

◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume V, Issue II

Spring 2003 .

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

GMCG joins forces with Ossipee Lake Alliance

It is with great enthusiasm that the Green Mountain Conservation Group announces a summer partnership with the Ossipee Lake Alliance (OLA). OLA is the first permanent organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of Ossipee Lake, its bays, rivers and surrounding land. Spread over 4,000 acres and encompassing a large main lake, three bays, four ponds and 14 tributaries, Ossipee Lake is one of New Hampshire's largest and most important lakes and plays an important role in the economy in Freedom and Ossipee.

"The lake's size and configuration have resulted in diverse, independent lake communities and associations based on geographic location," said OLA executive director, David Smith. "Many of these groups have worked independently on lake issues for years. The goal of OLA is to bring them all together to create a lake-wide voice for the preservation of the lake and its unique environmental assets for future generations."

OLA seeks to link property owner associations, children's camps and environmental groups in planning, volunteer activities and advocacy to address quality of recreation, environmental and land use issues on the lake.

GMCG has received funding from the NH Department of Environmental Services and the NH Charitable Foundation, McCabe Environmental Award to partner with OLA on the *Ossipee Lake Protection Project*. Chief among the activities will be to establish a comprehensive water quality monitoring program that will encompass the lake

system's five main bodies of water and all 14 tributaries. Sampling will be conducted by trained counselors and campers from Camps Calumet, Robin Hood, Cody, Huckins, Marist and Tohkomeupog under the guidance of GMCG summer interns Moselle Spiller and Sarah Van Cor Hosmer. This marks the first time that the camps have worked jointly on a significant lake-wide project.

In June, OLA and GMCG will also launch LEAP 2003, a lake environmental assessment program that will quantify and inventory quality of recreation and environmental issues on the lake in preparation for the development of a comprehensive lake management plan in 2005. As part of LEAP 2003, OLA has arranged for NH DES to determine the current physical, chemical and biological condition of all parts of the lake, the first such scientific assessment of Ossipee Lake since 1987.

GMCG and OLA will also join forces with the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development in public education initiatives to protect the lake's unique ecological assets, including the big lake's pondshore communities, which are a rare and endangered community of native plants.

There will be a slide presentation about pondshore communities by Lionel Chute, NH Heritage Inventory at Watershed Weekend, July 12. For more information call GMCG or visit the Ossipee Lake Alliance website at www.ossipeelake.org.

Message from the President

BY EVE KLOTZ

My favorite harbinger of Spring is the woodcock who always appears on the first bare ground in the field at The Farm By The River. I heard his distinctive "peent" just before the last big snow. The sun had cleared a patch, despite the fact that March came in and went out "like a lion". The river is bursting at its seams with snowmelt and the brook is rushing again behind the house reassuring us that the watershed is getting somewhat re-charged as Winter finally leaves us for awhile. Mother Nature is, as usual, doing her job.

A lot of work has been accomplished by GMCG recently. A new slate of officers was elected at Annual Meeting in January where Ben Kilham told us about his work with bears. He reminded us how important it is to preserve their wildness by removing the temptations of bird feeders each Spring as they emerge hungry from their dens. Blair Folts, Executive Director has been busy networking, writing grants, organizing and inspiring everyone to work to protect the aquifer. Elisha Lindquist, our Americorps volunteer, worked diligently this winter with Bob Craycraft and Michele Daley from UNH. Together they compiled and presented a final report of the data collected by water quality monitoring volunteers last summer. Water sampling will continue this summer with volunteers already gearing up for a training on April 26. In addition, two college interns have been hired who will be working with summer camps on Ossipee Lake to begin assessment and monitoring of water and environmental quality on Ossipee Lake.

I look forward to my new position on the Green Mountain Conservation Group Board. Have a great Spring in this beautiful New Hampshire environment that we work so hard to care for.

Eve Klotz was elected the 3rd President of the GMCG Board of Directors in 2003.

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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Three conservation success stories

In October, GMCG announced the acquisition of its first conservation easement on Mount Katherine in Wonalancet—the Wonalancet Nominee Trust Conservation Restriction. Since then, a small committee working with GMCG has been soliciting donations for the stewardship fund. It is important for conservation organizations to have adequate stewardship funds in place to assure that they can protect easements and conservation restrictions in perpetuity. To date, the group has raised nearly \$2,000 of the \$6,000 needed.

Following closely on the heels of this exciting announcement are three additional significant land conservation updates.

In February, The Friends of Trout Pond learned that they had been awarded a \$250,000 Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grant towards the purchase of the Trout Pond tract. FTP is a committee of GMCG comprised of community members from both Freedom and Madison working to purchase and create a town forest on the nearly 2,000 acre parcel known as Trout Pond. FTP together with GMCG has been working closely with the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national non-profit organization committed to helping communities create a "greenprint for growth" by protecting important land that may be threatened by adverse development. TPL is currently working with the realtor and land owners. Once the land is purchased, FTP and GMCG will have three years to raise the necessary funds to re-pay TPL. In addition to receiving the LCHIP grant, FTP also presented a warrant article before the Freedom Town Meeting asking if the town would go on record to support efforts to protect the Trout Pond land and support said land as Town Forest. This passed unanimously at the Town Meeting.

In other exciting land conservation news in the Ossipee Watershed, The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests recently announced the completion of the campaign to purchase the 678-acre forest on Green Mountain, providing a critical link in a network of conservation lands now totaling 2,400 acres. The Dwight Mills Tract abuts the Forest Society's High Watch Preserve and, combined, the 1,713 acres create the Forest Society's third-largest reservation. The project's \$450,000-cost was raised by more than 250 donors. Charlie Watts, of Freedom,

played a key role in launching efforts to protect Green Mountain in 1997 when he donated 1,035-acres that became the High Watch Preserve. His efforts inspired other landowners and conservation groups to pitch in, resulting in conservation of key wildlife habitat and forestlands.

The Dwight Mills Tract provides public recreation opportunities and excellent wildlife habitat, protects drinking-water supplies and contributes to the region's forest-products economy. The land will remain on local tax rolls and be open for appropriate recreation. A celebration of this project is being planned for later this summer.

GMCG has also been supporting a third project, which reached completion in March—a conservation easement on the 8,600 acre Leavitt Plantation just across the New Hampshire border in Parsonsfield, Maine. The addition of this easement, negotiated by the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, combined with the Dwight Mills parcel raises the amount of land protected in this part of the Ossipee Watershed to over 10,700 acres. The property is the largest contiguous block of forestland in Maine south of Sebago Lake and is home to 17 rare plants as well as bear, deer, fisher, bobcat, moose, wild turkey, forest nesting birds, waterfowl and wading birds. Fundraising for this project has included grant money of \$596,000 from the Forest Legacy program, \$1.165 million from the Land for Maine's Future program, \$50,000 from the Town of Parsonsfield, \$50,000 from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, \$50,000 from Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund and \$300,000 from private sources.

Under the terms of the agreement the land has been permanently protected, safeguarding wildlife habitat, maintaining public access and ensuring sustainable forest management. The forest management plan will be reviewed annually by the Maine Department of Conservation. "I'm truly excited that this unique parcel in southern Maine will be permanently protected," said Maine Governor John Baldacci.

"I am very proud to have been a long term partner in this outstanding project," said Maine Senator Susan Collins. "The opportunity to utilize Federal Forest Legacy funds in Maine's southernmost county is especially unique and will provide extraordinary public benefits for future generations."

Special Places

Speak out to save the Carroll County Court House

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 BARRY HILL

Late on a Saturday afternoon in 1839, Asa Beacham, Ossipee's representative to the New Hampshire legislature, found himself racing up the road in his horse and carriage, headed from Concord to Ossipee. The legislature had just adjourned without reaching a decision on where to locate the new Strafford county courthouse. Ossipee was then part of Strafford County and the county courthouse was in Dover, but, as court business to the north increased, folks were finding it was becoming increasingly inconvenient to drive the long distance to Dover, by horse and buggy, for court appearances.

Beacham's belief was that if he could get a sufficient pledge of money, the frugal legislature would be inclined to put the courthouse in Ossipee, so he busied himself early on Sunday morning visiting prominent businessmen. He was able to get a subscription of \$595, a good sum in those days, and armed with these promises, he raced back to Concord on Sunday afternoon. Asa Beacham's calculations were right. On Monday morning the legislature voted to put the courthouse in Ossipee. Less than a year later, in 1840, the legislature split off the present Carroll County from

Strafford and since, the courthouse was already located there, Ossipee became the county seat.

