

Save Cedar Lake Park

UPDATE

April/May 1991

Audubon Birdathon, May 4th, to Benefit Cedar Lake Park

Save Cedar Lake Park (SCLP) is very fortunate to have a friend in our neighbor bird watchers. The birdathon is the National Audubon Society's annual fund raising event, designed to benefit individual chapters.

Each spring the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis raises money for a worthy cause through its participation in the National Audubon Society's annual birdathon. This year, Minneapolis Audubon has designated **Save Cedar Lake Park as the worthy recipient** of half its birdathon funds. The other half goes to Audubon's campaign to preserve wetlands and old growth forests in Minnesota.

A birdathon works like any other 'thon: some people do the work, in this case, count birds; the others pledge money and then stay home and take the yard or cruise the garage sales.

Two teams will be searching for birds May 4th:
TEAM # 1: A frenetic tour of hot birding spots starting at Afton State Park and working west across the southern fringe of the metro area. See just about everything central Minnesota has to offer in the way of birds. For more information, call David at 374-3609.

TEAM # 2: A relaxed tour of select birding spots in the metro area, including Cedar Lake and Wirth Park. See herons, warblers, woodpeckers, and

sparrows (and likely bluebirds, kingfishers, hawks, tanagers, indigo buntings and maybe other surprise tweeters.) For more information, call Laurie at 377-9522.

There are several options for participating in the birdathon, either as a **bird counter**, as a **pledger**, or as a **sponsor**. Whichever option you choose, keep in mind that you need not commit to a large donation. **Pledge** donations of \$5 or \$10 are appreciated and they do add up. Or you can **pledge** a nickel, a dime, or a dollar per species seen on either of the trips. Keep in mind that the ace birders (team # 1) hope to see 150 species. You can be a **sponsor** and **MULTIPLY YOUR DONATION** by getting pledges from your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. You are welcome to make hundreds of copies of the Birdathon pledge form, or call people and list pledgers to send to Jo Ellen. You need not be an ace birder to sign up as a **bird counter**. The great thing about the Birdathon is that you can tag along with honest-to-goodness 20-20 ace birders, but they do all the spotting and you can learn a lot.

Please return the participation coupon, found on the last page, as soon as possible. Let's have fun. Let's help the Auduboners. And, let's help ourselves and the children of the future.

Spring Is Coming!

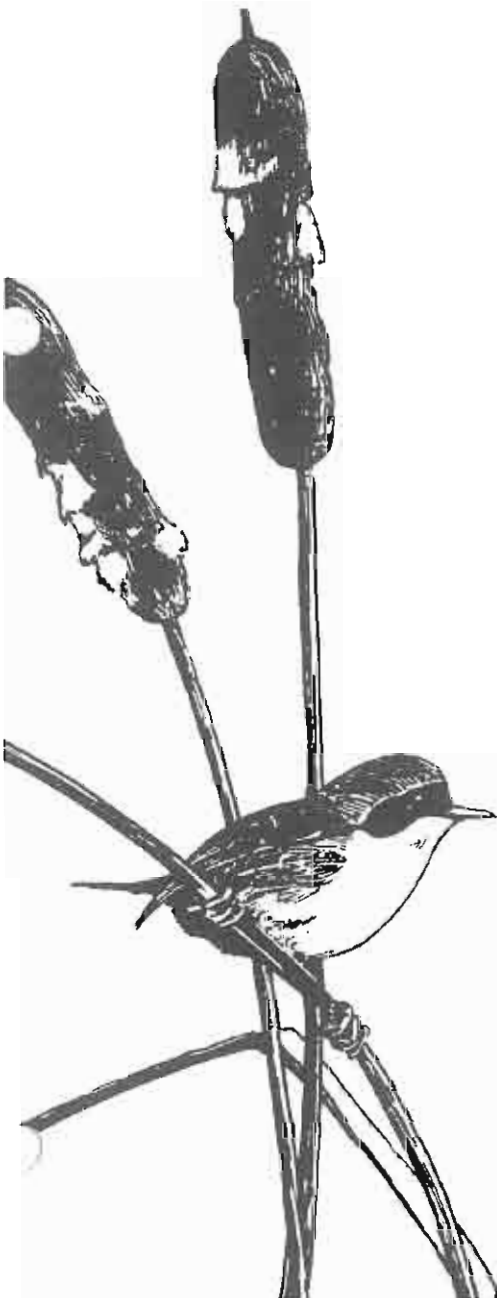
The Redwings and Killdeers showed up the middle of March. The Grackles have been visiting bird feeders for a week or so. The Song Sparrows are calling. Crows are carrying nesting material and are probably incubating eggs. There is a rumor that a Bluebird was seen in Cedar Lake Park. The safest prediction is that spring is coming.

