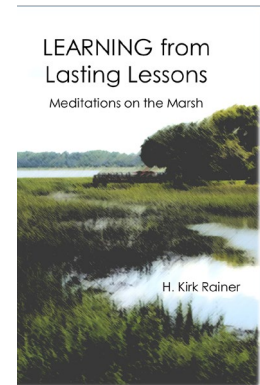


LEARNING from Lasting Lessons Meditations on the Marsh

Life is full of lessons, but like any opportunity each must be examined and ideally applied toward individual growth and development. Where would life, living and love be without lessons of this kind?

In this next project is an effort to go back and to re-examine what I've possibly learned as well as what I may have missed.... In the irony of taking opportunity to discover missed opportunities, who knows what additional learning awaits; that acting on/in retrospect are the added benefits to make us ideally better—not bitter—while possibly *crossing another bridge* of memories held in check or caught in the cycle of rumination, regret, and remorse.

Living on or near the marsh for much of my life, why not capture the vastness and solitude of the sea's inland waters; why not use the sea to see more, learn more and be more? Though the odor of decaying vegetation, marine-life, and a mud as that of crude oil is sometimes unpleasant, the broad scape is captivating, holding an opportunity



The marsh, to him who enters it in a receptive mood, holds, besides mosquitoes and stagnation, [is the] melody, the mystery of unknown waters, and the sweetness of nature undisturbed by man.

- William Beebe, *The Log of the Sun A Chronicle of Nature's Year*

to expand your view, land, sea, trees, and everything in between.

Learning from Lasting Lessons is another in a series of projects and drafts, though turning further inward and ideally learning some of that missed or re-learning that forgotten. Painful or sorrowful as it may be at times, this writing considers the words of

John Banville, *The Sea*:

I had never liked, even feared a little, this wild reach of marsh and mud flats where everything seemed turned away from the land, looking off desperately toward the horizon as if in mute search for a sign of rescue.