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SCENIC AND BEAUTIFUL KETTLE MORAINE

Progress Is Made In Building

Greenbush Sports Area Will Be Open Summer And Winter — Skiing And Toboggan Slides

One and a quarter million people in southeastern Wisconsin are going to enjoy the advantages of the Kettle Moraine which is now becoming a reality, with additional acreage purchased each year and a yearly program of development.

Some time ago we planned to feature a special article on the Kettle Moraine park giving the acres purchased and additional information as to glacial formations within the park region.

There are three areas within the park: the Scuppernong area, the Mauthe Lake area and the Greenbush sports area.

The Scuppernong area comprises [illegible] acres already acquired by the state and 310 acres in process of purchase, all lying within Waukesha, Walworth and Jefferson counties. The northern area which comprises Mauthe Lake area and the Greenbush area and what is known as the northern purchase includes approximately 4,600 acres, all of this lying in Sheboygan and Fond du Lac counties.

From time to time as the funds from the forest crop law provide, additional purchases will be made so that eventually we will have an area running all the way from Sheboygan, including Fond du Lac, Washington, Jefferson, Waukesha and Walworth counties.

The Scuppernong area of the Kettle Moraine forest comprises approximately 2,000 acres. It is located in Waukesha, Jefferson and Walworth counties. It lies 30 miles west of Milwaukee and 15 miles from Waukesha, and is reached by State Highway 59. In the area a down hill ski run and a tow have been developed near the headquarters station and a shelter has been provided for winter skiers and for use by organized hiking and picnic groups over a good portion of the year.

As this area abounds in hunting during the legal open season, game birds and animals can be found. As additional land is purchased in this area additional facilities such as trailside shelters, water supplies and picnic areas with tables and fireplaces will be provided.

In this portion of the Kettle Moraine is Cushing park, a wooded picnic area located just east of the village of Delafield. This park is of historic interest to those interested in the Civil War period and has been a place of great interest for many years. Government Hill is located two miles north of the village of Delafield on County Trunk CC. This is a wooded area of about 100 acres and is typical of the Kettle Moraine country. An observation tower gives one a splendid view of the surrounding country.

We could go on and elaborate on this area of the Kettle Moraine at great length, but we know our people, when the days of gasoline rationing have passed, will see it for themselves in all its native beauty. The one thing we desire most is that efforts have been made to preserve it as near its natural state as possible.

Mauthe Lake

Mauthe Lake, the center of recreational activity in the Kettle Moraine State Forest, is located [illegible] side of the Mauthe [illegible] Fond du Lac county. The state of Wisconsin now owns [illegible] 2,000 acres in this [illegible].

There are recreational facilities [illegible] Lake for those who [illegible] fun during the late summer and early fall [illegible] spots include camping and tenting), hiking, bathing, and other general activities. A large [illegible] good drinking water, [illegible] diamond are also [illegible].

[illegible] foot trails which be[illegible] public use area af[illegible]tunity for nature [illegible] the many different shrubs and trees, [illegible] to th estate forest [illegible] Wisconsin. For those [illegible]back riding, there [illegible] bridal paths in [illegible] surrounding Mauthe [illegible].

[illegible] state forest lands with [illegible] a 1,000 acre tract [illegible] Lake are posted [illegible] grounds, and [illegible] of game such as [illegible] squirrels, raccoon, partridge and ducks for [illegible] other wildlife to be [illegible] and often seen, [illegible] squirrels, quail, [illegible] colored song[illegible] 60 different spe[illegible] animals and birds have been identified as making their home in this area.

Attractive fireplaces and picnic sites located at various places in the forest area are very popular with those who enjoy cooking food out of doors.

Winter sports are increasingly popular each year, and a ski bowl has been established in this area for those who like to ski and enjoy other snow activities. There is usually plenty of snow for these sports.