The courthouse was built in 1840 and Ossipee village, already a crossroads for travel, developed as a thriving community around the new building, including inns, taverns, a general store and later, a gas station and other businesses. In 1916, a disastrous fire swept through the village destroying most of the buildings. The courthouse was immediately rebuilt and the principal architect was nationally prominent: Albert Dow of Ossipee, one of the architects who designed the national cathedral in Washington.

Eighty-seven years later, the courthouse still serves as the county superior court building for Carroll County, witnessing daily criminal and civil trials, with and without juries. This will soon be changing, for Carroll County is building a new courthouse on Route 171, planning to move from the present courthouse in the late fall. The county commissioners and delegation (legislative representatives) have met a number of times to determine the fate of the old building. The commissioners have voted to transfer the courthouse to the Ossipee Historical Society for \$1 and the society has been preparing to occupy the building. It is envisioned as a museum for the society, a meeting place for the society and any other appropriate community groups, with special provision for displays by other historical societies in the county. Unfortunately, the matter is temporarily stalled, since some members of the delegation (after a year of meetings to the contrary) have lately

raised the issued of trying to sell the old courthouse to a business to raise money for the county.

For those of us who love history and are interested in saving New Hampshire's heritage, it is unthinkable that this building would be sold for commercial use. It is, for one thing, a unique, historical and architectural structure in Carroll County. It has a brick exterior, with majestic columns, but the unusual main courtroom leaves no doubt that it is a court building. The ceiling of this enormous room is at least 40 feet high. The walls and carved woodwork show careful craftsmanship and blend with the marble staircases to produce an effect that emphasizes to anyone who comes into that room that we live in this country, under the rule of law. In addition to the physical structure, the courthouse has been the scene of numerous murder cases and civil trials settling the affairs of the people of the county. Within these walls, all of the heartbreak, anguish, anger and drama of human emotions have been dealt with and settled.

We find it almost impossible to believe that this building could be sold for commercial use and perhaps gutted or totally destroyed. We are fighting to try to save it for the generations that come after us. If you would like to help, we would appreciate your support.

For more information please contact Barry Hill at the Ossipee Historical Society, 539-2161.

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 conservation commission will host the annual community trash pick-up on Saturday May 17. Meet at the Effingham fire station at 9 a.m. A barbeque lunch will follow the clean up.

Freedom

The conservation commission thanks Matthew Krug for his visionary work on the commission. Matt stepped down in March.

The commission welcomes John Hogan and Jim Clemons as new members. The commission is working with the Friends of Trout Pond to acquire 2000 acres in Freedom to set up as a town forest. The project is well underway with a \$250,000 grant awarded from LCHIP and a grant for Forest Legacy written and submitted. The conservation commission has finished a mailing list for all waterfront landowners in Freedom. Mailings will go out soon to alert owners of the shorefront regulations in New Hampshire. The commission is now working on goals and objectives for the next 12 months. For information, contact Katie Gove of the Freedom Conservation Commission.

Madison

The Madison Conservation Commission presented a warrant article at Town Meeting that the voters passed to increase the percentage of the land use change tax devoted to conservation purposes from 10% to 50%. This will allow the funding of purchasing easements and land to replace developed areas. For the second straight

year, residents voted to ban ATVs on the town's Class VI roads.

Other issues in Madison that the Conservation Commission and Planning Board are working on include: subdivision on Class VI roads; preserving a large white pine stand on scenic Winter Road. Though some residents want these trees removed out of safety concerns, their size and grandeur is calling others to protect them. Carroll County Extension Educator, Peter Pohl said that the trees are "a naturally occurring treasure that is virtually impossible to duplicate."

Ossipee

A vision realized through earlier work by the Ossipee Conservation Commission was the establishment of several town forests, the most recent of which was acquired when the state gave up the Sumner Brook Fish Hatchery. Management of the Sumner Brook Forest, consisting of 120 acres astride Route 16 was permanently vested in the conservation commission. In most instances these lands are owned by the Town of Ossipee and managed by the commission with the help of a licensed forester. In their last meeting commission members voted to set aside 50% of the funds received from management of these forests for the purchase of either ownership or for conservation easements of additional land in Ossipee.

