

Treeways

2016 - 2

A Walk in the Park

When is the last time you took a walk in the park? I mean really took a walk in the park and not just to exercise the dog or get from here to there. A couple years ago my wife and I realized that we were using all our energy at work and to improve our property on Horseshoe Lake and we were not really enjoying living here ... we were always working at one project or another. We decided to slow down a little and take more time to see and touch and enjoy where we live. Now we are doing fewer projects and the projects we complete are more carefully chosen. We are sharing our little piece of heaven with our friends more often and that is good.

Sometimes I take a walk in the “park” that we have developed to see what is growing and flowering today. One day I stood and watched native bees using a nesting box that I placed in just the right location for their benefit. I will be adding a few more native bee nesting boxes to help the bees that help with my apple, cherry and pear tree pollination. We have had bluebirds nesting and raising babies in the same bluebird house 30 feet from our kitchen window for at least the last four years. I love it when the bluebirds perch on the shepherd’s crook near the birdhouse while scanning for insects to feed their youngsters. I get joy, as the bluebirds are busy catching bugs.

We see eagles regularly. We have seen as many as three bald eagles at one time over Horseshoe Lake. We have seen as many as 16 cardinals at our bird feeder one time, regularly see 4 species of woodpeckers, and typically have 4-6 bird species at the bird feeders all the time. The goldfish in our pond reproduce, as do the toads and frogs. Sometimes the toads and frogs croaking and carrying on is so loud in the spring that we can’t talk inside our house without closing the windows. We regularly see turkeys, deer, mink, raccoons, squirrels, cottontails, woodchucks, coyotes, skinks, and chipmunks. Last year a deer ate some of the Solomon’s seal but that’s no big deal because we have plenty. The asparagus is a sure sign of spring and if you know the right places it is even possible to find a morel or two.

Life is more than the next meeting, one more sale, one more long workday, or one more project. Sometimes life... living ... is better when you take a walk in the park.

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