Snowfall Brings Beauty to the Park and Trails

BY JIM MCPHERSON, EDITOR

Why a winter wonderland?

Every winter I used to wonder why I stayed in this icy land of Minnesota, with its blustery cold, wild wind and trudge-through snow. Somehow, after having my car towed in a snow emergency, the winters ceased to be as much fun as they were when I was a “kid” in the country, building snow forts, sledding, etc. Every spring I realized why I stay here, to enjoy the beautiful weather, wildlife, trees and trails.

Then, a few years ago, I went sledding again in Cedar Lake Park on Keith Prussing’s kid-sized Flexible Flyer. (I’m still kid-sized, though a bit older.) I’d been visiting the park for 30-plus years, but that winter I was reminded of something quite wonderful: There’s a great deal to enjoy in the winter in Cedar Lake Park. It remains one of my favorite places—now all year round. (Sure, it’s fun to visit warmer climes in winter, but great to return home and to the country-like park around Cedar Lake.)

There’s still much to enjoy here!

The winter-time trails are still navigable, if not on foot or bike, by cross-country skis or snowshoes. The paved trails are regularly plowed. If you’re dressed warmly, the winter scenes are prismatic and breath-taking. And you can even hear the “snow birds”—the juncos and others—who also winter here.

I recall one cold but sunny day cross-country skiing and getting so warmed up that I removed my parka. Then, after skiing another mile or so, I suddenly heard what at first I thought was a grouse fluttering. Then I realized, on that otherwise very quiet day, that I was actually hearing the beating of my own heart! I rested and reflected for a while on the absolute wonder of that moment.

The past few winters seemed quite mild. Last winter, weather-wise, was only about two months long. I was starting to miss the snow. Not so this winter. It’s here in abundance, and I’ve decided to enjoy it. Hope you do too. See you in the park.

The Fishing’s Fine

BY LEIF ERICKSON

Of all the blessings of our Minneapolis park system, one of the most overlooked and underused are the fantastic fishing opportunities found in Cedar Lake Park. Whether you fish from shore, or through the ice, from a canoe or a boat, it doesn’t matter. It’s all great! Tiger muskellunge, northern pike, large-mouth bass, crappie, perch, bullheads, suckers and carp are all at home in Cedar Lake.

Unless you’re already prepared to go ice fishing, you have about three months to dust off that tackle box, replace worn line and oil your reel. In the quest for fish, it’s wise to prepare. Most of all, remember that fishing can be many things: exciting, humbling, joyful, frustrating and sometimes, even triumphant.

You’re Invited!

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Cedar Lake Park Association will be held Wednesday, Jan. 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Jones-Harrison Residence, 3700 Cedar Lake Ave. Come meet friends and neighbors, hear about CLPA’s accomplishments last year, look ahead to 2001 and help elect our board of directors. For directions, call 920-3030.
I n the park at this time of the year food is scarce. Rabbits strip the bark from sapling trees and shrubs, seeking the nourishment of the inner, living layer. The increasing accumulations of snow allow access to upper branches that are normally unreachable, and the rabbits eat, and survive.

Unfortunately, sometimes the plant does not survive, and in the spring we find it dead, or clinging to life by sending up new shoots from the roots. Perhaps a volunteer planted this tree or shrub. It may have involved great effort, or may have gone into the ground easily.

One never knows what will be under the surface. It could be concrete pieces and bits of metal, or rich black dirt.

One never knows what will be under the surface. It could be concrete pieces and bits of metal, or rich black dirt. Planting instructions say that if the ground does not open easily, move over a foot and try again, and again, until it works.

We try to water each plant as it is planted, and if there is a scarcity of rain, water must be taken out of the lake in buckets and carried to the site. If it is poured too quickly, it runs off the surface, and only some sinks down into the soil to the roots.

People sometimes break pieces off, either inadvertently, or deliberately as some sort of statement of power or disapproval. Dogs crash through the undergrowth, trampling wildflowers or snapping branches. Bicycles make new paths. Large limbs crash to the ground, due to age or a storm, crushing anything underneath.

It is chancy to nurture nature, with no guarantees of success. We keep at it, day after day, year after year, and hope for the best. And really, our activities over all these years are day, year after year, and hope for the best. And we are also most thankful. (See volunteer names noted throughout.)

One never knows what will be under the surface. It could be concrete pieces and bits of metal, or rich black dirt.

