

# DIONONDEHOWA

## Wildlife Sanctuary & School

ISSUE 12

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2014

### DWS&S

*Incorporating Purposes*

#### The Wildlife Sanctuary:

- \* Provides a recharge area for wildlife on the Sanctuary and in the region
- \* Contributes to the corridor that provides migration routes for large animals
- \* Provides habitat for native plants and animals in an ever-dwindling natural landscape
- \* Provides riparian and landscape beauty for recreational users of the Battenkill
- \* Contributes land to existing forever-wild areas

#### Dionondehowa School:

- \* Focuses on Nature Studies, the Healing Arts, and the Expressive Arts in a beautiful natural setting
- \* Encourages the free exchange of ideas
- \* Makes Expressive Arts, Healing Arts, and Nature programs available to individuals of diverse backgrounds and interests
- \* Engenders a sense of social and environmental responsibility
- \* Offers skills for implementing social and environmental responsibility

#### DWS&S Board of Directors

Peter Andrea  
Stanley Dorn  
Bonnie Hoag  
Geoffrey Ovington  
Kristi Plunkett  
Ron Sloan

### Decisions to be made...

After almost twenty years of supporting our Long Grass Nesting Project, in place for bird species which were driven out by farming practices, we must now decide how to nourish the Sanctuary fields, which ones to keep open for purposes of the Project and which ones to let continue in their natural process of succession.

When Dionondehowa was born as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1995 the local farmers, who harvested a hay crop for cattle feed, had been fertilizing the fields with commercial fertilizers. The DWS&S Board chose to stop this practice as it seemed counter to our purposes of protecting the wetland, creeks, and ultimately, the Battenkill River. The dairy farmers were not using organic practices - and indeed such practices were not popular then.

We believed we had struck the middle way when our next dairy farmer mowed once each summer after August 1st. This allowed time for the species we aimed to help to have their young without their nests (and broods) being rolled up in a big round bale. For us it was symbiotic. So content were we with this exchange that we lost sight of the decline in hay quality.

In 2013 we dug soil samples for testing. The results would have been more meaningful to a farmer. Even so, we now have an updated record of the soil pH and percentages of some minerals which can be found at toxic levels as the pH drops.

Now the DWS&S Board is seeking the best next step for the fields. How do we revitalize the soil without using local manure which may be contaminated with antibiotics and other feed additives? And without huge expense?

Our current farmer suggested letting him plow, manure and plant one of the fields in sorghum. He would also use an herbicide to control weeds. This is counter to our intentions - and to our legal obligations - for the land comprising the Sanctuary. Our intentions being *not* to further contaminate the soil and water. Our legal obligation being that no one may make a profit from the land, which has been designated forever-wild and which we have loftily imagined we can "give back to itself."

This is where the natural succession to hardwood forests butts against our Long-grass Nesting Project. It may be that the Board will choose to allow the natural succession in some of the fields which had been previously farmed and thereby kept open. Our current farmer has offered to bring in a big machine to scrape up the bushes, sumac, young poplars and the like, shoving them aside to interrupt succession and keep the fields productive for hay, albeit low-quality.

While we won't take that approach we are tending toward keeping open the fields that show the least succession and "letting" the others continue along their path. This would mean hiring a brush-hog to keep the perimeters free of the encroachment of natural succession.

Keeping some acres *open* and in long grass is not only for Bobolinks and Lincoln Sparrows. Humans need open spaces, too... and those breath-giving long views across the valley, amid the rolling foothills and beyond to the ancient Taconics of Vermont.

We have thus far looked into spreading lime on the fields, spreading chicken manure from a local organic chicken farm, or manure from other organically raised animals. We need to be mindful of the impact of any fertilizer if spread on the fields bordering the Wetland Restoration Project being sure to apply it when it has the best chance of soaking into soil, instead of water.

We also have the simple option of doing nothing, letting the fields restore their balance slowly, over time. We are not, after all, seeking crop production from the soil. It is also probable that the upland-soil of the Sanctuary has a naturally low pH. Maybe we are trying to "correct" its native condition. As it is, the fields in question are still supporting many grasses and familiar, useful medicinal plants.

