

DIONONDEHOWA

Wildlife Sanctuary & School

ISSUE 10

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2012

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

Come Celebrate with Us:

**Ten Years of Manchester Music Festival's Young Artist Concerts
in The Muse Room at Dionondehowa**
This year's concert is July 29th at 3pm.

Ten Years of Creek Restoration with Holistic Ecologist David Hunt
This year's workday is May 12 9am-4pm.

This Year at Dionondehowa School... we return our focus to playful exploration. Broadly, let's call it *Being in Nature and the Nature of Being*. This will be our center ring - and our *centering* - for the 2012 circus - however it may play out.

Since 2008 Dionondehowa has worked to raise awareness regarding "persistent jet contrails" which - daily and globally - plume and combine to haze the Sky and dim the Sun. Recently the program gained the appearance of legitimacy as a geoengineering technique called Solar Radiation Management.

It was not until the end of 2009 that the word geoengineering found its way out of the boardrooms and "cloak rooms" and into public parlance. Now, geoengineering has been cleverly maneuvered into position as *the action we must take* to mitigate "global warming" or "climate change". Solar Radiation Management is the "mitigation" which has concerned us the most. Annually, SRM disperses tons of reflective nano-particles - most notably Aluminum Oxide - into our atmosphere, globally and daily.

The stated intention of SRM is to reflect the Sun's heat away from Earth and reduce the "warming" but the military benefits of "owning the weather" (as stated in the Air Force's "2025" document) may outweigh even the most-misguided good intentions. Misguided, in brief here, because SRM significantly decreases Direct Sunlight, essential to Life Processes: photosynthesis, phytoplankton, and the absorption of Vitamin D. And, further, the SRM "cloud"-cover *holds heat against the planet* which is counter to the stated intention.

Besides Life on Earth there are other SRM casualties like Beauty, Delight, & Innocence.

While anthropogenic causes of the "warming" are being broadly discussed - and we are fully in favor of humans downsizing their footprint - military programs must also be counted among anthropogenic causes, including the programs which create and control weather. When we discuss the *economic* effects of anthropogenic causes we must, again, include the military budget.

Although activists and educators around the world have made significant efforts we have not succeeded in stopping Solar Radiation Management or other geoengineering techniques. We've found no real traction with legislators or the press. Nor have we succeeded in arousing the public awareness necessary to intervene on the behalf of its own health and safety.

Given the seriousness of our condition, and the ineffectiveness of our education programs, we are choosing again. What is our best response? How do we conduct ourselves in light of what is unfolding/unraveling all around us? How do we adequately respond to the theft of Beauty and Breath, of Innocence, represented by atrocities like Solar Radiation Management and "humming-bird" drones (please see the *Drones* article on page 4)?

Our best recourse this year at Dionondehowa School is to offer classes and opportunities for sweet endurance, recovery and self-discovery: Reiki; Journeywork; Engaging with the Enchantment; Crossing Thresholds of Perception (please see the *Thresholds* article on page 5); Wildcrafting; Om-ing and Toning; Drumming Across the Land and, yes, *Being in Nature & the Nature of Being*. This year Dionondehowa will celebrate Beauty... and Breath... the once-blue Sky, the Spirits on the Land, all practices and dreams that contribute to our collective recovery & buoy our adventurous spirits.

In the midst of the vast uncertainty of 2012 we can choose to reclaim and restore ourselves. As a friend has said, regarding the "Occupy" movement: Occupy *yourself*. Occupy your *heart*.

Collaboration with Salem Art Works

Context as Crucible - an all-day Writing Workshop with Bonnie Hoag on June 23 at Salem Art Works. We'll explore Sound & Meaning through the Medium of Words and within Unexpected Contexts: the "wilds" of SAW in the morning and the USUK "iron pour" in the afternoon. After dinner Bonnie will read from her own writing and encourage workshop participants to share what came out of the day's experiments. Call Bonnie with questions at 518.854.7764. To reserve a space contact Melissa at SAW: 518.854.7674. Learn more about the "iron pour" at www.salemartworks.org. This day-long extravaganza will replace Dionondehowa's Writers Retreat for 2012.



