

Save Cedar Lake Park

UPDATE

Spring 1997

Volume 9, No. 1

Kenilworth Trail: Developed or Delayed?

BY NEIL C. G. TREMBLEY

The expected outcome of the long-awaited trail on the east side of Cedar Lake through the Kenilworth Corridor was for it to become a reality this year. Development and construction was on a fast track; completion of the trail was scheduled for November.

The Kenilworth Trail will eventually connect the Cedar Lake Trail with the Midtown Greenway, which will run along the 29th Street Corridor, where construction was also expected to begin this summer. When completed, Park Commissioner George Puzak expects both trails to become heavily-used transportation and recreation corridors.

Although construction is being overseen by the Minneapolis Department of Public Works, the trail is funded primarily by the federal government in the form of an ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991) grant.

Public Works invited the Cedar Lake Park Association to send a representative to the Kenilworth Trail Neighborhood Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee is to provide input on various issues surrounding construction of a non-motorized trail in the heart of the city. In addition to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the other players on this committee are from the Bryn Mawr, Cedar-Isles-Dean and Kenwood Neighborhood Associations, as well as representatives from the Bassett Creek and Midtown Greenway Trails. Another key player is the Hennepin

County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRRA). HCRRRA owns the land and favors construction of the trail.

One large issue is whether the corridor will be revisited with train traffic. Rhonda Rae of the Department of Public Works decided to go ahead with the project since the trail is feasible whether railroad traffic reappears in the corridor or not. Indeed the project continued under this assumption until recently.

Another key issue is trail alignment. HCRRRA would like to see the trail hug the railroad track, making it necessary to have a fence almost the entire length of the corridor. A fence, however, will adversely affect not only aesthetics but the flow of wildlife and people.

Committee members asked HCRRRA representatives to consider moving the trail far enough from the tracks to preclude the need for a fence. In contrast, HCRRRA wishes to allow for the possibility of selling "surplus" land in the corridor. Bob Day, Kenwood Neighborhood Association and an active member of CLPA, noted, "They will have a revolution on their hands" if HCRRRA moves to sell the land.

Early in April City Council Member Pat Scott called a public meeting to discuss railroad issues as they affect trail construction. No decisions were made or have been made since.

Later in April Tim Springer, Executive Director of the Midtown Greenway Coalition, convened a meeting of people interested in trail construction or train traffic relocation. Representation came from neighborhoods affected by the Canadian Pacific rail corridor in St. Louis Park and the Cedar Lake Trail, the Kenilworth Trail and the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis. Tim said that the meeting was positive and that the group plans to continue to work together in a collaborative manner.

Ed. Note: As we go to press, both the Midtown Greenway and the Kenilworth Trail projects are delayed, possibly until next year. Meanwhile for those of you who are concerned about the loss of precious open land directly adjacent to the park, call Neil at 377-5479 to get involved or for more information. Neil said, "We cannot afford the loss of more open space in the heart of the city. Let's build a trail and nurture the land at the same time."

Sometimes the most basic questions are the most necessary

Q Where do I access the Cedar Lake Trail?

A Good question! See the map on page 7.



Brian Willette doubled as an easel while Dan Dailey explained the conceptual master plan at the 1996 Annual Meeting, held January 22. For more information on the meeting, see page 3.



On the Horizon

BY KEITH PRUSSING, CLPA PRESIDENT

It is with excitement, gratitude, and some sadness that I write this first column as the new President of the Cedar Lake Park Association. Sadness only because Brian Willette is no longer serving as President. Brian has been the President of this organization, save for one year, since its inception. His efforts have been remarkable, his commitment large. He has been described as the center of gravity around which everything orbited, and those of us who love Cedar Lake Park and parks in general owe Brian a standing ovation for his work in pioneering this cooperative partnership between the public, government and the business sector, to preserve and create a nature park in the city. THANK YOU, BRIAN.

Cedar Lake Park is unique in that it has an association of citizens, several thousand strong, with a proven ability to get things done, and a strong vision for the future. No other park entity in the Minneapolis system has such an organization. Our pioneering model of unprecedented cooperation between the public and a park is being copied both locally and nationally.