We invite our readers who have experience with these questions (and solutions) to please contact us at 518.854.7764.

### *Dionondehowa Diary*

*Entries selected by Leilah Mariposa*

March 29, 2002 - ...dusk... a lone Turkey strutting across the field east of the wetland as though heading to the creek and marshy terrain. Red-winged Blackbirds seem to have their full bands of red now - a delight to my eyes, so weary of grey March.

May 23, 2009 - Goldfinch couples just behind the house enjoying the dandelions that have gone to seed. It looks to me as though they prefer them when the flower has closed & gone to seed. Then they are like a little cylinder of seeds - contained and easy for their beaks to peck in, for the seeds at the bottom... the seeds which must be quite delicious for them. Delicious for me is the color and how small they are - and yet... that yellow sings so brightly. Five or six in the grass is medicine for this old soul. (It's not the Finches. It's not me. It's what conveys... between us and among us.)

May 1, 2013 - ... a Frog... sitting on a Turtle's back - what a funny-whimsical-endearing treat! Makes me wonder... did the Frog know it was a Turtle? did the Turtle know it was a Frog? did the Frog think it was a lovely, smooth stone for sitting? was that the Frog who makes the glorious, sustained trilling which we've basked in the last few days? I think YES, as I could see its throat (through the binoculars) bulging in synchrony with the trilling sound. Maybe the Turtle likes the sustained trilling, too, and enjoyed the vibrations coming through its shell. I know that I would!

July 17, 2013 - Young Black Bear! near the house at the little pond. 150-pound-ish. Why did it come so close? Was it the compost pile that called it in... or maybe it was thirsty?

August 1, 2013 - Bullfrogs in the pond are so funny! They seem to chuckle together - over world (or daily) events - like old men at the general store, in chairs leaned-back around the pickle barrel, sharing an old, familiar joke. The all-knowing been-here-too-long kind of rolling deep-throated laughter.

August 26, 2013 -The dense island of Viburnum in the Orchard is like Grand Central Station (as we used to say)... birds feasting on the fruit (with pear for dessert - unfortunately for us). We hope that this flurry of feasting does not notice the peach trees, so full of fruit. Included at the banquet: juvenile Great-crested Flycatchers, Peewees, Bluebirds, Flickers, and migrating Warblers we can't see well enough to identify.

January 8, 2014 - Up around 7am looking out the upstairs back windows I saw the black & white Cat walking - striding with commitment (if not purpose) - west to east under Apple Tree #3 of the Orchard. A big Bunny was sitting under the barberry bush, forward in the scene. And then, a Bald Eagle flew straight through east to west - a clean line - nothing tentative - at about the level of the black locusts. Ahhhhh!!!! What a feeling: to be in an Eagle's flyway! I figure, if we look out - about 7am - every morning, we will have this same blessing bestowed. I realize that it happens no matter what - whether we see it or not - but that is a different kind of blessing

## Gratitude is Abundance

### *Dionondehowa Collaborates with Hubbard Hall*

In the summer of 2013 Hubbard Hall invited Dionondehowa to participate in its *River Rhythms Project* which culminated with a September performance of "If Books Could Dance" with the Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company at Hubbard Hall.

Our contribution was a compilation of *River Rhythms Poetry* by poets who responded to our "Call to Poets". Here is an example by Sandra Wall who has attended many Dionondehowa Writers Retreats.

Please ask if you would like a copy of the whole collection.

#### **SILKEN DREAM**

Water slips around the leaves  
Of willow overhanging.  
Soft as whispering silk  
In summer's gentle breeze.

