

In Search of the Dream Catchers

A CALEB & WEBSTER ADVENTURE

Susan Ellsworth

It was different times now. People were staying inside their homes, not visiting others like before. Some were working from home, schools were closed and children were attending school from their computers. Caleb was not sure he liked this, but Webster did. He enjoyed more time with his superhero.

Caleb missed his grandma and grandpa visiting him. He didn't like it that people were getting sick and having to go to the hospital. It was scary. He didn't get to go grocery shopping with Mom like before, either. He missed being able to put his favorite snacks into the shopping cart when Mom wasn't looking. He

✍️ — continued on page 6

Get Your Hands Dirty and Feel the Joy

Peter Beblowski, Conservation Commission

Hello all from the Conservation Corner:

With all that is going on these days there has been a great resurgence of people taking up vegetable gardening. This resurgence is due to the fear of food shortages because of the coronavirus pandemic, as well as the fact that people are home more and find they may have the time for a garden this year. In the twentieth century, there were two periods when home and community vegetable gardening became exceptionally popular—Victory Gardens were established during each of the two World Wars. Today, Victory Gardens are springing up all over the place, and many people are looking for guidance because they have little or no vegetable gardening experience.

There are a number of excellent local resources to go to when starting out in gardening. Local businesses, such as Edmunds, Tenney Farm and Agway, have a great deal of knowledge, experience and supplies to help both new and experienced gardeners. The UNH Extension Service has an exceptional web presence and provides up-to-date information at their website and at their “Ask UNH Extension” forums for both new and ex-

✍️ — continued on page 4



Santa came to Antrim in late April and collected over \$1700-worth of donations in money and non-perishable goods for the Antrim & Bennington Food Pantry. Rumor has it that he also consumed some cookies brought by elves Sue and John Conklin.

Festival of Trees...We Need a Little Christmas

Kristy Boulé

We need a little Christmas, right this very minute...

When the likelihood of a cancellation for this year's Festival of Trees was first presented to me a couple of months ago, I was taken aback. Surely our current situation will have improved and progressed toward a new normal that wouldn't require the disruption of *EVERYTHING*. Surely, we'll need to come together even more now. Surely our community will need a little raising up. And surely, we'll want to show that we've come through this and celebrate all that we are. Sadly the only thing we're sure of is that from now on, things will surely be different.

Faced with the reality of this pandemic threatening to upend our world for another year or more, the prospect of cancelling our

✍️ — continued on page 10

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— SUBMISSIONS —

The Limrik welcomes submissions of articles, drawings, photographs, news and calendar items by, for and about the people of Antrim. Submission deadlines are February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Submissions should be no more than 1500 words in length and should be submitted in digital form as a Microsoft Word-compatible document attached to an email. Submissions should be sent by email to Joan Gorga at: editor@antrimlimrik.org. Call 588-2569 for more information or to discuss ideas.

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

The Limrik accepts letters to the editor of maximum length of 250 words. Publication is subject to the Editor's discretion. Email letters to Joan Gorga at: editor@antrimlimrik.org.

— WEBSITE —

www.antrimlimrik.org

The Antrim Baptist Church

Rev. Charles Boucher

We all live in a different world now, and it will be that way for a while because of this pandemic. But there is a lot of good in the midst of difficult times. We see it in people helping other people. We see it in the many generous folks who are dropping donations off for the Food Pantry. We can't thank folks enough for their kind hearts. Though we can't gather on Sunday morning for worship, we have been able to reach hundreds of people each week through our on-line option. We send out an email with the service and various videos that have been made during the week, filmed throughout our town, to help folks worship from afar. If you would like to get the weekly email just drop an email to abcantrim@gmail.com, and we'll be glad to send it your way.

We sadden to announce we have cancelled VBS this summer, an over 80-year tradition in our town. We look forward to life returning back to normal, but in the meantime, we forge ahead to serve our community in other ways. ❀

The Conservation Commission sends out special thanks to the person who installed the wonderful new wood duck nesting boxes in the area around Hattie Brown Brook.

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First Impressions of a Rookie ConVal School Board Member

Steve Ullman

Somebody Is Probably Better Than Nobody. So how did I get elected? Was it an otherworldly display of political charisma? Not exactly. After nine years of meritorious service on the board, Crista Salamy decided to retire. (Crista, the entire community is greatly in your debt for your extraordinary dedication to Antrim's schoolchildren.) Several people whom I respect asked me to consider running. My initial response was that someone younger and more directly connected to Antrim schools should come forward. My reluctance came, in part, because I felt insufficiently attached to ConVal schools.

Little Personal Connection to ConVal. My only previous direct contact with Antrim schools occurred in September, 1955, (see why I hoped somebody younger would run?) when my parents decided that starting school from my grandfather's Smith Road apple farm was more judicious than returning to Belmont Junior High. Surely, in Antrim I could not get polio. However, a Massachusetts frost intervened and my Antrim plans were abandoned.

A Fallback Position on Running. A few days into the February filing period, I signed up to run. But I had a fallback position. I arranged to call Brenda at the district office every few days to see if anybody else had declared. If someone had, I arranged to withdraw. For good or for ill, no one did and so I was elected against zero competition.

Two Unparalleled Achievements. My first ConVal Board meeting took place on the ominous date of Friday, March 13th. It turned out to be an officially designated "emergency meeting." Out of the proverbial "abundance of caution," the Board voted to physically shut down the eleven ConVal schools and to institute distance and online learning. The next day the Tuttle Library Trustees (whom I chair) opted to close for several weeks. So, in the period of only two days, I took part in pulling the plug on two of Antrim's most significant cultural institutions. Doubtlessly a singular feat.

✍ — continued on page 4

Select Board

Mike Genest

Hello from your Select Board. In this time of crisis we have taken many measures at our government buildings to keep our employees and residents safe throughout the State of Emergency. Most town business is now conducted via email or drop box or by appointment. We have taken measures to provide social distancing at the Transfer Station by allowing only one person at a time in the recycling structure. Most committees and boards are meeting virtually via Zoom. We wish to thank all residents for working together in these unusual times so that everyone remains safe.

We were fortunate to be able to hold town meeting prior to the State of Emergency. All proposed warrant articles passed. As part of our continuing bridge replacement program, the High Street Bridge was approved. New breathing apparatus and an exhaust extraction system for the fire department as well as a new police cruiser and an upgrade to the highway department radios rounded out the warrant articles. Funding for most of these warrant articles is coming from the capital reserve funds. Fortunately, the Select Board has been building up capital reserve funds over the last several years, and with a healthy fund balance, the town is in a sound financial position to address issues as they arise.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, we will be on the way to better times. We hope you and your families are healthy and well. ❀

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Report

Diane Chauncey

The Town Hall has been closed to the public since March 23, but the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office has continued on. All requests that have been submitted Monday thru Thursday from 8 a.m.– 4 p.m. have been dealt with. Most requests (motor vehicle registrations, vital requests, dog licensing, Fish & Game licensing) are processed and sent out the same day via US Mail. (Residents need to include a self-addressed stamped envelope.) Most residents are very understanding that the best way to deal with requests is via US Mail or the Drop Box (to the left of the Town Hall front door).

Instructions for renewing a registration are on the renewal mailer that all residents receive before their birthday month. If a "new to you vehicle" has been purchased, instructions are on the www.antrimnh.org website. Although some residents think that their requests should be dealt with immediately or maybe yesterday, from Monday–Thursday this office is doing its best to accommodate. Registrations are processed in the order in which they are submitted. Please call 603–588–6785 x 223 or x 225, and either Diane or Kathy will be ready to help you. ❀



We are committed to careful service during this critical time. **Stay safe.**

588-2442

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perienced gardeners: <https://extension.unh.edu/tags/vegetable-gardening-home> and <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/preparing-vegetable-garden-site>. Fact sheets at the Extension site provide good information on many topics, such as site selection, planning, ground preparation, fertilization, irrigation, weed control and harvesting. Solid guidance on container gardening and a whole long list of specific topics, including how to grow individual vegetables, diseases, and pest identification and control, are also provided.

Besides Extension, many seed companies—local, regional and national (High Mowing Seeds, Johnny’s Selected Seeds and Burpee’s, to name a few)—have excellent websites and provide a great deal of valuable information about their seeds and products both on their seed packets and at their websites. Any number of organizations, such as the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners (<https://www.mofga.org>), the National Gardening Association (<https://garden.org>) and the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens (<https://www.bbg.org/>) all have good information to provide.

Gardening can be done almost anywhere (in a back or side yard or in a pot on a patio or deck). It is a truly magical experience. You take a seemingly inanimate object (a seed) and place it in the ground (or in soil in a container) and you water it and, under the right set of temperature and sunlight conditions, it grows (becomes animated). The other thing it does is promote hope and joy. When you plant a seed you first hope it will grow and then, when it does, it brings joy when the plant produces either a beautiful flower or fruit. So if you are thinking about starting or enlarging your gardens, decide what plants you love the most (hopefully you can grow them here), go out and get your hands dirty, and feel the joy. ❀



Photo by Joan Gorga

Board Challenges: Acronyms. I initially had trouble deciphering the acronyms board members and ConVal officials used so effortlessly. What is a FACS? The NWEA? PowerSchool? An SLP/SPP? Over the past month and a half, I have become a little more fluent, but I still think ConVal should create an acronym glossary for the uninitiated.

Responding to COVID-19. During my next two board meetings (each of which lasted 4 ½ hours), I became fully aware of what a complex and unpredictable predicament the virus poses for the region’s schools. In the space of six weeks, teachers, administrators and school board members have been called to fundamentally transform our system of public education, a centuries-old institution. And we have had to do so under restrictive state and federal laws, edicts from state and federal Departments of Education, the country’s most meager level of state education aid, and a regressive local property tax.

In the face of these obstacles, our professional staff, teachers, and administrators have been extraordinarily inventive, flexible, and dedicated. *Limrik* readers can be rightfully proud.

Should you ever want to communicate with me about ConVal matters, please email me at stephenhullman@gmail.com or give me a call. ❀



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James A. Tuttle Library

Cindy Jewett

We hope everyone is safe. We are working behind the scenes and we are checking the phone and email for messages. Please call us for login information, or if you need help searching for information.

Please check our website—we have compiled a list of educational, cultural, and interesting links to expand your mind during our time apart. We update daily as some resources will only be available for a limited time. To access our website please go to <https://www.antrimnh.org/james-tuttle-library>.

We would like to hear from you. We are living through an historic event and we want to capture your stories. Each person's story adds a unique thread in recording this global event and we would like to hear yours. Please go to our website to fill out a survey. If you need help please give us a call at 588-6786.

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We offer two streaming services—Overdrive (books, audio books, and magazines) and Hoopla (books, audio books, comic books, films, and TV shows). Please call for login information, or if you need help.

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Did you know we have a wide variety of subscription databases? We have periodicals, encyclopedias, peer-reviewed journals, professional literature, health information, business information, *Consumer Reports*, magazines, and much, much more. Searching can be tricky at first, so please give us a call and we can walk you through the process. Call or email for login information. All of our databases can be accessed through our website.

Genealogy Research

We have two databases for genealogy research and both can be accessed from home. Please call us at 588-6786 for user name and password.

Ancestry Library Edition

We have this database available from home until May 31st. Ancestry delivers hundreds of millions of names from sources such as federal and U.S. censuses; birth, death,

and marriage records, including the Social Security Death Index; and U.S. border crossing and trans-ocean ship records. Log into the library catalog and click the icon to gain access.

Heritage Quest

Search thousands of family and local history books and the complete US Federal Census from 1790 to 1940. Census records can be searched by name, place of birth, age, ethnicity, and more. For remote access please call the library for user name and password.

