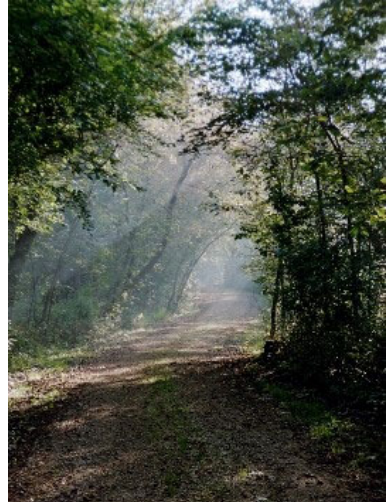


God Moments

By Frank Schwirtz

Blessings and all good things to you.

Many retreatants have shared with us some very precious "God Moments" during their stay here at Christ in the Wilderness. So I thought I would share with you a particularly powerful God Moment of my own.



Late in June 2001, I had some trimming to do in the far meadow. So when the dew dried off, the right time of the morning for my project, I drove the truck up the path to the upper meadow, (This was in our pre-ATV days.) After arriving, I unloaded our big DR Line Trimmer, which was not self-propelled, and headed down to the far meadow. I became engrossed (obsessed) with the trimming project. Two hours passed. I was sweating through my clothes and was becoming thirsty. I then realized I had left my water up in the truck--very poor planning, indeed foolish, on my part. By then it was just past noon. The temperature was well into the nineties and the humidity was very high.

Hot and thirsty, I began the long trek back up to the upper meadow dragging the resisting trimmer behind me. Going up the hill, I had to stop five times to catch my breath and rest for a moment. During my last rest stop I realized I was starting to get faint, somewhat cold, and very dizzy. I left the trimmer behind and, as I reached the crown of the hill, I started to feel that very dark and mysterious moment one feels before passing out. Based on my running days' experience, I knew I was getting close to a heat stroke. Suddenly a very large magnificent dragonfly swooped down at me, as I stumbled toward the spool table and chair. The dragonfly circled around me several times and then came to rest on my right forearm. Now in the past I have always had a healthy respect for dragonflies, partly due to my own

ignorance of exactly what they are about, and also due to my not knowing their potential for doing bodily harm to me. I had a very healthy respect! Fear mainly!! As I drifted in and out of my grayish-black near-faint consciousness, the dragonfly stayed on my arm, motionless, staring intently into my eyes. His gaze was one that penetrated deep into my soul as if to grab it and hold me in a compassionate embrace. This rapturous state went on for about ten minutes.

Then, as if the dragonfly sensed that my normal consciousness and well-being had returned, it slowly rose from my arm and flew around my head several times and came to rest on my arm one more time. It fluttered its wings as if to say, "You're going to be just fine now." Then it flew off.

As I sat there drinking my ice water and gazing out over the rolling hills, I realized that I had been caught by the gaze of God--touched with compassion and love.

That's my God Moment--a true story. How long has it been since you experienced a "God Moment"? Maybe it is time for you to take time? The latch key is ready for you here at Christ in the Wilderness, God Moments are waiting for you.

May your life be more radiant than the noonday.

Frank

