

Cabin owners recall many decades of fond family memories

Some Lake of the Woods cabins have been in families for generations

People who have enjoyed cabins at Lake of the Woods have invested more than money. For many, it's an investment of memories.

David Drew was a young boy when his late father, Frank, bought their family's cabin in 1953. He, his brother and two sisters spent large portions of summers learning to swim, water ski and enjoy the outdoors.

For many years, his father was in charge of the annual Fourth of July fireworks display. After his death, the task was taken over by David's brother, also named Frank.

"There are just all kinds of childhood memories and traditions," Drew said.

Brad Aspell's family bought its cabin, which had been built by his mother's father, in 1960.

"From 1960 on, our family spent summers at Lake of the Woods," he said. "When I graduated from high school in Southern California I realized that (Lake of the Woods) was a place I wanted to be from," which led to him attending college and law school in Oregon and joining a Klamath Falls law firm.

"My wife was raised at the Lake of the Woods," he said of Susie, whose parents bought their cabin in the early 1930s. "I met her there."

The Aspells, who have three grown children, frequently spent weekends at the cabin.

"It is virtually our sole recreation," Aspell said. "It is a place we all come together. It is a place that is irreplaceable to all of us."