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## “Beavering”

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Spring is approaching. The beavers have left a single stick about a meter long across the pond outlet, marking their intentions. “No mud yet, but we are back.” Like humans, beavers do not hibernate; they have spent the winter hunkered down in a warm lodge of their devising, a pair mated for life packed in with several kits and yearlings and the occasional muskrat, safe from predators. Now the long winter of mating and living on stockpiled branches is ending. We humans (my husband and I) pull the stick from the water and toss it aside. Our annual dance with the beavers has begun: for eight months, April through November, we perform a *Castor pas de deux*. (From the article)

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2024 Mary Beth LaDow



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