

Cedar Lake Park

UPDATE

Spring/Summer 2000

Continuing Edition

Volume 12, No. 2

Park and Trails Continue to Connect People, Places and Times

CLPA has reviewed the plans for the Cedar Lake Trail: Phase 3, to the Mississippi River. Work is scheduled to start Spring 2000, with a fall completion anticipated for Part A, with a combination off-road, on-the-street corridor. When the Washington Ave. bridge is replaced in a few years, Part B will then be implemented, placing more of the trail off road. Finally, Part C, a refinement, will complete Phase 3.

The visionary connection to the Mississippi will be established this year, and the CLPA has reason to be proud. We do continue to have design concerns, focusing on the at-grade portions of the trail, and discussions are ongoing with Minneapolis Public Works, the lead agency.

The Midtown Greenway will be open between Calhoun Village and I-35W by summer. A study is underway to determine the feasibility of trolleys in the Greenway, rather than busses. Anything on pavement means impervious surfaces and minimal greenery. The Midtown Greenway Coalition remains vigilant and committed.

St. Louis Park will extend the Cedar Lake Trail west this year, from Highway 100 to Hopkins, with a fall completion anticipated. Several neighborhood groups intend to celebrate the completion of the trail. CLPA will participate, and we are very excited to see the eastern and western connections of the Cedar Lake Trail move forward.

The Kenilworth Trail is open and well-used and very nice. Its flat design serves to highlight design enhancements incorporated into the Cedar Lake Trail, such as changing topography and prairie restoration.

The Bassett's Creek Trail continues to be indefinite and still alive. The Friends of the Bassett's Creek Valley have released a visionary planning document that attempts to bring broad-scale principles to the valley, from Wirth Park to the river.

An interesting highlight concerns the inverse relationship between the amount of impervious surface in a watershed, and the water quality. They speak of rain gardens, areas that allow the rain to soak into the ground and run off slowly. Road salt is a significant problem in this watershed.

In the Southwest quadrant of the park there are issues concerning a parking ramp at Jones Harrison on Cedar Lake Ave. On this street commuter traffic moving south from France Ave. to Cedar Lake Parkway continues to increase. There is talk of closing to the public the emergency vehicle cut-off at the Parkway and Sunset Ave. The CIDNA neighborhood group has been integrally involved in these issues and is to be congratulated for the crossing lights for the Kenilworth Trail at Cedar Lake Parkway.



Jim McPherson

CLPA President Keith Prussing, left, points along a spiral in the Cedar Grove, as he discusses the trail chipping done by young people from the Sentenced to Serve program with its director, John Donahue.

It is now possible to comfortably walk the spirals of the memorial Cedar Grove, as a thick pathway of wood chips has been laid. It can be a very intimate experience to move along the Spiral, brushing against a cedar tree that represents a person whom we honor.



Annual Cedar Lake Birdwalk Slated

On Friday, May 19 at 7:00 a.m., veteran birder Peter Neubeck will again lead the annual birdwalk through Cedar Lake Park. This year could be as successful as last, when the weather was prime and the migrating birds many.

Bring binoculars and meet him promptly at 7 a.m. on Upton Ave. at 21st St., where you may park up on the street. Sign up soon as the group is limited to ten persons. Call Dorene Scriven at 612-922-4586, or Mary McGee at 612-377-0630.



On the Horizon

BY KEITH PRUSSING, CLPA PRESIDENT

In the Heart of the Park area stood a young eastern red mulberry tree. It was old enough to bear fruit, and its low-hanging branches made it easily accessible to be picked and eaten. It was called the "mother lode" by those aware of its existence, and the appearance of mulberry fruit in June was a yearly event eagerly anticipated.

Imagine the surprise, and chagrin, of a park user walking by this area to discover that this mulberry tree was gone, cut down. Close by its former place was a new sugar maple, with a label as evidence that it had been planted by people.

