
◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume IV, Issue IV

Summer 2002

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

4th Watershed Weekend will address Water Quality

Come celebrate the 4th Watershed Weekend on Saturday, July 13th at Camp Calumet on Ossipee Lake in Freedom from 9-4 p.m. The theme this year will be Water Quality.

Kathy Fallon Lambert, executive director, Hubbard Brook Research Foundation, will be our keynote speaker. Kathy will speak about the water quality research that has been conducted at Hubbard Brook for the past twenty decades. She will also discuss the connection between land use and water quality.

Throughout the day, representatives from environmental groups and state agencies will be on hand to staff information booths. Hourly interpretive walks throughout the Ossipee Pine Barrens, a globally rare pitch pine forest, will be led by The Nature Conservancy. Visitors will also have

the opportunity to participate in hourly pontoon boat excursions on Ossipee lake narrated by Bob Craycraft from the UNH Cooperative Extension.

Scheduled lectures begin at 9:30 with a presentation by David Schaarsmith from NH Lakes Association. David will talk about problems with milfoil in NH Lakes and discuss ways residents and visitors can work together to help halt the spread of this aquatic plant.

At 10 a.m., Laura Deming, of the Audubon Society of NH, will outline specific functions of wetland buffers, conditions that influence their effectiveness, and recommendations for buffer protection and management.

The day's featured speaker, David Carroll, author of "Year of the Turtle" and recipient of the 2001 John Burroughs naturalist award, will

speak at 11 a.m. on Turtle Habitat in the Watershed. He will also be on hand throughout the day to sign copies of his books.

Following lunch, Sarah Thorne, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, will present recent research conducted by SPNHF that documents how development and terminal harvesting are consuming and fragmenting NH forest. Her talk, Vanishing Forests: Impacts of Forest Conversion and Fragmentation in NH will be useful to conservationists to explain the declining profitability of forestry on smaller parcels of land. She will also explore what this means for the quality of our waters and habitat. Sarah will be followed by Kathy Fallon Lambert's keynote address from 2-3:30.

The event is open to the public. A suggested donation of \$10 includes a barbecue lunch.

GMCG and SPNHF lead hike up Green Mountain

Watershed Weekend continues on Sunday, July 14th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a guided hike on the Dwight Mills parcel on Green Mountain in Effingham with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) and the Green Mountain Conservation Group.

This is the largest remaining unprotected tract on Green Mountain. It has exceptional conservation features, including scenic values of regional importance. The Forest Society, in partnership with the Green Mountain Conservation Group, will be conducting a campaign to purchase the 678-acre Dwight Mills tract, a

top land protection priority, as an addition to the Society's 1,035 acre High Watch Preserve. The resultant 1,713 acre tract enlarges contiguous protected land in Freedom and Effingham to more than 2,300 acres. Join us for a challenging, off-trail hike over rugged and occasionally steep terrain to reach open blueberry ledges on top of Green Mountain and sweeping views of the Ossipee Region from Hanson Top. Time permitting, we may also explore other adjacent tracts. Dress appropriately and bring a lunch and water.

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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Monthly event review

Ozone: Good up high; Bad nearby

Editor's note: A part of GMCG's mission, is to sponsor monthly educational events. These monthly events are free and open to the public. We hope to see more of our readers at our monthly events!

BY ELISHA LINDQUIST

In June, the Green Mountain Conservation Group sponsored an informative lecture with Kathy Brockett of N.H. Department of Environmental Services Air Resources Division and Georgia Murray, staff scientist with the Appalachian Mountain Club. Both presenters spoke about air pollutants and regional impacts on public health and the environment.

The major air pollutants of today are ozone, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and lead. Other air emissions to be concerned about are toxins such as mercury, MtBE and dioxin; many types of volatile organic compounds or hydrocarbons; greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane; and CFC's which are banned in the United States.

In New Hampshire, there are currently 25 locations that conduct ambient air measurements. These measurements are conducted by the Department of Environmental Services, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the University of New Hampshire and sometimes by industry. These measurements show levels of criteria pollutants, mercury, toxins and meteorological parameters.