We are you, in all your colors, ages, shapes and sizes, and without each of you and your unique contributions, the association does not exist, and Cedar Lake Park is just another park.

There are so many opportunities for everyone to participate and contribute. This is legacy work that we are doing with Cedar Lake Park, to ensure a vibrant and diverse nature park within view of the skyscrapers.

You are invited to be a part of a grand past, and an exciting future!

Walden West

DID YOU KNOW that Henry David Thoreau visited Cedar Lake Park in the 1860s? He made detailed botanical notes on his visit. So reported historian Deborah Morse-Kahn at the April meeting of the Steering Committee. Ms. Morse-Kahn is working on a book about Thoreau's Minnesota visit, and shared some fascinating highlights.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Ms. Morse-Kahn was asked if she would give a more detailed presentation to a wider audience of Cedar Lake Park friends, and she agreed. A one-hour slide presentation and discussion program about Thoreau's Cedar Lake observations is planned for fall.

Thanks to Volunteers

A big thank you to the many volunteers who continue Cedar Lake Park Association's mission:

Create and nurture a park at Cedar Lake with a thriving nature preserve and connecting trails and greenways.

Provide opportunities for people to learn to live in community with nature and one another.

Continue to foster citizen leadership and private involvement in the development and management of the park and trails.

Support similar efforts through out the metro area and beyond.

The following heartily support the above mission and invite you to join them:

Larry Baker
Don Beimborn
Mary Beimborn
Mike Carlson
Dan Dailey
Bob Day
Jeff Fishman
Lisa Genis
Kathryn Glessing
Sarah Jasper
Ruth Jones
Marina Keppler
Dick Lundy
Laune Lundy
Mary McGee
Jim McPherson
Dennie Pass

Paula Pendleton
Penny Pendleton
Doris Peterson
Keith Pass
Keith Prussing
John Richter
Erik Roth
Dorene Scriven
Kevin Sheehy
D'Ann Topuluk
Neil Trembley
Sue Verrett
Dave Wahlstedt
Carol White
Lloyd White
Brian Willette

Earth Day Cleanup of CLP April 19, 1997

BY LARRY BAKER

Saturday, April 19—Earth Day—dawned sunny and warm. After receiving gloves, pins and hats from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, fourteen of our hard-working Cedar Lake Park neighbors celebrated Earth Day again this year by picking up litter, debris, refuse, rubbish, garbage, trash, scrap wood, cans, bottles, plastic, scrap metal and concrete chunks in the Upton Woods area on the east shore of Cedar Lake.

The task was done in two hours, and everyone had a good time. Although CLPA has had an Annual Clean-up since 1991, this was the Third Annual Earth Day Watershed Clean-up, thanks to the collaboration efforts of the Chain of Lakes Clean Water Partnership.

Editor's note: Larry Baker and his wife Laura Jo recently moved to the Cedar Lake Park area. CLPA President Keith Prussing met Larry in the park and Larry immediately agreed to chair the Annual Clean-up. Way to go, Larry! Thanks!

Apology

Apologies to Jim McPherson from the editor of the last *Update* for inadvertently not reporting his name and contribution in the Cedar Grove Dedication article. Jim played an integral part in planning and participating in the celebration. Sorry, Jim, but a heartfelt thank you for the inspiration and reflections you provided during the ceremony.

—Laurie Lundy

Concept Masterplan Completed Soon

The Cedar Lake Park Concept Masterplan, in development for several years, nears completion. Dan Dailey shared the document draft with the Steering Committee in April.

"Only two or three more design sessions, and the masterplan will be ready to circulate for revision comments by a group of park board staff, landscape architects, citizen volunteers and others who have contributed to it. Then it will be revised and shared more broadly," Dan said. "We are shooting for a June 21st formal release."

The Concept Masterplan is a 36-page full color document that was developed jointly by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Cedar Lake Park Association. It is a computer-based document that will be periodically updated as planning and development efforts for Cedar Lake proceed in the coming decades. "The whole idea of this plan is to capture what we as a community have learned and decided over the last several years of endless meetings and public process. It will provide a way for the people who come after us to stand on our shoulders," Dan said.

For an opportunity to preview the Concept Masterplan, call Dan at 377-2004.

Editor's Note: And thank you, Dan, for all the hard work!