We have temporary access to **Tumble Books**, **Tumble Math**, **Teen Book Cloud**, **Audio Book Cloud**, and **Romance Book Cloud**.

DID YOU KNOW?

Countryside and Small Stock Journal, a magazine of modern homesteading, is written for those that are actively involved in their country lifestyles. This publication features many articles covering every aspect of hobby farming and self-reliant living. We have in our collection *Countryside and Small Stock Journal* available 24/7 through EBSCO MasterFILE Premier from 1992–current. Call us for login information and how to locate this publication.

We also have MarketLine Company Profiles through EBSCO. MarketLine Company Profiles is divided into the following sections: overview, business description, history, company view, locations, products and services analysis, competitor analysis, SWOT analysis (strength, weakness, opportunities, and threats) and major products and services. Perfect for company and industry research and available 24/7. Just call for the login information.

Summer is right around the corner and we are preparing for Summer Reading. We will post the dates on Facebook, our website, and Instagram. We will have fun activities, including an International Peace Poster Contest from the Lions Club, so please sign up.

We hope to resume our curbside service on June 1st, so please give us a call, email to reserve materials, or log into our catalog to reserve. We will hold all of the materials for you. If you need help, or if you are looking for a new author to read, please give us a call and we will select some titles for you. Our book drop is open, so please drop off materials—we are not collecting any late fees at this time.

We know you miss reading and we cannot wait to resume circulating our materials. We are waiting for the Safe Material Handling Guidelines set forth by the Institute of Museum and Libraries Services (IMLS), Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), and the Battelle Company. Everyone in the library has taken the CDC webinar *Mitigating Covid-19 When Managing Paper-Based Circulating, and Other Types of Collections*. We are taking this virus very seriously and we want you to feel safe and comfortable using our library materials.

We are looking forward to seeing you. ❁



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knew she saw him but it was fun thinking she didn't for a while! He listened to the conversations about no toilet paper in the grocery stores and wondered why people would buy all the toilet paper up when there were plenty of other good things sold there. He would have taken candy bars or cookies. Maybe people had been eating too much fruit the week before!?

After breakfast one day it was time for school on the computer. Dad had already turned it on so it was ready for Caleb to start class. Miss Jaimie was his teacher this year, and she was going to read the class a story about dream catchers. She told them that this week they would be doing research online to find out more about dream catchers and what they were for. As she read the story to them Webster came over and sat at Caleb's side. It reminded Webster of when Dad read to Caleb at bedtime.

Caleb enjoyed the story and his mind started to drift when Miss Jaimie read it. He thought about what it may have been like to live in a Native American Tribe...what it was like to live and sleep in a tipi... He learned that tipis were easy to build and take down in case the tribes had to move. He learned they were designed to help keep the family warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

When the story was over, Caleb knew this would be a great project and couldn't wait to start. Just then the phone rang and it was Grandma Susan. Caleb was so happy to talk to her every day when she called to check in on the family, as most people who couldn't visit loved ones face-to-face did these days. Caleb and his family didn't want to take the chance of getting his grandparents sick, just in case. They loved them very much.

Caleb told Grandma about his school project and that he was excited to learn more about Native Americans and dream catchers. After talking a bit with Grandma, Mom reminded Caleb he needed to start his research project online. Caleb said goodbye to Grandma and had a quick lunch and play time with Webster outside in the yard, and then it was back to work. He put the words *dream catcher* into the web page and couldn't believe all the information available.

As Caleb read on he learned dream catchers were believed to protect children and babies of the tribe from bad dreams. A dream catcher would trap bad dreams in its web and only let the good dreams rain down on the children sleeping below. The spider woman, or spiritual woman of the tribe, was the protector of the women and children. As tribes moved and got bigger it was harder for the spider woman to protect everyone, so legend has it that she created the dream catcher

to protect those who were far away. The dream catcher name comes from the word spider in the Ojibwe Native American language. The spider woman took willow tree branches and made a circle, then created a web and added feathers and beads to make them all different. Mothers and grandmothers now make them for the children. Someone is supposed to make one for you. You can have a little input in color of beads, feathers or materials hanging down that trickle the good dreams down on you when you sleep.

Caleb was suddenly feeling warmer, and he could hear birds, then children laughing and playing. He looked at the computer screen and saw Native American children playing about an area with tipis. Next he was in the picture with Webster. They were in their superhero Native American-style outfits. He had beaded leather moccasins, leather short pants and a beaded headband on. Webster had feathers in his collar and a string of beads. The children quickly came over to them to see who they were and where they came from. Caleb told them his name and said he was in search of the spider woman because he needed a dream catcher. They willingly lead him to a tipi with a big wooden dream catcher outside.

Caleb knew he was in the right place. As they entered the tipi, Caleb noticed many different types of feathers in piles and many different colored beads on a table. There was an older woman dressed in fancy leather-fringed and beaded clothing. The children told him she was the spider woman of their tribe. They told her that Caleb had come from far away to get a dream catcher to protect him from bad dreams due to all the news and confusion going on in the world now. She asked him what color he liked and why. She asked him about his family and friends and a few other questions. Then she told him to go outside to play with the other children so she could work.

"Caleb, Caleb, wake up it's time for dinner." It was his dad calling him from downstairs. Caleb was confused for a few minutes; he just lay there in bed. Was it a dream? It was so real, he thought. Then he looked up on the wall above his head and there was a beautiful dream catcher hanging

 — continued on page 8

Thank you ...
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Bagging Antrim's Peaks

A TALE OF TOPOGRAPHICAL DERRING-DO

George Caughey

No doubt you've heard of the Seven Hills of Rome. Well, Antrim has almost as many—six. I'm referring here to named hills, specifically those that are mentioned in the 19th-century Whiton and Cochrane histories of Antrim and have stood the test of time. Compared to the hills of Rome, Antrim's hills have more trees and fewer aqueducts. Not a whole lot more needs to be said. Both towns have ruins: crumbling *palazzi* and so on in Rome, stone walls and cellar holes in Antrim. Any other differences are insignificant—oh wait, except that, in addition to hills, Antrim has *five mountains*, most of which have sub-peaks. What is Rome's answer to that? [Silence]. I thought so.

The Antrim Eleven

So, we have stipulated that Antrim has six hills and five mountains. But who among us can name them without referring to a map (which, by the way, is cheating)? An even smaller number of us, I imagine, have summited all of Antrim's peaks and lived to tell about it. It is a goal that many of us dream of but few achieve. Those who complete the full set of ascents may be as rare as the elite subset of alpinists who summit the highest mountains on each of the seven continents. Or—limiting ourselves to the Granite State in the search for apt comparisons—reaching the top of the Antrim Eleven may be rarer than summiting all of New Hampshire's 49 mountains higher than 4,000 feet. Just maybe it is rarer than the feats of those, like Philip Carcia and a handful of others, who summit each of NH's 4,000-footers *each month* of the year—in a *single year* (!!!)—an accomplishment consisting of 576 climbs and 2,700 miles ascent in all kinds of weather. Those people seem to be sadly unaware that they could summit all of Antrim's hills and mountains,

the tallest of which is barely 2,000 feet—on their choice of days in a season without black flies, and with a gentle sun and a caressing breeze—with much less effort and suffering than climbing a “presidential” in January, while accomplishing a feat of singular rarity and achieving very nearly the same level of fame and fortune.

A Mountainous Achievement

I mention the above feats and comparisons because I recently completed the Antrim Eleven myself, fulfilling a lifelong quest. This is not a boast, of course, because some might say that anyone with shoes, time, serviceable knees, acetaminophen and a pronounced lack of distracting high-alpine ambitions could do this. But it did leave me with the burden of wondering what I could possibly do next to match these pinnacles of Antrim achievement. Not rest on my mountain laurels, for sure. I'm already planning my next challenge, which is to dip at least one toe into each of Antrim's named bodies of water (if I can find them and it's not too buggy or cold).

A Summiting Checklist

To help others who may think that they are up to a challenge, I prepared the following list, suitable for eventual framing, for climbers to check off while atop Antrim's summits. Practice peaks located in nearby towns are included as a convenience, but these do not in any way substitute for the Antrim Eleven. I recommend that you travel light. Leave your carabiners, crampons, ice ax, and all of your oxygen cylinders at home. Sherpas, in my opinion, are an unnecessary extravagance and may only slow you down. Do take a walking stick and maybe a Clif Bar.

THE ANTRIM ELEVEN:

<u>Hills</u>		<u>Mountains</u>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goodhue	1619 ft.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bald	2034 ft
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hedgehog	1206 ft.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Riley/Gibson	1447 ft
<input type="checkbox"/>	Holt	1381 ft.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robb/Willard	1915 ft.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meetinghouse	1372 ft	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuttle	1734 ft.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nahor	1170 ft	<input type="checkbox"/>	Windsor	1459 ft. (in Antrim)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patten	1386 ft.			

BONUS PEAKS near Antrim (for training purposes only):

- Mt. Monadnock (Jaffrey and Dublin)
- North and South Pack Monadnock Mountain (Peterborough and Temple)
- Hedgehog Mountain (Deering)
- Pitcher Mountain (Stoddard)
- Skatutakee Mountain (Hancock)
- Thumb Mountain (Hancock)
- Crotched Mountain (Francestown, Bennington and Greenfield)

 — continued on page 12

over him. It was green and blue with multicolored streamers hanging down from the bottom of the big circle. Caleb jumped up and ran downstairs to tell the others, with Webster at his side.

He told Dad and Mom to come see his dream catcher he got from the spider woman. He told them the story about his and Webster’s adventure. They said that sounded so exciting and wonderful. There on the bed was a bag. Caleb opened the bag and there were many other dream catchers in many different colors. Caleb said, “I guess that’s why the spider woman wanted to know about my family and friends. She wanted to make dream catchers for them, too.” Caleb was so happy.

As they sat at the table eating dinner, Dad looked down at Webster and noticed a feather and a string of beads wrapped in his collar. He wondered where it came from but didn’t say anything because the phone rang. It was Grandma. She wanted to know if Caleb liked all the little dream catchers she made and dropped off earlier for Caleb when he was sleeping. Dad told her he would call her later after Caleb went to bed that night to tell her what happened to the bag of dream catchers. He didn’t want to talk in front of Caleb.

Caleb’s Grandma Susan has made some extra mini-dream catchers. She can be reached at knittingloftse@tds.net. ❀



The *Limrik* is privately published for, by, and about the people of Antrim. It does not receive any town funds and is entirely supported by subscriptions and advertising revenue.

Antrim–Bennington Lions Club

Nancy Blair

In my last article, I reported that the Antrim–Bennington Lions had continued to rooooooaaar. Well, we are not roaring quite as loudly these days, as we are doing it over the internet with Zoom meetings! After skipping our March meeting because of the pandemic and canceling our St Patrick’s Day corned beef pot-luck, with the suggestion of Lion Victor Rosansky (and help with set-up and practice), we decided to hold Zoom meetings. The Lions had work to do!

On April 7th, we held a business meeting at which we set our slate of officers for the coming year. The slate was moved, seconded and approved as presented:

- President — Nancy Blair
- Vice-President — Steve Ullman
- Secretary — Linda Tenney
- Treasurer — Tamasine Wood-Creighton
- Membership Chair — Sue Conklin
- Lion Tamer — Marcia Ullman
- Tail Twister — Sue Conklin
- OKS Coordinator — John Conklin

Congratulations to all!

There was much discussion about supporting local businesses. Members were encouraged to shop locally, order take-out and buy gift certificates. Lion Mike Connolly had a great idea and many of the Lions are ordering take-out on the pot-luck meeting night.

