



# Dunstable Rural Land Trust

D.R.L.T. News Issue No. 10 April 2006

## Orienteering – Learning a Lifetime Skill

By Sharon Schmidt

The Dunstable Rural Land Trust is excited to support an orienteering enrichment program this Spring for the third grade class at Swallow Union School entitled Introduction to Orienteering – Learning a Lifetime Skill. This program is made possible through a donation of \$250 from the Dunstable Rural Land Trust and a grant of \$500 from the Groton Dunstable Education Foundation and includes exploration of the Dunstable Rural Land Trust Wildlife Preserve on Main Street.

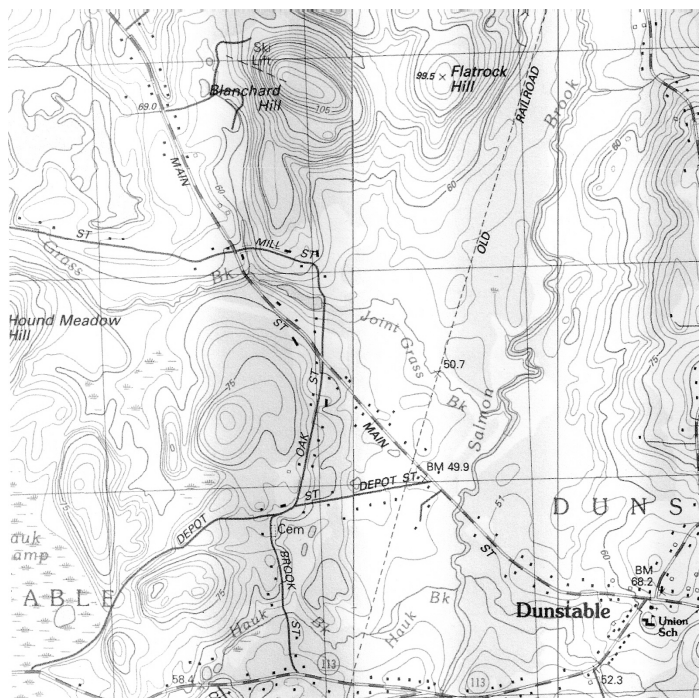
Swallow Union 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders to Visit  
DRLT Wildlife Preserve on Main Street



The Introduction to Orienteering program will enrich an existing Swallow Union third grade unit on the study of maps by providing hands on experience with maps, direction and distance. Students will learn about compasses and how they work. Building upon this knowledge they will learn basic orienteering skills (use of an accurate, detailed map and a compass to find points in the landscape) which they will then utilize on the grounds of Swallow Union School. Students will then utilize these skills in a visit to the Dunstable Rural Land Trust Wildlife Preserve.

This project will consist of three major components: (i) classroom sessions on magnetism, map reading and compass usage, including readings from children's books about orienteering (ii) a fun hands-on outdoor session on the grounds of Swallow Union where small teams of students will use an orienteering map and a compass to navigate to pre-determined markers (presented in the format of a "Treasure Hunt" where "treasures" will await the successful orienteer); and (iii) a visit to the Dunstable Rural Land Trust Wildlife Preserve, a 400 acre parcel on Main Street in Dunstable.

"Orienteering is truly a lifelong skill and we are excited to partner with the Groton Dunstable Education Foundation in supporting a project which allows children from Swallow Union School to learn these skills and utilize them in exploring one of the special parcels of land owned by the Dunstable Rural Land Trust located right in these children's back yards," Stated Bob Kennedy, the President of the Dunstable Rural Land Trust.



Topographical Map – Center of Dunstable & Main Street



Please find the Annual Renewal & Membership Form on the back page.

## Winterfest 2006



Although we had above-average temperatures and little snow, many people turned out on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> for the Annual DRLT Winterfest. The pond was not frozen enough to offer ice-skating, ice fishing or ice cutting, but the popular horse drawn sleigh rides provided a festive atmosphere. Thank you to the Boy Scouts who served hot chocolate, soup, and other refreshments while they maintained the bonfire and to all the volunteers who helped make this day possible.

### Calendar of Member Events

#### Monday Morning Walks

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>: 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.

#### Winterfest 2007

Sunday, January 28, 2007 11a.m. – 3p.m.

## 2006 Calendars Sold Out!

### \$2,587 Raised for DRLT

The calendars featured the beautiful photographs by DRLT Member, Roxanne Marshal. Jeff & Justin Pallis and DS Graphics in Lowell printed the calendar! Thank you, Jeff, Justin & Roxanne!!