Mary Adair  
SHELBY ANDREWS, IN memory of PHILIP STEM, FATHER OF LEO  
Katharine Solomons  
Arlene Fried  
James Gehrey  
Hal Gensler  
P. M. and Barbara Gilfillan  
Geni Goldberger  
Jane Grangaard and Stephen Richardson  
Larry and Ina Gravitz  
Charles and Patricia Hanson  
Bob Harding and Allan Valgemae: “Thank you for all the great work!”  
Dick Hedlund  
Clark Johnson and Nona Hill  
S. Roger Horchow  
M. L. Hou  
Mike, Michele and Rosa Hu  
Ruth Jones  
Dick Kalin and Nancy Kleeman  
Beth Kelley  
Jim Kehne  
James Kirkham and Shelly Marette  
Anita Konikoff  
Edward Kosciolek  
Thomas Erickson and Katherine Solomons  
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Edward Kosciolek

**How to Contribute**

**Volunteer** to work in the park.  
Enlist in the buckhorn removal brigades.  
Come plant. Take a leadership position.  
Coordinate a group.  

**Contribute cash or goods.**

Donate appreciated assets, such as stocks, property or bonds.  

**Leave a legacy** by including a bequest in your estate planning.  
Purchase a memorial or honorarium for a loved one.

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**CLPA Donors Since Last Fall** as of December 10, 2000

**Thanks to Volunteers!**

Much of the work done in Cedar Lake Park is done by volunteers—both groups and individuals—to whom we are also most thankful. (See volunteer names noted throughout.)

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**Summer 2000**

A “Buckthorn Brigade” of volunteers hard at work removing these aggressively growing shrubs from the park.
BY KEITH PRUSSING, 
CLPA PRESIDENT

There is an extensive network of cross-country ski trails throughout the park. It is a great way to take in the scenery and get some exercise. You can ski through varied terrain, find some short but quick downhills, skate or ski on the lake and tour areas of the park that may not be visited during the warmer months. Plus, access is fairly easy to and from Wirth Park, Isles, Parade Stadium and St. Louis Park. There are a few areas, such as the northern trail junction, that the trail is broken where it crosses the rails or the plowed bike lanes.

Conversations are ongoing with MPRB about the feasibility of drinking water along the Cedar Lake Trail. There are no water lines to tap into for a fountain, but a water pump(s), such as the one at 21st and Upton, could be installed. A possible location could be in the vicinity of the mound on the north shore of the lake, near the bench and rock. We are talking with MPRB about jointly funding the $20,000+ it would take to drill a well. Thirsty? Want to contribute? Give CLPA a call.

Extensive plantings of prairie grasses and native wildflowers have been completed along both sides of 21st Street leading to the park entrance at Upton Ave. S., from the railroad just west of the Kenilworth Trail. Also, buckthorn has been removed on the south side to allow for better sunlight, and native shrub plantings in 2001. The deteriorating fence and bollards will be replaced in the spring. This has been a collaborative effort among CLPA, MPRB (thank you Mary Lerman), and Kenwood/Isles NRP.

The Savannah area along Upton Avenue was scheduled to be burned this past autumn, but the storms of November left a permanent snow cover earlier than anticipated, so this management activity had to be postponed. The savannah itself continues to look better as the native grasses establish themselves.

The Cedar Lake Parkway Bridge is on schedule to be removed in Spring 2001. CLPA had an official seat on the citizens' advisory committee, as well as sympathetic neighborhood representatives, so the vision that we imagined years ago in the concept master plan for the eventual bridge replacement was well represented. Not everything that we hoped for was included in the final designs, but we were able to exert significant influence, and had a good deal of success. Look for lots of construction activity in this area in 2001, and anticipate a more user-friendly outcome. Thanks to all who participated. Contact us if you would like to learn about the plans.

Aerial photographs of the park were obtained this autumn, and the various views are awesome. They show viewpoints and land forms that we did not know existed. They will be available to be seen on our web site. Further, one day this fall we located more points on the double spirals of the Cedar Grove, extending the spiral lines hundreds of more feet out from the center. Points were marked utilizing satellites and GPS technology. As many as nine satellites were accessible, and points could be ascertainment within one meter. We anticipate doing more in February, when the absence of leaf cover and the ability to walk through the frozen marsh will allow new areas to be delineated. Thanks to Dave Zenk, formerly of Dunwoody Institute, for his ongoing technical support.

Activities in the Cedar Grove in 2000 include the replacement of four of the original 65 cedar trees which had perished. This is a high survival rate for plantings that took place starting in 1996. The spiral paths have been wood-chipped for several hundred feet out from the center, allowing a contemplative walk, brushing against the trees. Further, the final designs for the memorial markers are nearing completion, and as soon as they are approved by MPRB, installation will occur. Finally, more buckthorn has been removed, poison ivy has been sprayed, and native trees and shrubs have been planted throughout the Heart of the park area.

Construction of the Hatch Spur has taken place throughout the fall. This connecting link runs from the western terminus of the Cedar Lake Trail at Hwy. 100 through St Louis Park to join with the Hennepin County trail network in Hopkins. This allows for a person to travel off-road between downtown Minneapolis and western Hennepin County. CLPA will be cosponsoring an opening celebration with St Louis Park and others this coming spring.