At a public hearing on off-leash dog areas proposed for Kenwood Park, we were approached by a woman who described herself as a long-time park supporter. Clearly upset, she went on to say that she would no longer be a supporter, due to her perception of an anti-dog bias in the Association.

In the south park, between 21st Street and the Burnham Bridge, there have been ongoing efforts to control bicycle activity in the woods. This area was once lake, then a public works dump, and was covered with soil over 30 years ago. For a mountain bike or BMX rider, this area offers exceptional opportunities due to the constantly changing terrain.

Construction of the Cedar Lake Trail began over five years ago, and the massive destruction of the landscape was so complete that to this day some continue to be outraged. The development of the Kenilworth Trail last year generates similar feelings.

On the west side, buckthorn/exotics removal, storm damage leveling Cedar Point and subsequent cleanup, property line surveying by MPRB, the planting of large ash trees along France Ave. above Cedar Meadows, and the impending Parkway bridge project with improved access to the CLT are a few of the issues and events provoking concern in these sections of the park.

A personal loss and upset of mine has been the closing of two steep incline paths with woody debris, rendering them unusable in the winter for a sled or skis. Another was the cutting of the dozen or so painted pipes that emerged from the ground along the northeast lakeshore path, near the wooden bench.

Change is happening throughout Cedar Lake Park, and whatever it is it can offend someone, and please another, and have little impact on someone else. There is a comprehensive Concept Master Plan, published in 1997 jointly by CLPA and MPRB, that distilled the wisdom and feelings generated by years of study by citizens and public agencies. It is the best thing we have to implement the vision of the urban nature park and the connecting trails and greenways. A visually appealing document, it will soon be available electronically, and there are some printed copies to be reviewed.

Please contact CLPA by phone, letter, e-mail or directly in the park with concerns, problems, approvals, favorite spots or activities, stories, or anything else that moves you. We are an association of people who have created a unique vision, and the opportunity to implement it.

All along, we have utilized a consensus-driven process, meaning not that every individual has to agree with everything, but that no differences remain that can not be set aside for the common good. This continues to be true.

Thank you for your support, and I hope to see you in the park.



Special Gifts

BY STEVE DURRANT, TREASURER

Cedar Lake Park Association gratefully acknowledges recent contributions for memorials, gifts and tributes to loved ones.

CLPA Contributors January–April 2000

American Express Employee Gift Matching Program • Carla Anderson • Paul & Ardelle Askegaard • Ema Bachtold • Letitia Basford • Bruce & Mary Bean • Carl & Lynn Beihl • Bob Berkwitz • John Borgh • Win Bowron • Darrell & Jennifer Brand/Moving Images • Lee Wilcox & Palmer Bridges • Patrica Schafer & David Weiss Brodt • Richard Brown • S. J. Bunnell William & Constance Cameron • Darryl Carter • Larry Chiat • Gregory Froehle & Michelle Connor • Deborah Crocker • John & Laura Crosby • Marjorie Cross • Marcus Dilliard • Candace Dow • Dr. Aina Dravnieks • Peretz Dworsky • Mike & Betty Elson • Ed Erickson Construction • Dale Falk • Mark & Lucy Rose Fischer • Doug & Gretchen Gildner • Robert & Katherine Goodale • Ron & Linda Griffith • Charles Hall • Charles & Patricia Hanson • Kit Healy • Dick Hedlund • Sarah Helde • Sally Heule • Phyllis • Just in memory of Margaret C. • Just Don & Lois Kjellman • Duane & Mary Alyce Krohnke • Judith Levitan • Carol Chomsky & Steve Liss • Janet Lubov • Lyland T. Lynch & Terry Saario Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation • Cathy & Wally May • Karen & Jim McConkey • Charles Moore • Marion Moore • Pat Murphy • Marcella Nelson • N. L. Newhall • Carla P. Pavone • Jay and Rose Phillips Foundation • Walter Pickhardt • Walter & Harriet Pratt • Keith Prussing • Virginia Puzak in memory of Mrs. Richard H. (Grace) Wakefield, Anacortes, Washington • Louise Ribnick • Martin Richmond • John Richter • Jean Robert • Kay Ronngren • Larry & Martha Salzman • Sandra Sandell • Dale Schatzlein • Michael & Ruthann Schneider • Floyd Schultz • Tom & Pat Scott • Kathryn Sedo • Robert Share • Kristine Smith • Matthew Smith & Lauren Stringer • Kathleen & Gerald Sovell • Play it Again Sports • Katherine Steward • Bruce & Julia Taber • D'Ann Topoluk • Karen Viskochil • Robert Wheeler • Carol Wirtschafter • Sandy & Rich Worthing • Steven York • Joseph & Elizabeth Zetah • Harvey Zuckman

