

Woman in the Woods

Susan Smith

Have you ever come upon orphaned or injured wildlife and wondered what to do or who to contact? Before attempting to rescue or come in contact with any wildlife species, your first step should be to either contact NH Fish & Game at 271-3361 if you find a deer, moose, or bear, or locate a NH-licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator for other species, such as small mammals, birds, raptors, turtles, etc. NH Fish & Game provides a list of licensed NH Wildlife Rehabilitators along with their contact information, location, and permitted species to rehabilitate on their website at <https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/rehabilitators.html>.

I'm from Bennington, and am one of the NH Wildlife Rehabilitators listed on the NH Fish & Game website. I'm permitted for small mammal species such as squirrels, bunnies, chipmunks, and skunks. It was my childhood dream to work with animals, and in 1990 I had an opportunity to volunteer for a licensed NH Wildlife Rehabilitator in Keene. After five years of training to care for small mammals, along with assistance in setting up my own facility, I obtained my license in 1995 and recently was reactivated in 2018.

NH Wildlife Rehabilitators are volunteers who are trained to provide specialized care to wildlife. We do not receive any reimbursement from NH Fish & Game, so donations from the public help aid us in providing food, medications, medical treatment, cages, and other items for their care. We are also required to have a veterinarian willing to treat our injured wildlife before applying for a license.

Being a Wildlife Rehabilitator has been very satisfying—knowing how to provide care, watching them grow, then having the opportunity to release them back into their natural habitat. At times it can also be difficult—with illness or serious injuries, when rehabilitation is not an option. Being professionally trained in providing care to wildlife is essential, as, for instance, feeding the incorrect milk replacement or food can cause serious illness and possibly death. Their digestive systems are fragile and the best thing you can do

to help them is contact someone who is trained. New Hampshire requires a license to rehabilitate wildlife, and currently there are over twenty throughout the state who are trained to respond to wildlife calls.

Recently I was informed of a fawn that was behind a property on Main Street in Antrim and learned that someone found it earlier that morning and moved it to another location. It was placed back in the area where the mother had left it and later that day she did return for it. If you come across a fawn that appears to be abandoned, remember that a doe will leave a fawn for short periods of time during the day while she feeds and will return for it later, so it is important not to move it from where she left it. If it has been there for a longer period of time, Fish & Game should be contacted.

So the next time you come upon any wildlife that you believe is orphaned or appears to be injured, contact a NH Wildlife Rehabilitator in your area or call NH Fish & Game. We are trained to assist you in getting the right care.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy day to help any animal, as many times you are the first step in getting them care.

Feel free to contact me at NHWildlifeRescue@gmail.com.



Gregg Lake Watershed Management Plan

Joan Gorga

We're making good progress toward developing a watershed management plan for Gregg Lake. Heartfelt thanks go out to the twenty people who participated in our Water Quality Advisory Committee meeting in June, during which we reviewed water quality data gathered over the past forty years and set a goal of restoring Gregg Lake's water quality to a level that removes it from the state's list of impaired waters. This will require reducing sediment and pollutants being carried into the lake with stormwater runoff and shoreline erosion, as well as controlling the amount of material stirred up from the lake bottom. We'll also need to consider pollutants, including plant nutrients, entering the lake through aging nearby septic systems. We've identified a number of areas where erosion is having an impact on Gregg Lake's water quality, grouped them into discrete projects and begun to lay out an action plan for restoring our lake. We'll hold a public meeting this fall to present our action plan to the Town.



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