

The Lake Area Preserver



White Bear Lake Area Historical Society

Fall 2007

The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society 2007 Historic House Tour is Coming to a Neighborhood Near You!

Not since the 1980s has the White Bear area seen an event like this! That's because the last White Bear Historic House Tour was held some twenty years ago. On September 30th the WBLAHS will bring back this community tradition with the 2007 White Bear Area Historic House Tour featuring ten homes around the lake.

Included on the tour are:

2504 Manitou Island

One of the last lots to originally be developed on Manitou Island the home at 2504 was designed by noted local architect, Edwin Lundie and built in 1940 on this fabulously wooded lot. Lundie, who resided in Mahtomedi for a time, favored designing homes that complemented the natural surroundings.



2504 MANITOU ISLAND



2256 FOURTH STREET

2256 Fourth Street

Built in 1904 this home has been extensively updated over the past decade. The beautiful gardens greet you as you enter what was once known as the "Chisholm House" for the family who lived here in the 1960s.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

4560 Lake Avenue

“The Gateway to White Bear Lake” - occupying prime lakefront property this home was built in 1920 in the heart of what had just previously been the resort district of White Bear Lake. Situated directly along Highway 1 which was the name given to today’s Highway 61 as it made its route along Lake Avenue and out Stewart Avenue to the north end of town, this property witnessed the changes ushered in by the end of the resort era and the focus on future development.



4560 LAKE AVENUE



54 PENINSULA ROAD

54 Peninsula Road

Once the home of Herbert Bigelow, co-founder of Brown & Bigelow and later Robert Butler, the U. S. Ambassador to Cuba (1948-51), this Clarence Johnston designed home sits atop the outermost point of White Bear Lake’s peninsula located in the City of Dellwood. It is constructed of a combination of fieldstone and red brick on a beautiful wooded lot.

Continued on page 3

5223 West Bald Eagle Boulevard

Bald Eagle Lake has served as a resort area in its own right for over a century. Remarkably, many of the summer homes and cottages in this area have remained within the same families and have transferred through the generations. Nearly all of the original cottages and resorts had names such as “Hill Top” or “Spring Park Villa” often describing their physical characteristics.



5223 WEST BALD EAGLE BOULEVARD



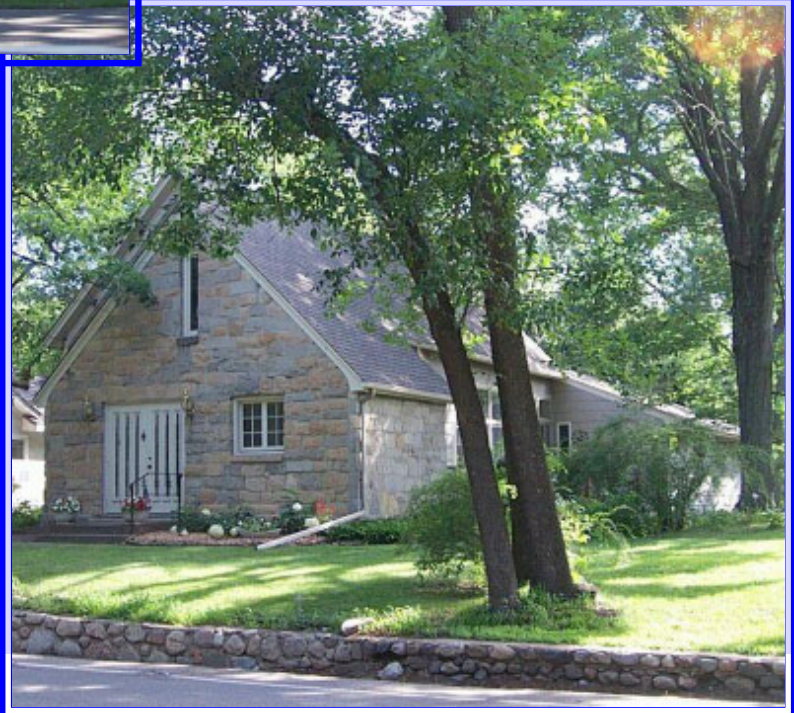
2292 SIXTH STREET

2292 Sixth Street

This distinctive home was built in 1938 when cinder block construction was all the rage in the Midwest. Billed as “House for the Future” and thriving nearly sixty years later this property has been recently updated to function well into the new millennium.