How to Contribute

We continue to need dollars to develop and implement our priorities.

There are a variety of ways to help: In-kind services, Materials, Volunteer, Donate appreciated assets, Purchase a memorial, Leave a legacy.

Nearby News

FROM VIVIAN MASON,
4TH DISTRICT PARK
COMMISSIONER

Lake of the Isles renovation is a top priority for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB). Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher and Senator Allan Spear introduced bills in this Legislative session for \$6 million in bonding money for Isles. A Citizen lobbying group headed by Kenwood resident Jeff McNaught put in many hours contacting legislators in this effort.

At this time (4/7/00), Sen. Spear has made a special effort for a \$2.7 million appropriation for Lake of the Isles as a part of an overall \$16 million statewide flood mitigation legislation. This will require a \$2.7 million local match, and the Park Board is working hard to find the money for that match.

I continue to feel optimistic, and I hope you will let Sen. Spear, Rep. Anderson Kelliher and Jeff McNaught know how much we all appreciate their efforts. We will know how we did soon.

New visitation figures for Minnesota's top tourist attractions were

recently released by the Metropolitan Council. The chain of Lakes Regional Park attracts the second largest number of visitors, with 5.5 million annually. That is great news for the MPRB and should help us receive a bigger share of Operation and Maintenance funding. O & M funding is done biannually, and we have remained at the same level for quite some time. If the formula remains the same, with our increase in numbers, we should be in good shape to receive a significant increase. O & M funds are critical for how we do business, and I hope we can count on your help in the 2001 Legislative session.

Another area where we hope Cedar Lake Park friends will help is if we move forward with a referendum. We are still in discussions with the School and Library Boards about the possibility of a joint referendum effort. A board-commissioned study a few years ago on youth sports and a recent polling effort indicate people strongly support our system and want 1) safe parks, 2) well-maintained parks, 3) quality programs and 4) an increase in recreational opportunities with a focus on youth, but including seniors, young adults and people with disabilities. Please call me if you are interested in helping, 673-5384.

BY KEITH PRUSSING

At 21st and Upton Ave. S. a significant planting and restoration project is underway. Targeting the area from the railroad crossing and Kenilworth Trail to the new gateway, this is a **partnership project among CLPA, MPRB, the Kenwood-Isles Area Association (KIAA) and the Kenwood Garden Club.** Debris and exotics are being removed, sidewalk corridors improved and native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees planted.

The Upton Prairie area needs help due to persistent broadleaf infestation, mainly dandelion and plantain. Mowing, chemical treating, seeding of prairie grasses/wildflowers and planting of 2nd-3rd year perennials is taking place this spring into the summer. All appropriate precautions will be taken in the treatment phase.

Recent conversations with the **Minneapolis Water Department** have revealed that the only piped water in the CLT corridor is a 48-inch main in the vicinity of Penn Ave. and I-394. Unfortunately, this can not be tapped for a drinking water source. The only option is drilling a well. There are several desirable locations. The cost is approximately \$20,000, per well, depending on depth and other conditions. Donations are welcome!

The Conservation Partnership grant (Big Woods II) is scheduled to be completed June 30. So far, 450 feet of an undulating prairie edge hedgerow consisting of 18 species has been planted. Also, maple-basswood forest, wet forest, oak woodland and savannah have been planted in the northeast quadrant of the lake. There will be more plantings of trees, shrubs, ferns and wild flowers throughout the spring. We will be in the park most Saturdays. Call for details.

