MENOMONIE — For many years Warren Lang and his family traveled to the shore of Lake Superior, enjoying the beauty of the largest Great Lake.

Then, seven or eight years ago, Lang and wife, Marion, started visiting Rocky Run, a cove on the shore of the lake near Washburn, for one or two weeks at a time.

"It's so relaxing and so beautiful," Lang said of Rocky Run. "It's so easy to write there."

That location served as the writing site for Lang's recently self-published collection of poems, "Floating Moon, Starry Lake."
"It's just a magical place for me," Lang, 69, a retired UW-Stout English and Eastern philosophy professor, said of being on the shore of Lake Superior. "It's beautiful. It's always changing. There is an atmosphere it creates."

The poems are largely contemplative, Lang said, and reflect the beauty and power of Lake Superior.

Lang is a Buddhist and his work is influenced by his beliefs about living mindfully and meditatively. One poem, titled "The Heart Sutra At Lake Superior," is based on Buddhist text.

Menomonie poet Pat Zontelli said Lang's book is a joy to read. 

"Inspired by the landscape of the Lake Superior area, Lang's spare and beautifully crafted poems are written in a state of mindfulness and meditation, capturing both the subtlety and magic of nature," she said.

Zontelli encourage Lang to publish his poems.

"He's an accomplished writer and has been honing his craft for years," she said. "It was time for him to get more of his poems into the hands and hearts of readers."

The book is completely a local effort. Lang's son, Dan, also of Menomonie, designed the book's cover and text style. West Wind Graphics of Menomonie printed Lang's work.

Lang plans to publish two or three more poetry books, although future poems likely will feature more prose, he said. He said he also may publish other poets under the Floating Moon Press imprint.

Lang's poetry has been published in several journals and in the anthology "The Party Train: A Collection of North American Prose Poetry."

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Warren Lang's poetry book "Floating Moon, Starry Lake" is available in Menomonie at Bookends on Main, 214 Main St. E.; and Mike's Art & Design, 105 E. Main St.; and in Downsville at Simply Dunn, E4606 Highway C. The book costs $10.

He will read from his collection from 2-4 p.m. Saturday at Simply Dunn Schoolhouse in Downsville.