1914 Mahtomedi Avenue

This unique home on Rose Street in Mahtomedi was originally built as the Junior Society of Christian Education just prior to 1900. It was soon moved to its present location on Mahtomedi Avenue. It has served many congregations at this location and today it is a private residence retaining many of its original features.



1914 MAHTOMEDI AVENUE



4753 LAKE AVENUE

4753 Lake Avenue

Unique among its Lake Avenue neighbors with its Prairie School styling this home fits the high-style variant of the architectural genre beautifully. Most common between 1905 and 1915 the style faded from fashion quickly after World War I and was most commonly seen throughout the Midwest.

4859 Johnson Avenue

Built in the early part of the last century, this home is a common example of a summer cottage with its wide front porch and open floor plan to take advantage of the cooling breezes just one block off the lake. Recently updated with a modern kitchen and other upgrades, this is an example of summer living at its best.

4735 Lake Avenue

The Fillebrown House initially built as a lakeside summer cottage by Charles and Emily Noyes in 1879 reminds one of an earlier era. Converted to a year-round home in the 1920s by Harriet and J. Walter Fillebrown and then donated with its contents to the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society by their children Helen and Arthur in the 1970s the house stands today as a time capsule into our past.



4735 LAKE AVENUE

Tickets are \$25 per person and will be available September 4th through the 29th by calling 651-407-5327. Visa and Mastercard are welcomed. Checks made payable to WBLAHS can be mailed to PO Box 10543, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Pre-registration is required and tickets will not be available the day of the tour.

A Walk Through Dellwood to be Released Soon!

A history of Dellwood to commemorate the City in this, its 90th anniversary year will be available this fall. Its author, Paul Clifford Larson, noted architectural historian and the author of numerous books on local architecture and architects will be the guest speaker at the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society's annual meeting in October.

From the book's flap:

The story of Dellwood begins with the creation of White Bear Lake at the close of the last Ice Age. Retreating glaciers and the development of a vast forestland around the lake created a prime hunting ground for generations of First Americans and a visual spectacle for the earliest white settlers. Those of a literary bent liked to call the lake "a sapphire set in emeralds."

Modern human settlement dispelled the magic of that primeval visual experience. But it also brought a new kind of marvel, as seven communities utterly distinct in charm and character sprang up along the shore. Dellwood is one that has retained its primal qualities to a remarkable degree. While commerce and the water-loving public have established footholds elsewhere, the original part of Dellwood continues to be a profoundly private place.

As Dellwood expanded to the east, it incorporated woodlands and open fields having little association with White Bear Lake. This has brought a measure of diversity to its landscapes, buildings, and people. But old Dellwood, that jagged, 2½-mile strip running along the lake, still sets a tone of quiet separation. This is the story of how that community came to be and the continuous interaction of its long-standing traditions with the evolving needs of its people.

WBLAHS 2007 Board of Directors

Holly Geck, President
Peter Reis, Vice President
Corinna Morse, Secretary
Ray Smith, Treasurer
Mike Campbell, Fillebrown House/Asst. Out-house
Jenni Corbett, At-Large
Keith Hisdahl, Community Liaison
Kathy Hoelscher, Planned Giving & Development
Lin Lindbeck, At-Large
Meg Todd, At-Large
Jean Woodberry, Education Liaison

The WBLAHS is currently seeking board members for the following positions:

Fillebrown House – In-House
Fillebrown House – Tour Coordinator
Programs

For more information on becoming a board member please contact Holly Geck at 651-426-1110 or Sara Hanson at 651-407-5327.

Memorial Gifts

Special thanks to the following individuals who have made contributions:

◆ In memory of Rita Smith
Mary & Paul Berger
Pat & Carol McFarlane
White Bear Lake Lions Club

Proudly Serving

The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society is proud to serve the following communities:

- Birchwood
- Dellwood
- Mahtomedi
- White Bear Lake
- White Bear Township



If you have a story, pictures, or any information that you would like to share, please contact Sara at 651-407-5327



Thoughts from the President

The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society Presents:
Historic House Tour September 30, 2007

This is an event to be very excited about. Chaired brilliantly by Tracey Montgomery, The Historic House Tour includes 10 landmark homes in and around White Bear, Bald Eagle, Dellwood and Mahtomedi.

