

◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume IV, Issue III

Spring 2002

A Quarterly Publication of the Ossipee Watershed Protection Project Published by the Green Mountain Conservation Group

As fifth year begins, GMCG's mission remains clear

BY SUSAN SLACK
GMCG BOARD PRESIDENT

Sometimes it's good to think about where you've been so that you can be clear about where you're going. The Green Mountain Conservation Group is in its fifth year as a grassroots, membership based conservation organization, and from where I sit, the path forward seems pretty clear. GMCG will continue to provide a forum for natural resources education and activism to promote conservation and good land use practices in the six towns of the Ossipee Watershed.

One of the highlights of the past six months is the opening of our office on the third floor of the Freedom Village Store building in Freedom. We've moved our base of operations from our homes to the office, where our executive director and our Americorps assistant work part-time. Call ahead at 539-1859 before dropping in sometime to see our various watershed maps and other resource information.

Your donations and membership dues help make our work possible, as does your enthusiastic support of the various projects and causes we continue to undertake.

GMCG was very pleased to receive a \$15,000 grant for 2002

from the NH Charitable Foundation's McCabe Environment Fund and another \$15,000 grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services Nonpoint Source Protection Program, both of which will support our new Water Quality Monitoring Program, as well as our on-going educational programs and outdoor activities. If you're interested in the water quality program, see the other article on this page. You are welcome to volunteer, or participate in the educational events.

GMCG has, and will continue to be, an advocate of good land use practices and for making the connection between appropriate land use and the protection of natural resources — our water, forests and wildlife.

Patagonia has generously supported our advocacy efforts over the past several years and this year awarded us a grant for \$5,000. We have capitalized on our success in preventing a new ATV trail system in the environmentally sensitive Pine River State Forest by advocating in support of state legislation to require state agencies to consider environmental criteria in determining sites for new ATV trails on state land.

We continue to be inspired

Water monitoring begins in May

BY BRIANNE FOWLES

The first season of the RIVER program is eagerly anticipating the arrival of spring. The Regional Interstate Volunteers for the Ecosystems and Rivers of Saco is GMCG's water quality monitoring program that is joining forces with the Saco River Corridor Commission in Cornish, Maine. Together, our goal is to erase political boundaries to address water quality issues in the Saco Watershed. With the help of SRCC, which had its first successful monitoring season last year, GMCG has established a water monitoring plan to include 10 test sites, 14 volunteers, and 11 parameters.

The test sites in Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Sandwich and Tamworth were chosen following meetings with each town's officials and experts from UNH and Cooperative Extension. At each site, the volunteers will test for pH, temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, total phosphorus, silica, dissolved organic compounds, actions, anions, ammonium, and phosphates. Volunteers will begin testing May 7 and test every other week until October 11.

With the conclusion of the first season, the data will be gathered and entered into a shared database with SRCC. The analyzed data will be included in town reports and also on GMCG and SRCC's web sites at www.gmcg.org and www.srcc-maine.org. The goal for the first season is to begin a data base that will be added to each year and eventually provide an understanding of the water quality characteristics of the Ossipee and Saco watersheds. To learn more about the program or volunteer in any way please call GMCG at 539-1859.

The Watershed News

The Watershed News is a quarterly publication of the Green Mountain Conservation Group, a non-profit, 501(c) 3, charitable organization established in 1997 and dedicated to the preservation of the natural resources in the Ossipee Watershed. The towns of Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Sandwich and Tamworth make up the boundaries of the Ossipee Watershed Protection Project. This watershed includes one of the largest and deepest stratified drift aquifers in New Hampshire. It covers 47 square miles and receives drainage from a 330 square mile area. It is a critically important resource for existing and future community water supplies.

The GMCG's purpose is twofold:

1. To provide an organizational structure for a coalition of citizens and local officials interested in identifying sensitive areas within the Watershed in need of protection;
2. To offer public educational events about conservation issues and possible solutions regarding the preservation of this unique natural resource.

