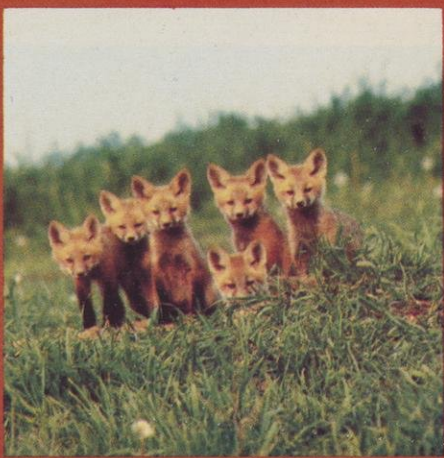
Green frog's eye.

Don Blegen

Garter snake.

Greg Scott

Looked right in the eye,
we all have our peculiarities.



Black-crowned night heron chicks.

Richard Jerofke

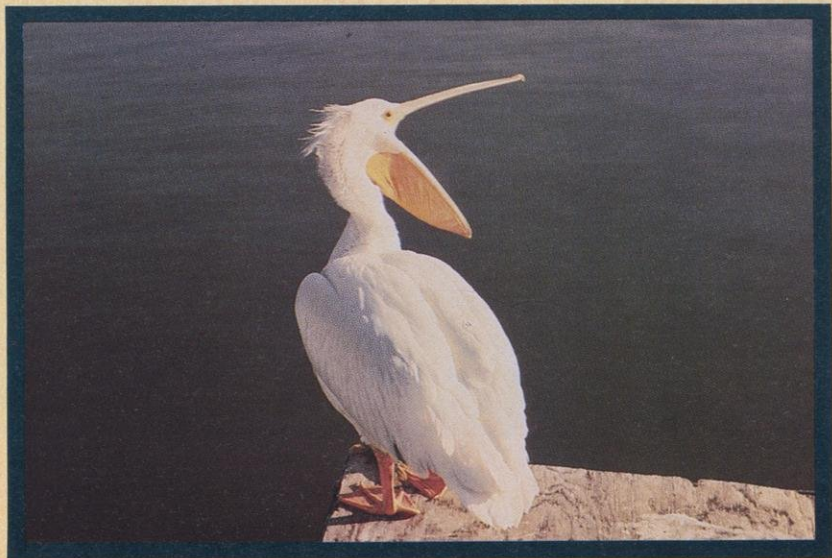
Red fox kits.

Herb Lange

Fawn in clover.

Herb Lange

But some are more peculiar than others.
And some more adorable.



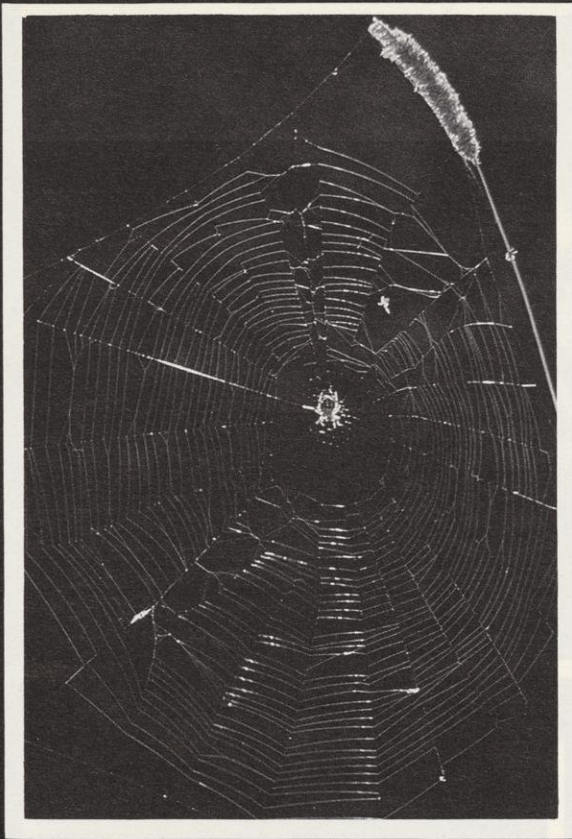
The elegant and the frumpy
live side by side.

Mute swan.

Arvid A. Widvey

White pelican.

Herb Lange



The nimble weave and fly.
Others of us plod.

Sunlit web.

