BOOK REVIEW

A life melding science, art, and a love of the outdoors



DAVID JUDE, limnologist and fishery research biologist and an active IAGLR member for decades, has written a poetry book. I have known Dave since we first met when I chaired the IAGLR Great Lakes Research Conference at SUNY-Oswego in 1982. We have been friends and colleagues ever since. A consummate field biologist growing up in Minnesota, Dave gained deep love of the outdoors. He has conducted his entire career on the Great Lakes and inland lakes of Michigan. When not conducting research, he explores lakes Michigan and Superior shores for Petoskey stones and agates, respectively, fishes at his cabin on the AuSable River, and contemplates nature from his bow-hunting tree stand. We co-taught the fish ecology class at The Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory for 14 years. All that time living and teaching together, I had no idea he was a poet! I knew he composed songs on his guitar, such as "Galloping Goby Blues," but not poetry also. So, I was surprised and delighted when he sent me his recently published book.

"Voices from the Meadow of the Mind of the Wandering Spirit" is a compilation of a wide spectrum of thoughts during Dave's lifetime of loving and observing nature. The topics range from elucidating ecological processes (e.g., "Life of a Leaf"), to whimsical views of biota (e.g., "Ode to God's Creatures, especially the Slimy Ones," to the comical (e.g, "Ode to the Wart"), and to philosophical musings (e.g.,"The Fleeting Soul").

The book is divided into four themes: 1) Departures: The inevitable death of living organisms, recycling of elements and rebirth; 2) Organisms of the Earth: The naturalist's curiosity about selected aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates and vertebrates; 3) Secrets of the Earth: Philosophical contemplations about the Universe; and 4) The Human Dimension: Reflections on human interactions with the environment. Dave's photographs complement each poem.

"Voices from the Meadow of the Mind of the Wandering Spirit" is a delight in which the reader will find nuggets to contemplate and enjoy. It is a celebration of the author's life of melding science and art that thankfully he has shared with a wider audience. The book is available to order or read online from the publisher, or order it from your favorite independent book store.

By John E. Gannon, International Joint Commission (retired) and IAGLR member since 1966.



Ode to the mysterious fishes

Few know what a fish study entails
Not only fish scales and slimy entrails
But zebra mussels and sinistral snails
We need info on who eats who
So we know what to tell people to do
Who knows what lurks in the deepest muck
Could be parasites that bite and suck
Black grubs from kingfishers that turn fish black
Or *Hexagenia*, fish crack
We need studies on walleyes, perch, and pike
What prey they eat, what fish they strike
Are the fish fat or way too thin
Do they have tumors or big warts on their skin
Sometimes I throw my hands up in despair
Studying fish is hard, life is not fair...

Poet Laureate of Great Lakes Fishes

From "Voices from the Meadow of the Mind of the Wandering Spirit" by David Jude.