Noting that 132 towns in New Hampshire set aside some or all of money realized through the conversion of current use land to other uses, the commission plans to explore allocating such Ossipee funds, at least in part, to acquiring land or conservation easements in areas judged either environmentally sensitive or desirable as lands for future public use.

Sandwich

The conservation commission received \$500 from the White Sylvania Trust for unrestricted expenditures including Five Days of Sandwich or trail maintenance.

Tamworth

The Tamworth Conservation Commission worked with selectmen, other town officials and property owners to help address several reported wetlands violations. In addition numerous Dredge and Fill and Minimum Impact applications were reviewed with comments and recommendations sent to the Wetlands Bureau. Working with GMCG, the commission will continue to monitor water quality on the lower Mill Brook.

On behalf of the town, the TCC accepted a 180 acre addition to Alt family easements, which helps protect the Mill Brook watershed. The town map of protected lands was updated with the addition of this easement as well as several new easements donated to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

\$5,000.00 of land use change tax moneys were deposited in the Conservation Fund. Monies in the Conservation Fund are used to help protect lands with natural resource values that might be at risk from development. The commission has started a process to update its 30 yr. old Conservation Plan, including a natural resource inventory and looks forward to citizen participation to help identify land with critical natural resources still in need of protection.

Recently, the commission learned of a proposal to construct a motor sport race track on a 250 acre parcel on Route 25 west, near the Tamworth transfer station. This track would encompass three miles and wind through the woods in the Ossipee Mountains. Tamworth currently has no land use ordinance thus can not regulate how this track is constructed or operated. However, because of potential wetland impacts from this track, a special use permit may be required under the town's wetlands ordinance. If you are interested in more information or would like to voice your opinions on this proposal, please contact the Tamworth selectmen.

Watershed Birder

The ecological cost of modern warfare

Armed conflict is always a tragic failure. Although in some extreme circumstances it takes force to move through to a new stage of cooperation and progress, the ecological price that is paid for modern warfare is colossal, and the debt it leaves behind takes years or decades to pay off." World Conservation Union (IUCN).

BirdLife International is a global alliance of international conservation organizations working in more than 100 countries on five continents. They are the leading authority on the status of the world's birds, their habitats and the issues and problems affecting bird life.

Recently, BirdLife International identified the main threats to the environment posed by a war in Iraq in a dossier of information, maps and photographs sent to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, the UK and USA) and the Government of Iraq. The dossier highlighted threats to local people and key natural sites critical for globally threatened and endemic biodiversity in Iraq and the endangered Mesopotamian wetlands. This article is a condensation of that dossier. The complete article with documentation and footnotes may be found at : www.birdlife.net/news

Based on the unprecedented environmental damage caused by the 1990-1991 Gulf War and available data on the environmental effects of recent conflicts in Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. BirdLife has identified seven risks to the environment and biodiversity - and as a consequence also to local people - posed by war:

1. Physical destruction and disturbance of natural habitats of international importance and wildlife resulting from weapons use
2. Toxic pollution of natural habitats and wildlife resulting from oil spills or oil-well fires caused by fighting or deliberate damage
3. Radiological, chemical or bio-toxic contamination of natural habitats and wildlife resulting from the use of weapons of mass destruction and conventional bombing of military or industrial facilities
4. Physical destruction of natural habitats and wildlife resulting from increased human pressure caused by mass movements of refugees (i.e., water pollution, use of wood as fuel, hunting of wildlife)
5. Burning of wetland and forest vegetation as a result of fighting or deliberate damage
6. Desertification exacerbated by military vehicles and weapons use
7. Extinction of endemic species or subspecies.

Until recently the impact of war on nature has often been ignored or obscured by the conflict itself. As the 1990-1991 Gulf War showed, such conflicts have devastating effects on the environment, biodiversity and the quality of life of local people long after the cessation of hostilities.

Iraq has a number of internationally important natural areas, in particular important bird areas (IBAs). Waders and waterbirds are particularly at risk from oil spills because Iraq is at the northern end of the Arabian Gulf which is one of the top five sites in the world for wintering wader birds and a key refueling area for hundreds of thousands of migratory waterbirds during spring and fall.

Iraq contains 42 important bird areas (IBAs) and the Mesopotamian marshes

endemic bird area (EBA). Sixteen globally threatened or near-threatened bird species occur in the country, plus three unique endemic wetland bird species (Iraq Babbler, Basra Reed Warbler, Grey Hypocolius) and five endemic or near-endemic marshland subspecies (Little Grebe, African Darter, Black Francolin, White-eared Bulbul, Hooded Crow).