On the third of April, Cedar Lake was half covered with ice. There were a couple of folks out with canoes and kayaks that day. We looked for the loons.

Overnight, the rest of the ice left the

lake. At sunrise, There was a Loon fishing along the shore. The Loon finds food by sight, by dipping its head down to search for fish as it swims. Also on Cedar Lake were a flock of Red-breasted Mergansers, a group of Buffleheads, a pair of Blue-winged teal, wood ducks, Mallards, and Canada Geese. How can the Loon find the lake hours after the appearance of open water?

The plants and birds will change quickly in April and early May. Cedar Lake Park is a good place to walk in the early days of spring. Spring IS coming!





Letters and Resolutions of Support

Among the recent letters and resolutions of support received:

- Audubon Neighborhood Assn.
- Beltrami Neighborhood Assn.
- Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Assn.
- Cedar Trails Condo Assn.
- Cedar Trails West
- Creekside Chapter, Izaak Walton League
- Golden Valley City Council
- Golden Valley Park & Recreation
- Hennepin Co. Park Reserve District Board
- House majority leader, Dee Long
- Mayor, Don Frazer
- Minneapolis Park LoverS (M.P.L.S.)
- Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America
- Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, Inc.
- Representative, Sally Olsen
- Representative, Gloria Segal
- Pat Scott, Mpls. City Council
- St. Louis Park City Council
- Senator Ted Mondale
- Senator Allan Spear
- Superintendent, David Fisher—Mpls Park Board
- Tyrol Hills Assn.

Some of you may have noticed the "FOR SALE" signs recently put up by Glacier Park Company on the 48 acres we hope will be acquired for the nature park. The signs read: "48 acres available for residential development." These signs speak loud and clear: "The task of Saving Cedar Lake Park is not over!" It will not be over until the land for the park and greenway corridor have been purchased and the park and trails established. **IT ISN'T OVER UNTIL IT'S OVER!** All who want this land to be a park with connecting trails must continue our efforts until we finish our task.

Do what you can! See list of the 12 things you can do on the back page of this newsletter. And, if you haven't recently contributed to SCLP's operating funds, please send your donation today in the enclosed envelope.

Work Continues

SCLP continues to work with The Nature Conservancy, The Minneapolis Park Board, and the State Legislature to obtain funding for the park. Discussions at the capitol include funding alternatives and various interim funding strategies. One interesting funding approach being considered at the State Legislature is to use some State Lottery money to fund several parks and trails in

Greater Minnesota and the Metro Area, including Cedar Lake Park and the Greenway connecting the lakes and river with foot and bike trails. We will keep you posted on these developments.

Quote of the Day

"This undeveloped land is extremely important to both my emotional and physical well-being (not to mention that of my dogs!)" Steve Pratt

Other organizations are in the process of passing resolutions of support. The Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America is planning to pass a resolution of support for Save Cedar Lake Park at their annual state convention in April. (We go to press just before their convention.)

A SCLP volunteer would be happy to make a short presentation to your group. Resolutions of support will be helpful when funds are requested from the legislature.

Richter Challenge at Annual Meeting

Over 65 people attended the SCLP annual meeting held at Lurie, Eiger, Besikof & Co. January 24th. President, Brian Willette led the meeting. A slide presentation outlining SCLP history and goals was presented by Dan Dailey. John Herman, SCLP legal counsel, reported on the progress of obtaining support and funding. As of January 1, 1991 \$435,000 in private donations are committed for the acquisition of the land. (Cost is \$1,700,000)

John and Martha Richter made a 1 to 4 challenge grant. SCLP is committed to raising 1/3 of the purchase price from private

donations. When an additional \$400,000 in private funds is raised, after the 1/3 goal is met, the Richters will contribute \$100,000! Nice challenge John and Martha - Thank you.

John Herman, Doris Peterson, George Puzak, Ellen Sturgis, and Brian Willette were elected to the 1991 SCLP Board.

Applebee's, Burnett Realty and Dominoes Pizza

Help With Membership Drive

Fran Davis of Burnett Realty on Excelsior Blvd. provided a bank of 20 phones, copies and space for 20 callers on March 21st. **Bob Marshall of Applebee's** in Calhoun Village and **Ed Carr of Dominoes** provided the fuel to keep

the callers going all evening. We appreciate the support of these business people. Express your awareness when you see them.

Thanks to all who made generous pledges to our volunteer callers. Their efforts and yours will help pay for this newsletter mailing. Their endeavors also helped boost our membership roles. Cheers to **Ruth Jones**, who chaired this project, and her right hand, **Sue Verrett**, and the callers: **Sue Bottge, Muffie Finne, Larry Forman, Sara Gudding, Donna Huber, Virginia Humphrey, Doug Kline, Laurie Lundy, John Moe, Liv Munson-Benson, Solveig Olson, Doris Peterson, Cathie Puzak, George Puzak, DeDe Schrade, and Doug Thayer and Gary Wagner** who were charitably loaned to SCLP by Minneapolis Park LoverS (M.P.L.S.)

