

Dunstable Rural Land Trust

D.R.L.T. News

Issue No. 9

April 2005

Farewell to former DRLT Director, Reid Pepin

Comments from Reid...

"I have had the pleasure and privilege of living in Dunstable for 40 years, almost two thirds of that time as a board member of DRLT. A number of the original members of the Dunstable Civic Associates, as the group was originally called, have passed away, but the result of their foresight and dedication is evident in the present support of DRLT. There was a certain amount of drama to the old board meeting as the burning question usually was: "can we cover this month's payment?", but often thanks to George (Tully), the payments were always met. This group can take pride in becoming a model for other communities to emulate in acquiring and preserving central open space and conservation areas, so important to the quality of life in a small community. The expansion of skiing and walking trails was enhanced by the generous gift of the beautiful wooded section by Cay and Hugh Gregg. Berit and I miss our frequent walks and ski trips in the Tully Wildlife Conservation area (The DRLT Wildlife Preserve), and are now even more aware what a wonderful preserve it is for the town. We miss the friends and fellowship we enjoyed as members of the group, but plan to continue as members."

"Reid Pepin was not only a member and founding director on the DRLT, but he found time and energy to mark trails, post signs, build bridges, guide ski tours, take pictures and give programs. A hard act to follow! Thank you, Reid."

Judy Larter, DRLT Board Member



Please find the Annual Renewal form & Membership Form on page 5.

Welcome Lisa Dingle!

With Reid's departure to Vermont last spring, an open spot was left on the DRLT Board of Directors. We are happy to announce that Lisa Dingle has accepted the offer to fill Reid's vacated position on the Board. Lisa and her family moved to Kemp Street in Dunstable in 1993 and just last year moved over to Thorndike Street. She and her family have been members of the DRLT and Nashua River Watershed Association for many years and were involved in several private efforts to conserve and/or preserve parcels of land in town. In speaking with Lisa about joining the DRLT, she stated, "Being asked to be a part of the Dunstable Rural Land Trust has been an honor. The work, generosity and sacrifice that have been a part of the DRLT since its inception by the people involved - has been incredible. I hope that in working with and learning from my fellow Board Members we can continue to do great things for our beautiful town."

Calendar of Member Events

Monday Morning Walks

May 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23th: 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.

Edible Wild Plant Walk

Sunday, May 15

Exact time and location to be determined

Join widely regarded Russ Cohen foraging for wild edible plants. Russ has 30 years of experience teaching the art of identifying tasty edible plant species and has recently published a book - including recipes - *Wild Plants I have Known.. And Eaten*. Russ is with the **Massachusetts Riverways** Program. More information will be available after the annual meeting.

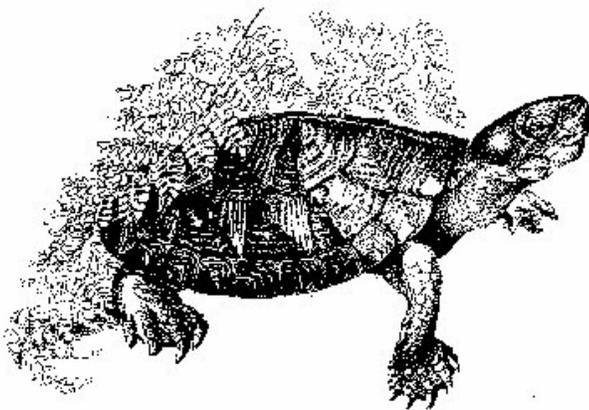
Winterfest 2006

Sunday, January 29, 2006 11a.m. - 3p.m.

