

# DIONONDEHOWA

## Wildlife Sanctuary & School

ISSUE 18

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2020

### 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

### 2020 Foresight

Foresight? Hm. Humans are not particularly gifted with foresight except, it seems, as it benefits our most immediate and projected self-interests. Maybe it's not foresight we need - although it does make for a potentially wise and witty complement to 2020 *Hindsight*. Maybe, in this new decade, foresight can refer to a gentle & resonant comprehension that breathable air, potable water, uncontaminated earth are actually somehow relevant - even critical - to our self-interest.

For us, at Dionondehowa, this sort of foresight would include everyone: Plants, Animals, Rocks, Wetland, Creeks, the River and the many Spirits - ancient and new - who continue to dwell here, enriching the Sanctuary, and waiting - as we suspect they are - for our Third Eyes (and Ears) to provide a "listening" presence. A visionary listening. Now *that's* foresight! Wide-open wonderment. The presence of mind and heart to *Engage with the Enchantment* that awaits us here.

BH



*Cauldron of Morning - Looking East to Vermont*

### \* Gratitude is Abundance \*

Another aspect of the ancient ones, shaking us awake, is a deepening interest in the Abenaki language, one of the Algonquian languages which would have been heard in this Valley before and even during the colonial onslaught. On August 15, from 1 - 4:30pm we welcome Abenaki Language teacher, Jesse Bruchac from Ndaakinna Education Center in Greenfield Center, NY who offers an "Introduction to Abenaki".



It was our 2018 Summer Intern who turned a key in a door on the land, opening for us a new awareness of the stone piles which are now thought to precede European colonists. We sent images to the *New England Antiquities Research Association* (NEARA) and were soon in touch with Curtiss Hoffman who is researching "stone monuments" and whose book, *Stone Prayers*, inspires us to investigate further.

*c.3000BCE 2.5 inch artifact found on the Sanctuary*

#### **DWS&S Board of Directors**

Peter Andrea  
Nancy Brown  
Danielle Costas  
Stanley Dorn  
Bonnie Hoag  
Geoffrey Ovington  
Kristi Plunkett  
Eric Strebel

*Our 2020 Newsletter is dedicated to Honduran activist Laura Zúñiga Cáceres, her martyred mother Berta Cáceres (COPINH) and all people worldwide who rise up in non-violent defense of their forests, water and breath.*

### Thoughts from Board Member Danielle Costas



The idea of protecting and restoring the wildness of a place resonates deeply with me, as does the honoring of our native roots. We are in a phase of remediating corruption and overuse, bringing the Earth back into balance and restoration. Being a part of this, at Dionondehowa, has been one of life's great pleasures for me. I have had the privilege of serving on her Board for the last couple of years, since shortly after Geoffrey's departure and the beginning of the assault on her.\*

Creating a place where Stones, Waterways, Plants and Animals find refuge, where they are free and safe to be, is a critical contribution. It seems to balance some of the chaos in other parts of the world.

I remember standing in the woods of Dionondehowa one morning. The earth feels sacred in this space, as if the rocks are saying, "Hi, over here. There's much more than you once believed possible. Dive in, crack it open, explore your inner world and expand the world around you." My response? Yes, please!

With a huge thank you to the other members of the Board, as well as all of you who have contributed in any way to our mission here at Dionondehowa. May we all be forever wild.

*\*The assault Danielle refers to was then-new neighbors on the Sanctuary's northern boundary who had arrived with a sense of entitlement that these 217 forever-wild acres were for their use: hunting, training their kennel of 22 hounds for coyote-hunting, maturing their marijuana crop, placing their hunting perches on Sanctuary trees - facing into the Sanctuary, chain-sawing through logs we'd placed across their ATV trails, one of which went straight through our 30-meter square Reforestation Study Plot, established in 2016 by Dr. David Hunt.*

### Nancy Brown formally joins the Dionondehowa Board

We welcome Nancy... and although she is new to the Board Nancy is not new to supporting the activities of the Sanctuary. Among many examples, perhaps most notable is her remarkable generosity as one of three Jackson neighbors who donated needed consistency and many hours, attending the monthly town court sessions for a year and a half as we found our way to court-ordered solutions to the ongoing trespass violations. As Nancy says, she brings with her a love of the Earth and its creatures, including the Wild Ones, Elementals, and Spirits. We know her contributions will advance our purposes. They already have.