Please keep reading the *White Bear Press*, which recently began showcasing one home each week.

Do not miss this “once every decade or so” spectacular event!

Boat Tours on White Bear Lake

We are in the heat of those long lazy hazy days of summer, the perfect time for classic summer adventures lasting as long as the sun smiles in the sky. Under our smiling sun is an esteemed group of tour guides lead by Sara Hanson including Jean Woodberry, Jenni Corbett, and Gloria Tessier. Our guides have been having fun on the water while sharing the history of what can be seen by pontoon boat on White Bear Lake and the shores of the communities of White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, Birchwood, Dellwood and Mahtomedi. A special thank you to Jan and Keith Dehnert of Tally’s Dockside for accommodating the tours.

Historical Plaques

Proud of our history and willing to share. Sara Hanson has been working with the City of White Bear Lake, identifying significant historical sites to be commemorated by plaques creating an interpretive trail along Lake Avenue.

White Bear Town Hall to Move

The 1885 Cass Gilbert designed White Bear Town Hall will soon have a new home. Recently, the White Bear Town Board approved moving the Town Hall building to the Township’s Administrative Campus on Hammond Road. After consultation with an architectural historian and multi-phase plan is under development to restore the building to a Gilbert inspired appearance while improving its functionality as a meeting hall.

The building is slated to be moved to its fourth and hopefully final location this fall. The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society will continue to assist White Bear Township with this project as it progresses.



WHITE BEAR TOWN HALL IN ITS CURRENT SITE, 2004

Hometown Business

Hoffman Corner Heating & Air Conditioning

Hoffman Corner heating and Air Conditioning originally began as an offshoot of Hoffman Corner Oil Company, which sold fuel oil to residential costumers who in turn often requested service for their furnaces. The move was a good business decision with the eventual decline of fuel oil heat in homes.

In 1996 Lloyd Urban, son-in-law of the company's founder Henry Hoffman, retired and sold the business to Bob & Bev Scalze. Within two years the operation was moved to its current location on County Road E. Today the company serves not only White Bear Lake but also the northeast suburbs and has provided Heating and Air Conditioning services for more than 12,000 customers in the last decade.

HCO / HOFFMAN CORNER
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Sales • Service • Installation
We Service Most Makes
Forced Air & Hot Water Systems

Free Estimates

484-3323 439-9500

Licensed
Bonded
Insured



3595 Hoffman Rd.
White Bear Lake

Mission Statement of the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society

The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society connects the community to its past, fostering an understanding and appreciation for our history.

We fulfill our mission by . . .

- Gathering and maintaining historical information and artifacts.
We are safe keepers of our heritage.
- Educating the community about our history.
We are the community storytellers.
- Encouraging personal and community responsibility for preserving our physical links to the past.
We are advocates for historical preservation.

**Learning from
Our Past,
Preserving for
Our Future.**

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Birchwood resident and WBLAHS member **Marian Bemis Johnson** on receiving the American Association of State and Local History Award of Merit for her book *Daughters of the Game: The First Era of Minnesota Girls High School Basketball, 1891-1942*, co-written with Dorothy McIntyre.

Pavers Make a Great Gift

Just can't find the perfect gift for that special person? The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society's paver program is the solution for you! Give a permanent legacy to commemorate a parent, an anniversary, a birth or any other special occasion or person for just \$250. In addition to being able to see their paver gracing the walk to the Fillebrown House for years to come the recipient will be a guest of honor at an event to dedicate the new set of pavers. For more information please contact Sara Hanson at 651-407-5327.

A Special Thank You to Our Hometown Business Members



Judy King Estate Sales
Just Two Bikes
Knutsen Auto
Mélange
Mortgage Works
Sunbear Spa & Tan
Ursula's Wine Bar & Café
White Bear Country Inn/Rudy's
Red Eye Grill
White Bear Eye Clinic
White Bear Lake Lion's Club

Commercial Printing
Garden of Hope Montessori
Hisdahl, Inc.
Hoffman Corner Heating & Air
Conditioning

For information on how your
business can be a WBLAHS Home-
town Business Member please
contact Sara at 651-407-5327



From the Director's Desk...