Acid rain is of major concern in New Hampshire because The Granite State does not have a high buffering capacity to counter acid rain. Sulfur dioxide is a major source of acid deposition and also contributes to haze and visual range drops. Electric utilities are the biggest source of sulfur emissions.

The Appalachian Mountain Club conducts air quality studies such as visibility studies, which are performed by hikers. Visibility is

a good indicator of how high ozone levels are. The haze we often see on hot summer days is not always humidity, but in fact "bad" ozone. At higher elevations such as on mountaintops, there are higher levels of "bad" ozone. "Bad" ozone is ozone found in the Earth's lower atmosphere or ground level ozone.

Those affected the most by ground level ozone fall into the category of "sensitive groups." Sensitive groups are defined as people who are at higher risk to exposure of "bad" ozone, including active children, active adults of all ages (hikers for instance) and people with asthma or other respiratory diseases.

Kathy Brockett also showed the new hybrid car, the Toyota Prius she drove from Concord. DES currently owns 13 alternative fuel vehicles, which get 45 miles per gallon on the highway and 52 miles per gallon in the city.

Although the government has responded to air quality issues with federal legislation such as the Clean Air Acts and Amendments, there is still a lot that can be improved upon. Carbon dioxide, which is the most prominent greenhouse gas from human production, impacts human health and the environment. Every gallon of gas you use produces 22 pounds of carbon dioxide. Murray said the issues of coal-fired power plants and mobile sources still need solutions. For more information on air quality in New Hampshire visit the DES website at:
www.des.des.state.nh.us.

Elisha Lindquist is the new Water Quality Monitoring Program Director, AMerCorp Volunteer for GMCG.

An old house revisited

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

BY ELISHA LINDQUIST

If you have never stood inside a 200 year-old house, here is a story that may inspire you.

Recently I had the great pleasure to visit with brothers Jack and Bill Russell, in Effingham. They live on what is now named the Jack Russell Road, but was once known as the Range Road.

The house, which overlooks a view of Ossipee Lake, was built around 1805 by the Tuttle family of Dover. According to Jack and Bill, there were two Tuttle brothers. One came to Effingham to farm and the other, who was in the shipping trade, stayed in Dover Point and prospered. Captain George Tuttle bought the 120-acre plot on the side of Green Mountain and soon built a homestead, including a barn and the house.

Seven more houses and the town hall also grew up along this road, making it a central location in town.

The road often washed out, so when the town put in corduroy below the Range Road, the Tuttles' seven neighbors moved their houses to the new main road. The Tuttles stayed on, however, until the Homestead Act of 1865 sent them, like many others, west in search of better farming land. The farm then changed hands several times until Jack and Bill's grandfather purchased it in the early 1900s. Since then the house has remained in the Russell family.

As Jack said, "It took a real skilled man to cut out a house frame" in those days. The Russell house bears witness to that testimony and to the remaining fact that the Russells have taken good care of the farm. The house, which is built into the

side of the mountain, has two sides built of granite and a strong post and beam frame. It has four bedrooms in all, two halls, a kitchen, a pantry, a basement and a root cellar. In the basement there is still a stone culvert that was built to let the spring runoff from the mountain go beneath the house. Instead of trying to resist the forces of nature as we do these days, people back then just found ways to live and work around them.

In many of the rooms there can be seen evidence of long hours spent diligently working with hand tools to create simple things like door brackets and banister poles. On several of the doors and on the mantel in the main hall, traces of a lost art called "marbleizing" can still be seen in dark patterns and borders.

Indeed, like many things of the past, art and history are things often lost. Most of the records kept on paper regarding the history of the house were lost in the fire that destroyed the Effingham town hall in the 1930s. In fact, most of the history of the farm has been passed down orally, although there are a few documents that have remained with family members connected to the farm.

