

The History of the Association by Judy Martin

*Written and presented by **Judy Martin** at the annual meeting of the Cedar Lake Association in August of 2003. Judy was Secretary of the Association from 1970 until 1990.*

“Cedar Lake — It’s all about the water. The Cedar Lake Conservation Club was formed in 1953 by fishermen and sportsmen — some of whom had already been on Cedar Lake 20 to 30 years.

“What pristine beauty they were privileged to use. There were no weeds and you could see to the bottom to depths of about 20 feet. And what they saw was a sandy bottom and large boulders off the sandbar where kids used to hunt for mussels.

“And as part of its ecology there were gulls, whitefish, thousands of frogs, a multitude of garter snakes and painted turtles playing their part in the healthy ecology of Cedar Lake. Compared to then very few of these species exist today.

“The article printed in this weeks Maple Lake Messenger and Annandale Advocate gives a brief history of Cedar Lake’s progress from 1953 to 1973.

“We got into the sweatshirt and T shirt business in 1971. Greg Heuer drew the lake map and designed the logo.

“To insure I would give an accurate history of the Association I re-read all of the Association’s newsletters from 1973 to the present and boy was I ever shocked with things I had forgotten. Like in 1973 the DNR removed 17 tons of bullheads.

“CLCC has always been involved in the Wright County Sports Federation. I was surprised that the water clarity test in 1974 was only 4.5 feet. Because that is less than it is now I think.

In 1976 the lake was at its lowest since 1941. In 1978 the Clearwater watershed was formed and Melvin Wells contributed to the newsletter saying that he was born on the north shore of the lake in 1902. At that time there were only two resorts on the lake—Melvin Wells and Sam Gordons.

“Five passenger trains arrived in Annandale daily and both Wells and Geardinks drove 3-seater covered buggys. Melvin had been on Cedar Lake at that time for 75 years, my mother Ida Draper, me and Greg Heuer for 25 years, Charlie Geardink 45 years, Clarence Hegg 26 years, And Shirley Cook and Art Koehler for 47 years. These figures and other comments were obtained by an opinion survey done by Carolyn Custer.

A 19 lb Northern was spear fished in January 1978 by Ray Fobbe. In the fall of 1978, Fran Badger submitted a written article of her fall walk passing the Palmquists Pine Tree, Verna Casperson knitting in the window, and Rudy Westlund had his car jacked up, the yellow mums were still blooming in Priebe's back yard, and a yellow violet at Bob Miner's and at Fran and Don' Badgers 1st cabin which is now the club house for Cedar Acres.

Clarence Hegg did a number of Seechi dis measurements. They were fairly correlative except for June 1974's which showed 12 feet of clarity. Also, taking 6 inch frogs or longer were prohibited but taking smaller frogs were unlimited. There was a huge frog die off in 1974 caused by Red Leg Disease.

In 1981, the club's interest was in the golf course.

In 1982 Sweatshirts were back in demand, the colors now navy blue with white lettering. The sweatshirts would continue to be in demand and the colors kept changing.

In 2000, many colors of sweatshirts were available and Leslie Kreutter worked on this project all winter.

Photo taken at the annual meeting in 1973



In 1996, results of a director survey was conducted. 78 were satisfied with the number of dinners. 63 said no to being on the board. A DNS biologist tells Ella Geardink that because of the quality of the lake we were unlikely to have milfoil.

In 1998 Cedar Lake was 1 of 6 lakes to participate in a lake study plan, In 1993, Lou Gross wrote an extensive article on her visit to Schroeder Park having been on Cedar Lake for 26 years.

In 1991 we learn about Zebra Mussels and our rising lake taxes. In 1990 Milfoil is on the rise.

In 1986 Professional photographer Michael Shoop took pictures of our loons.

My opening premise was "It's all about the water isn't it?" Well no, it's about fishing contests, sweatshirt sales, to raise money, charitable works of giving to Camp Courage, Camp Friendship and others, about serious commitment of time and effort of the past 50 years by numerous individuals who played a part in the whole process of holding the club together as officers, board members, cabin and lake home owners, survey takers, meal planers, social interactions to share stories and make friends, sportsmen, fishermen, water enthusiasts, pontoon parades, both spring and summer meetings and volunteers of their time.

No one was ever paid for their valuable time for services rendered and no ones arm was twisted to serve. For over 50 years, each one of us, as it felt appropriate came forward to do his or her part in holding the organization together. Some of the duties like that of Treasurer and here I recognize Peter Cook who from at least 1973 to 1997 served as Treasurer and to Shirley Cook who was a long time editor, and to all the women who kept those sweatshirts moving from 1971 to present (Gordon and Ruth Mattson, Eleanor Dykhuisen, Fran Badger, Sandy and Marie May, Jan Altman, Dick Appelgren, Greg Heuer and Judy Draper and many over the past 50 years who are now dead, but did their piece.

Florence Peterson (Kale's aunt) was the club's first secretary from the time of the club's incorporation from 1953-1973. There are many who are not mentioned here, but those not named were not omitted intentionally.

The club that we have today and the meal we're having together this evening is a continuing celebration of the club, the lake, it's residents, and posits itself to be here for the future.

In conclusion, I would like to ask— are there any members here who were on the lake in 1973 and if so, would you please stand up.

Excellent presentation Judy!
Thanks!