

◆ The Watershed News ◆

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Summer programs focused on water quality

As the maples slowly begin to turn to fiery red, GMCG's 2003 water quality monitoring season is winding down. The RIVERS program (Regional Interstate Volunteers for the Ecosystems and Rivers of Saco) was established in 2002 in partnership with the Saco River Corridor Commission to create a comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring program for 26 towns in two states and one watershed.

In this second year of sampling, GMCG worked closely with town conservation commissions to establish five new sampling sites. Twenty-five dedicated volunteers braved the dawn mosquitoes and summer rains to traipse into streams and brooks throughout the Ossipee Watershed. Volunteers measured water for pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and temperature. In addition, they collected water samples that were analyzed by the University of New Hampshire for other chemical parameters.

To augment the RIVERS Program, Bug Day was held on September 20. Volunteers ventured out with bug experts Claes Thelemark, Bob Craycraft and Ned Hatfield to sample for macroinvertebrates in Tamworth and Freedom. Macroinvertebrates are tiny creatures that lack a backbone and are visible to the unaided eye. These critters can indicate the quality of water in which they inhabit.

With funding from NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Charitable Foundation and New England Grassroots Environment Fund, GMCG partnered with the newly formed Ossipee Lake Alliance to create the Ossipee Lake Protection Project (OLPP.) The project consisted of three different components: tributary testing, deep water testing and the Lake Environment Assessment Plan (LEAP). This was the first comprehensive lake-wide project that involved all six youth

campers on Ossipee Lake. Two summer interns were hired to coordinate the project. Sarah Van Cor-Hosmer and Moselle Spiller worked diligently coordinating water sampling efforts and educating campers. A typical day involved waking at dawn, meeting campers at sunrise, and collecting water samples with the children. According to Sarah, "This has to be one of the best summer jobs ever. It has brought me closer to the natural area that surrounds the lake and to the community at large. It also has given me an opportunity to help preserve the very land and water that I grew up around as a kid."

As the population of Carroll County increases and Ossipee Lake continues to draw a large number of tourists, it is important to understand how the quality of water may be changing. By initiating a sampling routine now, we have ensured that we will be able to compare data as land use practices change in the future.

Participating in DES's Volunteer Lake Assessment Program, interns also conducted three deep water tests throughout the summer. A number of volunteers provided the boats and helped sample the deepest point of Ossipee Lake, Broad Bay, Leavitt Bay, Berry Bay and Danforth Pond.

Lake Environment Assessment Plan (LEAP) included designated days throughout the summer when volunteers recorded lake activities at four locations. Survey days included Fourth of July weekend, a non-holiday weekend and a weekday. Volunteers recorded how many and what kind of boats were present and in what kind of activities boaters were participating. Data collected from this year's LEAP Survey will be used to create a management plan for the lake.

GMCG and OLA also received a grant from the NH Lakes Association and hired

six Lake Hosts to staff the Pine River boat launch for the second year. The Lake Hosts educated boaters about the danger of variable milfoil and other invasive plants and inspected boats as they entered and left Ossipee Lake. Lake Hosts also tallied information regarding the amount of use this boat launch experienced each weekend.

During routine tributary sampling on Ossipee Lake, variable milfoil was discovered in Phillips Brook. While milfoil has been recorded in Ossipee Lake, this site stirred up new concern. There will be a meeting on October 10 in Ossipee to discuss clean up. (See Calendar page 7)

The summer Water Quality Monitoring programs were carefully coordinated by Green Mountain Conservation Group's WQM program director, Rebecca Hanson. Hanson, a UNH graduate in environmental conservation with a background in water resource management was responsible for volunteers, summer interns, Lake Host program and tallying data. She also was the liaison between the camps, GMCG and OLA.

Over the next few months, Rebecca will analyze and summarize the data and work with UNH to create a final report. This document will be presented to town officials in December and at Runnells Hall at the Water Quality Meeting. The public is urged to attend these informative meetings. (See Calendar page 7)

The Watershed News

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

The GMCG's purpose is twofold:

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

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

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Special places

Land and family history intertwined

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, a public-private partnership committed to conservation of New Hampshire's natural, cultural and historical resources. For more information on LCHIP, call Citizens for NH Land and Community Heritage at 230-9729, www.specialplaces.org

BY REBECCA HANSON

In an area where many old farmhouses are white, the Browne Farm's cedar siding and red-shingled roof are quite distinctive to those who venture down Washington Hill Road in Chocorua. The property runs from Juniper Lodge down to the Chocorua River. It has been in the family for nine decades and four generations since great-great-grandmother Nana bought the farm in 1915. In 1996, Nana's granddaughter, Frances, shared the legends of its colorful 200-year history.