Mauthe Lake is within easy driving distance of Milwaukee (50 miles) and a lesser distance from other important populated areas on the west shore of Lake Michigan. Excellent state and county highways lead to this scenic playground in the Kettle Moraine area of southeastern Wisconsin.

This was originally owned by the Izaak Walton chapter of Milwaukee but later was deeded to the state and was named Mauthe Lake in honor of William Mauthe, first chairman of the conservation commission created back in the twenties. Mr. Mauthe who passed away May 12, 1942, has been heralded, and wisely so, as one of the finest types of conservationists that Wisconsin has had. As the active head of the first conservation commission he directed its activities in the way of preserving for posterity Wisconsin's natural resources and preached making them available to the public.

The illustrations carried with this article show the beauties of Mauthe Lake, as well as the swimming and bathing beach, the headquarters building, garage and central office, all located on Mauthe Lake. There is also an illustration of the Esken Moraine formation in Kettle Moraine State Forest park and of a path leading through the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Today we have only the native trees, but as time goes on and reforesting takes place the beauties of this forest area will be unchallenged anywhere.

The Mauthe Lake area includes Lake Fifteen, Mauthe Lake, Buttermilk Lake, Lake Forest, Crooked Lake and parallels Long Lake. It includes a most scenic wooded area, what was formerly known as the Nast woods just south of New Prospect.

Greenbush Sports Area

The Greenbush sports area is a more heavily wooded area of the northern unit in Kettle Moraine State Forest. It is located six miles west of the city of Plymouth, and signs on State Highways 67 and 23 direct one to this popular summer and winter sports area. Among the summer facilities provided in these more than 2,000 acres is a picnic area, marked tramper's trails and shelter. Along the trails nature lovers have an opportunity to study the wild life of the forest and learn to identify the many wild flowers and trees native to this district. The state has established a popular hunting ground in this area.

Winter sports provide skiing and toboggan slides. The hiking trails are laid out so they can be used as ski trails during the winter months. This arrangement affords excellent opportunity for cross-country skiing.

Four miles south of Greenbush area on County Highway A and State Highway 67 is located a lookout tower which is easily climbed by young and old. Visible from the tower on clear days at a distance of some 15 to 20 miles are Lake Michigan, Sheboygan, and beautiful panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.

The commission some time ago prepared an article dealing with the geology of the Kettle Moraine, including also an outline of the development proposed. That article is of historic value and we include it as a part of the Kettle Moraine State Forest story today.

Geology Of The Kettle Moraine

Between the Green Bay and Lake Michigan lobes of the last great glacier, was formed an interlobate deposit of unusual height and irregularity. This is part of the Kettle Moraine of Wisconsin; so called, because of the deep hollows or kettles. It rises 200 feet above the region southeast of Whitewater and is especially well seen near Eagle, Waukesha county. The kettles or pits are due to the melting of buried ice blocks, or to the building of irregular morainic ridges which enclose undrained depressions.

During the last stage of glaciation, one lobe of the continental ice sheet moved down the bed of Lake Michigan. Another followed the Green Bay-Lake Winnebago valley. Lateral flow brought them into contact "with equal vigor" — "antagonizing each other" pushing and crowding the drift into an intricate series of ridges and depressions. There were several periods when both lobes melted back and then readvanced with the interlobe angle, moving northward.

Each readvancement built up recessional moraines on either side closely parallel to interlobate moraines or branching from the main region at low angles. The melting of huge, buried blocks of ice left the numerous pot holes which give the Kettle Moraine its name. In bottoms of some of these kettles are lakes with a depth of more than 100 feet. Sinuous gravel regions or eskers now mark the courses of streams which filled their high walled channels with stratified gravel. The Kettle Moraine contains an enormous volume of washed stratified gravel composed chiefly of the native Niagara limestone, but with some material from the Lake Superior region and also crystallin rock from Canada.