With many ideas put forward and much discussion about how best to serve our community and support our mission, it was moved, seconded and approved that monetary donations be given to the Antrim–Bennington Food Pantry, the Grapevine, the Monadnock Community Hospital COVID-19 Fund, the ConVal SAU1 branch of End 68 Hours of Hunger and the Lions Club International Foundation.

Lion Rick Wood, also known in these parts as Santa Claus, Kris Kringle or the big guy in the red suit, spent a few hours in front of Edmunds Hardware (thanks Rick Edmunds) collecting donations for the Antrim–Bennington Food Pantry! This endeavor was a huge success, bringing in over \$1700 in monetary donations, plus at least three wheelbarrows full of items!

At the May business meeting, Kristen McCormick and Gordon Allen presented their very interesting proposal for an Antrim Community Board and asked Lions from Antrim to think about joining the steering committee. Also, we were encouraged to go to their website and take their survey!

We have some speakers scheduled for this spring. Brenda Slongwhite, the Welfare Director for the Town of Antrim and Abbe Hamilton from the Monadnock Ledger–Transcript will be presenting at future meetings. Several projects are in the works, but are on hold until we are allowed to socially interact!!!

STAY SAFE EVERYONE!



Virtual Teen Center—Who would have thought?

News from The Avenue A Teen + Community Center

Jacqueline Roland, Avenue A Coordinator

Our teens faced challenging changes this spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through it all, I've been amazed by their resilience and perseverance! In mid-March we transitioned from in-person programs at Avenue A to virtual Teen Center programs. Our new schedule includes nine weekly programs that meet over video chat—including activities like creative writing, baking, art, career exploration, support groups, and yoga. During these programs, our teens continue to learn, create, connect, and grow... We've also had fierce competitions playing bingo, Pictionary, and trivia over video calls!

Our volunteers are still working hard behind the scenes (or in this case, screens) to support youth! Volunteers Cynthia West and Glenn Stan spend hours calling teens and checking in. Aino Millikan, our yoga teacher volunteer, teaches yoga for us over video call every week. Other volunteers "visit" our virtual Baking Society to teach new recipes—Jocelynn Drew taught our teens the art of soft pretzel making over video call, and Danis Collett taught us how to make biscotti! Our teens have also tackled baking fortune cookies, brioche bread, and cookies during our weekly video calls!



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In early May, we said farewell to Savannah, our Writing Club intern from Keene State College! Our Writing Clubs sent her off with a graduation celebration over video call—complete with speeches that they wrote! Before the end of her internship, Savannah helped develop plans for the relaunch of our Write Out! blog, which features poetry and prose from our teen writers. Watch our website (avenueatc.org) for updates!

Mary Lou O'Neil, our Career Chat volunteer, coaches teens through career exploration during our Thursday night Career Chat video calls. Teens explore their strengths, interests, and job values, and plan career exploration activities. In April our teens completed more than four hours of informational interviews with local professionals via video call to learn about funeral directing, the restaurant industry, choreography, publishing, and other career fields.

While many spring events have been postponed, we're still looking forward to our New Hampshire Gives campaign in June! New Hampshire Gives is a statewide online day of giving from June 9 at 6 p.m. through June 10th at 6 p.m. This is Avenue A's biggest fundraiser of the year. It's an exciting opportunity to connect with our community, celebrate our teens and volunteers, and share what we've accomplished together. Last year, over 80 people participated in our NH Gives campaign, and through this fun, community effort we raised over \$4,000. You can help us this year by sharing our social media posts on Giving Day, telling your friends, and (if you're able) visiting avenueatc.org for the link to our NH Gives campaign, where you can donate!

At the time of writing this, we at The Grapevine and Avenue A are monitoring guidance from public health officials and are waiting to determine whether we will be able to have in-person summer programs during July and August. For updates please follow us on [Facebook.com/AvenueATeenCenter](https://www.facebook.com/AvenueATeenCenter) or visit our website. ☘

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seasonal tradition pales in comparison to the challenges facing us each day. Still, knowing that it would give our community something to look forward to after all the missed birthdays, graduations, family gatherings, weddings, proms...and funerals, job losses and isolation; a celebration for "making it to the other side" of this could be just what the doctor ordered. Though unlikely, we're not ready to throw in the tinsel just yet. We'll be on hold, keeping our folders of plans nearby, just in case, the refrains from the song "We need a little Christmas" on a loop in our minds:

Haul out the holly;
Put up the tree before my spirit falls again.
Fill up the stocking,
I may be rushing things, but deck the halls again now.
For we need a little Christmas
Right this very minute,
Candles in the window,
Carols at the spinet.
Yes, we need a little Christmas
Right this very minute.
It hasn't snowed a single flurry,
But Santa, dear, we're in a hurry;
So climb down the chimney;
Put up the brightest string of lights I've ever seen.
Slice up the fruitcake;
It's time we hung some tinsel on that evergreen bough.

For I've grown a little leaner,
Grown a little colder,
Grown a little sadder,
Grown a little older,
And I need a little angel
Sitting on my shoulder,
Need a little Christmas now.

Haul out the holly;
Well, once I taught you all to live each living day.
Fill up the stocking,
But Auntie Man, it's one week from Thanksgiving Day now.
But we need a little Christmas
Right this very minute,

Candles in the window,
Carols at the spinet.
Yes, we need a little Christmas
Right this very minute.
It hasn't snowed a single flurry,
But Santa, dear, we're in a hurry;
So climb down the chimney;
Put up the brightest string of lights I've ever seen.
Slice up the fruitcake;
It's time we hung some tinsel on that evergreen bough.

For we need a little music,
Need a little laughter,
Need a little singing
Ringing through the rafter,
And we need a little snappy
"Happy ever after,"
Need a little Christmas now.
Need a little Christmas now.

Source: *Musixmatch*
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Antrim Recreation Department

THE COVID-19 EDITION

Celeste Lunetta, Recreation Director

As I determine the most important information to relay—what to write about for this *Limrik* edition—the communication most vital to me is that this *Limrik* finds every Antrim reader and family safe and well. I hope everyone is finding the resources needed to get through the current public health emergency, and I also hope that if you are in need of help, you are able to ask for it and receive assistance. We are a resource for you at Antrim Recreation Department. Please let us know how we can help you and your family during this time. We miss you all, and we care about you! You can email us at antrimreccdir@tds.net, or call 588-3121.

I will use this *Limrik* to tell you a little about how we have responded to the COVID-19 crisis, and I will focus, in the end, on how to stay current with our programs and activities as we go through June, July and August.

In March, as the Governor's stay-at-home order was issued and the state of emergency became more dominant, the first steps we took were to temporarily stop all of our ongoing programs and establish communications with the various leagues for spring sports, summer camp families and staff. We took immediate steps to make sure our outdoor parks were ready and safe for people to use—especially the skate park in Memorial Park, Shea Field, the Bandstand and the beach and point areas at Gregg Lake. In each of these parks, we did spring clean-up early and posted signage informing the users on the proper ethics and practices for physical distancing. We have established regular visits to the facilities by the Recreation Department staff, with our friends at the Police Department and Emergency Management helping us as Physical Distancing Educational Ambassadors.

We also initiated online/virtual programming, including an 18-day Antrim, New Hampshire, challenge, an egg hunt, and some scavenger hunts that invited people to the parks in physically-distant family groups. We have held some contests, which have shown us some real creativity and hometown spirit. We are continuing with these activities, including weekly recipe contests, trivia and more. These online activities are promoted through our Antrim Recreation Facebook page, our town website, and now on Instagram.

With the extensions of the stay-at-home orders, we very regretfully had to cancel the spring sports seasons. The youth fishing derby was cancelled, and will not be held this year. Adult fitness programs will either move online or be set up to be outside in the parks, once blackfly season is over! Zumba class, with Lisa, is now operating online. Jeanine is working on plans for yoga, and can be emailed at jeanineclarke@yahoo.com. Pickleball and adult and teen pickup basketball continue to be on hold.

For all programs and facilities, we are creating three road-maps or tiers of possibilities for June, July and August—red, if the current situation remains; yellow, if our options for congregation and groups increase slightly (groups more than 10); and green, if the restrictions around gathering are lifted. Our decision-making and the consequent reality for our programs (staffing at the beach, summer camps, Antrim in the Evening, movie nights, bus trips, gymnasium activities, swim lessons and more...) will all be based on public safety. We will guide our process with best practices, mandates from national, state and local governing bodies, and, not least of all, our mission to provide programming and physical spaces for the mental and physical health of our community. This is a vital service that Parks and Recreation can provide. We are working hard to determine the safest way to keep our parks open, healthy and accessible. We are designing programs that inspire and help Antrim residents of all ages enjoy activities that increase joy, health, relaxation and wellness. We are doing this work with an eye towards the lowest budget impact we can make—we recognize the economic impact felt by many.

We have again been awarded a Lake Host Inspector payroll grant by the New Hampshire Lakes Association. Volunteer and paid Lake Host Inspectors started working at the boat launch at Gregg Lake in May, and will continue through Labor Day. Gregg Lake is a carry in-carry out facility.

At Shea Field and at Memorial park, we are creating drop-in activities, including a low/no obstacle course and a labyrinth for people of all ages to use to stay active. The baseball diamond is open, the tennis net is up, small-sided soccer and lacrosse fields are painted. As of the writing of this article, all of the parks except for the Town Gym are open, but none are sterilized or disinfected, so in regard to that, use is at your own risk. You must take responsibility for personal hygiene and proper physical distancing. We ask that if you feel sick, you stay home and get healthy, and then come out to the parks when you are healthy. Please refer to the current guidelines at the cdc.org website.

As our programs become more concrete, and as new contests, virtual opportunities and activities are released, we put them on our active Facebook page, *Antrim Recreation*. We also post on the town website, antrimnh.org. We use the community bulletin board on the front of the Town Hall, and the bulletin board at Gregg Lake. The best way to get in touch with us is by emailing Celeste at antrimreccdir@tds.net. You can also call 588-3121 and leave a message.

Stay safe—we can't wait to see you again in the parks and programs! We miss you. ❁