An LCMR grant sought by MPRB for CLT access enhancements as part of the Parkway bridge project has been denied by the Legislature. It appears to be a hard year for Minneapolis projects at the state Capitol. Staff has repackaged the proposal for the Metropolitan Open Spaces Commission, and are hopeful of funding. Bridge construction is scheduled for spring of 2001, with one lane of traffic maintained during construction.

Public hearings were held in March and April concerning off-leash dog areas in Kenwood Park. Four sites have been proposed, each with its own advocates and critics. A decision will be made shortly.

Look for the dog park to appear somewhere in the area by this fall. ROMP, the Responsible Owners of Mannerly Pets, has been spearheading the private efforts to make these parks a reality.

The sale of the six-plus acres of St. Louis Park land between the Target property

near Brownie Lake and the Jewish Community Center has taken place. This sale has renewed interest in the boundaries of Cedar Lake Park. CLPA has obtained maps of the bordering properties on the western extension from the Cedar Lake Parkway Bridge to Highway 100. Further, MPRB has provided information on the northern and eastern sides of the park. A big uncertainty is the Hennepin County owned land that includes the Kenilworth Corridor and the land to the tops of the eastern bluffs. CLPA is working to clarify the policies of the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority, both from the perspective of "Surplus land," as well as the potential southwest commuter corridor.

CLPA has been distributing newsletters and disseminating information, throughout the park via the **green signboards** that were placed some years ago. A joint effort of CLPA and MPRB, these boards are strategically located in gateway areas around the periphery of the Conservancy area, and other key locations.

CLPA is much closer to a website, thanks to the contributions and talents of several volunteers. It will be a multi-faceted affair that will enhance our capabilities to inform, engage and connect. E-mail is info@cedarlakepark.org

Cross-country skiing was awesome in the park this winter. CLPA has identified multiple routes, some areas in need of improvement, and is serving as a vehicle to enhance the development of a rewarding ski experience. There is skate skiing on the lake, traditional skiing routes throughout the park, and some topographical thrills.

Check out the Cedar Lake Parkway from Sunset Blvd. north to the bridge. Over the last few years, memorial daffodils, Jones-Harrison native plant restorations, the Cedar Meadows installation, the fishing pier point restoration grant, the Cedar Point post-storm clean-up and restoration and the parkway corridor rehabilitation have taken place.

Picking Up Helps

On April 8, 2000, I went to Cedar Lake Park with my dad. We met Ruth Jones, and Ruth and I decided to go to the Mound to pick up glass. We worked for an hour and 15 minutes and picked up many pieces of glass.

It felt very good to pick up the glass and help the earth. I also felt angry because people are doing this. If you have any time, please go to the park and pick up glass. (Be sure to wear gloves for protection.)

If we do this, we can all save Cedar Lake Park and the earth. Thank you!

—Steni Prussing, age 10



Edward Wallof and family at 2200 Sheridan.

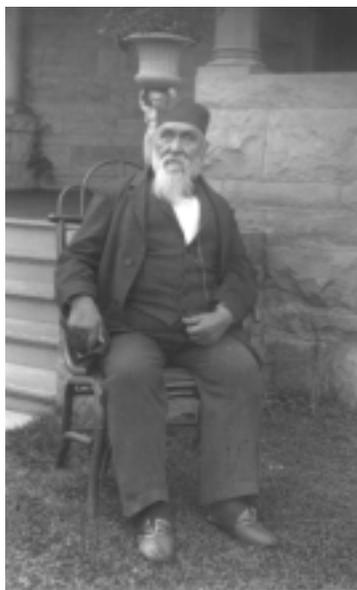
The Wallofs of Cedar Lake

BY NEIL G.C. TREMBLEY

Many people have asked me how I have been able to dig up the many photographs of turn of the century Cedar Lake. Some of these gems include the Cedar Lake Ice House, the Hotel Kenwood, and Dingley's docks and boathouse. I am indebted to Bob Glancy, who knew of a cache of pictures taken by William G. Wallof stored in the Minneapolis Public Library.