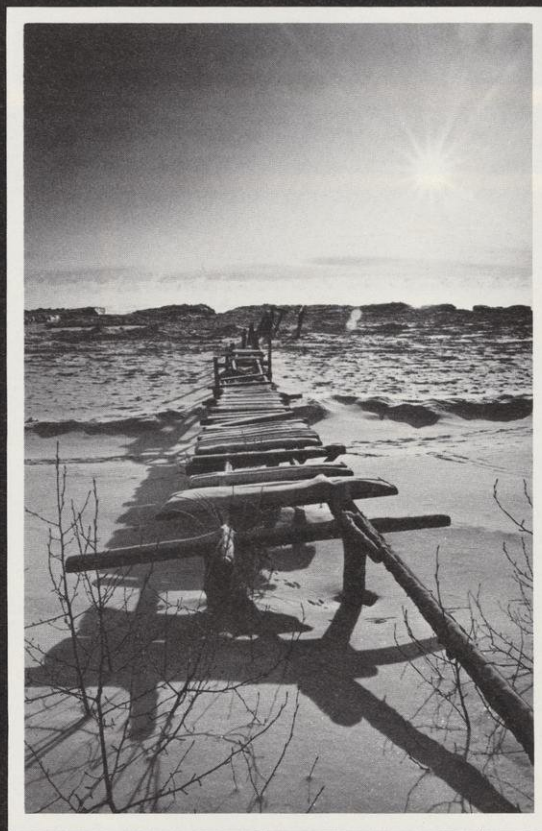
Arvid A. Widvey

Flock of gulls.

Mike Brisson

Early spring skunk tracks.

Greg Scott



Sunshine always etches shadows.

Cross country.

Mike Brisson

Winter tubers.

Chris Mattison

Abandoned pier.

Mike Brisson



And often makes the whole
world sparkle with quiet beauty.

Sparkling waters.

Chris Mattison



Water, mist, clouds and sun.

Mike Brisson

Reed canary grass and lily pads.

Mike Brisson

The sun creates earth's moods
and becomes part of them,
in tune with mist and water.



Its golden glow at the end of day
sends a universal message.
Photographers and the rest of us
can't resist it.

Ice palace.

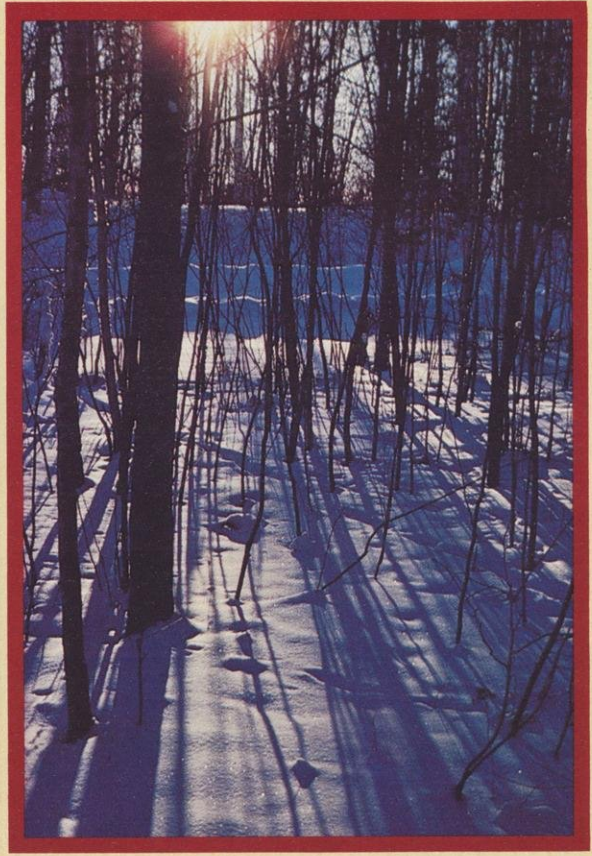
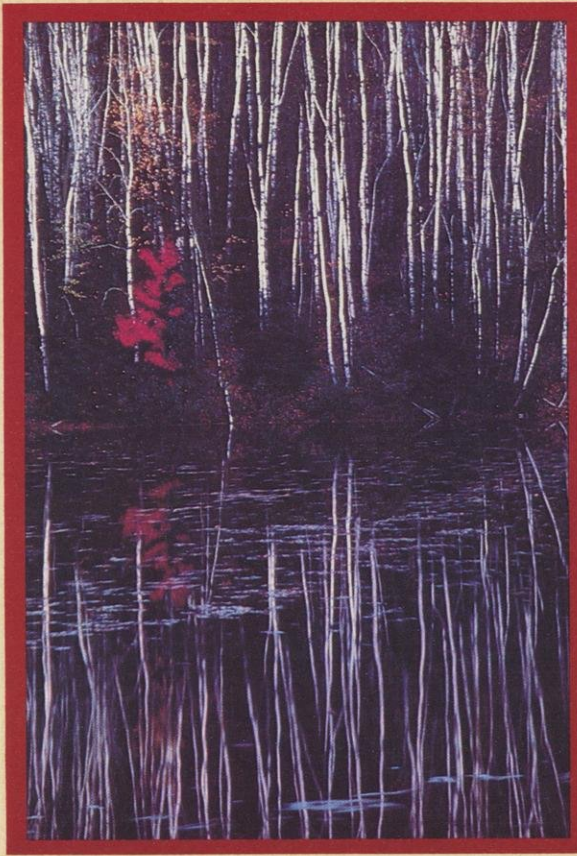
Greg Puz © '79

Anglers' sundown.

