

The Watershed News

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

GMCG celebrates 10 years of conservation work with a HOME!

In celebration of its 10th anniversary, GMCG announces news of a “big birthday gift”—a home! With funding from the Little Family Foundation, GMCG has purchased a small home on 9 acres on Huntress Bridge Road just off Route 25 in Effingham. This property will allow the organization to enter its second decade with a permanent place for fulfilling its mission of research, education, advocacy and land conservation.

The Huntress House is situated within walking distance of the Ossipee River making it a perfect spot for training water quality monitoring volunteers. It is also located very near the 9000 acre Plantation Land in Maine and The Forest Society’s High Watch Preserve on Green Mountain. It is also just one parcel away from an important peat bog owned by

New Hampshire Audubon. “This is an exciting way to celebrate ten years of conservation work in the Ossipee Watershed,” said Blair Folts, GMCG’s Executive Director. “The house is small and will be easy to renovate and maintain so as not to detract from our mission. It will also allow us to conduct place-based education and research programs.”

“We have been supporting this great organization since the beginning and have been impressed by the amount of successful conservation projects they have completed on a lean budget. We believe that this gift will provide GMCG with a more appropriate place to conduct their mission as they enter their exciting second decade,” Jann Leeming, a Trustee of the Little Family Foundation said.

Minimal restoration work to retrofit Huntress House into an office will take

place over the winter and GMCG will move in the spring. The organization needs to raise \$10,000. If you have any extra supplies or you are able to volunteer your time, please contact us at 539-1859.



GMCG staff at Huntress House

GMCG invites everyone to be a part of creating this new “home” at Huntress House.

Tax deductible donations may be made to P.O. Box 95 Effingham, NH 03882 or online at gmcg.org.

Snowy owls of the Arctic will be focus at Annual Meeting

On Saturday, January 26th the Green Mountain Conservation Group will celebrate its 10th Annual Meeting at Lakeview Neurorehabilitation Center in Effingham from 5 to 8:30 p.m. The evening will be a celebration of natural resource conservation in the Ossipee Watershed, honoring all of the volunteers, partner organizations, community members, towns and individuals that have helped GMCG successfully reach this milestone.

The evening will commence with a social hour, appetizers, community awards and election of officers. The featured speaker this year is Denver Holt, renowned owl researcher and president and founder of the Owl Research Institute (ORI) in Montana. Denver and his staff have studied owls around the world and



Photograph by Daniel J. Cox as featured in National Geographic.

have been featured in *National Geographic*, *Ranger Rick Magazine*, the Discovery Channel’s “Planet Earth” series and the upcoming “Frozen Earth” series that will address the Arctic and Antarctic and issues of climate change and research. ORI’s research has included studies with

partners in Alaska, Montana, Africa and Japan on the long-eared owl, great horned owl, barn owl, saw-whet owl, great gray owl, northern hawk owl, snowy owl, MacKinder’s eagle owl, and Blakiston’s fish owl, among others. In addition to their research, ORI focuses on owl conservation, advocacy, policy, and environmental education at Ninepipes Center for Wildlife Research & Education.

Join us at this year’s annual meeting to hear about ORI’s research, network with other conservation organizations, and learn more about projects you can be a part of in your community and across the Watershed.

Annual Meeting is open to the public. A donation of \$15 pp for dinner and the presentation is suggested. To reserve tickets, contact 539-1859 or email gmcgnh@adelphia.net.

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.

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Special Places

GMCG accepts six Conservation Easements

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 224-4113, or email www.lchip.org.

BY THERESA SWANICK

2007 marked the second of a two-year IRS ruling that greatly expanded the deduction for donated conservation easements. In the past two years, the value of a donated conservation easement could be deducted at an amount of 50% of Adjusted Gross Income (an increase from 30%) and carried over for up to 15 years (an increase from 5 years) to allow the capture of substantially more value than ever before. This provision may be extended in the future as it has passed the US senate to date but must pass the house.

This ruling, coupled with greater public awareness for land conservation and natural resource protection, inspired an increase in gifting of easements. In the spring, GMCG closed on two easements, a twenty acre field and an hundred acre woodlot, donated by Penny Vestner of Freedom. These easements preserved an historic agricultural field, a view of Green Mountain, open space for animal habitat, watershed protection for Loon Lake, and an important forested mountain top.

Summer marked the award of a federal grant from the United States Department of Agriculture Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. The federal funding in partnership with matching private funding allowed GMCG to purchase an easement on historic agricultural land on the Birches Intervale Farm in Wonalancet. Many donors from far and wide came forward to help conserve this special and unique farmland in Tamworth. The easement,

which was recorded in late December was executed in just six months—a record for a federally funded project of its size.

This past fall, three more conservation easements came to fruition. Marion Cohen of Tamworth donated a conservation easement on 60 acres atop Cleveland Hill. Marion traces her property back to Grover Cleveland. It was her goal to preserve historic fields, panoramic views, a meandering stream and forested woodland. Noreen and Dave Downs of Madison donated two conservation easements totaling nearly 100 acres. These easements about 5,000 acres of municipal and private conservation lands and have helped create a larger animal corridor.



A barred owl visits the Downs just after recording their conservation easement.

If you would like to learn more about how you can donate a conservation easement, please visit Green Mountain Conservation Group's website at www.gmcg.org or call 539-1859.

In 2007, GMCG received funding from an anonymous donor to hire a Land Trust Consultant to facilitate the process of evaluating and obtaining easements. GMCG hired Theresa Swanick, a dedicated GMCG volunteer, lawyer, Freedom Conservation Commissioner, and chair of the Ossipee Watershed Coalition, who had been providing community education on natural resource based planning in the Ossipee Watershed.

BY SUSAN LEE

As I write this column, the Watershed has just had its first significant snow and already birders are talking excitedly about this being a great year of “winter finches”. While American goldfinches and pine siskins are fairly common at backyard bird feeders throughout the Watershed, common redpolls and their much more rare cousins, the hoary redpolls, usually appeared irregularly with major irruptions occurring only every five to seven years when food in the northern forests is in short supply. Even before we received that foot of snow, birders in Albany, Effingham, Madison and Tamworth were reporting large flocks of common redpolls, and several immature hoarys. Hoary redpolls are larger, plumper, whiter and less streaked than commons. The overall appearance is of a “frosty bird”.

Waxwings are another species often found in large flocks during the winter. A flock of cedar waxwings, so named for the “waxy” red tips or “droplets” on the ends of the secondary flight feathers in adult birds, will descend on a bush or fruit tree and devour every berry before moving on to another spot. The larger and less common Bohemian waxwing, typically found in boreal forest regions, also invade the Watershed from time to time when there are shortages of cedar and mountain ash fruits farther north. Important fruits for waxwings during the cold Watershed winter include those of the viburnams, dogwoods, mountain-ash, apples, hawthorns and of course the Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) which gave the cedar waxwing its name. More than 20 Bohemian waxwings were sited near the Gibson Center in North Conway on November 19th.

Another resident of the boreal forests, forced south this year, is the beautiful

and remarkably tame pine grosbeak. Totally absent in New Hampshire in some winters, but usually present in small numbers, this year pine grosbeaks have been seen in Twin Mountain, Plymouth, Pittsburg and Swanzey. These birds were also spotted in Effingham and Freedom on Christmas day. Keep your eyes open for these largest and rarest of the “winter finches” in the Watershed.

Regular winter visitors, sometimes hard to find, are the intriguing crossbills. Red crossbills and white-winged crossbills are both found throughout the coniferous and mixed coniferous-deciduous forests of the White Mountains. These birds are named for the crossed tips of their beaks used to pry open cones to extract seeds with the tongue. Crossbills are right-billed or left-billed depending on which way the mandibles cross. As with other species, crossbill irruptions are triggered by food shortages such as failure of the coniferous cone crops over a large geographic area.

The northern shrike is an interesting bird also being seen in larger than usual numbers so far this winter. The New Hampshire Rare Bird Alert has reported more than 27 northern shrikes statewide since November 15th. One was present at the Tin Mountain Conservation property on Bald Hill Road in Albany on November 10th. Referred to as a “predatory songbird”, the northern shrike nests primarily on the periphery of the tundra and in winter moves southward to southern Canada and the northern United States.

Robin-sized black, gray and white birds with hooked bills, shrikes often cache their food on barbed wire or thorn trees, hence the nickname of “butcher bird”. Small mammals and large insects form the bulk of their diet, but they also take small birds and will perch-hunt near birdfeeders. During years when the vole population crashes in their normal

winter range, northern shrikes may stage an “invasion” similar to the northern owls.

Diurnal (daytime) and nocturnal (nighttime) raptors that feed on small mammals with cyclical population fluctuations make up another group of irruptive species from boreal regions. Rough-legged hawks, northern goshawk, snowy, great horned, and short-eared owls are known to irrupt periodically.

According to the Birder’s Handbook (Paul Ehrlich, et als. ed. 1988), there are two main cycles recognized for the small boreal mammals that make up the primary food source for these birds of prey. There is a four year cycle for tundra and grassland rodents, and a ten year cycle for snowshoe hares.

Scientists do not know why these cycles happen, but when they do and a “crash” in these prey populations occurs, the predictable result is a southward irruption of many of the predator birds. Invasions by rough-legged hawks and snowy owls, which feed on small rodents, often occur in the same four year cycles, while invasions of northern goshawks, which prey on snowshoe hares, are more likely to occur in ten year cycles. Winter birders are always on the lookout for that special sighting of one of these boreal visitors.

On January 26, 2008 the featured speaker at the GMCG Annual Meeting will be renowned owl researcher, Denver Holt from the Owl Research Institute in Montana to speak about snowy owls, among others. Don’t miss this birding event!

Susan Lee is an avid birder and longtime resident of the Ossipee Watershed. Share bird sightings or comments with her by email: 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 Effingham Conservation Commission completed a *Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)* and has provided this document to the planning board. This project, more than two years in the making, was greatly aided by a commission-sponsored wetlands inventory project for the town (funded by a Moose Plate Grant and completed in June, 2007); and by GRANIT, GMCG and the Ossipee Watershed Coalition's *Natural Resource Planning Guide for the Ossipee Watershed*. Copies of the NRI chapter are available in the town library and town office.

A revision of the 'Wetlands Article' has also been completed and forwarded to the planning board. This project began in July and has gone through at least six major revisions based on several documents and information provided by NHDES.

Commission members attended New Hampshire's Municipal Conservation Commissions Annual meeting in Concord on November 3rd, where the just completed NRI chapter information was disseminated.

The Commission is saddened by the passing away of a former Commission member, Fred Van Cor, on December 4th.

Madison

The Madison Conservation Commission spent the last few months discussing proposed warrant articles for land conservation funding for town meeting in March. Planning continues for the Goodwin Forest timber sale to generate funds for the implementation of the WHIP contract to restore pitch pine in the forest. Next year will entail a revision of the Master Plan, hopefully incorporating valuable information gained from the new Natural Resource Planning Guide provided by GMCG and the Ossipee Watershed Coalition. The commission also welcomed back an alternate member, Ms. Beverly Klitsch.

Ossipee

Nearly all Ossipee Conservation Commission and Planning Board members, plus representatives from the Freedom Conservation Commission and Planning Board, attended the November 27th Natural Resource Guide presentation at Ossipee Town Hall. John Shipman, Blair Folts and Steve Whitman explained the new community planning tool—the Natural Resource Planning Guide. This Guide will help shape future development. It includes wonderful new maps and powerful data! Project by project, these data are already affecting outcomes. Recently, an Ossipee landowner modified subdivision plans to include a conservation easement on a known wildlife corridor on his property.

Some of the new Guide's principles can be seen in action today next to Route 16 in Ossipee, where the "Help Save This View" sign on the west side of the highway is located. This site was first identified as a priority for conservation in 1999. Its protection will not only safeguard the mountain view, valuable wildlife habitat and the underlying aquifer, it will also extend the green corridor on this

busy highway to nearly a mile since it is also bordered by conservation lands.

Named the "Window on the Ossipee Mountains" conservation project because of the stunning view, this roadside property can be considered a "**Gateway to the Ossipee Watershed**" because the planned scenic overlook and nature trail will highlight conservation education and natural resources in the Ossipee Watershed. Signs and maps will tell about the Ossipee mountains, geological history and volcanic past, wildlife habitat, viewshed and other features of the Ossipee Watershed. Water resources will also be highlighted and point out that visitors are standing over a recharge area of the state's largest stratified drift aquifer.

Donations are needed to complete this project (\$150,000 has been raised, but \$100,000 is still needed to purchase the site). For more information call (603) 539-4742 or (603) 539-4181. Checks payable to the Ossipee Conservation Commission, marked "Windows," may be sent to the attention of Pat Jones, Town of Ossipee, P.O. Box 67, Center Ossipee, NH 03814-0067.

Tamworth

The Tamworth Conservation Commission is pleased to announce the addition of Susan Ticehurst as the new Administrative Assistant. Susan has been a resident of Tamworth for many years. The TCC is extremely pleased to have such a competent, capable new team member.

In the past few months the TCC has been busy with many projects and workshops. Three members of the TCC attended the New Hampshire Annual Conservation Commission meeting on November 3rd. TCC members, under the direction of Charlie Townsend and local contractors Amy and Thad Berrier, also made a new roof on The Great Hill Fire Tower in Tamworth. To learn more about the history of the Great Hill Fire Tower, see the article entitled "Honoring The Great Hill Fire Tower" by Chris Clyne and Ned Beecher in the November issue of Tamworth Civic News.

Recently, many sub-committees have been formed such as the Energy Study Committee, the Wetlands & Subsurface Committee, the Conservation Lands Review Committee (CLRC), the Joint Board Committee (PB, BOS, and TCC) and the Master Plan Committee.

The CLRC is presently creating a rating system to help in the assessment when reviewing lands for conservation, preservation, development and agricultural values.

Members of the TCC have begun a start on the trail in the Waterfowl Haven. This donation was given in the name of Theodore Johnson and is approximately 19 acres of open fields and wetlands, open to the public in Chocorua Village.

December 7th the TCC sponsored a presentation by Gail Darrell from Barnstead, NH. at the Cook Memorial Library. Gail is one of the community organizers who helped champion the passing of The Barnstead Water Rights and Local Self-Government Ordinance in March 2006. This ordinance speaks to water rights vs. water protection. Gail is a community organizer for the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (www.celd.org) and Alliance for Democracy (www.thealliancefordemocracy.org).

Watershed conservation commissions are invited to submit news, updates and upcoming events to: gmcgnh@adelphia.net.

Watershed Water Quality Monitoring

Notes from Upstream

Celebrating Fred Van Cor

GMCG is continually grateful to the many volunteers who help with research, education, advocacy and land conservation projects within the Watershed. A t-shirt, barbeque and word of thanks never seem to convey our depth of our gratitude, and when we lose a committed volunteer, it truly feels as though we've lost a member of the family. Fred Van Cor, a dedicated and beloved GMCG volunteer, passed away in December. Fred was one of the first river monitoring volunteers when the program began in 2002. He continued testing the Beech River with his partner, Dawn Marion, through 2007. Dawn shares some memories and thoughts about Fred below.

Fred Van Cor was my water testing partner and friend. In three years of testing water at the Beech River sight we covered a lot of ground. Everything from politics, art, philosophy, weather, sometimes while swatting flies. Fred had an artist's soul even though he was an engineer for many years. He appreciated beautiful music and had a tremendous respect for Mother Nature in all her myriad details. Mist rising off the river, a duck with her ducklings in tow swimming upstream, or a cardinal flower on the bank, these were all things he took great pleasure in. He was very liberal and forward thinking. His family was the center of his life and he was their pole star. He tried to be useful everyday of his life and to do as much good in the world as one man could possibly do. He walked gently on this earth for 88 years and I will miss him.

~Dawn Marion

In light of Fred's commitment to water monitoring and how he taught others to be good observers and stewards of their surroundings, GMCG has decided to honor Fred's memory through the establishment of the Fred Van Cor Memorial Internship Fund.

This fund will be used to hire a local student to work each summer with volunteers to run the water monitoring and teach students about river and lake water quality and stewardship. We think this would be a great way to honor Fred and his spirit as a volunteer, teacher, and steward of nature. His genuine concern & care for the environment, GMCG and others will be missed!

All of GMCG's volunteers are invited to a **Volunteer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast on January 27th from 9-11 a.m. at the Freedom Town Hall in Freedom Village.** Denver Holt of the Owl Research Institute in Montana will be the guest chef and he will be signing books about his owl research at the breakfast. Please call (603) 539-1859 to RSVP.



Notes from Downstream

River recreation issues may span state lines

BY DENNIS FINN

The Saco River in Maine is a destination point for over 100,000 canoeists annually. That is an incredible number for a small river, but not terribly surprising. Considering that the river is located less than a three hour drive from metropolitan areas that are home to several million people, 100,000 people may seem rather light. Unfortunately, many of these users pay no attention to the concept of "Leave No Trace". Each year, thousands of dollars and hundreds of volunteer hours are spent cleaning up the banks of the rivers after each weekend. In addition to the trash, the river seems to be attracting other undesirable behavior. Excessive alcohol, poor sanitation and belligerent attitudes seem to follow the trash.

