



Dunstable Rural Land Trust
1070 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827


Dunstable Rural Land Trust

D.R.L.T. News

Issue No. 21

DUNSTABLE RURAL LAND TRUST Report of the Trustees April 2017

In Memoriam
Frank G. Cover
Sally Ann Hurley
Joseph Koyutis




“THE MCLOON PROPERTY”

Traveling on Main Street to Tyngsboro many of you may look over as you pass the McLoon Barn at the entrance of town and wonder what will happen to the McLoon property.

The short answer is that the DRLT envisions that the McLoon property will remain “as-is” retaining its present character which was the wish of Olive F. McLoon when she bequeathed her property to the Trust which wishes to preserve the entrance to the Town of Dunstable.

Shortly before her passing in 2011, Mrs. McLoon approached the DRLT to inquire about our interest and willingness to accept a bequest of her property consisting of approximately 120 acres with two houses and a historic barn.

Mrs. McLoon hoped that the property be maintained for farming and conservation purposes subject to a conservation restriction.

The Trust agreed to accept the property, subject to a life estate to be held by her son, Ronald McLoon, who had periodically used the farm to raise vegetables. The DRLT expected the term of the life-estate to last many years, but it was cut short by Mr. McLoon’s untimely death in December 2015.

What should have been a simple transfer of the life estate upon Mr. McLoon’s death became more complicated about one month before his passing when it was learned that Mr. McLoon actually held an ownership interest in the real estate bequeathed to the DRLT by his mother. Because of this lack of knowledge and proper planning, Mr. McLoon's death created some additional hurdles which were compounded by the fact that heirs to his estate reside outside of the United States. Resolution of the title to the McLoon property will be a prolonged process as there are two estates.

It is our intent over the next five to ten years to fulfill Mrs. McLoon's wishes, the DRLT will maintain as much of the open space as possible, preserving the houses and the historic barn with its distinct cupola.

How will this be accomplished? The DRLT has assumed responsibility for maintaining the property (using our available funds) to protect our future investment as well as the interests of the heirs to the Ronald McLoon estate. The DRLT anticipates a combination of a capital campaign, possible sale and/or lease of some of the real estate, and the possibility of borrowing funds should the need arise. At the suggestion of one of the Trust’s most ardent supporters, we recently applied for a grant which, if received, will allow the Trust to begin restoration of the barn and the "cupola.”

(Continued on Page 2)

Also during this past year, the DRLT:

- contributed funds to enable the Town of Dunstable to purchase land adjacent to the Ferrari Farm (approximately 20 acres)
- provided funds and paid for professional services to enable the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to purchase approximately 15 acres near Forest Street.
- worked with other land owners desiring to permanently protect their properties, either during their lifetimes or in some cases, more importantly to carry out their wishes after death.

The DRLT accomplishments are only possible due to the support of residents of the Town of Dunstable as well as many neighbors and former residents who remain friends of our organization even after relocating outside of our town. The DRLT continues to monitor our operating expenses to insure they are limited to insurance and maintenance costs. The DRLT utilizes the major portion of contributions received for legal and other professional services to protect property, either to be owned the Trust or retained by the landowner and protected in perpetuity by conservation restrictions.

The DRLT, through out-right ownership and/or conservation restrictions held by the Dunstable Civic Trust, currently maintains in excess of 1,000 acres, principally in Dunstable. The DRLT website (drlt.org) provides a great resource to keep on top of what is happening throughout the year.

The trustees are very appreciative of the support received since inception and thank you in advance for your continued confidence in the mission of the Trust.

Trustees of the Dunstable Rural Land Trust
April 2017

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.

Remembering Frank G. (Skip) Cover



Frank G. (Skip) Cover passed away on December 26, 2016.

Frank had been a forestry and tree care specialist for many years in Dunstable. Skip followed in the footsteps of his parents, Mary and Brooke, who had long records of service to the town of Dunstable. In addition to their other activities, Mary had been involved with the library and Brooke was a member of the first Conservation Commission. They were Charter members of the Dunstable Civic Associates.

Skip served as Chairman of the Town Caucus Committee and Tree Warden. He became a Trustee of the DRLT. He grew up as a friend and neighbor of Ron McLoon, who passed away last year, and he had been helpful in our efforts to preserve the McLoon Farm. He will be missed as a resource about that property's history.

Skip was a steward of his land which remains one of the few undivided large parcels in town. It is our hope to continue his vision of Cover Brook as a protected farm and forest area.



