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Tree Study Keys

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TREE STUDY KEYS

IDA E. IVERSEN-WOLDEN

“Our Trees” by Professor H. S. Conard, Grinnell College, was used in the Mason City junior college biology in its first tree study of that city with its surrounding area. In the laboratory class study of the early fall, students were directed in the use of the “key.” Later each one was responsible for the study of trees on his home lot, or an equivalent territory, collecting, pressing, mounting, labeling, and giving tree locations. Next, each student mapped his home block, adding to the leaf collections, and tree locations. Material was thus collected not only from Mason City but from surrounding home towns of students in several years’ biology classes.

Following Dr. Conard’s suggestion that we have a tree book for this studied area, with his permission to use his “key,” there was an intensive study of the trees in Mason City, by all students in classes of two years. One student, Roslyn Brogue, classified the students’ collections, made all the drawings, and arranged Dr. Conard’s key for our area. She also constructed an illustrated leaf key for the book, “Our Friends—the Trees,” (Iversen, Brogue, published November, 1937).

Thus there has been student participation in this activity which developed into a community interest. There has, of course, been much observation of trees.

ESTHERVILLE, IOWA.