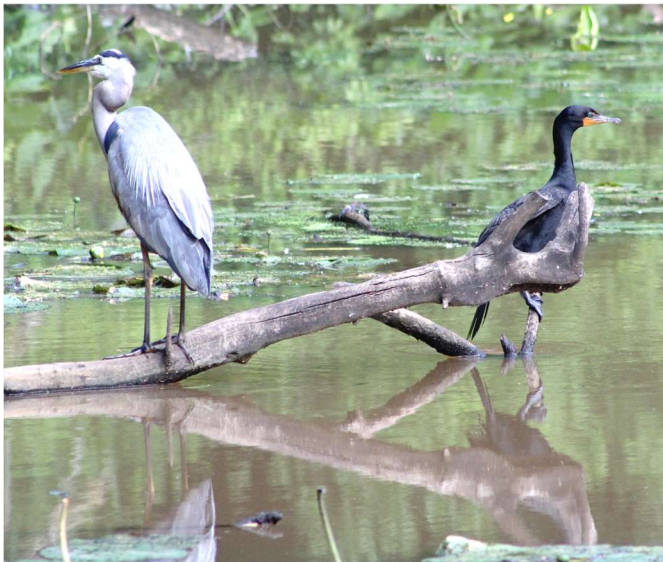




**From a train speeding by, a moment in time briefly seen;  
The nearby beach pristine, now empty and clean;  
In the distance sailboats navigate, 'neath a clouded sky;  
Gives pause to ponder and reflect, even as life races by.**



**Standing watch on the shore of life's gentle flow;  
Feeling exposed and unprotected from nature's course;  
Rooted firmly in the boundary 'tween land and water;  
Bolstered by visions of colorful covers that remain;  
A lone sentinel standing patiently strong  
Until fresh growth emerges anew.**



### **Upon Entering 2023**

**Looking forward, looking backward, pause to reflect;  
Changing calendars, the year's number advances;  
Ponder lessons past, aspire to shape the future;  
Savor times of transition to strengthen the now.**



**Evening out the colors of day now at end:  
Softening vision as earth and heavens blend;  
Traces of day remain with entrance of night;  
The dark sky yet will flow with sparkling might;  
Nature's glorious cycle on the mind is pressed;  
Offering hopes and dreams at the time for rest.**