Thanks to Our Silent Volunteers

1 For several years now a group of silent volunteers has been trying to save this special tree on Hidden Beach known to many as the “Wizard Tree.”

2 The Cedar Lake shoreline is washing away the dirt, which is continually replaced by volunteers and held in place by a wall of stones that protects the vulnerable roots.

3 So each and every spring, a group of people (all volunteers) has built the wall around the tree.

By Paul Deal

Much labor and time go into the wall’s construction. Small rocks and sand are hauled around the tree to cover its roots. Meanwhile, though, vandals periodically tear down the wall and throw all the rocks back into Cedar Lake. Given this situation, the process can take a good part of the summer to complete.

At last, after much effort, the wall is complete. Thus, each year we build the wall back up again. Likely, the volunteers will return again this spring to begin the process. Special thanks to all the volunteers at Cedar Lake Park!

April 26th Public Meeting to Unveil Memorial Design for Linda Jadwin

The Burnham Woods area of Cedar Lake Park will be the site of a natural stone seating area that is being created as a public-art memorial for Linda Jadwin, a lovely and talented neighbor who died accidentally in 1999. Because Linda had lived nearby and loved Cedar Lake Park so much, her friends approached CLPA about the possibility of improving some part of the Park in her memory. It was agreed that a seating area and native species restoration project would be most appropriate, and a location in the Burnham Woods area was identified.

Artist James E. Johnson was engaged to create a seating area design consistent with the Statement of Philosophy and Design Principles developed by the Citizens’ Advisory Committee in 1993, and with Linda’s values as a citizen, artist and poet. Johnson reviewed Cedar Lake Park’s Concept Master Plan, as well as the design work developed for CLPA by landscape architects Jones & Jones and Balmori Associates. He has created a naturalistic design that will be presented at a meeting to take place at 7 p.m. at the Kenwood Park Building on April 26, 2001.

This meeting and the design and approval process, of which it is a part, are consistent with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s public art protocol. Sufficient funds have already been raised by Linda’s friends to create the memorial, though additional gifts in memory of Linda will be welcomed with thanks. Project management and fiscal agency are being provided by the Cedar Lake Park Association. Questions may be directed to Dan Dailey, at 612 / 377-2004.

You’re Invited!
Linda Jadwin Memorial Design Public Meeting
Thurs., April 26, 2001, 7 p.m.
Kenwood Recreation Center

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Kenwood Recreation Center
On the Horizon

BY KEITH PRUSSING, CLPA PRESIDENT

The notion of stewardship has always figured prominently in the ethos of this association. We have talked about the community of people and nature. Partnership has been held as a high ideal, and utilized to achieve amazing things.

Citizen volunteers have steered this process, holding a vision steadily, like mariners on a starlit sea who use the pole star for guidance. With volunteers, there is the visible above the surface, but the far greater mass is below—invisible and indistinct—like an iceberg.

It is this person, the silent volunteer, who is largely responsible for all of our success. This is true, I believe, because of a simple fact: The silent volunteer cares. Every day, throughout the park and the trail corridors, one may see evidence of this caring stewardship.

The interesting thing to me is that an action taken has implications far beyond the act itself, and can continue to contribute long after the individual has moved along. A tree planted five years ago continues to bear witness, a legacy bequest funds a program, St. David daffodils reappear year after year, or trash disappears one piece at a time.

Regardless of where or when we are, the silent volunteer continues to participate in our community of stewards. Without them, and their actions; large or small, we would be ordinary. It is this model of community built on an ethic of compassionate stewardship. It is very special, and the silent volunteer deserves our thanks.

In a Win/W in Activity

BY MEREDITH MONTGOMERY

On Saturday mornings around 10:00, especially when the weather is warm but sometimes when it isn’t, a white van pulling a trailer disgorges eight to ten teenage kids at the 21st and Upton entrance to CLP. Crew leader Rick Schwoch directs the group to unload shovels, wheelbarrows and rakes from the trailer. The kids, wearing orange and yellow day-glo vests, are mostly silent. A few spurt or swear, banging tools to the ground, as the group heads for the nearest chip pile. Soon they are all busy raking, scraping and hefting chips into the wheelbarrows.

Meanwhile, a cardinal supervises from a high perch. Joggers smile as they maneuver around the wheelbarrows. A cheerful woman holding binoculars stops to ask what’s going on. “Sheesh,” one of the girls in the work crew exclaims, more or less. “What is this place, anyway?”

