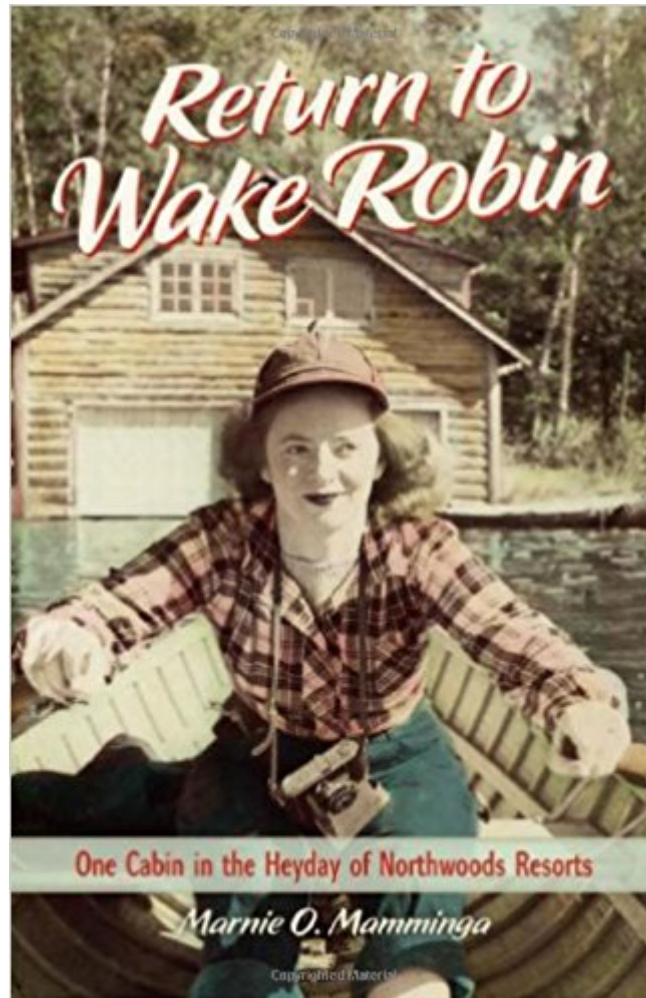


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# Return To Wake Robin: One Cabin In The Heyday Of Northwoods Resorts



## Synopsis

Five generations of Marnie O. Mamminga's family have been rejuvenated by times together in Wisconsin's Northwoods. In a series of evocative remembrances accompanied by a treasure trove of vintage family photos, Mamminga takes us to Wake Robin, the cabin her grandparents built in 1929 on Big Spider Lake near Hayward, on land adjacent to Moody's Camp. Along the way she preserves the spirit and cultural heritage of a vanishing era, conveying the heart of a place and the community that gathered there. Bookended by the close of the logging era and the 1970s shift to modern lake homes, condos, and Jet Skis, the 1920s to 1960s period covered in these essays represents the golden age of Northwoods camps and cabins—a time when retreats such as Wake Robin were the essence of simplicity. In *Return to Wake Robin*, Mamminga describes the familiar cadre of fishing guides casting their charm, the camaraderie and friendships among resort workers and vacationers, the call of the weekly square dance, the splash announcing a perfectly executed cannonball, the lodge as gathering place. By tracing the history of one resort and cabin, she recalls a time and experience that will resonate with anyone who spent their summers Up North or wishes they had.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“With liberal doses of gratitude, humor, and charming period details, Mamminga, a contributor to Jack Canfield's *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, recounts her family's more than 60-year history vacationing on Big Spider Lake in Wisconsin's Northwoods region. Wake Robin's old-fashioned routines continue to bring joy to a

fifth generation. (Publisher's Weekly Starred Review)"Mamminga's memoir will make readers wish for a cabin of their own to call home for a couple of months out of the year. (Andi Diehn, ForeWord Reviews)"What wonderful memories from my almost forgotten youth this book stirred. Slamming screen doors at first light; sunrises that only God could orchestrate and people. Wonderful, outsized, loving, adventurous people fill Return to Wake Robin." (Jim Peck, Host of Milwaukee Public Television's I Remember)"All thanks to Marnie Mamminga for her splendid collection of recollections about the heyday of Northwoods resorts. She has caused a flood of memories of some of the best times of my life. In the 1940s and '50s, for my family, Up North was a magical, almost mythical place where we spent three weeks every summer. We always stayed at Ross' Teal Lake Lodge. The cabins and lodge were rustic and simple, perfect for Up North and so different from our home in Madison. Here the air seemed fresher and the sky seemed bluer." (Howard Mead, former editor of Wisconsin Trails magazine) A 2012 Midwest Connections Pick from Midwest Independent Booksellers Association

Marnie O. Mamminga has vacationed every summer on Big Spider Lake near Hayward, Wisconsin. Born and raised in the Chicago area, she attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she earned undergraduate and master's degrees in English. Over the years she raised three sons, taught junior high and high school English, and worked as a freelance writer and columnist. Her publishing credits include the Chicago Tribune, Reader's Digest, the Christian Science Monitor, Lake Superior Magazine, and several Chicken Soup for the Soul books. She has been married to her high school sweetheart for more than forty years and is so very grateful that her grandchildren love the Northwoods as much as she does.