The Browne Farm was first purchased in 1796 by Aaron Head, son of one of Tamworth's first settlers, James Head. Aaron built a small two-room house. As the Heads cleared their land, a magnificent view of Mount Chocorua was revealed.

Some of Tamworth's earliest church services were held at the Head farm. Mother Head, as Aaron Head's wife was known, served as minister, holding services in the Heads' barn. Neighbors reported that Mother Head's sermons were so loud that her booming voice could be heard from half a mile away.

In addition to acting as the spiritual leader for the developing community, Mother Head was notorious for making everyone else's business her own. After she died, a new minister from out of town replaced her. Shortly after his arrival a stranger approached and handed him a dollar.

"What's this for?" inquired the new minister. "For minding your own goddamn business!"

Aaron Head and his son had never gotten along, but, surprisingly, Aaron's son built his

house not even six inches from his father's homestead. Despite years as neighbors, the two Head families never reconciled. In fact, it was not uncommon to witness bricks hurtling towards an enemy Head while they were attempting to draw water from the shared well.

In the mid 1850s, the Heads sold their homestead to Paul Ross. The two houses, still separate but only inches from each other, each had two stories and two separate sets of stairs. Paul gave each of his daughters, Helen Schoolcraft and Elizabeth Tasker, one of the houses. In 1889, Elizabeth sold her house to her sister for \$500.

Twenty-six years later, the Schoolcrafts sold the entire property to the Browne family. Nana connected the two houses and equipped the resulting "Big House" with all modern conveniences. As Nana aged, she passed the house down to her son, Theodore, and his wife, Alice. Charlotte remained on the property during the summers in her "Portable Hodgesson Home" brought north from Putnamville, Massachusetts. The bungalow, as it's now called, is no longer portable, but a permanent structure on the Browne farm.

Theodore Browne's sister, Sally Chamberlin, bought the Moulton farm immediately adjacent to her brother's farm. Sally had the barn dismantled; it blocked the Big House's view to Mount Chocorua. The beams were saved to create the Camp, another structure that could accommodate the ever-expanding Browne family.

In 1934, the Moulton farm burned to the ground. Instead of rebuilding, the Chamberlain family created the Charlotte C. Browne Memorial Forest in the 1990s. This property is open to the public and features a lovely walk to the Chocorua River.

The big red barn, built by the Heads, continues to be one of the oldest barns in Tamworth. While, much has changed since the Heads first bought the property in 1796, the view of Mount Chocorua remains the same.

Summer interns share experience with next generation

Editors note: With funding from NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Charitable Foundation, and New England Grassroots Environment Fund, GMCG hired two interns to coordinate the Ossipee Lake Protection Project (OLPP). Moselle Spiller and Sarah Van Cor Hosmer, both Effingham residents, worked closely with the Ossipee Lake Alliance and GMCG's Water Quality Monitoring Program Director, Rebecca Hanson, to sample water, record lake assessment data and help develop a data base for the OLPP. It has been a pleasure to work with these two young women and their smiling faces are missed now that they have headed back to college.

BY
MOSELLE SPILLER

Our morning begins with Froot Loops and the hum of the pontoon boat motor as we glide across the early morning waters of Ossipee Lake. We are going to test the water at the lake's tributaries and undertake what is the Water Quality Monitoring Program, a program designed by Green Mountain Conservation Group and Ossipee Lake Alliance to collect data and test results that will create a foundation for subsequent annual testing and aid in discerning long-term water quality trends.

Yet this is not just taking samples, tests, or making maps and graphs; we are making a groundbreaking effort this summer to include the youth of Ossipee Lake by partnering with the local summer camps. By going out on our testing expeditions with a small group of children we have been given the opportunity to share our passion for conservation and explain to a younger generation the importance of

keeping in touch with the health of our environment.

