

April 9, 2020

Dear 2nd Graders,

Tuesday was a beautiful day. The sky was blue with fluffy white clouds. It was around 60 degrees--warm enough that I didn't need a jacket. It was the perfect day for a long walk with my favorite people.

Otto, Xilla, and I set out from our house around 3:30. We headed to the Parson's Brook Conservation Area, which is just down the street from our house. It's a large wooded area filled with eastern white pines and birch trees, and there are several ponds where you can see and hear wood frogs and peepers. Once, we even saw two great blue herons.

As we strolled past a pond on the way to the woods, I noticed a turtle on a log near the shore. Upon closer inspection, Otto and I realized it was a group of 4 or 5 turtles, all sunning themselves on the log. Then another animal appeared on the log--a brown-furred mammal of some kind. At first, I thought it might be a beaver, but it didn't have the characteristic beaver tail, and it was smaller than an adult beaver. Otto thought it might be a muskrat. Before we could get a closer look, the critter dived off the log into the water and swam away.

The rest of our walk was less eventful. The frogs were not sunning themselves in the pond we call "Frog Pond," and there were no dirt bike riders zooming around the trails. We walked peacefully, stopping now and then to try to identify plants with the plant identification app on my phone. We didn't even talk much, since we were all listening to music and feeling sleepy from staying up too late the night before. Nonetheless, I felt very happy to walk for an hour and a half in the quiet woods with my sweet sons.

Have you taken any walks recently? If so, did you have any exciting animal encounters?

Fondly,
Ms. Gray