This summer the WBLAHS has been able to fulfill a long-term goal of providing guided tours on and around White Bear Lake. We knew the boat and bus tours would be well-received, but the response has been beyond our expectations. Even with extra tour dates being added, we are filling to capacity. The season is short and we are making the most of it!

Our self guided boating tour brochure has also been popular this season. Special thanks to the Huebsch Family who sponsored that project and served as the impetus for our entire boating tour program.

Our bus tours of both Mahtomedi and all the way around White Bear Lake have been successful as well. Long-time residents Mary O'Reilly Miller and Joan Michaud have graciously served as our guides for these programs and have shared their knowledge and personal experiences of our area to make these tours a real treat.

Because of the support of our many volunteers and collaborators we are better able to fulfill our mission of collecting, preserving and sharing the stories of all five of the municipalities that touch the shores of White Bear Lake. Thank you!

If you haven't had the chance to experience one of our many tour offerings, please check the calendar of events in *The Lake Area Preserver*, on our website at www.wblareahistoricalociety.org or watch the local media and the White Bear Lake School District's Community Services Program Booklet for upcoming dates.



White Bear Lake Area Historical Society member **Cynthia Vadnais** continues to donate countless hours of her time on a regular basis formatting our Historic Photo Calendars as well as our newsletter, *The Lake Area Preserver*. In addition to those projects **Cindy** routinely serves as a resource for historical information, an advocate for the WBLAHS and can even be seen serving up delicacies at our Mother's Day Tea. Pretty amazing for someone whose official residence is Laramie, Wyoming! Thank you, **Cindy** for all that you do!

We would not be able to provide many of our programs and events without our numerous volunteers who make things happen. Whether it is giving tours at the House, sorting papers at the Resource Library or answering questions for visitors, we rely heavily on the help of our volunteers. Thank you to all of you—new and continuing! For more information on what you may be able to do to help please contact Sara at 651-407-5327.

CAP Grant Update

The Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) Grant process for the WBLAHS has recently been completed. This fall a committee comprised of representatives of current and former WBLAHS boards and members and will address recommendations received from both the architectural and collections assessments, which were completed after a thorough review of the WBLAHS facilities at the Fillebrown House, Depot Museum and the Archival Storage.

This project will allow the WBLAHS to better plan for the future and acquire funding to improve our conservation practices and be the best stewards of the Fillebrown House and our collections.

Website Update

The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society website continues to expand this month with the addition of current and past issues of *The Lake Area Preserver* in PDF format. The searchable database project has encountered a few technical setbacks, but should be available soon.

Recent Donations

The Historical Society has been the recipient of several wonderful donations to our collections recently, including:

- ◆ Promotional materials for Winter Carnival events at White Bear Lake in the 1970s
from Jack & Bev Vadnais
- ◆ Framed photo of the 1916 White Bear Marching Band formerly showcased at Parenteau's Clothing Store
from Vicki Moss Luhrsen
- ◆ Photo of the Winter Carnival Mutt Dog Races on White Bear Lake, 1969
from Lorraine Billingsley
- ◆ 1954 Roto-Hoe – 1st item sold from W. B. Meier Sales in White Bear Lake
from Wally Meier

Donations accepted for the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society's collections must pertain to the area surrounding White Bear Lake and meet other requirements. For more information on what those requirements are, please contact Sara at 651-407-5327. Without donations like these the collections and resources of the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society would not grow. They are greatly appreciated!

INTER-STATE LEAGUE
BASE BALL
Sunday, August 3, 1919
3:00 P. M.
STILLWATER
AT
WHITE BEAR
Fastest Playing Outside of the Big Leagues

Tolen, of Stillwater, says to have an ambulance on hand as the intend to put us out of commission

Come and help boost the BEST team in the League as we must win Sunday, at White Bear; also following Sunday, at Stillwater, to get in first place

BATTERIES

WHITE BEAR Karger or Michaud and Zalusky	STILLWATER Morse or Keinholtz and Berger
---	---

THIS WILL BE A GAME FOR BLOOD

1919 BASEBALL AD –COURTESY OF THE *WHITE BEAR PRESS*

THE WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

invites you to a

→ Victorian Tea ←

at the historic

Fillebrown House

4735 Lake Avenue North

ON THE BEAUTIFUL SHORES OF

White Bear Lake

Sunday, September 9, 2007

2 to 4 pm, \$15 per person



RESERVATION DEADLINE: SEPT. 6TH

PLEASE SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO WBLAHS TO:

EVELYN DUVALL

5372 E. BALD EAGLE BLVD, WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110

FOR INFORMATION CALL 651-429-9437

Victorian Tea
An Event Not to Miss!



