Drum and Song Dedicate Cedar Grove

It seemed fitting to have a cedar grove in Cedar Lake Park. As a result, the Cedar Lake Park Association (CLPA) has accepted contributions since 1992 for cedar trees and wild flowers to be planted in a cedar grove in Cedar Lake Park. The trees and wild flowers will honor or remember loved ones.

Until late summer, the location for the cedar grove site was unknown because master planning for the park was still in process. Immediately after the location was determined, many volunteers kicked into high-gear to plan the cedar grove dedication and planting celebration. Mary Beimborn and Laurie Lundy led the event committee. Keith Prussing and Dan Dailey led the site planning and preparation.

Approximately 100 people attended the long-awaited planting celebration at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 6. The weather was good, the turnout was great, the planting plan was interesting and the traditional Native American blessing was very moving.

Loise Butler Park Naturalist, Tom Savre, opened the Cedar Grove dedication with a song he wrote about the chickadee. Later he closed the celebration by leading everyone in a couple of verses of “This Land is Your Land.”

After the planting plan for the cedar grove was presented by CLPA Park Activities Co-Chair Keith Prussing and landscape architect Steve Durrant, CLPA President Brian Willette described the proposed marker. The highlight of the day was the traditional Native American blessing performed by Native American Elder, Larry Cloud Morgen, also known as White Feather, and his nephew Joseph Bester. Joseph sang in Ojibwa to the four directions. Larry and Joseph were assisted by Annie Young who stated, “This is true sustainability—planting for the seventh generation.”

Water that had been collected from each lake in the Chain of Lakes and the Mississippi River was mixed and blessed before watering the new plantings. In addition to water collected from Brownie Lake by Carol and Lloyd White, Cedar Lake by Phillip and Susan Jones, Calhoun by Ruth Jones, Lake of the Isles by Ned Foster and Laura Tiffany, Lake Harriet by D’Ann Topuluk and the Mississippi River by Steve Durrant, Don Beimborn collected water that morning from Lake Itasca, headwaters of the Mississippi, and brought it to the ceremony for the blessing.

Emcee Laurie Lundy passed out tree and wild flower certificates.

Mark Your Calendars
Sixth Annual Meeting
Wednesday, January 22, 1997
Lake, Besikof, Lapidus & Co., 2501 Wayzata Blvd., Minneapolis

Third Organizational Planning Retreat
Saturday, February 8, 1997

Steering Committee
Meets every second Monday evening, Kenwood Recreation Center

To further your park and trail-making work, please consider a tax-deductible year-end gift to Cedar Lake Park Association.

Fence Vines
Q Why were the fence vines not planted this summer?
A Lack of moisture created a deep concern for the mortality rate of the tender seedlings. Other questions may be answered by calling the CLPA office at 377-9522.
All-Volunteer Organization Reaches Milestone

BY BRIAN WILLETTE, CLPA PRESIDENT

With 1996 drawing to a close and 1997 just ahead, we pause to look at the past and to the future. Use of Cedar Lake Trail continues to grow, and Cedar Lake Park continues to be developed into a sustainable nature park, which was highlighted by the first planting of cedar trees in the newly dedicated cedar grove. Thanks to all who participated in the event. In addition, thanks to all who volunteered all year. Your efforts continue to make the park and trail a success.

As we look to the new year, the concept master plan should be published early in the year, and the CLPA Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 22. Trail planning for the Kenilworth Corridor will also begin in January. The new year also promises to see additional projects in the park. Further, the Steering Committee is having a planning retreat in February. All who are interested in participating are invited and encouraged to call 377-9522 for details.

Again, thank you for your interest, support and willingness to volunteer in 1996. Please keep it up and best wishes for 1997.

