

The Bigger World within Our Smaller Village

Elisabeth Scheele

Bratenahl may encompass only a three mile stretch and be primarily residential, but oh the variety of wildlife we get to experience! With the expanse of wooded area within the Village we have many bird and animal neighbors. It can feel like we are far away from city life. Right down the street we enjoy the beauty of the Dike 14 Nature Preserve which attracts migratory birds as well as a great diversity of butterflies, insects, mammals, plants and shrubs.

Driving down Lakeshore Boulevard can be like entering the Wild Kingdom. Most of us have seen any number of raccoons, rabbits, skunks, mallards, herons, the occasional wild turkey and of course deer. Often not just a single deer, but many. For those of you who have had the unfortunate experience of deer decimating your garden, please forgive me but I never tire of seeing them. I like knowing that I live in an area where we can exist together. To me Bratenahl feels like living in the country with all the convenience of the nearby city. How lucky we are to know both worlds. At times Bratenahl seems like a living environmental laboratory. I experience a personal thrill as I drive through the Village and wonder what my next sighting might be. Many children today experience “nature deficient disorder” due to the realities of our modern world which make it less safe for a child to run free and experience the natural world. Many children live in concrete jungles or limit themselves to the myriad of available technologies.

Since we are fortunate enough to live in such a remarkable area, take the time to appreciate the beauty of the bird and animal life around you. Stop, look, listen! Now that the weather is changing and you can get outdoors, use your powers of observation to learn more as you get in touch with the world that surrounds you. We in Bratenahl enjoy a unique environment for which we should be grateful.