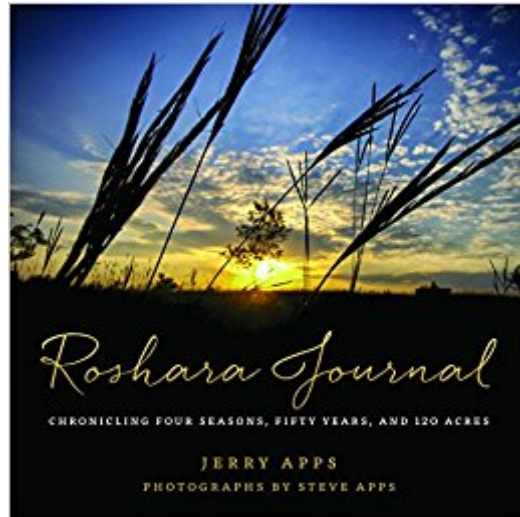


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Roshara Journal: Chronicling Four Seasons, Fifty Years, And 120 Acres



Synopsis

A photographic diary of a small Midwestern farm and the family whoâ€™ve made it their home. In Roshara Journal, father-and-son team Jerry and Steve Apps share the monthly happenings at their familyâ€™s farm in central Wisconsin. Featuring Steveâ€™s stunning photos and fifty years of Jerryâ€™s journal entries, Roshara Journal captures the changesâ€”both from month to month and over the decadesâ€”on the landscape and farmstead. The Apps family has owned Roshara since 1966. There they nurture a prairie restoration and pine plantation, maintain a large garden that feeds three generations, observe wildlife species by the dozens, and support a population of endangered butterflies. In documenting life on this piece of land, Jerry and Steve remind us how, despite the pace and challenges of modern life, the seasons continue to influence our lives in ways large and small. Jerry explains that his journal entries become much more than mere observations: "It seems that when I write about somethingâ€”a bur oak tree, for exampleâ€”that old tree becomes a part of me. . . . Writing takes me to a place that goes beyond observation and understanding, a place filled with feeling and meaning." In the tradition of Bernd Heinrich in Maine, Barry Lopez in the Canadian Arctic, and Aldo Leopold just an hour down the road in Baraboo, Jerry and Steve Apps combine observation, experience, and reflection to tell a profound story about one place in the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The background is straightforward. Author Jerry Apps has owned his Central Wisconsin farm for 50

years during which he has kept a diary and collected pictures of nature. The format is simple: 1-3 dated quotes from the diary that mesh with color photos from the property. The results are priceless. The thoughtful reflections of a careful observer and the photographic art of a skilled professional gently lead the reader from Spring to Summer to Autumn and Winter. Some diary excerpts are touching, as when the young man tells of his years of deer hunting with his 90 year old Dad and his 8 year old son who then, as an old man, carries on the tradition with that same, now grown son. Others engender a jealousy of a man who can observe such variety and write so descriptively: "In the last couple of weeks my prairie has turned from green to yellow and blue as the sea of goldenrods are in their glory and the blazing star flowers add a subtle blue as counterpoint to the yellow. It is a sight to behold-a spiritual harvest of color." The pictures are exquisite. As one would expect from Steve Apps, the 8 year old hunter turned man and photographer for the Wisconsin State Journal, the focus, colors and the action waiting to happen all grab your attention and draw you in to look for each detail. How many colors are in that field? Where does that path in the woods lead? Is that sky really on fire? Could that flower really be as beautiful in life as it is in the book? The snow by the barn and on the woodpile almost chills me on this hot summer day. Which picture is my favorite? That is hard to pick, but I would say the one of the turtles sunning themselves on the branch emerging from the pond.

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