



# RIVER TIDINGS

The Newsletter of DRA ([www.damariscottariver.org](http://www.damariscottariver.org))

SPRING 2012

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## Land Gift Enhances Town Preserve

A generous donation to DRA by South Bristol landowners, brother and sister Michael and Beth Garber, has permanently protected a stunningly scenic neighbor of the town's Tracy Shore Preserve. The six-acre property runs west from Route 129 to the shore of Jones Cove and borders Tracy Shore to the north.

Jones Cove and its vicinity have long been a special focus of our lands-protection efforts. Besides the properties mentioned above, DRA holds conservation easements on two other shorefront parcels and two small islands in the cove. Our Seal Cove, Plummer Point and Stratton Island preserves, along with several other easement properties, are in Seal Cove, just around the corner.

A particular highlight of the Garbers' generous gift is the spectacular shorefront, where towering cliffs afford stunning views of Jones Cove, the Damariscotta River, the East Boothbay shoreline, and the islands at the river's mouth. Enormous fern- and moss-covered ledges and boulders fringing a footpath along the ridgeline above the

cliffs are another very special feature. The remainder of the property, eastward to Route 129, comprises peaceful, uninterrupted forest.

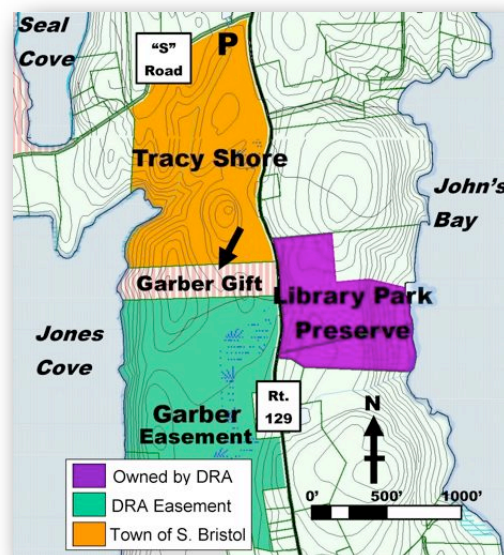
A previously private, but publicly used, path on the newly protected property connects with the existing Tracy Shore trail network. That scenic path will now be formally added to the Tracy Shore trail network, possibly along with new trails to be built on the property.

Spring is the most beautiful time at Tracy Shore and at DRA's newest preserve. Come see for yourselves! Park in the Tracy Shore visitor lot at the corner of Route 129 and the "S" Road and follow the orange blazes to the top.

Meanwhile, readers will certainly share our deep appreciation for Michael and Beth's thoughtful contribution to DRA and the South Bristol community.



**High cliffs on the Garber gift offer exceptional views of Jones Cove and the Damariscotta River.**



## A VIEW FROM THE FARM



Steven Hufnagel,  
Executive Director

*This issue of River Tidings celebrates several recent accomplishments made possible by your support. It also looks ahead to what we hope will be an exceptional summer of conservation and education, with some world-class entertainment on offer as well.*

*As a big fan of Jason Spooner and a lifelong devotee of David Mallett, I'm pleased to announce that in July, as part of our new music series at Round Top Farm, both performers will be returning to the DRA. This time we'll be able to hear them in the intimacy of the Darrows Barn, built for hay but made for music! The series will also feature The Boneheads, Anna Lombard, Bruce Hardina and The New Rangers. Series passes for all three shows are just \$40 and represent another way to support our work.*

*We're looking forward to hosting David Moses Bridges as our keynote speaker at our summer Annual Meeting and Lobster Bake, scheduled for Thursday, August 9. A birch bark craftsman, canoe builder of world renown, and a member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Bridges is also an excellent communicator and teacher.*

*Preparations for our national Land Trust Accreditation application are well underway. A special grant has allowed us to complete baseline documents for conservation easements and we have initiated planning for several DRA preserve properties. Overall, accreditation will serve to strengthen our core practices for even better conservation outcomes.*