Dionondehowa Welcomes Heather Priest as our 2012 Intern. A native of Schuylerville, Heather comes to us from Binghamton University where she is a junior with a minor in Environmental Studies and a major in Philosophy, Politics and Law. She found Dionondehowa on the Skidmore College website for "intern and volunteer opportunities" (as did **Eric Strebel**). So... thanks to Skidmore for bringing them both our way!



And we lose Eric this Spring as he graduates from Skidmore. He will return to Camp Fiver, Hamilton, NY for the Summer. Beyond that? He says, "Undetermined." Well, it has been a pleasure to get to know you, Eric. Thanks for all your generosity as a volunteer on the Sanctuary. Drum on, dear Eric. Drum on!

Celebrate the Love Affair of Earth & Sky: Weather!

The Earth and Sky are Lovers was choreographed by Jacquie West Farbman and performed by Jacquie and Bonnie at the Cambridge Farmers Market on Sunday, July 31st, 2011, as a public invitation to attend the *Sky Symposium* at Dionondehowa the following weekend. Big thanks to Jacquie for her beautiful work, to Gina Mammone Deibel at Hubbard Hall for her ongoing help & cheerfulness, and to Dawn Foglia from the Farmers Market for welcoming us into the schedule and promoting our performance.



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The Earth and Sky are Lovers (an excerpt)

We *all* are caught in their embrace.
 Mist *glows* and afterglows.
Breath blows across her breasts
 ripples through her valley streams and
 in her furry forest... dreams.
 Crystals snow. Rain bows.
 Sun shows through the *cuddling* clouds
 and in the *midst of this we live*
 you & I.
 Seas swell [animals who listen well
 go all-quiet...
 run to higher ground if they are free...
 if they can break their tether].
 Swollen seas come crashing smashing down
 and up *bristling, sizzling*
 our persuasive invasive lover invades my voice, my viscera, my vision.
 And in the *midst* of this
 we *wonder* who is it
 who loves so *perfectly* who loves us not enough *too much*.
Shhhh now be *still* like the calm before the storm
 or in its eye or after it has blinked goodbye.
 Here we are in the *midst* of it
 one moment nourished *flourishing* in the sunny rooms,
 the *next* moping mopping up the *somber* tombs,
 the *next* falling into outstretched *loving* arms
 of a soft Spring day,
 the *next* *sinking* into our shoulders
squatting low under the pummeling pitiless hailstone maelstrom.
 We make our *plans* in the arms of *this*
 disturbance dance *turbulence* dance *ro mance*.

Please read the conclusion of this poem at www.dionondehowa.org or phone us at 518.854.7764 for a two-page paper copy.

Dionondehowa Wildlife Sanctuary & School Calendar of Events 2012

April 28 Saturday	<i>Union College Environmental Club</i> returns to help out on the Sanctuary
May 5 Saturday	<i>Bird Walk</i> with bird enthusiast Nat Parke 9am - Noon donation requested
May 12 Saturday	<i>Creek Restoration</i> with Holistic Ecologist David Hunt 9am - 4pm please volunteer
June 23 Saturday	<i>Writing Workshop</i> with Bonnie Hoag in collaboration with Salem Art Works 9am - 9pm
July 29 Sunday	<i>Manchester Music Festival Young Artists Concert</i> 3pm \$15 donation requested

Stay tuned at www.dionondehowa.org to learn of late Summer and Fall programs.

There will be classes for Reiki; Thresholds: Shamanic Perception & Technique; Journeying; Drumming Across the Land; and more, as we learn of your interest. Phone 518.854.7764 to help create a class.

Ongoing: DWS&S shows the films: *The World According to Monsanto*, *Under Our Skin* (about Lyme Disease), & *What in The World are They Spraying?* (about the current & proposed geoeengineering programs).

Also ongoing: "Who Owns the Weather?" A PowerPoint presentation about atmospheric programs which manipulate the weather for military purposes. Call to schedule for your group.