One such document is a poem, written in 1912 by Viena Morrison Wight, who was the granddaughter of the Tuttles. The poem, "To the Tuttle Farm in Green Mountain, NH," is filled with beautiful memories of a farm that was once the centerpiece to so many lives. From it one can still hear the murmurings of the laughter and tears that once filled the halls:

To the Tuttle Farm in Green Mountain, NH

"Oh dear old home, how fair it lies,
Beneath New Hampshire's blue, blue skies.
The old house stands, still staunch and fair,
As when were hewed its timbers there
By grandsire brave, who built the nest
Where wife and babes found happy rest.
Ancestress old, with fair, sweet face,
Thy loving ways, thy stately grace,
Are treasured still on memory's page,
A picture dear, grown rare with age:
Beneath they brooding tender care,

Grew up brave sons and daughters
fair.

T'was children's boast that from its
door,
Their eyes could roam o'er township
four;
Where range on range, the mountains
bold
Their opalescent tints unfold;
Washington's peak with cloud like
wreath,
Blue Ossipee Lake in vale beneath.

Within thy walls, grown old and gray,
Came birth, came death, came
wedding gay
The echoes oft of childish glee:
Thanksgiving feasts, quaint quilting
bee;
Much pleasure, more unceasing toil,
Harvests to wrest from rocky soil.

By sturdy hands the land was cleared,
With timbers stout the barns were
reared,
Yielding good cheer to man and beast,
When the tempests raged and winds
were east
They gathered round the fireplace old
Where ruddy flames defied the cold.

The granite wall enclosing round,
That tiny plot, the burying ground,
Forever holds the headstones gray,
Record so true of long gone day
T'was meet that when they fell on
rest:
Their forms should lie on thy green
breast.

But now alas, t'is ours no more
A stranger's step is on the floor;
The grapes still purple on the wall,
The great trees cast shadow tall
And murmur under wintry sky,
A requiem sad for days gone by."

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.

Effingham

This spring the Conservation Commission sponsored the annual Earth Day Poster Contest with the Effingham Elementary School. The theme was "What is a litterbug and why does it stink?" The annual roadside cleanup was held on April 20th. Baked goods and a child's bicycle were raffled off at the barbeque following the cleanup.

The Commission is working on the town's natural resource inventory due to be completed by fall 2002. Through out the summer and fall, the Commission will be planning dates for the clean up and public use of the town land maintained by the Conservation Commission.

Henry Spencer was elected chairman.

Freedom

The Freedom Conservation Commission continues to support 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 the group met with the national organization, The Trust for Public Lands to discuss options for protecting this land that is the largest unfragmented parcel in Freedom.

On May 28th the Freedom Zoning

Board of Adjustment rejected the Ossipee Lake Marina's multi-part application for a special exception. The Board stated that the ordinance did not allow further expansion of the Marina property or the use of adjacent residential land for commercial purposes. Last year, NH DES mandated a wetland restoration plan as a result of finding environmental violations by the Marina that included filling wetlands and cutting and removing trees and vegetation in protected areas on the shoreline. The Marina is located over a particularly sensitive as well as productive area of the largest stratified drift aquifer in NH.

Madison

The Conservation Commission is interested in identifying Prime Wetlands and recently interviewed B.H. Keith Assoc. in Freedom to see about contracting with them.

The Nature Conservancy and the Conservation Commission worked together to install two NH beaver boxes into the beaver dam at the town owned Cedar Swamp. Due to the increased interest in beavers, the Conservation Commission, together with GMCG, has organized a *Day of Beavers* for August 6th of Old Home Week. The Browns of from Beavers, Wetlands, and Wildlife of New York, will lead a field trip in the morning and deliver a slide presentation in the evening. (See Calendar page 6.)

Plans to install signs on easement lands in the town are underway.

David Riss recently cleared the trail up to Madison Cascades.

Sandwich

March marked the official retirement of Joe Upson from the commission. Joe has been a tremendous help for the past 15 years. A retired United States Geological Survey hydrologist, Joe performed well water quality studies,

developed an aquifer map through field studies he made in the early 1990s and recently incorporated his specific map data with the newly released Ossipee watershed aquifer map. The Conservation Commission thank him for his numerous years of service.

