

the growth rate in trees before and after 1925, should be of great interest.

1. CHANONON, S. A., Jr. 1968. The LaPorte weather anomaly — fact or fiction? Bull. Amer. Meteorol. Soc. 49: 4-11.
2. LEAR, JOHN. 1968. The home-brewed thunderstorms of LaPorte, Indiana. Saturday Review 51: 53-55.

## 155

## SPICER LAKE

St. Joseph County  
New Carlisle

Private ownership  
30 acres

## Aquatic and terrestrial biological area (3)

In NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Sect. 10, T38S, R 1 W.

The pond nearest the intersection of the Michigan line road and the St. Joseph-LaPorte (Indiana) county line road, in the SE quadrant of this intersection.

A kettle-hole swamp forest adjoins the approximately 5 acres of remaining open water on the south and west sides, while high land on the north and east slopes down abruptly to the pond edge. An extensive area is morainic, with mostly Galena loams and related phases and types.

No tamarack nor white pine were seen; the tree swamp is predominantly red maple, as Table 107 shows. The 15 ft. to 2 in. layer and the 2 in. - 4 in. layer are very sparsely populated. Among the herb tussocks and network of tree roots, water

TABLE 107. Stratum ranking of the tree species in the tree swamp associated with Spicer Lake.

	Herb layer	Shrub layer	15' - 2"	2-4" diam.	Over 4"
Red maple	—	4	5	6	7
Sassafras	2	3	—	—	2
Black ash	1	1	.1	2	1
Cork elm	—	—	—	—	1
<i>Amelanchier</i> sp.	—	3	2	—	—
Choke cherry	—	1	—	—	—

is shallowly ponded over black muck bottom. This irregularity of surface, the mosses and several boreal herb species (Canada mayflower abundant) convey the impression of a northern peatland swamp.

The shrubs beneath the swamp forest canopy are: spicebush 7, *Ilex verticillata* 3 (at edge of lake), *Aronia arbutifolia* (at lake edge), red osier dogwood 2, gray dogwood 2, elderberry 2, grape 2, swamp rose 2 and nannyberry 1.

At the outer edges of the tree swamp is a shrub swamp on peat, consisting of dogwoods and tall grasses and herbs chiefly.

In the tree swamp near the pond, stratum rank estimates for the herbs were: cinnamon fern 6, clearweed 5, spicebush reproduction 4, *Rubus pubescens* 4, Canada mayflower 4, royal fern 3, skullcap 3, sedges 3 (*Carex crinita*, *C. cristatella*, *C. intumescens*, *C. larida* and *C. virescens*), grasses 3 (*Glyceria canadensis*, *G. striata*, etc), woodbine 3, bugleweed 3, lizard's tail 2, jewelweed 2, Jack-in-the-pulpit 2, sensitive fern 2 and *Conium maculatum* 2.

Spicer Lake is within the area which a citizens group recently proposed for establishment of a new "Indiana Toll Road Park," to lie between the toll road and the state line, with its west end north of the town of Hudson Lake and the lake of the same name. The site is located midway between the LaPorte and the South Bend Toll Road interchanges. Maple Grove Lake is a proposed impoundment of 398 acres, which would have 6 miles of shoreline, including that of 4 islands.

There has been no recent evidence of any prospects of the proposed park materializing.