*Sandra J. Wall*



### *THANKS to:*

**Patti Buck** - for her help with the MMF Young Artists Concert and with the final proofing of this newsletter

**Kristi Plunkett** - for helping keep it all together for the MMF Young Artists Concert

**Peter Andrea** - for constructing this newsletter and for maintaining our website

**Nat Parke** - for bringing his love of feathered beings to our annual Bird Walk

**David Hunt** - for his ongoing devotion to the recovery of the Dionondehowa Creek

**Olivia Williamson** - for organizing our Union College work days

**Eric Strebel** - for coming from NYC to help with the last of the Creek Dump Cleanup

**Kristi, Nick, Hesperos & Leilah** - for helping with the last dig of the Creek Dump Cleanup

**Skosh Snyder** - for donating the piano tuning in advance of our MMF Young Artists Concert

**Terrason Hunt** - David's son, for always being there for the Creek Cleanup

**All** - who so generously donated scrumptious food for the MMF Young Artists reception!

**Leilah Mariposa** - for contributions to this newsletter

## Dionondehowa Wildlife Sanctuary & School Calendar of Events 2014

- April 27**      *Union College Environmental Club* returns to help out on the Sanctuary
- May 10**        *Bird Walk* with bird enthusiast Nat Parke 9am - Noon donation requested
- June 1**         *Creek Restoration* with David Hunt 9am - 4pm volunteers needed (article page 7)
- June 21**       *The Dangers of Geoengineering: Solar Radiation Management* 1 - 4pm (article page 6)
- July 12**        *What is Deep Ecology and Why Does it Matter?* 1 - 4pm
- July 27**        *Manchester Music Festival* - Young Artists Concert in the Muse Room 3pm
- August 10**     *Wild Plants Workshop* with Bonnie Hoag 1 - 4pm
- August 17**     *Lyme Disease as Biological Warfare* 1 - 4pm (article page 4)

To join any of these workshops and programs please register at 518.854.7764

## Being Alive is a Mystical Adventure

### Win-win Wishing

A young friend (aged ten) was visiting (after Thanksgiving 2013) and while he was at the Sanctuary, he was presented with the wishbone... for the purpose of wishing, of course. Before I continue with this magical story of discovery I want to acknowledge my vegetarian and vegan friends who will ask what kind of useful wish can possibly be made on the bones of another being's suffering? And yet, there we were with a brittle wishbone, ready for the traditional wish... *and* traditional superstitions. 1) The wishbone must be broken by two people - each one holding the tips with two fingers only. 2) A wish must be made. 3) The wish cannot be revealed or it will not come true. All this is a lot of pressure... a lot of protocol.

Then... another visitor tried to introduce a new idea. What if 1) You make your wish but... 2) Leave the wishbone *whole* so that *both* your wishes come true?

Our ten-year-old thought this was a very bad idea. He wanted tradition and *really*... *why risk a wish* with this new cockamamie idea?! Leave it *whole*? Why the very idea! *Both* wishes coming true? No! Never!

For a moment now, can we consider this in light of the many beliefs we all have in place - so tightly in place they seem immovable, immutable? For instance: What!? No more war!? Unthinkable! Ah yes. And so it is.

The necessity of tradition, of expectation, of *winning*, overrode new possibilities for our ten-year-old and so we each took hold of one tip - our wishes in place - pulled toward ourselves and... when the bone broke, a spirit (more compelling than any argument for sanity) broke it as you see it in the drawing here. Yes! *In equal parts!*

The tip flew off! And we were - each of us - left holding a length of bone exactly the same. Amazing! All who witnessed this were delightedly surprised.

Our wise old visitor pointed out that what had actually *happened* was something *no one* had considered, as though counseling us always to keep in mind the possibility of something yet-unimagined.

For wishbone traditionalists it was, at best, an anomaly. For our youngster it represented a "failed" wish, as though we had *both* lost.

For me, it was a confirmation that we had *both* won - could *share* in winning.

"So," I asked my young friend, "what was your wish?"

"I can't *tell* you..." said he, "or it won't come true."



Drawing by Leilah Mariposa

## Lyme Disease Update

Since our last newsletter there is further evidence that so-called Lyme Disease is the result of biological warfare and more specifically entomological warfare: disease transmitted by insects, with the intention of debilitating whole populations, rendering them incapable of responding to an assault, while keeping their infrastructure intact.