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Gratitude is Abundance

A-lon... an introduction: Hunting is not allowed on Dionondehowa Sanctuary. Even so, every year there is some kind of drama which plays out because of disrespectful hunters who are blinded to the posted signs while focused on a "trophy". In 2010 we lost two males who must have been crowned with handsome "racks" - judging from the drag-lines in the snow. The following story, in response to these incidents, is intended to raise-up and celebrate those who are disrespectfully culled from "our" herd.

A-lon - A True Story (well, mostly true...)

The following is an excerpt.

A-lon, the beautiful brown buck, had just about survived another deer-hunting season - making himself invisible most of the time, except when he was showing off his handsome self to the red-brown beauties of the herd - just about... because... Jack, who did not see him in time, smashed his truck against A-lon with such brute force that his right hind leg broke on impact and, inside him, his spleen ruptured - exploded really - from the force. Even so, he stumbled off the road, collapsing into the roadside ditch.

Like A-lon, Jack was certainly in shock but otherwise he was unhurt. That's partly because he was so deeply hurt in other ways, he no longer broke easily. After shaking the stars from his eyes he leapt out to assess the damage. Very little to his truck: one headlight and the grill, now concave. And, although he was a little drunk, Jack could quickly see how beautiful A-lon was, even half-dead. Jack counted A-lon's points. Funny how sometimes you can't get your deer all season and then he jumps right into your lap.

A-lon was still alive but that mattered less to Jack: he'd soon be dead and right now what mattered more was getting home. That rack was going to be his. What a way to get his trophy, he mused, returning with his chainsaw half an hour later.



A-lon was not quite gone when Jack drove the chain across his strong and beautiful brown neck but he was too far through the door to feel the pain. He did, however, feel the absence of his head, of his proud and splendid antlers.

Jack wasn't so interested in A-lon's meat. He drove home with his bloody chunk of pride and glory packed into the back of his truck, flanked by two six-packs. There are many kinds of sustenance. This was Jack's kind.

Out for a walk, Brigit discovered A-lon's body in the ditch along her road. She was a hunter, too - with her eyes. She loved trophies, too - a hawk feather left in her path, a heart-shaped stone. She gasped when she saw his corpse but her fire rose when she saw he was without his head. Brigit guessed what had happened. She knew this kind of loss might have left the buck's spirit confused, unable to find its way home. Promising to help him she asked his name. She saw it clearly and quickly. A-lon.

Please read the conclusion of *A-lon* on-line at www.dionondehowa.org or phone us at 518.854.7764 for a two-page paper copy.

The Theft of Beauty and They Do Drone On

It is perverse enough that words like **Mantis** and **Zephyr** are appropriated by military minds to name their "unmanned combat air vehicles"- drones - but now they've gone too far: emulating hummingbirds is obscene.

The following are excerpts from *Time* magazine's *The Invention Issue - Special Double Issue* November 28, 2011 with a cover photo of the commandeered hummingbird.

"The Surveillance Hummingbird - 16.5 centimeters wingspan - [Our Ruby-throated hummingbird is 8-9cm.] - A team of engineers ... at California-based AeroVironment has developed the Nano Air Vehicle (NAV), a tiny, two-winged surveillance prototype for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency [DARPA is also the agency that brings us HAARP - the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program.] Designed to mimic a hummingbird's flight, the NAV can fly up to 17.7 km/h in all directions, even backward... It's also equipped with a video camera. Because it's so small...it can spy, scout out safe spots in combat zones..."

On the same page a side-bar states, "16.7 Centimeters (length of a human brain) - What if I couldn't just guess what you were thinking but could actually see it? Scientists at the University of California, Berkeley, have developed a system that uses fMRI (a specialized MRI scan) to model what we're thinking while awake and even what we see in our dreams."

Since everything useful to the military finds its way into the arsenal, how might this intracranial surveillance be commandeered? Has it been adapted, already, to the hummingbird drone? This kind of "design & technology" is only the tip of the (melting) iceberg. It seems that we are being led to our demise by individuals who either *cannot see* the consequences of their choices or... *just don't care*. With a clear and compassionate eye we can see through the audacity and the arrogance to the disconnectedness these Dr. Strangeloves must suffer. Disconnected at the heart from the Beauty and Life-sustaining Integrity of Nature. Disconnected from the sweet nourishment of Delight.