This book really brings back memories! I enjoyed going on vacations to Wisconsin with my family the the 1950's and 1960's, especially in the Hayward area. I actually spent alot of time near, Spider Lake where "Moody camp" was located. I would have loved to stay at a resort like that, where there was such closeness between the owners and guests. I can also relate to all of the excitement that goes with the vacations, from the planning of the trip to the actual loading the car and driving to the findal destination. I really enjoyoyed this book, and I highly recommend it.

this book took place during my pre-teenage and teenage years and it just took me right along for the ride. We didn't have a cabin in the northwoods, but we visited Lake Geneva often and camped out. It was a much safer and simpler time. As I read the book, I found a paragraph that made me sit and

stop and re-read -"If I were to have my choice of chairs in heaven, the dock is where you'd find me. In fact, when I sit on the dock and watch the sun rise, or follow the sweep of cloud patterns across a blue sky or catch sight of stars shooting through the milky way, I feel like I am already there."When you are able to slow down and enjoy nature and what it has to offer, there's nothing else like it and we've become so desensitized to the bird's calling and fish splashing and clouds and rain and stars....all thanks to the technological age that has us all wrapped up and away from all that the outside world still has to offer. Thanks to the author for sharing her wonderful story with us all.

My parents were from Hayward, but I only lived there during my father's one-year "tours" in Vietnam and a summer during college. I had never stayed in a cabin until last year when two of my sisters and I decided it was time to go back, five years after our father's funeral (both parents are buried in Greenwood Cemetery). Our vacation in the northwoods wilderness was magical and so relaxing, even though our cabin did have television and other modern conveniences (we had to go into town to get internet access, but it didn't seem urgent). I could really relate to the paragraphs about shopping on Main Street. We didn't mind the long walk into town, and we could spend hours wandering through the stores. So reading this book made me want to get in a time machine and go back in time. Last year was such a revelation about having a strong connection with nature and not being so "wired" all the time. My dream would be to live in the northwoods in the summer and some place warm in the winter. Thank you, Mrs. Mamminga, for this beautifully written memoir.

Trips to the tiny town of Princeton, Wisconsin started my love of Wisconsin get-aways, but since I was a newlywed, many long years ago, trips to the North Woods captured my heart from the get-go. While my experience was very different from Marnie Mamminga's, there are many parallels. She deftly drew the car trips, fishing and other adventures, community that flourished for so many years, outside the cabin door. The close connection of generations within her family. Well paced, but this memoir had a dreamy feel as it took readers on a journey to the author's past. Everyone I knew with a summer home in their experience absolutely related and, like me, loved this book. Touched by the vivid recollections and imagery. Thanks. Loved the photos, simply lovely.

I noticed this book for sale at a local northern Wisconsin bookstore a couple years ago. I finally purchased and read it in 3 days. I was drawn to the subject matter because my own family has come up from the Chicago area to Northern Wisconsin since the 1920s themselves. While I am too young to have lived the golden area of resorts, reading this gave me a great peak back into history, as life

was up there in the summers my grandfather and my mothers were up there in their modest family cabin with no electricity or plumbing. The beauty the author carefully described reminds me to savor the sunrises and sunsets and family was I make my trek up there with my own family once again this upcoming summer. I promise to avoid the tv more at night as well as my phone and sit on the dock to enjoy the wonderful blessing it is to be in the clean air surrounded by quiet waters and amazing skies.

I LOVED this book! I had just finished "The Big House" (also available through ) which I also LOVED. I had such nostalgic feelings from my childhood of spending time in Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan when I was reading "The Big House" even though it takes place on Cape Cod. I was listening to NPR and Marnie was on talking about her book called "Return to Wake Robin" about a cabin in Northern Wisconsin! I new this was a sign for me to read it so, I instantly ordered it and WOW I felt like I was back at age 10 fishing with my grandpa, or age 12 swimming in the inner tubes with my grandma over to a neighbors dock on the lake. It was wonderful to go back in time and feel that again. I am 51 years old now and I too shed a tear when Marnie said goodbye to the cabin for one more year because I know the feeling. Sadly my grandparents cottage is no longer standing. What a wonderful book to bring back special memories :)

For three reasons this book is special to me:1. For several summers in my early growing up, my grandfather took us to Rutger's Bay Lake Lodge in MN. It might as well have been Moody's twin...tho we played Bingo instead of Square Dancing.2. It brought back memories of a simpler time of families sharing special times...Marnie describes them perfectly.3. But, most honestly, I truly enjoyed this because, I grew up with the Oatmans in Aurora, IL. Nancy, Marnie's husband David, and friend Jackie and I were the same age, went to the same church, and schools. Her Mom, Woody, was one of my most cherished Girl Scout leaders and I could truly relate to this beautiful tribute. I am grateful to Marnie for providing this intimate memoir growing up in the 50s and 60s.

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