

cific. The usual preliminary preparation—as in the case of all the wild fiber plants, I believe—was to rot the stems by soaking them in water. After that the outer bark readily separates and leaves exposed a soft, long, brownish fiber which is both strong and lasting. At one time some of the aborigines wove this into articles of clothing, but the commoner use of it was in making fish-and carrying-nets, string and ropes.

“Another fairly good fiber, utilizable for twine and rope, has been secured from several species of *Asclepias*, the familiar Milkweeds. Among these may be mentioned especially the Swamp Milkweed, (*Asclepias incarnata*, L.), with smooth stem and foliage, and red or rose-purple flowers. It is a frequent denizen of swampy land throughout the eastern half of the country from Canada to the Gulf.”

A few of the copper fish hooks found in Wisconsin have had bits of sinew or twisted fiber still attached to them. One specimen found by Rudolph Kuene, of Sheboygan, had attached to its shank a piece of fibrous cord of fine, thread-like texture. It was one of a cache of six copper fish hooks obtained from the New Amsterdam site, Sheboygan county. One of four others near by also had a piece of twine attached to it at the shank.

## FISH NETS

The Indians of Wisconsin, as elsewhere, were adept in the fashioning of nets for fishing. Stems and the bark of trees yielded the substance for twine, which could then be twisted into cords and ropes for their nets.

That the lake shore bands of Potawatomi in Wisconsin fashioned their fish nets out of basswood bark cord was the information furnished by Quitos to Dr. A. Gerend and reported by Publius V. Lawson.

Quitos described them as being “hoop-nets, cigar shape, about four feet in diameter and fourteen feet long, with stones attached to keep them properly suspended. With canoes made of dug-out pine, or fashioned of birch bark, they fished all night in the lake with nets, securing white fish, trout and sturgeon. The Potawatomi had a fish dam