



Dunstable Rural Land Trust
1070 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

Dunstable Rural Land Trust

D.R.L.T. News

Issue No. 19

April 2015

DUNSTABLE RURAL LAND TRUST

Report of the Trustees

April 2015

In Memoriam
Paul Staples



The year 2014 marked the 40th Anniversary of the Dunstable Rural Land Trust. A publication entitled “The Dunstable Rural Land Trust Forty Years of Preservation and Conservation” was completed. Copies may be obtained at the Dunstable Public Library. The Trustees would like to thank the Pallis family for the wonderful job of finalizing this publication.

During the past year, the Trust continued its mission of acquiring and or otherwise preserving properties to protect the rural character of the community, either by bequest, purchase, and/or assisting land owners to otherwise protect their properties in perpetuity.

The Trust provided financial support to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife that enabled the organization to acquire the former Georgoulis property on Groton Street (the property adjoins property owned by the Trust and the Town of Dunstable).

Other properties either acquired or permanently protected include:

- Approximately 7 ½ acres on High Street bequeathed by the late Russell and Shirley Tobey
- 4 ½ acres on Pond Street purchased from Arthur and Marianne Talis that provides access to approximately 95 acres currently owned by Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
- Approximately 55 acres on Main Street, owned by Judith K. Larter. This property, across from the historic Meeting House Hill Cemetery, is one of the most visible and permanently protected with a conservation restriction.
- Another visible property protected in perpetuity ensures that the rural character of the Main Street/Route 113 entrance to the Town of Dunstable will be permanently preserved, and fulfills the wishes of the late Olive F. McLoon. Mrs. McLoon assured the protection of this land by providing her son with a life interest, with the remainder passing to the Dunstable Rural Land Trust.



The Trust would like to thank the family of the late Muriel Holmes who, when she passed away, made a bequest to the Trust.

The 2014 Annual Meeting held in April 2014 formerly recognized retiring Trustee Peter J. Georges for his 40 years as a founder, contributor and Trustee of the Trust. John C. Thompson, a life-long resident of Dunstable was elected as Trustee.

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The Trust continues to rely completely on the financial support of the residents of Dunstable with approximately 90% of all funds received in the form of dues and donations. Without this continued support, the Trust would not be able to preserve and protect the precious open space that makes Dunstable unique. The Trust expends about 90% of its revenues on land acquisition, preservation and property maintenance.

The two annual events sponsored by the Trust to encourage people to enjoy the land that has been protected, Septemberfest and Winterfest attract several hundred people each year. These events have become a major event for the community, its residents and especially the children of Dunstable.

*David E. Tully
Trustee and Treasurer
The Dunstable Rural Land Trust*

Septemberfest—2014

Owls of the World—Who's Watching You?

A rainy Septemberfest was held October 4th. The kayaks were cancelled due to the weather. The *Owls of the World* presentation by Mark and Marcia Wilson was fascinating and very well attended.

Our thanks to 2nd Nature Academy for the use of their tented area to keep us and the owls dry.

Spectacled Owl
*Native to Central
and
South America*



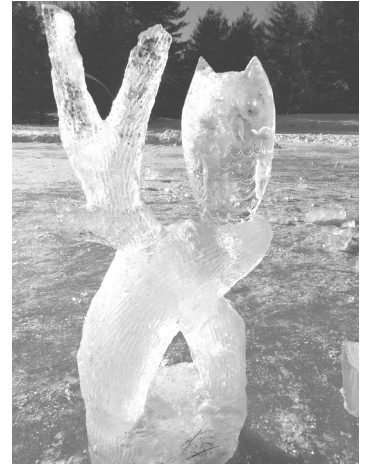
Winterfest—2015

“The Rural Character”

Sunday, January 25, 2015 was a beautiful winter day and the annual Winterfest held at the Dunstable Rural Land Trust property at 1074

Main St was by all accounts an enjoyable event. Horse drawn wagon rides, ice sculpturing demonstrations, ice fishing, sledding and skating were some of the activities enjoyed by the many who attended. BoyScout troop 28 again provided a comfortable bonfire and hot coffee for all.

Several of the DRLT members vied for best hot soup award, and from the remarks heard it appears to have been a tie for first place.



