

DIONONDEHOWA

Wildlife Sanctuary & School

ISSUE 23

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2025

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



Dionondehowa is 30 years old in 2025... (30 years and ancient)

It was in 1995 that we incorporated as Dionondehowa Wildlife Sanctuary & School. Our Incorporating Purposes occupy the column here, to the left.

This... being thirty years... I thought... why not dedicate our Issue 23 to my co-founder. Curiously, or serendipitously, a long-submerged box turned up here recently with Geoffrey's 1990 folders from when he served on the Salem Town Board and worked earnestly & tirelessly - *with many other intrepid souls* - to assess the town's waste stream and then introduce a successful recycling program.

So this issue is dedicated to Geoffrey and everyone (you know who you are) who keep slogging and plodding and plotting - creatively and playfully - for the benefit of what we are calling AWE - AirWaterEarth - **as though our very-lives depend on it** .

There is more about the 4 R's Reduce Reuse Recycle and Rethink, later in this *Newsletter*.

But for now, in a celebratory mood, we invite you to enjoy these excerpts from our *Dionondehowa Diaries* which were begun in 1990 - five years before we incorporated... and six years before our first donation of 175 acres - our gesture of "giving the land back to itself" - initiating the nonprofit 501(c)3 IRS-recognized forever-wild landtrust. A second donation, in 2005, came about through our \$50,000 capital campaign, with public support this time - when another 42 acres were added to the landtrust: 217 acres now with one-quarter mile on the Battenkill.

Diary #12 5.20.2022 To say The Wild Ones are depending on us to set things right implies they are "under our care". *They* do not seem to think that. Is this yet another human delusion and conceit? The colonizer's mind?

And if we fall down on the rocky path and knock ourselves unconscious, the scavengers will descend lickety-split. Everyone is hungry. Indeed the very premise of Earth is problematic for those who come-in gentle: that we must kill to live.

Diary #13 7.5.2022 Also. This snapshot of Beauty: A yellow Bird emblazoned by sunlight, feasting on Fleabane flowers with their bright yellow centers. Imagine this, a very successful Fleabane plant in full bloom a hundred flowers - give or take - small, white, daisylike with a bright yellow "dot" at the center of each. Bright yellow speaking to bright yellow. What a gift to my eyes! Do they know? Is that line-of-sight between us god?

Board of Directors

Danielle Anastasia
Nancy Brown
Bonnie Hoag
Geoffrey Ovington
Eric Strebel

Advisors

Mike Conklin
CJ Davidsen
Lori Giammattei

9.30.2022 And there in the grass, a most exquisite blue in a tiny drop of dew. Now green, Now yellow. Now altogether gone, as I tip my head. And as a Maple and companion Cloud shroud the morning Sun, blinking out that tiny rainbow. Solid and insubstantial. Transcendence.

All Night long the Land and the Air warbled full of voices far away and near - sounding as though coyotes (and others who I could not name) were yeowl-sing talking along echoy expansive hallways in the Air-Sky. Hallways, but with no walls. Yes. That. Exactly.

1.17.2012 *{This letter was written to an 11-year-old who was like a grandchild to us.}* Dear One. The reason I'm writing is because of what happened at the Creek. The stomping around and poking it with a stick. I'm writing to ask you when did you forget that the Creek is a living being, worthy of our respect? Or maybe we had never, in all our years of knowing one another, talked about the Wild Ones in this way. I recall you saying you were "being a scientist" when you jammed your stick into the lacy ice. I'm writing to remind you there are many ways to be a scientist, many that do not involve stabbing Beauty. I'm enclosing here a SASE hoping you'll write us back. Don't worry about spelling. Just respond from your heart. We'd like to hear your experience at the Creek that day. Love.

9.21.2005 Still recovering from neurological Lyme, I felt well enough for a celebratory walk across the Sanctuary - all the way to the Second Creek and the Ghost Town, if my stamina held. Before I set off I said outloud to The Spirits of This Place, "Please, if you would... a gift for my birthday? Please show me something." I was well-across the ever-shape-shifting real/m, having just felt the pleasure of brushing through very-tall ferns almost as tall as myself - and then having paused to lean against a young tree in a puddle of sunlight, little notebook open, poised with pen for a poem... I heard what I thought was a deer - not uncomfortable with my presence - moving through her forest. But. When I looked up - and... not more than thirty feet from me - walked (no, actually ambled, the way Bears can, with all that undulating fur and fat) a beautiful Black Bear, down on all fours, snout lifted, sniffing that what-is-it? in the forest of ferns I had come through, only moments before. Oh my. Anticipating that this Beautiful One would easily follow my scent to the very-me, poised for a poem, I moved quickly, scuttling down the steep and brambly nearby embankment. And then safely - but was I? - at Second Creek. I will tell you that two ideas traveled with me the whole long walk home, taking the low-road. I wished that this Bear had followed me. And. If a Bear feels at home here, surely a Catamount might, too. This understanding walked me home. Thank you, Bear. Thank you Spirits who heard me.