DRLT Board of Directors

Robert E. Kennedy, President

David E. Tully, Treasurer

Robert Ricardelli, Secretary

Elaine Basbanes

Alan E. Chaney

Anne L. Davis

Judith K. Larter

Aina Pallis

Brian Reynolds

John C. Thompson

Peter J. Georges, Honorary Trustee

George E. Tully, Sr*, Honorary Trustee

*Deceased

Septemberfest—2016
October 8th at the Tully Wildlife Refuge
Birds of Prey Presentation by Tom Ricardi



Several species of beautiful birds of prey, such as this golden eagle, were part of the interactive presentation.



Eastern screech owl

A retired Fish and Wildlife game warden and licensed wildlife rehabilitator, Ricardi cares for injured birds, operates a successful captive-breeding program and travels throughout New England helping people appreciate, respect and assist in the conservation of these important raptors.

Visit us at www.drlt.org



**Maps
 Trails
 History**

Welcome Aina Pallis!



The Trustees of the DRLT welcome Aina Pallis to the Board of Directors.

Aina has lived in Dunstable since 2004. She is from Hamar, Norway, a town located on the shores of Mjøsa, Norway's largest lake. Aina grew up with horses and cows, and describes the

farms bordered by stone walls – a connection she loves about Dunstable. She has always loved nature; hiking in the mountains, fly fishing and hunting. Aina's interests include gardening, knitting and restoring old furniture.

Aina and her husband, Jeff, have been generous and enthusiastic members for many years. Jeff's company, DS Graphics has donated the printing of our annual calendar since the first one in 1997.

Aina emphasizes that it is important to keep natural green space, landscape free from asphalt, so that habitat is conserved for wildlife. Aina is excited to be a part of the Land Trust's preservation of our rural community for future generations. She and Jeff live on High Street with 3 children, one horse, a dog and two cats.

Thank you to our Members!

Tyngsboro resident and DRLT member, Christine Chisholm's sale of the 2017 calendars raised over \$2,000 for the DRLT. These beautiful pastel paintings featured landscapes, wildlife and livestock in Dunstable.

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.

Dunstable Rural Land Trust

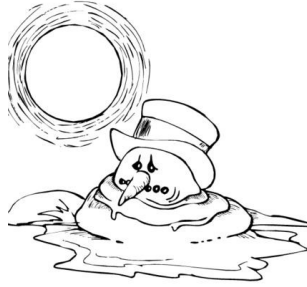
1070 Main Street Dunstable, MA 01827

www.drlt.org

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

Winterfest—2017 CANCELLED Again

Our 21th Winterfest was cancelled this year due to lack of ice and snow—we'll try again next year! We've cancelled only 6 times in 21 years.



Please join us next year at the Dunstable Rural Land Trust property at 1074 Main Street on Sunday, January 28th, 2018!

Winterfest 2018

Sunday, January 28th
11 a.m.–3 p.m.



Mark your Calendars!

Monday Morning Walks

May 1st, 8th & 15th

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 16th
Stay tuned for more info.



TURTLES

Be more aware of turtles on the roads, especially from mid-May to early July.

What should I do if I see a turtle on the road?

First and foremost, do not risk getting hurt or causing harm to others by unsafely pulling off the road or trying to dodge traffic. However, if the opportunity to safely move a turtle occurs, move it in the direction it was heading and off the edge of the road. It is trying to get to habitats and resources it needs. Do not take turtles home or move them to a "better location".

What if it is a Snapping Turtle?

If you must move a snapping turtle, use a broom and plastic tub (or box) to capture them, by coaxing them into the tub. This is the best method because snapping turtles are fast and have very powerful jaws (can sever fingers). A snapping turtle can reach your hands if you lift it by the sides of its shell, but they cannot reach your hand directly under the shell, or at the bridge of the shell. Do not lift them only by the tail; that can injure their spine.

Spotted Turtle- *Clemmys guttata*

Identification

3.5-4.5 inches

Black carapace with varying numbers of distinct yellow spots. Hatchlings often have just one spot per scute.

Habitat: Marshy meadows, bogs, swamps, and other shallow water bodies. The Spotted Turtle is a vernal pool facultative species, using those pools at optimal times of the year. It moves between wetlands and upland habitats on an annual basis.

Threats: nest predation, cars, habitat fragmentation, poaching for pet trade.

Conservation Status: recently de-listed as *Species of Concern*, pending more data



Common Musk Turtle - *Sternotherus odoratus*

Identification

2.0-4.5 inches

Two light yellow stripes on each side of head

Small barbels under chin and on throat

Carapace dark and often coated with algae

Plastron small with single hinge

Often emits foul scent when disturbed

Habitat: Calm or slow moving water with soft bottom. More common where there is abundant aquatic vegetation. Sometimes seen prowling along bottom.

Threats: Nest predation, cars, and to some extent being killed by fisherman.

