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The Empty Nest – Connecting Human Experience with the Animal Kingdom

Friday, May 21, 2021



“to grasp your one necessity and not let it go” (link at end)
So many great comments and insights on my last blog

I remember the bittersweet feeling when our 3rd child left for college
All the bedrooms were empty with just some mementos on the walls

Our 2 daughters married boys they met at school and rarely came home.
They preferred to visit us at the lake house closer to their new homes and the university all 3 attended.
They visited the lake house even when we weren't there.

We had been watching Mother Goose on her nest all spring.
She was a very resourceful Mama finding an abandoned dock and using shreds of carpet as a comfortable base to await the arrival of her babies.
The broken shells are her mementos



I remember going for walks with my little ones
Mama Goose is doing that too

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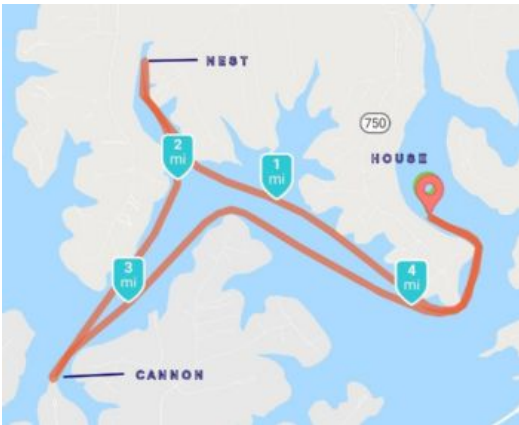
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This is the map of a recent kayak route we took to check on Mama Goose and family



Our nest is filling up again. This is our granddaughter who is living with us this summer while working at a local marina. The rest of fully vaccinated family will join us during weekends and vacation time.



I know this nest will not be used again. Next spring we will find different ones nearby. I wonder if Mama Goose's offspring will stay in the neighborhood building them or fly off to find their future far away. Human parents experience both.

Our son and one grandson live 400 miles away. Very grateful for the Internet.

The quote in the beginning of this blog was from a story by Annie Dillard sent to me by a Spark Friend expanding on the "circle of life" after I wrote about the "chipmunk and the snake"

"The Eagle and the Weasel!"
public.wsu.edu/~hughesc/dillard_weasel.htm

"As far back as the origin of writing, storytellers have used animals to give shape and meaning to human experience" was part of the discussion

Yes, I remember reading Aesop's Fables as a child

I received a comment yesterday on a blog I wrote in 2013
It was like a spark friend was reading my mind.

Granddaughter and I were watching the "Kids Baking Championship" on the food network remembering her cake baking/decorating days.

This photo was from that old blog



When each grandchild was born, my grandma would say in Slovak "where will she be" (or he)
Like Mama Goose we do the best we can and send them on their way. If ours come back, the nest will be here or at least nearby.

In your "nest" today whether full, empty or occasionally occupied, I hope you have a good day and great weekend.

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TOMATOCAFEGAL

Empty nest makes me sad, but I don't eat because of it anymore. Find things to do.
7 days ago



DEE797

I love how you used nature to compare. I so enjoy reading your blogs. Our nest is not empty as our ds and my dad live with us. Our dd visits a couple of times a month, as she lives about an hour or so away.
10 days ago




CHERYLHURT

Our nest is empty and we never could have children.
12 days ago



ELSCO55


12 days ago





MARKSMOM3



12 days ago



COUNTRYGALINNY

Nice blog. As I get older I realized you go through phases in your life. Eventually you get to another phase. Married, kids, kids away, kids marry, grandkids, etc I try to enjoy whatever phase I am in currently

12 days ago



DONNALEE-53



13 days ago



THINCPL2004

Here's to having a great summer with your Granddaughter. I too experience the empty nest, when my youngest moved out 6 yrs ago. They still visit from time to time. I enjoyed your blog!

14 days ago



SAMMILESSACH

What a beautiful blog made me very emotional.

Today we did some deck repair work, looking in the trees We saw old birds nests, do the birds ever reuse nests? I don't know.

We have a pond at back of our home, we love the ducks and geese. The walk the neighborhood and cars " brake" for them.

Our home has not been visted due to pandemic we allowed one friend to come over twice. We lobe to cook and entertain sure miss that.

I pray you have a great summer with your granddaughter!!!!

I miss the times with my Grandma!

Your blogs are amazing please keep them u p!

God bless!

14 days ago



RACHNACH



14 days ago



AZMOMXTWO

you are so blessed to have the kids come back even for a short visit

14 days ago



ALIHIKES

What a great blog. I love your connection to nature, and to the lessons that it brings for us in our daily lives. I also love your reminiscences about your family. It is great that DG is staying with you, and that you remain connected with your children, no matter how far away they live. I never had children; but I enjoyed a visit from my niece last week.

