
◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume V, Issue III

Summer 2003.

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

5th Watershed Weekend celebrates aquatic 'bugs'

On Saturday, July 12, Green Mountain Conservation Group will sponsor the 5th Watershed Weekend at Camp Calumet on Ossipee Lake in Freedom from 1-9 p.m. The theme this year will be BUGS—macroinvertebrates and the role these critters play in healthy water. Macroinvertebrates are aquatic animals that lack a backbone and are large enough to be visible to the naked eye.

Michele Tremblay, director of *naturesource communications* and fondly known as “Bug Madame,” will be featured as the keynote speaker from 3:15-4 p.m. Michele will speak about the connection between macroinvertebrates and healthy water.

Throughout the day at Watershed Weekend, representatives from environmental groups and state agencies will be present to staff individual information booths. Watershed Weekend commences at 1 p.m. when Lionel Chute and Dan Sperduto, senior ecologists from New Hampshire Heritage Inventory, will lead narrated pontoon boat tours to the Ossipee Lake Natural Area from 1-4 p.m. They will both speak of the rare and endangered pondshore communities, explain how they were formed and suggest ways to promote their restoration.

At 2:15, featured speaker, David Carroll, author of *Year of the Turtle*, and recipient of the 2001 John Burroughs naturalist award, will speak on turtles and wetland habitat. David will also

be available throughout the day to sign copies of his many books.

Following Michele Tremblay’s keynote address Dan Sperduto will speak about the globally unique natural community found on Ossipee Lake. Staff from the Nature Conservancy will join him with information on their recent moth and butterfly studies in the Ossipee Pine Barrens.

Twice during the afternoon, UNH bug expert Bob Craycraft will lead adventures into the field. Bob will teach adults and children interested about macroinvertebrates and their role in healthy water. Two separate “Bug Bash” tours will depart from Calumet at 1 and again at 3 p.m.

A barbeque dinner will wrap up the day’s events. Following the dinner, there will be evening entertainment with well known New Hampshire singer songwriter, Steve Schuch.

The event is open to the public. A suggested donation of \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for students will include dinner and the evening performance. For more information please call GMCG at 539-1859.

Naturalist Rick Van De Poll to lead walk along Bear Camp River

Watershed Weekend continues on Sunday July 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a guided walk on the Bearcamp River lead by Rick Van de Poll of Ecosystem Management Consultants (EMC) of Sandwich. Since 1998, his company has performed natural resource inventories for the public and private sector of New England.

The walk will start at the Smith’s Flats parcel of the Remick Museum on Depot Road in Tamworth. Rick will lead participants to an old river channel where he will talk about postglacial events that created shallow water channels also known as slews, approximately 11,000 years ago. Moving on towards the Bearcamp River, the walk will stretch through what Rick describes as one of the “nicest flood plain forests in the northern part of the state,” and one that has seen very little human disturbance.

Upon reaching the Bearcamp River, participants will be guided through macroinvertebrate sampling in the main

channel and in floodplain pools of the river. Using a soil logger, Rick will also give a demonstration of the different soil types deposited by the receding glaciers. The day’s discussions will highlight stream ecology and its role in expanding our knowledge of the Ossipee Watershed; the origins of the Ossipee Mountains; the important features of the aquifer and the important geological role of the Ossipee Mountains.

Please join us for an informative and leisurely walk along the Bearcamp River with great views of Mount Whittier. Participants should meet at the big field on the Smith’s Flats parcel on the Depot Road at 10 a.m. Please dress appropriately and bring a lunch and water.

To register please call GMCG at 539-1859.

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.

Board of Directors

Eve Klotz, President
Bill Piekut, Vice President
Chip Kimball, Treasurer
Don LaChance, Secretary
Claes Thelemark, Education Coordinator

Town Representatives

Effingham, Emelyn Albert
Freedom, Katie Gove
Madison, Dan Stepanauskus
Ossipee, Tom Dodge
Sandwich, Ben Shambaugh
Tamworth, C. Scott Aspinall
Maine, Dennis Finn

Staff

Executive Director, Blair Folts
WQM Director, Rebecca Hanson

Special places The History and Nature of the Ossipee Mountains

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 TOM CURRAN

The Ossipees have always been a wild and remote region whose human inhabitants have wrested their living from their unique natural surroundings. Native Americans hunted, traversed through, and crafted tools and weapons in the area. The first persons of European descent to settle in the Ossipees came up from tidewater settlements soon after the Revolutionary war. Hardy and self-sufficient, these families farmed in Ossipee, along the road up from South Tamworth, and on the Tuftonboro, Moultonborough, and Sandwich slopes until after the Civil War, when a general population shift began to drain people out of the hill farms. Cellar holes, stone walls, and a few ancient apple trees are all that remain of these old homesteads. Henry Thoreau described the Ossipees in his Journal entries of July, 1858 as he passed through the region. Poets John Greenleaf Whittier and Lucy Larcom summered here, and the young Robert Frost followed his bride-to-be to her summer employment near the property later to become the Castle in the Clouds. Cornelius Weygandt, professor emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania, chronicled the rich cultural heritage of the area in the 1940s.