Bearcamp River Trail cleanup day in early April was a success. A major effort was made to move footbridges impacted by beaver activity east of Cook's gravel pit.

The Commission is preparing for summer Conservation Camp, Five Days of Sandwich. This one week day camp is open to 10 to 12 year olds in town and is supported through the town budget and a generous contribution. Activities include wildlife walks, canoe and kayak trips and bushwhacking. There is already a waiting list despite offering two sessions this year.

Tamworth

The Commission has installed a four panel panorama to the sills of the old fire tower on Great Hill, identifying major and some minor peaks in the viewing area. The commission is also busy moving into the new town offices and getting trail brochures and fliers ready at trailheads and stores across the area. Charlie Thompson was reappointed for a 3 year term and Ned Beecher was appointed for a 3 year term. The Commission has recently erected a sign on Old Route 25 that invites everyone to stop and visit a lovely spot along the Bear Camp River.

Watershed Birder

Easy Conservation: coffee and stamps

BY SUSAN LEE

Conservation efforts take place on three inter-related levels: Global, national and local. Globally well known conservation organizations work to protect species and habitat. The World Wildlife Fund and the Nature Conservancy, among other advocacy groups, are increasing their efforts overseas, especially in Central and South America. These groups know that destruction of habitat in these areas is having a profound effect on Neotropical migrants which breed in North America. Protecting birds on a global level usually means supporting such organizations with money, if not time. Becoming politically informed and active is equally important in a world where *Homo sapiens* divert more than 40 percent of the food resources of the planet into ecological systems dominated by people, domestic animals and pests. (Ehrlich: **The Birder's Handbook** 1988). The rest of the world has recognized the necessity of co-operating to limit industrial emissions and global warming. Of the major industrial and polluting nations of the world, only the United States opted out of the Kyoto Agreement.

On the national level, monetary donations to

conservation organizations such as Audubon, Friends of the Earth, Sierra Club and National Wildlife Federation help to purchase habitats identified as critical to migrating birds. As a participant in Project Feederwatch, or one of the other citizen science projects of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, individual birders contribute to studies documenting changes in the status of North American birds. Less well known is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp program. For \$15 anyone can purchase a "Duck Stamp" from the post office. Traditionally required for waterfowl hunters, the "stamps" are becoming popular with non-hunting conservationists. Money raised by the sale of the stamps is used to purchase and preserve wetlands and other wildlife areas for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Not usable as postage, the stamp can be used to gain free admission for a year, beginning June 30, to National Wildlife refuges, including Parker River Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island.

Conservation efforts at the local level are often the most work and the most personally rewarding. In your own backyard, you can do a great deal to ward off the effects of degradation of habitat. Make your yard a haven for wildlife by planting native ground covers, vines, shrubs and

trees. Limit the use of pesticides. Join local conservation action groups such as the GMCG, which focus on local political action and preservation of quality bird habitat.

One relatively new and easy opportunity for conservation is as simple as making a cup of coffee. Coffee is the third most common import to the United States, behind oil and steel. Worldwide, coffee is second only to oil as an import/export commodity. (Peter Stangel, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation 2002). Coffee is grown in full sun or under the shade of taller canopy trees. Traditionally coffee was grown in the shade of native forests in Africa and South America. Coffee plantations that grow coffee in shade also provide valuable habitat for songbirds. Unfortunately, the traditional approach has been replaced by clear cutting of forests and planting of "full sun" coffee trees which produce less flavorful coffee, are shorter lived, and require more fertilizer and pesticides. The destruction of the traditional shade coffee forest has negatively impacted migrant and other bird populations. To help farmers and birds switch to shade grown coffee. Ask for it at the grocery store and in local restaurants.

Calendar

FRIDAY JUNE 28, *THE FRIENDS OF TROUT POND AND THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP* will sponsor a lecture on the Dollars and Sense of Open Space with Digit Taylor, Center for Land and Conservation Assistance. She will give a presentation on the financial benefits to communities of preserving open space.
Freedom Town Hall, 7-9 p.m.