*Thanks to CJ Davidsen* who, again, patrolled Dionondehowa during the 2019 deer-hunting season and without the expectation of killing an animal on the Sanctuary. What a difference his attention, care and presence make to the safety, not only for the animals but also for our visitors.

*Thanks to Jean Briggs* who, true-to-her-word, spent a week at Dionondehowa in 2019, volunteering with the gardens.

*Thanks to Steve Sanford* who came at our request to discuss our Long-grass Nesting Project fields' management. Steve confirmed that our approach seems to be working. That is: nourishing the soil with the help of John Ubaldo's Black Angus cattle and trimming the perimeters to slow natural succession. We anticipate we will work again with John in 2020, after the last of the Long-grass Nesters have fledged. Aware as we are that beef cattle do not find "sanctuary" here, nor more broadly in the world... anyone who can bring us a low-cost, vegetarian method for field management is invited to please contact us.

## ✧ Dionondehowa: Where Science & Spirit Communicate ✧

### Creek Restoration and Ceremony - Volunteers Needed

Saturday April 25 9am - 4pm

Part 18: Continued Invasive Honeysuckle Removal  
Guided by David Hunt

As part of an ongoing series to cleanup the major human disturbances along the corridor of Battenkill tributary stream T28 on the Sanctuary, we will focus our 18th year's efforts on removal of invasive honeysuckles, a project started in 2014 and now moving downstream from where we left off in 2018. In addition to simply removing these invasive shrubs along the corridor, we plan to link spirit and science by sharing stories and circles related to the stream, invasions, and restoration. DH

Please bring gloves, eye protection, energy, love for streams, and openness to restorative healing. Phone 518.854.7764 to volunteer. Lunch is provided.



*This photo, by Terrason Hunt, shows but one of four such piles pulled from the lower Creek corridor during our Spring 2019 workday - thereby completing David's long-standing dedication to removing all traces of human debris, along the full length of "our" beautiful "rocky headwater stream" T-28.*

## Dionondehowa's 2020 Calendar of Events

- April 25** *Creek Restoration Workshop* with David Hunt 9am - 4pm Volunteers needed
- May 9** *Annual Bird Walk* 9am - Noon Donation
- June 21** *Taconic Music Concert* in The Muse Room Joint Fundraiser 3pm \$15
- July 18** *Finding Faces in Nature Workshop* with Bonnie Hoag 1 - 4:30pm \$30
- Aug 15** *Introduction to the Abenaki Language* with Jesse Bruchac 1 - 4:30pm \$30
- Sept 20** *Annual singing of the AHHHpera "The Rift"* 1 - 4pm
- And... every Thursday at 1pm please join us for *Holding the Earth*

Please note that while access to the Sanctuary is through the School, visits by appointment are available at 518.854.7764.

✧ *Maybe it's not win-or-lose. Maybe it's winnow-and-loosen.* ✧

### *Finding Faces in Nature Workshop*

July 18 1 - 4:30pm Suggested donation \$30.



This workshop, guided by Bonnie Hoag, invites participants to *Engage with the Enchantment* that awaits us at every turn here on the Sanctuary. And, more broadly, in the world. Simple, playful exercises intend to reawaken us to Delight as we prepare for uplifting spirit encounters. Yes! This workshop is based on the idea that this porous reality which surrounds us, can reveal itself to us with "faces". Why faces? Because (perhaps) humans find a face familiar,

offering an expectation of communication. From there we might consider that it is nature's way of exhibiting consciousness. And, from there, the supposition that everything IS consciousness. Not that it merely *has* consciousness. But rather that *it is consciousness*. That this ocean of atoms we play in every day is fully conscious, in all its forms and expressions. Kind of takes the hum-drum out of Being Alive, don't you think? BH

### *Battenkill Inspired: The Flow of Creativity, Ingenuity and the River*

These mini-video documentaries are based on a popular exhibition curated by the *Folklife Center* in 2015. There are currently 30 videos in all, each approximately 2 minutes in length, featuring an intimate look at the Battenkill's impact on the history, local arts, sites, and activities of the region. The series was produced by the *Folklife Center at Crandall Library* and the video featuring Bonnie Hoag was filmed, directed, and edited by Hanna DeGarmo.