Through education and advocacy we strive to promote an awareness and appreciation of our natural resources and encourage a commitment to protect them.

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Special Places

Effingham Town Hall receives restoration grant

Editor's Note: *Special Places* is a regular feature of the Watershed News, highlighting an historical or cultural resource within the Ossipee Watershed. GMCG has endorsed the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, a public-private partnership committed to conservation of New Hampshire's natural, cultural and historical resources. For more information on LCHIP, call Citizens for NH Land and Community Heritage at 230-9729.

BY
 MELISSA FERLAND

The planned restoration of the Effingham Town Hall got a big boost last month when the project received a \$150,000 grant.

The Effingham Town Hall, constructed in 1861, is expected to be listed on the N.H. Register of Historic Places as the New England Masonic Charitable Institute — as its original use was as a school for orphaned children of freemasons for nearly 30 years (1861-1890).

When the school was discontinued in 1891, the town purchased the building from the Masons for \$1 and for the 111 years since, it has served the people of Effingham as the town office building, public library and the Lodge where Masons continue to hold their monthly meetings.

In addition to the historical significance of its Italianate-style architecture, this 19th century building also holds a treasure on the second floor.

Murals that appear three-dimensional grace the full area of the four walls and ceilings of the Lodge, each one representing a symbol of Masonic significance. The murals were first documented in the Charter Oak minutes of December 1859 and were dedicated in early 1860.

Over the years, the building, regarded as the centerpiece of the town, has fallen victim to natural elements, age, lack of regular maintenance and upkeep due, for the most

part, to lack of available funding.

The restoration project is expected to cost about \$300,000.

The dream of restoring the building is finally becoming a reality due to community-wide support and some much-needed funding.

Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, LCHIP, awarded the project \$150,000 in its second round, announcing the award March 4 at a press conference in Concord.

LCHIP received 70 applications requesting a total of \$12,625,144 in funding for historic preservation and natural resource protection aid.

Of the applications submitted, 33 were funded — 14 for natural resource protection (to be used to conserve 4,074 acres of land) and 19 for historic preservation of buildings.

LCHIP has two more grant rounds set for the coming year.

In addition to the \$150,000 from LCHIP, the town hall project — organized by the REACH Committee (Restore Effingham's Architectural and Cultural Heritage) — has received \$75,000 from Charter Oak Masonic Lodge, \$1,000 from the Arthur Mason Foundation and \$60,000 from the voters of Effingham who appropriated the money at town meeting last month.

The LCHIP money is one of the best things that has ever happened for organizations like ours who want to preserve important parts of the New Hampshire landscape for future generations. We are absolutely thrilled about the grant and the community-wide support. Now it's time for the real work to begin.

The restoration project is expected to take 12 to 18 months and will hopefully be complete by the end of 2003 — the 225th anniversary of the incorporation of Effingham.

Melissa Ferland is a writer for the Carroll County Independent and a resident of Effingham. She is chairman of REACH and was largely responsible for

BY PETER POHL

The decision to conduct a timber sale on your property is one worthy of considerable thought and planning before the first tree is felled. A great deal of information needs to be considered before actually proceeding with such a project. Failure to examine all the ramifications of this action can have serious and irreversible consequences. The end result of a poorly executed timber harvest can result in the depreciation of one of your most important assets.

The most successful timber sale generally involves the expertise of two well-qualified and trained professionals. The preparation of a detailed forest stewardship plan is the ideal first step in initiating the management of your property. One needs to give serious thought to goals and objectives for the property. Once these are formulated, the next step should be to select a licensed forester who is well-qualified to examine your woodlot and advise you on the management recommendations for the property. Selecting the right forester is an exercise in itself that requires effort on the landowner's part. Interviewing a number of candidates, reviewing examples of their work, checking with references and hiking sections of your property in their presence will help you decide the person you wish to hire to plan and supervise the timber sale.

