

# The MacKenzie Environmental Education Center

*Poynette*

What used to be called the State Game Farm at Poynette, and is now named the MacKenzie Environmental Education Center, offers visitors many riches, including an arboretum planted with more than 200 species of trees, some of them of state record size.

The state has set aside over 500 acres here in Columbia County, under Department of Natural Resources jurisdiction, for study, recreation and conservation work in hopes of improving people's re-

lationship with nature. Facilities, staff and equipment are available for intensive programs in observation and study of the environment by elementary, secondary and college students and environmental groups.

The educational potential of the state game farm concept was recognized early and led to the development of demonstration conifer plantings and the arboretum. Among the record-sized trees that can be viewed there are three varieties of pine, three varieties of oak, an amur maple, silverbell, bigleaf linden and Black Hills spruce. Unfortunately, a state record osage orange had to be removed recently.