

Conservation Corner

Peter Beblowski, Chair
Antrim Conservation Commission

In the fall and early winter, we all have chores we complain about. One of the chores people complain most about is picking up leaves. Whether we rake them up or blow them into piles to be picked up, it is generally a chore we would rather not do. At some point the question is asked: What is the purpose of all these leaves or what are leaves good for?

Well, among plants, trees are exceptionally important transmitters of water vapor into the atmosphere. Trees are a very significant component of the system known as the water cycle, which is crucial to the health of the planet. This is something we all learned in school and probably forgot.

The surface area of our planet is mostly ocean (approximately 78%). The planet is made habitable on land by water that is fresh. In fact only 3% of the planet's water is fresh and most of that is contained in the frozen polar ice caps. If the water cycle relied only on evaporation from the oceans to transmit moisture to the atmosphere, then rain would only fall in a relatively thin strip of land approximately 150 to 200 miles from the oceans, and the vast interior of continents would be desert.

The reason this does not happen is that trees transmit water to the atmosphere through the process of evapotranspiration. What this simply means is that trees transmit a tremendous amount of water vapor to the atmosphere, and this occurs primarily through their leaves. Did you know that an average large tree transmits approximately 100 gallons of water per day to the atmosphere through the amazingly large surface area of its leaves? This is why forests tend to be cool places to hike on a hot summer day. In fact, a typical acre of mature forest can contain more than 1,000 acres of leaf surface area! That same acre of mature forest also provides enough oxygen in one year for eighteen people.

Trees are great indicators of the seasons and they filter dust out of the air and absorb pollutant gases by trapping them on their leaves and bark. Trees provide very important habitat for many diverse types of wildlife. Trees and their leaves are essential in keeping our planet moist and habitable. Think about this when you are picking up all those leaves. And maybe give a tree a hug, if no one is watching. ❁

Food Pantry Thanks

The staff at the Antrim Bennington Food Pantry want to thank all those who make contributions to our community's food pantry this time of year. From the door-to-door collections by the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, to the schools, local businesses, and individuals sending in a donation, we all work together to reach out to those who need a meal. Thank you so much!

Rev. Charles Boucher

Planning Board

Ashley Brudnick-Destromp
Assistant to the Land Use Boards

Let me introduce myself: I am Ashley Brudnick-Destromp, your new Assistant to the Land Use Boards. I was hired in late August. My husband and I moved to New Hampshire from Haverhill, Massachusetts, after our son was born, looking for a better upbringing for him. We found the Town of Antrim and fell in love with the scenic roads, the farmhouses, and the history.



As the assistant to both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment, I am the first contact person you will speak with in the office when you need information and direction for questions around our zoning, ordinances, town maps, lot line adjustments, sub-divisions, the various applications and fees and other land-use issues. I act as a resource person and work closely with Carol Ogilvie, Antrim's Planning Board Consultant, and Dario Carrara, the Town Building Inspector. You can get your building permit applications from me.

My office hours are Monday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday–Thursday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. I also attend and take the minutes for the Planning Board meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. Feel free to stop in and say, "Hello!" I look forward to meeting and assisting you. You can also reach me by phone at 588-6785, ext. 246, or email me at antrimplan2@tds.net. ❁

Free Community Suppers

Dec 20 • Jan 17 • Feb 21

5:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church, 73 Main St, Antrim