Some may have wondered how all this happened, the best way to begin to understand the DRLT is to read a copy of David Tully's recent book, *The Dunstable Rural Land Trust—Forty Years of Preservation and Conservation*. The book articulates how people who care about the community can work to keep Dunstable beautiful and not let it become just another bedroom town for Greater Lowell. Some describe this intangible attraction as “the rural character”. This book is available at the library.

Respectfully, A. Rural Character

Peter J. Georges Recognized at Dunstable Rural Land Trust Annual Meeting— April 2014

The Dunstable Rural Land Trust held its Annual Meeting on April 23, 2014 at the Nashua Country Club. The trustees and membership recognized Peter J. Georges for his 40 years of service and dedication promoting the mission of the Dunstable Rural Land Trust.

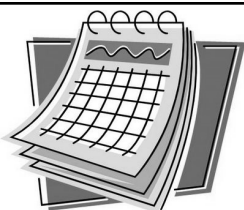
Peter was one of the original 5 founders of the Dunstable Civic Associates (DCA) that later became the Dunstable Rural Land Trust (DRLT), with its initial goal being the preservation and protection of approximately 175 acres at Main and Fletcher Street in 1974. At that time, Peter was a member of the Town of Dunstable Planning Board. Peter was also a real estate and insurance agent in the City of Lowell, with many business and professional contacts and an ability to get things done.

Peter played two major roles that allowed the DCA to become established, 1) brokered the initial purchase of the property, and 2) negotiated interim and ultimately, the permanent financing of \$175,000, the purchase price.

Over the period of Peter's involvement with the DCA and the DRLT, his contributions and knowledge and expertise aided the organization to grow and prosper to the organization as it exists today holding in excess of 800 acres as well as conservation restrictions on approximately another 115 acres.

With Peter's real estate knowledge and background, he worked with the Trust to acquire properties as well as protecting property of others through conservation restrictions. He also worked with the Trust to aid the Town of Dunstable acquire two other major parcels, land that needed to be protected, but beyond the limited resources of the Trust.

Peter has worked and watched the Trust grow from an idea of 5 individuals to the major organization that it is today. Congratulations and thank you, Peter, for your 40 years of work and dedication to the success of the Dunstable Rural Land Trust.



Mark your Calendars!

Monday Morning Walks

May 4th, 11th & 18th

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 9 a.m.



Septemberfest

Saturday, September 19th
Stay tuned for more info.



Winterfest 2016

Sunday, January 31st
11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Join us for our 20th Annual Winterfest!



DRLT Board of Directors

Robert E. Kennedy, President
David E. Tully, Treasurer
David Webber, Secretary
Elaine Basbanes
Alan E. Chaney
Frank G. Cover
Anne L. Davis
Judith K. Larter
Brian Reynolds
Robert Ricardelli
John C. Thompson

George E. Tully, Sr Honorary Trustee

Dunstable Rural Land Trust

1070 Main Street Dunstable, MA 01827

Newsletter Produced by Grace Jeanes
Edited by Elaine Basbanes & Judy Larter

Welcome John C. Thompson Elected Trustee— Elected April 2014

The Dunstable Rural Land Trust held its Annual Meeting on April 23, 2014 at the Nashua Country Club. The members elected John C. Thompson of Main Street as a Trustee for a three year period.

John is a life-long resident of Dunstable growing up on Pleasant Street since the age of 3; he now resides on Main Street with his wife, Judy and his three daughters, Olivia, Julia and Victoria. John is the son of Judy Thompson and the late Les Thompson.

John is a graduate of University of Massachusetts at Lowell. He is now works with family members operating General Woodworking, Inc. in Lowell where he acts as President of the Company.

John is very visible and well known in Dunstable as the man riding the John Deere tractor and pulling the wagon and hay baler through Dunstable. Although, not a farmer, per se, John loves the outdoors and working with animals.

Like his father, John has contributed considerable time and effort to the success of the Winterfest program. John with family friend, John Bois, continued the Winterfest ice and woodcutting for several years drawing the interest of adults and children alike to the program.

John brings a wealth of knowledge to the Trust with his familiarity of properties in Dunstable, the properties held by the trust, his business sense, and his deep family roots in the Town of Dunstable. He has the personality needed to continue the success of the Dunstable Rural Land Trust.