Dan Dailey

Annual Meeting in Spite of Snowstorm

Thirty hearty and dedicated souls appeared out of one of the worst snowstorms of the year to attend the eighth annual Cedar Lake Park Association meeting January 22. Lurie, Besikof, Lapidus & Co. again hosted the meeting.

President Brian Willette welcomed the stalwart group and asked Dan Dailey to reveal the conceptual master plan layout which he and other members of the Writers Group have been working on this past year. To be completed this summer, the picturesque 100-year plan was discussed as a tool to create awareness and focus future development to support the design criteria as stated by the Citizens' Advisory Committee.

Keith Prussing, Projects-in-the-Park co-chair with Dan Dailey, reported on the many 1996 park projects starting with the spring clean-up and touching on others such as plantings, trail woodchipping, south woods stabilization, prairie restoration and improved water quality. Using maps and drawings, he and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) naturalist Al Singer explained what had been done on the Big Woods project. They also listed what needs be done in 1997. Deb Pilger, also from MPRB, gave a synopsis of wetland and water treatments to improve lake water quality. She also discouraged the use of lawn chemicals because of the adverse effect on water quality.

Another 1996 accomplishment was the initial planting of cedar trees at the Cedar Grove Dedication. Ruth Jones told those assembled about CLPA's gift and memorial giving program. Then Don Beimborn described Friends of the Cedar Grove, a new committee dedicated to nurturing the cedar grove.

Backed by a slide presentation, Neil Trembley gave an interesting overview of the trail projects. He then introduced other members to summarize the status, tribulations and jublations of specific trails: With maps in hand, Dick Adair discussed the Bassett Creek Trail; John Richter reported that the continuation of the Cedar Lake Trail to the river is scheduled for completion in 1997; Lisa Genis, who is also a board member of the Midtown Greenway Coalition, informed the group of progress in the 29th Street corridor; and Neil finished with details of the Kenilworth Trail.

Newsletter editor Laurie Lundy encouraged members to help with the newsletter. She said that there are many tasks associated with the Save Cedar Lake Park Update, so anyone could find an interesting and satisfying task.

Carol White presented the slate of nominees for election to the Board of Directors. The following incumbents were elected: Dan Dailey, Ruth Jones, Laurie Lundy, Keith Prussing, John Richter, Neil Trembley and Brian Willette. Don Beimborn and Jim McPherson were introduced and elected to the board.

Brian adjourned the meeting and invited everyone to participate in the Steering Committee which meets the second Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at Kenwood Recreation Center.

Ed. Note: YOU are also invited to participate in the Steering Committee. For more information call. 377-9522.



ABOVE Board members elected at annual meeting. Front (L to R): Brian Willette, Keith Prussing, Jim McPherson, John Richter. Back (L to R): Don Beimborn, Laurie Lundy, Neil Trembley, Ruth Jones, Dan Dailey



LEFT Ruth Jones and Vivian Mason shared a laugh over cookies and coffee.



ABOVE Hearty souls Sue Verrett, Lisa Genis, Michael Shoop, and Joyce Prudden braved the weather to attend the annual meeting.

RIGHT Dick Adair highlighted Bassett Creek Trail plans.



THE NATURAL WORLD OF C

A Fish Story

BY DON BEIMBORN
FISHERPERSON ON THE WEST SHORE

One fine evening in June, Mary and I did one of our favorite things. We took the canoe from the rack on Cedar Lake to go for a short ride on the water. As usual, I took a spinning rod with a single lure, a Rapala, no other tackle.

We paddled out through the center of the lake to the edge of the bed of milfoil near the entrance to the canal to Lake of the Isles. Our intent was to enjoy the evening and to appreciate the fresh air. I made a few casts and we drifted with the evening breeze. There was a strike, not much different from the usual hit of a **large-mouth bass**.

But—this bass would not come to the surface! It headed toward the middle of the lake. The canoe followed. Mary tried to stay upright as the canoe rocked from side to side. Gradually I got the fish up the side of the boat... it was a beautiful **tiger muskie**, green with vertical stripes, more heavy-bodied than a northern pike, just under the legal length for keeping.