THE WILDLIFE OF DUNSTABLE RURAL LAND TRUST – WILDLIFE PRESERVE

Coral Webber – DRLT Member

Beavers, lots of beavers. In the spring, if you stand on their lodge, you can hear the babies, mewling and crying. The evidence of their tree work is obvious in several different areas of the land trust. Mink, ermine and otters are also here. The otters can be seen on the ice in winter but in other seasons are secretive. In winter, the ermine has a beautiful white coat with a black tip on his tail. Predatory animals include the coyote, red fox and fisher cat. Coyote scat is seen often on the trails but they themselves are more elusive. Deer are always here and are often seen at dawn and dusk. Their trails and markings are all through the land trust. A moose has been seen on David Tully's property this year. My grandson and I were lucky to see a snowshoe hare in his winter white coat. He was very visible as there was no snow on the ground. Other rodents include rabbits, mice, moles, red and gray squirrels, chipmunks, skunks and porcupine. As the leaves are just beginning to bud, you will find porcupines at the top of trees feeding on the new growth. There are several variety of snakes including blackracer, garter snake, milk and ringneck snake and water snake. Toads, frogs and turtles inhabit the ponds and swamp area. A very big snapping turtle can often be seen sunning himself on the side of the beaver's lodge. Other turtles include red-eared slider, painted and wood turtle. During June you may see turtles on the sides of the trails quite far from their pond. Its egg laying time – the hatchlings appear in September.



Wood Turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*)

Birds are abundant in the DRLT year round residents include chickadee, titmouse, nuthatch, junco, red breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, blue jay, mourning dove, mocking bird, cardinal, crow, grackle, goldfinch, housefinch, purple finch, carolina wren, house wren, wild turkey and ruffed grouse. In the mating season the male grouse stands on a log and “drums” to attract a female. Even blue birds and robins are year round.

In the woodpecker family, you will find hairy downy, flicker, red bellied, pileated and redheaded woodpeckers.



Pileated Woodpecker

Occasional winter birds you might see are evening grosbeak, cedar waxwing, northern shrike and raven.

Predatory birds reside in the DRLT – Osprey hunt fish from the ponds and nest in a swampy area that can be seen from the rail trail. Red tailed hawk, broadwinged, red shouldered, goshawk, kestrel, sharp shinned and marsh hawks (northern harrier) patrol the area. The redtails nest in conservation land on River Street. Barred owls and great horned owls are seen and heard. Turkey vultures are more numerous every year. They can be seen soaring overhead looking for carrion.

When Spring arrives, the beautiful songbirds and warblers become residents of the DRLT. They can be the colorful topic for another article.

Every walk or trail ride you take, you will observe something of the wild. Perhaps the remains of a hawk kill, a turtle sunning on a rock, an owl perched on a branch of a pine tree or a deer emerging from the woods.

There you will always be something to amaze you.

Winterfest 2005 ❄️

Perfect day! Record turnout, with some reports of over 600 people attending! This event has served as a wonderful way for folks to enjoy a beautiful day at the wildlife preserve.

DRLT Board of Directors

Robert Kennedy, Alan Chaney, Frank Cover, Peter Georges, Judy Larter, Elaine Basbanes, Lisa Dingle, George Tully and David Webber

DUNSTABLE RURAL LAND TRUST
JANUARY 3, 2005

**WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE DUNSTABLE RURAL LAND TRUST PROPERTY
ON MAIN STREET**

Many people have been interested in exactly what is happening to the DRLT property on Main Street, with numerous requests for explanations requested of the Town Hall staff.

The Trust has retained the services of Monadnock Forestry Services to assist in the restoration of certain areas of the property, to its condition when acquired about thirty years ago. Over this period of time, the Trust has maintained trails for hiking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing through much of the wooded area of this property. During this period of time however, major portions of the open areas have become overgrown with brush and "too densely" populated with white pines; to the point that few could survive.

When the property was acquired in 1974, there were three major open areas, containing 25-30 acres of land that have grown-in. With that growth, there have been disappearances of certain species of birds and animals that require and thrive in open meadow habitat. The DRLT, through cost-share dollars from the United States Department of Agriculture, is restoring these open areas for the return of these birds and animals, taking into account the numerous trees and bushes, both dead and alive, each providing food and shelter for specific birds and animals. Fruit and nut-bearing trees have been retained to provide a food source to the inhabitants remaining and those anticipated to return.

Among the birds benefiting from this process are killdeer, meadowlark, bobolink, prairie warbler, field and grasshopper sparrow, indigo bunting and bluebirds and certain hawks. It is hoped that pheasants and partridge, once prevalent and in abundance, will return. The areas that deer graze have been diminished as the open areas have been reduced.

This is a project that will encompass a three to four year process; the major work being completed on January 3, 2005; the cutting, chipping and removal of the overgrowth. The chipped materials are not wasted; these materials are recycled and used for generating electricity at plants in Bridgeport, New Hampshire and Westminster, Mass.