Emerging from World War II, entomological warfare was being explored by several key countries as part of their arsenals: Russia, Japan, China, & Germany. At the close of the war, the U.S. imported Nazi scientists to continue their research here. [Project Paperclip]

Fast-forward to summer 2013 when Powassan Virus turned up along the Hudson River in the blood test of a tick-infected victim. Powassan is one of many potentially weaponized diseases. Others include: Tularemia; Brucellosis; Cryptococcosis; Encephalitis; Dengue Fever; Rickettsia; Encephalomyelitis (Eastern or Western Equine and Venezuelan Equine); Rift Valley Fever; Rocky Mountain Fever; and others - all of which could be "distributed" by insects as "non-lethal weapons". [This partial list is from *Tomorrow's Weapons* - J.H. Rothschild.]

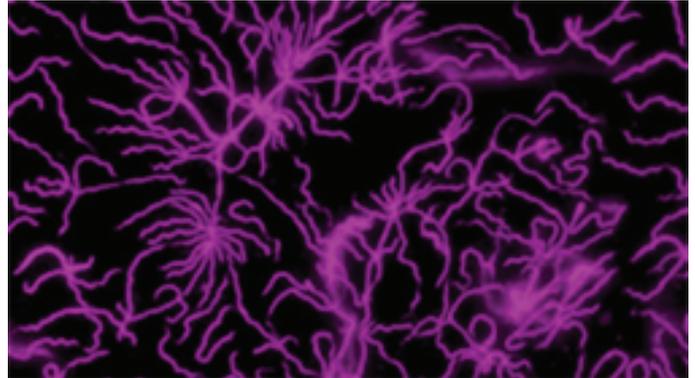
Since the publication of Rothschild's book (1964) the list has burgeoned, though not necessarily all of them have been weaponized. We now can find Lyme co-infections of Babesiosis, Bartonella, and Erlichiosis. Worldwide, there are over 300 different strains of Borrelia - the first-identified Lyme bacterial infection, and a "cousin" of syphilis.

In Dr. Richard Horowitz's recently published book "Why Can't I Get Better?" he writes about Mycoplasma fermentans, genitalium and pneumoniae. Although Dr. Horowitz does not refer to the patent, for the purposes of this article it is important to note that pathogenic mycoplasma is a *patented invention* which may be found in the blood of patients with a Lyme diagnosis. Patent #5,242,820 was pursued under the auspice of the U.S. Army. It was derived from AIDS patients.

Many people may not know that there was a bold move by the U.S. military, after WWII, to create two forms of disease - as weapons. One was designed to be fatal: HIV-AIDS. The other, called "non-lethal" would infect "the enemy" with what are called protean symptoms such as are seen in fibro-myalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, Epstein-Barr, and the complex disease misnamed "Lyme". [See *The Brucellosis Triangle*] The descriptor "protean" refers to Neptune's son, Proteus, who was a shape-shifter. Lyme is a shape-shifter, too: famously difficult to diagnose and difficult to treat.

Dr. Horowitz has coined an acronym, MSIDS: Multiple Systemic Infectious Disease Syndrome which helps define the complexities and sets in place a path toward recovery by treating the various identified disease components one at a time or in combination.

Any one person may have a panoply of viruses, bacteria, and patented inventions, as with pathogenic mycoplasma. In general, our medical community continues to misunderstand and misdiagnose the complexities. Are the medical schools and the Centers for Disease Control (and Prevention) culpable? Why are our physicians so poorly informed? A friend recently told us about her son who, at 18 months, was diagnosed and treated for



Live *Borrelia burgdorferi* courtesy of Dan Drecktrah and Scott Samuels, University of Montana

Lyme. As he got better her son's pediatrician said that now he is immune, much as he would be immune to measles after having the disease. This is simply not true. And, as such, could pose health complications for him in the future.

Further, are women being told that if they have had Lyme they may have a child who is born Lyme positive and that the symptoms may emerge over time? Are people with Lyme/MSIDS donating blood for the Red Cross drives? How many people may have Lyme and yet have not tested positive for antibodies? How many haven't even thought to have themselves tested? And what of the recent evidence that Lyme can be transmitted sexually? What safe-guards are in place to stop the spread of so-called Lyme throughout the whole world population?

