



February 2024 Musing  
**Sandhill Cranes Looking This Way and That**  
by Stephen Wilbers  
*Middle Eau Claire Lake*

for Lachlan Lee  
after Tom Paxton's "Jennifer Rabbit"

Little Lachlan Lee was sleeping in his little grassy bed  
when four long-legged cranes alighted on his sleepy head.

Then two two-eyed raccoons descended from their sappy tree  
to leave their cozy home and go exploring by the sea,  
and so did Lachlan Lee.

The cranes ran through the grasses up and down the sandy hills.  
They ran on sticky legs in search of sticky wicky thrills.

The more they roamed and ranged, the sorer they became.  
So Little Lachlan Lee atop his favorite leggy crane,  
said fly or you'll go lame.

They shot up through the clouds to the moon so very high.  
They flew so fast and far they knocked the stars down from the sky.

The mountains wrapped them snug and tight in comfy cold moonbeams,  
and then they stuck their sticky legs in sticky milky streams,  
awash in Lachy's dreams.

By the sandy hilly hills where the wild cranes like to play,  
an eager beaver paddled from a beamy moonlit bay.

Said the beaver, Lachlan Lee, who left these stars here on the ground?  
And how many are there scattered all around?

How about we count and see?  
said Little Lachlan Lee.



**"Over the Tetons"**

painting by [MaryBeth Garrigan](#) & [Petra Johnita Lommen](#)  
(reproduced with permission)

See if you can count the stars in the wonderful painting above. Also, listen to [Tom Paxton's "Jennifer's Rabbit."](#) the song that along with MaryBeth and Petra's painting inspired Steve's poem.

If you would like to experience more work by MaryBeth, Petra, and Steve, you're invited to a free admission Poster and Art Session at 5-7 p.m., March 6, in Swenson Hall on the UW-Superior campus.

This free event is on the first day of the three-day [St. Louis River Summit](#)



Art by Kate Murray

## 14th Annual St. Louis River Summit Braiding Visions for an Enduring Future

March 6-8, 2024 | UW–SUPERIOR YELLOWJACKET UNION

Like an estuary, the St. Louis River Summit is a place where people meet and mix. It provides a diversity of solutions and strategies for a healthy St. Louis River watershed and nourishes the community with education and outreach opportunities.

<https://lakesuperiornerr.org/summit/>  
(There is a \$60 fee for the full conference.)

### *Helpful Links:*

[Join or Renew](#) your Friends of Eau Claire Lakes Area membership for 2024.

**Mission: To protect, preserve, and improve the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the Eau Claire Lakes Area watershed including the lakes, rivers, shorelands, wetlands, forests and attendant wildlife resources.**

**BAYFIELD AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES, WI**

*Check us out on Facebook where we share photos, stories, educational events and other opportunities to learn more about the lakes, rivers, shorelands, wetlands and forests we treasure  
Search for "Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area" or  
click on the blue Facebook icon below.*

**Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area**  
<https://friendsofeauclairelakesarea.com>



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