We are hoping to find someone - maybe one of you, reading this - to take on the daunting task of helping wrangle all the Dionondehowa Diaries into a form for publication. If that might be you, please phone or email us. Thank you.



Throughout 2025 we will meet regularly to read, share, and consider the ideas found in the writing of Stephen Harrod Buhner - in *Plant Intelligence* and in *Language, Thought, and Reality* by Benjamin Lee Whorf. One objective is to explore how language shapes our thinking... and how our thinking creates Reality. Can Reality be reimaged?



Gratitude is Abundance

So much thanks to so many this time

Mike Conklin	Bill O'Brien
CJ Davidsen	Dale Moore
Lori Giammattei	Ari & Joana - Taconic Music
Patti Buck	Jacki & Ron - Mother Myrick's
Kris Newby	Rey Wells
Andrea Strebel	Katie Bowen
Tristan Thomas	Lisa Otey
Pam Cali	Pat Isgro
Alan Wrigley	Caroline Peyron
Lindsay Fisk	Paula Krieg
Erik VandenBerg	Davide Cabassi
Patti & Jim Evans	Alan Brown
Lewis Steele	Peter Andrea
Skosh Snyder	

"I love reading of your accomplishments... your organization is a bright spot for all of us."

"We hope you are well and thriving. We admire you're doing something that counts in this world."

"We're happy to make a contribution to your valiant mission."

"Glad to know you are still at it!"

"I always enjoy the Newsletter - wishes for health and success in all the Dionondehowa endeavors."

"A little something for The Sanctuary - a very special place for me - and so many."

"Thank you for your work - your Wildlife Sanctuary and School. Your work is sacred, indeed."

Dionondehowa's 2025 Calendar of Events

- March 16** *Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Brigit The Firekeeper with a read-a-thon! of excerpts from Irish Nationality by Alice Stopford Green*
- April 26** *Union College Ozone House Workday with Erik VandenBerg's draught horses, Josie and Jill, who will help clean up the Shunpike*
- May 10** *Annual Bird Walk guided by Rey Wells 9am - Noon (Donation)*
- June 21** *Come Celebrate Our Beloved Creek with singer Katie Bowen and Solstice Writers' Retreat 10am - 4pm*
- June 29** *Taconic Music Concert in The Muse Room 4pm*
- August 9** *Walk into Beauty stories of Wise Innocence with Lori Giammattei and Bonnie Hoag 1pm*
- August 23** *Jesse Bruchac - Abenaki workshop at the Stone Mounds 1 - 4pm*
- September 21** *Annual singing of the AHHHpera - The Rift 1 - 4pm*

Visits to the Sanctuary by appointment are welcomed; please contact us at 518.320.0502 or dionondehowa@yahoo.com
And if you are curious about Echology, Howling or The Stone Mounds please give us a call.

☼ *Dionondehowa: Where Science and Spirit Communicate.* ☼

Solar Panels Update

We invite our readers to visit our 2024 Newsletter at dionondehowa.org and review our concern: Norbut's industrial solar facility - planned for 138 acres - on property along the Sanctuary's western boundary. Norbut's application can be read at our Jackson Town Office. It has not yet come before our Planning Board.

We gratefully acknowledge that our Town Board has chosen to prohibit commercial battery storage facilities in Jackson and has extended the Solar Law moratorium for another six months.

CAFO News

In December, 2024, this same land, along our western boundary, was assaulted with the manure lagoon slurry dump from a local CAFO factory-farm: Contained Animal Feeding Operation - an abomination of cruelty - cows as machinery - what we've come to call a cowcentration camp.

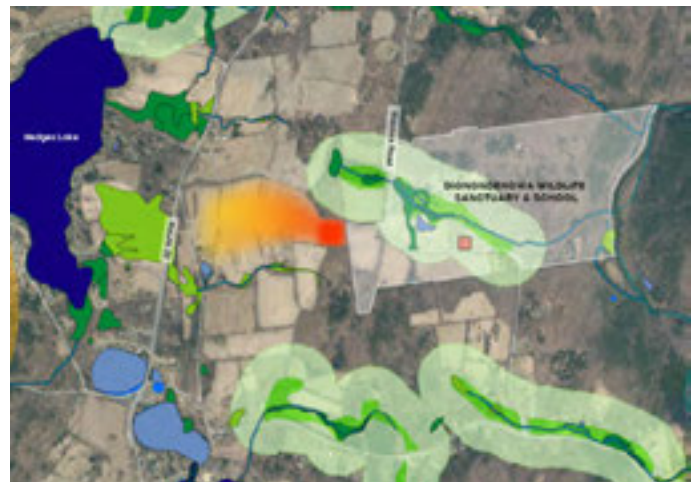
Over the course of three days - December 18, 19, 20 - we witnessed 90 - that's 90 - manure-tankers delivering lagoon slurry into an industrial storage rolloff, from which the contents were pumped through a hose onto a hillside above wetlands, ponds, private wells, and our beloved Hedges Lake.