The Trust has enjoyed considerable success since its inception by accumulating over 800 acres of land, principally in Dunstable. Now, in addition to continuing its growth, the Trust must plan for the long-term sustainability of the organization; the trustees feel that John will be a catalyst to ensure that this happens.

Congratulations John, the Trustees look forward to a long and constructive relationship with the Trust, its trustees and the Town of Dunstable, the primary beneficiary of electing the right people to move into the next phase of the Dunstable Rural Land Trust.

DUNSTABLE RURAL LAND TRUST PROPERTIES		
	Property Name	Acres
1	Robbins Farm Open Space	36.86
2	DRLT Wildlife Preserve	267.71
3	Gregg Woods Open Space	60
4	Chaney Open Space	8
5	Flat Rock Hill Quarry Open Space	85
5a	Mill Brook Open Space	7.25
6	Spectacle Hill Open Space	1
7	Randolf Open Space	0.16
8	Horse Hill Quarry Open Space	38.5
9	George R. McGovern, Sr. Open Space	14
10	Allgrove Open Space	15
11	Lupien Open Space	10.5
12	George E. Tully Open Space	3
13	Hardy St Open Space	11.87
14	Woods Open Space	39.95
15	Matson Open Space	45
16	Groton Land Trust	17.5
17	Tully Farm Open Space	55.59
18	Off River St Open Space	33.09
19	Dan Parker Rd. Open Space	28.82
20	Horse Hill Open Space	18
21	Danforth Rd Open Space	24
22	Tobey Open Space	7.2
23	Talis Open Space	4.7
	Total Acres	832.7

**Visit us at
www.drllt.org**



Calendar Sales — \$3,000

Thank you to Jeff & Justin Pallis of DS Graphics in Lowell who printed the calendar. Thanks also to the General Store, the Library, SeasonS at Calmore, Rose of Sharon, Dunstable Conservation Commission and the DRLT Directors who helped with sales. Mark Wilson's wonderful photos of Dunstable agricultural scenes made this year's calendar a best seller!



“Every Litter Bit Hurts”
 Thank you to all who help
 to keep the DRLT
 properties clean by picking
 up trash.



The Dunstable Rural Land Trust Wildlife Reserve at Main Street has seen an increase in utilization during this past year for several reasons, not the least of which is the attractiveness of the property and the comfort people have walking this area. The Trustees would like to thank those individuals who help maintain this property.

“A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children.”
—John James Audubon

Are you a Member? Join us!

- We invite all who have enjoyed the beautiful Land Trust Wildlife Preserve and other properties for walks, Winterfest, Septemberfest, etc.
- Newcomers to Town



Visit www.drlt.org for more info



COMMON MILKWEED

Asclepias syriaca

Break a stalk or leaf of milkweed and sticky white sap oozes out. This plant and others in its genus have been used by people on both side of the Atlantic for millenia. Milkweed's sap and soft, flossy seeds have long been used to dress wounds; many parts of the plant are edible with some preparation; stem fibers have been used for cordage; and the silky seed floss has traditionally been used as a mattress and pillow stuffing and even, in WWII, in life preservers. In some places, milkweed pods are still worth about 55 cents a pound. The plant also has been used to stimulate milk production in new mothers. Ethnographer Frances Densmore spent time with the Chippewa tribe and reported in 1928: "During confinement (after childbirth) take half a root, break it up, and put it in a pint of boiling water, let it stand and get cold. Whenever a woman takes any liquid food, put a tablespoon of this medicine in the food. This remedy was used to produce a flow of milk." Its leaves have been used as a female contraceptive by Native Americans (sometimes decocted and taken internally, sometimes applied externally). Conversely, monarch butterflies use the plant to improve reproductive success. Monarchs become toxic to predators by feeding on the poisonous white milkweed sap.