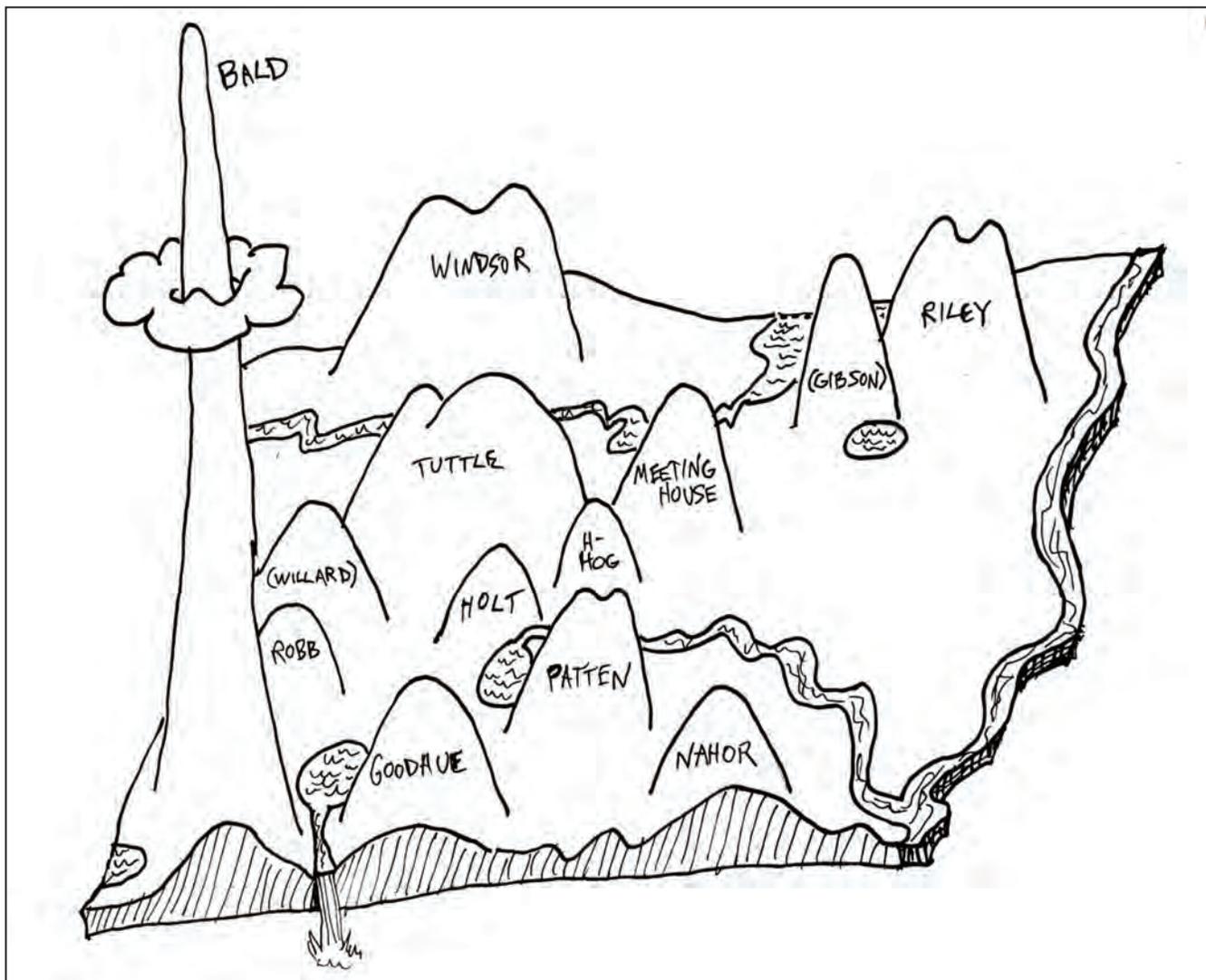
Adventurer's Guide to Antrim's High Points

The following descriptions of Antrim's scalable promontories are motivational tools and rough guides to the expected rewards of summiting, with no guarantee of success or survival. Enjoy!

Goodhue Hill: Rising southeast of Willard Pond, close to Antrim's border with Hancock, this prominence has a granitic steep southern face with fine views of Carpenter's Marsh and Monadnock region mountains marching all the way to Massachusetts; otherwise the top is a gently sloped dome, which served as pasture for sheep and cattle into the early 20th century; the dome is now mostly forested, with portions cut over by owner NH Audubon to enhance habitat for birds and simultaneously generate browse for moose and berries for bears. Trails wind their way to the viewpoint from the west via Willard Pond or the east via Brimstone Corner and Knight's Roads. Note: Goodhue Hill is taller than two of Antrim's mountains (namely, Riley and Windsor) and perhaps deserves promotion from hill to mountain.

Hedgehog Hill: This granite outcropping in Antrim Center, with steep ledges, overlooks the Lily Pond kettle bog and surrounding wetlands enlarged by beaver activity. Its caves have sheltered many generations of porcupines, as its name would suggest. The summit offers views of Monadnock and a great blue heron rookery. This hill is not to be confused with Hedgehog Mountain, which, after all, is in Deering. Access is via the town trail to the Lily Pond, followed by a somewhat challenging southeast slog across beaver dams built against old stone walls.

Holt Hill: The hill in question is directly north of Gregg Lake and looks down upon it. Named for its owner, Daniel Holt, "Holt's" or Holt Hill "has a wide and beautiful prospect, and a fine farm on its summit," in Reverend Cochran's estimation 140 years ago. Much the same can be said today, although more trees now obscure the view of Gregg Lake (then Gregg's Pond) than in the late 19th century. Access is from the south via South Holt Hill Road or from the north via North Holt Hill Road, although the road is no longer passable from one road to the other by vehicle or carriage as it was then.



Meetinghouse Hill: This elevated site in the geographic center of town hosted the original Meeting House and its first and oldest cemetery. To summit here you barely have to step out of your car, if not so inclined, although the actual summit lies in a woodlot a third of a mile northwest of the cemetery. Although the Meeting House is long gone, having been moved and repurposed into the Grange Hall, the graveyard is lovely, with ancient sugar maples and lichen-encrusted slate slabs marking graves, including those of a sobering number of children. There are fine dry-laid fieldstone walls and a hilltop orchard, with views of Monadnock when the leaves are down, and some of the finest views of Antrim itself and of Crotched Mountain from the old town road climbing Meeting House Hill from Antrim Center. Several homes and a B&B currently dot the base, slopes and top of the hill.

Nahor Hill: This now-forested hill (sometimes misspelled "Nabor") on Antrim's southern edge, sloping into Hancock, was the site of once-grand Greystone Lodge, a resort for well-to-do tourists, some of whom were making their way to points in the White Mountains. Remnants of walls and buildings remain, though most of the main lodge, which burned in the mid 20th century, is gone, including the foundation stones. Some of the views to the east and west, featured in many early 20th century postcards, remain. The hill is named for the Nahor family, who moved to the site 220 years ago. The summit can be accessed by class VI Greystone Road from Antrim's Pleasant Street or via Hancock's Antrim Road.

Patten Hill: This mostly forested, double-dome arising to the east out of Gregg Lake is named after Samuel Patten, who cleared the land and settled on the hill 240 years ago but moved to Maine 20 years later. Much of the hill, which is a gently sloped dome at the top but sports cliffs on its east and west flanks, was at one time pasture. A cellar hole and pasture walls remain. Sites near the top afford views of Mt. Monadnock and Bald Mountain. The summit can be accessed from White Birch Point Road or Old Hancock Road.

Bald Mountain: This is Antrim's Everest. It is a trio of promontories, including Antrim's highest (2,034 feet). Rising west of Willard Pond in Antrim's southwest corner, the mountain is served by trails originating near the pond; its summit offers views largely to south and east, over recent decades increasingly encroached upon by trees. As might be guessed, it earned its name because the first European colonists found its top to be bare of trees. Reverend Cochrane in his 1880 history of Antrim speculates that this was due to repeated fires set by Native Americans.

Riley Mountain: This tree-friendly, multi-headed mountain, accessible by logging roads, forms a ridge between Pierce Lake and Campbell Pond in northeast Antrim, near Hillsborough. It was named after Antrim's earliest colonial

settler, Philip Riley, after he lost his way to a remote neighbor's log cabin and was forced to spend the night on the mountain. It can be accessed from Campbell Pond via logging road but views other than trees from the top are hard to come by.

Robb Mountain: This rolling line of peaks sandwiched by Bald and Tuttle Mountains is named after Andrew Robb, whose family settled its western slopes around 1798. The community that flourished in the area in the early 19th century was isolated from Antrim's easterly population centers, and eventually vanished at the site. Later the area was used as summer pasture for cattle and for apple orchards, but is now mostly taken over by forest, some of which was recently harvested. The base of the mountain on the eastern side contains one of Antrim's seven wonders, "Balancing Rock," as well as old farm and lumber roads leading to the ridge and summits, which afford views of Willard Pond and the north face of Bald Mountain.

Tuttle Mountain: This collection of peaks and wide slopes to the northwest is the northernmost of the group including Robb and Bald mountains. It is named after Charles Tuttle, who settled and cleared the north side in the late 18th century. Lots in this area once formed Antrim's "High Range." It now is mostly forested and serves as the principal site for the Antrim's recently activated nonet of wind turbines. It can be reached from the southeast via Hattie Brown Road. According to Reverend Cochrane, writing 120+ years ago, the pasturage in Antrim's wilder western regions, including Tuttle Mountain, was uncommonly rich, with flocks of livestock returning in the fall "full, sleek, frolicsome, fat, and of double value" after a summer spent feasting on grass, which is now scarcely in evidence.

Windsor Mountain: This ridge with at least three peaks, the most southwesterly of which is in Antrim, lies mostly in the town of Windsor bordering North Branch and some other parts of north Antrim. It forms a boundary between the North Branch River and higher ground plus Bagley Pond in Windsor. The southern slopes of the mountain host active farmsteads. Its summits can be approached from Antrim via class VI roads (Stacy Hill and Loverens Mill) and from southern Windsor in similar fashion.

NOTE: some modern maps, including the current town tax map, demote Tuttle Mountain to Tuttle Hill, even though its two major peaks are higher in elevation than all of the hills in the above list and higher than two of the "mountains" (namely Riley and Windsor). Moreover, some modern maps interpose an additional mountain, Willard (with peaks of 1896 and 1915 feet), between Robb Mountain and Tuttle Mountain/Hill, in effect robbing Robb of 100 feet of elevation. Some latter-day maps also carve out Gibson Mountain (~1310 feet) from the adjacent, higher peaks of Riley Mountain. ❁

Forest Pests and Diseases in Antrim and NH—The Worst of the Bunch

Charles Levesque

There are many “pests” and diseases that affect the health of Antrim’s forests. For this article, we’ll just focus on a few of the most prominent ones.

First, it is helpful to know whether the pest or disease is native or if it was originally not found in New Hampshire or North America. Also, it is helpful to know how long the pest or disease has been around, as some are cyclic. A good example of this is the gypsy moth. This non-native insect pest, which devastated New Hampshire’s hardwood forests back in the 1980s for several years through the repeated defoliation of tree leaves by its caterpillar stage, has largely been absent since, although there have been some minor outbreaks in southeastern NH and especially in southern New England in recent years—but not in Antrim. After repeated defoliation over several years, the gypsy moth kills the tree. It is not on our “worst” list today. The spruce budworm is an example of a native pest that wreaked havoc in northern spruce–fir forests (it actually prefers balsam fir, despite its name) in the 1970s and into the 1980s. We didn’t see this insect in the Antrim area.

Insect Pests

Today, the two biggest insect pest threats to Antrim’s forests are the hemlock wooly adelgid and the emerald ash borer. The best place to find more information about these and other pests and diseases is at the nhbugs.org website. Antrim’s own Karen Bennett, in her former role as the State’s Extension Forester, had a large hand in putting this wonderful resource together. I encourage you to check it out.

Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is a non-native invasive insect from Asia. It feeds on eastern hemlock needles and can kill the trees. HWA was first detected in Portsmouth in 2000 and now is found in at least 131 towns and cities in the Granite State. HWA was first found in Antrim in 2013. We have seen HWA populations decline some around the state in the last year. This is most likely weather-related, as the HWA winter mortality rates increased in the last couple of

winters, which were colder. The recent 2019–20 winter was milder, so we may see an increase in the HWA this year.

This small insect with no wings pierces small hemlock twigs with its mouth and sucks the juices from the tree. If a tree is sufficiently infested, HWA can kill the tree in a few years. Not a lot of hemlock mortality has occurred in New Hampshire, although many hemlocks have been lost in states farther south in the Appalachians. HWA infestation also weakens trees and allows other insects and pathogens to enter.