Given that the manure lagoon serves a CAFO we can only speculate what that slurry may contain. Our list of concerns includes Bovine Growth Hormones, Roundup, Genetically Modified

Organisms, Antibiotics, Vaccines, Biosolids, Bacteria, Bioaerosols, PFAS sludge, Emergent Fungi... and whatever else can flourish in the lagoon.

The NYS-DEC - as of 3.1.25 - has offered no help in determining how many tons were pumped onto the fields; what is the legal allowance of lagoon slurry per acre; how impacts will be measured in groundwater and air; and how often the neighbors can expect this kind of assault.

For those who share our concern we have photos and video available.



Calling All Firebrands

We invite our readers to choose from this list - whatever nabs your attention or concern - to *investigate* for Dionondehowa School's educational purposes and our activism. In every case we can get you started. 518.320.0502

- ✿ NYS-DEC Freshwater Wetlands Revised Regulations (effective January 1, 2025)
- ✿ Plants As Teacher for food and medicine
- ✿ Champlain Hudson Power Express bringing electricity to NYC from Hydro-Quebec through lands in-between - including Washington County
- ✿ Agrivoltaics - Is this an oxymoron? Are farmland and wild habitat really compatible with industrial solar panels?
- ✿ Solid Waste Leachate - toxic liquid seeping from landfills & poisoning groundwater
- ✿ PFAS-laden Sludge - "forever chemicals" on our farmland?
- ✿ Packaging - Where does it come from and where does it go?
- ✿ Beauty As Nourishment
- ✿ AirWaterEarth AWE - The poetry of our experience
- ✿ Right to Farm is *not* Right to Harm
- ✿ "Graveyard Orbit" - Satellite junkyard in orbit around planet Earth - What?
- ✿ Solar Radiation Management - What is it? how does it affect the Water Cycle and contribute to Climate Change?
- ✿ *Language, Thought, and Reality* - by B.L. Whorf What if... what if... our language shapes Reality?
- ✿ Solar Panels - "Green" energy production for the expanded grid? Sacrificed farmland and wild habitat to power Artificial Intelligence and Cryptocurrency?
- ✿ HAARP - Shaping the weather, intensifying and directing storms - weather as a "force multiplier"
- ✿ Biosolids - What are they and how do they impact water quality?
- ✿ CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) - What's in that manure lagoon slurry that just got "dumped" on your neighbor's fields?
- ✿ *Plant Intelligence and the Imaginal Realm* by Stephen Buhner - rethinking what we think we know. Rethinking thinking - adding a big gentle pinch of feeling.

The Beer Can

For this Newsletter I did some research on how a product I use fairly often gets made and disposed of. The product I chose to focus on is a can of beer. The can. Not the beer. The aluminum in the can is made from an ore called bauxite. The United States imports most of its bauxite from other countries, some as close as Jamaica some as far away as Australia. In Cambridge, the house I live in uses Casella for "zero sort recycling" and trash removal. Zero-sort may separate me further from my responsibility in all this. Casella started in Rutland, Vermont, with one truck. Now it is a massive company whose dominance in the Northeast is causing monopoly concerns in Vermont where it all began. When my aluminum beer cans are picked up on Monday night they go from a truck to a transfer facility and end up at a sorting facility in Albany, New York. Casella has a virtual-tour video posted on YouTube that shows the inner workings of their sorting facilities. The different materials are separated and compressed into large cubes that are sold to companies that hopefully reuse them. Hopefully? Aluminum can be "infinitely reused" and one company, Novelis, has produced a 90% recycled can. Despite this promising development, Novelis is having a difficult time convincing major beverage companies to use their product. Why? Through my research I also found that there is online-discussion among recycling stalwarts about how best to recycle different materials. And I did learn some helpful tips to ensure that aluminum cans will be successfully recycled. Refraining from crushing the can, peeling off any vinyl or shrink wrap label, and rinsing the can: these steps can make a significant contribution to recycling. It was interesting to dive into where my can of beer ends up after I'm done with it.

~ E.S.