The forester's expertise and training involves knowing how to manage a tract of forest land, what harvest systems should be used to thin the forest, what type of equipment is most suitable for the improvement harvest, what level of thinning is most desirable in order that the residual forest will reach its full potential and maximum value. Thought is given to the planning of the road system used to remove the forest products. Access to the lot and time of year to conduct the harvest are two other considerations. Regeneration of the next forest may be an important consideration. For example, if you wish

to encourage white pine on the site then timing the harvest with a natural cone crop shortly before or after seed release is essential.

After a thorough review of the harvest area, the forester begins the next phase of the project which entails marking and measuring the trees to be removed in the improvement cut. The forester decides on which harvest system or combination of systems are to be used. Some areas may be best suited for a selection thinning while others may need small group or patch cuts to remove decadent stands of trees occupying a site. The shelterwood system is best used where natural regeneration is desired. Other areas may be identified from an ecological point of view and left in their natural state. At the conclusion of this exercise, the forester can then determine the volume of forest products to be removed by species and quality and approximate market value.

At this point, the second and critical professional involved in the project is ready to enter the picture. The professional logger is the skilled individual who is trained to safely harvest the designated trees. Using care to minimize damage to the residual forest, the logger cuts and removes the harvested trees. On the landing, each tree is bucked into its highest market value that maximizes the financial return to both the logger and landowner. The important decisions made on the log landing determine the financial success of the operation. The logging contractor then markets the forest products to those mills that desire the species and products removed from this sale.

Foresters responsible for the sale of the timber will either negotiate a fair price for the products to be removed or may pursue the bid route where a number of buyers are offered the chance to submit bids for the marked timber. This approach enables the landowner to determine if they got the highest prices for the products sold. If the goal is to maximize income, then the highest price is generally accepted. If a combination of goals is desired i.e. fair price coupled

with extremely careful work and extra effort to ensure neatness, then another choice may be made. A written contract which articulates all the expectations and the prices paid precedes the actual harvest. The final roles of the forester include the supervision of the timber sale and the financial accounting for the operation.

In summary, the need to hire a forester can be determined by posing a series of questions that will make the decision easy to make. Your answer to the question, DO I NEED A FORESTER TO SELL MY TIMBER? will be a resounding YES if you **can not** answer YES to all of these questions.

- Have you identified your objectives for this sale?
- Do You know what products your timber will yield?
- Do you know the volumes of timber to be sold?
- Do you know the value of the timber products to be sold?
- Have you identified sensitive areas on the property?
- Have you sought references from the buyer or logger?
- Are you familiar with state timber harvest laws?
- Are you familiar with liability insurance requirements?
- Are you familiar with the preparation of a Timber Sale Agreement?
- Do you have the information to take advantage of the favorable federal tax treatment on timber income?

For a list of licensed foresters that operate in Carroll County contact Peter W. Pohl Extension Educator, Forest Resources, UNH Coop. Ext. 75 Main Street, P.O. Box 860, Center Ossipee, N.H. 03814 or call 603-539-3331 Fax 603-539-3335 or e-mail: peter.pohl@unh.edu. I am available to examine your woodland and offer advice on how to accomplish your landowner goals and objectives.

Conservation Conversations

Editor's Note: Conservation Conversations is intended to provide a forum for the Conservation Commissions in the six towns of the Ossipee Watershed to share news of their activities and an opportunity to find creative solutions regarding watershed issues. It is the goal of the Green Mountain Conservation Group to encourage the six towns to create a strong voice as a united watershed community.

Think Locally; Act Watershed.

Freedom

The Freedom Conservation Commission supports the efforts of The Friends of Trout Pond (FTP) to protect the 1900 acres of land around Trout Pond. This informal group has continued to gain community support as it has hosted a series of educational lectures about land protection and how communities can work together to protect important open space. Most recently Walter Graff from AMC and David Wilcox, Randolph Planning Board, spoke to the group about the work they undertook to protect 15,000 acres in Randolph and Jefferson. FTP recently received a small grant from the New England Grassroots Fund to help start its

efforts towards protecting the largest tract of unfragmented land in Freedom.