We've seen tiger muskie before in Cedar Lake while casting for bass—something big and green comes out of the weeds, hits the lure and the line goes slack. There is some confusion between muskies and **northern pike**. Posted signs show the difference.

We never keep the bass we catch in Cedar

Lake, even though we may get 20 in a morning. Most are small but there are bass as big as a canoe paddle here.

In spite of excellent bass fishing, Cedar Lake is in trouble: there is an overabundance of small **bluegills**. They reach sexual maturity when only 4–5 inches long, too small to be of much interest to fishermen. The result: a lake full of bluegills.

In order to spawn, Northern pike require flooded marshland, which disappeared from the Chain of Lakes long ago. In the past, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) stocked adult pike in the lake. Northern pike are easily caught. During the spring 1996 die-off in the new basin at the southeast corner of Cedar Lake, a half dozen northern pike were among the victims. A few of these large fish may still live in the depths of the lake.

Because pike disappear so quickly, the DNR stocked tiger muskies in the Chain of Lakes. They are less likely to be caught and will grow to a larger size. About 200 tiger muskies are stocked every 3 years in Cedar Lake. They can reach a record 33.5 pounds, over 48 inches.

Cedar lake fish in the future

The 1996 alum treatment of the lake will reduce the availability of phosphorus to the algae. The algae are the start of a long food chain, through small invertebrates, small fish, larger fish, and to the larger predators like the large-mouth bass and muskie.

We note an increased fishing pressure for muskies on Cedar Lake; stocking of muskies will

not build a larger population.

It would be nice if the new wetlands built around Cedar to intercept storm water could also act as a northern pike spawning area. However, this does not seem to be in the desirable criteria.

Restricting bass fishing to catch-and-release is an option; this has resulted in large populations of bass in some lakes.

Collecting data on the number and size of fish taken in Cedar by doing a creel census would provide needed data.

Fishing for muskies with live bait might be restricted, because fish caught with live bait often die even if released.

Continued improvement of water quality in the Chain of Lakes through control of runoff a diversion of storm water will help keep the lake clear for some time to come. Decreasing the amount of phosphorus will affect the food chain and may reduce the total fish population.

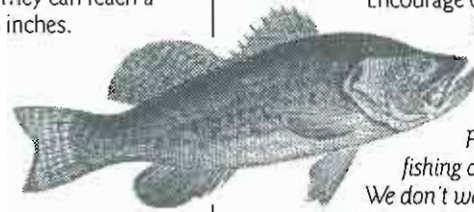
In the meantime, let's practice catch and release on the large fish of Cedar Lake.

Encourage others to do the same

But—beg them to take the small bluegills home.

P.S. Please keep the great fishing on Cedar Lake a secret. We don't want too many people to find out about it.

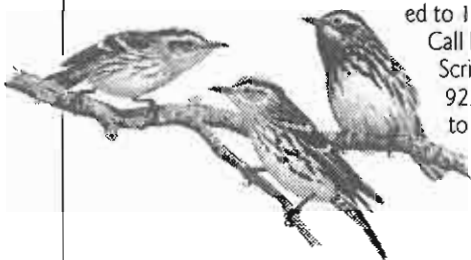
P.P.S. Thanks to Duane Shodeen, the DNR regional fisheries manager for providing information and discussing lake management.



Bird Watch

OVER 129 SPECIES OF BIRDS have been seen in Cedar Lake Park. With its various vegetation zones, it is a mecca for birds—and birdwatchers! Veteran birders Peter Neubeck and Don Beimborn volunteered to help a small group of birders identify some of our birds. Peter Neubeck led a trip May 16th; Don Beimborn will help identify birds on Saturday May 24. Meet at 7 a.m. near the bench below Indian Mound. The groups is limited to 10 people.

Call Dorene Scriven, 922-4586, to register.



Wildflower Watch

BY MARY MCGEE

Watch for the following wildflowers to reappear this month. They were seen last year along the Cedar Lake Trails.