Seven young campers munch their cereal and slurp from juice boxes as we talk about acidity and turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen and temperature. It is refreshingly surprising as a seven-year-old rattles off the meaning of a watershed and another knows the relationship between low dissolved oxygen and high temperature. It is all about relating things we already know about the world to our topic at hand, and soon things come together as we realize that one rain drop that falls on the top of Green Mountain will travel and carry numerous bits of nutrients and pollutants back down into our lake.

When one is in the middle of the lake, the concept of the watershed has much greater impact than when sitting inside, because you can literally see it in panoramic form. As we absorb the beauty of the misty waters and rolling mountains around us, we feel the weight of responsibility to keep that rain drop's path as free from dangers as possible. I explain that we will be traveling to the Lovell River site. We can learn how healthy the water is that drains down into the lake by testing at the mouths of its rivers and streams.

The motor shuts off and we glide up into the mouth of the Lovell River. We note our time of arrival and make our visual observations. Some ducks are visible as are other small birds in the trees. Houses are on the nearby banks, but there is some plant life blooming up along the water line, and water bugs scurry across the surface. It is still cool and, looking out across the lake, we see that it is very calm. Mist is rising up off the placid water and the mountains already glow from the

rising sun.

We take our pH and temperature reading and there is no lack of volunteers. Everyone is interested in at least something. Whether it is the cool looking turbidity meter with its glass vials and shooting beam of light or recording the readings onto the data sheet, the kids enjoy taking part. We finish our readings and gather samples to be sent off to the state Department of Environmental Services for further analysis and go on to our next testing site, where we breeze through the steps as the kids remember almost exactly what to do.

On our trip back across the lake we wrap things up. The sun has cleared the early mist and there is already moderate traffic on the water. We are impressed by a speeding water skier and easily count seven jet skies within sight. We talk about the mountains and name off the ones we know, and then we talk about what we want to be when we grow up.

It is moments like this when I feel hope and my lungs expand freely; I am excited for the future. Giggles and smiles, data sheets flapping in the wind, we arrive on the camp's shore. The campers go off for their next activity and I lug the equipment and samples back to the office for processing. Another morning well spent.

Moselle Spiller is an Effingham resident and a sophomore at Parsons School of Design in New York City

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

The Effingham Conservation Commission together with GMCG, DRED and the Ossipee Conservation Commission will sponsor a clean up in the Pine River State Forest on October 25. Meet at Huckins Pond Boat Launch on Drake Road. in Effingham at 9 a.m.

Freedom

The Freedom Conservation Commission welcomes new member Beth Earle and thanks Malcolm Reed for his service on the commission. The planning board is working on updating the Freedom Master Plan within the next couple of months. The FCC has offered assistance to the planning board and expects to be working on a questionnaire to collect input from townspeople as to the future vision of Freedom. The commission has also offered assistance to the Ossipee Lake Alliance in its efforts to clean up milfoil at the Phillips Brook area of the lake. A public meeting concerning milfoil has been scheduled at the Ossipee Town Hall Oct. 10.

The Friends of Trout Pond are still working toward the acquisition of the Trout Pond tract as a future Town Forest. The conservation commission has been working with the FTP and recently attended a tour of the property with Councilor Ray Burton, NH Department of Resources and Economic Development Commissioner GeorgeBald, State Forester Phil Bryce and other representatives from around the state. The town is very excited by

the prospect of a Town Forest and the conservation commission will continue to support the efforts of the Friends of Trout Pond.

A group of landowners concerned about safety and erosion in front of Spindle Point attended a hearing conducted by the New Hampshire Department of Safety to establish a no wake zone there. Although the no wake zone did not pass, the landowners feel that their concerns were heard and are confident that Marine Patrol will do a better job patrolling the area in the future. The conservation commission will put together a fact sheet to be sent out next spring to landowners to encourage them to restore the area with appropriate waterfront plantings.

Madison

The Madison Conservation Commission worked closely with the selectmen and planning board to provide education about the importance of the old pine trees on Winter Road, a scenic road. While there were some safety concerns, the Selectmen decided to preserve the trees and solve the road problems by other means.

The commission sponsored Digit Taylor from the Center for Land Conservation Assistance to speak during Old Home Week. Taylor gave a presentation to over 40 people about the many values of maintaining open space.