The fine documentary "Under Our Skin" addresses the incestuous relationship among the pharmaceutical and insurance industries, and university research laboratories. It also exposes the rush to own patents. It demonstrates how the Infectious Diseases Society of America has tried to control the protocols of treatment and has successfully undermined Lyme-literate physicians. While the argument continues about whether or not Lyme/MSIDS is chronic, some of us have begun to think it may actually be *progressive*.

Lyme is a pandemic. It is a global crime against humanity which need not have occurred. Those who are responsible for this profound suffering must be exposed and this cruel experiment stopped.

For those who would like a list of known Lyme-literate physicians please email us at [dionondehowa@yahoo.com](mailto:dionondehowa@yahoo.com) or phone 518.854.7764.

This article is based on readings from the following books: *Germs Gone Wild* - Kenneth King; *Tomorrow's Weapons* - J.H. Rothschild; *Osler's Web: Inside the Web of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Epidemic* - Hilary Johnson; *Biowarfare and Terrorism* - Francis Boyle; *Clouds of Secrecy: The Army's Germ Warfare Tests Over Populated Areas* - Leonard Cole; *Lab 257: The Disturbing Story of the Government's Secret Plum Island Laboratory* - William Carroll; *The Brucellosis Triangle and The Extremely Unfortunate Skull Valley Incident* - Donald Scott & William Scott; *Why Can't I Get Better?* - Dr. Richard Horowitz.



Photo courtesy of Rey Wells ©2012

### *The Eagle Report*

Over the last few Newsletters, I've given updates on the increasing number of sightings of Eagles in and near the Dionondehowa Sanctuary. The noble appearance of these birds is still a treat even though we see them so often. The easy-to-identify mature Bald Eagle is the most common showstopper. But every bit as interesting is to try to figure out if you are looking at a mature Golden Eagle, an immature Golden Eagle or an immature Bald Eagle. You will seldom get a look as definitive as a Roger Tory Peterson drawing of these different birds.

Practically no size difference can be detected among them. All will feed on carrion. Also, the immature Eagles as well as the mature Golden Eagle are generally dressed in varying shades of dark plumage which are hard to pick out except in very good light (and with exceptional cooperation from the bird).

With that as background, I believe I saw an immature Golden Eagle in December, 2013. Golden Eagles are spotted much less often than Bald Eagles in our area so I cannot call my sighting authoritative. The scene was a country road free of cars near the Sanctuary. I came upon a mature Bald Eagle perching on a low branch nearly over the center of the road. I rolled to a stop to observe that Eagle when I became aware of another Eagle one hundred yards into a field on my left, taking off from the body of a dead deer. Its beak appeared slightly less massive than that of a Bald Eagle; its underside was dark and strongly mottled along the under-belly and tail. Swooping away, it showed me a side/back view of its tail and displayed faintly lighter plumage there. A puzzle, yes, and an interesting sighting for sure! G.O.

**Maybe they will grace us again between 9am and Noon on May 10 for our 2014 Bird Walk with Nat Parke. According to the National Audubon Society this is also International Migratory Bird Day.**

## Maybe Learning is Remembering

### *Is the Northeast Ready for Solar?*

Formerly it was common knowledge that the Northeast was just not the right place for producing much solar energy. The unreliable weather and the relatively low angle of the winter sun seemed to be obstacles just too big to overcome.

The common pronouncement went like this: "Look to the Southwest, or Florida - they've got plenty of dependable sun!" But New York took the lead in encouraging alternative renewable energy in the late seventies by requiring utilities to purchase excess energy from private producers at a retail rate, not a wholesale rate. This approach was meant to encourage homeowners and farms to develop the energy most suitable for their circumstances. That could be waterpower, wind generated energy or solar.

And the solar component has grown noticeably in recent years as producers and installers of solar arrays have found ways to increase efficiency. Moreover, a New York State agency, NYSERDA, has proven most encouraging through free energy audits and limited grants to help get solar projects off the ground. Notice the remarkable increase in these arrays on rooftops, pole mounted units and farms as you drive practically anywhere in upstate New York.

Our array was installed by a local certified contractor in May, 2012. It serves both our household and programs in the Muse Room of the renovated barn. The straightforward job of putting the array up and on line proved unintrusive and the production of energy has been high. We produce sufficient solar energy to cover our electric use because the amount of excess energy collected in the "good" months pays for our shortfall in production in "dark" months like December. This approach is combined, of course, with conscientious energy conservation.

Particularly gratifying is the display panel on the unit's junction box which states, "so far this month you have saved [x hundred pounds] of CO2 from being emitted into the atmosphere." G.O.

### *Girl Scouts Visit Dionondehowa*

In Autumn 2013, DWS&S Director Bonnie Hoag welcomed Scout leader Heidi Cavert and some members of her Troop 2425. Bonnie introduced them to Dionondehowa's many programs, including a brief tour of wild and medicinal plants. Because of her interest, one of the girls even went home with a little package of lemon balm - roots intact - to see if it might thrive in her garden and eventually provide a lovely tea.

**This year's Wild Plants Workshop is on Sunday, August 10 from 1 - 4pm. Reserve your space at 518.854.7764**

### *Why Use Paper?*

The Dionondehowa *Newsletter* is published online at [www.dionondehowa.org](http://www.dionondehowa.org) for those who prefer to read at their computer. We are, also, continuing to publish it on 100% Post-Consumer-Waste Recycled Paper and sending it to our mailing list through the US Postal Service *because* we disagree with the notion that cyber communication is somehow less injurious to our environment than the consequences of the production and mailing of paper copies. Besides, we like getting mail *ourselves*, the old-fashioned way. Every day we are all being educated to ignore the undesirable effects of technology, which seems to change its "mind" every few months and expects us to go along with it to service our addiction to the ruse that we are now better "in touch" with the world and with one another. More. Better. Faster. 'Til the world whirls and whirs and blurs around us. Isn't there something primitively pleasant about receiving nourishment (as we hope the *Newsletter* is...) in a form that we can hold in our hands to read and mull over - maybe with a cup of tea, maybe in the sun?

### *Sky Update*

Finally. Some traction! The global movement to ban geoengineering is gaining momentum. As a long-time activist myself, I've never found another issue more troubling than what is now called geoengineering. Nor have I found an issue more difficult to bring into public awareness. But, finally, there are signs of success. Global protests are being organized on a regular basis in as many as seventy cities and fifty countries. And... recently... humorist Stephen Colbert trounced geoengineer David Keith on *The Colbert Report* as he interviewed Keith who was promoting his new book *A Case for Geoengineering* in which Keith comes ever-closer to abandoning his pretense of neutrality on this Dr. Strangelove science. "Dr. Strangelove science" refers to the 1964 film in which Peter Sellers - as Dr. Strangelove - eventually annihilates the Earth. (Google: *David Keith Stephen Colbert* to bring up the short interview.)

In past newsletters we used the popular term "chemtrails" but were quickly warned away from it by other activists who said that to use it is to brand yourself a conspiracy theorist, worthy of ridicule and being marginalized. Instead we used "persistent jet contrails" as the science community was calling them. Now the accepted term is Solar Radiation Management (SRM) - the term used by the scientists who gave testimony before the U.S. House's Committee on Science and Technology during the 2010-11 hearings. Geoengineering is the word which broadly describes engineered techniques to "remedy" global warming - more recently called climate change.

SRM is the geoengineering technique which daily and globally hazes the Sky - ostensibly to reflect the Sun's heat away from Earth by dispersing reflective nano-particles - most notably aluminum oxide or sulfur dioxide. With casual observation many people dismiss them as commercial jet condensation but they are not. These trails expand and plume, becoming more cloudlike over time - sometimes hours - as they combine and haze the Sky.

We invite our readers to go online to do their own research at the websites listed below. These are good places to begin and both are maintained by activists whom we have worked with for several years. We respect their research, integrity and substantiated assertions. B.H.

