

Happy December!

Christine and I would like to invite all of you to a **Redefining Green** gathering on Thursday, January 29th at 7pm at the City of Dublin Service Complex. Please save the date!

One of my favorite snow memories is from my college years. I was in a rounded, campus room encircled by large windows. Very large snowflakes were falling outside and I felt surreal, as if I were the stationary figure in a snow globe. Huge flakes were gently settling to the ground. Needless to say, I spent more time staring out the window than studying. Although this was more than 15 years ago, I still recall the comforting feeling of Earth being blanketed.

Snow has several affects on the landscape. It definitely highlights features and disguises the grays and browns of winter. Trees can suddenly have attire covering their bark that is different from the lost, fall leaves. The darkness of evergreens or bark is unexpectedly contrasted and soft white caps make edges softer and rounder.

I think we've all experienced the calmness after a snowfall too. I'm at a loss of words to explain, but it's one of my favorite wintertime feelings. There's something about being blanketed in snow that hints at this comfort and calmness, but still doesn't capture the physical sensation.

In addition to visual changes in the landscape, a blanket of snow also changes winter acoustics. Sounds are not absorbed and travel faster over frozen ground. However, accumulated snow absorbs sound making the outside world seem more quiet and in my opinion, calmer.

The insulating affects of snow also keep homes cozy for humans and other animals. Unique and intricate snow flakes trap air as they pile up. Small pockets of trapped air lead to a lack of circulation, therefore keeping heat from escaping our homes. Snow is a terrible conductor and great insulator.

Of course all of the experiences I've talked of do not involve wind. The presence of wind can completely change a snowfall, taking away the calm, but perhaps adding excitement. Blustery winds made a return trip from Holmes County very difficult this past weekend. A fun day of tree cutting and Amish stores ended with a slow ride on snow covered roads. The snow was falling heavily, but blustery winds kept the roads covered and visibility low. Yep, winds definitely change the feeling of snowfall and I admit that although the trip was long it was exciting to be out in the snow.

Over 70 percent of snowfall occurs in December, January, and February in the United States. Central Ohio receives an average of 28 inches a year, with January being our snowiest month. This is far less than Rochester, NY, the snowiest city, averaging 94 inches a year! The National Snow and Ice Data center reports that most locations in the United States have seen snow, even areas in Southern Florida! Wow!

I guess we can't escape it. We'll just have to hope for the calming affect of a blanketing snow to warm our hearts on cold mornings and for Dublin's plow truck drivers to continue their great work! Here's hoping your holidays are blanketed in love, peace and happiness. Christine and I hope each of you has time with loved ones and the feeling of comfort and peace that a soft fallen snow evokes.

Fondly,  
Mime