The commission is also involved with trying to preserve the Madison Cascades, a lovely brook behind the Historical Society. There is a hiking trail on the property that has been open to the public for many years. Currently loggers are looking at purchasing this property. The commission, along with the Planning Board, is meeting to propose potential changes to the voters in March to the zoning and subdivision regulations in regard to subdivision on class VI roads.

Ossipee

The conservation commission has given \$5000 to the Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust for the Thurley Mountain land protection project. The Ossipee

Conservation Commission will hold the conservation easement on the 295 acre parcel. The Trust is currently raising \$180,000 to purchase this parcel.

The conservation commission is currently seeking new members. Anyone interested in joining please contact Tim Nolin.

Tamworth

The conservation commission has had a busy few months promoting Household Hazardous Waste Day, constructing new stairs on both ends of the Swift River bridge which was re-constructed in 2002 and co-hosting educational events. The commission has also commenced the fall monitoring of over 1200 acres of land under easements held by the Town of Tamworth.

Water Fowl Haven, an 18 acre parcel in Chocorua managed by the commission is currently being surveyed to establish its boundaries. The commission is working with the Chocorua Village Association to plan ways to keep this land open to the public through developing nature trails and mowing the large field for recreation.

The selectmen have stated their intent to enforce environmental ordinances and have invited the commission to work with them more closely. The commission has made recommendations about adopting best management practices for potential polluting businesses in town to encourage prevention. Suggestions have included strengthening the Junkyard Ordinance. A joint resolution to an alleged violation of the Shoreland Protection Act has been proposed and the Commission will work with the selectmen on other issues as they present themselves.

The commission continues to seek input from residents of the town about lands, water resources and scenic views which deserve permanent protection through acquisition or easements.

*Watershed Birder***Citizen science in your own backyard**

BY
SUSAN LEE

Over the last 100 or so years groups of ordinary birdwatching citizens have joined together on a variety of projects lasting anywhere from a few hours to many months in an effort to collect scientific information on the birds of their own local region. The oldest and largest of these is the Christmas Bird Count or CBC which this year will take place between December 15, 2003 and January 5, 2004.

Last year 20 CBCs took place in New Hampshire, including counts in Laconia, Tamworth, North Conway and Jackson. Participants travel in groups on a preset route stopping to count all the birds seen or heard during each stop. Since the early days of the CBC, the National Audubon Society has computerized and made available all the data from the previous 103 Christmas Bird Counts. All these data are now available to scientists for analysis of bird population trends and increased use for conservation research, such as the spread of West Nile virus and global warming. If you are interested in participating in a CBC in the watershed or in another area of New Hampshire, contact Audubon Society of New Hampshire at 224-9909.

Approximately six years ago, National Audubon Society, in cooperation with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, created BirdSource, a web site devoted to projects that track bird populations. For almost all of those six years, the Watershed Birder has participated in the largest of those projects: Project FeederWatch. From the first week in November (when my neighborhood bear should be hibernating) until the middle of April, I count the highest number of birds of each species seen at any one time on my feeders. I can count as many or as few hours as I like, as often as every week or when ever I have the time throughout the count season.

After two seasons of keeping my numbers in paper form, I switched to on-line reporting and now send my counts directly to BirdSource over the internet. Either way the information I report from my own backyard in the Watershed is entered into a North American data bank and made available to scientists worldwide. According to the FeederWatch web site, FeederWatch helps scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long term trends in bird distribution and abundance. It gives this birdwatcher an excuse to just sit and watch the feeder! And, to keep track of which birds are regulars and which just stop by occasionally. FeederWatchers also keep track of weather conditions as well as low and high temperatures during the watch period. It's great

fun for birders of all ages and skill levels. There is a \$15 annual participation fee which covers materials, including a fold out color poster identifying common winter feeder birds, and a newsletter subscription. U.S. participants receive a research kit and the quarterly newsletter, Birdscope. The kit arrives in November (or three weeks after you sign up during the FeederWatch season) and contains instructions, the poster, a resource guide to bird feeding and data forms. You provide the feeder and the seed. To sign up on-line go to

www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw

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 at :

Save the Date!**6th Annual Meeting****January 31, 2004****6-9 p.m.****Runnells Hall, Chocorua**

Dan Gardoqui, co-founder and director of White Pine Programs in Cape Neddick, Maine will give a slide presentation on *Tracking & wildlife habitat in New England*

Learn more about WPP at www.whitepineprograms.org

WATERSHED ACTIVISM **Racetrack raises aquifer issues**

Activism about a proposed 3.3 mile race track on the side of Whittier in Tamworth has taken two forms: a Race Track Ordinance and Emergency Temporary Zoning.

Tamworth's Race Track Ordinance Committee completed a draft on September 3, which awaits adoption by selectmen. Under RSA 31:41-a, a race track ordinance cannot prohibit race tracks, only govern how they operate.

The draft ordinance would only allow non-spectator facilities. Tracks could operate 365 days a year, with hours of operation 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon - 6 p.m. on Sunday. The ordinance bans professional racing vehicles and OHRVs, but allows motorcycles and snowmobiles. The noise limit is set to an instantaneous maximum of 69 dBA (decibels) at any point along the property boundary.

Anyone wishing to construct a race track must obtain a license from the town first. Developers must show that the facility will not pose undue risk of harm to the public health, safety or welfare of the citizens of Tamworth, nor be injurious, noxious or offensive to the community.

At a public hearing in September on the ordinance, letters and statements from several groups concerned about the race

track development were presented, including the Tamworth Conservation Commission, Tamworth School Board, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Green Mountain Conservation Group, Appalachian Mountain Club, Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Silver Lake Association of Madison, Chocorua Lake Association, Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust, Citizens for the Ossipees, and the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development.

Presenters urged the selectmen to require that best management practices be added to the ordinance, to protect the aquifer.

Over 26% of Tamworth lies over New Hampshire's largest stratified drift aquifer which stretches from the White Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean. In order to assure that a motorsports track in Tamworth will not impact the water quality of this extensive and productive aquifer, it is imperative that environmental guidelines are followed. A development such as this poses an obvious and significant threat to the purity of drinking water in this aquifer area unless strict best management practices are adhered to. As noted by Dr. Robert Newton, Geology Department, Smith College, five gallons of spilled gasoline have the potential to contaminate one billion gallons of water.

In addition to protecting the extensive aquifer, there are many other unique natural resources in the Ossipee Mountains that also must be taken into consideration. Some of these issues include:

- Impact on regional ecosystems including surface waters
- Potential air, water, light and noise pollution
- Impact to regional wildlife habitat
- Disruption of historic resources
- Harm to conservation values on abutting parcels
- Negative impact to the natural resource based tourism economy

A vote on Emergency Temporary Zoning will be held on October 4. Of 234 towns, Tamworth is one of only 21 towns in the state without zoning. Adoption of ETZ would give the town immediate protection and time to consider what type of development townspeople want.

If you have further concerns about the race track issue, please contact Tamworth Selectmen at PO Box 359; Tamworth NH 03886 tamworthtown@firstbridge.net. or Executive Councilor Ray Burton 107 North Main Street; State House, Room 207; Concord, NH 03301-4951) ray.burton4@gte.net

Land Protection Continues on Dan Hole Pond

The Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust (DHPWT) has recently contracted to purchase and preserve 295 acres of forestland on the southeast slope of Thurley Mountain in the Ossipee Mountains, and within the Dan Hole River watershed.

Because protecting the natural resources, beauty and wildlife habitats of the Ossipees is a goal shared by many in the region, the Ossipee Conservation Commission and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust have joined with DHPWT as partners in this effort called "The Thurley Mountain Project." Together they will raise the \$190,000 purchase price and related costs by August 2004. The Trust will own the land and the Ossipee Conservation Commission will hold a conservation easement on it.

Preservation of this land as forested open space is important because it represents one more part of a larger effort by many organizations and individuals to preserve the entire Ossipee Mountain range as an intact, relatively unfragmented, working forestland, wildlife habitat and recreation area.

According to the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT), the combination of bedrock geology, unusual soil types, pure

water resources and isolation from human development has made the Ossipee Mountains one of the most compelling conservation opportunities in New England.

The Ossipee Conservation Commission is concerned that the beautiful open space, forest resources and recreational lands that currently make Ossipee such an attractive place to live and to visit are now threatened by development pressures. The members want to ensure that working forests and traditional recreation opportunities will continue to be available here. The Thurley Mountain Project is the commission's first effort to preserve an important piece of Ossipee forestland. GMCG is excited to see these two groups work together towards land conservation.

