

2002 Manitou Days Treasure Hunt
Rotary Nature Preserve, White Bear Lake

Clue #1:

*Ceaseless agitation is simply no exaggeration
When describing our American way of thinking.
This agitation combined with creative imagination
Will allow for you to do some precious clue-linking.*

*So get outside and how off that American pride
And combat terrorism at a local grade.
We exercised freedom and a medallion we hide
Now exercise your precious freedom: get out and crusade!*

Explanation:

While mostly written to persuade hunters to join the search, we did begin the trend of including word "precious" in each stanza. This was done as a playful mock of the many, many signs at Rotary Nature Preserve claiming all wildlife to be "precious."

Clue #2:

*We hereby declare that in this beautiful land of the bear
Our precious treasure awaits discovery.
Locating a degree-holding individual who with salt is a pair
Will help in your attempt at product recovery.*

Explanation:

This clue limited the hunt to White Bear Lake and sought to reveal that the medallion inserted into bottle of Dr. Pepper ("degree holding individual" and who with salt is a pair").

Clue #3:

*As you wallow in question, we offer this precious suggestion
To seek out an oasis of true placidity and tranquility.
We offer this hint for your utmost mental digestion
As you seek out this place of low visibility.*

Explanation:

Perhaps the most telling clue of the treasure hunt? The nature preserve is a place of "placidity" and "tranquility." Little known to most residents of the city, Rotary Preserve has very "low visibility."

Clue #4:

*It may seem surreal but you'll spot many a wheel
That simply weren't made for rotation.
Weeds that are smart also seem a tad unreal...
Since when did plants receive a precious education?*

Explanation:

The Rotary Nature Preserve was created by the Rotary Club whose symbol is a wheel. This seal is strategically placed throughout the park and is a wheel that

doesn't rotate. Also, a plant species found in the wetland holding the medallion is "smartweed" – this information could be found on a placard along the boardwalk.

Clue #5:

*Precious structures abound on a nearby park ground
Abe Lincoln couldn't have constructed them better.
You'll have to go very slow when driving around
Or the neighbors will run after you all a-fetter.*

Explanation:

The park pavilion and bathroom in Rotary Preserve are made out of stone and logs, materials that would have been familiar to Abraham Lincoln. To the south of the park is Birch Lake Boulevard, which has a speed limit of 20MPH and is strictly enforced by local residents.

Clue #6:

*Arriving in your precious car will only get you so far
Then you'll just have to use some good ole walking power.
Try to spot a local who is quite a renowned fishing star
And that does inhabit the summit of a nearby tower.*

Explanation:

This clue told hunters to park in the lot but then be prepared to trek into the preserve in order to find the medallion. Also, Birch Lake is home to an osprey ("a renowned fishing star") that lives atop *Osprey Tower*.

Clue #7:

*If you're feeling the heat and fearing an agonizing defeat
Seek out ground that anything but dry.
Also ponder some chips that you really wouldn't want to eat
But keep your distance if you hope to tap into our precious money supply.*

Explanation:

"Ground that is anything but dry" put the prize a few steps into a soggy wetland. "Chips that you really wouldn't want to eat" referred to the wood chips forming all of the trails in the preserve. The chips, however, did not lead to the wetland where the medallion was placed – but, rather, up to the pavilion.

Clue #8:

*Looking at schools is a mistake but there's a point we'd like to make
Using their names was this clue's foremost feature.
So then think of a name that honors a precious local lake
Commemorating a tree and not a swimming creature.*

Explanation:

This clue pointed that the names of local school could be helpful. Two White Bear Lake schools have the word "lake" in them – Birch and Otter. The last line tells hunters to focus on Birch Lake, which was directly south of the medallion's hiding spot.

Clue #9:

*If you want the look, you'll have to put on your boots
And go sloppin' through a Rotary maintained wetland.
So wear sweatpants and not an expensive suit
To finally hold our precious medal in hand*

Explanation:

This clue warned hunters to dress down as mud may be involved!

Clue #10:

*It's getting down to the wire and nearly time to retire
And the word "precious" is making us sick.
So head to Rotary Nature Preserve and you'll soon acquire
Our medallion placed among the many weeds and stick.*

*Start at the park's wooden deck and say, "What the heck?"
-- About getting your feet a little wet.
Walk northwest 10 paces and thoroughly check
For a Dr. Pepper bottle with the medallion inset.*

Explanation:

Final hints to the treasure's location.

Treasure's Exact Location:



