

Dunstable Rural Land Trust

D.R.L.T. News

Issue No. 5

April 2001

Winterfest 2001

Winterfest 2001 was a great success. We postponed the event for a week due to bad weather and luckily had a perfect winter day on January 28th.



Nearly 500 people attended and enjoyed the many activities held at the DRLT Wildlife Preserve. Our sincere thanks go to all the volunteers who made this possible. Our thanks also go to the Dunstable Cultural Council for the \$500 grant award that helped to defray our costs.

Land Purchase \$

In October 2000, the Trustees of the Dunstable Rural Land Trust purchased a one acre parcel of forested land for \$1900 from Mr. Raymond Labombarde. This piece of land forms the northeast corner of the town of Dunstable and connects to the 34 acre Gage Town Forest. We are planning our first Monday morning walk May 21st to the Gage Town Forest. We will leave from the Town Hall at 9:00 a.m. Please join us.

DRLT Calendar

The DRLT calendar will reappear for 2002. Jeff and Robyn Pallis have very generously offered to produce the calendar for us. It will be available in the fall of 2001.

Spring

Walking still
Tree frogs trill
And colors start to bleed.
Sun peeks bright
On leaves uptight.
My breath hangs in the air.

-ldb



Please find the annual renewal form on page 5.

The Community Preservation Act

An Opportunity to Protect Dunstable's Quality of Life

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is new legislation that helps Massachusetts's communities plan for sustainable growth and raise funds to achieve their goals. CPA allows towns and cities to create a permanent stream of funding dedicated to acquiring and protecting open space, preserving historic buildings and landscapes, and creating and maintaining affordable housing. CPA funds are raised through a community-wide property tax surcharge of up to 3 % and state matching funds.

The Community Preservation Act became effective in December 2000, and now, for the first time, towns, like Dunstable have an opportunity to create a dedicated source of funding for open space, historic resources, and affordable housing. Passing CPA is a local process that requires a majority vote by Town Meeting and approval at the ballot *box*.

Dunstable's desirability has led to unprecedented residential growth that threatens to change forever the character of our community. Passage of CPA will enable the town to help control and manage this growth.

Why the Community Preservation Act is Important for Dunstable

Dunstable citizens engaged in long-range planning have consistently recommended 1) protecting our water supply, 2) preserving our working farms, woodlands, and open spaces, and 3) expanding recreational resources such as playing fields. In addition, it has long been a priority to protect the historic character of our town and to maintain affordability for middle to lower income residents, many of whom have lived in Dunstable for generations. The Community Preservation Act will give Dunstable a reliable source of funding to accomplish these goals.

State Matching Funds

Through the newly created Community Preservation Trust Fund (CPTF), the state will provide matching grants, up to a maximum of 100 percent, to communities that adopt CPA. The CPTF's revenues are estimated at upwards of \$25 million annually.

Community Preservation is a Public Process

If a community approves CPA, it must establish a Community Preservation Committee that will make annual recommendations to Town Meeting on how the money should be spent. In Dunstable, the Committee will consist of nine members, one each from the Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Planning Board, Recreation Committee, and three to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

? Questions and Answers ?

How much money will CPA raise?

The surcharges will respectively raise approximately \$105,000 (3%), \$70,000 (2%), and \$35,000 (1%) each year in local funds, which will be matched up to 100% by the state.

Dunstable's desirability has led to unprecedented residential growth that threatens to change forever the character of our community. Passage of CPA will enable the town to help control and manage this growth. Not only will optimal growth management help to alleviate problems like traffic congestion, drinking water pollution, loss of scenic vistas and open space, and overburdening of infrastructure, it will help keep municipal expenses, including increases in property taxes, in check.

Are there exemptions?

Taxpayers currently exempt from property taxes under Chapter 59 of the Massachusetts General Laws are exempt from the CPA surcharge. The Town may also exempt property owned and occupied by people who qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing. \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential property may be exempt. These exemptions are determined at Town Meeting.

How long will CPA remain in effect?

CPA remains in effect for a minimum of five years from the date it is approved. After five years, it can be revoked through a Town Meeting vote followed by voter approval at the polls. The level of the surcharge and the optional exemptions can be changed at any time after CPA is approved, through the same process.

Adapted from an article produced for the Community Preservation Act Conference.



Bush Tips His Hat to Land Trusts

As President George W. Bush settles in, the press will seize on the most controversial issues confronting him and the most controversial positions and statements of his appointees (and of the people who oppose those positions and statements).

For those of us who devote our efforts to land conservation, there is a lot of information about the new Administration that isn't controversial enough to be news - but which could mean a lot in the work we do. The following excerpts are from a Bush campaign press release:

“While federal conservation efforts may be better known, private conservation has long been a driving force behind American habitat and wildlife conservation. In the 1890’s, the first land conservation trusts emerged through private sector efforts. Today... there are more than 1,000 local land trusts in America, and they continue to form at the rate of one a week...”

“Private conservation is necessary because:

- ***Almost two-thirds of all land in the United States is privately owned; and***
- ***About 75 percent of endangered species reside on private land.***

“Private conservation works because it recognizes that people who live and work in and around open spaces have a personal stake in the future of their own backyards. These local stakeholders are the ones who know that land best and care about the places and ways of life they are attempting to conserve...”

“Gov. Bush believes that protecting our natural resources will require cooperation among federal, state and local governments, conservation organizations and private landowners. As President, Gov. Bush will ensure that the federal government provides adequate resources to protect our natural resources and plays an active role in facilitating local and private conservation.”

That's a pretty good endorsement of the importance of the work we do.

Bush's Policy Proposals

Among the specific policy proposal made by the Bush campaign is full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and for its state grants program. The state grants funding - \$450 million a year- would be a huge boost for state and local land conservation. LTA, state park agencies and many others labored hard and long during the last Administration to raise these grants from no funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 1999 to \$90.5 million in FY 2001.

The Bush campaign also endorsed a 50 percent reduction in capital gains taxes on the sale of land (or on the sale of a conservation easement) to a government agency or a land trust. LTA has been working for several years with The Nature Conservancy and others to enact that proposal.

These are just a few of the opportunities to add to the tools land trusts have to protect local landscapes. We have yet to see what positions the new Administration will take on the Farm Bill, which the Congress must renew by the end of 2002. We hope that Administration will push to see that this bill will commit far greater resources to protecting farmland from indiscriminate development, and create new programs to protect range and pasture land from development as well.

Adapted from an article written by-Russell Shay, Director of Public Policy, Land Trust Alliance in the Winter 2001 magazine Exchange: The Journal of the Land Trust Alliance

NAME THAT FLOWER

By Patrick J. Archer

(Courtesy of the Long Island Horticultural Society)



1. How you might describe a silent person
2. Name of a woman who weds for riches
3. These are on everyone's face
4. You might find these on a safari
5. An appropriate gift from a banker
6. Unmarried man's fasteners
7. A country of automobile lovers
8. Good name for a guy's biking club
9. He's an awfully sugary Bill
10. They're the dairy's best blooms
11. A peevish fairy tale creature
12. A woman's nightly footwear
13. They hate to wait
14. A fine-looking jungle ruler
15. Cross between a violin and a clarinet
16. Part of an eye
17. A preacher
18. Dawn in all its splendor
19. A sugary vegetable
20. A pretty girl who has been jilted



Answers to Name That Flower

1. Mum 2. Marigold 3. Tulips 4. Tiger lilies
5. Silver dollar plant 6. Bachelor's buttons 7. Carnation 8. Cyclamen 9. Sweet William 10. Milkweed, Cowslip 11. Snapdragon 12. Lady slipper orchid 13. Impatiens 14. Dandelion 15. Violet 16. Iris 17. Jack in the Pulpit 18. Morning glory 19. Sweet pea 20. Bluebell, Bleeding Heart

DRLT News is produced for its members by the **Dunstable Rural Land Trust**, 401 Hollis St., Dunstable, MA 01827. Written by Elaine Basbanes and Judy Larter. Edited & Produced by Grace Jeanes.

Calendar of Events

Mark these upcoming events on your calendar!

Monday Morning Walks

Beginning May 21 9-11 a.m. through June 18
Excluding Memorial Day



Each week we'll explore a different DRLT or Town of Dunstable Conservation Area. There will be opportunities to walk a pre-existing trail or to blaze a new one. We'll leave town hall *promptly* at 9a.m..

Last spring several of our members participated in cleanups and trail clearing during our Monday morning walks to Flat Rock Quarry and to Horse Hill. We are grateful to Vince Hollins, Sr., Vince Hollins, Jr., Coral Webber, Berit Pepin, Pam Pascua, Nancy Ahern, Judy Larter, and Elaine Basbanes for their help.

The Garden Tour is Back!

Beyond the Garden Gate

Saturday, May 19th

10a.m.-4 p.m. (Rain or Shine)

Admission \$10



This year's garden tour will show three wonderful gardens in Dunstable: David Hardman's "arboretum" which always has new and unusual plantings, Nancy and Bill Ahern's successful efforts to establish a garden from scratch and Alan and Patty Starbird's farmhouse setting. Simmons Farm and Greenhouse and Gaths Greenhouse will be doing something special that day as part of the tour. It's going to be a great day- sunny, no bugs, bring your friends and neighbors.

We'll need some help with this fundraiser, please call Elaine, 649-9236 or Judy 649-9010 to volunteer. Thank you.

Winterfest Sunday, January 27th, 2002

2001 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

- Annual Family Membership \$25
 I would like to make an additional contribution of \$_____ towards future land purchases.

Remember, you will not save the Dunstable woods and wetlands, broad vistas and country roads for your children and grandchildren by doing NOTHING. Instead, please join us and apply for membership today.

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 25, 2001
Nashua Country Club

6 p.m. Cocktails
7 p.m. Dinner
8 p.m. Business Meeting

Guest Speaker: Tom Wessels, Author of Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England, will show slides and discuss how to interpret a forest's history while wandering through it. Using evidence such as the shape of trees, scars on their trunks, the pattern of decay on stumps, the construction of stone walls and the lay of the land, it is possible to unravel complex stories etched into our forested landscape. This process could easily be called forest forensics since it is quite similar to interpreting a crime scene.

Tom is an ecologist in the Department of Environmental Studies at Antioch New England Graduate School. He also chairs The Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation that fosters environmental leadership through graduate fellowships and grants. He has conducted workshops on the natural history of the New England landscape for more than 25 years. We are fortunate in Dunstable to have plenty of forest to amble through, and after hearing Tom you will "SEE" so much more than just stone walls and trees, trees, trees! Tom will also have his book for sale.

Dinner Reservations (Please write number in box):

\$_____ enclosed for _____ dinners at \$25 each.

- Roast Sirloin Forrestier
 Baked Stuffed Shrimp

Please return your reservation not later than April 20 to:

George Tully, DRLT
401 Hollis Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

Thank You

DRLT 2000 Membership

- Ms. Margaret Abeyta
Mr. & Mrs. William Ahern
Mr. Joseph Allard
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Antonelli
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Atwood
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Barker
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Barros
Mr. & Mrs. George Basbanes
Ms. Leah Basbanes
Mr. & Mrs. John Basni
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Bentley
Ms. Vivian Berlin
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Blair
Ms. Deborah Brooks
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Buckland
Mr. & Mrs. George Burliss
Ms. Bellah Burnett
Mr. & Mrs. John Burnett
Mr. & Mrs. John Callahan
Mr. & Mrs. Sean Carney
Mr. & Mrs. David Carville
Mr. & Mrs. Pavel Chadzynski
* Mr. & Mrs. Alan Chaney
* Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Chaney
* Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Chase
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Choate
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Church
Mr. Alan Chase
Mrs. Calvin Chase
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Chenelle
Mr. Russell Christman
Mr. & Mrs. James Circhiars
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Cooney
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Costello
Ms. Christine A. Cox
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Cosgrove Jr.
* Mr. Frank Cover
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cushing
Mrs. Bertha Davis
Mr. & Mrs. John Dawe
Mr. & Mrs. David Debay
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dinneen
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Diprizito
Mr. John Dow
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Doxzon
Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Dube
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Dumont
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Durkin
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Elwood
Mr. David Ernick
Ms. Ruth Ernick
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ekengren
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Emery
Ms. Arlene Fitch
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Flanagan
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Flanagan
Ms. Margaret Crimmins Flynn
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Fontaine
Mr. & Mrs. George Frost
Ms. Persis A. Gallion
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Garvin
Mr. Paul Gay
Ms. Carolyn Geissler
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Gentner
* Mr. & Mrs. Peter Georges
Mr. & Mrs. Dana Georges
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Georges
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Georges
Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Goss
* Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Gregg
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Guaraldi
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Guarino
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gurecki
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Haight
* Mr. David Hardman
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Hastings
Ms. Sandy Helve
Mr. Thomas Hencke
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Hencke
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Henry
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Herlihy
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hogan
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Hollins
Ms. Elizabeth Holmes
* Mr. & Mrs. Richard Holt
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Holt
Mr. & Mrs. John Holtgreffe
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hopke
Mr. & Mrs. John Hutchinson
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Icenogle
Ms. Grace Jeanes
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Justice
* Mrs. Lucy Kennedy
* Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kennedy
Mr. Daniel Kennedy
Mr. & Mrs. David Kent
Mr. & Mrs. David Kimpton
Mr. & Mrs. Francis King
Mr. John Koyutis
Mr. Richard Larkin
* Ms. Margaret Larter
* Ms. Judith Larter
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lewis
Mr. Leonard MacLeod
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Madden
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Magro
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Maguire
Mr. & Mrs. William Mahoney
Mr. Benjamin E. Mann Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jerami Marshall
Ms. Dot Mastakouras
Mr. & Mrs. George McGovern
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh McGovern
Mrs. Hyacinth McKenna
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas McKenzie
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest McKinnon
Mr. & Mrs. William Moeller
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Monk
Mr. Arthur Muldoon
Mr. Leo Mullin
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Murray
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Nelson
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Novak
Mr. & Mrs. Paul O'Loughlin
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Oberg
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Oliveira
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Olney
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Pallis
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Palumbo
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Paquin
Mr. & Mrs. Sang Park
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Parkin
Ms. Kathy Parsons
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Pascua
Ms. Patricia Passerelli
Ms. Diane Penn
* Dr. & Mrs. Reid Pepin
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Petersen
Ms. Marilyn Pike
Mr. & Mrs. John Pinard
Mr. & Mrs. John Podgorni
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Poitras
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Pottle
Mr. & Mrs. William Psaledakis
Mr. & Mrs. Sean Ready
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ricardelli
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Richardson
Ms. Lauraine M. Reil
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Rock
Mr. & Mrs. David Rynne
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Sartschev
Mr. & Mrs. Geoff Schembechler
Mr. & Mrs. John Schmidt
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Schwiager
Mr. & Mrs. Burton Segall
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sharpe
Mr. Warren Shaw
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Simmons
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Simmons
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Smith
Mr. & Mrs. William Soda
Mr. & Mrs. David Spang
Mr. & Mrs. John Stanton
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Staples
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Starbird
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Stevens
Mr. & Mrs. Robie Stevens
Ms. Marion Stoddart
Mr. & Mrs. William Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. John Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Michale Thompson
Mr. Les Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Tobey
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Treinis
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Tremblay
Troop 28 Boy Scouts
* Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tully, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tully, Jr.
* Mr. & Mrs. David Tully, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. David Tully, Jr.
Mr. David Tully, III
* Mr. & Mrs. George Tully, Sr.
* Mr. & Mrs. George Tully, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Tully
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Tully
Ms. Sandra Tully
Mr. & Mrs. John Visconti
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Webb
Mr. & Mrs. David Webber
Ms. Ethel Weisberg
Mr. & Mrs. William White
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Whitney
Mr. & Mrs. David Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Winkowski
Ms. Nancy T. Wojcik
Ms. Susan Wolfman
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Woods
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Woodward
Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Wright
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wurm

Welcome New Members!

Ms. Joan Barencheer
Mr. & Mrs. John Chermocha
Mr. & Mrs. Thaddee Gaudette
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Hopkins
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Miller

* Original members of the Dunstable Civic Associates 1986

Won't you consider joining us?