14 days ago



POLSKARENIA

My nest is empty too, but my daughter and I talk often on FaceTime (COVID stopped us visiting each other after after February last year as she's in London and we in the South of France).

We also video call the step kids often too, partly stepdaughter and her three youngsters...

14 days ago



DSJB9999

Lovely blog, we still have a 19 year and 17 year old's in our nest and are trying to 'enjoy' and relish them being here, but try to prepare them for the future as my daughter goes to university in September and we are going to try to encourage our son (the 17 year old) to work on his driving skills and learn the theory too. Love the story about the geese, we used to have House Martins that lived on our property but haven't for the last 2 years, maybe next year. Love and hugs to you

and your hubby xxx

14 days ago



KITTYHAWK1949





14 days ago



THOMS1

My nest is empty also but we do visit them. My grandson gets married today and there can only be 25 people at the ceremony and we will all be vaccinated We have another wedding in October and the invite said those who are invited need to be vaccinated before they can attend the



wedding. So there you have it.
14 days ago



JUNEPA

So wonderful that your flock will be able to spend time with you again at your lovely home on the lake !!



14 days ago



JUNEPA

Love your blogs that lead to reminiscing about my life journey and events. I didn't touch your menopause blog yet, but have plenty of thoughts there, maybe will comment at a later date. I didn't expect to have a family as I was not very sociable and didn't want to be a housewife. But I met a wonderful partner and I do very much enjoy family life - still don't enjoy the housework aspect, oh well.



My oldest went to community college for her undergrad to continue with her passion for horses, which is much easier to pursue when living on the farm than in the city. She said she was never going to be that girl who rode horses until she went to college, and then stop. She stayed home until she was 26 and then moved to Vancouver when her career took her there and did give up the horses (for now, those horse people usually come back to having horses again at some point). She came home regularly and milked the cows on the weekends for pocket money. My second left home to go to college that offered his career of interest training. He didn't come home very often. Then he got a job offer in the US and moved down there, met a girl there, got married. Then he did an MBA at a Canadian university, and applied for his green card to live permanently in the US. While his green card application was in process, COVID hit, his green card process got delayed, so he couldn't return to the US. He and his wife lived with DH and I for 8 months from May 2020 until February 2021 when he finally got his green card and they moved back to their home. So we saw him very little from when he was 18 until last year when he was 28, but those 8 months together recently were wonderful. Both DS and DDIL are so respectful and helpful and fun and so many good things. Now that he and DDIL are back in the US, we won't see them again until the border opens. My third moved to the other end of the country, the east coast, for her first semester of college, then got homesick and came home, and decided to work on the farm with us, so she lives next door to us on the farm. That's the round up. No grands yet. Thanks for the opportunity to indulge in some sweet reminiscing. I am so happy all the kids get along well, we enjoy visiting them and that they do visit when they can and have satisfying lives and careers and good partners. I enjoy reading the comments here and the other life journeys :)

14 days ago

Comment edited on: 5/22/2021 11:46:59 AM



BJAEGER307

We are also empty nesters and have been for 11 years now. Seems like yesterday my only son was living at home. We are lucky though, our son only live about 20 minutes away and comes



to visit us every week. He still likes Mom's cooking the best.

Always great to have your family together. Enjoy your grandkids while you can.

14 days ago



JUNETTA2002

Thanks for sharing
14 days ago



SUSANYOUNGER



14 days ago



INCH_BY_INCH



14 days ago



RHOOK20047

One son lives close, the other is 4 hours away on the other side of the state. He is the one fighting cancer and we regret the distance, but he understands. We see him when we can as he





can't really travel much with chemo every other week for the last 2 1/2 years. When I am down, I think of the days when the boys were young, the bickering of brothes, the noise of family life. Sometimes, the silence of our home gets to me.
14 days ago



WHILLSW
Always good insights....



14 days ago



ETHELMERZ
Yes, one never knows where life will take us. We wound up in Texas, making the best of it.....
14 days ago



THROOPER62



14 days ago



PLCHAPPELL
Sweet reminder
15 days ago



LIS193
We moved from Mexico to Spain to be closer to our family in Denmark, Holland and England... then COVID happened and we still didn't get to visit. So grateful for FaceTime!
15 days ago



MARYJEANSL
I have been thinking about empty nests a lot lately. My oldest went to college to a university five hours drive from here, and stayed a year after graduation working. Then he returned home and lived with me for five years, drifting, working part time when he felt like it. This led to many fights, as one can imagine. He finally got a decent full-time job about two years ago, and moved out of my house last August. He won't be moving back again, since he will be getting married in September. I am happy for him - it is what I have always wanted for him - but it is bittersweet, and I have shed some tears over it. My second child also went to college, though much farther away, and returned after graduation. She has had a full-time job most of the time since moving home, though, and she is much easier to get along with. So for now I am not an empty-nester, and I am glad of it. My third child, my baby, I will never see again in this life, but he is always with me. The song running through my head right now is "Circle of Life."
15 days ago



IZIPPYC
You have a lot to keep you busy this summer, including the wildlife!