In June

In open areas:
Bladder Campion
American Vetch
Common Yarrow
Bastard Toadflax
Field Bindweed
Meadow Rose

In the woods:
Solomon's Seal
Violets
Columbine

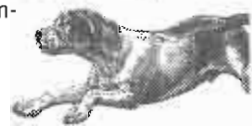
In July

In open areas:
Vervain
Mullein
Prairie Coneflower
Black-eyed Susan
Bouncing Bet
Bluebells
Common Milkweed
Monardia or Beebalm
Evening Primrose
Purple Prairie Clover
Butter & Eggs
Queen Anne's Lace

Loose Dog Watch

PLEASE—help our ground-nesting birds and small mammals—especially in the spring nesting season. Dogs running loose from their masters are disrupting nesting activities not only of shore birds but also songbirds in the brush and on the ground. Pheasants, bobwhites, even grouse were often seen here 20 years ago, but no more. Remind dog “runners” to keep their dogs on leash and mention the \$43 fines—one for off-leash dogs, the other for failing to pick up after the dog. They are also subject to a \$200 misdemeanor offense.

Conscientious dog owners are working toward establishing a fenced dog run in the Cedar Lake area.



CEDAR LAKE

20th Anniversary of the Bluebirds

BY MARY MCGEE

The first bluebirds this year were seen along the Cedar Lake Trail on March 23 and 27. The first day two stunning males in their brilliant spring plumage swooped across the trail, followed shortly by a female of a duller color. They were visiting the nest boxes near the Burlington Northern railroad tracks.

Though the 1996 fledging success rate was lower in Cedar Lake than in previous years due to predation and near drought last summer, Minnesota's Eastern Bluebird population continues slowly to increase. A total of 9876 young fledged were reported by 349 persons who maintain nest boxes. (More people have boxes, but do not trouble to report.) In Hennepin County 494 new bluebirds were reported. In the city of Minneapolis 13 young were reported from three locations; 8 were from nest boxes along the Cedar Lake Trail and the shore of Brownie Lake.

Hopefully, with construction and planting along the trail completed, conditions will be more favorable this year. In fact, by May 9th bluebirds had three nests. Unfortunately, one of their nest boxes has already been vandalized.

Over the past ten years Dorene Scriven and Don Beimborn have banded over 50 of Mary McGee's Cedar Lake bluebirds. To our delight one male bluebird was observed the first week in May wearing a band, very likely a returnee fledged and banded here last year.

Evidently bluebirds like our park. We enjoy having them with us.

THE COMMON EGRET is just one example of the multitude of water-loving birds that are attracted to the mudflats and shores of Cedar Lake—ducks and geese, three varieties of heron, rare sightings of ospreys and eagles, gulls and terns. One of the most interesting and spectacular sightings was the flock of Cape May Terns that stayed quite a while late last spring. The photograph is from the collection of artist Joan Solomon.



Projects in the Park

BY KEITH PRUSSING

The annual **Earth Day Cleanup** of the park has taken place each April for seven years, and this year continued the tradition.

Birding walks have been scheduled for this spring (see page 4); look also for other natural events in the park such as edible and medicinal plants, birds, aquatic and land animals. Cedar Lake Park is participating in the Minneapolis Park Board's citywide Naturalist Program.

Ospreys were "hacked" (artificially raised in a special tower) three years ago and carefully monitored by many volunteers 16 hours a day. In 1997 they should return as adults. The

Raptor Center needs our encouragement to establish a nesting platform for our ospreys on the north end of Cedar Lake. Several CLPA Steering Committee members are working to bring this about. Letters and phone calls are needed to encourage The Raptor Center to proceed. Write or call the Raptor Center, University of Minnesota, 1920 Fitch Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108, (625-4745).

Software was acquired by CLPA to create and maintain a **database** to coordinate volunteers, fund-raising, areas of interest, and more. D'Ann Topolick has done a wonderful job in bringing us into current time.

The **Cedar Grove** is alive and well, and promises an active and creative year. There will be a major planting and ceremony in the fall. This is an exciting project and has lots of room for participation.

Efforts to **soften the Ewing Avenue entrance to the Cedar Lake Trail** are continuing; more planting of trees, shrubs and forbs will occur this season. Ideas, suggestions, and sweat work would be appreciated!

Recently discovered: Henry David Thoreau came to Minnesota in 1861 in the hope of finding a cure for "consumption" (tuberculosis), and in June of that year walked and took notes extensively of his observations throughout southwest Minneapolis, including Cedar Lake Park. We will be sponsoring a special fall program from the scholar and regional historian, Deborah Morse-Kahn who is now analyzing Thoreau's detailed notes on Cedar Lake.