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 Foundation, will be the keynote speaker. Sponsored by GMCG and Camp Calumet.
Camp Calumet on Ossipee Lake, Freedom, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (See story on the front page.)

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. Call Dave Anderson at SPNHF to confirm meeting place and to register for this hike 224-9945.

Wednesday August 6 *THE MADISON CONSERVATION COMMISSION TOGETHER WITH THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP* will sponsor **A Day of Beavers**. The day will commence with a guided field trip by the Browns of *Beavers, Wetlands and Wildlife* of New York. **Meet at the Madison Historical Society at 11 am** for an hour walk. There will be an evening lecture on **Beaver Habitat at the Madison Town Hall at 7:30**. For more information call 367-8260.

Thursday, August 29th *The Friends of Trout Pond, Broad Bay Alliance and GMCG* will sponsor an evening lecture with Sherry Godlewski from NH Department of Environmental Services. Sherry will discuss what a DES designated Source Water Protection Zone is and explain how towns can use state grants to protect these water supply lands. **King Pine Lodge at Purity Springs Resort, Madison 7-9 p.m.**

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27 *NH Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)* will take place at Camp Calumet on Ossipee Lake. This is a water education program sponsored by the NH Department of Environmental Services. Local 4th and 5th graders are invited to attend and learn more about watersheds, groundwater, water quality, conservation, and stewardship. DES staff and local high school students will be teaching these subjects and all students will go home with a package of natural resource information. Contact Nicole Clegg at 271-4071 or visit www.des.state.nh.us/wet

WATERSHED ACTIVISM

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

Not all activism involves “fighting.” Some of the most effective activism is from a proactive approach. This has been a guiding principle for GMCG since its inception in 1997 and is the strong reason we are committed to outreach and education and working with all different community organizations. In June, GMCG partnered with the Ossipee Conservation Commission and the Broad Bay Alliance to secure a grant from the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLA) to staff the Ossipee Lake Boat Launch on Route 25 for summer weekends with ‘Lake Hosts.’

NHLA received funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as a one-year grant award to help fight milfoil in NH. Part of the grant is to provide funding to local

organizations to staff launch sites to monitor boat traffic, to have Lake Hosts distribute information on milfoil, and to inspect boats for possible contamination.

GMCG has partnered further with the Appalachian Mountain Teen Project in Wolfeboro to hire local youth to be Lake Hosts for the summer beginning in late June. This is an excellent opportunity for several different groups and town officials to work together to protect Ossipee Lake from the spread of milfoil. DES has documented milfoil on the lake and it is important to all work together to halt its spread. Stop by and meet the Lake Hosts on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

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
- ◆ Eastern Mountain Sports
- ◆ Ski Works
- ◆ Whittier House

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 _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

χ 1 ticket for \$5 • 5 tickets for \$10 • 10 tickets for \$15 • 20 tickets for \$20

****Drawing for prizes will be at the end of Watershed Weekend on July 13th 2002 at Camp Calumet!!**

*****Send form along with your check made payable to:**

Green Mountain Conservation Group P.O. Box 95 S. Effingham, NH 03882

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

Raindrop ___ \$10 *Puddle* ___ \$15 *Vernal Pool* ___ \$25

(Student membership)

Stream ___ \$50 *River* ___ \$75 *Pond* ___ \$100

Lake ___ \$250 *Aquifer* ___ \$500 *Other* ___

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-Mail _____

Alternate Address _____

The Watershed News

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03882
(603) 539-1859

Deadline for Fall Newsletter
is September 21.

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

BY JILL PIEKUT

EFFINGHAM, 7TH GRADE

Will It Stay?

How many kids get to see
horses eating on the ride to
school?

Or hear wild turkeys call
outside their rooms?

Does everyone get to see the
sun rising over mountains and
trees?

Or feel the sun on their backs
while picking tomatoes and
peas?

Do kids everywhere play
outside every day?

But there' s more that I ask,

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