Most of the kids have never been in Cedar Lake Park before. Sentencing to Service (STS), a Hennepin County community service program for juvenile offenders, has transported them to the park to work off their sentences.

STS is a restitution program that does not include treatment or counseling. Most of the participants in the program come from home and go back home when the STS work day ends. Their sentences range from one to 10 days for nonviolent petty crimes and misdemeanors. “These are everyday kids who have made mistakes,” says Program Supervisor John Donahue. “They’re paying back the community. Sometimes people say they don’t want ‘these kids’ in their community, but they are in our communities. We need to get to know them.”

Since October 1999, STS work crews have continued to page 3

Thanks to Volunteers!

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

Cedar Lake Park Association gratefully acknowledges recent contributions for memorials, tributes and gifts to loved ones. Since the last Update, memorials and gifts have been received from:

CLPA Donors Since Last Winter as of March 15, 2001

Mike Eison
Nancy Evans
Bob Fine
Brenda Foat
Mrs. Wood Foster
William Frazee
Steve Pratt and Lisa Genis
Nancy Gibson
Bill Gilbreath
Doug and Gretchen Gilder
Charles Gleach
Robert and Katherine Goodale
Lisa Goodman
Steven Gove
Seymour Gross
Susan H. Gross
Mrs. Thelma Grubryn
David Gustafson
Charles Hall
Rehael Fund—Roger and Eleanor Hall of the Minneapolis Foundation
George E. Harding
Gordon and Wini Hed
Sally Helde
John and Diane Herman
Stephen Huey
Linda Huhn
Ernst Ibs
Public Radio International
Sharon Jankowski
Susu Jeffrey
Kathryn P. Jensen
Bruce Jones
Phillys Just
Phillys Kahn
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Kaplan
Mary Kelthahn
Ms Beth Kelly
Edward Kosciolk
Duane and Mary Alyce Krohnke
Rhonda Kuehl
Martha and Jim Abbott Lader
June and Neal Lapidus
in Loving Memory of Harry G. Wels
Richard Lillehei
Martin Lipschultz
Steve Liss and Carol Chomsky
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Dee-Ann and Philip Prather
Walter and Harriet Pratt
Richard Prochaska
Nancy and James Proman
Louise Ribnick
Martin Richmond

In a Win/W in Activity

STS Young People Provide Great Service to CLP and All

BY STEVE DURRANT, TREASURER

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Since October 1999, STS work crews have donated over 1,000 hours of labor to CLP. The ability to count on STS labor has moved a number of labor-intensive projects in the park forward.

CLPA President Keith Prussing is enthusiastic—

“STS” continued to page 3
tic about the partnership with STS. “This program is a great example of the type of private/public partnership that has characterized the work of CLPA since its inception many years ago. It is a ‘win’ for everyone involved, and for the park. Our motto of ‘everyone has fun, and nobody gets hurt’ has been successfully demonstrated in this program.”

Besides working in Hennepin County and Minneapolis parks, STS projects include removing litter on freeways for MnDOT, cutting grass for senior citizens, washing and waxing ambulances for MCHC and preparing planting beds for Lyndale Market Gardens.

Once the weather warms up this spring, Prussing and a few other park volunteers will spend most Saturday mornings working side-by-side with STS crews in the park. “I like sending these kids into the park,” John Donahue says, “because it gives them a different view of their environment. Some of them never leave their own neighborhoods. Keith takes time to describe what’s to be done and why it’s necessary. He shows the kids how he wants things done and comments on their efforts. This experience opens their eyes, gives them something new to learn, lets them have a sense of pride and accomplishment. It really has an impact.”

That seems to be true, at least in the course of a day’s work in the park. Prussing comments, “It has been a delight to see sullen individuals arriving in the morning transformed to a team of tired, hard-working young men and women who feel proud of what they have accomplished by the time they leave in the afternoon.”

What STS crews have accomplished in Cedar Lake Park is impressive. They have reason to feel proud, and we thank them. We also thank Hennepin County, John Donahue, Rick Schwoch and other staff members who have so enthusiastically participated in the partnership between STS and CLPA.

Big Woods II— Removed buckthorn in the Cedar Grove area, planted trees and shrubs, mulched and watered new plantings. Dragged a large amount of buckthorn debris for chipping, erosion control, trail closing and habitat creation.

Inner Lakeshore Trail— Moved TONS of woodchips, made improvements to the trail, reworked it from the mound area at the north to the bicycle areas south of Upton Woods. The chipped trail is a minimum of six feet wide and six inches deep. (This year, with STS help, we hope to reach the canal.)