Madison

The Madison Conservation voted to support the banning of all ATV use on class VI roads. At Town Meeting, the voters also voted on banning ATV use on Class VI roads and defeated Article 14, 114-66. Voters also defeated a compromise article that would allow ATVs on some class VI roads designated by the Madison Class VI Roads Use Study Committee with a tie vote of 87-87. The Commission also sponsored a winning article which bans the use of dogs wearing telemetry radios for bear hunting on all town forests and properties. The Commission is in the final stages of hiring an expert to help delineate the prime wet lands of the town.

Tamworth

The Tamworth Conservation Commission received a \$4600 matching grant from the Recreational Trails Program administered by the state. The one is from federal gas taxes returned to the states. The grant will

be used to rebuild the Swift River Bridge, which accesses trails in the Big Pines Natural Area of Hemenway State Forest. This will be done mid to late summer. Part of the match will be made up of volunteer labor to remove the old bridge and build the new. To meet grant requirements, we need a total of 112 volunteer hours. This project is scheduled to only take two days. Anyone wishing to help, call John Mersfelder at 323-7793.

This spring, a photo panorama of the 360 degree view from the tower at Great Hill will be installed. The photos are ready and labeled and will be put under plexiglass and installed on each of the four sides of the tower. We are trying to determine the best way to set them in so to be vandal resistant. Any ideas are welcome.

WATERSHED ACTIVISM

“I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.” *Edward Everett Hale*

Environmental concerns grow over Ossipee Lake Marina expansion plan

Recently Ossipee Lake Marina applied for a special exception to expand its commercial use by one-third and to substantially expand its scope of business operations with new buildings, new parking lots and increased boat storage. Because the Marina is located over the largest stratified drift aquifer in New Hampshire, GMCG has requested consideration of natural resources issues.

Soils around the Marina are highly transmissive. Expanded operations at the Marina may increase the likelihood of spills and leaks and pose a potential threat to the lake and to groundwater due to the transmissivity of the soils. Substances such as benzene and MtBE are highly carcinogenic and highly mobile in groundwater. According to Dr. Robert Newton, geologist at Smith College, “a gallon of benzene could contaminate as much as five billion gallons of water; a much smaller portion of MtBE would contaminate as much water because it is water soluble.”

The Marina is adjacent to a Source Water Protection Area, as

defined by the state. The Marina is surrounded by private wells serving abutting residential properties and YMCA Camp Huckins.

Carrying capacity of Ossipee Lake should also be taken into consideration. Can the lake support a substantial increase in boat traffic when already there are problems in the summer with rafting, jet skis and heavy weekend boat traffic?

Since 1997, issues of wetland and town zoning violations at the Marina have been raised. In response, a new group has formed, the Broad Bay Alliance. The group has been advocating for compliance of town zoning and seeking restoration of wetland violations. To learn more about their concerns visit their website, www.zoningissues.org.

There will be another Freedom Zoning Board of Adjustment hearing May 28 on the Marina's expansion application. If you are concerned about natural resource protection and increased commercial activity on Ossipee Lake, plan to attend this meeting.

*Watershed Birder***Watershed Watchlist**

BY SUSAN LEE

National Audubon Society maintains a "waitlist" of threatened and endangered species of birds. One of the primary causes of species decline in North America is the fragmentation, degradation and ultimately the loss of habitat. The most significant factor that will alter future bird populations is likely to be global climate change. Dramatic changes have already been caused directly and indirectly by humans. "Global warming has come down to Earth for the wildlife right in our backyards," says National Wildlife Federation (NWF) President Mark Van Putten. "The effects are already happening and will likely worsen unless we get serious about reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases to help slow global warming."

Several species which nest in the Ossipee Watershed are on the NAS WatchList, including the American Black Duck, Wood Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler and the Bobolink. Other declining Watershed species include several found in the Ossipee Pine Barrens such as the Common Nighthawk, Brown Thrasher, Whip-poor-will and the Eastern Towhee.