Before their near-total destruction between 1991 and 2002, the 15,000km² Mesopotamian marshlands formed one of the most extensive wetland ecosystems in western Eurasia. It comprised a complex of interconnected freshwater lakes, marshes and inundated floodplains following the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, extending from Baghdad in the north to Basra in the south. Approximately 50km² may remain. These remnants would have the potential to help restore the marshlands.

The destruction of the marshes in the 1990s had a devastating effect on wildlife and people, with significant implications to global biodiversity from Siberia to southern Africa.

It was the heart-rending image of an oiled bird that became a symbol of the environmental impact of the first Gulf War.

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 : leegull1@earthlink.net.

WATERSHED ACTIVISM

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

GMCG urges further study for proposed West Ossipee Transportation Center

In the winter issue of the Watershed News, GMCG reported on the West Ossipee 2020 Visioning Charrette documenting plans for developing the West Ossipee area, including five funded transportation projects beginning in 2003. Charrette participants noted that the top three priorities were:

- ◆ Transportation center with park-n-ride
- ◆ Bike trails
- ◆ Landscape ecology/preservation

It was further noted that the NH Department of Environmental Services offered specific comments in regards to water supply, wetland protection and septic system requirements. DES stated: “It is advisable to consider some level of protection for the larger aquifer recharge area to insure long-term quality and yield of the aquifer.”

DES Wetland staff also suggested that any planned development concentrate on the east side of Route 16. Yet Phase 6 of the plan says, “Develop retail and housing parcels on west side of NH 16....”

Further more, the Lakes Region Planning Commission has committed to hold a series of meetings for community interest groups to discuss not only environmental impacts but what impacts would benefit the entire region. GMCG was initially invited to be a part of this dialogue. Due to the busy season prior to town meeting, LRPC chose to postpone these meetings until after March. To date, these meetings have yet to be conducted.

At the Ossipee Town Meeting, a warrant article, submitted by petition, asked if the town would support the West Ossipee Transportation Center. While a transportation center may be of value to the area, GMCG advocated that Ossipee was not yet ready to vote either yes or no on this issue until a study had been conducted

and the entire community had been invited to participate in the dialogue.

The proposal will radically change the area and should not be undertaken with out planning for how development will effect the area both culturally and environmentally. The area proposed lies over the largest stratified drift aquifer in the state. In a report to GMCG in 2000, Dr. Robert Newton, Smith College geologist stated, “the area of aquifer between Ossipee and Silver Lake is a potential critical area.....it should be considered a zone that needs protection from contamination and heavy development.”

Having heard extensive input from area residents, Selectman Merrow moved to table the vote based on lack of scientific information about the proposal. Hopefully, the message for a need for further discussion is ringing loudly across the watershed.

Water Quality Monitoring Program begins second season

On Saturday, April 26, GMCG will begin its second season of Water Quality Monitoring with a training event for water quality monitoring volunteers. Volunteers will learn how to use water monitoring equipment, collect water samples and record data. Bob Craycraft from UNH Cooperative Extension will be on hand to discuss stream ecology in general and to explain why water monitoring is important. The training will take place on the Ossipee River in Effingham.

In 2002, Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG) kicked off the first year of the Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) program. This program was formed as a collaborative effort with Saco River Corridor Commission (SRCC) of Cornish Maine, which completed a second year of water quality monitoring in 2002. Last year, GMCG tested 10 sites that were located in Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Sandwich and Tamworth. The WQM program relied upon the efforts of 15 volunteers, however GMCG hopes to expand the number of volunteers as well as the number of test sites this coming year.

A total of 17 parameters were tested. Some of these parameters included pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and total phosphorus, among others. Many of the parameters are influenced by natural causes; however specific land uses can impact the quality of surface waters as well. By testing the water for these parameters, GMCG hopes to observe trends in the water quality over time. In turn, this will allow GMCG to draw firm conclusions about the quality of the water based on scientific evidence. GMCG will continue to test the same parameters in 2003.