Cedar Grove Spirals— Mulched cedar trees and chipped paths to make the Cedar Grove spirals more visible. A five-foot-wide chipped corridor beside the trees now can be walked and is visible from the air.

Removal of burdock and other exotics throughout the park.

“STS” from page 2

Althought the project could have started this year, there is no way it could have been completed by the end of the construction season. So the city decided to wait until next year. All funding is still in place and the project’s scope, scope and layout, which the Cedar Lake Parkway Bridge Citizen’s Advisory Committee worked so hard on, has not changed.

The City of Minneapolis announced that, due to unforeseen developments, the construction of the Cedar Lake Parkway bridge due to begin this spring has been delayed until next year. A letter signed by city council member Lisa Goodman and members of the Minneapolis Department of Public Works, stated the delay is “attributed to the Federal and State Funding, and the Historic Review Process.”

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“STS” from page 2

Special Thanks

CLPA thanks Mark Simonson for hosting our temporary web site for several months last year and for his in-kind donation of time for web site design.

We also want to thank Maria Olson for her years of work with CLPA coordinating volunteer activities.

STS crews’ activity in the park since October 1999:

STC volunteers check on the bluebirds twice a day through August. For details and to volunteer, call me, Mary McGee, at 612-377-0630.
Cedar Lake Park

Cedar Lake Park has emerged as a popular destination for a rapidly growing number of park users. Hikers, bicyclists, bird watchers, anglers, dog owners, swimmers, in-line skaters, canoeists, cross-country skiers, and many others enjoy the special features of the park. In order for the park to realize its full potential as a place to harmoniously balance human use with the natural environment, its design should be consistent with the principles described in the 1993 Citizen Advisory Committee's Statement of Philosophy.

Western Extension

1. Highway 100
2. Hutch Spur Connection to Hopkins & Carver County
3. Ewing Access
4. Cedar Lake Parkway

CLPA now has graphic material that depicts the spirals of the memorial Cedar Grove extending out into the community. On a grand scale, we now know that these spirals originating in the heart of the park area pass through downtown Howard Lake to the west, and through Wisconsin east of River Falls.

In June, CLPA continues to plant trees, shrubs and wildflowers as memorials throughout the park. Suggested donations for these activities are $125 for wildflowers and ferns, $175 for trees and shrubs and $375 for a tree planted along the spirals of the Cedar Grove. Included is a written notification and acknowledgement to the appropriate people. These plantings are done by volunteers throughout the growing season.

Every year CLPA has sponsored Earth Day activities in the park. Volunteers will be in the park and along the trails on Saturday, April 21, engaged in various activities to nurture nature and raise environmental consciousness. Please call for details.

There is mixed news concerning trail activities. The Hutch Spur will be completed through St. Louis Park this spring. This key link will connect the western end of the CLT with the Hennepin County trail network in Hopkins and beyond. There will be an opening ceremony of which CLPA will be a co-sponsor. New alignments have been planned for both the Bassett’s Creek trail and the CLT to the river. Bassett’s is significantly less expensive. Both current plans involve striped, on-the-road areas.

Since our goal has always been a completely off-road trail through downtown, CLPA continues to view current plans for the CLT to be temporary, until a final solution can be developed. CLPA, along with MPRB Commissioner Mason, are actively pursuing our desired goal, and are hopeful that with all of the current construction throughout the proposed trail corridor, including the Washington Ave. bridge, as well as proposed projects, such as the terminal station for the Northstar Commuter line from St. Cloud, the CLT will be remembered.

A new development is the possibility of a new Twins stadium between the Target Center and the Hennepin County burner, the area of the trail corridor. Finally, federal funding for both Bassett’s Creek and the CLT has been lost due to lack of timely activity by Minneapolis Public Works. Options include reapplying, or obtaining funding from elsewhere.

The annual meeting of CLPA was held at Jones-Harrison (thank you!) in January. It was well-attended, with several informative presentations about past and current activities. Elections for a new board of directors, and a good time was had by all.

The annual planning retreat took place in early March, and it, too, was a success. New officers of the corporation were nominated and elected, and many wonderful ideas were discussed, including a new slide presentation that shows much of the thinking and work that CLPA has been engaged in for 12 years.
An important component of current and future planning is the development of a comprehensive access and internal park trail system. Because of the extensive wetlands to the west to the restricted access due to the railroads, the area now known as Cedar Lake Park had been relatively inaccessible. This is largely why the area around Cedar Lake uniquely differs from the other portions of the Chain of Lakes.