The Bassett Creek Trail continues to be on hold, but those holding the vision are confident that this vital link between the Cedar Lake Trail in the Bryn Mawr meadows area north to Wirth Park will eventually be completed. The holdup continues to be the railroad, and their demands for very high lease payments to allow the trail to exist in this corridor. Also, the Bassett Creek master plan has been completed, and a moratorium on development instituted so that the tenets of this plan can be further considered.

Work continues on the lake shore trail on the north and east side of the lake. Envisioned as a soft surface “slow” pathway sinuously passing through the wooded area. This trail has now been wood-chipped from the mound area to within a few hundred yards of the Kenilworth canal to the south. By undulating the trail to take better advantage of the terrain, nodes of interest, such as the wooden bench area on the northeast marsh, are enhanced new areas with great views and special plant communities. An “off-the-trail” quiet feel emerges, with possibilities. Plus, the lake shore edge becomes more protected and natural. Without the efforts of the youth crews of the Hennepin County Sentence to Serve program, this project would be much more difficult to implement.

The Conservation Partners grant (Big Woods II) project has been successfully completed. Emergent lakeshore, wet forest, maple-basswood forest, and oak woodland communities have been estab-

"Welcome to Cedar Lake Park. Nurture Nature," says the sign. Naturally, in its own way, the snow is also nurturing nature, protecting life in/on the ground 'til spring.
Theodore J. Wirth, 73, grandson of the Theodore Wirth who was one of the original landscape architects and superintendents for Minneapolis parks and lakes, was in the City of Lakes in late December to present his plan to the MPRB for creating a city-wide parks history program. Among the proposed projects is a statue of his grandfather in Theodore Wirth Park, surrounded by his own landscape architectural designs.

As a boy, Wirth spent the summers in Minneapolis with his grandfather, a prime mover who tripled the area covered by city parks. Now, with Joan Berthiaume, Project Coordinator with Wirth Design Associates in Minneapolis, he also wants to develop signage showing the park areas’ history, restore the park superintendent’s home he stayed in in Lyndale Farmstead Park and, working with the Minneapolis Parks Legacy Society, include park history in the curricula for all city schools.

Currently living in Montana, Wirth has designed public parks and private grounds in nearly every state in the U.S. He has also designed park lands around the world, from Kuwait to Saudi Arabia and Central America. Wirth was involved in the early conceptualization of the future of Cedar Lake Park in the early ’90s. Of Cedar Lake Park, Wirth says, “It is a very special place.” We agree. (Watch for a longer story/interview in our spring edition.)
Projects in the Park

continued from page 3

lished and enhanced, and buckthorn and other exotics have been removed. Combined with the earlier Big Woods I, large areas of the conservation area of the park have now seen restorative efforts involving large amounts of resources and thousands of volunteer hours. 2001 will see the continuation of these efforts with the in-filling of wildflowers, ferns and fungus, as well as more trees and shrubs. CLPA has the

There were over 2,500 volunteer hours in 2000.

ability to accommodate individual, school, church, corporate and neighborhood volunteer groups for activities in the park.

Hundreds of more daffodils were planted this autumn in a joint project with the St. David’s Society. These daffodil beds are a visual delight along the parkway between South Beach and the Jones-Harrison Residence. Further north, look for the extensive native plantings that have taken place around and below Jones-Harrison, the Cedar Meadows and the areas leading up to the parkway bridge over the CLT corridor.
The Wallofs of Cedar Lake
and Finding the Lost Treasure

The Kenwood Hotel was built in 1895 on the corner of Sheridan Avenue and 21st Street. It catered to vacationers and railroad employees before it was demolished around 1925.

BY NEIL G.C. TREMBLEY
CLPA SECRETARY

In my last article I recounted the migration of the Wallof family to the Cedar Lake area in the 1890s. The prosperous eldest of the Wallof brothers, Edward, built a splendid house (it still stands) on the corner of 22nd and Sheridan. Like many immigrant and first-generation families, they were an extended family. It appears that Edward’s mother, Margarete, lived there after the death of her husband Paul Gustav, as well as at least one of his brothers, William.

From the few photographs of him, William appears to have been a tall, gangly, perhaps shy young man. He never married and never seemed to have a steady occupation. He was a ne’er-do-well. But he had at passion that consumed him for over 20 years; photography.

William aspired to be a professional photographer and, for a short time, billed himself as one. Using the trolleys and train transportation at that time (remember, the Kenwood station at 21st and Upton was used as a commuter line into downtown) he traveled over the bustling city waterfront photographing fires, parades, carnivals and storefronts. He took pictures of his brother’s machine shop and the cars and trucks made there, as well as the shop’s employees.