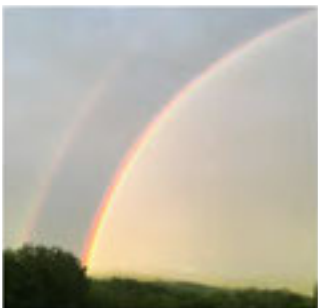
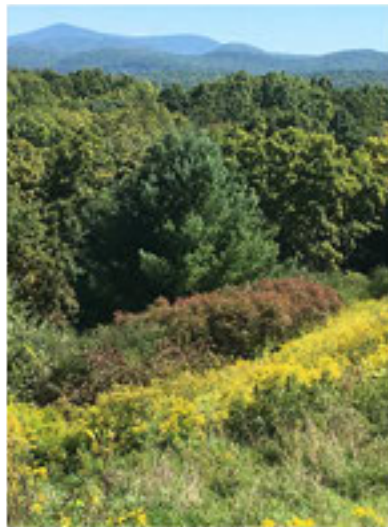
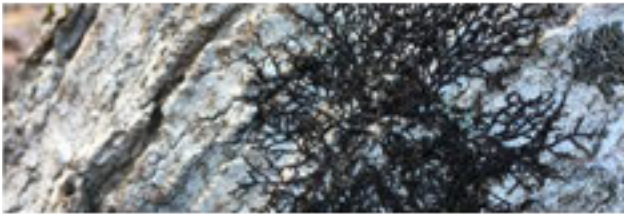
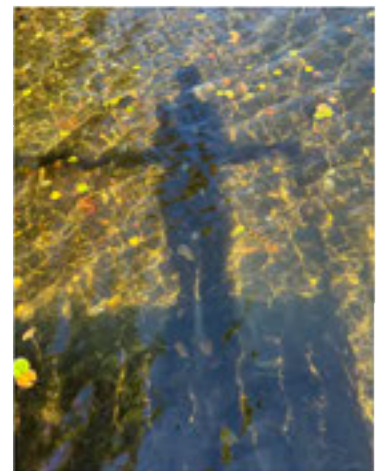
Ah, but are we ever really "done with it"?

We read, online, that Bauxite refineries produce Alumina (Aluminum Oxide), which is also used to manufacture "other industrial products such as abrasives, cement, and chemicals". Which ones, specifically, you might ask. Well, we do know that Aluminum Oxide is one of the reflective nano-particles sprayed atmospherically in the geoengineering technique Solar Radiation Management - ostensibly - for the purpose of reflecting the Sun's heat away from the Earth.

But, what else? A new acronym: "TENORM: Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials that have been concentrated or exposed to the accessible environment as a result of human activities..." notably Thorium, Uranium, and Radium.



Dionondehowa is offering Internships - Summer and Fall in 2025, for high-school students to investigate the 3 Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. And the 4th R - Rethink. Our focus is packaging: where does it come from where does it go... and - in between - what is our responsibility - as consumers and as trash-dispatchers?



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Come to your senses at Dionondehowa!

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☼ Come to your senses at Dionondehowa! ☼

Zero Waste - Clean Air Action Network of Glens Falls
tracy.frisch@gmail.com 518.692.8242 Tracy writes: "Let's move Washington County toward Zero Waste by creating infrastructure to promote reuse, recycling, and composting. Zero Waste can reduce landfill waste by 50% without incineration."

Find Dionondehowa's collection of tick specimens and statistics "A Bloody History of Tick Bites" at The BITTEN Files krisnewby@substack.com. You will remember Kris as the author of *Bitten: The Secret History of Lyme Disease and Biological Weapons*, our monthly meeting focus in 2024.

Open Eye Pictures, Inc. Filmmaker Andy Abrahams Wilson - whose films include *Under Our Skin; Complicated; Dog War; and American Justice on Trial*.

Parallel Currencies: Pioneering A Diversified Economic Future
learn more at renewthe-earth.org

Lab results from Adirondack Environment Services, Inc.
last snow of 2024, collected at Dionondehowa Sanctuary on 4.7.24
Barium: ICP/MS 0.0063 mg/L RL 0.0020
Aluminum: ICP Metals 0.0268 mg/L RL 0.100
Question: why would Barium or Aluminum be present in Dionondehowa snow?

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 Haudenosaunee (hoe-dee-no-SHOW-nee) Confederacy.



Jesse Bruchac our Abenaki language and culture teacher from Ndakinna (Greenfield Center, NY) returns for a workshop at our Stone Mounds on August 23, 1 - 4 PM. When asked what Dionondehowa might mean, in Abenaki, he said TAWN TA ho AH - emphasis on TA - translates to *someone opens something for someone*. Please join us on August 23.