

Reflections on Spider Lake

By

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When I said I would write a few words about “what living on a lake means” to me it opened a flood of memories. All my life I had vacationed at a lake. The further north I got and the taller the pines, the more at home I felt. And the happier I was.

John and I got our property on Spider Lake in 1983. We were going to camp for a few years, and then build a vacation cabin. Well, that plan lasted a few weeks! We soon decided on a small home where we could live forever. In 1993 we became permanent residents of Hubbard County.

What we wanted was to live in harmony with the natural world around us – not “in control” of it or changing it – but to learn from it and appreciate its beauty and the interdependence of all the parts of it.

We are always learning by watching all the critters around us in their natural habitat – we are the “new kids” on the block and try not to disturb the residents!

So what does it mean to live on the lake??

It means:

- √¹ To love watching the lake and woods change with the seasons.
- √¹ To find pleasure in paddling a canoe and looking down through clear water and seeing a fish swimming through the vegetation.
- √¹ To feel wonder at even the tiniest wildflower.
- √¹ To enjoy the birds, butterflies, dragonflies and always learning more about them.
- √¹ To admire the beauty of a deer leaping through the woods, the skill of a beaver building its lodge, the squirrels and chipmunks stowing seed away for winter.
- √¹ To feel a thrill hearing a loon call.
- √¹ To breathe fresh, clean air.
- √¹ To be blessed with some good neighbors around the lake.

I could go on and on!

Also it means worrying about keeping this environment as pristine as possible.

It means walking softly on the earth.

It means savoring every day.

It means EVERYTHING.