On the Moultonborough slopes, a vibrant farm community provided produce to the patrons of the grand hotel built by industrialist Benjamin Shaw.

Shaw welcomed the public to enjoy the trails and views of the land he called Ossipee Mountain Park. After the turn of the last century, wealthy merchant Thomas Plant purchased Shaw's holdings for his private use, creating a vast estate that once stretched to the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee and became the site of the landmark Castle in the Clouds. The property was owned in turn by the Tobey and Robie families, and then by J. Paul Sticht, who sold the Castle and more than 5,100 acres to the Lakes Region Conservation Trust in 2001.

The Ossipee Mountain Range is one of the last remaining wilderness areas located within close proximity to the great population centers of the eastern United States. Created by volcanoes and sculpted by glaciers, the range is bordered by a circular wall of slopes enclosing approximately 40,000 acres of wild lands that have never been transected by roads and are little disturbed by modern development. Initial bioinventory surveys have discovered groves of old-growth forests in excess of 400 years of age, and have identified dozens of rare, endangered, and threatened plant species. The Ossipees contain some of the finest undisturbed landscapes in central New England, shelter the highest diversity and density of rare plants in the Lakes Region, and include the most diverse group of contiguous old growth forests in New Hampshire.

The Ossipee Mountains are living testimony to the unspoiled wilderness that pioneer families encountered on the New England frontier. Today, conservation and preservation groups are endeavoring to preserve this unique resource for the benefit of wildlife and the inspiration of future generations on the land.

Tom Curran is executive director of the Lakes Region Conservation Trust based in Meredith, NH.

Ossipee Mountains have a unique history

BY RICK VAN DE POLL

Dinosaurs were still ambling up the Connecticut River Valley when the Ossipee Mountains began to form. Early flowering plants and tall tree ferns were covering the rugged, semi-tropical landscape, and the earliest birds were gaining a foothold on the nearby coastal plain. Roughly 125 million years ago, the widening mid-Atlantic caused a circular rift around an upwelling dome of viscous, hot magma in what is now the Ossipee Mountain region. At a critical breaking point, the dome subsided under its own weight and pushed up a mass of iron-rich, siliceous magma that formed a nearly perfect circle of basalt. It wasn't a volcano, yet lava did reach the surface and some very porous rocks can still be found. Contact metamorphism of the surrounding older granites formed a layer of syenite, not unlike that of the nearby Red Hill. The inner side of this slowly cooling dike of basalt solidified into rhyolite and more granite, but of a texture and make-up much different than the salt-and-pepper granite of the central granitic dome. Over time, as with the 16,000-foot high White Mountains to the north, the Ossipee Mountains wore down, with the more resistant ridges comprised of basalt, syenite, and rhyolite. The ring dike we see today is less than one-third of its original height, yet it stands out squarely from the valley lowlands that have eroded at even a faster rate.

The Ossipee Mountains comprise one of the largest unfragmented blocks of land in central New Hampshire according to Scientific Advisory Group, July 1998, "*An Assessment of the Biodiversity of the Granite State with Recommendations*

for Conservation Action." This approximate 63 square mile area includes a continuous block of mountainous upland with elevations up to 2950 feet. Most of the surrounding lowlands average less than 600 feet in elevation, and as a result, the dramatic relief of the Ossipee Mountain range is visible from the coast of Maine, the White Mountains, the Green Mountains of Vermont, and from Mt. Monadnock in southwestern New Hampshire. In 1931, Louise Kingsley and Marland P. Billings characterized the unusual geological story that sets the Ossipees apart from the rest of the state in an article in the *American Journal of Science*, *Cauldron subsidence of the Ossipee Mountains*. The "cauldron subsidence" of this ring dike complex is almost unique in the world, and it is certainly the finest example of such a formation in all of North America. The range forms an almost perfectly circular ring nine miles across, with a resistant rim of bedrock in all but its easternmost part. Because of its remoteness and steep slopes, the Ossipees have withstood much of the development that the remainder of the region has been

subjected to over the last 200 years. The lack of stone walls and mature forest types attest to the wild character it still retains.