Since the early 1990s, I have often trekked downtown to study these old pictures. The more I see them, the more fascinated I am by the man who took them and the story he tells with them. When I first saw them, I marveled at what they could tell us about the now-destroyed buildings around Cedar Lake Park. But more and more, I've become intrigued by the story they tell of the times William chronicled and the family in which he lived.

William Gustavus Wallof was born in 1872 in St. Louis, Missouri. His father, Paul Gustav Wallof, had come from Sweden with his wife, Margarete and their two older boys, Paul Gustav, Jr. and Edward. Later, he and his wife, Margarete, produced another son, Charles. Around 1888, Paul, Sr. moved his family to Minneapolis. Paul, Sr. was a powerful looking man, evidently used to hard work as an ironworker. As so often happened back then, one of his sons took up his trade. Edward G. Wallof was a small, but powerfully built man, like his father. In the late 1880s he founded the Wallof



Paul Gustav Wallof Sr., above, "The Patriarch."

This Cycle Rest, right, was situated on the southeast corner of Cedar Lake, looking North, around the turn of the century to 1900.



Edward G. and Ida Wallof posing on the Burnham Bridge.



The Wallofs of Cedar Lake

(continued)

Machine Company with a partner named Johnson. They tapped into the exploding Minneapolis economy of the 1890s.

The company was a success, supplying machines and parts to the growing companies in the upper Midwest. Many of the pictures in the Wallof collection show brother Edward and his employees outside his downtown factory. Some even go inside to show the forges and machinery that were used to make the machines that powered the industrial revolution in our part of the country.

In 1893, the now successful Edward had a large, beautiful house built on the corner lot at 2200 Sheridan Ave., where it stands today. The rightfully proud owner even had "Wallof" chiseled on a curbstone. As was the case in many families of the day, the rest of the family moved in with him. It appears to have been a boisterous family, full of energy. The pictures William took of the family show them boating, picnicking and embracing the newest rage of the 1890s.

Remember, this was before the age of the motor vehicle. In the 1890s, a huge fitness boom raged across the United States. More and more people were living in the cities, and the need grew for recreational activities among the new middle class, like the Wallofs.

This restlessness led to one of the greatest booms of bicycling in the history of the United States. Not until the revival of the bike in the

1980s and '90s did America and the world embrace bicycling as it did then. A bicycle path was built around Lake Calhoun.

At Cedar Lake an ice cream parlor was built near South Beach next to the Cedar Lake Station. It catered to the bikers and boaters coming out from the city. There was even a bike map produced in 1905 showing the bike trails of the Twin Cities. (You can see it at the Minnesota Historical Society.)

Among the many Wallof photographs in the Minneapolis Collection of the downtown public library (there are over 350 taken from @1890 to @1915) were several taken of Edward and his wife, Ida, biking in the Kenwood district. One picture has them on the old Burnham Bridge that was built in 1895 to get people up and across the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad tracks and over to Cedar Lake, perhaps to slurp an ice cream cone at the South Beach. As they biked from the bridge to the parlor, they may have had to avert their eyes from the goings on at that den of iniquity that was Stetson's Cedar Lake Park. Those of you who have read my earlier articles will recognize the name.

There seemed to be a dedicated group of bicyclists, led by Edward's wife, Ida, who braved the unpaved roads in search of adventure. While viewing the various photos of the Wallof collection, I was constantly struck by how many photos contained the same woman in various poses.

