

MEADOW MARSH TRAIL RE-OPENS

Peter Beblowski

June 3, 2017, the day of the re-opening of the Meadow Marsh Trail, was misty and overcast, but fifteen people showed up at the trailhead on Craig Road to see what was happening. They were all friendly and enthusiastic. New signs and a box containing a notebook for comments and occasionally a trail guide and map were well received.

A recent addition to the trail guide is a listing of some of the shrubs and wildflowers that have been observed along the trail. Two of the shrubs are Striped Maple and Hobblebush. Striped Maple, also known as Moosewood, is a small tree that most frequently only achieves the size of a shrub with striped upright stems and branches. Hobblebush has white flowers (sometimes pink) in spring and red berries changing to purple in fall, and it too is commonly known as Moosewood. The reason both these trees and shrubs are known as Moosewood is that they are both a common and favorite browse for moose and deer, especially in winter. Hobblebush is also a host plant for caterpillars of the beautiful spring azure butterfly. Or you may be lucky enough to see a porcupine browsing on Striped Maple bark.

Along the trail numerous Lily relatives may be found: Yellow blue-bead lily, Canada Mayflower, Indian Cucumber Root, Feathery False Solomon's Seal, Hairy Solomon's Seal and two types of Trillium. Both Painted and Purple Trillium were found along the trail this spring. Purple Trillium has also been called "Wet Dog Trillium" because of its odor, which it uses to attract flies and beetles for pollination. Painted trillium has a somewhat different, but not much nicer to us, odor. Trillium seeds have attached structures that ants like to eat. Ants collect them and carry them into their underground nests, where the larvae eat the nutritious attached structures and leave the seeds to germinate.

Fall is an exciting time in the marsh. Over the past several years a number of hawks have been observed flying over either the marsh to the west of Holt Hill or the large marsh commonly referred to as the Bald Basin. The Bald Basin is the large wetland complex at the base of Bald, Robb, and Willard Mountains and Tuttle Hill. Broad-winged, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Rough-legged and Sharp-shinned Hawks have all been seen in the area. Fall is also a fabulous time to observe all sorts of waterfowl. Herons, kingfishers, and numerous types of ducks, including Black, Bufflehead, Canvasback, Goldeneye, Merganser, Mallard, and Pintail, have all been seen in the fall in the marsh.

A copy of the Audubon Field Guides to North American Birds and North American Wildflowers will be placed in the box at the trailhead by the Antrim Conservation Commission. Please feel free to use them when out on the trail and return them when your adventure on the trail is complete. ☞



ANTRIM'S 14TH HOME & HARVEST FESTIVAL

Fri – Sat • Sept 15–16

Rick Davis

This year's festival is going to be very exciting. Our town always looks forward to enjoying the many different events that we have lined up. Lots of new stuff, starting off Friday night at 5:00 with a FREE ice cream social and some of our own talented musicians entertaining us, followed by Home and Harvest Karaoke Challenge at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. We still need contestants. Also FREE roller skating to a DJ at GBS from 7–9 p.m.

Saturday, more than any other day of the whole year, Antrim is packed with energy and excitement as crafters show off their talents. The Historical Society sells some of the best apple crisp you will ever eat! This year's fun and games are all new, exciting and FREE thanks to all our generous sponsors. Another NEW and special event is a Virtual Reality Demo, put on by our very own John Anderson and Rag Doll Productions. It should be fun for all ages. Our parade is always filled with fun and adventure. Batman and the Batmobile will be in it and available after the parade for pictures. Not too late for you to get your float in.

Saturday night the Lions Club puts on a barbecue, while we enjoy the classic music of the Bursitis Brothers. Atlas Fireworks will put on our best show ever at 8 p.m. I can't believe we have been bringing Home and Harvest to our town for fourteen years. I am so thankful to all our volunteers and sponsors who given so much time and money to make Antrim's Home and Harvest Festival "Nothing Like It." ☞



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