

# The Duxbury Land Trust Newsletter

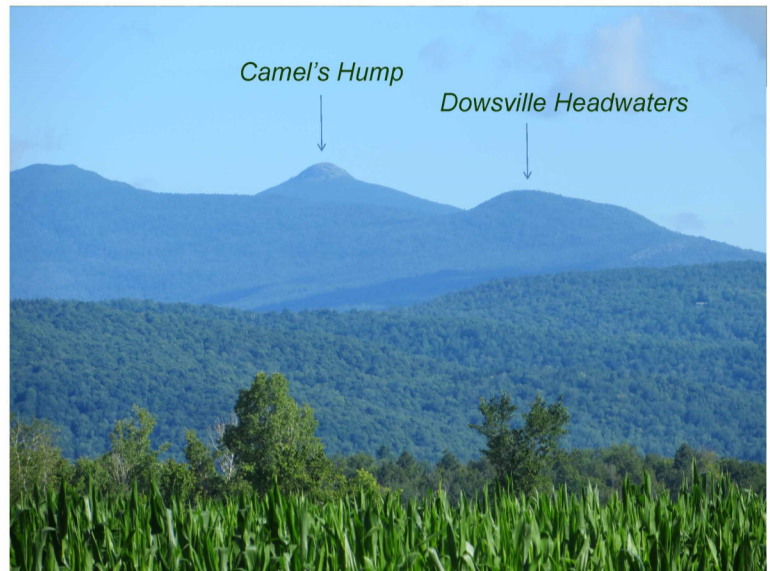
Volume XII No. 8

*Conserving Duxbury's Special Places*

June 2016

## Dowsville Headwaters

Last March, 2085 acres of forest land were added to the Camel's Hump State Park. This land has long been identified as a significant property for conservation. As far back as 1995, the Duxbury Land Trust (DLT) began exploring resources to conserve this property, which had been in forestry use for more than 100 years. The DLT approached government agencies and state and national conservation organizations for support. In 2014, the Trust for Public Land put into motion the plan and resources needed to protect this spectacular property. The DLT was enlisted as a partner.



*The Dowsville Headwaters. Photo courtesy of Kate Wanner.*

The Trust for Public Land received a \$2.27 million Federal Forest Legacy Grant. Additional fundraising was pursued and the DLT solicited its members, who donated nearly \$5000 toward the effort. Many other organizations and individuals supported and contributed to this initiative. The land became part of the State Park on March 30, 2016.

The DLT applauds the Trust for Public Land for this tremendous achievement. The DLT's hopes for this land, so long ago, have been realized. We especially thank Kate Wanner, Project Manager for her dedication to and leadership of the project.

## Duxbury Town Forest

At the 2015 Town Meeting, Duxbury residents unanimously authorized the Select Board to acquire 169 acres of forest land from the State of Vermont. That authorization set in motion a series of steps required to receive the land. Highlights of accomplishments since that Town Meeting include:

- \* Executive Order transferring the 32-acre former Father Logue camp to the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR);
- \* Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Town and VT Department of FPR agreeing to the transfer;
- \* Amendment to the original Act 250 permit to remove the requirement that the 32-acre Father Logue portion continue to be used as a camp; and to authorize the removal of the camp buildings;
- \* Resolution adopted by the VT legislature approving the transfer; and
- \* Conservation easement prepared by the DLT.

FPR is conferring the land to the Town at no cost with the stipulation that the DLT holds a conservation easement. The conservation easement, approved by the full DLT board in March, protects the natural resource and recreational values of the land in perpetuity. The remaining step in the process is the closing between the Town, State, and the DLT.

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Once the transfer is complete, the Town will create a committee of Duxbury citizens to develop a management plan for the property, including a forest management plan. The Department will provide some initial guidance as will the Duxbury Planning Commission. Resources are also available from the Northern Forest Alliance.

The forest management plan will outline the uses, consistent with the conservation easement, that are permitted in the forest. These activities could include: forestry management practices; low-impact recreation; and educational activities. The plan will also identify activities that will not be permitted, following the terms of the easement

The Town Forest presents an exciting opportunity for the Town to provide benefits to current residents and a legacy for the future. The Duxbury Land Trust is pleased to be a part of acquiring this community resource.

**A Walk Up a Brook** by Rachel Sargent

It's a rainy day in May and I'm walking up Ridley brook, checking under rocks. Medium-sized flat rocks are best: plenty of surface area but not too heavy to lift. Each rock, with it's own character, situated in it's unique spot on the bank, represents a different micro-habitat, a unique home to whatever might be underneath.

Today the Northern Two-lined Salamander is out in force. Nearly one rock in four has one of these quick, skinny salamanders hiding underneath. With their bright golden backs outlined by two dark streaks extending down their sides from eye to tail, they aren't hard to spot. When I turn over the roof of their home they often take off in a sinuous golden streak.

Several other rocks yield small, black millipedes. These millipedes can't be more than 3/4 of an inch long and they curl into a compact spiral as soon as I disturb them. Millipedes might not seem like an exciting find, but they are key players in maintaining forest ecosystem health. As one of the primary consumers of leaf and wood litter, they recycle plant material back into the forest.

Another rock reveals a Sow Bug. Sow Bugs are not bugs at all, but crustaceans, and are more closely related to lobsters and shrimp than to the beetles sharing their rock refuge. Like millipedes, Sow Bugs eat decaying plant matter, recycling it back into the ecosystem.

If you're interested in finding creatures like these yourself, join me and the Duxbury Land Trust on July 16 at 11:00 for a summer brook walk at the Ridley Brook swimming hole. Bring the whole family and collecting jars and magnifiers will be provided!



*Red efts are another common sight near brooks. Image courtesy of Rachel Sargent.*

**A Special Duxbury Couple**

Christine and Vincent Iorio lost their home on Marshall Road to fire in January 2016. Instead of accepting donations from their neighbors to assist in their recovery, Christine and Vincent suggested that donations be given to the DLT. This isn't the first instance of the Iorio's generosity to the DLT. In 1995, Christine and Vincent donated critical access to conserve the swimming hole on the Camel's Hump Road. This property was the DLT's first project. Best wishes to the Iorios as they continue to rebuild on Marshall Road

**2015/2016 Board of Trustees**

Brenda Clarkson	496-7094	Jim McCarthy	244-4952
Catherine Gjessing	244-4952	Brian Fitzgerald	496-7094
Alan Quackenbush	244-7512	Kelley Taft	244-8630
Audrey Quackenbush	244-7512	Rachel Sargent, Newsletter Editor	

**Consider Becoming a Member**

The DLT relies on its members to meet ongoing expenses and grow its stewardship funds.

Major ongoing costs include: property taxes, insurance, and Land Trust Alliance membership. Stewardship funds are used to manage in-fee properties and provide legal protection for conservation easements.

Membership starts at \$15 per individual and \$30 per family. Please join us in conserving Duxbury's special places by becoming a member today. Send your tax deductible donation to Duxbury Land Trust, PO Box 56, Waterbury, VT 05676. You can also join through Pay Pal on our website: [duxburylandtrust.org](http://duxburylandtrust.org).