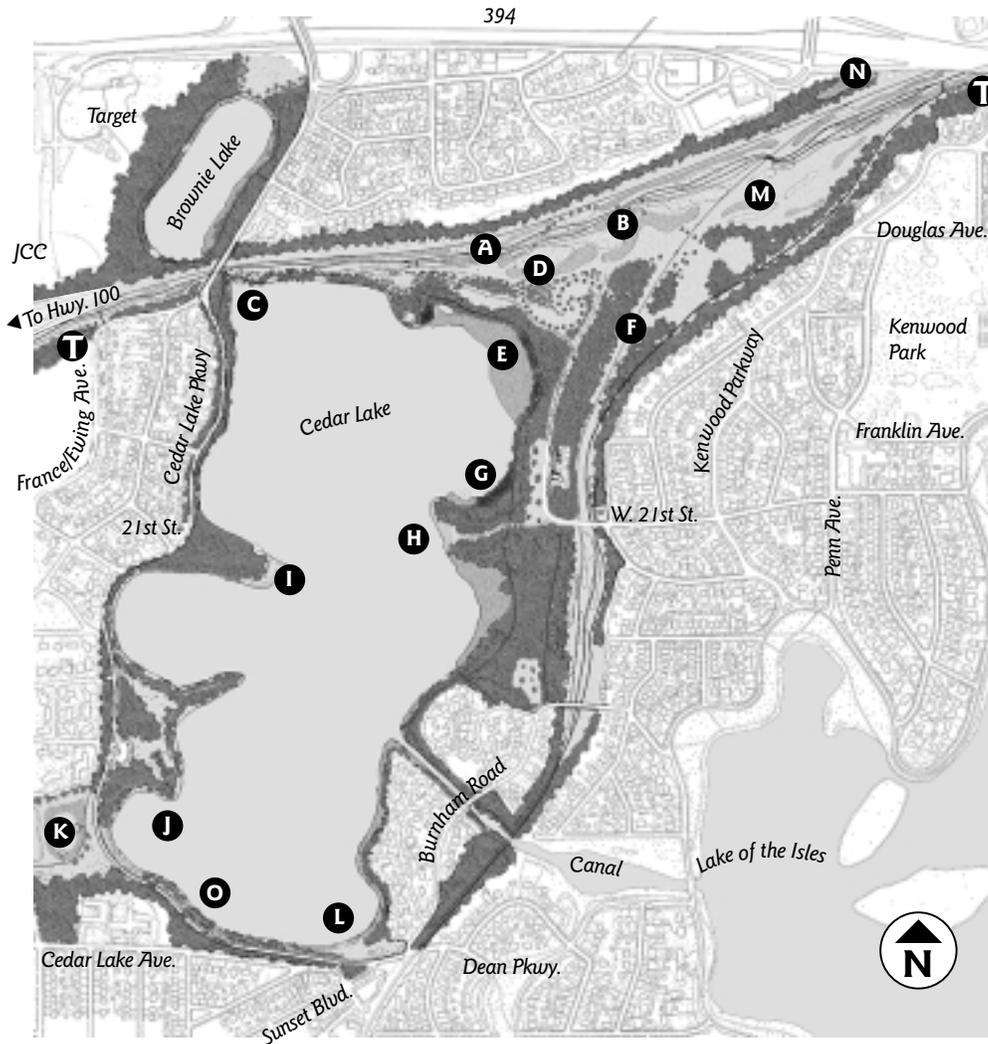
Ida Wallof was a striking woman, who can be instantly picked out of a crowd of in-laws. It was Ida's face that first led me to make connections in what were originally just photos of groups of people. Gradually, I began to notice that many of the same people were in the various pictures. And always, there is Ida's earnest face peering back from a century ago.

Ida and Edward had three children, Edward H., Emily and Arthur. They, and the rest of his extended family, were the objects of William's attention during his time as a photographer. You remember William, "Great Uncle Will," as his grand nephew Paul G. (the fifth Paul G. of the family) called him, was the ne'er-do-well of the family. William's love appears to have been taking pictures.

In the next article, I'll tell you more about him and his brother Paul G., Jr. and his family. I'll also tell you what happened to Edward's family and, most famously, about the lost treasure of Cedar Lake.

These early photos appear courtesy of Minneapolis Public Library, Minneapolis Collection.