Global warming due to burning fossil fuels affects temperature and rainfall which in turn determine habitat distribution and food availability. Both temperature and precipitation influence the composition of plant communities, which in turn determines the

availability of food, nest sites and protective cover for birds.

Since 1860 the average global temperature has risen about one degree Fahrenheit. More alarming is that the 10 warmest years of the last century have occurred since 1980 and 1998 has officially been declared the warmest year in recorded history. According to recent NWF reports, scientists believe that by 2100, our region could see temperature increases of three to seven degrees Fahrenheit. Summer and Fall may be a little wetter, but precipitation could decrease by 25 to 60% in Winter! Within these ranges, climatologists predict that individual weather events will become more extreme, including heavier downpours, longer drought periods and more severe coastal storms.

In the Ossipee Watershed heavy downpours and increased runoff in some areas could result in flooding of sensitive riparian areas. Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns will significantly alter the forest ecosystems. More severe storms could cause increased dieback of some tree species, particularly those already weakened by acid drain and ozone pollution, pests and disease. Severe rain storms can cause waterbird and loon nests to flood and late Spring snow and ice storms can kill vulnerable eggs and nestlings.

Longer term changes in precipitation and temperature could cause some species of birds to shift ranges completely. As the make up of trees in the forest changes, so will

the distribution of breeding and migrating birds found here. Climate change is expected to force the Massachusetts State Bird, the Black-capped Chickadee, northward completely out of that state.

The timing of breeding has already shifted in some bird species. Such shifts in breeding patterns cause problems especially in migratory species which must synchronize breeding with the availability of food resources in other parts of the world where they spend significant portions of their lives. Distributions of predators and diseases are also likely to change as weather patterns are altered.

Global warming is a problem we can help solve through responsible action to cut carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, primarily through reducing our use of fossil fuels such as gasoline and coal.

For birds and for all of us the situation is already critical; but not hopeless. Says Karin Krchnak, NWF's Population and environment Program manager, "The urgent message is that we have to start now."

Susan Lee is an avid birder and a longtime resident of the Ossipee Watershed. Share bird sightings or comments with her by e-mail at

leegull1@earthlink.net

Calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 *THE FRIENDS OF SANDWICH RANGE* will hold a potluck dinner to discuss how this group of local residents is working towards legislation to include more National Forest land in the Sandwich Range Wilderness. The dinner will take place at the **Doris Benz Center, Center Sandwich at 6 p.m.** For more information call Judith Redrawn at 323-8827. Please RSVP.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 *THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP AND THE MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTERS OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY* will lead a guided hike through the Leavitt Plantation. This 8,600 acre parcel of forest land in Parsonsfield, Maine, bordering the town of Effingham, is the largest contiguous forest block in southern Maine. Regionally, it is part of an important forest ecosystem across the Maine, New Hampshire border. A group of concerned citizens is working with TNC and the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands to secure funding from Land for Maine's Future in order to purchase a conservation easement on this parcel. Come learn more about the ecology of this land and the role it plays on a regional scale where natural resources cross political boundaries. **Participants should meet at the Parsonsfield Seminary, Route 160, Parsonsfield, Maine at 10 a.m.** There will first be a brief presentation about the history of this forest land. Maps will also be on hand for review. The hike will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call GMCG at 539-1859.

SATURDAY MAY 18 *FAREWELL PARTY FOR AMERICORP VOLUNTEER, BRIANNE FOWLES.* Brianne has worked with GMCG since last August and has become a familiar smiling face across the watershed. She will be leaving the area at the end of May and will be sadly missed. There will be a dessert and farewell for Brianne at the *Effingham Historical Society, Route 153, Center Effingham, 7-9 p.m.* Bring or mail any photos or postcards of your favorite Watershed scenes for a scrapbook we are putting together for her.

