

February 20, 2008

After a long lapse, Nature Notes is back! Since today's weather is snowy, I think that is a good enough excuse to write about snow. Especially now when the sun is bright, the white throated sparrows are singing and my cheeks are rosy from a walk outside. This has been a dreary winter for me; too gray, too much rain, not enough snow to tempt me outside to play. Instead, I've stayed inside, looking out, like a grumpy ol' person who has forgotten the snow angels and snow ball fights and snowmen of youth. Truth be known, I haven't forgotten, just didn't have the "raw material" for such activities. Last year however, in our rather sedate condo neighborhood, in the middle of our small patch of front yard... I DID make snow angels! And a tiny snowman! And I laughed like a kid during the process. Then I went inside, and enjoyed some ibuprofen with my hot cup of tea! So far this year my snow activities have been limited to brushing snow off my car, filling bird feeders and enjoying a couple of short walks in the nearby woods. The landscape covered in fresh snow can almost make me a poet;

Snow, snow, so clean and bright
Reflect the moon's light on this night
And send me memories of days of yor'
When I could play longer and not get so sore!

Not exactly in the same league with Robert Frost!

Poem lyrics of Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost.

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village, though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there's some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

For some breathtaking pictures of snow flakes, visit the web site:
<http://www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/photos/photos.htm>

To try your hand at making paper snowflakes, visit the web site:
<http://highhopes.com/snowflakes.html>

You can share this activity with a youngster!