**For those who want to learn more but prefer a more personal approach, Dionondehova is offering a program *The Dangers of Geoengineering: Solar Radiation Management* on June 21 from 1 - 4pm. What more sol-full celebration of our Sun and the Solstice is there than to learn about the effects of Solar Radiation Management.**

[www.agriculturedefensecoalition.org](http://www.agriculturedefensecoalition.org)

[www.geoengineeringwatch.org](http://www.geoengineeringwatch.org)



### **SOLAR RADIATION MANAGEMENT - SRM**

SRM is a geoengineering technique which is considered, by some, to be a global solution to global warming. Ostensibly, it reflects Sunlight away from the Earth by hazing the Sky with aerosols such as sulfur dioxide or aluminum oxide.

#### ***Instead, THIS CHEMICAL HAZE:***

- \* reduces direct sunlight which is vital to fundamental life processes such as photosynthesis
- \* lessens the public will to address climate change with low-tech common sense solutions
- \* compromises physical and mental health (vitamin D deficiency, depression, asthma)
- \* causes continued ocean acidification from CO2
- \* further depletes ozone
- \* increases dangerous ultraviolet radiation
- \* increases diffuse radiation, making the sky less blue
- \* increases diffuse radiation, decreasing solar power production
- \* risks potential for military use
- \* affects local and global weather systems
- \* risks much more rapid global warming, if discontinued
- \* puts permanent pollution above astronomers' telescopes
- \* assures there will be human error with sophisticated technical systems
- \* assures there will be unexpected consequences

**Do we have the right to try to control the planet's climate, without consideration of all other species?**

These are some of the concerns voiced in testimony by scientists during the U.S. House of Representatives hearings before its Committee on Science and Technology (2010-11). No hearings were held by any other government committees such as agriculture, environment, or human health.



Some of our Creek Cleanup crew

Photo: Eric Strehel

### ***Creek Restoration with David Hunt***

*Sunday June 1 9am - 4pm*

In September of 2013, we *finished* the seemingly-endless Stanton Farm Dump Cleanup which had about thirty years (circa 1930-1965) of trash on the steep incline along one of the most beautiful sections of the Creek. It had taken several years, under the guidance of Intuitive Ecologist David Hunt, as we alternated between the Dump and his second project: Removal of Invasive Species along the Creek corridor. David had carefully kept a map showing the areas we had already excavated in previous forays. As always we began our workday with a simple ceremony of water, scooped from the Creek and passed from hands to hands to hands all around the circle. We didn't remove every last scrap of rusty farm machinery metal nor every bit of rotting shoe leather nor every shard of broken glass but we accomplished our goal which was to dig deep and pull out as much as we could - especially containers of chemicals and oil. In all there were as many as thirty pickup truck loads of glass and metal and tires that were delivered to the transfer station for recycling. And all suspected contamination of Dionondehowa Creek was finally abated. In our efforts we were as much scavengers as we were cleanup crew and everyone, who wanted to, departed with "treasures". Can we imagine how our "garbage" - in some distant future - might entice and invite ownership? It's hard to imagine. The Stantons, I'm sure, would not have anticipated us pawing through *their* discards and then claiming them as valued trophies from a hard day's work. Our anthropological study of farm life as seen in the farm dump has concluded as well.

This year, on June 1, we will continue David's ongoing Creek Restoration Project by marking and removing invasive Japanese Honeysuckle bushes along the corridor. For those who have, in the past, tackled Rosa Multiflora and Russian Olive with us, this will be a welcome holiday from thorns.

**If that is enough inducement... we hope you will join us on Sunday, June 1 and spend as much of the day with us as you can volunteer from 9am - 4pm. As always, lunch is gratefully provided.**

*Ecological Intuition & Medicine, as David calls his work, is a low-consumption, low income, low-tech, non-profit, intentionally unincorporated venture promoting healing of Nature and Western Culture through encouragement of intuitive solutions towards long-term sustainability. Contact him at 518.279.4124.*

### ***More Decisions to be made...***

In late summer, 2013, two DWS&S Board Members walked to the River on a scouting tour with Cynthia Browning of the Battenkill Watershed Alliance. They were discussing the ongoing erosion along the River boundary of the Dionondehowa land trust.