Big Woods activity is accelerating, with trail layout and construction occurring based on design plans generated by CLPA and the Park Board. Look for ongoing work in the project area on the east side of the Lake near 21st and Upton. Volunteers are needed, and all are welcome. Late May will see the browning of the meadow area to prepare for the prairie to come.

The **Kenilworth Corridor** continues to face the threat of rail traffic; the lack of decision in this regard has caused the **Midtown Greenway** (29th St. corridor) to be postponed

All of the projects below involve volunteers in cooperation with the Minneapolis Park Board Staff.

Private funds are instrumental in making these things happen. Rewarding opportunities are plentiful and varied for volunteers to participate and be a part of Cedar Lake history for future generations!

until next year. Further, the bicycle trail project to be built in autumn 1997 is being held up in the face of growing opposition from some neighborhoods who feel that it might be wise to postpone trail construction until the train issues are resolved. Their hope is to get a better design: i.e., no fences, and a different alignment to preserve vegetation, and less crowding. Finally, the question of **Hennepin County "surplus" land** in the area of 21st Street needs to be addressed at the policy level by the Hennepin County Board.

The **Cedar Lake Trail is scheduled to be completed to the river this summer**. A temporary bypass up and over Washington Avenue will serve as the trailway until Hennepin County replaces the bridges within three years.

The **Concept Master Plan** is nearing completion and it is BEAUTIFUL—with many color photos, maps, archival photos, planting palettes, the Statement of Philosophy and Design Principles, historical information on saving the parkland and building the trail, the 100-year vision with sequential description, visionary plans, and more. It truly will be a remarkable permanent statement of the past, present and possibility of Cedar Lake Park. A ceremony of completion and acceptance is tentatively scheduled for the Summer Solstice in June.

The **Kenwood NRP process** is moving forward regarding the park. The area at 21st and Upton will likely see capital improvements in the form of benches, drinking water, emergency phone, improved lighting, a kiosk, landscaping, bike racks and trail work.

Rehabilitation of the southeast part of the park from the ravages of mountain biking continues. Earth sculpting and moving will occur, the lakeshore trail will be stabilized and improved, and landscape planting undertaken. Materials and volunteers are needed to make this happen. If you like the this part of the park, please come and help.

Honorary and memorial **wildflowers** will be planted this year.

1997 should be an exciting year for **water quality**. With the Cedar Meadows Wetland, other diversions on the east shore, alum treatment last autumn and increased neighborhood awareness of clean water practices, the clarity and cleanliness of the lake will improve.



Special Gifts

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 Sandy Ritter and Peter Vanderpoel from John Herman

Cedar Tree Fund

in memory of Patty Streitz from Christopher Hagedorn, Larry & Molly Houns, and Sarah Streitz

in memory of her mother Janet Hustad from Sarah Hustad

Cedar Grove

in memory of Nate Jones from Ross, Janet, Carl & Meredith Kimmerle

Cedar Grove Wild Flowers

in memory of her mother Judith Ackerman Fox from Dana Fox

in memory of Charlie Biza from Richard & Laurie Lundy
Crystal Lundy, David & Alissa McSwiggen
Lolene Lundy & Tom Jones

Christmas Gifts

for Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cleveland, Mrs. Richard Vaughn, and Ms. Joan Wurtele from Sally & Peter Anson

Wild Flower Fund

in memory of Roy Mechaelsen from Bill & Fran Galle and Keith & Janey Nelson

Other Gifts and Memorials

in memory of Harriet Anderson from Nick & Virginia Puzak

to honor the birthday of Pam Brin from R. E. & Dory Rose

Joye and Sig Harris made the following gifts and memorials:

to honor the special birthday of Rose Brown to honor the special wedding anniversary of Beatrice & Stanley Cowle