Contributions Received Since the Last Update are Gratefully Acknowledged

Sally A. Anson
Ted & Ruth Ames
J. Clarke Bassett
Jim & Deena Behrke
Carl & Lynn Behr
Lewis & Maurine Bernier
Chuck & Melissa Biza
Doug & Wendy Biza
Karen Biza
Stephen Biza
Sheila Bjorne
Dorothy Borgstahler
James Brandt
Douglas Bredesen
Cash Plus
Lynn L. Charlson
Ann Christensen
Jane Crane
Doug & Kate Donaldson
Peretz Dworsky
Ira Engstrom
David & Nancy Erestad
Douglas & Janet Fiola
Ned Foster & Laura Tiffany
Wood Foster, Jr. & Jan Severson
Sharon Gesen
Don Beimborn
Mary Beimborn
Joseph Bester
Susan Bottie
Kirk Brown
Mike Carlson
Dan Christensen
Dan Daley
Bob Day
Paul Deal
Mary Donovan
Steve Durant
Leif Ericson
Jeff Fishmann
Ned Foster
Kevin Gallagher
Lisa Genis
Kathryn Glossing
Tony Mommensen
Kathy Steward
Erk Svensson
Paisley Svensson
Laura Tiffany
D'Ann Topoluk
Neil Trembley
Sue Verrett
Polly Wells
Bob Wheeler
Carol White
Lloyd White
Brian Willette
Anne Young

And a big thank you to the 50 volunteers from Cash Plus, Minneapolis Department of Public Works, the Tree Trust and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Will She Return? A Sad Bluebird Tale

BY MARY MCGEE

The 1996 season was disappointing for bluebirds in Cedar Lake Park. Overall, the number of nesting bluebirds was down. Only two pairs were successful in raising young this year—one pair along the bike trail and the other near Brownie Lake.

The oldest nestbox was chosen by the same banded female who raised two broods there in 1995. She had a new partner this year who seemed to be learning the art of parenting. Upon her arrival in April, she slipped into an old habit of waiting for us, or rather the mealworms we provided. After three young fledged in early June, she tried nesting only to have her nestbox vandalized by humans and her eggs lost to some unknown predator, probably a house sparrow. She tried three times, then gave up and was seen no more.

Even there were only two successful hatchers, it was exciting, as always, to welcome back these beautiful birds in April and watch them bring off their broods. Now, we look forward to next summer. Will the female from Fairbault, as we call her because she was banded there in 1993, return for the third time?

Check your company’s policy regarding employee matching funds! If not available, suggest starting one. It is a great way to double, or in some cases triple, your contribution. We will happily provide nonprofit status information to employers.
Cedar Lake Park Association gratefully acknowledges recent contributions for memorials, tributes and gifts to loved ones. Since the last Update, the following memorials and gifts were received:

Cedar Trees
in memory of Jim Andress
from the CLPA Steering Committee
in memory of Wood R. Foster
from his family: Elizabeth T. Foster; Ned Foster & Laura Timany; Wood Foster, Jr. & Jan Sverns
in honor of Vi Gelfend
from Tom & Rhoda Levin
in memory of Ruth Hammarberg Hyllgren
from Douglas Breder; Ida Erngstrom; Douglas & Janet Foia; Patricia Hall; Adolph & Gloria Levine; Dick & Laure Lundy; Minnesota Human Development Consultants; John & Solvng Olson; Corky & Dons Peterson; Terry & Marie Schlink; Roy Wardell; Brian Willette family; Mary Ann & Ron Wunderlin
in memory of Walter & Iris Lundy
from their family: David & Mary Lundy; Karen Lundy Biza; Richard & Laure Lundy; W. Bert Lundy; Sharon Lundy Suerth

in memory of Patty Streitz
from IDC members: Ann Christensen; Kate Kromer; Anne Lutz; Rosemary Price; Carrie Schweid; Elizabeth Streitz; Mary Streitz; Mary White
in memory of Timothy Wegener
from the CLPA Steering Committee
Wildflower Fund
in memory of Alice Biza
from Chuck & Melissa Biza; Doug & Wendy Biza; Karen Biza; Stephen Biza
in memory of Binky Moody Iverson
from childhood friend, Erik Storlie
in memory of Ruth Hammarberg Hyllgren
from family & friends
in memory of Howard Maehlens
from Story City, IA
from William & Fran Galle, Keith & Janey Nelson, Corky & Dons Peterson

Gifts
to honor Dr. Arnold Kaplan for “Best Clinician” Award
from Mace & Audrey Goldfarb

Jim Andress, Educator and Friend

The Cedar Lake Park community lost a good friend October 20th when Jim Andress passed away at age 75 after a long and difficult struggle with Alzheimer’s. Jim was the husband of Shelby Andress, who facilitated CLPA’s planning retreats in 1991 and 1994.