Before the twenty-minute hike to the River they spent time with maps discussing what might be done with grant money - if it should become available - to help the River recover its "natural" course. This is to remediate previous injuries caused by human enterprise, including the railroad and riprap stabilization along the opposite bank. This stabilization has greatly contributed to the destabilization of the Sanctuary side, thrusting the violent spring flow with such force that any past attempts to secure the bank were each time washed away. Without a deeply-rooted riparian barrier to resist the seasonal onslaught, huge chunks of rich bottom-land soil collapse into the River. Soil lost from the bank falls out downstream, suffocating plant and animal life with silt.

By studying what would be the natural course of the Battenkill, ecologists have determined where the River *would* be flowing - without human interference. It could be said that further interference is intended to remedy previous interference. With DWS&S's permission, earth-moving equipment would be brought to the River's edge and used to reshape the bank, reinforcing it with stabilizing "toe wood" clusters. These are dead trees which are dragged to the locations where the clusters are thought to be most effective. If no dead trees are available then living ones may be sacrificed for the job.

We have had big equipment at the River in previous attempts to stabilize the bank. We never felt good about bringing it in, nor the damage done in efforts to *stop* the damage. Had we been successful we would, of course, have said it was worth it.

The current proposal is only speculative without the grant to make it happen. The Dionondehowa Board will consider the proposal, weighing the damage against the expected benefits. Without the grant money, it is more an exercise in conscience which is always worthwhile - helping us determine who we are as an organization and what are our long-term objectives.

It is curious to note that on the hike to the River, along the Union Trail, our scouting team paused again and again to lift red eft off the path - away from foot traffic. This was done with great pleasure - indeed one might wonder whether they were being handled more for the pleasure of the humans than for the safety of the beautiful little newts. How does this display of gentle concern play out alongside huge earth-moving equipment? How many efts and others might be sacrificed in our effort to do the right thing?

To learn more read *Phase 1 Fluvial Geomorphic Studies* at [www.battenkillalliance.org](http://www.battenkillalliance.org)



Come to your senses at Dionondehowa!



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## Come to Your Senses at Dionondehowa!

**Pristine** adj. [[L pristinus, former< OL pri, before: see PRIME]]

1) characteristic of the earliest, or an earlier period or condition; original 2) still pure, uncorrupted; unspoiled [*pristine* beauty]

So often we hear or read passionate young reporters expounding on pristine forests or lakes or mountains or streams. Apart from this word being overused it is also inaccurate. There is nothing around us which is uncorrupted or original. And yet we seem to go along with such posturing hyperbole because we so very much want and need pristine places to endure on Earth. If only our longing were matched with a willingness to do the hard work which is required of us if we are to regain - or at least make joyful strides toward - an uncorrupted world. It would appear that we prefer the "pristine" lie to the hard and sacrificing effort that awaits us if we choose the burden of the "truth" of our condition. Why do we prefer to pretend? Is delusion more manageable? Are we educated to believe we're helpless?

Dionondehowa Wildlife Sanctuary & School, Inc. is a non-profit land trust located on 217 acres bordering the Battenkill (Dionondehowa before the Dutch came) in southern Washington County, New York State. While the Sanctuary serves as a refuge and recharge area, the School is dedicated to Nature Studies and to the Healing and Expressive Arts, using them to engender social and environmental responsibility, in an atmosphere both contemplative and joyful. The name Dionondehowa, pronounced Dye-on-on-duh-how-uh, was first recorded in 1709 and is listed in Beauchamp's *Aboriginal Place Names of New York State*. It means "She Opens the Door for Them" and may have referred to the Eastern Door of the Iroquois Confederacy.

Special Thanks! to all of you who support Dionondehowa: with your time, energy, dollars, far-sighted wisdom and expertise. We couldn't do it without YOU!