*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 comes over the sunlit arch,
A wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of
March.*

Robert Frost (1874–1963)
Two Tramps in Mud Time (1936)

Adapted from *Northern Woodlands*/Winter 2014

Annual Meeting Guest Speaker

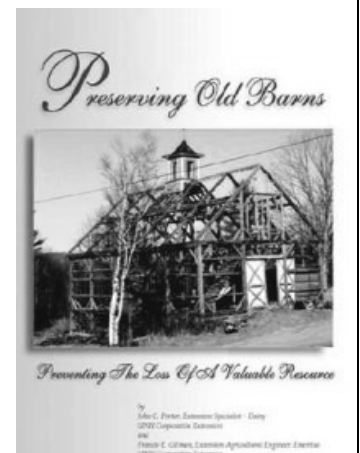
BARN TALK

"Interesting Features of Old Barns"- Barns are admired for their structural beauty, but there are a lot of interesting features which tell the story of how the barns were used. This presentation will give a pictorial tour through several old barns in New England and explain the function of special items such as the scuttle hole, windlass, cupola, hay mow, barn bridge, and other things which had a specific function for the time.



John Porter was raised on a dairy farm in Lebanon, New Hampshire. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a B.S. Degree in Animal Science; then went on to get a Master's Degree from Cornell University in Animal Nutrition and Farm Management; and later got another Master's Degree from Bob Jones University in Education Administration. He served as

a Dairy Specialist for the UNH Cooperative Extension from 1974 until his retirement in 2006. He still works part-time for UNH and operates his own consulting company, Farm Planning Services, LLC. In 2001, he co-authored the book "Preserving Old Barns"; in 2007, was editor and contributing author of "The History and Economics of the New Hampshire Dairy Industry"; and in 2011 was contributing author of "Crosscurrents of Change", an updated history of Concord, NH.



*Dedicated to the preservation
of the rural character of Dunstable*

The Annual Meeting is open to ALL Members & Friends!

On April 22nd at the Nashua Country Club.

6:00 P.M. Cocktails

Complimentary Appetizers

7:00 P.M. Dinner

Dinner Menu:

Filet Mignon with Demi Glaze with Roasted Baby Potatoes and Baby Green Beans

Crab Stuffed Baked Haddock Oscar with Béarnaise Sauce with Roasted Baby Potatoes and Asparagus

Dinner Includes Italian Wedding Soup, Salad and Italian Lemon Cake for Dessert
Coffee and Tea

Guest Speaker John Porter

\$45.00 per person



Dinner Reservations (Please write # in box): \$ _____ enclosed for _____ dinners at \$45 each.

Please return your reservation no later than April 18th to:

Filet

Mignon

Baked

Haddock

David E. Tully, DRLT

1070 Main Street

Dunstable, MA 01827

2015 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Membership
makes a
difference!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Annual Individual/Family Membership \$25

I would like to make an additional contribution of \$ _____ to support land preservation in Dunstable.

Total Enclosed \$ _____

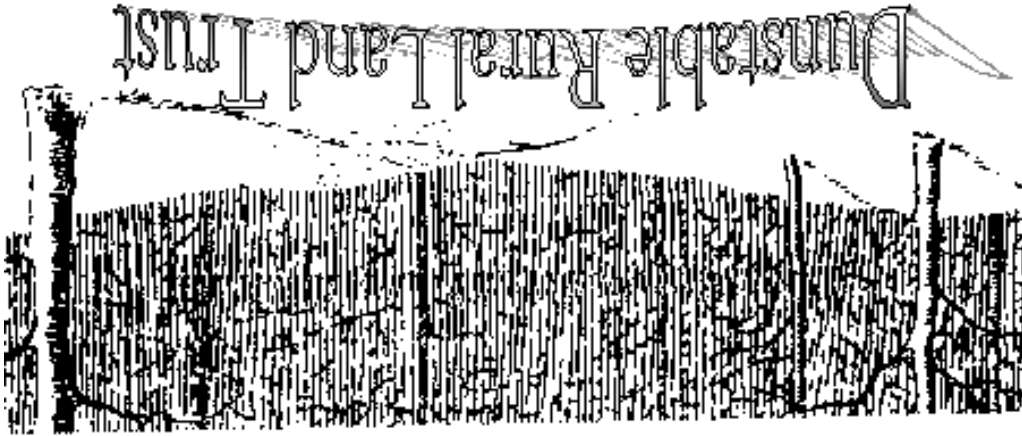
The Dunstable Rural Land Trust is a 501 (c) (3) public charity. Gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Thank you for your support.

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 become a member today!

Please return FORM with check made payable to: DRLT

Please Send to: David E. Tully, DRLT
1070 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!



PLEASE JOIN US!



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