



FIGURE 3. Bulletin board at the edge of the environmental garden.

satisfactory substitute. Over several years, silting and dense plant growth may make it necessary to dredge the pond to maintain the proper depth for fish populations.

Like most projects, an environmental garden is not without its difficulties. Every garden will have unique problems, but the following examples from our experience illustrate what can occur. Nonscience faculty members viewed our area as an eyesore because it was not mowed and the pond was "weedy." We are solving this problem by planting attractive wildflowers and plants along the periphery. Our solution may also demonstrate that beauty is not necessarily confined to formally landscaped areas.

Another objection that we encountered early in our project was that the wet areas might breed too many mosquitoes. In the 13 years that the wet areas have existed, no such problem has arisen, possibly because of the biological control provided by other animals in the area.

Still a third objection we encountered was that the garden would become so dense that it would invite security problems such as rapes or muggings. Fortunately, this possibility has not materialized, but adequate lighting may be necessary in gardens where overgrowth does pose such a threat.

Some plants were damaged by mowing, snowplows, and rabbit overpopulation. The most serious and most disheartening problem we encountered was vandalism, and we can offer no solution to this other than to attempt to educate those who are ignorant of the value of life.

Since its inception in 1964, our garden has been used for a variety of instructional programs. Several college disciplines (Agriculture, Conservation, Biology and others) use it regularly. Many younger students from nearby elementary schools take advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the garden. As the garden matures, biological diversity increases, and opportunities for teaching and learning grow. Our future plans include the use of plant identification markers in conjunction with the bulletin board already in existence (fig. 3). We also want to increase herbaceous

plantings, especially native wildflowers. An herb garden has already been planted on one edge of the environmental garden.

We think it is beneficial to keep a written and slide record of our garden's yearly progress. In time, the slides will illustrate the occurrence of succession.

In conclusion, we believe that the educational benefits afforded by an on-campus environmental garden far outweigh the minimal effort required for its maintenance and establishment.

References

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Advice

In promulgating your esoteric cogitations or articulating superficial sentimentalities, and amicable, philosophical or psychological observations, beware of platitudinous ponderosity. Let your conversational communications possess a clarified conciseness, compact comprehensiveness, coalescent consistency, and a concatenated cogency. Sedulously avoid all polysyllabic profundity, pompous prolixity, setaceous vacuity, and premeditated duplicity or prevarication. Eschew all conglomerations of flatulent garrulity, jejune babblement, asinine affectations, and inane profanity, obscurant or apparent.

In other words, talk briefly, plainly, naturally, sensibly, truthfully, purely. Keep from slang. Say what you mean; mean what you say. And, don't use big words.

Contributed by James L. Mariner