Conservation Status: *Common.*



Snapping Turtle - *Chelydra serpentina*

Identification:

8-14 inches

Long tail which is saw-toothed along top

Large Head

Carapace dark gray to black

Rear edge of carapace serrated

Small plastron

Hatchlings closely resemble adults

Habitat: Snapping turtles prefer calm ponds and lakes with soft bottoms. They will even enter brackish areas for short periods.

Threats: Nest predation by raccoons and other predators, cars

Conservation Status: *stable*



Eastern Painted Turtle - *Chrysemys picta picta*

Identification:

4.5-6.0 inches

Two long yellow spots each side of head

Buffered black shell with olive seams between carapae scutes

Red stripping on legs

Adult males have long front nails

Red markings along perimeter of carapace, top and bottom

Habitat: Calm water with soft bottom. Prefers heavy aquatic vegetation and abundant basking areas. This is the most commonly spotted basking turtle

Threats: Nest predation, cars

Conservation Status: *Common*



Adapted from <http://www.grotonturtles.org>

Groton Turtle Conservation
Groton, Massachusetts 01450

And <http://www.mass.gov>

Groton Turtle Rescue 339.221.4261
Contact Us: Email grotonturtles@gmail.com



APRIL

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE
EASTERN COYOTES

The female coyote gives birth in April or early May. The average litter size is six pups. The pups are raised by both adults and other adult coyotes may help out. The young coyotes will reach adult size in 9 to 12 months. They usually disperse to find their own territories within a year or less.

Flowers That Attract Bees

Filling your yard with flowers that attract bees is just one small way you can aid their survival while also supporting the environment.

1. Black-Eyed Susan
2. Daisy
3. Roses
4. Sunflower
5. Zinnia
6. Bee Balm
7. Dandelion
8. Clover (all varieties)
9. Goldenrod
10. Milkweed



*Bee! I'm expecting you!
Was saying Yesterday
To Somebody you know
That you were due—*

*The Frogs got Home last Week—
Are settled, and at work—
Birds, mostly back—
The Clover warm and thick—*

Emily Dickinson
(1830 - 1886)

Many people consider dandelion, clover, goldenrod, and milkweed weeds, but it's very important to remember that these weeds are also crucial food sources for both bees and butterflies. Think twice about removing these plants from your landscape and never use pesticides to eradicate unwanted vegetation. Most chemical pesticides will have adverse side effects that can harm or kill off bees, sometimes eradicating an entire colony. Remember, bees that are attracted to your yard by weed flowers will also pollinate the more favorable plants, fruits, berries, and vegetables in your garden.

Adapted from <https://newengland.com/today/living/gardening/flowers-that-attract-bees/>

Annual Meeting Guest Speaker Marion Stoddart: Founder of the Nashua River Watershed Association



Marion Stoddart, founder of the Nashua River Watershed Association will be with us to show the short film (10 minutes) "Greenway Heroes: Profiles in Land Conservation". Marion's connection to the Nashua River led her to clean up the polluted river in the 1960's. In honor of Marion's 85th birthday, the Marion Stoddart Greenway Fund was established.

Hear the firsthand accounts of three individuals who chose to protect their land permanently for the common good. In the film, Tom Jarvela of Townsend, Leigh Hudson of Princeton and Harley Holden of Shirley each will tell their story—why they protected their land, and the emotional impact of their legacy gifts.

The film was produced by Sue Edwards of Pepperell and co-directed by Joy Reo of Westford.

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

**The Annual Meeting is open to
ALL Members & Friends!**

**On Wednesday, April 26th
at the Nashua Country Club
25 Fairway Street, Nashua, NH**

6:00 – 7:00 PM – Cocktail Hour – Cash Bar
International Domestic Cheeses
Sliced Fresh Fruit &
Fresh Vegetable Crudités with dip
7:00 P.M. Dinner

Guest Speaker Marion Stoddart,
Greenway Heroes:
Profiles in Land Conservation
\$45.00 per person

You do not have to be a member to attend the dinner.
Come and find out more about the DRLT.

Dinner Menu
SOUP
Lemon chicken with Rice
SALAD
Mandarin salad of Mixed Greens
Red onion & pecans
Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing
ENTRÉE
Bacon Wrapped Filet Mignon
With Demi Glaze
Roasted Red Potatoes and Bundled Green Beans
or
Shrimp and Scallop Skewer
Served over Rice w/ Bundled Green Beans
Rolls and Sticky Buns
DESSERT
Key Lime Pie
Coffee & Tea

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

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

Filet
Mignon

Shrimp and
Scallop

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

2017 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

**Membership
makes a
difference!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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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