

◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume VII, Issue II

Spring 2005 .

A Quarterly Publication for the Ossipee Watershed Published by the Green Mountain Conservation Group

WQM begins with a flood of activity

The Green Mountain Conservation Group will begin the 2005 Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) season in April. The sampling will take place earlier this year to obtain spring melt data and will continue into October. Throughout the winter, GMCG has also been sampling water at six locations once a month in order to create a broader profile of water quality in the Ossipee Watershed. Changes to the program were born at a 2004 WQM Steering Committee where stakeholders and experts discussed possible changes and additions to the program and assessed the direction and quality of the data. Many of these new ideas will be applied to the 2005 WQM testing season, including rain gages, storm event sampling, conductivity sampling, deep water sampling, streamside assessments, and GIS mapping of sub-watersheds.

In March, the 2004 data was presented at a community meeting. Jennifer Smith, GMCG Water Quality Coordinator, presented last year's data and introduced the 2005 upcoming season. Bob Craycraft from the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension, and Michelle Daley from UNH Natural Resources Department presented analysis of some of the data and discussed long term benefits of the WQM program.

Michelle Daley pointed out that only after years of data collecting will trends appear. She noted that we are only just now observing possible trends as noted by one Ossipee site with elevating sodium and chloride levels. Continued sampling in the Ossipee Watershed will allow us to observe any of these trends as well and use that data to use best management practices in future planning.

GMCG is excited by the enthusiasm shown by the communities in the Ossipee

Watershed in support of the water quality program. "We are thrilled by the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers and energized by the support of the community. Freedom and Ossipee appropriated money at Town Meeting to support the WQM program. GMCG is very thankful for this support which will help defer the cost of the lab analysis," said Ms. Smith. The conservation commissions of Sandwich, Tamworth, and Effingham also contributed to the lab costs of this program. GMCG is also grateful to NH Department of Environmental Services, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, and Timberland for funding this program. In addition, this program would not be such a success if it were not for the dedicated volunteers who help sample the water.

GMCG began testing the waters of the Ossipee Watershed in 2002 through a partnership with Saco River Corridor Commission (SRCC) in Maine. Through this partnership the RIVERS (Regional Interstate Volunteers for the Ecosystems and Rivers of Saco) program was created. One of the goals was to show that water does not recognize political boundaries. GMCG and SRCC (both part of the greater Saco watershed) tested across twenty six towns, two states and one watershed.

In 2003, GMCG expanded the program to include five new sites in the RIVERS program as well as 14 tributaries on Ossipee Lake—the heart of the Ossipee Watershed.

If you would like to learn more about the program or are interested in a copy of the 2004 WQM report please contact GMCG at 539-1859 or visit the website at www.gmcg.org. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer water quality monitor or learning more about the WQM program, please contact GMCG's WQM.

Call today to adopt a site near you!

Watershed Coalition will work with town officials

The Ossipee Watershed Coalition, a two year project hosted by the Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG) and funded in part by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation was designed to bring Ossipee Watershed residents, businesses and municipal officials together to learn more about the natural resources of the region and to work together to better plan for community development based on protecting these important resources.

Over the next few months Steve Whitman of Jeffrey H. Taylor & Associates will be attending board meetings in the watershed towns with GMCG staff. Steve will be helping municipal officials to identify natural resource related planning projects that they would like to work on. GMCG has some funding available to cover Steve's time working in each town. If towns would like to pursue additional projects with help from Steve, they can also contract directly with Jeffrey H. Taylor & Associates. Steve can be reached at 536-5037 or by email at swhitman@jhtplanning.com.



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. 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.

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 unique natural resources.

Through research, education, advocacy and land conservation we strive to promote an awareness and appreciation of our watershed's natural resources and encourage a commitment to protect them.

Board of Directors

- Duane Dale, President
- David Little, Vice President
- Beth Earle, Treasurer
- Noreen Downs, Secretary
- Claes Thelemarck, Education Coordinator

Town Representatives

- Effingham, Emelyn Albert
- Freedom, Steve Fortin
- Madison, Dan Stepanauskus
- Ossipee, Warren Walker
- Sandwich, Peter Pohl
- Tamworth, C. Scott Aspinall
- Maine, Dennis Finn

Staff

- Executive Director, Blair Folts
- WQM Coordinator, Jennifer Smith

Special Places

Freedom Town Meeting supports Trout Pond Town Forest

Editor's Note: Special Places is a regular feature of the Watershed News, highlighting an historical or cultural resource within the Ossipee Watershed. GMCG continues to endorse the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP,) a public-private partnership committed to conservation of New Hampshire's natural, cultural and historical resources. For more information, on LCHIP call 230-9729, or email www.specialplaces.org

For nearly four years, the Green Mountain Conservation Group, The Friends of Trout Pond and the Trust for Public Land have been working to conserve the 2650 acre Trout Pond properties in Freedom and Madison. With the appropriation of \$100,000 from the Freedom Town Meeting in March, the vision to create a Freedom Town Forest is nearly completed. The Town of Freedom will own and manage the property as a Town Forest and the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development will hold the conservation easement on the land to insure that it remains a working forest. A Town Forest Committee will oversee stewardship of the tract's natural resources.

As reported in the Winter 2005

Watershed News, the total cost of the project is \$2.3 million. The Trout Pond project recently received \$1.2 million in federal funding from the USDA Forest Legacy Program for the purchase of the property as well as \$250,000 from the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program grant. The partners have been also conducting extensive fundraising campaign to the private sector as well as to foundations.

The vote at town meeting was an exciting affirmation of the many years of hard work and was also matched by \$25,000 from a private foundation. Over the next few months, we need to raise remaining money to purchase and provide for long term management of this property. With your help we can meet these goals. Please consider making a contribution or an additional gift to help us meet our goal by June 1.

Thanks to all who have helped create a Freedom Town Forest that can be enjoyed by generations to come!

Yes, I would like to help conserve Trout Pond!

Tax deductible donations may be made by check or securities payable to Friends of Trout Pond, P. O. Box 259, Freedom, NH 03836. For information regarding donations of securities, please contact Edward Reed at (603) 539-6520 or Charles Depew at 539-6303.

Name: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

I have enclosed a check for _____

I pledge \$ _____ to be paid _____ Month _____ Year

My Employer will match my gift. _____

(Please provide necessary confirmation form from your employer.)

Spring sounds resonate across the Watershed

BY SUSAN LEE

Bird song is a sure sign of Spring in the Watershed. Of course, birds make sounds during the winter feeding season. Black-capped chickadees call their signature *chick-a-dee-dee-dee*, White-breasted Nuthatches make their *ank ank* sounds, Blue Jays make an assortment of sounds, including realistic imitations of hawks, and Woodpeckers make a sharp *peek* sound as well as drumming on resonant wood. But Spring brings out more sounds and more variety of sounds from our feathered friends.

Birds sounds have a variety of functions. Most birds have both songs and calls. Some birds also make non-vocal sounds such as the woodpecker's drumming or the Roughed Grouse's thumping which sounds so much like a motorcycle. A song is typically a loud, complex and often musical utterance made mostly by male birds to declare and defend a breeding territory and to attract females. Females of some species also sing, although their songs are often quieter and less complex than their male partner's.

While many watershed birds have lovely musical songs, such as the wrens, orioles, tanagers, sparrow and warblers; other birds such as shore birds, owls, mourning doves and woodpeckers also have songs which are different from their calls. Calls are often short simple sounds like the Robin's metallic *chip* or the squeaky *chit* or *chitit* of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Listen for this sound when the sugar water feeder is empty!

Ornithologists and birders talk

about different kinds of calls. Contact calls are used between paired birds, or among members of a flock or family group to keep in touch and locate each other. These calls are often given when a bird takes off or lands. The chickadee's contact note is a simple *tsit*, while the familiar *chick-a-dee, dee, dee* is often used to keep the flock together. Alarm calls signal danger. These calls are short, sharp and recognized by many different species. Chickadee alarm calls given when a hawk flies over are recognized by nuthatches and woodpeckers who freeze at the sound.

While songs are often unique to a species, and are used by expert birders to identify birds that are hidden in tree tops and in dense brush, some watershed species are mimics which have repertoires of dozens if not hundreds of other birds' songs. Northern Mockingbirds, Brown thrashers, and Catbirds all imitate other birds' songs.

Mockingbirds are also known to imitate environmental sounds such as machinery, car sounds, human whistling, and barking dogs. It helps in identifying the three major mimics to know that Mockingbirds typically repeat each phrase of its song three times, while Brown Thrasher songs repeat phrases twice and Gray Cat birds have long rambling songs of many different sounds or phrases each used once.

Spring brings contests over territory, often waged in song. In these battles, some birds engage in "counter-singing" where males of the same species alternate songs back and forth. Northern Cardinals, Wood thrushes and Tufted Titmice engage

in these vocal duels.

The songs of White-throated Sparrows have been studied extensively. Throughout the Watershed, the sound of *old sam peabody peabody peabody* identifies the White-throated Sparrow. Juvenile White-throats learn their song from other male White-throats. Young birds memorize a general form of the song and then practice to perfect it. In late summer in the Watershed, listen for young birds singing slightly odd variations on the adult song until they get it right. No such practice is needed by Eastern Phoebes who are hatched with the ability to sing both of the fee-bee songs of their species perfectly, and to easily distinguish them from the purer whistled fee-bee of the Chickadee.

As the days lengthen and migrant birds return, listen for these songs and those of the songsters known as warblers, from the *pleased pleased pleased to meet cha* of the Chestnut-sided warbler to the *pinestripes pinestripes* of the Black-throated Green, and the *teacher teacher teacher* of the Ovenbird.

For a more detailed study of the art and science of listening to birdsong, check out *The Singing Life of Birds* by Donald Kroodsma published by Houghton Mifflin (2005).

Susan Lee, GMCG's regular Watershed Birder columnist, is an avid birder and a longtime resident of the Ossipee Watershed. Share bird sightings or comments with her by e-mail: leegull1@earthlink.net.

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.

Think Locally; Act Watershed.

Effingham

The conservation commission is pleased to report they have received a grant from the NH Moose Plate program for \$15,000 to study wetlands in Effingham.

Currently, knowledge of wetlands in town is based on old maps and anecdotal data. The USGS topographic map of the town shows an estimated wetland acreage of 2508 acres, yet the National Wetlands Inventory map of the USFWS shows indicates a wetland acreage of 4800 acres. This is different than the Natural Resource Conservation Service (SCS) mapping regime, which shows that approximately 7211 acres of hydric soils and water exists in Effingham. With this grant, the conservation commission will hire a wetland scientist to delineate the wetlands.

Freedom

The Freedom Conservation Commission and the Friends of Trout Pond have recently received a grant from the NH Moose Plate program for \$15,000 for the construction of trails and

informative kiosks on the Trout Pond land.

Town Meeting appropriated \$5000 toward the WQM program. Currently GMCG spends nearly \$3000 a year in Freedom sampling water quality. The conservation commission asked town meeting for \$5000 to cover the water quality costs in 2004 and 2005. *Thanks to Freedom residents for support.*

Madison

The Madison voters approved the wetland buffer zoning amendments and other amendments which would protect steep slopes and wetlands from subdivision development.

Conservation commission members have been assigned to Madison's 19 major properties and will give stewardship reports yearly. The reports will include survey status, forestry plan development, trail updates, signage, deed restrictions, clean up needs, site visits, deed responsibilities, opportunities for expansion, threats, and identification of wildlife and views.

Jeff Lougee of The Nature Conservancy will meet with the commission in June to give an update on the Chain of Ponds properties. He is also scheduled to lead the Old Homewek walk in August to introduce the community to this unique land.

The commission is currently busy helping the selectmen formulate a working

plan with Madison Forester about cleaning up class VI roads after logging operations.

Ossipee

Forester Rich Girard, presented the Forest Plan to the conservation commission. The properties covered include Sumner Brook the Town Forest, Boulder Hill and Depot Road in Tamworth. Rich spoke extensively about the three properties that make up Sumner Brook. He explained that the large red pine, white pine and pitch pine forest type is on the statewide endangered list. There are also rare wetlands on the property as well as one of the only remaining intact areas of the Ossipee Esker.

The conservation commission submitted a warrant article at Town Meeting asking for \$2000 for the water sampling done in Ossipee by GMCG. This passed unanimously. Ossipee is now paying 67% of the cost of this service.

Thanks to the Ossipee residents for support.

Sandwich

The conservation commission recently proposed surveying ponds and wetlands in town for invasive aquatic plants.

NOTE: GMCG would like to extend a special thanks to all the conservation commissions for support towards the Water Quality Monitoring Program and also the Watershed Coalition. Thank you!

Tamworth update

For two years, GMCG and other conservation organizations have been following a proposal to build a motor sports vehicular track in the Ossipee Mountains in Tamworth. The following is a recent update.

On February 17th, the House Municipal & County Government Committee held a hearing in Tamworth on HB 90, the bill to repeal the exemption from local regulation for Club Motorsports Inc (CMI) proposed race track.