## Earth Day Celebration Town-Wide Cleanup April 15-23

Choose a roadside area near your home or come and help us clean Route 113 on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>; meet at the Town Common at 7a.m. for an assigned area. Earth Day Packets: Hot pink trash bags, gloves and stickers will be available at the Town Hall and at the Library on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Filled bags may be left along the road for the Highway Dept. to pick-up. If you would like to organize a specific area in town contact either Danice, 978-649-4514 Ext 224 or Sue, 978-649-6750.

### Introducing Our New Logo....



*'The Old Oak Tree'*

#### DRLT Board of Directors

Robert E. Kennedy, President  
George E. Tully, Treasurer  
Alan E. Chaney, Secretary  
Elaine Basbanes  
Frank G. Cover  
Lisa R. Dingle  
Peter J. Georges  
Judith K. Larter  
David Webber

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.

– Henry Van Dyke

# DUNSTABLE RURAL LAND TRUST

## Welcomes A Relationship with 2<sup>nd</sup> Nature Academy Elementary School On Gregg Road in Nashua



*Written by Debbie & Denis Gleason*

Can't see the forest for the trees? Then look a little closer. What little things you find may be greater than you imagined. We hope to instill this impression in young children through an alternative education program at 2<sup>nd</sup> Nature Academy. After several years of knocking on doors looking for the perfect piece of property for its expansion to elementary school, The Nature of Things in Nashua finally found a new home. The Nature of Things, a private preschool and learning center, has been educating young children through an environmental science pedagogy, while studying organic gardening, animal habitats, and preservation of nature for nearly ten years. Over the past two years we have been searching for a site to extend this educational mission to elementary school grades. The perfect location turned up right under our noses.

***Together, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nature and DRLT hope to educate our youngest citizens on the importance of preserving the land and its natural resources.***

2<sup>nd</sup> Nature Academy Elementary School hopes to begin elementary school classes in its new location on Gregg Road in Nashua, NH this fall. This piece of pristine farmland is bordered by nearly 20 acres of forests with manicured trails and boasts a pond, fields, wetlands, and a bog. Using a green curriculum model, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nature will guide children through the learning process of core curriculum areas through the study of habitats, wildlife, plant life, sustainable forest management, farming, and biodiversity. Our mission is to foster an appreciation for our natural world and to build a sustainable community through innovative approaches to learning. We strive to provide a learning environment that enables children to experience success in all curriculum areas through the use of an integrated, multi-sensory curriculum. As well as offering elementary school, 2<sup>nd</sup> Academy will include preschool classes, kindergarten, before and after school programs, and summer camp.

In addition to planning instruction that follows a green curriculum model, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nature is in the process of designing a high performance school with the hopes of obtaining a LEED certification for green buildings. This process involves constructing a building that meets strict criteria for site selection, sustainable building practices, and the use of super-efficient plumbing, electrical and heating systems. Green builders also utilize recycled materials, maximize natural lighting, and avoid products that may contain toxins that may contribute to unhealthy buildings. Working closely with a team of green architects, planners, and environmental science specialists, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nature hopes to boast the first LEED certified green school in New Hampshire. Although the process is more costly and time consuming than standard construction, it is well worth the price of protecting the environment, local species, and the students and staff who will occupy the building.

One of the finer features of the new site is that it abuts 350 acres of conservation land owned and maintained by the Dunstable Rural Land Trust. Together, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nature and DRLT hope to educate our youngest citizens on the importance of preserving the land and its natural resources. We feel education is critical to preservation and hope to share ideas, resources, and knowledge to promote awareness and sustainable practices that will ensure the perpetuation of green spaces and the protection of wildlife in our area.

Using hands-on, experiential educational practices, we hope to inspire children to become life-long nature enthusiasts who will generate new ideas and solutions to the growing environmental issues that face their generation.





## Our Mission...

Our mission at the DRLT is three-fold:

1. To assist and promote the preservation of the rural character of the town of Dunstable, and the establishment of sound conservation practices.
2. To engage in and encourage to be preserved ecologically significant undeveloped land and to preserve flora and fauna.
3. To preserve and maintain areas within the town of Dunstable especially for
  - ❖ the conservation of public water resources
  - ❖ the preservation of marshland, swamps, and other wetlands, animal and plant life
  - ❖ the education of anyone interested in conservation and the biological science and
  - ❖ for the general public outdoor passive recreation



*The sun was warm but the wind was chill.  
You know how it is with an April day.  
When the sun is out and the wind is still,  
You're one month on in the middle of May.  
But if you so much as dare to speak,  
a cloud come over the sunlit arch,  
And wind comes off a frozen peak,  
And you're two months back in the middle of March.*  
– Robert Frost

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## Benjamin Kilham, Author, to Speak at Annual Meeting – Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Nashua Country Club

This year we are very pleased to have Benjamin Kilham, author of “Among the Bears: Raising Orphan Cubs in the Wild”, speak to us about his experience with wild black bear cubs.

