

Quotes from LeRoy Lintereur (1920-1995)

"I cannot imagine the misery that would be mine were I to give up my dream, of knowing as much as possible about the natural world."

-8 July 1994

"On Stephenson lake today with my canoe. A surprisingly nice little body of water. It is really one series of little patterns, crowded, [with] perfectly designed leaves of water shield, each leaf perfect and glowing in emerald green Potamogeton amplifolius, forests of it, color faded to a sort of neutral buff. Then the perfection of P. natans, ovate, olive leaves, so quiet in the clear water. And then the backdrop: a true northern forest, tamarack and spruce, a quaking bog of cattails, Eleocharis, and sedges. No one has built on it yet, but the time will surely come. Praise the lord for quaking shorelines and bugs that keep people away."

-7 July 1975

"This morning outside at 6 with temp. 15 below. Antares glowing really red in the south, and in the southwest Mars, well named, certainly high, bright, and glowing in the sky. To the east, the cross and Vega clear and white and high on the meridian with the handle of the dipper pointing to it, as it should. Arcturus still my favorite. They seem so far away and remote from us. Like the age of the earth and the glacier, I cannot imagine their distance and their magnitude. Such is this world and such is life on it."

-29 January 1965

"There is something special about a day in May. Somehow standing there in the woods this morning I felt that the whole business was too good to be true, that I was missing something, that here was the answer if I could only catch on, or think of the proper question. And there they all were, unheeding, the flycatchers, the flowers, the trees spreading out their leaves - everything welcoming the sun, just as they have for the past thousands of years, ever since the glacier receded and exposed this esker to the sun."

-24 May 1966

Quotes are from LeRoy's personal journals, printed in *AFIELD, Portraits of Wisconsin Naturalists, Empowering Leopold's Legacy* by author, Summer Matteson (Little Creek Press, January 2020; littlecreekpress.com).