In February, GMCG sponsored a presentation given by Bob Craycraft and Michelle Daley, both of the University of New

Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension. This educational presentation summarized the water quality data collected in 2002. Water samples were sent to UNH Cooperative Extension over the 2002 monitoring season, where they were analyzed for a variety of nutrients. Recently, GMCG compiled the 2002 water quality data, along with a summary report provided by Bob Craycraft and Michelle Daley, into a water quality report. This report has been distributed to each of the six towns that participated in the WQM program and available to the public in town libraries.

GMCG has also expanded the 2003 WQM program with two additions:

1. Partnership with Ossipee Lake Alliance to test 14 tributaries coming into Ossipee Lake and 6 deep water spots on the lake.
2. Stream-side assessments of macro invertebrates. Macro invertebrates (bugs that lack a backbone and can be seen with the naked eye) are important indicators of water quality, as only certain species can tolerate pollution. The actual stream side assessments will not take place until this fall, but the training for the macro invertebrate stream side assessments will take place at Camp Calumet, at GMCG's Watershed Weekend event on July 12. This year's Watershed Weekend will be an exciting event that will focus on macro invertebrates. Keep an eye out for more details, coming soon.

Anyone interested in helping out should plan to meet at Farm by the River in Effingham at 1 p.m. Please call GMCG to RSVP and for directions, 539-1859.

Spring Calendar

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP will host a training workshop for interested Water Quality Monitoring volunteers. Bob Craycraft of the University of New Hampshire and Elisha Lindquist of Green Mountain Conservation Group will demonstrate how to use portable water quality meters to obtain data and how to collect water samples for further analysis. Craycraft will also discuss stream ecology and why water monitoring is important. Training will take place on the Ossipee River at Farm by the River in Effingham at 1:00 p.m. For more information or to RSVP for the training please call GMCG at 539-1859.

MONDAY, MAY 19, THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP AND THE TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION will host a slide presentation with Phil Auger from UNH Cooperative Extension, *Balancing Growth Taxes and Open Space*. Communities across New Hampshire are rapidly becoming aware of the positive economic influences that open space provides. Phil Auger an Extension Educator in land and water conservation will outline some of the studies that have been done that demonstrate the relationship between open space and local tax bills. Auger will also provide information on how many communities have taken the positive open space economics information one step further and are now actively helping willing landowners to voluntarily conserve the most significant lands. *Tamworth Town Hall 7-9 p.m.*

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, FAREWELL PARTY FOR AMERICORP VOLUNTEER, ELISHA LINDQUIST. Elisha has worked with GMCG since May of 2002 as the Water Quality Monitoring Program Director and has become a familiar smiling face across the watershed. She will be leaving the area at the end of June and will be sadly missed. There will be a dessert and farewell for Elisha at the Freedom Town Hall from 7-9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 13, WATERSHED WEEKEND: BUGS IN THE WATERSHED. What is the role macroinvertebrates (bugs) play in keeping our water clean? Keynote speaker Michelle Tremblay, "Bug Madame" and host of Wednesday Bug Nights in Concord, will give a slide presentation on critters who help keep our water healthy. Other speakers will include Lionel Chute, NH Heritage Inventory, who will speak about the rare and endangered pondshore communities on Ossipee Lake. There will also be interpretive walks, guided pontoon boat and canoe tours, BBQ dinner, and an evening of song with environmental singer song writer Steve Schooch. Camp Calumet, Freedom, 1-9 p.m. Watch for more details in the summer Watershed News or call GMCG at 539-1859.

SUNDAY JULY 14 WATERSHED WEEKEND: MILL BROOK HIKE. Rick Van de Poll, Natural Resource expert will lead a guided hike along Mill Brook in Tamworth. Rick will discuss stream ecology. **PLEASE REGISTER WITH GMCG BY CALLING 539-1859.**

To submit activities, or to find out how you can help or participate, please call GMCG at 539-1859.

Your Membership Will Make a Difference.

Please Join Today!

*(Please make checks payable to Green Mountain Conservation Group
P.O. box 95, South Effingham, New Hampshire 03882*

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

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TheWatershedNews

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Deadline for Summer
Newsletter is June 15.

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

April

Fresh zest! After so long
I feel fine, singing for the
three year old who watches,
deadpan. Spring found me today:
first ruffed grouse thrumming
through the woods, a flicker
zagging up the road and away.

April woos us over from snow
slowly,
before the leaves, before the bugs,
then smacks us into devotion
and belief with a single breath or
song.

Marnie Cobbs, Eaton