On March 9 at Town meeting, Tamworth overwhelmingly approved a sound ordinance, by a vote of 261-142. The ordinance is targeted for "private driving instruction and exhibition facilities" and has the same noise limits that were previously established in Tamworth Race Track Ordinance.

On March 22nd, DES granted CMI a conditional 401 Water Quality Certificate. A potential appeal to the Water

Council is under review.

On April 6, the NH House approved HB 90, the bill that would repeal the exemption from Race Track Ordinances for "private driving instruction and exhibition facilities." This was an unusual and unexpected outcome. Reps. Harry Merrow, David Babson, and others, sponsored HB 90 to repeal RSA 287-G, which last year exempted CMI's development from local control. The House committee had voted against the bill, but persistent grass roots lobbying, support from NH Municipal Association, and tireless work by Reps. Merrow and Babson helped secure the victory.

On April 12th, the Wetlands Council denied Focus Tamworth's Appeal of CMI's Dredge and Fill Permit.

HB 90 moves to the Senate for hearing and debate, sometime in April or early May. Grass roots support will again be needed to complete passage of this bill. See <http://www.nhlgc.org> or <http://www.focustamworth.org/> for details.

Watershed Water Quality Monitoring

Notes from Upstream

GMCG adds conductivity to the 2005 WQM season

GMCG has purchased a new meter for the Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) Program. The meter is a YSI 556 and measures pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and conductivity all at once! Conductivity is a new parameter for the WQM Program.

Conductivity is a measure of water's ability to conduct electrical current and is an indirect way of measuring the amount of total dissolved salts or dissolved ions (atoms or groups of atoms with a positive or negative charge) in the water, such as sodium, chloride, calcium, magnesium, and nitrate (NO₃). The conductivity sensor consists of two metal electrodes 1.0 cm apart. This sensor is placed in the water and a constant voltage is applied across the electrodes. The current flows through the water and is proportional to the concentration of dissolved salts or ions in the water (the more ions the higher the current which is measured electronically by the meter and reported as a conductivity value). Conductivity is reported in microSiemens/cm (µS/cm).

Both natural and non-natural sources can affect conductivity. The geology of an area can influence conductivity. Limestone leads to higher conductivity because of the calcium and carbonate materials that leach into the water as it flows over. The size of a watershed can determine conductivity. (The bigger the watershed the more soil the water contacts.) Atmospheric input of ions is typically low, except in coastal marine watersheds. There are also a number of pollutants that may increase conductivity, such as wastewater from sewage treatment plants and septic systems, urban runoff from roads, and agricultural runoff. In the Northeast, spring melt is the best time to catch elevated conductivity levels with the increased run-off from snow melt and spring rain. Snow

also acts as a sink for dissolved ions such as sodium and chloride when it is applied to roads.

A relatively constant concentration of dissolved ions in the water will better suit the survival of aquatic organisms. Levels too high or even too low may influence survival, reproduction, and/or growth. Not only is the overall conductivity of the water important for water quality, but also the individual dissolved ions that are influencing the conductivity. A high conductivity may indicate the potential for other, more toxic pollutants, which are more expensive to test for.

This is the first year that GMCG will test for conductivity in the Ossipee Watershed. We hope to learn more about the quality of the water with this additional parameter.



Notes from Downstream

“Borders? I’ve never seen one, but I heard that they exist in some people’s minds.” Thor Heyerdhal

BY JEFF STERN, SRCC

As winter retains its icy grip on New England, the Saco River Corridor Commission in Maine is busy gearing up for the start of the 2005 water quality monitoring season. Weather permitting, biweekly water testing begins the week of April 11, and runs through the end of October.

Volunteers and SRCC staff monitor water quality at 27 sites on the Saco, Ossipee and Little Ossipee Rivers. Each site is tested for pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and temperature. Additionally, phosphorus, nitrogen and *E. Coli* bacteria samples are collected at selected test sites for laboratory analysis.

This year, the SRCC plans to partner with the Carroll County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) in New Hampshire. Expanding the program into New Hampshire and the

upper Saco Watershed has long been a goal of the commission. With guidance from the SRCC, Carroll County SWCD will test in the vicinity of the confluence of the Saco and Swift Rivers.

This is a huge step forward...the ultimate goal being to set up a coordinated water quality monitoring program that extends from the headwaters of the Saco River in New Hampshire all the way to the river's mouth along the Maine seacoast. After all, rivers, fisheries and water pollution don't pay attention to arbitrarily drawn state boundaries on a map!

