



Dunstable Rural Land Trust
1070 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

Dunstable Rural Land Trust

D.R.L.T. News

Issue No. 17

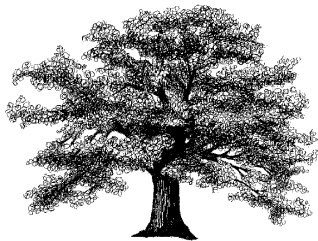
April 2013

The Dunstable Rural Land Trust (the Trust) has completed a successful year, some of its actions are visible to the community and others not so, but all continuing the mission of the Trust; "the preservation of the rural character of the Town of Dunstable and the establishment of sound conservation practices."

The Trust, in furtherance of its stated purpose, successfully completed the following within the last year:

- I. Acquired approximately 24 acres of land off Danforth Road; the property abuts property previously acquired by the Town of Dunstable
- II. Contributed \$25,000 to the Town of Dunstable for the purchase of the Best Property located at the intersection of Main and Lowell Street across from the McGovern Farm, one of the most picturesque locations in Dunstable
- III. Through the trustees and an extremely dedicated volunteer, provided information to the City of Nashua and the State of New Hampshire relative to a pending development in Nashua that could potentially have an impact on the Dunstable Rural Land Trust Wildlife Refuge on Main Street.
- IV. Recently joined 419 other land trusts in 46 states, working together to defend conservation of 20,568 properties covering 6,354,434 acres. This organization will provide a conservation safety net to enable land trusts to keep the promise of permanence of conservation restrictions held.
- V. Being the holder of several conservation restrictions, as well as easements held by the Dunstable Civic Trust; the trustees monitored and recorded their findings as a point for future information. The purpose is to ensure that the easements are being maintained in accordance with the original donors' wishes and to protect from any potential encroachments.

The Dunstable Rural Land Trust is a small, but important part of the preservation and protection of properties and land values in this local area, currently holding in excess of 800 acres in Dunstable, Pepperell and Groton.



The Trust held two events at the Main Street entrance to the Wildlife Refuge; Septemberfest and Winterfest. A very well attended Septemberfest program presented by Tom Ricardi, entitled "Birds of Prey" was recently continued at Winterfest when a Great Horned owl was released onto the property.

The Winterfest program continues to attract 250-300 visitors each year. This year, with limited snow, but plenty of ice, the wagon and sleigh rides were again extremely well received. The Trust is very grateful to the Dunstable Boy Scouts for their time and effort at the Winterfest, without whose help, the program would not be possible.

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The Dunstable Police and Fire Departments have been excellent supporters of the Trust with their time and efforts to monitor the activities at the Wildlife Refuge.

Donations and support, the Trust's only means of funds, from Dunstable and area residents continues to be much appreciated. Materially all donations are used to support maintenance of the properties held, purchase of property and assist Dunstable land owners to protect their properties; administrative costs are limited to insurance and property maintenance.

The Trustees would like to thank its members and friends for their continued support.

Signed:

Trustees - Dunstable Rural Land Trust



DRLT Board of Directors

Robert E. Kennedy, President

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Dunstable Rural Land Trust

1070 Main Street Dunstable, MA 01827

Newsletter Produced by Grace Jeanes

Edited by Elaine Basbanes & Judy Larter

Septemberfest—Another Perfect Fall Day!

BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAM

The Septemberfest Program featured Tom Ricardi of the Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Facility located in Conway, Mass. Mr. Ricardi spent more than 30 years as a Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife Game Warden. Always interested in the great outdoors, Tom's Birds of Prey Rehab Facility in Conway is his labor of love. And thanks to Tom, the rehab center gives some of nature's most majestic creatures a second chance.



Participants attending Winterfest 2013 witnessed the release of a Great Horned Owl onto the DRLT property. The owl had been rescued on July 12,

2012 from along Highway 91 in the Town of Hatfield. It was found to have a badly fractured wing as well as scrapes and cuts, possibly the result of being hit by a car while hunting. Mr. Ricardi said that both owls and hawks like to make roadways their hunting grounds.

Because of the injuries and the fact that this young male owl was still dependent on its parents for food, his condition when found was poor. He weighed in at only 17.5 ounces. The average weight of a healthy young owl at the same age is around 32 ounces. The Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehab staff pinned the wing, and nursed him back to health. After four weeks, the pin was removed and he was placed in a large flight cage to help restore his wing muscles.

Since that time, the owl was rehabilitated by Tom Ricardi. According to Mr. Ricardi, this owl, was probably around a year old when released, estimating that it was born in February of 2012. He states that about 60% of owls do not survive after they leave the nest, a very sad and surprising statistic.

Since its release, the owl has been spotted around the Land Trust as well as hunting prey at the Tully Farm. The Trustees would love to receive pictures or hear if you spot him during your walks through the Land Trust properties.

Our thanks to Mr. Ricardi and the Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehab Facility for making Winterfest so memorable with the release of this Great Horned Owl.

