

## God Moments by Frank Schwirtz

Blessings and all good things to all of you.

I was graciously asked to contribute to “ye ole newsletter” and have of course graciously accepted. Many of you have shared some very precious “God Moments” during your stays here at Christ in the Wilderness, so I thought I would share a particularly powerful God Moment of my own.

Late in June 2001, I had some trimming to do in the far meadow. So at the right time of the morning after the dew had dried off, I drove the truck up the path to the upper meadow. This is pre ATV days for you not as ancient as the rest of us. Once up to the meadow, I disembarked our big DR Line Trimmer (not self-propelled) and headed down to the far meadow. I became engrossed (obsessed) with the trimming project and two hours has passed. I had sweat through my clothes and was thirsty. I then realized I had left my water up in the truck; very poor planning and indeed by foolish on my part. By then it was just past noon and well into the nineties with very high humidity.

So I began the long trek back up to the upper meadow dragging the trimmer behind me. I had to stop five times going up the hill, to catch my breath and rest for a moment. Upon my last 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 before you pass out. I knew I was close to a heat stroke as I remember the feeling from my running days. As I stumbled toward the chair and spool table all of a sudden a very large magnificent dragonfly swooped down at me. He (pardon my genderizing) 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 not knowing exactly what they are about or their potential for bodily harm. A very healthy respect! Fear mainly!! As I drifted in and out of the grayish black area the dragonfly stayed on my arm, motionless, staring intently into my eyes. His gaze was one that penetrated deep into my soul as to grab it and hold me in a compassionate embrace. This rapturous state went on for about ten minutes.

Then the dragonfly sensed that my consciousness and well being had returned. He slowly rose from my arm and flew around my head several times, came to rest on my arm one more time; fluttering his wings as to say that I am going to be just fine now. Then he flew off.

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

A true story. How long has it been for you to have a shared a “God Moment”? Maybe it is time to take time? The latch key is out for you here at Christ in the Wilderness; God Moments are waiting for you.

May your lives be more radiant than the noonday.

Frank

### **Jottings**

Remember!

When fear invades the spirit

You cannot hear the voice of

God speaking to you. Deanne C

## **In the Wilderness**

Spring has just finished and we had a mixed bag of weather. It was drier the last month than usual, but with the rains of the past week the grass is greening up again. The area that we restored in prairie plants was growing quite well with the new plantings. It will be beautiful when they start blooming. We had a few of the early plants blooming and they were stunning.

During the winter we had two turkeys regularly visit our bird feeders. I saw one of the mother turkeys with her nine little ones trailing behind. It was a delightful sight. Too bad I did not have my camera for that "Kodak Moment".

It is berry time again. The red raspberries are ripening, so the early mornings when it is cooler find me outside foraging through the briars to find the plump berries. I will be making jams and jellies for those who want to enjoy them. I have been visiting the local farmer's market to sell some of the jellies and jams when I have had a free moment. The strawberry rhubarb jam is quite popular.

The birds have come back in abundance. One retreatant remarked that he saw three or four pairs of bluebirds around the feeders during his stay. Several people have caught a glimpse of an oriole flying amongst the shrubs also.

It is a wonderful time to experience Christ in the Wilderness. If you have not been out here for a long time, now may be the time to schedule a period of quiet refreshment in the wilderness environment.

### **A New Addition...**

We have been gifted with a wonderful new gazebo on the grounds. Long time supporters and benefactors of Christ in the Wilderness have donated a beautiful gazebo to us. The gazebo is Amish built and was put together by Frank and Phillip over the past several weeks. Many hours of loving attention to detail went into the installation of the gazebo. For those who are familiar with the CITW grounds, the gazebo is setting in the spot where the original barn was. If you are walking across the bridge towards the upper meadow, the gazebo is to the right opposite side of the chapel. It has already been enjoyed by some and will be a welcome place to sit and enjoy the wildlife and beauty around you. We thank Joe and Ilene and ask God's blessing on them with their generous gift.