Fund Raising

Fund raising chair, Ellen Sturgis and her committee report that Jim Lenfesty of Concerts For The Environment is organizing fall benefits: a bike race and a concert. The concert will be chamber music held at the Temple Israel. A reception will follow the concert with a silent auction.

Anyone wanting to help with these projects, or with ideas for other fund raising projects, please call SCLP at 377-9522.

S O S Bowlathon

S O S stands for "Save Our Surroundings." Liv Munson-Benson and Kelly McGaughey, two outstanding young women who attend St. Louis Park High School, started S O S in 1990. They became enthusiastic and concerned about our environment after attending an assembly on the subject. Wondering what they could do help, they started a club "Save Our Surroundings" in their high school.

Speaking on the rain forest, Colleen Needles is among their past guest speakers. Following that presentation, the students in S O S raised enough money to preserve an acre of rain forest. **What a great group!**

After hearing about the Save Cedar Lake Park project, they have decided to have a bowlathon with the proceeds going to SCLP. Anyone interested in their project or wanting to sponsor a bowler, call Liv at 938-4655, Kelly at 927-8598, or Jeff at 920-8009.

Let's hear it for a group of kids who are really trying to make a difference in our world. **Best wishes S O S.**

Thanks to Our Volunteers

With much appreciation, we thank our good neighbor, **Lurie, Eiger, Besikof, & Co.**—a Certified Public Accounting firm in Bryn Mawr—for their generous help. Often they have graciously kept their office open after hours and provided their lovely education center, set up to our specifications (and including a janitor) for SCLP meetings. They have also donated money for copies to help keep our operations running.

Thanks also go to **John Rice** and **Judith Staff** for copies, and to **Dottie Brazeal, Sharon Bunnell, Kathryn Glessing, Alice Keppel, Jan Lubov, Sue Verrett,** and **Marilyn Weisgram** for helping get out the mail.

We could not have gotten this far without **John Herman**, our volunteer attorney, providing legal counsel, nor anyone else who has worked on the steering committee donating untold hours. **Don Beimborn** and **George Puzak** did a wonderful job on our new information packet.

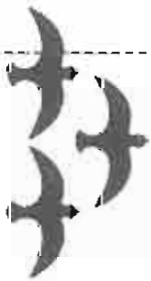
Many, many thanks go to the people who canvassed their blocks to inform their neighbors of the SCLP project and raise operating funds. Thanks to their efforts more people know about the proposed Cedar Lake Nature Park and connecting trails. Also thanks to their efforts we have been able to print some information packets. A **BIG THANK YOU** to: **Duffy Abrahamson, Virginia Averill, Laurie Bakke, Rick Bartholomew, Letitia Basford, Bruce Berry, Roberta Bonoff, Joan Borman,**

Susan Bottge, Frank Braun, Betty Bryan, Susan Bunnell, Connie Cameron, Bob Coursen, Debbie Crocker, Juris Curiskis, Marilyn Dean, George Dodds, Frank Dosal, Tom & Lynn Edery, Mary Jo Ellis, John Finn, Molly George, Joyce Gordon, Joel Itman, Penny Jacobs, Ward Johnson, Ruth Jones, Mary Ann Kanee, Mike & Marsha Mason, Jim McConkey, Joan Mickalec, Pat Miller, Pat Nishiura, Mary O'Rourke, Debra Piepho, Ruth Premer, Sally Pundt, George Puzak, Barry Shade, Lura Shopteau, Pat Siddiqui, Bonnie Sims, Emily Sprague, Jeff Turner, Julia Welter, and a special thank you to **Kevin Johnson** and **Nancy Unterman** who acted as crew leaders.

Thanks to Our Contributors

We couldn't have come this far without you!!! Your generous contributions are helping in many ways. Right now, spreading the news is a most important thing to do. Newsletters, presentation materials, slide show, videos, information packets, canvassing materials, and the variety of other supplies needed to get this task done is monumental. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU** to those of you who have contributed.

IF YOU HAVE NOT DONATED RECENTLY, PLEASE DO IT TODAY. WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Audubon Birdathon

BIRDATHON PLEDGE FORM

I am happy to pledge \$_____ per species in support of the 1991 Audubon Birdathon Teams. (I will be contacted by phone after May 4th)

My tax-deductible donation of \$_____ is enclosed for the 1991 Audubon Birdathon Team.

Check payable to: AUDUBON CHAPTER OF MINNEAPOLIS

Mail to:

Jo Ellen Warolin, Treasurer
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
2138 Centerview Lane
Mound, MN 55364

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Day phone _____ Eve phone _____



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