

Cycles of nature: birth to death

by Timothy Nowicki
special writer

SCIENCE is a long way from knowing all there is to know about our natural world. But one of the general principles that has been discovered is that nature works in a network of interconnecting cycles.

Some cycles are obvious to us. The four seasons in Michigan, for instance, continue year after year. Each cycle may vary slightly, as everything natural has its individual variation, but each season is recognizable and often anticipated.

The cool days of September are welcomed after the "dog days" of August. The rainbow of spring blooms are welcomed after the black and white of winter.

INTERLACED with each season are

outdoors

other cycles that occur.

Birds migrate from the south, mate, raise young, then fly south again and wait until next spring to repeat the sequence.

Water falls to earth in various forms, evaporates to the atmosphere, and then falls to earth again — repeating a never-ending cycle.

The squirrels in our back yard illustrate another cycle of nature. Last winter we noted the courtship of the adults, and later in the spring we saw the young which resulted from that courtship. We watched the young grow bigger and stronger.

As time passed, we saw them learn to refine many skills such as climbing and jumping.

THE OTHER day, the last phase of the cycle was completed. I found a dead squirrel at the base of our tree.

He was an adult who apparently died of old age. There were no signs of an attack by a predator, although that is certainly a common way of completing this cycle in the natural world. He had lived several years, fostered several offspring, and watched several cycles of his own.

Now he will start another cycle in the natural world. The minerals and elements which made up his body will be recycled into the Earth for the next generation of trees, or flowers, or birds, or squirrels.

Nothing is wasted, when all cycles of nature are considered.

Lodge hearing Nov. 8

The Michigan Department of Transportation will conduct a public hearing Thursday, Nov. 8, in the effect of repaving the John C. Lodge Freeway (US-10) in Detroit.

The project calls for keeping half the Lodge open to traffic at all times during the two years it takes to complete repaving.

"We want to get opinions and solicit ideas and suggestions from anyone who might contribute to the complete of the project with as little disruption as possible," MDOT Director James P. Pitz said.

The hearing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Center Ballroom of Mercy College of Detroit, 8200 W. Outer Drive.

THE HEARING may be unnecessary, however, if voters two days earlier approve Proposal C. That proposal would roll back state and local taxes — including the gasoline and weight taxes that support road programs — to end-of-1981 levels.

Reconstruction of the Lodge Freeway, parts of which are 30 years old, could not take place if C passes, Pitz said.

Also facing cancellation would be improving US-10 (Dixie Highway) in Oakland County, upgrading Woodward Avenue in Oakland County, improving Telegraph Road (US-24) south of Plymouth Road in Wayne County, widening M-153 (Ford Road) in western Wayne County and widening US-12 (Michigan Avenue) east of I-275 in western Wayne County.

WITH THE LODGE, MDOT's plans call for construction northbound lanes (toward the suburbs) beginning in March, completing them in November. Southbound lanes (toward downtown) would remain open during that period.

Southbound lanes would be rebuilt during the 1988 construction season.

"This is the first major project in a long-range program to rehabilitate the metropolitan area freeways," Pitz said.

"These freeways are important not just to the people who drive on them, but to the economic vitality of the entire region."

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Workshop aids businessmen

Area business owners can benefit from an Economic Development Teamwork Workshop Friday, Oct. 26, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Running from 8:30 a.m. to noon and followed by a gourmet lunch, the workshop will detail ways to work with real estate agents, bankers and local governmental agencies.

Patrick Dermody, president of Spirax Co., and John L. Bones, president of Technical Metals Co., will present a variety of economic development success strategies.

Registration information is available from Schoolcraft's Community Services office at 591-6400 ext. 409. Fee of \$10 covers the lunch.

OTHER SPEAKERS:

• Claude Howard, commercial real estate

agent — how to locate a business.

Daniel H. Dahl, vice president of Manufacturer's Bank — financing your business.

• Tom F. Taylor, former Westland mayor — how local government can assist you.

• Gregory E. Pitoniak, director of client services for the Wayne County Economic Development Corp. — Implementing the community growth alliance program.

• Richard McDowell, president of Schoolcraft College — how the college can help business development.

Other speakers will be Carolyn Logan of the Michigan Department of Education, Barry Hawthorne of the Wayne County Private Industry Council and Paul Chamberlain of the Training and Placement Council.

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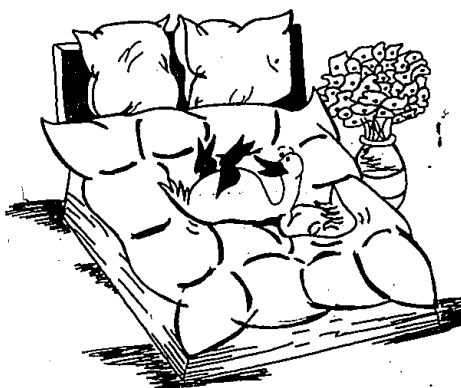
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