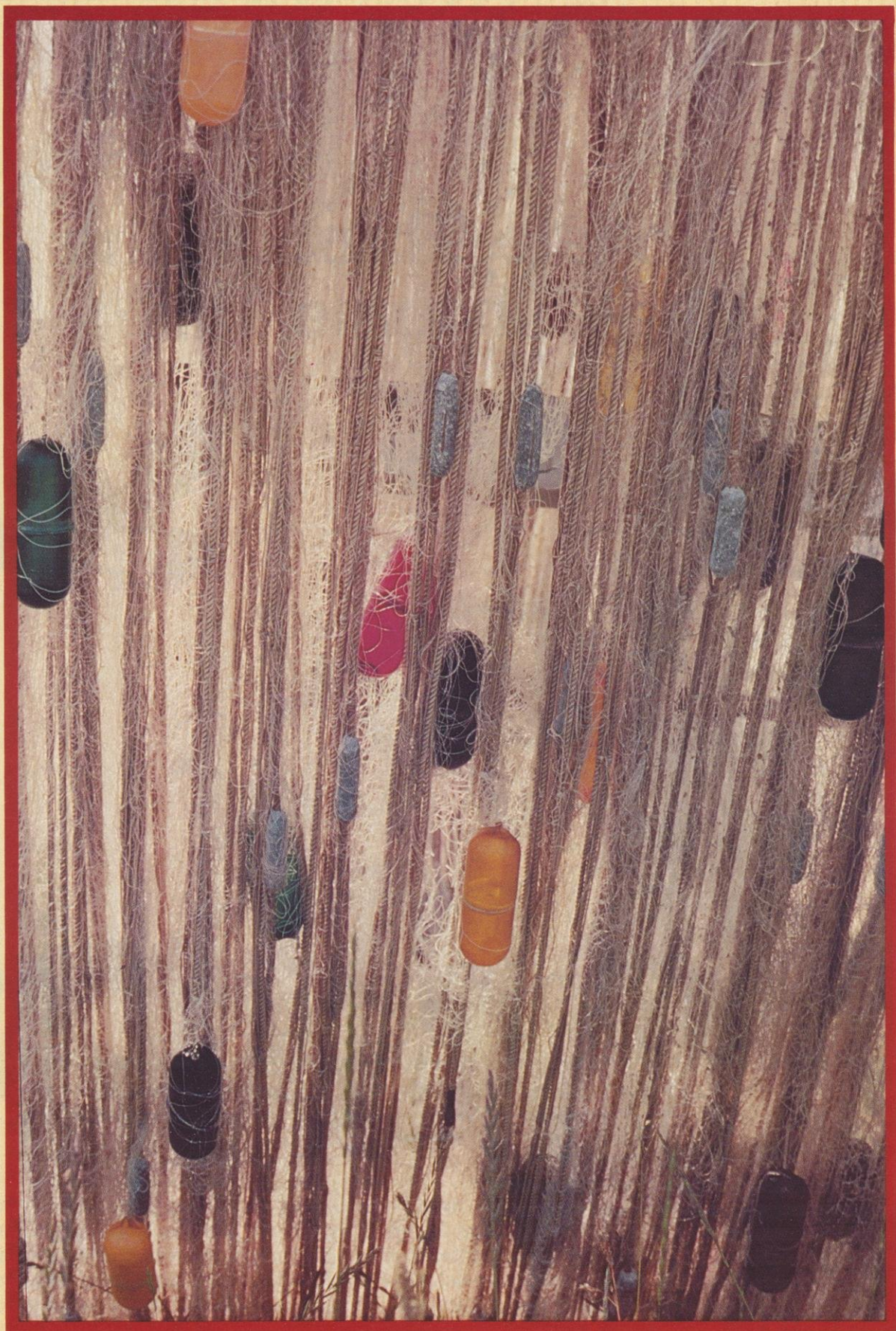
Pete Kirsch

November double.

Greg Gent



Finally, the observer sees life
as an uncounted assembly of
straight lines that take many forms.
They all lead somewhere!
The question we all ask is "where?"



Fishing nets.

Dale Lang

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW CRITTERS

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All money used to care for unhunted and endangered plants and animals in the state comes from citizens like you who give to the Endangered Resources Fund on the long or short form. Pay special attention to lines 21 or 53 and be generous. You'll aid eagles, owls and little critters and at the same time preserve rare habitats for endangered plants. Help will go to many, many forms of life that don't get much now. Your fellow critters are counting on you. **Thanks!**



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