He loved photographing his family, especially his brother Edward’s children and Edward’s wife, Ida. Now, I’m not saying that Bill (as his nephews called him) had a crush on his sister-in-law. Perhaps he simply found her amenable to the tiresome posing that went along with the photography of the time. She certainly seemed a willing model, and he especially liked to photograph her riding her bike around the Kenwood neighborhood.

Bill’s photos captured images of the many vacationers that frequented Dingley’s docks and boathouse. He roamed the Kenwood area pictureing the Cedar Ice House, the Burnham Bridge (built in 1895), the old Cedar Parkway Bridge (a wooden structure) and Dingley’s boathouse, noting how the lowering of the lake in the early 1800s affected the structure. He photographed the summer campers that inhabited the northern edge of the lake, and he climbed atop the old Kenwood Hotel to take pictures of the cupola-like Kenwood Depot and its surrounding railroad yards.

Perhaps the best shot he took (see next page) was of the Cedar Lake icemen loading giant blocks into a waiting sidecar for the trip down to Chicago or St. Louis, where the blocks would be slivered to provide ice cubes for the swank restaurants there.

For some 22 years, from 1895 to 1917, William Wallof’s pictures articulated the ever-changing panorama of life in the Kenwood neighborhood. Doing so, he captured a glimpse of what it meant to be alive in what one writer called “The Age of Innocence”. Never again would America see that jaunty tilt of the head that epitomized the swagger of that era. The “great” wars of the Twentieth Century trampled
Loading the ice circa 1900: The ice of Cedar Lake was prized for its purity and shipped to the finest restaurants in Chicago and St. Louis.

the effervescence and hubris of the gay 90s. To look at the photos of that time is to peer into a looking glass and see the movers and shakers who could dream of building structures like the St. Paul’s Cathedral and the Basilica of Minneapolis. Also on view are the backs of the people upon which the structures were built. Most often, it is images of people who (just as today) came to play at our jewel of a lake. Thus the mirror looks back at us resonating the same desires that preoccupy us today. How do we find pleasure in the city?

In 1917 the Wallof family pulled up stakes and moved away from Minneapolis back to St. Louis from where they came. Why this happened is not known. Perhaps the business Edward had built came on hard times. Competition may have destroyed the car/truck manufacturing business he founded. Maybe family connections led them back. It could have been the war. What we do know is that, for several years, no Wallofs were listed in the Minneapolis directory. However, in the late 1920s, William Wallof’s name once again appears, living in an apartment in the city. His nephew, Paul, believes he ultimately wound up with his brother running a mobile home lot in Missouri. He died in the 1940s. No photos survive from that time.

But what of the lost treasure? In 1967, Arthur Ives, a collector of rare photographic equipment, contacted photo-journalist Harold Vanderwater with an amazing story. An elderly woman had come to Arthur’s offices claiming she had a store of rare photographic equipment, the forgotten gear of a long-ago renter. When he went to the house to inspect the kit, he found, amid the clutter of 30 years, hundreds of old glass negatives lying in boxes. Some of them had been chipped and broken, but many were in perfect condition. Would Harold like to see these!

Like the Laocoon statue rising from the muck of ancient Rome, these antique images caught Harold’s imagination. He used several of the photographs for a newspaper piece called “Then and Now: Images from 1893-1967”. Wallof’s most famous photos were of the old Metropolitan Building and a series of 360-degree pictures he took from the top of the court house, in Wallof’s time the tallest building in the city.

The rest of the negatives Vanderwater donated to the Minneapolis Collection of the Minneapolis Public Library. These tireless library archivists have laboriously catalogued the negatives and are in the process of transferring them from glass to modern negatives. You can view these pictures in the collection’s second floor space in the downtown library.

So now you know the incredible story of these priceless treasures that were forgotten for half a century. As always, I am indebted to Bob Glancy for directing me to these marvelous photographs of early Minneapolis life.

All pictures are courtesy of the Minneapolis Collection of the Minneapolis Public Library.
CLPA Update, Winter 2001

If you’re receiving this CLPA Update for the first time: 
Call to let us know if you want to be added to our mailing list: (612) 377-9522.

CALENDAR

CLPA Steering Committee
Second Monday of each month, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Kenwood Recreation Center, 2101 W. Franklin Ave. 
You’re invited to participate.

Annual Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 24th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. 
at Jones-Harrison Residence, 3700 Cedar Lake Ave.

Bluebirds Return
March 2, 2000 (expected early March 2001

Spring Equinox
March 20, 2001, 7:31 a.m.

Earth Day Clean-up
April 21, 2001

Plantings—late April through June

For more activities
Call CLPA (612) 377-9522.

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

Cedar Lake Park from the Sky

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.