



## Musing

September 2020 - "Reminding Us of All That is Wonderful"

Anne Torrey

Reflecting upon the May Musing, my wish during these difficult times was to engender a sense of peace, respect, caring and appreciation for our beautiful north woods and lakes. Preternatural circumstances kept families and loved ones home, ensconced in daily homebound activities, (previously completed quickly - as we were always rushing through them in order to move on to more important things - work, sports, parties, school....) now being done together, in pairs and groupings of those within our "bubbles."

As the months of isolation wore on, the forced confinement began to chafe, and folks realized there were many activities that could expand their lives outside of the home, outdoors in the beautiful summer that was unfolding before us.

### ***And so they came.....***

Moving to their cabins in the woods and on the lakes, not just immediate family units, but extended families, friends, loved ones.

Enjoying walks, bike and boat rides, swimming, ATVs, kayaking, water/jet skiing, tubing. The things we all enjoy about being at the lake in the summer.

It was a busy, hectic, raucous summer on the lakes. Filled with sunshine and beautiful weather in which to spend countless hours reveling in the outdoors, and all the activities that could possibly fill each day.

Alas, there is an end to all good things, and perhaps the end of one thing brings something even better...

***September! My favorite month of the year.***

For me, September is a reminder of all that is wonderful, especially when there is not much "wonderful" going on in the world. One need not dig too deeply to understand the marvels of this glorious month. On the surface, it is quite evident - the trees bursting with colors, the gorgeous crisp fall mornings, the chilly evenings by the fire, listening to the loon's mournful call, signaling the ever shortening time remaining on the finally, peaceful lakes. September signals change for all of us, as well as the critters that sense the coming decline in pleasant atmospheric conditions.

Frogs, for example. This summer they were plentiful, in numbers not seen in over a decade. Now, they are preparing themselves for the time in the near future when they will lower their heart rates and slip beneath the mud to rest peacefully until next spring.

A beautiful black bear yearling that paid us several visits this summer is busy foraging for the remaining berries, nuts and other nourishment he can consume in order to fatten up for the long winter's nap. Squirrels are busy nipping oak branches in order to line their nests and store away acorns for winter as well. The hummingbirds have all but left our feeders for their fall sojourn to warmer climes. This summer we also saw deer, fox and turkeys in abundance. They may not disappear for the winter, but they are preparing as well, in their own ways.

As tranquility has returned to our forest home, I am able to reflect and understand that the human critters that were so busy and noisy, acting with seemingly boundless exuberance, were also perhaps preparing as well. Not only were they releasing long pent up stores of energy, but they were enjoying the outdoors in their own way; participating in enjoyable activities with one another, and perhaps in the process, noticing and appreciating all that our natural world has to offer. Storing away memories for the long, isolated winter ahead. A hibernation in its own right. Wonderful remembrances of experiences that will help to sustain until we are able to regain our lives as we once knew them.

As September brings us ever closer to the end of the seasons this year, let us reflect, in gratitude, on the blessings we have here, in the woods and the lakes, and hold dear to the natural peace we find during this month. Let it sustain us and give us optimism as we face additional uncertainty and change throughout the upcoming winter months. We human "critters" are all in this together.

***Let us be kind and gentle in our thoughts and actions,*** as September is a balm to the soul. We are all struggling in our own way to accept that which we cannot control. May the beauty and peace of September bring the same to you and yours.