The Trust and conservation commission are currently seeking contributions for the project. If you would like more information or if you would like to contribute and/or help, please contact Bob Pratt, president of DHPWT, at 539-2073, or alixandbob.pratt@erols.com

Autumn Calendar

FRIDAY OCTOBER 10 OSSISPEE LAKE ALLIANCE AND THE OSSISPEE SELECTMEN will hold a public meeting to discuss milfoil on Ossipee Lake and how to address the new infestation found in Phillips Brook. Ken Warren of the exotic species program of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services will discuss the state's role in controlling the destructive weed, outline the options and costs of treatment, and answer questions. **Meet at the Ossipee Town Hall on Friday October 10 at 7:30 p.m.**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18 THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP AND THE MAINE CHAPTER OF THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB WILL HOST a walk in the Ossipee Pine Barrens from 10 a.m. to noon. Jeff Lougee, a naturalist with the New Hampshire Chapter of The Nature Conservancy will lead the walk and explain the interesting biology and history of the Pine Barrens. This hike is limited to 20 visitors and if you would like to attend please contact Alix Pratt at 539-2073. The hiking is easy. **Meet at Pine Barrens on Ossipee Lake Road at 10 a.m.**

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 PINE RIVER STATE FOREST CLEAN UP GMCG and the Effingham and Ossipee Conservation Commissions together with the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development will sponsor a clean up of the Pine River State Forest. **Meet at Huckins Pond Boat Launch, Drake Road. Effingham at 9 a.m.**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1 -- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP will present its 2003 Water Quality Monitoring Data to each Board of Selectmen in the Ossipee Watershed. Water Quality Program Director Rebecca Hanson will present town data as well as watershed-wide information at the following dates and times:

Monday, December 1, 4:15 p.m.—Ossipee Selectmen, Ossipee Town Hall

Monday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.—Freedom Selectmen, Freedom Town Hall

Tuesday, December 2, 5:30 p.m.—Effingham Selectmen, Effingham Town Hall

Thursday, December 4, 4:30 p.m.—Tamworth Selectmen, Tamworth Town Hall

Monday, December 8, 7:30 p.m.—Sandwich Selectmen, Sandwich Town Hall

Tuesday, December 9, 4:15 p.m.—Madison Selectmen, Madison Town Hall

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4 THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP will host a meeting about watershed water quality and the 2003 Water Quality Monitoring season. Bob Craycraft, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and Michelle Daley UNH Natural Resources Department will speak about the importance of water quality monitoring. They will join GMCG Water Quality Program Director, Rebecca Hanson in presenting 2003 Water Quality Data. **Runnells Hall, Chocorua, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP AND THE MAINE CHAPTER OF THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB invite you to a hike in the Leavitt Plantation in Parsonsfield, ME with Josh Royte, Biologist with the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Josh will focus on *Nature in Winter* and will discuss how the landscape and local geology influence the plant communities in the Plantation. **Meet at the Leavitt Plantation 9 a.m.—noon.** Call or email Alix Pratt to sign up. alixandbob.pratt@erols.com, 207-761-0292 or GMCG at 539-1859. Limit of 15 participants.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 2004 THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP will celebrate the sixth Annual Meeting. Dan Gardoqui, co-founder and director of White Pine Programs will give a slide presentation on *Tracking and Wildlife habitat in New England.* **Runnells Hall Chocorua, 6-9 p.m.**

For more information, please contact GMCG, 539-1859.

Your Membership Will Make a Difference.

Please Join 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** _____

Alternate Address _____

The Watershed News

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www.gmcg.org

Deadline for Winter
Newsletter is December 21.

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

Sea Glacier Dreams

Have you tasted the milk of 10,000
years?

Blue ice
Mixed with jade green water swirls
around God's sculpture garden.

Marbled ice floats
In and out
As the breath of new land begins.
Bears climb walls of rock
And purple fireweed
Scents the cold rain and icy wind.
High up on newly exposed granite
Vegetation struggles through cracks.

Life wants to be lived here.

Rain patters on gravel beaches.
Glaciers calve and
Waterfalls
Usher in sleep.

August 2003