Development

The Kettle Moraine State Forest will be a multiple use forest used for recreation by the populated southeast part of Wisconsin, along with the game conservation, forest and soil protection, water conservation, reduction of flood waters, demonstration practices, and forest planting. There are being developed at the present time, four principal recreation areas on the state forest. Two are located on the Northern Purchase unit, and one is to be located on the Southern Purchase unit. In general, the prime recreational uses will include hunting, fishing, swimming, picnicking, hiking, nature study, bicycling, horseback riding, etc.

Along with this development, a careful plan of forest practice is being developed. There are some areas which will probably never be planted to trees but will be left, if open, in that state and be used as part of the game management program. Many steep hillsides will be replanted to hardwoods such as oak, hickory, maple, ash, elm and other species which are native to the area. There will also be introduced such species as conifers which give reasonable promise of being adapted to this area. Certain of the deforested marshes which at one time supported growth of cedar, tamarack, and black spruce will again be reforested with these species.

There has been much work done toward the development of the Kettle Moraine Forest. A total of approximately 800 acres have been planted to new forests. Four hundred acres of forest land have been improved by thinning out undesirable species of trees.

The Kettle Moraine State Forest did not just happen overnight. For the last quarter of a century men interested in the formation of a park in southeastern Wisconsin have advocated it. Meetings were held in Sheboygan, Fond du Lac and Milwaukee. The legislators at various times were invited to make inspection tours and on one occasion more than 300 people sat down to a dinner at the Heidelberg in this city and then made a complete auto trip through the area.

Some of the men who were a part of that early-day planning have since passed away, but there are enough left to refer in glowing terms to their untiring efforts.

Milwaukee was deeply interested in this because it followed the course of the Milwaukee river to some extent, and Milwaukee conservationists were interested in plans to beautify this stream. At no time has Milwaukee lessened its interest, and as a result of the wise counsel of its leaders we have seen the Milwaukee river made the site for many summer cottages.

Resolutions were passed and field trips and surveys were made and with the approval of the legislature for the levy of a mill tax for general state forestry purposes, the opportunity for the purchase of land for a large recreational forest in southeastern Wisconsin arrived, and subsequently during the session of 1937 the conservation commission was specifically directed to undertake this job and $75,000 annually was appropriated for the acquisition and development of a state forest. The 1943 legislature amended the forest crop measure, and in the future the amount appropriated to be expended annually is $150,000. Following this legislative authorization, the conservation commission reviewed the information which had been assembled. The land most available within reasonable price limits, best located to the cities, particularly Milwaukee, and which would lend itself to the type of development desired, was the so-called Kettle Moraine. This is a relatively narrow strip of country extending from Walworth county on the south to Sheboygan county on the north, about 100 miles in length. It is characterized by rough broken low hills and "kettles," more or less wooded and interspersed with swamps open as well as forested, and glacial lakes and ponds. With the decline in value of considerable of this area for farming, the land values had dropped to a point where direct purchase by the state was feasible.

The primary purpose of this undertaking is to provide a large area for recreation of the naturalistic of wild-wood type for the heavily populated or industrialized part of the state. The development contemplated is similar to what other metropolitan areas, such as Chicago in the Cook County Forest Preserve, New York in the public park and forest areas along the Hudson, or the city of Denver in its system of mountain parks, have had in operation for years. In the area as a whole, two units have been laid out and officially approved, each including from twenty to twenty-five thousand acres, and work is now in progress for the purchase and development of these units.

While the purchase units as laid out offer, at this time, the best possibilities for a recreational forest project, it is intended that, over the years, through other direct land ownership or by means of easements for public use, the entire Kettle Moraine area will become a part of this development, so that long trails and outdoor camping places may be provided over a large range of country. The area as a whole, as it comes into public ownership, will be dedicated to a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities as may be illustrated by primitive and wild-wood camping places, trails for hikers, refuges for game birds and animals, picnic and swimming areas, public hunting grounds, boating and fishing, and field trial and skiing areas. In the development contemplated it is hoped that the area may be of service to a wide and constantly growing group of people — citizens as well as visitors to the state.