Town Wide “Clean Sweep Campaign” April 15th –22nd



The annual Town Wide Clean-Up is scheduled for the week of April 15th thru the 22nd.

In honor of Keep America Beautiful Month, the town is again organizing its annual Dunstable Clean Sweep campaign.

Beginning Sunday April 15th and continuing until Sunday, April 22nd residents can sign pledges at Town Hall or the library to pick up litter around town. Volunteers are especially needed along Route 113, officials said.

Residents can pick up specific trash bags at Town Hall or the Library. Special trash bags will be provided for participants, who are asked to bring them to the town’s transfer station for disposal. Bags of trash left along the roadside will be picked up by Highway Department workers.

For more information, please visit the Official Town website:
www.dunstable-ma.gov

If you would like to organize a specific area in town to clean-up, contact: Danice Palumbo 978-649-4514, ext. 224



Mark your Calendars!

Monday Morning Walks

May 6th, 13th, & 20th

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 2014

Sunday, January 26th 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

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



Calendar Sales — \$2,500

Thanks to Mark Wilson for his stunning Wildlife photos and to Jeff & Justin Pallis of DS Graphics in Lowell who printed the calendar. Thanks also to those who helped with sales; General Store, Library, SeasonS at Calmore, Rose of Sharon, Dunstable Conservation Commission and the DRLT Directors.

Special Thanks to Spencer Davis, son of DRLT Director Anne Davis, for constructing and installing Bluebird nesting boxes at the Wildlife Refuge on Main Street.

These boxes are a welcome addition to the refuge. They are readily used by bluebirds and also by tree swallows.



Bluebird Facts:

Pairs mate in spring and summer, when they construct small, bowl-shaped nests. Females lay four or five eggs and incubate them for about two weeks. Young remain in the nest, cared for by both parents, for an additional 15 to 20 days. Bluebirds often have two broods in a season. Sometimes, a young bluebird from the first brood will remain at the nest and assist its parents in caring for the second brood.

"We need the tonic of wildness...At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be indefinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us because unfathomable. We can never have enough of nature."

— Henry David Thoreau,

Walden: Or, Life in the Woods

Non-Native, Invasive Plant

Oriental Bittersweet

Celastrus orbiculatus

Oriental Bittersweet is a perennial deciduous, climbing, woody vine that can grow to lengths of 60 ft. and up to 4 in. in diameter.



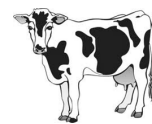
The striated bark is brown to dark brown. The smooth glabrous twigs can range from light gray to dark brown in color. It also has bright orange roots.

The alternate, elliptical to circular leaves are light green in color and 2-5 in. long. Small, inconspicuous, axillary, greenish-white flowers bloom from May to early June. Oriental bittersweet closely resembles the native vine American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*). The main difference: *Celastrus scandens* has flowers and fruits at the ends of branches; *Celastrus orbiculatus* has flowers in the axils of the leaves. The small globose fruits are green when young; ripen to yellow; then split to reveal showy, scarlet berries that persist into winter.

Celastrus orbiculatus is commonly found in old home sites, fields, and road edges. The fast growing vines can cover, shade and outcompete other vegetation. It can even girdle and kill large trees. Oriental bittersweet is a vigorously growing vine that climbs over and smothers vegetation which may die from excessive shading or breakage. When bittersweet climbs high on trees, the increased weight can lead to uprooting and blow-over during high winds and heavy snowfalls.

Birds and other wildlife eat the fruit, thus distributing the seeds. It hybridizes with *Celastrus scandens*, potentially leading to loss of genetic identity for the native species. It was introduced from China around 1860 as an ornamental. It is still widely planted and often used in floral arrangements, (which often end up in back yards which further contribute to the seed spread).

Stephen H. Taylor to speak at Annual Meeting Cows and Communities: How the Lowly Bovine Has Nurtured NH Through Four Centuries



Cattle were essential to the survival of the earliest New Hampshire settlements, and their contributions have been central to the life and culture of the state ever since. From providing dietary sustenance to basic motive power, bovines have had a deep and enduring bond with their keepers, one that lingers today and is a vital part of the iconography of rural New Hampshire.

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.

"Adopt the pace of nature:
her secret is patience."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson



"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 24, 2013

Nashua Country Club

25 Fairway Street Nashua, NH

6 p.m. Cocktails

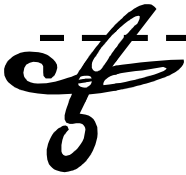
7 p.m. Dinner

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.

Steak Ernesto; 7oz Filet crowned with Duchess potato, baby vegetables in demi glaze

Nantucket Casserole; Haddock, scallops, shrimp baked in white wine butter sauce with crumb topping. Risotto & baby vegetables.

Dinner includes soup, salad and dessert.

Please return your reservation no later than April 19th to:

David E. Tully, DRLT
1070 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

2013 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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