Recently, the Maine legislature appointed a working committee to research the issues of abuse and offer some recommendations. Law enforcement, land owners, canoe livery businesses, The Nature Conservancy, the Maine State Department of Conservation and the Saco River

Corridor Commission held the first working meeting to brainstorm and hammer away at these issues. One question that was raised concerned New Hampshire. Are these issues that plague the waterways in the GMCG's area of interest?

I am unaware of these problems occurring along the Ossipee or Bearcamp Rivers but upon further consideration, I now pose the question. Going into the winter, we will be looking at the above issues and working on solutions. If anyone in the Ossipee Watershed has any ideas or suggestions I would sure like to hear them. Any and all comments could be directed to Dennis at sacorivercorridor@yahoo.com. Have a wonderful, happy and safe holiday from your friends across the border.

Dennis Finn is Executive Director at the Saco River Corridor Commission in Cornish, Maine. SRCC is made up of 20 towns from Fryeburg to Saco, Maine. GMCG has been partnering with SRCC since 2001.

New natural resource guide presented to local, state officials

Professional Planner Steve Whitman, the Ossipee Watershed Coalition, and GMCG staff made several presentations in November and December to introduce the new “Natural Resource Planning Guide for the Ossipee Watershed”, a document that includes background information on everything from air quality to wildlife habitat, on-line resources, GIS maps, and model ordinances for the towns of Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Sandwich and Tamworth.

The Guide has been a project of the Green Mountain Conservation Group and Ossipee Watershed Coalition for the past three years, requiring hundreds of hours of volunteer work, community meetings, workshops, professional planning advice, and contributions from many organizations such as the Department of Environmental Services, Department of Fish & Game, The Nature Conservancy, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, UNH Cooperative Extension, and others. Although the Guide covers the six primary towns of the Ossipee Watershed, the concepts, ordinances, and planning recommendations can readily be applied to any town, watershed, or region looking to balance



Steve Whitman, John Shipman and Blair Folts display the new Natural Resource Guide and GIS maps.

growth with the protection of shared resources.

At recent presentations, the contents of the Guide, including GIS maps, model ordinances, and natural resource information were introduced, as well as how planners can use the guide as a tool in their town. A copy of the Guide was given to each town’s planning board and CDs to the selectmen and conservation commissions. The entire document is now available online at www.gmcg.org.

The reaction to the Guide’s completion has been very positive and encouraging. Coalition Steering Committee member John Shipman of Freedom has done an excellent job of generating interest in the project in Watershed towns and across the state.

A recent presentation by Shipman and wetlands scientist Dr. Rick Van de Poll at the NH Watershed Conference in Concord was well-received and brought the Guide to the attention of the 200+ state and municipal officials in attendance.

Locally, planning boards have responded enthusiastically to the Guide, stating that the information will assist with master plan updates and that it has already been useful in creating and

updating natural resource chapters. Boards suggested a regional meeting of Watershed towns to discuss the Guide and natural resource issues that span town boundaries. In fact, some towns have already begun dialogue across town boards and boundaries, holding joint meetings with planning boards and conservation commissions as well as selectmen at these presentations.

This spring the project will continue with Coalition meetings, a presentation to the towns of the new GIS maps created by Katie Callahan, and a regional meeting in May. The Coalition seeks more community members and town officials to participate in 2008. Call 539-1859 to sign up today!

Madison passes gravel extraction regulations

In a continuing effort to further protect the watershed resources which flow through and into neighboring towns, the Town of Madison developed Gravel Extraction Regulations in 2007 to formalize the Planning Board (PB) regulation of the 155E town regulatory permitting process including inspections of operations. The planning board is in charge of the regulations.

The regulations require the commercial operation to submit a formal site plan review to the PB so

that the PB can give consideration to such factors as location, noise, traffic, dust, fumes or danger from operation. The site plan must also include proof of required state permits, evidence that the pit is new, active and/or grandfathered, provide details of what will be extracted, supply surveys of the property and where extraction is to take place, and submit details about the operations (safety measures, hours of operation, plans for proper drainage, location of access roads, fuel

storage and refueling practices, etc.) In addition, the regulations require that abutters are properly noticed and given opportunity to express their concerns regarding impact to property values. Finally, there must also be a plan for site reclamation established in accordance with the PB regulations.