To view the videos or explore the Crandall Library website, please visit [www.dionondehowa.org/2020\\_links](http://www.dionondehowa.org/2020_links). HD

### *Artist in Residence: Anya Yermakova*

Anya Yermakova became our artist-in-residence in the summer of 2015. Her concerto for charango and orchestra, commissioned for the Pudahuel Youth Orchestra in Chile, was to be called *The Big Bang*. For those who may be unfamiliar with the charango, it is a small Andean stringed instrument of the lute family, now made of wood, but traditionally made from the shell of an armadillo. Recently, at our request, Anya reminisced about her time at Dionondehowa.

"After working on the concerto, on and off for almost a year, it became clear that I must carve out spacetime to focus exclusively on the flavor of composition that was at my fingertips but not quite yet on paper. The space came to mind immediately: years prior, as a young artist at the Manchester Music Festival, I performed on the piano of Dionondehowa's Muse Room. The place enchanted me, the humans of the place beamed of kindness, and the nature of the Sanctuary was - in my mind - filled with infinite possibilities. The beginning of the piece starts with exactly that: the early universe, as we understand it, filled with potentialities. It couldn't have been anything, but it could have been many other things, not only the one that led to humans being here.

While at Dionondehowa, I read books, worked through problems in an astrophysics textbook, composed on the piano, under the piano, away from the piano. I wrote scores, took walks, listened to nature. I co-composed with the young cats: they played with the strings of my shoes while I played with the strings of the charango. And my hosts were my incognito composition teachers: their questions gently pushed into emergence structures of whole sections. Their prompts encouraged a parallel evolution of what became the concerto. In 2016 it was premiered by the Pudahuel Youth Orchestra in Chile with a final title of *Concerto for Charango and Orchestra: From the Big Bang through the Fundamental Laws.*" [www.conciertocielos.cl/charango](http://www.conciertocielos.cl/charango)



Christiane Marks cheers us on in our work here at Dionondehowa. And now we can cheer her on by announcing her recently published book *Rainer Maria Rilke Sonnets to Orpheus* - which she has translated to English from her native German. The book is published by *Open Letter Press* and can be purchased there. As she wrote to Dionondehowa in the gift copy that is now in the Sanctuary Library: *Orpheus is perhaps the heart of Nature.*

*Sometimes our supporters send the most encouraging sentiments along with their donations.*

*You come in my thoughts a lot. Memories of Dionondehowa fill me with joy and light. My heart is full of gratitude for the many wonder filled moments I experienced at the Sanctuary.*

*I'm inspired to make this gift for invisible beings living at the Sanctuary - in the silence and beauty of their dwellings.*

*We are so glad you continue to do this good work for animals, plants, & the universe.*

*Thank you for all you do for all of us. We are one.*

✧ *Being alive is a mystical adventure* ✧

*We checked in with some of our former Interns, asking if they would send us their reflections on their time here at Dionondehowa and how it may have influenced their lives, thus far. Here are two responses, one from Rachel Ross our 2014 Intern. And the other from Jessica Bieber, our first-ever Intern in 2003.*



*Rachel & a new acquaintance: a California succulent.*

Rachel, a Vermonter, came to us right after graduation from Union College. She had just received her B.S. degree in Environmental Science. Here are her reflections six years later.