Being Alive is a Mystical Adventure

Our 10th Year of Ongoing Creek Restoration

Invasive Plant Removal May 12 9am - 4pm

Once again David Hunt, of Ecological Intuition and Medicine, will return for our 10th year of "Creek Restoration and Ceremony". Yes, TEN YEARS of David's dedication to the Creek.

He writes: "As part of an ongoing series to clean up the major human disturbances along the corridor of Batten Kill tributary T28 on the Sanctuary, we will focus our 10th year's efforts on removing all remaining large plants of Multiflora Rose from the stream corridor, totaling about 30 individuals.

In addition to simply removing the plants, we plan to link science and spirit by ceremonializing the event, sharing stories and circles related to the stream, Multiflora Rose, invasive species in general, or the ecological fallout from globalization via which the species arrived in New York state."

If possible, please bring work gloves, eye protection, energy, love for streams, & openness to restorative healing. And, if you have them, please bring tools such as shovels, spades, augurs, loppers and hand clippers. We will provide tick repellent. And we will provide lunch. David promises to bring some of his home-made juices from last Summer's fruits.

To join us, please phone 518.854.7764 and leave your name and phone number.

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 toward long-term sustainability. Contact him at 518.279.4124.

Drumming Across the Land - Dionondehowa is seeking Drummers. We have begun a new and ancient practice for 2012. Here is how it came about. A friend, Judith Swota, was studying at Mt. Ascutney on the far eastern edge of Vermont. While there, and at a prearranged time, she stood facing West and I stood at Dionondehowa, facing East, my attention on Mt. Equinox. We planned to Drum for half-an-hour, and without intention other than to imagine a vibratory line between us (a kind of ley line, perhaps), a straight line between Dionondehowa and Mt. Ascutney, across the peak of Mt. Equinox. Aside from that, we intended to get-out-of-the-way and let the Drums send their message. We shared our experiences a day or two later. For me, about fifteen minutes into our Drumming, I was surprised and delighted by the moon, rising from behind the eastern Taconic range. One-night short of full, it was a luminescent "coin". My heart soared as it danced between the moon and the mountain. Maybe our Drumming Up will be one remedy for the Dumbing Down. Call 518.854.7764 to join us or learn more. - *Bonnie Hoag*

Our Gardens Got Ahead of Us - way ahead of us - and We're Hoping to Barter

Even if we *are* - by nature - lenient gardeners and even if we do have great affection for what others might call Weeds... this has gone too far. The Dionondehowa Gardens greet all visitors to the Sanctuary & School and while the gardens themselves have not complained of our neglect... The Neglect itself is calling out for relief. So, this year we are inviting you to come and *help us out*. We are offering, in return, our knowledge and experience with wild-crafting, plant spirits, and trees. If you can offer time - preferably in three-hour increments - please phone or email us. Thanks!

Thanks to all the artists and poets who contributed their work to the *Earth & Sky* exhibit which graced the Muse Room walls in support of our August, 2011, *Sky Symposium*: James Keul, Arlene Targan, Edmund Rucinski, Richard Dubin, George Forss, Susan Caumont, Mark Tougias, Emily Erinhaupt, Lisa May, Leslie Parke, Anita Witten, Carol Bollinger Green, Adam Shulman, Lynne Knobel, Joseph von Eichendorff (translation by Mark Buckholtz), Donna Wynbrandt, Leilah Mariposa, Hesperos Mariposa, Terrason Hunt, Emma Pikoulas, Liam Pikoulas, Gabrielle Hurley, David Hunt, Peter Andrea. The work came from as far away as California, Florida, New York City, Long Island, and Cape Cod... and from as nearby as Shushan. Thanks, too, to our troubadour Barry Hyman for donating music during lunch on Saturday and to Gloria Colby for donating chair massage to symposium participants on Sunday.

Action in the Sky

A large flock of birds
Obscures the heavens above
So no blue is seen

(The birds in this poem signify the gas trails left by airplanes and the effects of global warming.)