The regulations will soon be available on the Madison town website at: <http://www.madisonnh.org/regulations/index.html>.

Winter Calendar

Saturday, January 26th: GMCG's 10th Annual Meeting. Guest speaker is renowned owl researcher Denver Holt of the Owl Research Institute (ORI) in Montana. Denver and the ORI have been featured widely in National Geographic and on the Discovery Channel for owl research around the world. 5-8:30 p.m. at Lakeview Neurorehabilitation Center on Green Mountain in Effingham. Dinner will be followed by Denver's presentation and book signing. A \$15 donation per guest is suggested for dinner and the presentation. Call 539-1859 or email GMCG to reserve tickets.

Sunday, January 27th: Volunteer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast. Please join GMCG volunteers, staff and friends for a Pancake Breakfast to celebrate 10 years of stewardship in the Ossipee Watershed! Guest chef Denver Holt of the Owl Research Institute will be flipping flapjacks and signing books. 9-11 a.m. at Freedom Town Hall, Freedom Village. Please RSVP to 539-1859.

Thursday, January 31st: Ossipee Watershed Coalition Meeting. Residents, businesses, town officials and concerned community members are encouraged to attend a meeting to discuss the new Ossipee Watershed Natural Resource Guide and provide any updates or feedback. The Ossipee Watershed Natural Resource Matrix for comparing ordinances amongst towns will also be reviewed and updated, and participants will have an opportunity to discuss pending warrant articles that are relevant, plans for an aquifer protection committee for the Ossipee Watershed, and goals and objectives to assist town boards and municipal officials in 2008. For more information, please call 539-1859.

Monday, February 4th: Salvage Yard Informational Forum. An informational forum about salvage yards will be held from 7-9 p.m. at Runnells Hall in Chocorua. Speakers from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, town officials, the New Hampshire Municipal Association and legislators from the Automobile Recycling Commission will provide information about current and upcoming laws affecting yard owners and the licensing process, the NH Green Yard program, and other related topics. Municipal officials, landowners and businesses can benefit by hearing how salvage yard laws apply to them, who is required to apply for a license, and other information that will be helpful to those involved in maintaining and regulating salvage yards. For more information, please call 539-1859.

Thursday, February 21st: Full Moon Snowshoe. Join us for a moonlit evening of snowshoeing at the Freedom Town Forest/Trout Pond property. The trip will be from 5:30 p.m. to approximately 7:30 p.m. Please wear warm clothes and bring plenty of water. We will meet at the trailhead opposite on Ossipee Lake Road/Pequawket Trail in Freedom. Call 539-1859 to sign up. This is the first of 10 trips led by GMCG staff and local foresters, naturalists and wildlife enthusiasts in 2008 to celebrate the first 10 conservation properties that the organization has been gifted or holds in easement. Come celebrate these unique properties and learn about their conservation values.

**All programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Please call (603) 539-1859 FMI.*

****Please renew your membership for 2008 today!
Your Membership Will Make a Difference.***

(Please make checks payable to Green Mountain Conservation Group, P.O. Box 98, Effingham, NH 03882)

Vernal Pool ___\$25 Stream ___\$50 River ___\$75 Pond ___\$100 Lake ___\$250
Aquifer ___\$50 Other ___

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ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

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The Watershed News

**Save the Date:
Annual Meeting
January 26th:
"Snowy Owls of the
Arctic"
with Denver Holt of
the Owl Research Institute**

**Deadline for
Spring Newsletter
submissions is March 10th**

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

Natural Resource Guide is now
Online at: www.gmcg.org

Natural Resource Planning Guide
for
The Ossipee Watershed



Prepared by
Ossipee Watershed Coalition
in partnership with the
Green Mountain Conservation Group

Supported by generous grants from
NH Department of Environmental Services
2006 Watershed Assistance & Restoration Grant
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Little Family Foundation
Davis Conservation Foundation
Adelard and Valeda Lea Roy Foundation
and GMCG members

Join the Coalition in 2008!

The Ossipee Watershed Coalition needs municipal officials, community and business leaders and other concerned citizens to help guide cooperative natural resource-based planning projects in 2008. Call 539-1859 to find out more!