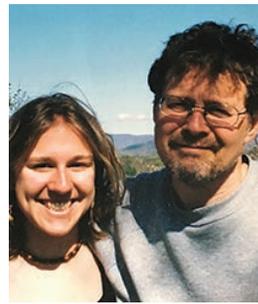
*"I don't think I really had a great idea of what I wanted to do at that point, although I did have some experience in grassroots organizing and was thinking about activism jobs. At this point, (2020) I'm job hunting and am looking at communications and administration*

*jobs in environmental nonprofits. I describe myself as a 'non-profit administrator.' "*

As for her time at Dionondehowa that summer, she recalls: "I'm not really sure that I was interested in foraging for wild edibles at all before meeting Bonnie. Perhaps I just decided to do the internship at Dionondehowa after hearing that it was a possibility for how to spend a week of my completely unscheduled summer... And after hearing Bonnie talk about wild edibles - and a variety of other topics - passionately and persuasively during a work day with the Union College Environmental Club.

Regardless, since completing the internship, I've been hooked. There are lots of reasons to include wild edibles in your diet. Many of them are invasive or non-native plants; it's better that they live in your belly, where they provide you with nutrients and minerals that you may not be consuming regularly with a purely agricultural diet. And these often non-native "weeds" grow without the need to lift a finger. What's not to love!

I will admit that I don't habitually eat wild edibles these days, but I do have a book about foraging in my new, California ecosystem. Thanks to Bonnie and the land at Dionondehowa, I have the knowledge and inspiration to enrich my diet and life through foraging for wild edibles."



*Jess and Geoffrey 2003*

*"I had the honor and pleasure of serving as an intern at Dionondehowa in the fall of 2003, my senior year at Skidmore. Though it was quite a while ago at this point, there are a few things I can recall as if they happened yesterday. I remember walking the land with Bonnie, seeing the world through her eyes as she pointed out particularly special trees or other "wild ones." I remember being in*

*Geoffrey's violin-makers' studio, learning about 'curly wood' and being in total amazement that one could just create such a gorgeous musical instrument. And I remember long, cozy dinners with Bonnie and Geoffrey concluding an afternoon of outdoor work and fresh air, talking about invasive species and eating celeriac for the first time.*

Now, moving forward almost twenty years, I live several hours from Dionondehowa, but also a world away. Amidst the crowds, buildings, and hustle and bustle of Manhattan life, it could easily feel as opposite as possible from the serenity and wildness of the Sanctuary. But instead, I think that my experiences with Bonnie, Geoffrey, and the wild ones have stuck with me as I navigate city life. At Dionondehowa I practiced the art of noticing, wondering, and marveling, finding joy in the small and large details around me. Now, in the city, I look up to search for the red-tailed-hawk who has taken up permanent residence in a nearby park. I notice the way the sunlight filters through tree branches and skyscraper silhouettes alike. I delight in the details that could sometimes be overlooked--a beautiful old doorknob on a centuries-old rowhouse, the way I can see the rising peak of a suspension bridge stretching up above the buildings like a mountaintop on my walk home. The lessons I learned from Dionondehowa have stayed with me even here in the city, and I treasure them."

### Taconic Music Concert



Taconic Music returns June 21 at 3pm for another Concert in The Muse Room of our renovated barn. Faculty and students from TM's *Chamber Music Intensive* will again grace our stage. This year we'll celebrate the Summer Solstice, Father's Day and Music all together. Your \$15 ticket, purchased at the door, supports the creative work (and play) of both nonprofit organizations. Reservations 518.854.7764 [taconicmusic.org](http://taconicmusic.org)

### Congratulations to Alice Andrews

Dionondehowa's longtime friend and inspiration

In 2019 Alice was inducted into the *Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame* as a renowned conservationist and a leading voice for environmental protection in Arkansas. She spent decades lobbying at the State Capitol as an "Advocate for Clean Water, Clean Air, Clean Energy and Recycling." She helped save the Buffalo River, and her efforts in Little Rock led to the preservation of land that would provide for the River Trail. In 2018, the Ozark Society gave her the prestigious *Compton Award* recognizing her outstanding service.



Thank you, Alice. We love you, too! Way up here along the Battenkill.

Learn more about this remarkable activist by visiting: [www.dionondehowa.org/2020\\_links](http://www.dionondehowa.org/2020_links).