Jim was a devoted family man and an ardent outdoors man and gardener. He spent most of his working career as an educator in the Fargo, Hopkins and Robbinsdale schools. Although he retired early as the highly respected Director of Personnel for the Robbinsdale School District, he continued to do other kinds of work until he fully retired in 1982 for health reasons. Even then, he was involved in many volunteer leadership activities until 1989 when stricken with memory loss.

After his Alzheimer’s was diagnosed in 1992, he devoted the last years of his life to educating people about the incurable disease. He and Shelby became involved in Minnesota’s first support group for people in the early stages of the disease, spoke to a variety of other groups, and even appeared on the “Oprah” show. It is characteristic of Jim’s deep commitment to learning and care for others that he directed his body be used for medical research.

In celebration of his life, and in recognition of Jim and Shelby’s many contributions to Cedar Lake Park, the CLPA Steering Committee gratefully decided to plant a cedar tree in Jim’s memory.

—Dan Dailey

CEDAR TREE DONATED FOR
Patty Streitz
Patty Streitz was a women of grace, humor and remarkable strength. She achieved a great deal in life: a long and happy marriage with husband Michael, the joy of raising six daughters, Mary, Ann, Elizabeth, Sarah, Jane and Kate, and the fun of watching and loving five grandchildren. Patty was a businesswoman, a fighter for causes she believed in, an unparalleled cook and hostess, and a great storyteller. Above all, she was a stalwart friend and mentor to many women.

A cedar tree is given in memory of Patty, a long-time resident of the Kenwood neighborhood and lover of the lakes, by fellow members of the IDC, a group of women of two generations, mothers and daughters, and friends who gathered together with Patty and who continue to meet the passing of life.


—Rosemary Price

CEDAR TREE DONATED FOR
Timothy Wegener
As a result of his untimely death while working under the Cedar Lake Parkway Bridge in Cedar Lake Park, the CLPA Steering Committee will plant a cedar tree in memory of Timothy Wegener.

Gift Ideas
1997 Calendar
The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is featuring 12 vintage photos from its collection of hand colored lantern slides, plus 12 stunning present day city images. Call 661-4800 for more information.

Nice thick, soft Save Cedar Lake Park Sweatshirts
Only a few left!
Children’s—white, adult’s—grey, with green “Nurture Nature” design on front. Adult: S and M. Children: 6-8, 10-12, 14-16.
First come, first served. The first checks for $15 received will secure the remaining sweatshirts. Send to CLPA, 1101 Cedar View Dr., Minneapolis, MN 55405.
Looking Back

The Hotel Kenwood

BY NEIL C. G. TREMBLEY

The two very different forces worked to shape the northeast corner of Cedar Lake in the 1890's.

First was the decision by the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway to build what became a huge maintenance facility known as the MGSt.L Shops. The structures, which included a roundhouse, machine shop, car shop, boiler shop and a hundred foot high smokestack along with the MGSt.L yards due east of the lake required extensive labor.

The second force was the burgeoning recreational area headed by the establishment of the Dingley boathouse and docks. Sailing and fishing were the primary lake activities. The late and much lamented Bill Porter related that the bass fishing in Cedar Lake was the best in the state.

The need for a hotel to house vacationers seems to be the stimulus for opening the Hotel Kenwood in 1896 at 2316 W 21st Street. The original proprietor was James and Lilian Lane. Eventually they sold the hotel to Albert Tycood in 1902.

Now, the story gets murky.

Although the hotel was sold again, it was missing from the city register of businesses after 1903. By 1907, the hotel had become a boarding house for workers at the MGSt.L shops and yards. There is some indication that it may also have served as a bordello on the "edge of town." According to Mr. Porter, the building was torn down around 1918.

Trail News

Bassett's Creek Trail

The proposed Bassett's Creek Trail will run northwest from the Cedar Lake Trail near Dunwood Boulevard and follow Bassett's Creek to Wirth Park. Trail funding has been committed, including Federal Transportation dollars and Minneapolis NRP dollars from both Bryn Mawr and Harrison neighborhoods which border the creek.

A group of Bryn Mawr homeowners objected to the use of NRP funds and to the trail design. Several neighborhood meetings produced a change in the proposed route and a plan for neighborhood input on safety issues. On October 9, the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association reaffirmed its support for the trail.

—Dick Adair

Cedar Lake Trail

In a collaborative effort between the City of St. Louis Park, Benilde-St. Margaret High School and the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation, parking will be provided for trail users at the school lot with a trail connection to the Highway 100 access.

Thank you to the Minneapolis Park Board for promptly plowing snow off the commuter trail.

Cedar Lake Trail East

According to Rhonda Rae, Minneapolis Department of Public Works, construction is scheduled to start in spring to continue the Cedar Lake Trail from its present terminus behind the Target Center to the Mississippi River and should be done during the summer.

Cedar Lake Trail West

The continuation of the Cedar Lake Trail west from Highway 100 through St. Louis Park to the Hennepin Parks LRT trailhead in Hopkins has received a major setback.

In the summer of 1995, the City of St. Louis Park and Hennepin Parks entered into a Joint Powers Agreement to develop this regional trail connection. Later, condemnation procedures were started in order to acquire a needed portion of the trail. This portion, known as the Hutchinson Spur, had been purchased by a developer for under $250,000.

Recently, a District Court appointed three-member Commission determined that the value of the Hutchinson Spur had been established at $1.7 million, which is seven times greater than the value established by an expert appraiser. As a result, the Joint Powers Agreement was terminated.

However, St. Louis Park Director of Parks and Recreation, Chris Gears, said, "In spite of this setback, we look forward to working in close cooperation with Hennepin Parks in exploring other alternatives for providing access to this great regional trail system. If you have questions, call Chris at 924-2541.

Kenilworth Corridor

Within the Hennepin County Regional Rail Road Authority land on the east side of Cedar Lake Park, the proposed Kenilworth Trail will link the Cedar Lake Trail near the Kenwood Parkway access with the new Midtown Greenway near the Calhoun Village. A Kenilworth Trail Citizens' Advisory Committee is forming and will begin meeting in January. If interested, call 377-9522. As we go press, there is no final decision regarding rail traffic through the corridor.

Excerpt from a recent letter

Dear CLPA Steering Committee,

Thank you for planting a cedar tree in my honor in the new cedar grove. This gift is meaningful because it is living and vital and adds beauty to the land we all nurtured for many years. The dedication ceremony was special too. It reflected CLPA's spiritual connection to the land...

Working together to create a vision and share leadership has nourished my growth and understanding of life. Because of your efforts and dedication, the park system has expanded in physical and spiritual dimensions. I am deeply honored by your gift. Thank you for nurturing me to be a better citizen.

Yours truly,

George Puza

Save Cedar Lake Park Update • Winter 1996-97 • 4
Cedar Grove

continued from page 1

designed by Mike Carlson. Besides helping plant the trees, each participant tied a ceremonial green ribbon on one of the six trees that were used as a symbolic planting. Because of the dryness this year, only six of the 57 cedar tree gifts were planted. After the ceremony, all appreciated their stop at Kathryn Glessing’s refreshment table.

CLPA is starting a group of interested people—called “friends of the Cedar Grove”—to keep an eye on the grove and address its needs. If you are interested in the “friends,” donating a tree, want a cedar grove dedication program with all donors and recipients listed, or you would like to make arrangements to see the planting plan for the cedar grove, please call 377-9522.

Projects in the Park

BY KEITH PRUSINGER

In addition to the Big Woods project and the new cedar grove (see articles on front and back covers), Cedar Lake Park witnesses many activities.

