

“Landscapes and Kaleidoscopes” (a series of pictures taken from the land)

There is a farm in west Georgia. It has been in my wife, Lauran’s, family for a number of generations. It has always been a working farm where cotton, soy beans and peanuts were raised. It originally belonged to their mother’s family and is now owned by she and her brothers and sisters. Part of the land was once planted in pine trees. And the remainder was planted with Long Leaf pines in recent years. The family is making an effort to return the land to its more natural state, the way it was before agriculture. There are woods to wonder, three ponds to fish (and just enjoy looking at), and a baptismal pool that is nearly a hundred years old. We go there and camp and visit one another, regularly.

At first I did not find the place to be particularly interesting. I didn’t know how to appreciate its aesthetic subtleties. I felt like the student in a photography course who has been given the assignment to take a hundred pictures on the way to class today, but claims s/he is unable to do so because there is nothing to take pictures of; there is nothing to look at, nothing to see. But over time I have come to develop an appreciation of the land and its natural appeal. I never before considered myself a nature photographer, but have come to appreciate many of the naturally occurring aspects of the farm, especially in their relationship to various qualities of light, sun rise to sun set, over the range of changing climates and seasons.

“Landscapes and Kaleidoscopes” is based on the experience of looking, then looking again, and again still. It is about a devotion to seeing the unseen, recording it and presenting it so that others might enjoy, and also see.

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