*For those who didn't hear it in our email update, River Currents (and please send us your most up-to-date email address so we can keep you posted), we met our membership and annual fund goals for 2011 with your help, which means we are well-positioned for a great year in 2012. As ever, thank you for your sustaining energy and support!*

*Steve*

## New Partnership Brings New York Philharmonic Educator to Camp Mummichog

DRA School for Field Naturalists is delighted to announce a new partnership with Salt Bay Chamberfest and Lincoln Theater to inaugurate a Music and Nature Camp in August. Nationally renowned composer and music educator Jon Deak of the New York Philharmonic; James Blachly, composer and founder of the Sheep Island Ensemble; and the internationally renowned Brentano String Quartet will partner with us to create a unique music and nature experience for local families.

Deak and Blachly will work with DRA's Education Coordinator Sarah Gladu to blend the curriculum Deak has used successfully for over 15 years in the Very Young Composers project of the New York Philharmonic with the popular Camp Mummichog curriculum, which Gladu developed and has directed since 2006.

The resulting Music and Nature Camp will be a two-week session from August 6 to 17 for children ages 9 to 12. Deak and Blachly will introduce different musical instruments and beginning concepts of musical composition. Gladu will teach natural history and ecology to the participants through hands-on activities, a day trip to Big Huckleberry Island, and a kayak adventure on Great Salt Bay. Together, the three educators of the Music and Nature Camp will help the children to express the connections between nature and music.

By the end of the session, each camper will have composed an original piece of music which will be played by the Brentano String Quartet. This free family concert will take place at the Lincoln Theater in downtown Damariscotta on Saturday, August 18. Lincoln Theater's Executive Director Andrew Fenniman will produce the concert, with Salt Bay's music commentator and educator, Mark Mandarano, as emcee.

For more information about the many Camp Mummichog sessions offered for children ages 5 to 17 throughout the summer, visit [www.damariscottariver.org](http://www.damariscottariver.org) or contact DRA for a registration form and brochure at [dra@damariscottariver.org](mailto:dra@damariscottariver.org) or 207-563-1393.



**Last year's campers explore a variety of instruments at the Great Salt Bay Farm as part of a unit with Hawk Henries during the Wabanaki Ways session.**



# Highlights from DRA Archaeology Field School

Last summer, DRA's Archaeology Field School celebrated its 15th year. The 2011 season was once again directed by historical archaeologist Tim Dinsmore. Exploration focused on the search for the elusive 17th-century farmstead site of John Brown Jr., one of six early settlers to occupy the Upper Damariscotta River.

The two-week program targeted three properties on Belnap Point along Water Street in Damariscotta. Field school participants were a mix of high school and college students as well as retirees from across the country.

While the Brown Farmstead site was not located during the survey, Dinsmore feels comfortable in concluding that the site is located elsewhere on Water Street. This was Dinsmore's third attempt to locate the Brown farmstead site that was occupied from circa 1660's to 1676. Two other attempts were made in 1998 and 2009.

The challenge, Dinsmore explains, is that "the historical record is vague as to the exact place where Brown constructed his farmstead." Compounding the difficulty in locating the site is the fact that Water Street is a heavily developed residential neighborhood, meaning that a lot of earth has been disturbed over the years, particularly during the 20th Century.

Dinsmore and the DRA would like to thank the Belnap family for permitting



**Danny Dinsmore takes measurements while Colin Smith records the information. 2011 DRA Archaeology Field School at Belnap Point in Damariscotta.**

the archaeology field school to take place on their front and back lawns. "These field schools would not be possible without landowners like the Belnaps who graciously consent to such undertakings, and for that we are most appreciative."

While Dinsmore hasn't given up entirely on his quest to locate the Brown farmstead site, he has decided to put the search on the back burner while he pursues a new site for this year's DRA Archaeology Field School.

