

After many less-than-stellar full moon paddle attempts, the evening of September 4<sup>th</sup> proved the old adage that Mother Nature has saved the best for last! Eleven members showed up at Lake Calhoun to paddle. The waters were calm and tranquil, the temperature pleasant (for September at least) and there was not a cloud to be seen in the sky.

A little after 8 PM, we launched from Thomas Beach and went up through Lake of the Isles, Cedar Lake and then into Brownie. Once our group got back into Cedar Lake and farther away from the city lights, the moon could be seen as bright as the noon-day sun (OK – maybe a bit of an exaggeration here, but...)

We did not have the Lakes to ourselves that evening - there were many others out enjoying the beautiful moonlit night. Our group began with eleven people paddling. By the time the night was over, we had picked up a few strays and ended with a headcount of thirteen.

Our flock of paddlers was not the only “flock” out on the lake that night. The group came upon a huge gathering of ducks on Lake Calhoun that reminded us of a scene from Alfred Hitchcock’s *The Birds*; they were not easily bothered by us paddling up to them and seemed indifferent to our presence. It seemed like they were enjoying the serenity of the evening as well.

The group paddled until 10PM, returned to the launch site, and called it a night. It doesn’t get any better than this.

Hopefully, by the time the next full moon paddle arrives come spring, Mother Nature will have learned to become more cooperative so we can enjoy more evening paddles under the moon!