in memory of Florence Giffis

in memory of Zi Goldberg's mother

in memory of Helen Goldenberg

to honor the special birthday of Miggs Gordon

in memory of Ann Greenberg

to honor the marriage of Steve Greenberg

to honor the recovery of Arnold Lifson

to honor the special birthday of Dory Rose

to honor the special birthday of Vernon Wexler

Other Contributions Received Since the Last Update are Gratefully Acknowledged

David & Joyce Abramson	Seymour Gross Thelma Grubryn
Robert Alwin	William Hanson
Robert Andrews, Jr	George Harding
Tom Becker	Sarah Hustad
Farrel Bergner	Fern Pachel
Lewis & Maurine Bernier	B. A. Parker
Don & Betty Bishop	Jacob Paul
Shiela Bjorne	Hazel Pederson
John & Mary Bond	Felix & Ann Phillips
David Borchert	Walter Pickhardt
Darrell & Jennifer Brand	Doris Preus
Helen Brooks	Robert & Mary Provost
Bill & Connie Cameron	Anne Puzak
Roger & Dorothy Childers	E. J. Reinsmith
Malcolm & Jean Clark	Nancy Restuccia
Ronald Coltman	Debbie Reynolds
Coco Connolly	Jean Roberts
Patrick Corrigan	Robert Rosenberg
Joe & Jean Crocker	Ruth Saari
John & Laura Crosby	Larry Salzman
Huldah Curl	Sandra Sandell & Paul Solie
Kenneth & Judy Dayton	Susan Sanger
David & Johanna Duclos	David Schmit
Frances Durtsa	Floyd Schultz
EcoTrust	Tom Schuster
Rick Garon & Robbie Perl	Tom & Pat Scott
Lisa Genis & Stephen Pratt	Pat & Ray Spratt
Hal Gensler	Jan & Jim Stephenson
Clark & Margaret Gibb	Sarah Sweatt
Nancy Gibson & Ron Sternal	D'Ann Topoluk
Steven Gove & Kathleen Fix	Leona Vande Voort
Martin Green & Bonnie Carlson- Green	Barry Victor
	Karen Viskochil
	Kim Waldof
	Erika Walker & Don Weinschenker
	Barbara Weingarden
	Frank & Frances Wilkinson
	Medora Woods
	Steve York
	Suzanne & Ted Zorn

Cedar Grove Supporter Loses Cancer Battle

Ravina Gelfand, a long-time friend of the Cedar Lake Park Cedar Grove, lost her battle with cancer in December.

A year after the cedar grove fund was started, Ravina and her husband Louis donated money for a cedar tree in memory of Ravina's best friend Joan Connoy Wasserman. At age 50, Joan had lost her battle with cancer a couple of years earlier.

Later, in a 1995 *Update* article about Joan, Ravina wrote, "The cedar tree that has been donated for Joan is a fitting memorial to her and to the many courageous men, women and children whom cancer has deprived of the opportunity to see the fulfillment of their life's dreams."

About the time that the date was set for the long-awaited cedar grove planting celebration, Louis decided to make another tree contribution, this time to honor Ravina.

Now, Ravina has also been deprived of fulfilling some of her dreams. Still, she was able to see the first cedar trees planted in the cedar grove last fall. Although difficult for her to get there, Ravina and her family attended the Cedar Grove Dedication ceremony on October 6. During the traditional Native American blessing an amulet was tied on one of the cedar trees. Participants also tied green ribbons on the representative cedar trees. Ravina was so moved by the ceremony that she called the CLPA office to express her gratitude.

Perhaps, we all need to express gratitude to Ravina for loving the cedar grove so much. In fact, she may have been one of the first "Friends of the Cedar Grove."

Since the dedication ceremony, several people have stated that the cedar grove area feels like a sacred place. Indeed it must be for not only do the green ribbons still flutter from the cedar trees, but the amulet still remains as it was placed.

Ravina are you watching?

—Laurie Lundy

You, too, can still be part of the cedar grove. Conditions permitting, cedar trees will be planted this fall.

A tax-deductible contribution of \$300 will provide for the purchase, planting and nurturing of a red cedar tree to remember or honor loved ones. \$150 will provide for wild flowers. Individual gifts at these levels will be listed on a marker and the recipient or family will receive a certificate. All gifts will be acknowledged with a handsome card. A portion of all gifts will be used to further the work of Cedar Lake Park Association. Send your tax-deductible gift to CLPA, 1101 Cedar View Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55405.