Enjoy!
15 days ago



PATRICIAANN46
When we took our oldest son to the University (he didn't have his car yet), I promised myself that I wasn't going to shed one tear because I remembered how much I enjoyed that time in my life and didn't want to bring him down in any way. I did great.....

Then we got home and I went to his bedroom to grab a few things that he had forgotten so I could send them to him. When he was little, we gave him a set of big blocks and I had arranged them to spell his first name, Jason. When I was leaving his room, I looked up at the blocks and he had rearranged them to spell NO JAS. I lost it.

We are very fortunate to have Jason and his wife and our two grand-daughters living just 11 miles West of us. Our youngest son lived 12 miles East of us until he met a girl, got a different job, and moved to a city 60 miles East of us. We still see him as often as possible, but I wish that he lived closer.

Our youngest son doesn't have any children, but it has been wonderful to see the oldest in the role of a very loving family man. We try to keep our empty nest as full as possible. How wonderful it is that your grand-daughter is spending the summer with you. Nola is going to spend quite a bit of time with us as her older sister (14) has some commitments this summer that will take her away from home and her role as main baby-sitter. They are growing up so fast that we take them as often as possible.

Thank You for another meaningful blog.
15 days ago

**CHERIRIDDELL**

I just have one daughter who lives not too far away. My son-in-law, we have always adored but his Mom was killed by a drunk driver in a horrific crash not far from our houses six years ago so now I feel a double responsibility to provide a nest here!

15 days ago

**JAMER123**

We have been empty nesters for many yrs. and do our flitting about in our camper to travel places we have yet to be. And this weekend we are being "roadees" and loving it.

15 days ago

**AMUSICALIFE**

My heart hurt a little reading this. My sons are both leaving for college in the fall. Only one left in the nest for me. She started driving school this week. :(I like your new visitor though. That is hopeful to see more children in the house

15 days ago

**NASFKAB**

Interesting blog. Analogy with empty nests. Have a great time with family.

15 days ago

**SPEDED2**

Fun summer ahead. Enjoy the special times together as the nest refills...even temporarily.



15 days ago

**52BINCE**

What a great blog! ... Enjoy your spring and summer with the nest filling up again! ...

15 days ago

**DOVESEYES**

Lovely :)

15 days ago

**TERMITEMOM**

Lucky me: as the mom of a handicapped young man (now 31) I will never experience an empty nest!

15 days ago

**MARGE116**

This hits close to home. We have two daughters. One moved away about a year ago for her first full time job teaching. The other one has two summer classes to complete at the local Junior college before she goes off to University. Both will be two hours away in opposite directions. Eventually the oldest wants to go further south to warmer weather. The youngest loves the snow and colder weather.

15 days ago

**BUTTONPOPPER1**

For someone with a nest empty of the original baby birds, you don't sound lonely at all, and I think it's because you clearly love life and stay so active and young yourself!



15 days ago

**QUESOFLEXIBLE**

15 days ago

**SCDALYNCH**

My nest is going to be a house beside my daughter's home. She has been the caregiver for a lot if our family. When we decided to sell our big house for a small one she took me to lunch. She said why don't you build a house next to my house. If you buy one that is too far far for me to get to often I won't be able to help you. I am 82 now and she is right. This is where I need to be.

Thank you for writing.

15 days ago

MORTICIAADDAMS

We only had one child and he left in 2013. He moved hundreds of miles away. He sends us cards for special occasions and calls or emails us maybe once a year or so. He is busy with his



life. Our raccoons will be bringing their babies here to meet us soon. They are always fun to watch.
15 days ago



WHYNOTTRY45



15 days ago



NANANANA



We sort of avoided the empty nest by moving to a new state. Our last son chose to go out of state for university. Being unemployed, we were able to find jobs in his state. He was upgraded to state resident and avoided out-of-state tuition.

Our new house has 3 bedrooms. DH expected the boys to live with us. One did for one year. At

least we have space for grands to sleep except one bedroom is a computer room.
15 days ago



PRIMEOFMYLIFE



It is our job to teach them to be independent. Sometimes there are extenuating circumstances that they don't leave, or do come back. We love them all, near or far. This is the time to find YOUR passion for living.

15 days ago



DARLENEK04



Happy memories.....
15 days ago



LYNCHD05



Those were tough days when's the kids left home but we were very proud of the . Being empty nesters was such fun though.
Now, we join their nests some of the time and our home is always open whenever they want.
Family time is the best.
15 days ago

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