The Ossipee Mountains provide a unique opportunity to study and preserve a large forested area that has received very limited use by humans. It contains a remarkable complex of uncommon bedrock types, very steep and erosive soils, five major clear water brooks, a diverse array of pristine forest types, a complete complement of upland furbearers, and a number of rare and exemplary natural communities. At present, it is mostly roadless and trail-less, and receives very little visitation by humans. Its remoteness and inaccessibility continues to ensure its protection from excessive human use. The Lakes Region Conservation Trust, the Green Mountain Conservation Group, and others believe that conservation of the Ossipee Mountain range is necessary in order to continue the long tradition of protecting our special natural areas in New Hampshire.

Rick Van de Poll is a natural resource

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 together with GMCG and the Ossipee conservation commission will sponsor a clean up in the Pine River State Forest on September 27. Meet at Huckins Pond Boat Launch on Drake Rd. in Effingham at 9 a.m.

Freedom

The commission has been working with the Friends of Trout Pond to research current land regulations in Freedom that promote aquifer protection and deter poor land use practices. The commission is working with the planning board and FTP to assist with the future vision of the Freedom Town Forest. The members are looking into various environmental educational projects for children. Jim Clemons is busy with GMCG and the volunteer water quality monitoring project. The waterfront mailings are in the mail. The letter includes a shoreland protection brochure, milfoil fact sheet and samples of shoreland regulations and contacts that can answer questions regarding the protected shoreland. Some of the members will attend the LRPC annual dinner and Katie Gove just recently attended a seminar by the DES. The commission has also been working with the Ossipee Lake Alliance and is hoping to help find volunteer weed watchers for the lake.

Madison

The commission has been attempting to purchase the Cascade property, located next to the Madison Historical Society. At press time, it was learned that the land owners have decided to

sell the property to a forestry company instead. There is a hiking trail on this property that has been open to the public for many years. The commission had hoped to purchase this property to ensure open space and the preservation of this trail.

At the Madison town meeting in March, the amount of land use change tax given to the Conservation Fund was increased to 50 percent. The commission established guidelines for using the proceeds from this tax. The goals of the program are to:

1. Protect critical lands for water quality, wildlife habitat, scenic views, geological formations and future generations.
2. Help manage growth.
3. Maintain rural character.
4. Preserve open space for recreation.
5. Protect historical interests.

The Madison Planning Board will hold a public hearing on July 2 on cutting the pines on Winter Road. There are some safety concerns, however the commission feels that the pines should be left alone. There will also be a Memorial for Veterans at this hearing.

On July 12, the commission Madison CC will attend Silver Lake Association Monitoring (SLAM) Annual Meeting to talk about conservation easements and the protection of Silver Lake.

Ossipee

The Ossipee Conservation Commission is researching how to use funds from the Current Use change tax for the purchase of Conservation lands including studying how much other town appropriate. ing.

A vote will be taken on Wednesday August 13 to conclude discussions on the lease of the fish hatchery

Sandwich

The Sandwich Conservation Commission's biggest upcoming activity is the 'Five days of Sandwich' summer day camp. This day camp invites participants to explore the mountains, rivers, brooks and other natural features of Sandwich. Due to high demand last year, the CC has added an additional one-week session

making three weeks available. The camp starts June 30. Prospective campers should call Tracey Olafsen to claim a space at 284-6368. Donations to defray the cost are requested and desirable.

The commission has also been following several conservation easement possibilities and preparing to mark boundaries on the Heritage Woods easement.

The commission had a successful trail cleanup day for the Bearcamp River Trail with a good crew showing up despite the rain.

Tamworth

The commission is working with the Chocorua Village Association to develop trails on Waterfowl Haven, a 14 acre parcel that is owned by the conservation commission. The commission has also been working to revise their Conservation Plan. Bids have been put out for painting the Great Hill Fire Tower, which provides great views of the area.

The commission is in the process of completing the bridge over the Swift River, which was started last year. Access steps still need to be put on it. The commission is also working on applications for fire ponds that need approval and in the near future will put up more signs to indicate conservation properties.

The commission together with GMCG will host a workshop on July 8th with Amanda Stone of UNH Cooperative Extension and Steve Whitman of Office of State Planning. (see Calendar pg. 7)

On August 2, the Conservation Commission is sponsoring the Household Hazardous Waste Program.