✧ Be a TERRA-ist! ✧

### Geoengineering Update

College students - science majors - recent visitors to Dionondehowa said that they think geoengineering - in the form of Solar Radiation Management - might be a good idea. I tried not to cringe visibly. They heard about it on a "Ted Talk". This, of course, validates nothing for me except my ongoing concern that education is theft. The Edward Teller approach wins again. You may remember Dr. Teller, the one who thought hydrogen bombs would be a good (peacetime) way to make roads and redirect rivers. That was in the 1950s, but now such "pathological technology" has escalated to meet the climate crisis.

With the help of trusted forums like "Ted Talk" the public has been carefully groomed to accept disastrous intervention which only ten years ago was declared highly problematic during U.S. House hearings before the Committee on Science and Technology. Then it was if we have to employ drastic methods, even though SRM had already been implemented worldwide. Quite masterful how the geoengineers slid the program into place. Dr. Teller's idea of mastery.

Once they convinced the population that the "solution to climate change" is to spray the atmosphere with reflective nano-particles of aluminum oxide or sulfur dioxide... once the public had been carefully trained (educated) to believe these toxins are the medicine for all their crimes... then the work of the David Keiths and the Ken Caldeiras is done. The transition from that slim chance we'd say no to geoengineering to the accepted implementation of the program. These young people think geoengineers are "the good guys". For many of us, though, they are "Dr. Strangeloves". BH

### Lyme Disease as Biowarfare Update

Maybe it's because my lab coat is gold lamé, but I seem unable to adequately impress people that Lyme disease is the spawn of biological warfare and Nazi immigration, after WWII, through the CIA program *Project Paperclip*. If we could crash through our delusions that nothing-could-be-that-bad... then we might raise an arm to protect ourselves from the ongoing proliferation of weaponized disease.

One of the most troubling of the U.S. Patents related to biowarfare - which turns up in the blood of some Lyme Disease patients - is for Pathogenic Mycoplasma, Patent number 5,242,820 - September 7, 1993. Under the auspice of the U.S. Army, the Abstract states: The invention relates to a novel pathogenic mycoplasma isolated from patients with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)... patients with Aids Related Complex (ARC) or patients dying of diseases and symptoms resembling AIDS diseases.

Invention? A patented invention? Which turns up in the blood of people with a Lyme diagnosis? BH

Please request your copy of U.S. Patent 5,242,820.

### Conversations with "Our" Echo

This year we invite Dionondehowa visitors to join us in "Conversations with Our Echo" - not to be possessive of something that clearly cannot be possessed... but to acknowledge its highly-responsive presence out across the Valley... and back... - a kind of call-and-response, offering back to us the vibrational medicine of words like "Joy" and "Peace" - sung out from The Knoll, across the Sanctuary and returned by our Echo.

# DIONONDEHOWA

Wildlife Sanctuary & School

148 Stanton Road, Shushan, NY 12873



Come to your senses at Dionondehowa!

✧ Come to your senses at Dionondehowa! ✧

## *Dionondehowa Diary*

The anxious chittering of a Red Squirrel down by the Creek got my attention. Slowly, quietly, I descended the hill, pausing at the edge of the young woods for a better look. What could it be, this time? Red Squirrels often seem to be reporting impending danger of one sort or another - and often enough I am the news. A good forty feet farther along the gentle slope, and silhouetted by the dusk, is a family of Turkeys roosting low on a young, fallen maple stalk, horizontal to the ground and not more than a foot above it. Adult, youngster, youngster, youngster, youngster, adult, distinguished by their size and familiar to me as I've more than once urged this troop across Stanton Road, explaining about traffic; how way-too-often cars and pickups travel way-too-fast and even if the drivers care (I like to think most of them do) they might not have time to stop. And then where will you be? We know, we know, I hear them say, but we really don't need your help. Don't you see, you're actually just slowing us down. Ah. Time for a moment or two of self-reflection. Now as I see them - a true family - lined up on that log I could weep for the beauty of them. Whole. Kids-to-bed for another night, flanked by adults... as if to tuck their youngsters in.



Union College  
Autumn 2019

Left to right:  
Katie Gregory,  
Anna Browne,  
Ben Mason,  
Zach Maher

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.