Phase 3 — to the River

To Theodore Wirth Parkway & Park
Kennilworth Trail & Connection to Midtown Greenway
Lake of the Isles Parkway
Cedar Lake Trail
Kenwood Parkway Access
Spring Lake Access
Bryn Mawr Access
Bassett Creek

Proposed Bassett Creek Trail to Theodore Wirth Park & North Hennepin Trail System
7th Street Access
Bryn Mawr Meadows
Jadwin Memorial Site

Existing Parking Areas
Railroads

Through GIS, the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County now have the ability to locate any coordinate point to the level of the plat map and the current owner. Our ability to connect has increased dramatically.

CLPA and the Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA) are co-sponsoring a planting event on Arbor Day, April 28. Trees will be planted in the Midtown Greenway corridor through the neighborhood. Volunteers are needed.

CLPA has formed an alliance with the Minneapolis Audobon Society to pursue planting and habitat projects in the park. Some may remember that it was this group that made the first contribution of several thousand dollars to Save Cedar Lake Park. This was their entire sanctuary fund. Around Arbor Day, plantings of fruit-bearing native shrubs will take place in several areas, with the aims of enhancing bluebird feeding opportunities, as well as replacing buckthorn berries as wildlife food. Further, we are very interested in continuing inventory projects of plants, animals and their habitats so that we may see better what we are accomplishing, as well as develop and enhance other opportunities to nurture nature.

This has been a hard winter in the park; this winter that just won’t quit. The extended snow pack has made it difficult for the animals, and is resulting in the delay of various spring activities, such as the return of the Sentencing to Service program. Hopefully, by the time you read this, spring will finally have arrived. However, it has been a great winter for skiing, snow-shoeing and other activities in the park, and MPRB has done a great job keeping the CLT and Kenilworth Trail open and usable.
Theodore Wirth—
A Cedar Lake Historian and Visionary

BY NEIL TREMBLEY, SECRETARY

Theodore Wirth is famous as the organizer and expander of the Minneapolis park system in the early twentieth century. Born in Switzerland in 1863, he came to the U.S. when he was twenty-five. He established himself as a landscape gardener in New York, planting trees in Central Park, and later rose to prominence in Hartford, Connecticut. There he designed and built the first public rose garden in the United States.

In 1905 Wirth was lured to Minneapolis by prominent citizen Charles Loring, who was anxious to have Wirth take over the Park Board’s Superintendent’s position from the retiring William Berry. From 1906 until 1935 as Superintendent, and continuing as Superintendent Emeritus until his death in 1949, he ran the park system like no one before or since. He expanded the size of park holdings by threefold and adjusted and implemented Horace W. Cleveland’s vision of a Grand Round.

Wirth was famous for promoting active use of parks and playgrounds and for getting rid of the “Keep off the Grass” signs that pervaded nineteenth-century park mentality.

In Wirth’s book, Minneapolis Park System: 1883-1944, he surveyed the park system he worked so hard to build. He proved himself an able historian as well as a dogged visionary when it came to Cedar Lake.

Wirth the Historian

As to Cedar Lake’s naming, Wirth says it was “So-called because of the Red Cedars that grew on its shores in the early days...” Wirth noted, “In the very early days, Cedar Lake was popular for outing activities not only for the people of Minneapolis, but for visitors from the South.”

He related stories about the Oak Grove House (the site of the Jones-Harrison Home) and of a resort on the east shore called Stetson’s Cedar Lake Park, near the present-day Hidden Beach. “This was rather a gay place,” Wirth said, “remembered for the lively episodes that occurred there which sometimes were recounted in the newspapers.”

Wirth was a master of the intricacies of park development and had an accountant’s eye when it came to fiscal matters. “The first [dredging] contract was awarded at a price of 12 cents per cubic yard, but this contractor failed to master the difficulties encountered and the contract had to be transferred.” He goes on to say, “during a storm in June 1914, the dredge foundered in deep water at the southeast corner of the lake and could not be recovered, making it necessary for the contractor to provide a new one. The dredging of the lake from 1911 to 1914 to open the connection between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles involved the moving of 371,340 cubic yards, at a cost of $46,417.84.”

In his section on the Grand Round, Wirth describes the building of the Cedar Lake Parkway Bridge in 1916 as a joint project between the Great Northern Railroad Co., the City Council and the Park Board. (Some things haven’t changed.) By the way, according to Wirth, the cost of the bridge was $46,160, mostly paid for by the railroad. Wirth some glee Wirth tells of the replacement by the railroad of the old wooden-trestled waterway connecting Cedar and Brownie with “…a concrete passageway, a much more pleasing and durable structure—and accomplished without expense to the Board.”

