

Dear Scott,

All my life I have lived by a philosophy of “bloom where you are planted.” Never was this more true than when we moved to Spirit Lake condos on the White River 20 years ago. Over the last 20 years I have really tried to bloom where I was planted by working with the Spirit Lake environs on invasive plant management, Canada Goose remediation, and various other projects to enhance the wildlife habitat at Spirit Lake. Since I began, a community neighborhood organization, Moratt Island Community Association, has developed. We now have friendly neighbors up and down the river.

I am unable to continue in the physical meaningful ways that I have. It is time for somebody else take over that job. Thinking about how to continue to bloom where I have been planted, I find a main aspect to that could be a financial gift. I assess that your organization, Friends of the White River, will best shepherd and develop a financial investment in a meaningful way, including using funds to recruit, educate, and collaborate, and help plan and implement plans to enhance wildlife habitat, human enjoyment and access of the river, and preserve forever the gorgeous, magnificent Golden Eagles, Heron rookeries, and Great Horned Owl enclaves on the North and South Spirit Lake property boundaries; and for the neighboring property owners and residents that abide within this area. I envision these funds to be used to continue the work within your Streamside Steward workshops by including other property owners and collaborators or, if you choose, to make it part of a larger/different type program that identifies, recruits, and educates those who are committed to the stewardship of the Marrott Island neighborhood area of the White River.

This gift, used to establish the “Bloom Where You Are Planted Fund” for the Friends of the White River, will be used to help others start where they are, use what they have, do what they can to help their environment, and bloom where they are planted.

I am working with my financial advisor and family to determine the most efficient and expedient means for you to receive this gift of \$100,000. I would like these funds to be used evenly in a 50/50 split between Marrot Island and the areas up-river of the island.

Additional clarifications as to how these funds should be used may occur over email with either myself or my son, Terry Durkin.

Still Blooming,
Mary Durkin