Jeff Stern is the Water Quality Program Director at the Saco River Corridor Commission (SRCC) in Cornish, Maine. SRCC is made up of 20 towns from Fryeburg to Saco, Maine. GMCG has been partnering with the SRCC on the Water Quality Monitoring Program since 2001. Please visit their website at www.srcc-maine.org.

Maple season: New England goldrush

BY PETER POHL

Making maple syrup can be a fun activity for the family or a serious seasonal business for the many Maple Syrup producers in New Hampshire. A successful season can result in the statewide production of about 90,000 - 100,000 gallons of syrup. An average season ranges between 70,000 - 90,000. Vermont is a major producer of syrup producing over 400,000 gallons of this liquid gold in a good year. April 1st marked completion of another season. No one can really predict in advance what type of season it will be. Mother nature is in charge with success directly related to the weather conditions which require cold nights in the teens and low 20's and warm days up in the 40's for the sap to run. Usually, the season begins sometime in February and can extend into the first week of April depending upon your location in the state and the aspect of your sugar bush. Southern facing slopes run earlier compared to northern facing slopes that run later into the season. The peculiar weather pattern this year resulted in a much shorter season with fewer runs and consequently less production compared to a good year. Some people compare the maple syrup season to the ski season. This was particularly true when most ski slopes did not have snow making equipment. People used to say if you get one excellent season out of five in the ski industry you were doing well. The odds have improved with snow making capability but this rule of thumb still holds true within the maple syrup industry.

One of the frequently asked questions is, how does the sap in a tree without leaves run up hill? There have been lots of theories but the one that makes the most sense and is widely accepted is due to the anatomy of the tree and the critical weather conditions that are needed. The tree is made of cells which consist of cellulose and air spaces as well as sap. In the winter the sap freezes. During the first signs of spring, the warm weather thaws the frozen sap so it becomes liquid. Meanwhile the air in the cells has contracted due to the extreme

winter cold. Once the tree warms up, the sap thaws and the air in the cells expand. This expanded air acts like a piston pump and if you create a hole in the tree the liquid sap is forced out the hole you have created by the expanding air. The moment the weather turns colder during, the air in the cells begins to contract and the sap stops to flow.

Another question asked is how many gallons of sap does it take to produce a gallon of syrup? This answer is directly related to the per cent sugar content of the sap which can vary from year to year. The rule of thumb is to take the per cent sugar content measured with a sap hydrometer or a sugar refractometer and divide that into the number 86. If your sugar content is 2%, you need 43 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. If the content was 3% you will only have to boil 28.6 gallons of sap for one gallon of syrup. In general, for every four taps set out about one gallon of syrup is produced.

You can safely place one tap hole in trees ranging in size from 12 inches to 19 inches in diameter. Trees over 19 can have two taps. Recent guidelines suggest a limit of two taps per tree. Tap holes should be staggered along the trunk of the tree at least 8 inches away from previous years tap holes and not directly in line. A healthy tree will callous over a tap hole in about two years. Around each tap hole an area of dead tissue develops which is about three inches long and one and a half inches wide thus it is important not to over tap a tree and to stagger the holes.

When you go to purchase this delectable product and you agonize over the cost, consider what the process involves and the investment in the specialized equipment. Local maple syrup is really a bargain.

For information on how to tap a few trees and produce your own syrup, contact Peter W. Pohl UNH Cooperative Extension Educator, Forest Resources at 75 Main Street, P.O. Box 860, Center Ossipee, N.H. 03814 or phone 539-3331 or e-mail peter.pohl@unh.edu.

Forecast

The forecast called for snow, further south; The real storm would start in earnest at ten. But at nine, in Effingham, flakes did fall, Like bits of fine dust drifting in sky.

I tugged a wool hat over ears and tucked A scarf against my neck to beat back The blue-black cold inside my Chrysler Dodge. I turned off Town House Road, hard right And headed south on route 153, The short-cut, the long dark road through woods.

When wind and snow began to whirl, my car Plunged and twisted blindly into night; I knew Out there, somewhere in watershed, Salmon River, Cold River, too, crawled over stones While Lake Province groaned beneath black ice; Somewhere ahead, past Wakefield, home...

Unlike brave Onchorhynchus, downstream I drifted, headlights stabbing land and snow. Out of the night darted miniature birds, Cold, frightened flock, perversely heading North in winter night. No, not wild birds, But small white fish, escaping trawls, Under cover of darkness, seeking safe harbor Under Green Mountain; maybe, Lord's Hill; Seeking a writer who'd raise them to life, Not just in lore, but the deep dream of sea.