SATURDAY, MAY 18 *The Wonalancet Out Door Club (WODC)* will sponsor its annual trail clearing days. Everyone is invited to help and learn more about the trails that the club maintains. **Meet at the Ferncroft kiosk in Wonalancet at 8:30 a.m.** The day will be followed by a potluck supper in the evening. For more information contact Judith Reardon at 323-8827 or visit the WODC website at www.wodc.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 25 *The Chocorua Lake Association and GMCG* will sponsor a walk, *Learn About Ferns*, with Lionel Chute, Natural Resource Coordinator for the NH Heritage Inventory. **Meet at the bridge on Chocorua Lake at 1 p.m.** For more information contact Harriet Hoffeinz at 617-868-0294 or GMCG at 539-1859.

TUESDAY JUNE 4, *THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP* will sponsor a lecture on Air Quality by Kathy Brockett, NH Department of Environmental Services, Air Resources Division, and Georgia Murray from the Appalachian Mountain Club. They will give a presentation on air pollutants and regional impacts on public health and the environment. *Runnells Hall, Chocorua, 7-9 p.m.* For more information contact GMCG at 539-1859.

SATURDAY JULY 13 *WATERSHED WEEKEND: WATER QUALITY* featuring lectures, interpretive walks, guided pontoon boat and canoe tours, BBQ lunch and kids programs. Kathy Fallon Lambert, Executive Director of Hubbard Brook Research Center will be the keynote speaker. Sponsored by GMCG and Camp Calumet. *Camp Calumet on Ossipee Lake, Freedom, 8:30-a.m. to 4 p.m.* Look for summer newsletter for more details or call GMCG at 539-1859.

SUNDAY JULY 14 *WATERSHED WEEKEND: WATER QUALITY* Tom Howe and Dave Anderson from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests will lead a guided hike up Green Mountain. Look for summer newsletter for more details or call GMCG at 539-1859.

For more information about activities, or to find out how you can help or participate please call GMCG at 539-1859.

Help Support GM CG 's RIVERS Program
Purchase Raffle Tickets and WIN Great Prizes!
GM CG thanks the following for their donations!

- ◆ Patagonia
- ◆ Saco Bound
- ◆ Pizza Barn
- ◆ International Mountain Equipment
- ◆ Wayside Farm
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- ◆ Ski Works
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Put a check in the appropriate box for your donation and GMCG will put that amount of raffle tickets in our drawing and mail you the ticket stubs:

∇ -----
NAME _____

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- 1 ticket for \$5
- 5 tickets for \$10
- 10 tickets for \$15
- 20 tickets for \$20

Your Membership Will Make a Difference
Please Join Today!

(Please make checks payable to Green Mountain Conservation Group)

P.O. box 95 South Effingham, New Hampshire 03882

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Raindrop</i> _____ \$10 | <i>Puddle</i> _____ \$15 | <i>Vernal Pool</i> _____ \$25 |
| <i>(Student membership)</i> | | |
| <i>Stream</i> _____ \$50 | <i>River</i> _____ \$75 | <i>Pond</i> _____ \$100 |
| <i>Lake</i> _____ \$250 | <i>Aquifer</i> _____ \$500 | <i>Other</i> _____ |

GMCG
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The Watershed News

Nature
(For Julia Butterfly)

Your blood. My heart.
My blood. Your heart.
And on we dance into the breeze of
crickets and oaks.
Flowerday swirl of butterflies &
peepers,
Wheat fleck sunlight across the
pine moss floor with
Sun hot on naked skin.
All still with birdsong, peace and light.
Blade of grass to blade of grass
Pine bough to pine bough.

Dancing in tree breezes through stars
and pine boughs; into morning light.

Your blood. My blood.

Chainsaw violence; flying limbs
Crash.

Dogs barking.

YES!

CRASH!

No more I trace blood in blue sky,
"I Love You."
no more.

Gone.

In one moment all love taken and left
shattered on forest floor.

Your blood. My heart.
My blood. Your heart.

The Earth cries out.

K.M.

EVERY PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND EACH PERSON SHOULD TRY.

WATERSHED ACTIVISM

“I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.”

Edward Everett Hale

Celebrate the Protection of the 9000 acre Leavitt Plantation