This summer the DRA is offering two back-to-back one-week sessions of the archaeology field school: Session I, July 15-20 and Session II, July 22-27. The focus, while not etched in stone as of this writing, will be for participants to help excavate portions of an 18th-century

homestead site formerly owned by a shipbuilder and blacksmith in Newcastle.

This new site is part of a much larger study Dinsmore has been conducting of 18th-century shipwrights along the Upper Damariscotta. Field school participants will take an active role in helping uncover an important chapter in the maritime history of the Midcoast. They will also gain an appreciation for the rigors of archaeological research. The cost for a one-week session is \$325 and for two weeks \$525. There is a limit of twelve field school participants per session, so anyone interested should sign up early for this very popular program. For further details in the upcoming weeks please refer to the DRA website. Scholarships may be available for students and teachers.

## DRA Archaeology Field School 2012

Session I: July 15-20

Session II: July 22-27

The cost for a one-week session is \$325 and for two weeks is \$525. For more information or to register, visit [www.damariscottariver.org](http://www.damariscottariver.org).

# Gifts to DRA Support Land and Easement Stewardship

Two exceptional gifts last year fundamentally strengthen DRA's ability to deliver on the promise of "conserving land in perpetuity." A bequest from Susan Harvey and a gift from the Hart Family will fund land and easement stewardship, adding to DRA's reserve of stewardship funds in preparation for national Land Trust Accreditation and in keeping with land trust best practices.

## Susan Harvey Bequest

A great friend and former board member of DRA, Susan Harvey passed away on September 1, 2010. She left to DRA a major bequest, representing a legacy that will extend her generous involvement well into the future. In seeking to describe Susan's engaging persona and her commitment to conservation, we asked Susan's friend and former DRA President Suzanne Johnson to share her recollections. Suzanne wrote . . .

"Ever the elegant bohemian, Susan could be found wearing beautiful but sensible shoes - ready for a hike, walk on the beach or trip around her garden to fill her bird feeders. Susan not only enjoyed being in and a part of nature but she was also passionate about protecting it - from the organic farms and foods she supported to the environmentally minded car she drove. Her kitchen countertop and desk bore testimony to Susan's love and dedication to preserving natural resources as they were perpetually awash in publications, calendars and thank you notes from

wildlife refuges, preserves, conservancies, land trusts and non-profit farms.

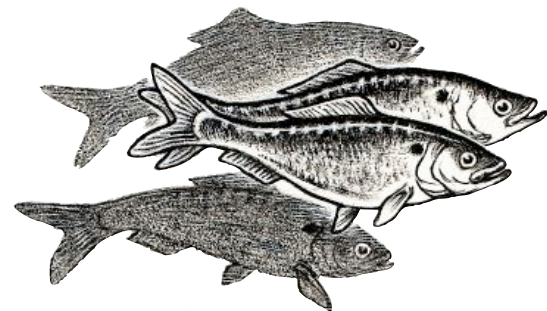
"As impassioned as she was about her natural surroundings, she was equally concerned about her community and with people struggling to get past an unfortunate life circumstance or condition. Her door was always open and every visitor greeted with her effervescent, yet sly smile. She could refocus negative spirits by drawing attention to the splendors of the evening sky or a heron passing by. The Damariscotta area gave her fertile ground for such appreciation, first in her home on Oyster Creek and later in her downtown Damariscotta River-front home.

"Susan's generosity with the Damariscotta River Association was

repeated in support she provided to the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association and to CHIP, Inc."



**Susan Harvey pictured with her good friend and former DRA Executive Director Peter Knauss at the DRA lobster bake in 2005.**





## Hart Family Gift

Many DRA members and friends have enjoyed walking on the Hart Estate and Heritage Trail, which are available thanks to the generosity of the Hart Family. In 1992, George and Josephine Hart donated to DRA a conservation easement over much of their riverfront property. Several years later they donated outright the portion of their land containing the Glidden Midden, said to be among the largest extant shell mounds in the Northeast.

