

Musing

From The Sweet Lake Journal

Saturday, June 9

Today at 6:30am, I walked down and sat on the bench at the end of the dock. The lake was still, but swirling with life. I watched a pair of tree swallows swooping just over the top of the glassy surface catching bugs and heading towards their nesting box. I put out 4 boxes, and had one occupied. Ornithologist Laura Erickson says that a nesting pair of swallows will catch 6,000 bugs a day, so I am very happy to have these swift flyers catching mosquitoes, horseflies and other unwanted pests. Farther down the shore a Great Blue Heron was standing in the cattails, as still as a statue, hunting for breakfast. A bit farther down the lake, I heard the call of a kingfisher, and saw it fly across the water in search of minnows. What a great way to start the day!

Sunday, June 17

We had over 11 inches of rain in the rain gauge this morning. The rain pounded on our metal roof all night, and scared the dogs. No one got a good night's sleep. The water level in the lake was the highest I had ever seen it. Our neighbors dock decking floated away, and couldn't be found. There was a big washout in the driveway. It took five of us an hour to shovel the gravel back into the ruts to make our driveway passable.

Saturday, June 23

One week after the flood of 2018, the lake has dropped about 5 inches, but is still five inches above the usual water level. The thermometer at the end of the dock hit 76 degrees - ideal for snorkeling. I swam about 100 feet out from the swim raft and saw hundreds of perch, a few big bass, and one nice northern. The Largemouth Bass eggs that had been on the submerged logs in the reef are now gone. I suspect the large waves from last week's storm washed them away. I am grateful that the mother loon is still on her nest at the other end of the lake.

Sunday, June 24

The lake temperature dropped 10 degrees overnight, as strong northeast winds blew all day. No snorkeling today. The flycatcher nest that had 5 small white eggs, now has four chicks and one unhatched egg. More future insect eaters!

I sure appreciate all the small moments of peace and wonder that mother nature offers us, here on the Eau Claire lakes.

Peace Be Still...

Thom Storm