Early thinking on the HWA was that it might wipe out most of our hemlock trees, which are abundant in Antrim and throughout New Hampshire. But it appears that winter cold, especially way below zero, has the ability to kill off a high percentage of the HWA population and, as a result, keeps it in check so it doesn’t kill many trees. So far in New Hampshire, it has certainly killed some trees but not in high numbers. It sometimes will kill individual branches but leave the tree alive. Farther south, along the Appalachian Mountain chain down to the Carolinas, whole stands of hemlocks have died as a result of HWA infestation. I have seen some of these areas in my work travel and it is not

✍ — continued on page 16



Hemlock Wooly Adelgid on a hemlock branch underside (Steven Katovich, Bugwood.org)

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Salamander for Dinner

Joan Gorga

One of my favorite rites of spring is exploring Antrim's backwoods searching for wood frog and spotted salamander eggs deposited in vernal pools. Sometimes I find the egg masses in puddles on old dirt roads and carefully transfer them to nearby vernal pools before passing adventurers in Jeeps and four-wheelers splash them out of the puddles. More than once, when the five o'clock whistle has blown, I've found myself deep in the woods after following a chain of vernal pools and figured I'd better try to take the shortest route to an identifiable road or trail. It is, in fact, a little disturbing how many times I've ended up going almost full circle and emerging on an old road that was not the one I was aiming for. The sequence usually goes something like this, in my mind: *Oh good, there's a stone wall! The road has to be on the other side of that. Yes, a road! Wait...it doesn't look like Knight's Road...it's not Brimstone Corner Road...but I think I recognize that tree over there, so where am I? I don't know, but I should probably turn left no matter what.* I proceed down the road at a good pace, in the fading daylight. *Wait, now I know where I am. This is the George Farm Road—I should have turned right! But at least I'm not lost, and I should be able to get out of the woods before dark...* Someday maybe I'll end up where I thought I would be, or at least I'll have a flashlight along so I can look for spotted salamanders.

Clearly, vernal pools and woodland streams are not dependable trail guides, even if they do provide ample signs of moose, bear, porcupines, frogs, salamanders and more. While exploring for vernal pools not long ago, I came to some glacial erratics that formed an inviting cave. *That's great porcupine habitat!* Sure enough, I was quickly greeted by a large and not-very-friendly-looking porcupine as I stepped a little closer. I assured it that I was ready to move on, even if I didn't know which way to go, and we parted ways amiably.

Recently, I decided to try following stone walls through the woods to see if I could walk more-or-less straight through from the George Farm Road to Knight's Road rather than walking around in (damp) circles. I started in an area

rich with moose sign—both grazing on tree trunks and scat. In one spot, a moose had clearly stood with its front legs on a rock to graze high up a trunk. Was it trying to impress with how big it is? I headed south along a stone wall, which fairly quickly came to an end, but I could see another wall not far away going in the same direction, so I continued along that until I spotted an east-west wall. *Am I already at Knight's Road?* No...the wall made a little jig, and I continued south along another section until the next east-west wall appeared. *Surely that's Knight's Road this time?* But no, after a smaller jig, the wall continued south some more. Just as I was beginning to get worried, and long after the five o'clock whistle had sounded, signs of recent civilization suggested that I was finally getting to Knight's Road, and sure enough, there it was! I knew I should just turn east and head for home, but I couldn't resist continuing on up the side of Goodhue Hill to see where the road ended. When it did, I opted for one last little bit of bushwhacking—*Is that a stone wall I see in the distance? Surely there's a trail on the other side of it!*—and voilà, I was on the Goodhue Hill Trail from Willard Pond to Brimstone Corner Road. Tempting as it was to continue on up to take in the lovely sunset view from the top, I turned downhill, reasoning that it would really be better to make it home while I could still see. I can attest to the fact that the woods get dark when the sun goes down. Predictably, the route along the stone walls was high and dry compared to the wetland route, but I managed a few detours (always keeping a stone wall in sight) to look for wood frog and spotted salamander eggs, not to mention moose browse and pileated woodpecker excavations.

While I've come across quite a few wood frogs—they sound like ducks quacking in the woods and can sometimes be seen in the daytime—I've never found a spotted salamander. They spend most of their lives hiding out under forest floor debris and mainly come out at night. While I've found myself hiking in the woods after dark more times than I'd like to admit, I usually haven't been able to see anything. In early May this year, returning from a long walk in the woods, I noticed a chipmunk tugging mightily on what looked like a thick six-inch black stick, trying to drag it the last few feet to the entrance of its burrow under our front steps. As I stepped up, the chipmunk reluctantly abandoned its treasure and I took a closer look. First the smell told me it wasn't just a stick. I flipped it over and was surprised to identify it as a yellow-spotted salamander, soon to be dinner for a chipmunk family. I stepped away again, and the chipmunk came back to its treasure and finished its work. All that time spent exploring the woods, and a chipmunk brings a spotted salamander at my front door? ❀

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pretty. Fingers crossed that the harsher winters here keep it from devastating our hemlock trees.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a non-native invasive beetle that was first discovered in the United States near Detroit in southeastern Michigan in the summer of 2002. EAB probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing



Emerald ash borer (Bugwood.org/Invasives.org)

material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia. It is now found in 35 states and the Canadian provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Manitoba. It was first detected in New Hampshire in the Concord area in 2013, and is now found in at least 72 New Hampshire towns. It first showed up in Antrim in 2019.

The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature worm or caterpillar-like stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. The trees are usually killed by larval feeding.



Emerald Ash Borer "D" shaped exit holes (Debbie Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org)

The EAB has the potential to kill virtually all of the ash trees we have in Antrim and throughout New Hampshire. Will it do that? It travels from ash tree to ash tree as an adult flying insect and does its damage in its caterpillar form. The thinking is that if we make sure we leave isolated smaller trees or clumps of smaller trees—but not in high

density—across the landscape, there is a chance that the insect will simply not find these isolated trees and so we will have some ash trees still growing throughout the landscape. As foresters, we are trying to leave isolated clumps as we harvest timber. But this is a theory only at this point.

Diseases

The one tree disease I'll cover is the White Pine Needle Damage or Blight. The blight has been seen extensively throughout the range where white pine grows in New Hampshire and elsewhere in the northeast. This is not a single disease but is caused by a combination of native fungi. Recent studies have identified at least several fungal pathogens as responsible for white pine needle blight in New England. The blight is worth covering in part because we have so many beautiful white pine trees in Antrim. The good thing is that this disease is not killing many trees, if any.

The disease results in needles of mature white pine trees becoming straw-colored to brown before they are prematurely shed from the canopy. In some cases, only a few main branches are symptomatic, whereas on other trees, the entire canopy exhibits the symptoms. One feature of the disease is that despite significant needle browning and premature shedding in the canopy, the current season's needles are elongating and appear healthy. Needle blight pathogens have been a primary issue affecting white pine; pine canker (caliciopsis) is another disease affecting white pine trees.

I chose just a few of the most damaging pests and diseases to discuss in this brief article. The *nhbugs.org* website includes the following list, which goes far beyond these few that I have covered: Asian Longhorned Beetle, Elongate Hemlock Scale, Red Pine Scale, Spruce Budworm, White Pine Blister Rust, Winter Moth, Balsam Woolly Adelgid, Gypsy Moth, Oak Wilt, Spotted Lanternfly, Jumping Worms, Caliciopsis. You can learn more about these other pests and diseases at the website.

Charlie Levesque, a NH licensed forester and natural resource consultant, can be reached at 603-588-3272 or levesque@inrslc.com.

Thank you to Karen Bennett for supplying the photos. ❀



Antrim's Community Board:

Mobilizing our community assets to build a hometown where we all count, come together, and contribute

Dottie Bauer

Have you ever wondered how many Antrim residents have lived overseas, how many households raise chickens, or who could teach technology skills or jewelry making? Mobilizing our community assets to build these types of connections is one of the goals of the Antrim Community Board (ACB).

The Antrim Community Board is built on this simple truth: *Together, the citizens of Antrim have all of the skills, talents, life and work experience, hobbies, contacts and interests they need to make life better for everyone in town.* The job of the ACB is to discover, connect, and mobilize these resources to develop and implement a Community Master Plan. There is more information about the project at the ACB website, <https://www.antrimnh.org/antrim-community-board>, or you can visit the Antrim Town website, click on Committees, and the Antrim Community Board is the first choice.

The current phase of the project is to develop an inventory of the assets that we possess as a community. **You can help by completing the survey on our website—survey link is in the menu on the left of the ACB homepage.** The survey will ask you questions about activities you like to do with neighbors; your interests, skills, hobbies; what you could share with others and what you might like to learn; and your 'vision' for a great hometown. We will also be asking for contact and demographic information to help us ensure we are gathering input from everyone and to facilitate follow-up communication and future activities.

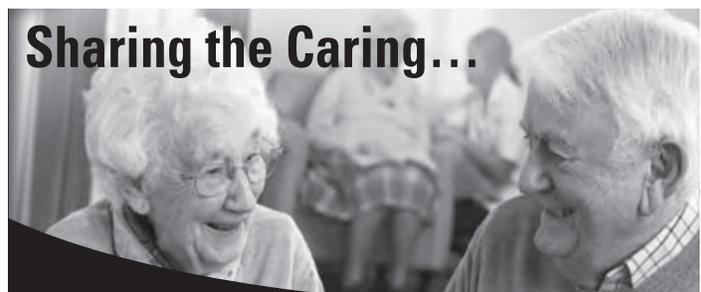
Everyone has something to offer. Everyone has something they can teach and share. People are the single most important and powerful asset we have. The more talents we uncover, collect, and inventory through ongoing surveys and conversations, the more resources we will have to carry out the Antrim Community Board's Master Plan to make Antrim a better community for us all. Our goal is to contact everyone in the next two years, and to become an official town board in 2021.

We will survey individuals (you), community groups,

agencies, and businesses, as well as identify physical resources that already make our town great and that can work together to make life in Antrim even better for all our residents. All this is to build up an asset 'bank' of who lives here and what they have to offer. The idea is to organize people to create social and hobby groups, accomplish construction projects, plan events, address community concerns, and more.

Steering Committee members include Rick Wood, Thelma Nichols, Christopher Brinkley, and Dottie Bauer. This initiative is being spearheaded by Kristen Vance McCormick and Gordon Allen. If you are interested in this project, consider becoming part of the Steering Committee. We are hosting information sessions for interested people; check the ACB website for the schedule and to sign up. Job description and tasks are also listed on the ACB website. We welcome all skills, interests, ages, and points of view. No prior experience in working on community projects is necessary, and newcomers to town are welcome. For more information or to get involved, please email us at antrim-communityboard@gmail.com.

So for now, we hope you will visit the Antrim Community Board website and complete the survey. Help us build the first town Community Board in our state! Check our website for updates and additional information. And thanks! 🌸



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The First Month in the Plague Year

William Bryk

A moose is haunting Antrim. It was seen near my house from a northbound car on Clinton Road last week. I know this because, as I was walking south, the passing car reversed, passed me, and stopped about 600 feet ahead. I waved to its driver as she resumed her trip north. She stopped. She was quite excited: she'd seen a moose in the woods. By the time I got to where she'd stopped, it'd moved on.

Its photograph made the front page of the *Stone Bridge Post*, the relatively new local weekly published from Hillsborough. The caption suggests that, unlike most of my neighbors, the animal has no plans to shelter in place.

I faintly recalled a rock-and-roll hit single with a Scottish flavor from 1958, released on Decca: "Hoots Mon," which has this lyric:

There's a moose loose about this hoose!

Though a cliché about Scots pronunciation, it's a reality in Antrim, New Hampshire.

Sheltering in place and social distancing against the coronavirus is fairly easy in rural New Hampshire. My house is a quarter-mile from the nearest neighbor and five miles from downtown Antrim.

By March 21, most institutions in Antrim and the surrounding Monadnock region had closed. Town Hall, the public library, the gym had closed. The Antrim branch of the Bank of New Hampshire transacted business only through its ATM and drive-up window. Even my riding lessons had been cancelled.

I'd been elected to the Antrim Planning Board on March 10, took the oath of office at Town Meeting on March 12, and was notified on Friday the 13th that no town boards would meet before May, if then. The job has no salary. Now it has no duties. Somehow that all seemed to balance out.

So I stay safe, if only because there is little to do besides reading, writing, emailing friends to be sure they're well, tending to the cats, and walking.