*Watershed Birder***Wanted: Landlords for an endangered species**

BY SUSAN LEE

East of the Rocky Mountains the Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) is completely dependent on human landlords for housing. For more than 1000 years Native Americans have placed hollowed out natural gourds near their dwellings to attract Purple Martins to nest. More recently, human-supplied housing has evolved into multi-celled Martin “apartment houses” set high on poles. Martins have been so successful nesting in these man-made structures adjacent to human beings, that they no longer nest in natural cavities, except in the desert and western mountain regions of the United States.

In New Hampshire, Purple Martins are on the endangered species list. Martins are a colonial nesting species of swallow, larger than the Tree Swallow and deeper purple in color. Wintering in South America east of the Andes Mountains, the first “scout” Purple Martins return to New Hampshire in late April.

The Audubon Society of New Hampshire conducted a monitoring program for Martins during the summer of 2002 and found only 7 colonies. ASNH estimated that statewide there

were only 70-75 pairs. Small colonies have historically been present in nest boxes in several locations in Carroll County, but these have gradually been abandoned. ASNH is continuing to monitor 5 sites in Carroll county this summer in an effort to determine why Martins have declined so drastically in New Hampshire. One suspicion is that poor management of colonies by the human landlords may be part of the problem. Martin dependence on human apartments places them in competition with Starlings and House Sparrows. Martins are also sensitive to cold and prolonged rainy weather, and recover slowly from weather disasters.

The Watershed Birder has been roped in as a volunteer martin monitor for two colonies in the Ossipee Watershed. Audubon volunteers are monitoring seven New Hampshire sites this summer: Fun Spot at the Weirs, Portsmouth Country Club in Greenland, a colony along Rte 302 in Center Conway, three sites in Moultonboro and my two colonies in Freedom. Well, they're not really mine; just mine to watch and monitor. Both are on private land of just the sort Martins love: open land, near water with a plentiful supply of flying insects (dragonflies, mayflies, moths and butterflies) and caring landlords who have put out and maintain apartment houses.

Managing martin the martin

colony is one of the responsibilities of Martin landlords. Martins exhibit what is called nest fidelity. That is a Martin will typically return not only to the area where it was hatched and fledged, but often to the same colony and sometimes even to the same nest compartment or gourd. For the landlord, this means that once the colony is established, there is a great certainty that young birds that have survived the fall migration will return the following Spring to breed. Lack of colony management may be another reason for the decline of purple martins in New Hampshire. Part of Audubon's “recovery plan” is likely to entail active management of the remaining colonies. Taking down the boxes or gourds at the end of the season for cleaning and repair is essential. Nest parasites can build up in uncleaned boxes and may be a potential cause of Martin decline in the northeast.

If you are interested in becoming a Martin landlord or in helping with a colony in your area contact the Watershed Birder at leegull1@earthlink.net

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

WATERSHED ACTIVISM

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

CITIZEN GROUP FORMS TO COUNTER RACE TRACK PROPOSAL FOR OSSIPEES

On April 1, 2003, word came to Tamworth that Club Motorsports, Inc. (CMI) intends to build an exclusive race car club on 250+ acres east of the town transfer station, on the north slope of Mt. Whittier. Following a community meeting on April 15, Citizens for the Ossipees (CFTO) formed to research the proposed plan and possible effects on Tamworth and the surrounding area.

At the urging of CFTO, the Tamworth selectmen appointed a committee to draft a race track ordinance. Once approved, this ordinance will regulate the operation of any racetrack within the town of Tamworth. On May 29, in an effort to manage the development of this racetrack, CFTO presented a petition

with more than 250 signatures to the selectmen to call a special town meeting to consider adopting an emergency temporary zoning ordinance.

CMI proposes year round operations and racing seven days a week from March 1 to December 1, with cars racing in groups of up to 30 at a time. CFTO has raised concerns of excessive noise, light pollution and the potential for fuel spills contaminating the Ossipee aquifer, the largest unpolluted groundwater resource in New Hampshire. Other concerns include the destruction of wilderness and wildlife habitat in the unique, unspoiled Ossipee Range, which is the focus of large-scale preservation efforts by leading New Hampshire conservation organizations.

An upscale clubhouse built at the top of the course will be visible for miles around, day and night. CFTO is seeking additional time to study the impact of such a facility on the town's

infrastructure, the traffic impact, the demands on local fire, police and EMS services, and CMI's claims about tax revenues and jobs created.

The mission of Citizens for the Ossipees is to ensure that the northern slopes of the Ossipee Mountains are maintained in a condition that preserves their clean air, pure water, native wildlife, and natural scenic and historic features. CFTO will work through public education and existing public and private organizations to ensure that any proposed land use on the northern slopes of the Ossipees fits within these guidelines. CFTO invites participation from all who have an interest in preserving the mountains' ecological integrity and natural beauty.

