



May 2025 Musing  
**Oh, How Lucky We Are**  
by Thom Storm  
*Sweet Lake*

In 1978, when my wife Cindy and I were only 28 years old, we scraped up enough money to make a down payment on a 204 foot wide vacant lot on a pretty little spot called Sweet Lake. Neither one of us had grown up with a family cabin. Buying a vacant lot on a beautiful little lake just seemed like a nice way to be outdoors and live with nature. It turned out to be one of the best decisions we ever made in our lives.

Two years later, in 1980, we scraped up a little more cash and hired a contractor to build us a cabin shell. That was the start of our love affair with “going to the cabin.” Four years later, in 1984, we brought our newborn daughter Elsie to Sweet Lake for the first time. She was just two weeks old. In 1988, we did a similar thing for our infant son Eben.

Never in our wildest dreams did we expect our little cabin to be the place where our children and their cousins would grow up and make magnificent memories from their many outdoor adventures.

Now, in 2025, we have three little grandchildren who come to our family cabin, where they are creating their own adventures and memories. They are joined by their six cousins, who absolutely love going to the cabin.

The cabin is the place where our extended family gets to reconnect with each other.

The cabin is the place where we work together on projects.

The cabin is the place where we enjoy our meals on the deck while watching the hummingbirds dart by and have “hummingbird wars.”

The cabin is the place where we live and experience heaven on earth.

We are blessed and extremely grateful to have this wonderful little spot as our

family sanctuary.

Oh, how lucky we are.

Thom Storm  
Sweet Lake



Thom and his wife Cindy live six months of the year at Sweet Lake and the other six months in Duluth. While in Duluth, Thom enjoys alpine skiing and has been a member of the National Ski Patrol for the past 35 years.

While in Barnes, Thom enjoys gardening and tending his fruit orchard. One of his greatest pleasures is sitting quietly on the cabin deck while watching the lake and seeing nature unfold.

## ***Helpful Links:***

Visit Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area at the [Taste of Barnes](#) on Saturday, June 14, from 10:00AM - 4:00PM at the [Town of Barnes Park](#).

Join us and visit our booth at the [NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference](#) in Hayward on Friday, June 20, 2025. More information and tickets are available through [Eventbrite](#).

Help in the fight against Aquatic Invasive Species by [volunteering](#) to work on the Town of Barnes [BAISS pontoon boat](#).

Please [join or renew your FOECLA membership](#) for 2025.

**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.*