In morning's hard sunlight I sought To find sea-glass in pebbly sand. (A mechanical custom of mine at the beach.) Head down, I walked the shingle, yet blocked The grinding moan, the wave-angry ocean, Snarling, like a wild beast crouched off-shore. A shard of glass glinted, a fetal-shaped piece, Like a fossilized fish, annealed and aborted From the cold kiln of sea; I had to bow. I pawed this talisman, picked up this jewel. Against darkness of hand the white glass gleamed, Winked a grim warning, and seared my numb flesh.

Norm Walker
February, 2005

Norm Walker is high school football coach and English teacher at Holderness School. His poems have been published in the "Pucker Brush Review", and in a volume titled "Teacher" published by Holderness. Norm was a featured writer at Writer's Night at the Effingham Public Library on February 3rd. His journey on the long road home in the snowy dark through our local landmarks and waters inspired this poem. Norm Walker is the father of eight children, he and his wife live in Rye, NH.

Spring Calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20TH GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP will meet with the Madison Planning Board and Conservation Commission and host an informative discussion with Steve Whitman, environmental planner with Jeff Taylor and Associates. This is part of the Ossipee Watershed Coalition, a two year project funded in part by the NH Department of Environmental Services and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. GMCG has limited funding to hire Whitman to work with individual towns in the six-town Watershed and assist local boards with a priority planning project related to natural resource based planning. At this meeting, GMCG and Whitman will be working with the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission about a natural resource based project that they would like to work on in 2005. **Madison Public Library, Madison 7-9 p.m. Other meetings include:**

MONDAY MAY 2 Effingham Conservation Commission **Effingham Town Offices, Effingham 7 p.m.**

TUESDAY, MAY 17TH Freedom Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission. **Freedom Town Offices, Freedom 7 p.m.**

SATURDAY MAY 14TH Wonalancet Outdoor Club Spring Trail Clean-up and potluck BBQ. Wonalancet. Contact Chris Conrad at 284-6686.

SATURDAY, JULY 23 & 24 WATERSHED WEEKEND: NATURAL RESOURCE PLANNING. The weekend will include lectures and panel discussions on Natural Resource based Planning; guided hikes in the Ossipee Pine Barrens; narrated pontoon boat and canoe trips on Ossipee Lake; display booths and educational presentations focused on environmental planning. GMCG will also be hosting workshops for Municipal Officials on how to incorporate natural resource based planning into the master plans and ordinances. Key note speakers will include environmental planners Sarah James and Steve Whitman. Watch for the Summer 2005 Newsletter for more details. **Camp Calumet, Freedom, 1-9 p.m.**

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH— Effingham Writers Night. Poets, writers, readers and listeners are invited to attend a Writer's Night at the Effingham Public Library on the **third Thursday of the month.** The Effingham Public Library is located at 30 Townhouse Road in Effingham. For more information, contact: Marilyn O'Kelly at 539-1537 or Effinghamlibrary@hotmail.com

For more information please contact GMCG (603) 539-1859 or visit us on the web at: www.gmcg.org

Your Membership Will Make a Difference. Please Renew Today!

(Please make checks payable to Green Mountain Conservation Group P.O. Box 95, Effingham, NH 03882)

Raindrop ___\$10 **Puddle** ___\$15 **Vernal Pool** ___\$25 **Stream** ___\$50 **River** ___\$75
(student membership) **Pond** ___\$100 **Lake** ___\$250 **Aquifer** ___\$500 **Other** ___

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
S. Effingham, NH
Permit No. 10

The Watershed News

GMCG
P.O. Box 95
Effingham, NH
03882
(603) 539-1859
www.gmcg.org

Deadline for Summer
Newsletter is June 21.

April 1

April 1st the river opens
gray skies obscure and dim
the crevice between the seasons

We think it slow and gradual
the melting emergence
-But Dawn brings great waves of rain

Bursting into spaces
held long in frozen frames
of winter's icy reach.

Spring is all motion and movement
Last year's rotting leaf
Feeds the budding growth.

Spring is violet crocus petals
bursting crusts of snow
one perfect April day

It is time.

Katie Remmetter 4-2-05

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

Save the Date!

**Watershed Weekend 2005
July 23 & 24**

Natural Resource Planning
Keynote address by
Steve Whitman & Sarah James
Camp Calumet, Freedom