*Among the Bears* is a book described as:

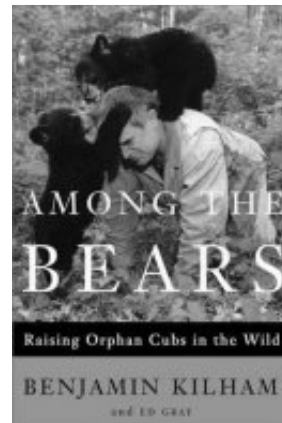
*A first-person account of wild bear behavior that is both a thrilling animal story and a groundbreaking work of science*

...  
*In the spring of 1993 Ben Kilham, a naturalist who lives in the woodlands of New Hampshire, began raising a pair of orphaned wild black bears. The experience changed his life.*

*While spending thousands of hours with the cubs, Kilham discovered unknown facets of bear behavior that have radically revised our understanding of animal behavior. Now widely recognized for his contributions to wildlife science, Kilham reveals that black bears are altruistic and cooperate with unrelated, even unknown, individuals, while our closer relatives, the supposedly more highly evolved chimps, cooperate only within troops of recognizable members.*

*Kilham, who turned a disability, dyslexia, to his advantage as a naturalist, offers fascinating insights into the emotional life of bears. His work also illustrates how black bears' powerful intelligence has enabled them to survive bounties and overhunting to become North America's dominant omnivore, familiar to every reader. Beyond natural history, he introduces individual bears who become enthralling and memorable characters.*

*Among the Bears explores the breaking down of mutual suspicion and the building up of trust between the species, with its hopeful implications for the shared future of humans and animals in the wild.*



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The annual meeting is an open meeting – Friends and members are invited. Please join us at 6pm for a social hour followed by dinner at 7pm – Reservations required, \$35 per person. A short business meeting and our speaker follow dinner at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to attend the after dinner program – free of charge.

**Membership  
makes a  
difference!**

## 2006 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

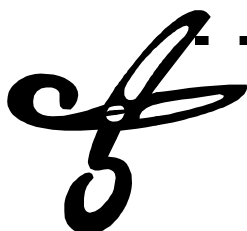
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 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 2006 Dues – Checks may be made payable to: DRLT.**

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



**Celebrating  
Our 30<sup>th</sup> Year!**

**This meeting is open to ALL Members & Friends!**

### **Dunstable Rural Land Trust**

#### **Annual Meeting**

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Nashua Country Club

25 Fairway Street Nashua, NH

6 p.m. Cocktails

7 p.m. Dinner

8 p.m. Business Meeting

Followed by our speaker, Ben Kilham, author of “Among the Bears: Raising Orphan Cubs in the Wild”

**Everyone is welcome to attend the after dinner program free of charge.**

**Reservations must be made in advance for dinner**

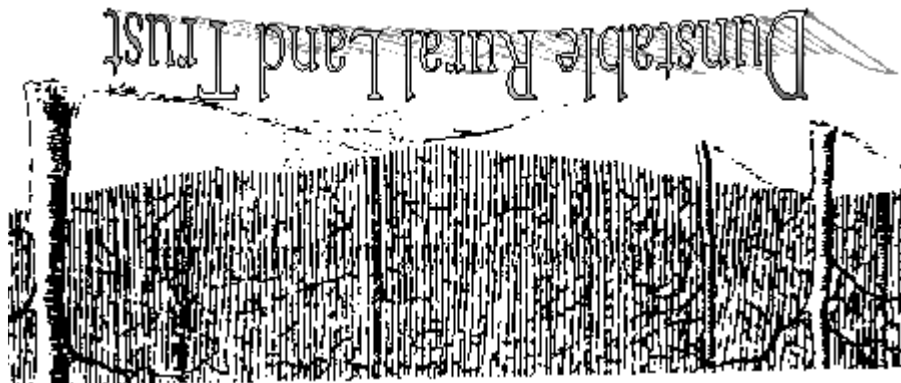
**Dinner Reservations** (Please write number in box): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ dinners at \$35 each.

- Roast Sirloin of beef
- Nantucket Casserole – Haddock, scallops, shrimp & salmon baked in a wine sauce.

Please return your reservation not later than April 21<sup>st</sup> to:

**George Tully, DRLT  
401 Hollis Street  
Dunstable, MA 01827**

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP!**



**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**Dunstable Rural Land Trust**  
401 Hollis Street  
Dunstable, MA 01827

**Please Visit our website – [www.drlt.org](http://www.drlt.org)**