

April 2024

WAYZATA

together

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From the Editor

I've had a fascination with the outdoors as far back as I can remember. Summer days consisted of heading out the door in the morning and sometimes not returning until dinner. A lot of that time was spent exploring the swamp near Glenbrook Road in Wayzata with my best friend Ike - our pet beagle. I climbed countless trees and collected a lot of critters. The Wayzata community proved to be the perfect outdoor playground. It still is in a way. This month's theme is celebrating nature and those who fought to protect it in our community. Here's to warmer days ahead and exploring what Wayzata has to offer!

Nate Leding, Editor in Chief
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"Wayzata Together Magazine is truly a community asset. It provides an opportunity to learn what is happening in Wayzata while also giving little known fascinating history of people and places." ~ Wayzata resident Dan Goldman

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Cover Image: A look up at the magnificent trees that live in these woods.

Top Left: Downed trees and moss covered branches create a magical experience

Top Right: Aerial view of the Preserve showing just how large this 14-acre nature preserve is.

Bottom Right: Open areas and sitting benches are found among the winding trails.

Big Woods: A Towering Legacy

Wayzata has trees and lots of them. And that's not simply by accident. Through the years, there has been a big effort to make sure trees were a part of our community's future. There's no taller task than the preservation of what's known as the Big Woods. It's an area just to the north of Wayzata Boulevard adjacent to the Colonial Square shopping mall.

The park is celebrating 20 years of official preservation this year. Back in 2004, there were discussions about developing the area after the Sisters of the Cenacle convent decided to sell their property which included the Big Woods. Preserving the land took root and a number of private citizens, government, and non profits came together to get the land.

This is no ordinary group of trees, the Big Woods Preserve is one of the last patches of hardwood forest that once covered all of central Minnesota. Walking the hidden trail that winds through the 14 acres is immersive. You almost forget you're in a bustling commercial part of town within a larger metro network. It's a beautiful break from the busy life we live in. You'll also note a 1930s Tudor Estate located on this piece of land. It's owned by the recovery organization, The Retreat, and is preserved just like the woods that surround it.

There were a number of individual champions that made the Big Woods Preserve a reality. The Friends of the Big Woods was formed by Wayzata residents. The group worked tirelessly to preserve the property for generations to come.

People power provided the heavy lifting, but it was funding that sealed the deal. In November of 2003 a referendum went before local voters. It was not a slam dunk. It passed by 51 votes - which issued \$3 million in bonding money. After three years of persistence by a diverse group of residents, spear-headed by Phil Harder, Sr., Dick Howell, Dick Harmon and Merrily Borg Babcock in collaboration with The Trust for Public Land officials, the property was saved. But that was only part of what was needed. Private donations helped secure the "donut" or woods surrounding the building.

Big Woods is open all year. You may have to hunt a bit to find the entrance, but it's well worth it. The preserve butts up against Colonial Square and you can park your car immediately as you enter the driveway just to the east along Wayzata Boulevard. And circle September 25th on your calendar - that's the official anniversary of the preservation of this community gem.

Wintertime could mean a quiet bug free stroll through snow covered woods. March is usually the time when the Sugar Maples sap becomes active. An occasional maple tree tapping can be scheduled. You can enjoy the native wildflowers in the spring. Summertime has the trees in full bloom, green and lush canopy that almosts touches the sky. It truly is an experience that transports you to another world and simpler time. And In the fall the spectacular beauty of a forest filled with Sugar Maples and Basswood Trees.



French explorers, in the 1700s, referred to it as bois grand which has been translated to "big woods."



Knee pain? We can help!

Barbro Brost D.C., The Brost Clinic

Many people suffer from chronic, nagging, knee pain or discomfort and are resigned to the idea that knee replacement surgery is inevitable in their future. They may take Advil or have tried physical therapy exercises or even had a cortisone injection or two but the pain returns or never really resolves.

Knee pain can have many causes such as old sports injuries, uneven body mechanics or excess weight. There is always a reason why the knee joints are causing pain. A thorough chiropractic evaluation looking at the full body posture and weight bearing, x-rays, and pertinent orthopedic exams often reveals that the actual cause of knee pain is not a primary knee issue. Uneven weight bearing on the knee joint because of pelvic misalignment or an underlying foot pronation issue that creates constant stress on the knee joint are often missed in exams that only focus on the knee joint itself. These problems need to be addressed.

If there are degenerative joint or cartilage changes in the knee joint, non surgical knee decompression in combination with specific nutritional joint supplements can help rejuvenate the knee joint.