Haiku by Adam Shulman, age 11

And thanks to our brilliant Sky Symposium speakers:

Dr. Lorraine Hurley, Wil Spencer, Cynthia Pikoulas, Siobhan Ciresi, as well as video from Geoff Brady, and Q&A by phone with Michael Murphy and Rosalind Peterson. Everyone donated their time and their cutting-edge research for this exchange.

Special thanks to our audio-video guru, Wilson Pratt - truly a stabilizing force in the galaxy.

Union College students, Jake Pet, Maddie Cullerton, and Kyle Lanzit joined us October 16, 2011 to help post the Sanctuary fields and woods along Stanton Rd. for hunting season. After a few hours of concentrated effort, we shared a great meal and effervescent conversation. Union students return April 28, 2012.



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Union College graduates, Reed Olsen and Tom Perry - seen here with Dionondehowa co-founder Geoffrey Ovington - made a surprise visit, early in 2012. While students at Union, both Tom and Reed brought student work-crews to Dionondehowa and, over the years,

have contributed a lot of their time & muscle - and thought-provoking conversation. Reed was on his way to Barton, Vermont to join friends as they begin to live their dream of organic farming. Tom was on his way to the graduate physics program at Madison, Wisconsin. We hope they return often!

Thanks to:

Skosh Snyder for donating piano tuning in advance of the MMF Young Artists concert!

Suzanne Sloan for donating cards with her pen 'n' ink drawings, to be sold to benefit DWS&S.

Nat Parke for our Bird Walk.

David Hunt for our Creek Restoration.

Peter Andrea for constructing this newsletter and maintaining our website.

Dionondehowa - Where Science and Spirit Communicate



Wild, a grey & black tiger-stripe feral cat, earned his name over the course of many months as we faithfully wooed him into domesticity. It was made easier because he has an injured leg and was starving. Even so, it was four bites later and with a great deal of patience on both their parts that Wild felt safe enough to come live inside. "There was a ritual sacrifice, of course, at the veterinarian's," says Bonnie,

"where we also learned the unfortunate news that he is positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus." Undeterred by this diagnosis, Wild is making up for his lost kittenhood by playing rambunctiously and discovering the joys of snuggling. "He's a wonderful companion," says Bonnie. "At first he looked like a swaggering bruiser - alpha male - but the truth is he has a marshmallow heart. And... if you're wondering what this has to do with the work of a Wildlife Sanctuary... we have taken one more domestic cat 'off the streets'- improving the circumstances and the chances for song birds and rodent populations."

Thresholds: Shamanic Perception and Technique

Within the context of this six-class series we explore concepts including Hierarchical Thinking; Dichotomous Thinking; Beliefs as Impediments; Engaging with the Enchantment; Soul Retrieval; Delight as Doorway; Integrity; Cause & Effect; Journeying with the Drum; Anger/Fear/Compassion; Enlightenment/Endarkenment; Snake Medicine; and Being Alive as a Mystical Adventure. Thresholds is a joyful opportunity for recovery and self-discovery.

This year Thresholds will be offered when there are students. If the above curriculum sparks your interest or you have questions, please contact Bonnie Hoag at 518.854.7764.



Come to your senses at Dionondehowa!



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Electromagnetic Frequencies and Our Good Health

Even as I type this article for our Dionondehowa Newsletter I am being exposed to Electromagnetic Frequencies (EMFs) which can subtly but critically affect my health. And... if you are reading it online you are likely being exposed, too. Some of the symptoms from EMFs can be brain fog, inability to concentrate, headaches, disturbed sleep, sensory difficulties such as tingling, pain, buzzing in the ears and mood instability. As with so-called Lyme Disease symptoms, EMF effects can be difficult to diagnose and difficult to treat. The disruptive frequencies are ubiquitous these days and while they are impossible to avoid we do have some control over our exposure. We can minimize our use of television, cell phones, computers - all wireless devices - and all "Smart" technology.

Dr. Lorraine Hurley who spoke at our *Sky Symposium* last August, suggests the following websites... keenly aware that, as she does, she is inviting you to bathe in EMFs. These are surely ironic times on planet Earth.

www.emwatch.com/emf-meter-emf-detector.htm

www.emfsensitivity.com

www.emfields.org/faq.asp

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 Y❁U!