



Dunstable Rural Land Trust
1070 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

Dunstable Rural Land Trust

D.R.L.T. News

Issue No. 16

April 2012

Farewell to Lisa Dingle

Lisa joined the Board of Directors in 2005. A creative & enthusiastic Board Member — we have greatly appreciated her time and effort! Lisa remains the webmaster for the Land Trust's website, www.drlt.org.

The Trustees of the Dunstable Rural Land Trust (the Trust) have enjoyed a busy and productive year since our last newsletter. The Trust was the recipient of generous donations during the year which are expanded upon in separate sections within this newsletter.

We are pleased to share the following with you:



The Dunstable Rural Land Trust has accepted and is managing a very generous contribution from Patrick McLampy and Priscilla Lawrence, the principal of which has been restricted to the specific mission of the Trust. The

proceeds will be used for the acquisition and preservation of property, the placement of easements on property owned by the Trust or land owners needing assistance to place easements on their properties, and for educational purposes. The Trustees are very appreciative of this donation, which has allowed us to work on specific easements to permanently protect about 325 acres as well as protect other property interests acquired by the Dunstable Rural Land Trust.

The Trust was named in the will of the late Olive H. McLoon to hold and preserve, at some time in the future, the land that has been her family's farm at Main and Thorndike Streets. As the gift to the Trust is a future interest, and the estate is still in the process of settlement in the court, the definitive arrangements are not yet clear. However, it is likely that the Trust will ultimately hold title to the farm with the obligation of placing a conservation restriction and easement on it.



Welcome Bob Ricardelli!

A New Director joined us in April 2011

Comments from Bob...

"Bonnie and I moved to Dunstable in 1984 because of the rural character of the town. We both enjoy walking in the woods, keeping animals, a large garden, and small orchard. The town has allowed us an opportunity to pursue these interests with our children. The land trust has provided us, and many others, a place to enjoy nature in all seasons and secure open space for future generations. I hope I can help further those goals and look forward to working with the Board."

The Trust was named the beneficiary of planned giving by two former residents of the town, Russell and Shirley Tobey, of the greater part of their property on High Street that adjoins approximately 30 acres of land upon which the Trust had previously acquired conservation easements. The lot on which their house is located will be sold to establish a scholarship fund in Dunstable and the Trust is assisting to facilitate that effort as well. At the present time, action is being taken in the Probate Court to correct a misnomer of the Trust in the will.



The Trust purchased approximately 20 acres of land on Horse Hill from the Estate of Louis Saab that abuts other Trust property.

The Trust has undertaken the process of permanently protecting approximately 325 acres of Trust land through conservation restrictions. This will be an ongoing process that could entail a 2 -3 year period. These costs will be covered by the McLampy/Lawrence contribution. The Trustees have begun the process of annually monitoring easements currently held by the Trust and the Dunstable Civic Trust.

If you are interested in learning more how to protect your property's open space, please contact David E. Tully at 649-6394.

**Town Wide
Earth Day Celebration
“Clean Sweep Campaign”
April 14th –22nd**

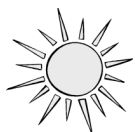


Earth Day Packets – Trash bags, gloves and Earth Day Stickers will be available at the Town Hall and the Library on April 12th and at the Transfer Station on Saturday, April 14th & April 21st. Filled bags may be left along the road for the Highway Dept. to pick-up. You may also deliver them to the Transfer Station. **Please note that the bags must display the Earth Day Sticker in order to be picked up or accepted at the Transfer Station.**

If you would like to organize a specific area in town to clean-up, there is a sign-up board at the library or contact: Danice 978-649-4514, ext. 224 or Sue 978-649-6750.

Winterfest Cancelled

Only the 4th time in 16 years that weather hasn't cooperated — the last time was 2002.



**Summer
Solstice
Celebration**

An Early Summer Solstice Celebration was enjoyed by Land Trust Members & Guests on June 15, 2011.

A perfect summer evening, picnic supper & wonderful organ concert at the home of David & Permelia Sears.

Septemberfest was open to all.

Another Perfect Fall Day. Mark and Marcia Wilson of Dunstable presented their program “Eyes on Owls”— An up close look at these beautiful, fascinating birds. Thanks to EMS for the use of kayaks for the upper pond which were certainly enjoyed by the kids.



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1070 Main Street Dunstable, MA 01827

Newsletter Produced by Grace Jeanes

Edited by Elaine Basbanes & Judy Larter



DRLT Board of Directors

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Calendar Sales — \$2,053

This year's Calendar Committee would like to thank Jeff & Justin Pallis of DS Graphics in Lowell who printed the calendar. Many thanks to Jeff & Justin!!

Thanks to David & Mabel Tully for the great photos for our calendar this year.



GRAY TREE FROG - Frogs have it easy. They eat what bugs them.



We would like to thank the Dunstable Police and Fire Departments who have been supporters of the Trust.