The mountain biking culture has been altered in the southeastern part of the park in an effort to curtail erosion and promote safety. Very large trunks from trees that died or fell during summer storms were brought to the park by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) and skidded into place. One tree had 132 annual rings! Dangerous jumps were eliminated and natural barriers were created with the logs to reduce conflicts between the hikers and bikers. New signs were posted.

Collaboration continues with the Kenwood/Isles Neighborhood to include Cedar Lake Park in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). A presentation to inform and enlist support for the park will be made at the monthly neighborhood meeting in early December.

There has been an increase in the amount of “tagging” (the in word for graffiti) throughout the park. Since quick removal is the best preventative, volunteers are needed for applying the available removal supplies.

Recently, two large willows fell into the channel between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles. In order to remove the trees, MPRB forestry crews will be trimming low-hanging branches along the southeastern lakeshore trail to provide access for their equipment.

In late September, on a rich autumn day, native species were planted on the lakeshore hillside near the southeast end of the Cedar Lake Parkway Bridge. CLPA provided design input and the planting was done through a partnership between MPRB, the Tree Trust and Cash Plus, a special media unit of Campbell-Mithun Esty. As part of the ongoing north shore stabilization project, eroding slopes were stabilized with logs and woodchips, and the steep access from the bridge was abated. Then with help from MPRB foresters, 3 volunteers from Tree Trust and 50 volunteers from Cash Plus, 350 trees and shrubs donated by Cash Plus were planted.

Although six cedar trees were planted in October during the cedar grove ceremonial dedication, more than 50 are yet to be planted. Deer have been sighted in the southern interior of the park.

Although six cedar trees were planted in October during the cedar grove ceremonial dedication, more than 50 are yet to be planted.

supporting the vision of an urban nature park. However, deer are hungry and have no predators in an urban setting. Therefore, their numbers will increase and much of the native plant restoration going on in the park is at risk. A dialogue is open, please participate.

In late October, aluminum sulfate treatment was completed for Cedar Lake.

According to Jeff Lee, MPRB lake specialist, this material will remove much of the existing phosphorus in the water and may result in “bathtub” water clarity this spring. The large, shiny semi-trailer tanks you may have noticed Cedar Lake Parkway were part of this project. Lake of the Isles will also undergo this treatment next spring.

As we strive for a rich variety of habitats and niches, colors and textures throughout the year, there are numerous and ongoing native species planting projects planned throughout the park. Donation of any native plant materials would be greatly appreciated. Donation of funds for purchasing plants would be lovely too.

Systems of communication for the park are in development and include signs, maps, and informational and educational materials. New biking signs have been posted. Look for more in the future. Help is welcome.

Top: Landscape Architect, Steve Durant explains the cedar grove planting plan. (Photo by Joan Wheeler) Middle: During the traditional Native American blessing, Joseph Bester sings a song in Ojibwa to the four directions. Bottom: Dan Dailey, Keith Prussing and Al Singer carefully lower a cedar tree into a predug hole. (Photos by Dorothy Childers)
Big Woods Project Underway—But Needs YOU!

BY KEITH PRUSSING

The Big Woods Project, near 21st and Upton on the east shore of Cedar Lake, is well underway. In much of this area, non-native buckthorn was the dominant tree species. In order to provide for more species diversity, the buckthorn had to be removed. However, a more sophisticated approach is being used for this project. To protect desirable species, each buckthorn in certain areas was marked for removal. MPRB forestry crews cut and stacked the smaller buckthorn. Instead of clearing all of the larger buckthorn, trees that are 3” or more in diameter were girdled and/or thinned to create a more gradual transition to the “Big Woods.”

Planting maps for four native plant communities—wet forest, maple-basswood forest, oak forest and oak savannah—have been developed. These maps were based on key plants that already exist on the site.

In 1997, there will be a flurry of activities associated with this project, including debris removal, planting, trail realignment, installing and furnishing a tool shed, interpretive signage, and a whole lot of fun!

The Big Woods Project and all other projects in the park need money, materials and volunteers. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to 1101 Cedar View Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55405.