I walk for an hour or more every day, south on Old North Branch Road to Clinton Road, past Old Pound Road to Miltimore Road to Smith Road and back. There is little automobile traffic.

I realized a pedestrian may notice many things that might be overlooked from a car.

Since the beginning of April, I've seen pairs of wild turkeys crossing the road. In warmer weather, flocks of them, young and old, pass through my property, pecking for seeds and insects. A doe and her fawn occasionally stroll through.

My cats recline on the deck and watch.

Along Clinton Road, Duke, a pit bull; a golden retriever; or a black Labrador often charge to the edges of their properties, barking fiercely to protect their people and their turf, tails wagging to show essential friendliness. I say hello and keep walking.

I noticed some trees posted with NO TRESPASSING

signs. This seemed unfriendly and out of character for my neighbors. Then the *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript* published several items about an incident in Frankestown, about 15 miles away. On Thursday, March 3, 2020, a resident discovered a deer stand on their property. It'd been placed there without the resident's knowledge.

A deer stand is a hunter's platform. It may lean against a tree, secured with cords or cables, or be freestanding, with three or four legs. Deer hunters have a better shot at their prey from a stand.

Apparently in response to an inquiry from the Frances-town police, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department opined that, as the resident's property was not posted, no crime had been committed by the unknown trespassers who had placed a structure on the resident's property without permission. Apparently hunters have the right to pursue their prey without regard for unposted property in New Hampshire. I thought of English foxhunters riding roughshod through a farmer's fields: "The unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable," as Oscar Wilde wrote in *A Woman of No Importance*.

Of course, turkeys are very eatable. But once I learned New Hampshire's turkey season begins May 1, I bought

✍️ — continued on page 20

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- Patricia Alexander, Daughter of Scott-Farrar resident Priscilla Bourgoine

INDEPENDENT LIVING, ASSISTED LIVING, AND MEMORY CARE

Antrim Historical Society

Bill Nichols

I hope this issue of the *Limrik* finds you and your family safe and healthy. Although the AHS hasn't been able to meet as normal, we have been staying in touch and still taking care of requests individually, instead of as a group. If you need any help with local history or genealogy, please contact us at antrimhistoricalsociety@gmail.com and someone will be in touch.

We would like to thank all of you that have sent in your membership application along with your dues so far this year. Your dues help pay for programs that we are currently working on for 2020. Our first program for 2020 has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 28 at the Presbyterian Church. The program is *Speaking*

For Wildlife—New Hampshire's Wild History and will be presented by Antrim's own Peter Beblowski.

In July, we hope to continue our annual tradition of the celebration of Independence Day at the Bandstand. Later in July we may opt for an outdoor walking program. As it is now, all our 2020 programs are currently being discussed and organized with the hopes that eventually we will all be able to get out and about very soon. It's very possible that these dates or locations could change, so please check our website for current information or just send us an email.

Speaking of programs, did you know that we record all of our Sunday afternoon programs and that some of

them have been uploaded to YouTube? Go to YouTube and search Antrim Historical Society and check out some of the programs from the past five years or so. If you're stuck at home all day because of this pandemic, now would be a great time to get caught up on the programs you may have missed.

Lastly, we would like to give a special thank you to Wayno Olson for his donation of the 1927 Antrim Selectmen's table. Wayno purchased this table in 2000 when the Town Hall was about to be renovated. He had the table restored and added 8 chairs. It's been in his home on Elm Avenue since that time. Since Wayno decided to downsize, he offered the table to the AHS with the stipulation that it be used and not be stored in some dark out-of-the-way space. The table is located in the historical room and will be used by the Board on almost a daily basis. The Board is very thankful that Wayno took such great care of this very important piece of Antrim's history.

Stay in touch and let us know what we can do for you. ❁



Antrim Recreation Department Easter Egg Hunt

four signs to post my property against hunting. I do not consent to hunters' entry upon my land to slaughter innocent creatures of God.

One of the landmarks along my walk is Old Pound Road. Quite sensibly, it's named for the Old Pound. Built in 1818, the remains of "this once critical municipal facility" stand at the southwest corner of Old Pound Road and North Holt Hill Road, about 1,000 feet from Clinton Road. Having detoured to see it, I know the Old Pound's ruins are about 28 feet square. Despite decades of "frost action and gravity," its stone walls still stand about four feet high and two feet thick.

In the 19th century, stray farm animals, when found and captured, were brought to the Pound for safekeeping until the animals' owners came forward to collect them. Perhaps the townspeople were following these Old Testament commands [Deut. 22, 1-2 (*King James Version*)]:

Thou shalt not see thy brother's ox or his sheep go astray, and hide thyself from them; thou shalt in any case bring them in again unto thy brother.

And if thy brother be not nigh to thee, or if thou know him not, then thou shalt bring it into thine own house, and it shall be with thee until thy brother seek after it, and thou shalt restore it to him again.

The Old Pound was a matter of public safety. As local historian Charles Butterfield wrote, a stray animal could, "trample gardens, forage crops, break down fences, desecrate the cemetery, and foul or block the roadways...a free-roaming cow was no joke when people lived on what they grew and harvested."

The Pound Keeper's fees were 30 cents a day for feeding an animal and three cents a day for his trouble. The animal remained impounded until all fees were paid. If the owner disagreed with the fees, the town's board of selectmen chose an arbitrator to settle the matter. If no one came forward, the beast was sold, the keeper recovered his fees from the proceeds of sale, and the surplus was deposited in the town treasury.

The last known Pound Keeper, Mr. Morris Woods, held the title for decades. He was locally renowned for driving his Model T truck at little more than a walking pace. He took all morning to travel to and from downtown Antrim. Mr. Butterfield gently wondered whether Mr. Woods would have been fast enough to catch a pig.

The first creature I saw on my property after moving here in March 2016 was a beaver, slowly moving toward the wetlands, its tail occasionally flapping. Since then, ducks and other waterfowl cruise the pond during the summertime. Herons gracefully alight on the pond and as gracefully take flight, weaving between the trees.

Twice, stray hounds climbed to the door and persistently sought entry to the house. Wrestling with a very big, friend-

ly, wriggly dog who wants to only come in so he can lick you to death is a challenge. Happily, a call to the Antrim Police Department brought the kindly and very strong Officer John Giffin to the door. He befriended each animal and persuaded it into his patrol car. The APD quickly found their owners, each of whom telephoned their thanks, one of whom brought jars of homemade jam.

Some bears passed by my pond in early April 2020. I know this because I found about a dozen piles of scat along the shore. They probably drank, relieved themselves, and moved on. This was over the weekend: on the following Monday, it snowed heavily, allowing me to put off picking up the scat for garden manure until the snow had melted. I used a manure rake and a bucket: learning to ride and to clean up after horses has taught me about shoveling... stuff.

But I digress.

Just south of Old North Branch Road's intersection with Clinton Road is Meetinghouse Hill Road, which the town abandoned over half a century ago. Although it appears on the town map, it's little more than a narrow depression between the trees. Apparently popular with the riders of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and Off Highway Terrain Vehicles (OHTV), it's so deeply rutted that passage is nearly impossible even for a pedestrian.

I'd walked about a quarter-mile up the remains of Meetinghouse Hill Road before giving up and turning back. As I reached Clinton Road, I heard a raven's harsh croak and then saw him aloft, wings flapping to rise further into the sky. All this recalled a passage from C.J. Stone's *The Trials of Arthur*:

The raven is old, old. As old as time. As old as the mountains. As old as the trees. It has seen many things. It has observed the works of nature and of men. It has watched with an indifferent eye as dynasties have come and gone, as buildings were raised and then crumbled, as the works of men shone and then decayed. It has seen the motorways cutting swatches through the landscape like thin grey ribbons, and it has known that these things too would fall into disrepair and ruin. All things come from nature. All things return to nature. This the raven knows. ✨

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News from First Presbyterian Church of Antrim

Jan Howe

Like the rest of the world, we have been learning how to navigate and do ministry in the midst of a stay-at-home order. We are thankful to Antrim's Fire Chief and Emergency Manager Marshall Gale who was proactive when everything began happening in New Hampshire. It was his request to us not to hold worship even when the state was saying gatherings of less than 50 people and staying 6 feet apart was their recommendation. It was only a few days later that we received the stay-at-home order from the governor. We are thankful that we did not have worship and closed the church to keep our members and all groups using the church safe.

We were reluctant to try online worship, but when we realized that the health crisis was going to take time to resolve we explored our options to fit the needs of our community. It was amazing to watch people embrace the online worship and learn how to use it. Our church now holds our live worship service through Zoom, which all of us quickly learned how to use. This has proven to work well for us, with people joining the worship with their computers, cell phones or land lines. In addition, we have a midweek weekly coffee/teatime as well as a weekly trivia evening. These times allow us to connect with one another, share how things are going and just be with friends while we stay in our homes. We are looking forward to being back in the church building but for now we will continue to connect with Zoom, as well as praying for everyone's safety. Anyone who would like to join us please e-mail pastorantrimfpc@gmail.com and Pastor Jan will forward you the log-in information as well as the bulletin.

Life this summer will continue to look different for us. Our yearly Vacation Bible School held jointly with the Antrim Baptist Church has been canceled for this summer. We look forward to holding it in the summer of 2021! We are uncertain how quickly after the stay-at-home order is lifted we will open the church, as we want to ensure that we protect everyone's health and safety as best as possible.

Throughout the summer, the church year is the season of Pentecost or Ordinary time and the color for the Altar cloths

are green symbolizing the growth and life of the church with a focus of the church's mission to the world.

Also, Sharon Dowling will not be with us as our Music Director. She made the decision to retire after 14 years of faithful service. We were saddened to say goodbye to her on Easter as Music Director, but thankful that we will see her around the area and that Sharon will be visiting us as her time allows.

We have a new Music Director, Deborah Wyndham, who will begin once we return to the sanctuary. We hope you join us in welcoming her to our community.

While we have not been in church there have been some very busy church mice who have been sprucing up the place. With proper social distancing, the mice have taken advantage of no one using the building to take care of some things. The two butcher block table tops in the kitchen were removed, sanded, refinished and returned to the kitchen, the fellowship hall floor has been repaired, sanded and refinished, the basement floors and steps have been repainted, more old things have been cleaned out from the basements (taking advantage of the church's empty dumpster), and spring clean-up of the grounds was accomplished. There is much more needed to be done—the roof, the doors, painting outside of the building, ramp repairs, the organ, more clean-out of items—and that is just naming the major repairs that the church mice are continuing to work on.

Our number one concern and prayer is for everyone to stay healthy, for a vaccine to be discovered, for our students, for people who are homeless, jobless, underemployed, health care workers, grocery store employees, restaurant workers, all essential workers and all who are beginning to return to work, as well as all who are dealing with addictions during this stressful time.

We hope that all will join us for online worship and/or worship when we return to the sanctuary. Watch our Facebook page for additional activities that we may host when it is appropriate to do so, such as our annual picnic at Gregg Lake and the reopening of the Revival Shop. ❀

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Antrim History Revisited, Part 2

Bill Nichols

Continued from the March 2020 Limrik...

After sitting for a few minutes I was able to gather myself and catch my breath. When I looked up, Mr. Harrison had been joined by Mr. Trotter, no doubt curious about all the commotion in the front hallway. I explained what I had been doing earlier that morning and what I had found. The more I talked, the more their eyes widened until their pupils were a mere black speck in the middle of a glossy white ball. Mr. Trotter pulled me up by my arm and the three of us headed back to the river.