GUESTS ENJOY THE VICTORIAN TEA, 2006

THREE GENERATIONS OF
THE CHAPIN FAMILY AND
THEIR FRIENDS MAKE THE
VICTORIAN TEA AN EVENT
NOT TO MISS, 2006



Calendar of Events

- Sunday, September 9th* Victorian Tea at the Fillebrown House
2-4pm \$15/person. Reservations required. Please call Evelyn at 429-9437 for reservations or more information.
- Sunday, September 16th* Fillebrown House Tours: Harvest Theme 1-4pm
Enjoy a Children's Day at the Fillebrown House with games, activities and crafts with a harvest time theme
- Monday, September 17th* White Bear Lake Guided Boat Tour **FULL!**
Sunday, September 30th 2007 White Bear Area Historic House Tour
12-6pm \$25/person Tickets **MUST** be purchased prior to September 30th.
For more information, please call 651-407-5327.
- Thursday, October 4th* WBLAHS Annual Meeting & Dinner featuring
A Walk Through Dellwood author Paul Clifford Larson at Dellwood Hills Golf Club
6-9 pm Reservations required.
- Sunday, October 14th* Fillebrown House Tours: Victorian Mourning Customs 1-4pm
A family in grief over the loss of a loved one would dramatically change their home and their habits during the mourning period. Learn many of these customs as you tour the rooms of the Fillebrown House
- Saturday, October 20th* Historic Ride Through the Past Bus Tour around WBL
10-11:30am Tour begins and ends at the Fillebrown House*
- November* *White Bear: A History* to be released.
Look for information on local book signings soon!
- Sunday, November 4th* Fillebrown House Tours: Victorian Etiquette 1-4pm
Just in time for the holidays! Throughout the Fillebrown House Tours guests will hear about the various expectations and faux pas to avoid when attending holiday events this season.
- Saturday, December 1st* Christmas Tea at the Fillebrown House 2pm
Friday, December 7th WBLAHS Members' Party at Fillebrown House 6-9pm

***Registration Required through Community Services & Recreation. Fees apply and space is limited. See program booklet for information or contact the White Bear Lake Community Services and Recreation Department at 651-407-7501.**

Your Society in Action

White Bear Lake: Land of Lakes and Legends

In July, White Bear Lake Area Historical Society Executive Director, Sara Markoe Hanson debuted a new twist on an established presentation while speaking to a group of residents at The Arbors in White Bear Lake. The program entitled "White Bear Lake: Land of Lakes and Legends" focused on verifying or debunking some of our local lore.

Do you know if the Geist Gazebo was moved across the ice from its original home on White Bear's south shore to Matoska Park? Is the roller coaster from Wildwood Park currently at Valleyfair? Did the Twin City Rapid Transit Company really in-fill to create the low area of South Shore Boulevard and the pond that exists behind the homes just east of McKnight Road? If you'd like to find out watch for future offerings of this program or call to schedule your own presentation for your group! For more information contact Sara at 651-407-5327.

Not a member of the WBLAHS? Join Now!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

CHECK LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP:

INDIVIDUAL \$20

FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD \$30

PATRON \$80

SPONSOR \$150

PRESERVATIONIST \$300

AERIAL \$500

SUMMIT \$1000

OTHER \$ _____

Send with check to WBLAHS, PO Box 10543, White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110-0543



TO SHARE YOUR
MEMORIES IN
FUTURE ISSUES,
CONTACT:

SARA MARKOE HANSON
DEPOT MUSEUM
4751 HIGHWAY 61
WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN
55110
651-407-5327

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WILBERNE, MN
PERMIT NO. 49

White Bear Lake Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 10543
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0543