Looking Back

Dingley's Docks and Boathouse

BY NEIL C. G. TREMBLEY

The 1890s were a boom time along the northeast side of Cedar Lake. Along the base of the Kenwood Bluffs, the Mpls & St. Louis Railway started to build its complex of workshops complete with a hundred-foot smoke stack. The immense Cedar Lake Ice House was built, as well as the Kenwood Hotel.

It was a time when many began to use their leisure time for outdoor activities. Biking reached a level of popularity not to be seen again until recent times. Cedar Lake, with its crystal-clear water and abundance of trout fish, boating and fishing, became a huge attraction.

The contour of the lake was very different then it is today. The entire area from 21st Street to Burnham Bridge (built in 1896) was a huge bay. What is now the hidden beach area was underwater except for a thin strip of land.

The master boatman of Cedar Lake was one Edward Dingley. The Dingley family came to Minneapolis in the 1870s. Ed's father was a carpenter and millwright. He must have found a lot of work in this bustling frontier town of the time.

In 1880, Ed, along with his brother Frank, joined his father in the carpentry business. By 1885 Ed had started what was to become his passion for the next 60 years—boat building. In later years, he built his Cedar Lake boat house on the tip of land now known as hidden beach.

Slowly he built up his fleet of boats in the east bay. He had sailboats, fishing and excursion boats; then he built a series of docks to launch them.



An early photo showing the area of Dingley's boat house, looking toward the west and south—the area where hidden beach is today.

Ed's love of the lake grew; in the early 1900s he built a home along the edge of the north side of the bay. Several others followed suit and the area began to resemble a cottage grove.

Year in, year out, Ed could be seen building and caring for his boats and docks. He became an institution; by the 1930s few could remember a time when Dingley was not running his business.

World War II saw a decline in recreational activity and saw the demise of Ed Dingley. For a few years, others tried to carry on, but a shift in recreational habits led to the end of the boating industry on Cedar Lake.

Later the entire east bay of the lake was filled with debris from roads and old buildings. Stoves, sinks and pavement were thrown there, creating mounds of rubble. East of the mounds the Mpls. & St. Louis Railway filled the bay with cinders, laid several sections of track, and created the Mpls. & St. Louis Yards.

Now the tracks are gone and a beautiful open space has been created. The tree-lined mounds have been worn down by mountain bikes. Nothing stays the same.



INSIDE
The natural world
of Cedar Lake 4
Where were
Dingley's Docks? . 7

Save 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 Department of Public Works, and raised money for acquisition and development.

Editor: Laurie Lundy & Dorene Scriven
Designer: Pat Thompson

© 1997 Cedar Lake Park Association

Printed on recycled paper made of 50% recycled/10% post-consumer waste.

CLPA Wish List

Volunteers to work on the following park projects:

- Big Woods
- Cedar Grove
- Fence Plants
- Railroad Memorial
- Wild flowers

Doing any of the following tasks:

- Remove buckthorn
- Build trails
- Dig holes
- Haul in and move dirt
- Plant plants
- Design signs
- Restore habitat
- Pick up trash

Volunteers to work on other necessary projects, such as:

- Adopt-a-Trail
- Newsletter
- Clerical

Doing any of the following tasks:

- Organize trash pick up
- Write articles
- Editing
- Help with mailing
- Write thank you notes
- Fund raising
- Accounting
- Help plan Fall ceremony

Donations:

- Black dirt
- Native plants, shrubs, and trees
- Money...

...to fulfill the \$15,000 match pledged for the Big Woods Project

...to underwrite development, publication and distribution of the Cedar Lake Park Concept Master Plan (\$15,000)

...for ongoing expenses, such as the newsletter, postage and supplies

Be part of the bird
identification trip May 24!
See page 4 for details.

1

What is the future for the
fish of Cedar Lake?

2

Who is the **famous writer**
who visited & took notes of
the flora and fauna of Cedar Lake
135 years ago?

3

What **plants** will we
soon be seeing in the Park?

4

How many **species of**
birds have been reported
around Cedar Lake?

5

When will the long-awaited
Master Plan be published?

Answers within these pages!

You are invited to participate and support
the many ongoing projects of the
Cedar Lake Park Association. Use the enclosed envelope to
send in your tax-deductible contribution to CLPA today!