This segment of the project is definitely the most noticeable with the removal of the once green growth and disruption of the once smooth roads because of the changes in the weather and lack of frost cover. The piles of what appears to be debris that have been left in numerous locations are designed to provide nesting places for small animals such as mice, squirrels, chipmunks and rabbits.

Over the next couple of years, these roads will be brought back into their former shape, some naturally and some requiring some slight work with equipment to restore, but nothing major. Each year, the DRLT will mow and/or brush hog the improved areas to perpetuate the benefits that are desired, the restoration and maintenance of a natural habitat for animals that had previously lived on this property and surrounding areas.

David E. Tully

DunstableNews.com

Kathy Icenogle has brought increased awareness and recognition of the DRLT in her article about the origins and mission of the Dunstable Rural Land Trust. The full article may be viewed at www.dunstablenews.com. Thank you, Kathy for helping us spread the word!

Calendar Sales

2006 Calendars will be available this year!

These calendars will feature the beautiful photographs by DRLT Member, Roxanne Marshal.

The calendars will be available at the library. Jeff Pallis and, DS Graphics in Lowell will once again be printing the calendar! Thank you, Jeff & Roxanne!!

Flat Rock Hill Quarry

The DRLT Directors have hired a contractor to work on the Flat Rock Hill Quarry this spring. The old quarry site will be filled and the area surrounding it smoothed. We regret we must do this but it has become an attractive nuisance and we feel it is dangerous. The quarry wall will be left as is. The Flat Rock Hill Quarry piece of DRLT property covers 85 acres adjacent to the Stone Arch Bridge Conservation area and to the rail trail. It can be accessed from High Street. This is a great area for hiking, horseback riding, x-country skiing or bird watching. We encourage you to visit!

Dunstable is a Sprawl Hot Spot

Massachusetts Audubon Report – 2003

Losing Ground: At What Cost?

In a report on land use and conservation, Dunstable appears on two “Top 20 Communities” lists that document trends in the sprawl frontier. Ranking:

- 7th in acres used per new housing unit (1991- 1999).
316 acres for 207 housing units
- 11th in acres used per new permanent resident.
316 acres for 593 new residents

“We (Massachusetts) continue to lose ground to development in ways that are increasingly unsustainable and inefficient from a land use perspective.”

Note:

Since it’s beginning as the Civic Associates in 1974, the DRLT has succeeded in keeping 547 acres off these lists.

Current Members & Friends who have supported the DRLT. Please join us!