We would also like to thank all of you, both residents of Dunstable, and our friends from beyond our Town's borders for your continued support of our organization.



Mark your Calendars!

Monday Morning Walks

May 7th, 14th, & 21st

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

Stay tuned for more info.

Winterfest 2013

Sunday, January 27th 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

We would sincerely love you to join us!

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



The Trust has added many new members during the past year, both as financial supporters as well as property maintainers.

All funds collected are used to support the purposes of the Trust; administrative costs are principally limited to insurance and property maintenance. Funds are accumulated to enable the Trust to make acquisitions or help land owners protect their own properties.

Non-Native, Invasive Plant Japanese Knotweed or "False Bamboo"

Polygonum cuspidatum

General description

Japanese knotweed is a robust, bamboo-like perennial that spreads by long creeping rhizomes to form dense thickets. Originally imported as an ornamental screen or hedge plant, Japanese knotweed is native to Asia. In North America, this plant is not held in check by natural enemies and is capable of thriving and spreading in a wide range of conditions, especially riverbanks, roadsides and other moist, disturbed areas. Its hollow bamboo-like stems form large patches that eliminate all other vegetation. Containment and control of all the invasive knotweeds is highly challenging but very important in order to protect uninfected areas from the damage caused by this group of plants.



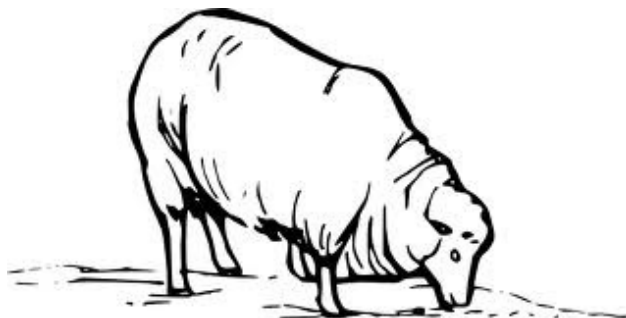
A minimum of four cuttings during a growing season are required to eliminate the underground reserves of a colony. With small patches, removal by digging may be a practical and effective option.

Stephen H. Taylor to speak at Annual Meeting The Great Sheep Boom and Its Enduring Legacy on the New Hampshire Landscape

Stephen H. Taylor is a farmer, writer and scholar of rural New England. A lifelong resident of New Hampshire, he has been a daily newspaper reporter and editor, a contributor to many publications and has held various elected and appointed offices at the local and state levels for more than 40 years.

Currently Taylor is an active partner with his sons James, William and Robert in a family farm venture that includes a 130-head dairy herd, a large maple operation and a cheesemaking enterprise in the Meriden Village section of Plainfield, N.H.

He has held a lifelong interest in the history and culture of rural New England and currently is a roving lecturer for the New Hampshire Humanities Council on the legacies of past agricultural pursuits on the contemporary landscape and culture of the region.



Sheep Laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*)

Sheep Laurel has beautiful pink flowers shaped like bowls. The petals are joined together all around the edges. At the base of the petals there are some darker pink dots. It looks like there are more dark dots around the edge of the "bowl" but if you look closely, you will see that these dots are connected to little threads. The "threads" are called stamens (**stay**-mins), and the dots on the end of each is called an anther. From the very center of the flower arises a white tube called a style. The flowers are located near the middle of the plant, peeking out from a layer of long, narrow leaves.



The leaves are leathery, thick, and shiny. They stay green year round. The stem is woody and grows anywhere from six inches to two feet high.

Sheep Laurel is closely related to Mountain Laurel. Mountain laurel can grow to be very tall (up to 30 feet) and has wide leaves. Sheep Laurel leaves are far narrower. These two plants are in the same genus (**jee**-nuss), and their species names remind us whether the leaves are wide or narrow. Sheep Laurel is *Kalmia angustifolia*, and Mountain Laurel is *Kalmia latifolia*. *Angustifolia* means "narrow leaf," and *latifolia* means "wide leaf."

Quick Facts:

Sheep Laurel is poisonous, especially to sheep. It has many other names that attest to this unfortunate fact, including Lamb-kill, Calf-kill, and Sheep-poison.

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)



"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.

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

This meeting is open to ALL Members & Friends!

Dunstable Rural Land Trust

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Nashua Country Club

25 Fairway Street Nashua, NH

6 p.m. Cocktails

7 p.m. Dinner

8 p.m. Business Meeting

Speaker – Steve Taylor; Farmer, Writer and Scholar of rural New England

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 \$45 each.

☐ *Bacon Wrapped Filet of Beef*

☐ *Sugar Cane Shrimp & Scallop Skewer*

Both entrees are served with oven roasted new potatoes and green bean bundles.

Dinner includes soup, salad and dessert.

Please return your reservation no later than April 20th to: **David E. Tully, DRLT**
1070 Main Street
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2012 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!

Dunstable Rural Land Trust
1070 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

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Please Visit our website – www.drilt.org