Some of Wirth’s utilitarian ideas may not jibe with all the tenets of the Cedar Lake Park Philosophy Statement. For example, he saw great worth in dredging to make the lake more usable for people, and creating more land around the lake for playgrounds and other activities. Unfortunately, when the dredging failed to fill in all the area created by the lowering of the lake, the city turned the eastside of the lake into a dump.

Wirth the Visionary

Theodore Wirth had a vision for the city and for Cedar Lake Park. This is what he said about the lake area in 1944:

“There seems to be no valid reason why the rest of the east shore and the entire north shore should not be controlled by the Board. Cedar Lake really should be a part of the park system ... it is hoped that in the not too distant future these privately-owned shorelines, most of which are held by the railroad companies, will be acquired and improved....”

Decades later, that vision is being realized.
Grandson Theodore J. Continues Parks Legacy

BY JIM MCPherson

Meanwhile, Theodore J. Wirth, 73, continues to work in the tradition of his grandfather and father, Conrad, who, as Director of the National Park Service, developed the White House Rose Garden for Jack and Jacqueline Kennedy. Wirth has been traveling between Minneapolis and his Billings, Montana, office to develop his plan with the MPRB for creating a citywide parks history program, the Minneapolis Parks Legacy Society. Among the planned projects is a statue of his grandfather in Theodore Wirth Park, surrounded by his own landscape architectural designs. CLPA’s John Richter is contributing to and raising funds for this project.

Wirth spent boyhood summers in Minneapolis with his grandfather, staying at his Park Superintendent’s home in Lyndale Farmstead Park. I talked to Wirth about his early memories of the City of Lakes and about Cedar Lake Park.

“As a boy, I loved the out-of-doors. I liked park work, which I learned by osmosis from both my grandfather Wirth and my father, Conrad L. Wirth.”

When serving in the U.S. Navy at the end of WWII, Theodore J. was assigned to St. Thomas College as a flight cadet, then went to pre-flight school in Ottumwa, Iowa. He later graduated (in 1950) from Iowa State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science in landscape architecture. After graduating, he worked in state parks for two years, then for eight years with the National Park Service.

In 1960 Wirth established Wirth Design Associates in Billings, Montana. He recalls his earlier work with Cedar Lake Park. After finishing his project design for Minneapolis’ Boom Island Park, Al W hitman of the Park Board staff asked Wirth to do a study. The first job was to straighten out the right-of-ways from North Minneapolis to Cedar Lake Park.

When they went up in a helicopter for a literal overview, Wirth remembers he wanted to take the doors off the aircraft to get a better view for picture taking. He said it became clear from the air that a big challenge was finding an easy way between north Minneapolis and Cedar Lake Park, up and over the railroad/freeway.

Concluding his study, Wirth suggested restoring some prairie areas to screen traffic noise levels.

“One of the key questions for us landscape architects,” Wirth reflected, “is how do we plan and use an area for a park without destroying the thing that makes it worthwhile for park use to begin with.” Wirth is working with Joan Berthiaume, Project Coordinator with Wirth Design Associates in Minneapolis, on the Minneapolis Parks Legacy Society project.

This challenge is certainly reflected in our work in Cedar Lake Park.

Theodore Wirth pictured with his grandson, April 1928, at the Park Superintendent’s residence.
CLPA Update, Spring/Summer 2001

If you’re seeing 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. You’re invited to participate.

Earth Day activities
Volunteers will be in the park and along the trails on Saturday, April 21. Please call for details.

Public Meeting
Jadwin Public Art, Thurs., April 26, 7:00 p.m., Kenwood Recreation Center

CLPA/CIDNA Arbor Day Planting
Trees will be planted in the Midtown Greenway corridor April 28 in this co-sponsored special event. Call to volunteer.

Summer Solstice June 21, 2001

For more activities
Call CLPA (612) 377-9522. Or check our new web site: www.cedarlakepark.org

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

Our Thanks to

Projects in the Park

Park Area Map

Theodore Wirth

Events Calendar

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 thousands of households, developed a successful partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and other city, county, regional and state agencies, and raised money for acquisition and development.

Editor: Jim McPherson
Design: Triangle Park Creative
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info@cedarlakepark.org
www.cedarlakepark.org

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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.