It may come as no surprise that in addition to donating land and easements to DRA, the Harts also planned for a gift that would support long term care of DRA properties. Prior to Mr. Hart's passing, he and Mrs. Hart established a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT) with DRA named as one of the charitable beneficiaries.

Termination of the CRUT this past summer resulted in a substantial gift to DRA which we have invested in a special stewardship fund. We are most grateful to the Harts for their generous foresight and longstanding commitment to DRA, expressed in so many ways.

William Hart, a son of George and Josephine, kindly offered the following reflections on his father's connection to conservation and to the Damariscotta River Association.



**George and Josephine Hart.**

"My father never told us exactly why he wanted to put the land in trust with the DRA. He always loved our land, and from the very start of the association I believe he saw a way to keep it looking the same forever.

"He grew up on a beautiful farm in Ambler, Pennsylvania, which I remember visiting when I was very little. There was no river there but the farm land was beautiful, and I can remember skating on a lovely pond.

"Today, the lovely stone house is gone, the barns and pond are gone. In their place is a turnpike and row houses.

"I always thought that when my father would look out on the fields he loved and the trees he loved and the river he loved, he would say to himself that they would NEVER turn into what his boyhood farm had become. The DRA has assured that, and I know he is thrilled."

## Contact Us

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# 2011 Business and Organizational Sponsors and Members

Please thank our generous business and organizational sponsors and members by patronizing and supporting them. When you do, please let them know that you are grateful for their support of DRA.

## SPECIAL EVENT AND PROGRAM SPONSORS

### DRA Boat Sponsor

- The First

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- Clark Auto Parts - NAPA Damariscotta
- Cottage Gardens
- Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Club
- Dow Furniture
- Down East Books
- Hardy Boat Cruises
- King Eider's Pub
- Liberty Graphics
- Lincoln County Publishing
- Spectrum Generations
- Yellowfront Grocery, Inc.

### Land and Easement Acquisition

- Albert Frick Associates, Inc.
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### Summer Music Festival

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### River Council River Cruise

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- Weatherbird

### Volunteer Breakfast

- Maine Coast Book Shop and Café
- Rising Tide Community Market

### DRA Round Top Community Skating Rink

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- Damariscotta Historical Society
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- Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Club

- Damariscotta River Grill
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- Kieve-Wavus Education, Inc.
- Marinace Architects, PA
- Rocky Hill Publishing
- Salt Point LLC
- The Old Metcalf Livery Stable, LLC
- Waterline Books

If we have omitted anyone we are truly sorry. Please let us know.

JULY 12 6:30-9:30PM // **JASON SPOONER TRIO**

SUPPORTED BY THE NEW RANGERS // \$15 ADVANCE // \$18 DOOR

JULY 19 6:30-9:30PM // **DAVID MALLET**

SUPPORTED BY ANNA LOMBARD // \$20 ADVANCE // \$25 DOOR

JULY 26 6:30-9:30PM // **THE BONEHEADS**

SUPPORTED BY BRUCE HARDINA // \$15 ADVANCE // \$18 DOOR

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RESERVE NOW // SPACE IS LIMITED!



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Thanks!

Damariscotta River Association

River Tidings, Spring 2012

## WISH LIST

- Gas powered weed whacker
- Gas powered leaf blower (for cleaning rink of debris prior to making ice)
- Hand tools - rakes, shovels, rock bars, mattocks
- 8' Boat hook / deck brush
- 6-10 hp Outboard
- Power washer
- Coffee carafe
- 8' x 10' rug for office

Contact Darryn Kaymen at 563-1393 if you would like to make a donation.

The following wishes were granted – thanks to all who contributed!

- Metal Detector (to help find boundary pins on properties)
- Snow blower (for rink)

### Board of Trustees

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