While it will take as many as 25 years to bring this entire project to reasonable fulfillment, this does not mean that the area is not of immediate benefit for the purposes it is intended to serve. Already thousands of people have taken advantage of the facilities which are now available. It is important that use by the public be confined to the lands actually owned by the state rather than the use of privately-owned lands which are located within the boundaries of the purchase units established, so on each of the recreational areas indicated there is a contact station provided or the lands are suitably marked so that no confusion should arise between what is owned and what is not owned by the state. The citizens of this state, as well as others, are cordially invited to make use of the 6,000 or more acres now actually owned in reasonably well-blocked areas in the Kettle Moraine State forest.

Additional information on this area may be had by writing to the State Forest Supervisor, Campbellsport, Wis., or the Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison, Wis.

Clyde T. Smith, state forest supervisor, is in charge of the park and devotes his entire time, in charge of men who are developing this property. He is a man who has grown up in conservation work and lives it, day in and day out. He has a personality that is most pleasing. When we contacted Superintendent of Parks C. L. Harrington a couple of months ago for an article he referred us to Supervisor Smith and together we studied the maps and marked the progress that had been made. Although still in its infancy the Kettle Moraine park has attracted far more interest than the average reader could possibly realize.

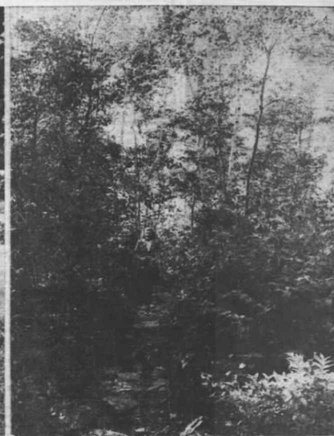
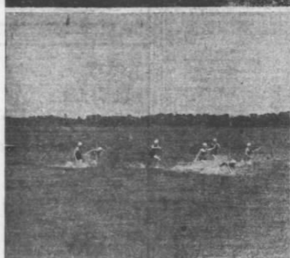
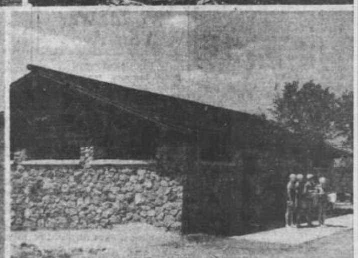
During 1942 the Greenbush area was visited by 7,621 people and 1,731 cars. The Mauthe Lake area was visited by 37,656 people and 8,538 cars, and there were campers using Mauthe Lake area to the number of 698 people, and 81 tents were pitcher last year at Mauthe Lake.

This was in 1942, and one has only to follow the figures for 1943 to ascertain how gas rationing has interfered with travel. There was 66⅔ per cent less use of the recreational areas in 1943. However these figures will be somewhat increased when complete tabulations for August and September come in and are included.

This is a year-around area because it has its trails, picnic grounds, bathing beaches for summer activities and added to that, the trails and ski runs, etc., invite added numbers in the fall and winter months as the changing seasons attract their attention.

The Kettle Moraine State Forest park gives the people of southeastern Wisconsin some of the advantages that have been denied and are now made possible by the enactment of the forest crop law and wise conservation management.

Points Of Interest In Kettle Moraine Forest

Top left, Esken Moraine Formation in Kettle Moraine State Forest; top right, path leading through Kettle Moraine State Forest; center left, Mauthe Lake swimming and bathing beach; center right, bath house at Mauthe Lake; lower left, headquarters and garage at Mauthe Lake; below right, central office of Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Clyde T. Smith, state forest supervisor, in charge of the Kettle Moraine park.

Between 11 and 20 per cent of U. S. dairy cattle are infected with the undulant fever organism in one of its three forms.

The queue together with the shaving of a part of the head was forced on the male Chinese throughout the Manchu dynasty (1650-1912) as a badge of servitude.

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