Cedar Lake Park Conservancy Area



- A** Cedar Lake Trail
- B** Prairie
- C** Parkway Bridge /Tunnel
- D** Cedar Grove
- E** Big Woods II
- F** Kenilworth Trail
- G** Big Woods I
- H** Hidden Beach
- I** Cedar Point
- J** Fishing Dock
- K** Cedar Meadows
- L** South Beach
- M** Wildflower Plantings
- N** Burlington Northern Railroad
- O** Memorial Daffodils
- T** Trail access

Bluebirds Here

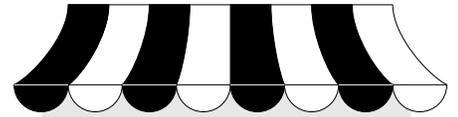
BY MARY MCGEE

Spring is here, and so are the bluebirds. The signs are up, and the nest boxes are ready. It's the early bluebird who gets the choice house.

On the morning of March 2, Dorene Scriven and I were putting up bluebird nest boxes along the Cedar Lake Trail, when we were interrupted by the warbling of a male bluebird who sat atop an empty post where the next box was to be installed. The object of his song was a nearby female.

This is the earliest date for bluebirds in the 11 years this trail has been in existence. Could they be some of our own who had been raised here and were returning to their birth site?

With four boxes at Target-Hudson, eight along the Cedar Lake Trail and now two more at Thomas and 24th St. on the Kenilworth Trail, monitoring them



Cabana Corner

BY PAUL DEAL

Special thanks are due some long-time friends of Cedar Lake Park:

Chuck Rhines, who has been picking up the beach and trail for 22 years;

James Roseweg, for 17 years, for his decorative rock gardens;

Kevin Gallagher, for 15 years, for his hacky-sack expertise;

Val Dwight, who's been coming to CLP with me for a dozen years or so.



Jim McPherson

Andy Foss, for 15 years, here bagging trash on the prairie by Upton.

Thank you, volunteers for hundreds of hours of service!



is becoming more time-consuming. I would welcome volunteers to assist me. You would be in close contact with these beautiful birds over the next four months. Your rewards will be many—including a free copy of Dorene Scriven's bestseller, "Bluebird Trails, a Guide to Success."

For more information, call me at 612-377-0630.

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Cedar Lake Park Update is published seasonally by the Cedar Lake Park Association (CLPA).
CLPA's mission is to create and nurture the nature park at Cedar Lake and the connecting trails and greenways.
Since 1989, CLPA has built a membership of over 3,000 households, developed a successful partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and other city, county, regional and state agencies, and raised money for acquisition and development.
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**Continue to
Enjoy the Park!**

CALENDAR

Birding Identification Field Trip
Friday, May 19, 7 a.m., led by Peter Neubeck. Call to participate: Dorene Scriven (612-922-4586) or Mary McGee (612-377-0630).

Wildflowers Planting
Contingent on weather conditions, Saturday, May 20. Call Neil to help, 612-377-0264.

National Trails Day
Saturday, June 3. Celebrate the Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Trails.

Big Woods II
Plantings May-June and Sept.-Oct. Call for information, or to volunteer.

Summer Solstice
Tuesday, June 20, 8:36 p.m.

Fall Equinox
Friday, Sept. 22, 12:27 p.m.

Your support is important—

Send your tax-deductible contribution TODAY to Cedar Lake Park Association
2000 Aldrich Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55405.

The Cedar Lake Park Association is set up to accept donations in wills, appreciated stocks, bonds, etc. Please call 612-377-9522.

Continuing in the Right Direction...

OUR VISION

Our vision for Cedar Lake Park is to restore the lands and waters and create a new community with nature through which we can transform ourselves, our city and our society.

OUR GOAL

Our goal for Cedar Lake Park is to bring people and nature together in harmonious community... a goal symbolized by the spiral.



Jim McPherson

Lining up the cardinal directions at the center of the two spirals in the memorial Cedar Grove located in the heart of the park.