When we arrived, the knot I had fastened had loosened and the object was again in the middle of the river. Mr. Trotter grabbed the rope and slowly pulled it to the bank. Once it reached the edge of the river, Mr. Harrison assisted Mr. Trotter in dragging it up to the top of the bank. That's when I got a good look at it. This was the first time I had ever seen a dead body.

They immediately sent me to fetch Selectman Milton Tenney who ordered me to run to Mr. Brownell's home with instructions for him to meet him at the river. Mr. Brownell was the local undertaker for Antrim. When Mr. Brownell headed for the river, I decided it was time for me to go home. I had seen enough for one day; possibly for a lifetime.

On my way home I passed many people, some in groups of three or more, heading south on Main Street and cutting into the drive at the Antrim House. I heard later that most, if not all, were headed to the river to see what I had discovered that day. What I discovered that day was that I didn't want to see another dead body for the rest of my life.

At school on Monday there was a lot of talk about the body discovered in the river the day before. All my friends were asking me questions about what I had seen and what it looked like, but I just didn't want to talk about it. I just wanted that vision out of my mind. Shortly after lunchtime, my mother came to the school and told me that Sheriff Doane had stopped by the house and told her I needed to be at Town Hall by one o'clock that afternoon. After letting the principal know I was leaving, Mother and I walked together

to the Selectmen's office. All the way there, my stomach made all sorts of noises and my legs felt weak. I would have much rather been at school.

When we arrived, there were already about ten people waiting in chairs outside the office. There was not one smile among them. Promptly at one o'clock, Sheriff Doane stuck his head outside the door and quietly and politely said "Mister Woodward, would you please step inside?" I had never been called mister before so I knew this was serious. After twenty minutes or so, I was allowed to leave and mother and I slowly walked home. Neither of us said a word. There was nothing to say, at least not right now.

On Tuesday morning, I told my parents I wasn't feeling well and wanted to stay home from school. I think they knew what was going on because there were no questions or arguments. They said they understood and left me alone for the rest of the day.

On Wednesday, November 26, I returned to school and the talk about the body was starting to dwindle, so I kept my head down and minded my own business as much as possible. When I returned home, my father was at the table reading the Antrim Reporter. He looked up at me and smiled when I entered and then returned to his paper. After a while he said "That was quite an ordeal you went through on Sunday. There's an article in the paper about it and they mentioned your name a couple of times."

"They did?" I said. My name had never been in the paper before, save for a few mentions about my school work and such. "What does it say?"

My father began reading and sure enough they mentioned how I had found the body, pulled it to shore and then ran to fetch Mr. Harrison and Mr. Trotter. It also talked about how I was questioned by Sheriff Doane at the Selectmen's office on Monday.

"What does it say about the body?" I questioned. "Well it's not very nice. Are you sure you want to hear it?" he said, as he looked over the top of his reading glasses directly into my eyes. I sat down across from him and put my elbows on

— continued on page 24

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Antrim Recreation



the table and my chin in my hands and answered "Sure," as he looked at me for a second and then began to read.

"Dr. Warner was next called: had made a close examination of the body. The breast bone was gone and part of ribs on left side. Top of the head gone. One side of head looked as if it had been sawed or cut. Other side of head crushed. The muscular tissue was withered or dried, leaving tendons or cords. Most of skin gone. Cords looked as if they had been dried before body was put in the water. Arteries seemed to be embalmed or filled with some preparation. Thought body had been in water some months. Don't know its condition when put in water. Did not think body was put in water immediately after death. No articles of clothing to be found. No idea how preparation in arteries got there: believed it put there in case of embalming. The composition in arteries looked like a zinc substance which undertakers use."

He read on...

"In search about river bank found a place where there had been a fire. Near fire found a lager beer bottle, it was partly filled with a fluid. Smelled like liquor. Gave it to Selectmen (Selectman Tenney here produced the bottle.) Did not notice at the time any marks on the bottle, since had had his attention called to a name on the bottom of the bottle. Found within 20 ft. of river and 10 ft. of fire. The body of a person about 4 ft. tall and a male. Should think from 10 to 15 years of age. Don't believe in murder or foul play the arteries would have been it that condition. Did not know how

long person had been dead.

There's more of the same but it does say that Dr. Christie and Dr. Chesnutt basically corroborated what Dr. Warner testified to."

As he continued to read, my mind began to wander. Who was this boy? Where were his parents? Why did this happen to him? Why would anyone put his body in the river I love? More and more answerless questions flowed through my head until I was startled by my father calling "Fred? Are you okay?" I quietly replied, "I'm fine. I have some homework to finish," and I left the room.

A couple of weeks passed and the chatter about the boy seemed to fade like the colors of the autumn leaves. I was done fishing for the year and who could blame me? Maybe I would never go near the river again. I was feeling better but I still had many questions. Questions that may never have answers. I had resigned myself to that fact.

On Wednesday, December 10, I arrived home from school to find my father sitting at the table reading his paper, as he did every Wednesday afternoon. As I entered, he looked up and smiled and watched me cross the room. "The jury returned a verdict about that boy you found in the river," he said calmly, as if he was sure I would be interested. I was. "Oh yeah? What does it say?" I said, as I hung up my coat.

"Well, it's not much but they did print your name again..."

Monday morning Coroner Hunt of Nashua came here and at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, the jury he had empaneled

✍️ — continued on page 26

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Where in Antrim?



Jaimie O'Brien, George Davison, Shelley Nelkens, Amanda Bailey and Adam Perry, Kris Stenberg, Renee Mercier, Tim Perry, Lois Anne, Aidan Learn, Mike Frosch, Mary Visingard, Abigail Whiteley, Mary Payne, Matthew Hall, Trish Fletcher, Michelle Hall and Patrick Cogan all correctly identified the site of the September "Where in Antrim" photo as the (re-built) old water trough at the intersection of West Street and Old Hancock Road. Mary Visingard won the \$25 gift certificate to Dunkin Donuts.

The names of all who correctly identify the location of this photo by June 15 will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate for Tenney Farm. Email your response to editor@antrimlimrik.org or call 588-2569. Photo by Frank Gorga. ❁

Thanks to ...

Marguerite Roberts and Karen Weisswange for faithfully delivering *The Limrik* to sites all over town every quarter.

— Editor

Talking About Race Discussion Group Continues

Dottie Bauer

In October 2019 the James A. Tuttle Library hosted a forum entitled "Talking About Race." One follow-up to this event was a monthly book discussion group focused on learning about and exploring issues related to race and racism in our society. A small but loyal group of Antrim residents has been meeting to continue this effort. We believe that it is our responsibility to educate ourselves in order to better understand and address systemic racism in our society.

So far we have considered two books: *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi (a scholar at American University) and *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo (a writer from Seattle). We take our time, reading 80-100 pag-

es per month, and then discuss our thoughts and questions. No member is an expert, but all are committed to being curious, listening carefully, sharing our thoughts and feelings, and being open to diverse perspectives. We have continued to meet via video conference while the library is closed.

At the time of this writing we have not chosen the next title for discussion during the summer months, but we would welcome new members as we begin our next book. If you want more information or to join the group, please contact the James A. Tuttle Library at 603-588-6786 or Linda Bundy at 603-588-2254 or n_bundy@mcttelecom.com. ❁

at the inquest rendered a verdict in the case of the skeleton, which was found in the Contoocook river, on Sunday, Nov. 23d, by Fred Woodward. Nothing new had transpired to shed any further light on the case. The jury consisting of O. W. Brownell, G. H. Perkins and Morton Paige returned the following verdict: after the usual form it continued. That the body being nothing but skeleton, the flesh and muscles being decayed or removed and there being no means of identification from all evidence produced, it is impossible for them to say when, how and by what means the said unknown boy came to his death. So the persons aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do say, that the said unknown boy came to his death in a manner and form unknown to them. This probably brings to a close one of the most mysterious cases ever having occurred here. The case will not be reopened unless something new is discovered: the records of the inquest are filed at the county office."

Returned the following verdict? Aforesaid upon their oaths? Brings to a close? Are you kidding me? Legal jargon...that's all it was. They were no closer to answering any of the questions I had. I found that boy! I did what I could! I did my part! The least they could do was find out who he was. I screamed it all. Well, I screamed it all in my head. In reality, I found myself staring at my father who was staring back at me. I sat down at the table and sighed. That is not what I wanted to hear. I felt responsible for finding this boy,

but I was left with nothing I could do.

"So I guess it's over." I said into the table, not looking at my father.

"Yes, it sounds as if it is. It sounds as if everyone did what they could and it will remain a mystery for now," he replied. "Fred, I'm proud of you. You did exactly what you should have done. Nothing less, nothing more," and with that, he smiled and continued to read his paper.

I left the table and headed to my room. It was already beginning to get dark outside and I could hear the December winds as they rattled the branches outside my bedroom window. As I sat at my desk and opened my reading book, I thought about what tomorrow would bring. I thought about my friends Ollie and Roy. I thought about running down the pasture road and jumping the fence. I thought about the cold, flowing river. I thought about the boy and his family. And yes, I thought about fishing, perhaps, some day.

= = = = =

This is a true story. Although liberties were taken with regards to what Fred Woodward was doing the day he found the body in the river and the days that followed, the rest of the story is true as reported in the Antrim Reporter on November 26 and December 10, 1902. You can read both articles online at the Antrim Limrik website <http://antrim-limrik.org/the-antrim-reporter>. ❁



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Moose Tracks. How many people in this nation are lucky enough to find moose tracks at the edge of their vegetable garden on a spring morning? Photo, Joan Gorga



Antrim Eclectic Book Club

Sponsored by the Antrim Area Senior Center

Steve Ullman, Coordinator

By the time you read this, the Antrim Eclectic Book Club will have sprung back to life. Or not. Such is the unpredictability of life, COVID-19-style.

Several weeks ago I rescheduled the Club's examination of the book *Loving to May 19th*. Here is how I previously described this novel: "If you loved *Downton Abbey*, this book will enchant. *Loving* is an "upstairs, downstairs" account of life in a posh Irish country house during World War II. The absence of the "upstairs" homeowners has created an anarchic domestic environment "downstairs," leading to battles over authority, larceny, and love."

At the same time, I decided to hang on to June 18th, the original meeting date for *Under the Net* by Iris Murdoch. This is the uproarious story of a struggling young writer (is there any other kind?) who tries to support himself by scrounging on his homies and an ex-girlfriend. Jake, the hack writer-freelander, engages in a series of comic conspiracies, such as kidnapping a Lassie-like, movie star dog—all in furtherance of an indecipherable philosophy.



I cannot forecast when we will actually meet. However, once the virus situation becomes more transparent, I will use both print and electronic media to update readers.

Copies of these two books will be available at the James A.

Tuttle Library. For further information, please email Steve Ullman at stephenhullman@gmail.com. ❀

Great Decisions Program

Steve Ullman, Coordinator

Topics the Antrim Great Decisions group is scheduled to discuss once Governor Sununu reopens libraries:

- Climate Change
- India and Pakistan
- Red Sea Region
- Human Trafficking
- Northern Triangle
- China in Latin America
- The Philippines
- Artificial Intelligence and Data

Of course, exactly when this will occur remains unforeseeable.

Great Decisions is a series of informal conversations about American foreign policy. Attendees may voice their views or just observe silently. No special expertise in foreign policy is needed, only an interest in our country's future abroad. Civility and mutual respect are the hallmarks of our sessions.

Participants may order the Great Decisions manual from the Foreign Policy Association (1-800-477-5836 or aahmed@fpa.org). The manual contains short articles related to each meeting's topic. There will also be several Great Decisions manuals on reserve at the James A. Tuttle Library for those who prefer a free edition.

