

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Peter Beblowski, Chair
Antrim Conservation Commission

The Antrim Conservation Commission, along with the Antrim 2020 Trails of Antrim group, cordially invites the public to join them on June 3 for National Trails Day. Both Antrim groups have collaborated this spring to rehabilitate the Meadow Marsh Trail for this event.

Meadow Marsh Trail is an easy scenic hike through several town-owned properties adjacent to Craig Road and the former Hattie Brown Road, north of Gregg Lake. The trail begins in mature beech-hemlock forest and proceeds north along the edge of the wet meadow/peatland between Craig Road and Holt Hill. It is a great place to bird watch. Peatlands are special environmental habitats that are very vulnerable to changes in water flow and the level of the groundwater table. To find out more about peatlands, please check out <https://extension.unh.edu/Peatlands>. Red-winged blackbirds, mallard ducks, kingfishers, phoebes and herons frequent the marsh. Signs of bear, deer, moose, raccoon,



beaver and otter can be found in the woods, along with trillium, wintergreen, partridge-berry, Indian cucumber root and starflower. White pine, birch, beech, hemlock and red oak fill the woods. High-bush blueberry, witch hazel and striped maple contribute to the understory. Large boulders and old foundations can also be found along the trail.

National Trails Day is held each year on the first Saturday of June. The American Hiking Society and the trails community invite everyone of all ages to get out into the great outdoors and find their own adventure. National Trails Day is the only nationally coordinated event that has the goal of connecting people with trails. Please join us out on the Meadow Marsh Trail on June 3. There will be a Conservation Commission or Trails of Antrim member there between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. ☐

LIL FELLA

Susan Ellsworth

One day, while on her way home from school, Liz saw city workers cutting down a tree on the street where she lived. There were tree pieces of all sizes lying on the ground. The men were taking a break so she walked over to the tree to get a closer look. Suddenly she saw something move. There, near a nest, was a baby squirrel. He was bleeding from the nose and moved very little. Liz remembered she had saved a cookie from lunch in a napkin. She quickly took it out of her pocket and ate it so she could use the napkin to pick up and wrap the injured squirrel in it. He was still bleeding from his nose and barely had his eyes open. She knew what she had to do. This was a job for Mother. Liz would bring the baby home to her. Mother would know what to do to help the little fellow. She loved all animals and would offer the best chance for the little baby. Liz walked quickly into the house.

"Mother, Mother, come quickly! I have an injured baby squirrel and he needs your help," she said. Mother came into the kitchen to find Liz, who carefully opened the napkin. There lay the helpless little furry ball with the red nose. Liz told Mother about the men cutting down the tree and how she found the baby squirrel. He barely opened his eyes to see what was going on. Mother told Liz they needed to get the old bird cage they had used for injured animals they had helped in the past.

Then the twins were coming in the door from school and telling Mother of the cut-down tree. They saw the baby squirrel and were excited to hear how Liz found the little fellow. Mother asked Donnie to get the bird cage and the family worked as a team under Mother's directions. Suzie got an old hood from her out-grown jacket for a bed, Donnie got some clean wood shavings from his hamster's supplies to put in the cage and Liz filled the water bottle attached to the side of the bird cage. Mother got some swabs to clean the squirrel's bloody nose and then offered him some clean warm water with a salt and sugar mixture in a tiny baby bottle. Mother had bought the small baby bottle to have on

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