Juan Amodei	Shirley Cohen	Arline Fitch	Robert & Catherine Irzyk	Stephen & Joan Olney	Philip & Michele Tamaro
Frank & Joanne Antonelli	Kevin & Darlene Cooney	Robert Flanagan	Robert & Claire Kennedy	Paul & Jennifer O’Loughlin	Michael & Karen Thompson
Donald & Sara Axon	David & Frances Coles	Thomas & Kimberly Flanagan	Daniel & Maria Kennedy	Jeffrey Pallis	John & Judith Thompson
Joan Barendscheer	Patricia Cormier	Henry & Janet Fontaine	David & Margery Kimpton	Anne & Louis Paquin	Russell & Shirley Tobey
George & Elaine Basbanes	Thomas & Erin Costello	George Frost	Francis & Louise King	Robert & Ann Parkin	Andrew & Julia Treinis
Georgia Basbanes	Edmund Coughlin	Ted Gaudet	John & Lisa Koyutis	Reid & Berit Pepin	Raymond &
Leah Basbanes & Grace Jeanes	Frank Cover	Paul Gay & Maureen Amaral	Judith Larter	Robert & Cheryl Petersen	Phyllis Tremblay
Robert Barbagallo	Christine Cox	Peter & Nona Georges	Suzanne Lingeman	Marilyn Pike	Charles & Jennifer Tully
Leonard Barros	Charles & Patricia Davis	Stephen & Bernadette Georges	Robert & Carmina Lolley	Donald & Holly Pottle	Charles & Ruth Tully
William & Carolyn Bigwood	David & Stephanie DeBay	Carolyn Geissler	Richard & Debra Madden	William & Susan Psaedakis	George & June Tully
Patricia Biron	Danny & Sandy Devlin	Bliss Glazebrook	Joseph & Linda Maguire	Sean & Kelly Ready	David & Mabel Tully
Sue Blackwell	John & Lisa Dingle	Catherine Gregg	William & Mary Mahoney	John & Ethel Reardon	Kenneth & Denise Tully
Boy Scouts of America,	Paul & Ann Dineen	Robert & Mary Gaurino	Wayne & Cheryl Mann	Robert & Bonnie Ricardelli	Rebecca Tully
Dunstable Troop 28	Michael & Linda DiPrizio	Robert & Barbara Gurecki	Jerami & Roxanne Marshal	Raymond &	Daniel Tully
Boy Scouts of America,	Deborah Downs	Jeffrey & Jean Haight	Massachusetts Electric	Brenda Richardson	Kevin Tully
Tyngsboro	Tim Doxzon	David Hardman	Maureen Mayer	Carol Rock	George & Susan Tully
John & Carol Burnett	Roger Dumont	Jeffrey & Angela Hastings	Hugh & Roberta McGovern	Donald & Beverly Rock	Jean Philippe &
John & Diane Cadogan	Dunstable Horse Owners	Peter & Ann Hanson	George & Suzanne MacKenzie	John & Sharon Schmidt	Brigette Vasseur
Steven & Judith Cardinal	Dunstable Volunteer Firefighters	Richard Henry	Jean McKinney	Warren Shaw	Fernando Viesca &
Sean & Ruth Carney	Gerald & Jeanine Durkin	Richard W. Herbert	John & Jean Miller	Harold & Joan Simmons	Elizabeth Holmes
James & Patricia Cerchiaro	Douglas & Jenni Ehler	Paul & Julie Herlihy	Kenneth Mills	Gerald & Rena Simmons	David & Coral Webber
Pavel & Christina Chadzynski	Donald & Ulla Britt Ekengren	Michael & Nancy Hill	William & Mary Moeller	Karen Smith	Charlene Weisberg
Eugene & Sylvia Chaney	Jason & Linda Elwood	Vincent Hollins	Leonard Monk &	Vivian Smith -Thompson	William White
Alan Chaney	Tom & Patricia Emory	Richard & Virginia Holt	Monica Akerberg	William & Deborah Soda	Robert & Ann
Calvin & Linda Chase	David Ernick	Robert & Melissa Holt	Kenneth Morey & Virginia Miller	Paul & Joanne Staples	MarieWinkowski
Kevin & Lauren Chenelle	Ruth Ernick	John & Michelle Holtgreff	Patrick & Sandra Murphy	Al & Patricia Starbird	Susan Wolfman
John & Karen Cheromcha	Ann Farina	Robert & Mae Hopke	Carl & Patricia Oberg	Barbara Starbird	Ronald & Mary Wood
Richard Choate	Marolyn Farina	IBM International Foundation	Michael & Elizabeth Oliveira	Marion Stoddart	Bradley & Susan Wright
Russell Christman	Robert & Anne Fenochetti	Darrell & Kathy Icenogle	Janet Olney	M. Robie & Enda Stevens	Michael & Carolyn Wurm

“A town is saved, not more by the righteous men in it than by the woods and swamps that surround it.” - Henry David Thoreau



2005 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

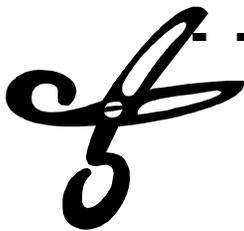
Phone: _____

- 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.

Please return FORM with 2005 Dues – Checks may be made payable to: DRLT.

Please Send to: George Tully, DRLT
401 Hollis Street
Dunstable, MA 01827



This meeting is open to ALL Members & Friends!

Annual Meeting
Wednesday, April 20, 2005
Nashua Country Club
25 Fairway Street Nashua, NH

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

Dinner Reservations (Please write number in box):

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

- Roast Sirloin with demi-glace
- Baked shrimp with crabmeat stuffing

Please return your reservation not later than April 15th to:

George Tully, DRLT
401 Hollis Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

Thank You

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!**



PLEASE JOIN US!

Dunstable Rural Land Trust
401 Hollis Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

CARRIER ROUTE
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DUNSTABLE, MA 01827
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DUNSTABLE, MA 01827

Please Visit our website – www.drilt.org