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ORDWAY BULLETIN
No. 74

MACALESTER
COLLEGE

located at 9550 Inver Grove Trail (Dakota County Road 77), Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

"GREENING -UP" at ORDWAY -(1)

Every year it is the same, yet every year it is new and different. The winter-sleep of Nature changes into the spring-awakening and the first spectacular manifestation of this is the change-to-green.

It is almost imperceptible at first - a hint here and there which requires a more detailed examination of a twig or a leaf-bud on a willow or aspen or the Red Elder - sure enough, it is swelling, it has become ever-so-slightly greener . . . and yet when one looks at the entire panorama he receives only a subtle realization that it isn't quite the same as it was last week, not quite so dead-looking in spite of the snow cover and the barren trees.

The first green of spring is more yellow than green and nowhere is this more delicately displayed than in the willows, which show it in their very bark as well as in the smallest twigs and buds. The dogwoods, too, display this greening in their stems and begin to lose that crisp red covering which contrasted so brilliantly with the snow cover during the winter and which gives them their name, Red Osier.

Down at the spring, where the water continues to flow constantly all during the year, the Watercress has become more alive, being the very first visible sign of the greening which is taking place. The change in the Watercress, too, is quite subtle; one day it is green enough but "lifeless" in appearance, then suddenly, without any dramatics, it takes on that alive look and becomes vibrantly "awake", its small round leaves showing the lively quality much as the eyes of a healthy bird shine. Shortly after this brightening occurs it is time to look for the up-probing of the Skunk Cabbage in the same general habitat. Warmed by the invisible waters this plant thrusts its curved spathe upward until its tip breaks through the snow cover and then, warmed by the absorbed rays of the returning sun, a small circle melts around the emerging flower and reveals its mahogany-green vertical cup. The spring is the place where one finds the first stirrings and the first changes to green.

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12 March 1979
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