For further information, please email Steve Ullman (stephenhullman@gmail.com). ❀

Thanks from the Salvation Army of Northern New England

Dawne D. Hugron
Antrim Rep for the Salvation Army

I wish to thank Rick Edmunds of Edmunds Ace Hardware store and Santa and the volunteers that participated in the Red Kettle Campaign at our 2019 Christmas location. Thank you to everyone who donated. It is greatly appreciated.

Santa appeared again on Saturday, April 25th, at Edmunds from 10-2 for a food drive for the Antrim & Bennington Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone that donated non-perishable food items—a very big and successful food drive. ❀

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Gregg Lake Loons Nesting Again

Joan Gorga

Loons have been seen on Gregg Lake for many years, but we always thought they were using the lake for feeding, while nesting elsewhere. The first documented attempt to nest on the lake was in 2015, although one person told me she was pretty sure she saw a loon sitting on a nest the year before that.

The first nest the loons built in 2015 was at the south end of the lake. They abandoned that nest, probably without laying eggs, shortly before it was flooded by the rising water after the second flashboard was put in at the dam. They built another nest on a tiny island at the north end, visible with binoculars from the Gregg Lake Road bridge. They sat on eggs on that nest for nearly the full incubation period of 26–28 days, but a big rainstorm on day 26 made the water level rise quickly by about five inches. The next day, both loons were seen off the nest, and when I went out to investigate with a biologist from the Loon Preservation Committee, we found egg fragments in the water, which the biologist said were consistent with the eggs breaking from being flooded off the nest. She collected all the egg fragments we could find for analysis for toxins, such as lead, flame retardants and PCBs. I should add here that loons are a threatened species in New Hampshire, and are protected by state and federal laws. It is illegal to hunt or harass them. I could only approach the apparently abandoned nest in the presence of someone licensed to do so.

The following year the loons nested again at the north end, in a different location on the main shoreline rather than an island. When they were observed to be off the nest before the full incubation time, I was again lucky enough to go out with a biologist from the Loon Preservation Committee to examine the nest area. This time, in the biologist's opinion, the egg fragments we found were more consistent with predation being the cause of the nest loss. Foxes, weasels, raccoons, coyotes and other predators are happy to feed on loon eggs if they can get to the nest.

Loons often nest on small islands that are less accessible to predators. Their feet are located far back on their bodies to give them great swimming power, but they make it so loons don't walk easily on solid ground. Loons must, therefore, build their nests only a few inches above water level for ease of getting on and off the nest. They have sharp beaks and can be ferocious defenders of nests and nesting territory. In fact, many dead loons are found to have puncture wounds in their breastplates from battles with other loons.

Another nest close to the initial site at the north end of the lake failed again, amid what were apparently territorial battles. A couple of years ago we observed a loon on Gregg Lake that was behaving strangely and not looking well, but it managed to evade capture by a LPC biologist and seemed to recover over the following days. Last year, four loons were frequently seen hanging out on the lake, but there didn't appear to be any attempt to nest.

So after multiple years of nest failures and taking last year off, Gregg Lake's loon pair is nesting again this year. Ice-out was quite early—by March 21, the lake was nearly fully clear of ice and the loons were already there claiming territory. They spent six weeks cruising the lake and making lovey-dovey conversation in the back coves, and in the first week of May started working on a nest at a new site in the marsh on the north side of the causeway and easily visible from the Gregg Lake Road bridge. This time they located the nest in a shallow area of grasses and sedges at the edge of a slightly raised island in the marsh, with plentiful nearby sources of nest-building materials.

After they started constructing the nest, the second flashboard was installed at the dam, and the water began to rise. Luckily, forecast rain failed to materialize and the loons managed to keep building up the nest as fast as the water



rose. One day, after a modest overnight rain, I set up a spotting scope and watched the loon on the nest reach into the surrounding water and begin to pull up sedges and grasses to raise the nest. Several times, I saw it lift one end of an egg, hold it up with its belly and stuff nesting material under the egg to raise it up. Since the water rose slowly, the loons were able to gradually build the nest up and raise the eggs to keep them above water level. We saw them working several feet away from the nest, tossing nesting material

towards the nest and then either lifting it up into the nest or pulling it up while sitting on the eggs. Using the spotting scope, I also got good views of all four loon legs—neither of our loons appears to have been banded.

The water has now reached the top of the second flashboard and we have to hope that we don't get any major rainstorms that would cause it to rise too quickly before the eggs hatch. Since the nest is so easily visible, there will be a lot of us watching from the safe distance of Gregg Lake Road, hoping to see loon chicks riding on their parents' backs for the first time on Gregg Lake. If all goes well, the eggs should hatch around June 14. ❁



Programs gone virtual:

- ~**Our Better Beginnings Groups** continue to meet via video call on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for Parent & Caregiver support.
- ~**Better Beginnings for Babies** meet via video call, please contact Nancy Macalaster nancym@grapevინeh.org
- ~**Hillsborough Playgroups** continue to meet via video calls with parents and caregivers.
- ~**Our Information and Referral Program** for pressing needs and access to basic services is available. Please email our Community Resource Coordinator, Mackenzie Nichols mackenzien@grapevინeh.org
- ~**Home visiting and kinship caregiver supports** (phone, video, email) are readily available to any family who could benefit from one to one support. Please contact Carol Lunan caroll@grapevინeh.org
- ~**Parents! Grandparents! Relative Caregivers!** This time at home can be challenging! If you are struggling and need someone to talk to, or ideas on how to support your kids while caring for yourself, please reach out! Please contact Carol Lunan caroll@grapevინeh.org
- ~**Our Avenue A Teen Center** is meeting teens where they're at! Lunch table, Tough Stuff Groups, Creative Writing Clubs, Art Hour, Career Exploration, Friday check-ins, Yoga and Baking Society have all gone virtual! All programs are offered through Google Hangouts Meet (it's free and works on smartphones and chromebooks). To sign up, email Jacqueline Roland, Avenue A Coordinator jacqueliner@grapevინeh.org or call her directly at 603.762.5000

Other supports available: Volunteers and requests for help~Community Wood Bank~Community Tool Lending Shed~Distribution site for Face Masks for Health Workers~End 68 Hours food bags~ Free tax preparation with Larry Schwartz~ Winter Keeler continues to offer one to one mental health supports at the Grapevine

Please contact The Grapevine for more information 588.2620 or info@grapevინeh.org

The Grapevine

FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Melissa Gallagher, Director

Dear Friends,

As of this writing, the Grapevine's facilities are closed in response to the latest public health recommendations regarding the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, we have made the difficult decision to cancel all *in person* weekly programs scheduled through June, though we have moved most of these to remote format. This may be continued into our summer program months; please stay tuned for updates at our website, grapevინeh.org and our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/grapevინeh.org.

The Grapevine is a drop-off site for anyone who is able to make knit face mask covers for Monadnock Community Hospital and other first responders. Hospital-approved instructions and illustrations can be found on our Facebook page. If you would like these emailed to you, please contact me at melissag@grapevინeh.org. You can drop your mask donations in our back play yard inside our covered playhouse—you will see a marked bin.

Do you know of a homebound person or family in need of assistance? Are you able to help out with needs during this time such as making phone call check-ins, deliveries of groceries and needed supplies, etc.? Send an email to admin@grapevინeh.org as we try to match needs with offers of help. We also have special funds right now to support families with emergency needs. Please reach out if you or someone you know could use help.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with ideas, concerns and questions. This is an unprecedented time for us all. Our community is stronger when we reach out and support one another.

Thank you!

P.S. Be sure to check out our new website!

www.grapevინeh.org

Grapevine Summer Hours

To be determined—stay tuned for details.

Upcoming Events

NH Gives 24-hour Online Campaign, June 9 at 6 p.m. to June 10 at 6 p.m.: Join our exciting online campaign to support our youth programs at Avenue A Teen + Community Center! Visit NHgives.org and find our campaign by searching for The Grapevine.

Summer Resources & Programs

Grapevine Community Tool Lending Shed: Come borrow tools and light equipment throughout the season! Tool pickup is by appointment. We are also accepting donations of your gently used items. You can find a list of inventory and needed items at: grapevინeh.org/community-tool-lending-shed. For borrowing or donation, please email toolshed@grapevინeh.org.

Note: As of this writing, our summer programs are tentatively scheduled, however we may have to make the decision to cancel. In consideration of this unusual time, we will accept registrations without the requirement of a deposit. Please stay tuned for further details.

Backyard Summer Adventures: July 27th to 31st for ages 4½ to 6 and August 3rd to 7th for ages 7 to 9. Children will enjoy meeting new summer friends, create, explore nature, laugh, experiment and have fun!! Call for more information and to register. Cost: Please call to inquire; scholarships are available. Please email caroll@grapevინeh.org to register.

Looking Ahead to September...

Fall Better Beginnings Registration: Call now for a space for the 2020–21 school year.

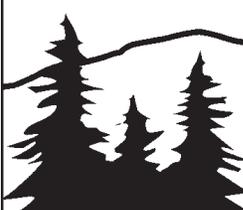
Better Beginnings parent-child program: Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.—Young children (to age 5) play and explore with guidance from our early

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childhood educators while parents “put their feet up” and talk with parenting group facilitator Carol Lunan, M.Ed., and other parents about child- and family-centered topics.

Better Beginnings for Babies: Wednesdays 10–11:30 — Parents come together with their infants and young toddlers to play and talk with our early childhood educator and other parents about the joys and challenges of parenthood, including topics such as nutrition, feeding, crying, and sleep, developmental expectations and more. Facilitated by Nancy Macalaster. Expectant parents are always welcome. Call 588–2620 to register and for more information.

Learning Vine Preschool: Runs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. during the school year for children ages 3–5. Families can choose the co-op or drop-off option. For more information please email caroll@grapevinenh.org.

Heartfelt Thank yous...

By the time you read this, our Virtual Spring Walk for Families will have come and gone. We are grateful to the people of this community who found ways to be active and celebrate the Grapevine!

We are grateful to the generous individuals, businesses and grant-makers of this community that have provided the Grapevine with continued and emergency support in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic in:

Bank of NH

Bellows-Nichols Insurance

Monadnock United Way

NH Charitable Foundation

Rick and Diane Davis once again kicked off our *Eat Out for The Grapevine* fundraiser this spring at Rick & Diane’s Brick Oven Pizzeria to support programs for children and families just before our stay-at-home order began. Due to the circumstances Fiddlehead’s Café and Catering was not able to join, but we are hopeful to reschedule this event.

Thank you to:

Tom Badgley for donation of time and supplies for our raised bed gardens at the Grapevine;

Glenn Stan for his time and expertise with Grapevine facilities needs, new projects and ongoing dedication to the Grapevine Community Tool Lending Shed.

Volunteers who helped with our **Community Wood-bank** over the past year, stacking, splitting, delivering to those in need, and those that kept the rack outside full.

**Want to get involved?
We are always looking for help!**

If you are interested in helping maintain the garden over the summer, please call the Grapevine. We need help cleaning up our wood bank area and restacking what’s left to get ready for next season. We also welcome summer donations of firewood—preferably split and ready to be stacked! Please contact us prior to dropping off wood donations.

**Other Programs and Services
Available at The Grapevine...**

(remote at this time)

- Home Visiting Supports
- Information and supported referral for resources to meet basic needs such as housing, home heating and food
- Community Wood Bank
- Child and family counseling with Winter Keeler, PLLC
- Tax preparation and financial planning
- Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren Support Group

The Grapevine is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit family and community resource center located at 4 Aiken Street, behind the Tuttle Library. For more information call 588–2620. Tax deductible contributions are gratefully accepted at PO Box 637, Antrim, or drop by the center at 4 Aiken Street (behind the library). Don’t forget to visit us at www.grapevinenh.org and follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/grapevinenh.org/> and Instagram: [@grapevinefr](https://www.instagram.com/grapevinefr/). ❁



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