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Events

Wayzata American Legion

Weekly | Pull Tabs, Taco Tuesday, Bingo, Meat Raffle, Karaoke & More!

April Fools Day, 4/1

Disney's The Lion King, running til 4/28

See Schedule | Orpheum Theatre | hennepintheatretrust.org

Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, running til 9/28

See Schedule | Chanhassen Dinner Theatres | chanhassendt.com

Canvas Convergence @ The Shops at West End, til 12/30

A pop-up 3D experiential art gallery | canvasconvergence.com

On Your Feet! The story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan, 4/5-4/7

See Schedule | Ordway Music Theater | ordway.org

Historic Cave Tour: Gangster Era, 4/6

12 PM & 2:30 PM | Wabasha Street Caves | wabashacaves.com

Wayzata Musicales: Tickling The Ivories, 4/6

7 PM | Scottie Miller performing | bluewatertheatre.com

Eid al-Fitr, 4/9

Baseball: Varsity Game vs Saint Michael-Albertville, 4/10

6:30 PM | Home game at Wayzata High School

For all Wayzata Athletics info/dates/times visit wayzataschools.org

2024 Victoria Home Show, 4/13

10 AM | Victoria Community Center | minnesotahomeshows.com

Cargill Deluxe, 4/13

6:30 PM | Live Music Saturday Nights | backchannelbrewing.com

NoLC Spring Season Concert 2024, 4/13

2 PM | Free Admission/Free Will Offering | Wayzata Community Church

Tax Day, 4/15

The Early History of Mound and the Upper Lake, 4/15

6:30 PM | Lake Minnetonka Historical Society | backchannelbrewing.com

The Name Jar, running til 4/18

7 PM | Stages Theatre Company Hopkins | theatermu.org

Hayden's Surprise Symphony, 4/19

11 AM & 7 PM | Wooddale Church | content.thespco.org

4th Annual Lake Minnetonka Warm-Up Cruise!, 4/20

10 AM-4 PM | Free Event | Maple Grove Community Center

Runway For Hope, 4/20

10:30 AM-1 PM | Galleria in Edina | hopechest.com

Earth Day, 4/22

Passover, 4/22

Cars & Caves Car Show, starting 4/27

8 AM-5 PM | Once a month themed show | chanhassenautoplex.com

Plymouth Rocker 33rd Annual Spring Concert, 4/28

3:30 PM | Wayzata High School | plymouthrockers.org

Empower Women's Network - April Luncheon, 4/30

11:30 AM-1 PM | Atria Corporate Center | wayzatachamber.com



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Fishing Report & Information:

The northern bays are going to be the warmest water and your best bet.



Fishing Season Opener Dates:

Walleye, Pike, Bass - May 11
Muskie - June 1

Free Fishing Weekends:

Take a Mom Fishing Weekend

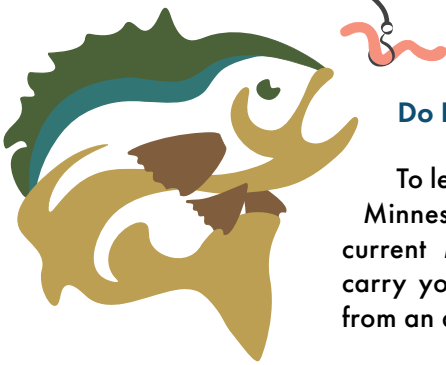
May 11th–12th
Minnesota resident moms may fish without a license.

Take a Kid Fishing Weekend

June 7th–9th
Minnesota residents 16 and older may fish without a license if they're with children younger than 16.

Do I need a fishing license?

To legally fish in Minnesota, all residents of Minnesota age 16 through 89, must have a current Minnesota fishing license. You must carry your license when fishing or traveling from an area where you were fishing.



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Top: Merrily Babcock (right) & Friends.
Middle: Tapping Maple trees in the snow.
Images Courtesy: Merrily Babcock

Community Champion: Merrily Babcock

“A community is only as good as its volunteers,” said Wayzata resident Merrily Babcock.

Babcock has been a volunteer for Wayzata for decades. She has served on various boards and committees for decades now. Perhaps what she is best known for is her environmental efforts.

She owes much of her passion for volunteering and environmental preservation to her dad. “My father was a big influence on me,” said Babcock. “We would dig up

wildflowers in all the places that were going to be developed. He knew a lot of this was going to be destroyed.”

