

Meeting of Plant Taxonomists

The annual meeting of plant taxonomists was held in connection with the fall meeting of the Academy on Saturday forenoon, November 1, with M. S. Markle as chairman.

Ray C. Friesner, chairman of the committee which is accumulating data on plant distribution in the state, reported that more than 1,000 new records had been established during the year. Several members of the group showed plant pictures which they had taken on the summer field trip or at other times. Miscellaneous notes on new or unusual plants were also contributed by members.

The more formal part of the program was a symposium on recent trends in plant taxonomy. The vascular plants were discussed by Theodor Just, the bryophytes by Winona Welch, the fungi by Geo. B. Cummins, and the algae by Mervin Palmer.

T. G. Yuncker was elected chairman of the group for 1942. It was decided that, if satisfactory arrangements could be made, the summer meeting of 1942 should be held at Fountain Park, near Remington.

In view of the growing interest in taxonomy and the success of this informally organized section of the Academy, it was voted that steps be taken to have a brief history of its activities published in the Proceedings. To that end the following record has been prepared by Paul Weatherwax.

For many years, a number of botanists who regularly attended the meetings of the Academy felt that the botanical programs were too long to permit leisurely discussion of taxonomic and floristic problems, but it was not until 1927 that steps were taken to segregate these topics for special consideration. On the last day of the meeting of the Academy at the University of Notre Dame in December of that year, a small group met, at the insistent urging of Charles C. Deam, and made plans for later meetings. It is interesting to recall now that, at that time, some feared that the general botanical program might suffer from the division of interest.

During the next few years discussion of the project continued, but the first session announced in the program of the Academy was that at Butler University in 1931. At this and the next three meetings, held, respectively, at Notre Dame, Indiana University, and Butler University, there was no formal program, and the discussions frequently drifted into questions of nomenclature, orthography and pronunciation of technical names, etc., with Dr. J. A. Nieuwland as a leader.

The first chairman (Paul Weatherwax) was elected in 1933 and served in 1934. Theodor Just served as chairman in 1935, '36, and '37. The first field meeting was held at Bass Lake, a few miles west of Angola, in July, 1934. The attendance was small (about 15 or 20).

There were no field meetings during the next three years, but informal sessions were held at the time of the Academy meetings. The Proceedings for 1936 included a short account of the one held at Danville.

With the election of Ralph Kriebel as chairman for 1938, things really got under way, and a full program was carried out. The field meeting, planned by Ralph Kriebel and Charles C. Deam, was held September 2-5, in the region of Bass Lake (Starke Co.), the Jasper-Pulaski Game Reserve, and the prairies and Kankakee swamps northwest of Rensselaer. About twenty were present; three or four botanists from the University of Michigan came for a part of the meeting but failed to make contact with the Indiana group. On the first evening A. H. Meyer, of Valparaiso University, laid a good foundation for the field trips by discussing the physiography of the northwestern part of the state especially the Kankakee region. The subjects of discussion at the winter meeting, held at Purdue University, was "The Concept of the Species." Those presenting papers on this topic were: Theodor Just, Ray C. Friesner, Marion L. Lohman, and Alfred C. Kinsey. An account of this meeting is given in the Proceedings (48:xxviii. 1939).

The summer field trip in 1939 (Sept. 2-4) was arranged by the chairman, Fred A. Loew, with the help of Charles C. Deam, Ralph Kriebel, and Scott McCoy. It included the region extending from Terre Haute to Vincennes, Mt. Carmel, Ill., New Harmony, Evansville, Mt. Vernon, and Chrisney. The program for the winter meeting, held at the State Teachers College, Terre Haute, included a symposium on the "The Limitations of the Distribution of the Indiana Flora." Those presenting papers were: Ralph Kriebel, Winona Welch, Scott McCoy, Naomi Mullendore, and J. E. Potzger. For an account of this meeting see the Proceedings (49:xxiii. 1940).

The field trip of 1940 was held on the week-end of August 31 to September 2, in Harrison and Crawford Counties. Paul Weatherwax was chairman, and Ray C. Friesner made most of the arrangements. At the winter meeting, which was held at Ball State College, the main topic of discussion was a plan for adding to the records of distribution of vascular plants in the state, using as a basis Dr. Deam's Flora of Indiana, which had just been published. A committee, with Ray C. Friesner as chairman, was instructed to compile for publication a list of new records which had accumulated since the appearance of the Flora; and there was a unanimous agreement that this activity should continue indefinitely. The list prepared by this committee was published in the Proceedings (50:72-78. 1941).

Headquarters for the summer meeting of 1941 (Aug. 29 to Sept. 1) were at Quaker Haven, on Dewart Lake, in Kosciusko County. M. S. Markle, chairman, was in charge. Some time was spent about the lake, and two longer trips were made—one to the bogs and dunes near Angola and Lagrange, and one to the Jasper-Pulaski Game Preserve. About forty attended.