Babcock currently serves on the City of Wayzata Parks & Trails board. And between mid-February and mid-March, she is extra busy tapping maple trees. For 14 years she has organized a group of folks to do the tapping. It’s quite the process as a large amount of sap only produces a small amount of maple syrup.



One of the things she is most proud of is the preservation of a patch of trees located near the Colonial Square shopping area. It’s now known as the Big Woods Park Reserve. It’s a wonderful area just off the hustle and bustle of Wayzata Boulevard. There are well-maintained walking trails that allow you and your family to spend time immersed in a forest that is in the middle of the city.

But there was a point where that area was considered for development. “We started out with three people,” said Babcock. “We went before the city council and they had to open up the church because there were

so many people.” That was 2004 - the park’s 20-year anniversary. And this also means that the bonding dollars that were used to finance the project have been paid off.

“It was a community effort for sure.”

There’s that word community again. Babcock encourages all Wayzata residents to consider volunteering. If you’re new to town, just know there are plenty of opportunities to put your skills to work. There are numerous city boards and committees that are looking for members. And there are many one-time events that need good folks to help out.

Like Babcock said - a community is only as good as its volunteers.

Volunteering is a way to connect with your community, develop new skills and share your talents. There are many opportunities to fit flexible schedules. For more information on volunteering use the QR code or visit www.wayzata.org



City of Wayzata Parks

Bell Courts Park
340 Park Street E

Big Woods Preserve
1223 Wayzata Blvd E

Broadway Docks
Broadway & Lake

Children's Garden
620 Rice Street E

City Hall Park
600 Rice Street E

Great Lawn
851 Lake Street E

Shaver Park
220 Grove Lane E

Panoway
Lake Street

Heritage Park at Batson's Corner
1106 Wayzata Boulevard E

Klapprich Park & Field
340 Park Street E

Margaret Circle Park
320 Margaret Circle

Post Office Pocket Park
228 Minnetonka Avenue S

Wayzata Depot & Railroad Museum
402 Lake Street E

Wayzata West Middle School Courts
149 Barry Avenue N

Wayzata Beach and Marina
220 Grove Lane E

Nature Center (Undeveloped)
Lasalle Street



Use QR code to access the city of Wayzata's website for more information on park locations and updates.



Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22. It's all about educating people about the importance of environmental protection. The roots of Earth Day can be traced back to 1969.

In January of that year some three million gallons of oil spilled off the coast of Santa Barbara, California. More than 10,000 animals were killed in the disaster. The following year, Earth Day was born. More than 20 million Americans participated in that first Earth Day. Nearly 200 countries now celebrate Earth Day. The official theme of the 2024 Earth Day is "Planet vs. Plastics."

How To Get Involved

- **Plant a Tree**
- **Recycle**
- **Use Reusable Bags**
- **Compost**
- **Clean up Local Parks**
- **Switch to Earth Friendly Products**
- **Support Local Growers**
- **Clean up Your Neighborhood**
- **Reduce your Plastic Footprint**

EARTHDAY.ORG

- **Support the Earth Bill**
- **Join a Cleanup**
- **Protect the Endangered Species Act**
- **Register to Vote**
- **Volunteer with Us**
- **Plant a Forest with the Canopy Project**

Meanwhile, on the local level, the City of Wayzata will hold an Earth Day event on Saturday, April 27 from 1-3 pm on the Panoway Plaza. The event will feature two educational speakers that will focus on native plants, pollinators, and pollinator-friendly lawns. A drawing for a free rain barrel and composting bin will be held near the end of the event. Additional educational materials will be available along with examples of electric lawn care equipment.

There's another date to circle on your calendars. That's Saturday, May 18. The City of Wayzata will celebrate Arbor Day with a number of activities on Panoway Plaza:

Potted Shade Tree Drawing – Residents are welcome to submit their name for a chance to win one of 50 potted trees to plant on their Wayzata property. Species include Swamp White Oak, Black Walnut, Ironwood, Serviceberry, and disease-resistant American Elm, which will be delivered to the homes of the lucky winners following the event.

Champion Tree Contest – The City of Wayzata will be accepting submissions to its second annual Champion Tree Contest, where residents can nominate a tree with an especially tall canopy or wide trunk for a chance to win one of two gift cards to local tree nurseries. The winners will be announced one week later through the City's social media channels.

Informational Speaker – A guest arborist will discuss the significance of Wayzata's tree canopy and share their thoughts about how we as a community can make it more resilient. The speaker and City staff will be available after the presentation to answer tree-related questions from attendees.



For these opportunities and other initiatives and information please use QR code or visit earthday.org


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