For more information, or to get involved or to support CFTO, write PO Box 18, South Tamworth, NH

Second Year of Water Monitoring Off to a Wet Start

In just the fourth week of monitoring streams in the watershed, GMCG's volunteer water samplers have already demonstrated their tenacity by enduring more rainy days than during the entire 2002 season.

This year water is being sampled from 15 tributaries, an increase in five from last year, according to water quality monitoring program director Elisha Lindquist. Two of the additional sites are located upstream of spots where elevated levels of nutrients were recorded last year. Bracketing the area in this way will help pinpoint the source of the disturbances in the water, according to Lindquist, adding that initial readings for pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity are within the healthy range for all sites.

At the end of June, Rebecca Hanson will assume management of GMCG's water monitoring initiatives when Lindquist moves to Maine after over a year with the organization. Hanson, a native of Plymouth who

spent many summers at her grandparents' home in Chocorua, is a graduate of UNH who holds a degree in environmental conservation with a concentration in environmental science and a minor in water resource management.

In addition to GMCG's Water Quality Monitoring program, RIVERS, in 2003 GMCG has extended its water monitoring efforts by partnering with Ossipee Lake Alliance to sample the deep spots and tributaries of Ossipee Lake. Summer interns Sarah Van Cor-Hosmer and Moselle Spiller will coordinate water sampling with the six children's camps on Ossipee Lake. OLA and GMCG will use the same parameters for monitoring and the results of all sampling will be available by year-end.

If you would like to volunteer for either the RIVERS or the OLA programs, contact Rebecca Hanson at GMCG at 539-1859.

Summer Calendar

TUESDAY, JULY 8TH THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP AND THE TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION will host a Natural Resource Planning Workshop with Amanda Stone from UNH Cooperative Extension and Steve Whitman from the Office of State Planning. Steve will discuss the purpose of a zoning ordinance and how communities create zoning. Amanda will specifically discuss the Tamworth Natural Resource Inventory Maps and explain how towns can use these to plan for growth and protect these resources at the same time. **Runnells Hall, Chocorua, 7-9 p.m.**

SATURDAY, JULY 12TH 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 Dan Spurduto and 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 popular New Hampshire environmental singer song writer, Steve Schuch. **Camp Calumet, Freedom, 1-9 p.m. See story page 1 or call GMCG at 539-1859.**

SUNDAY JULY 13TH WATERSHED WEEKEND: AQUATIC LIFE ALONG THE BEAR CAMP RIVER Rick Van de Poll, naturalist, will lead a walk along the Bear Camp River and will discuss stream ecology as well as macroinvertebrates. **Meet at Smith Flats, Depot Rd. Tamworth. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.** dress appropriately and bring a lunch and water.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH BUG DAY 9:00 – 3:30 P.M. –“Bug experts” Bob Craycraft of UNH Cooperative Extension, Claes Thelemarck of The Community School and Ned Hatfield of Freedom will lead stream side macroinvertebrate assessments in Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Sandwich and Tamworth. Participants will meet in Freedom or Tamworth before heading out to different streams to collect and identify aquatic bugs. Afterwards, participants and “bug experts” will meet back at The Community School to identify the different macroinvertebrates collected at each stream and discuss the roles they play as water quality indicators. Pizza luncheon will be served. **Anyone interested in learning more or in participating in Bug Day please call Rebecca Hanson at GMCG at 539-1859.**

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH 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 Rd. Effingham at 9 a.m.**

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 _____ E-Mail _____

Alternate Address _____

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

The Watershed News

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

Deadline for Autumn
Newsletter is September 21.

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

A Friendly Rain

The birds go silent
As fat rain starts to fall
And fog creeps over grass
I feel so good
As I watch it all
And mist turns white the glass
It' s nights like this
I do not sleep
But listen to the rain
And in the dark
I do not weep
For sun will shine again

Jill Piekut, 7th grade

Effingham

Local Initiative Builds on Region's Assets and History

BY KEITH BISSON

History resonates throughout the Mount Washington Valley and is intertwined with the rich natural resources that characterize the region. Visionary citizens and leaders helped protect these resources with forests as large as the White Mountain National Forest and as small as the many town forests scattered across the valley. The latter have a strong historical tradition going back to the early settlement of New England and represent an important cultural and environmental legacy. This legacy and the long tradition of working forests are contributing to a local initiative that is building on the history of the region and looking to the future of its human and natural communities.

In a unique partnership that taps into the pragmatism of residents in the Mount Washington Valley, the Mount Washington Valley Economic Council's (MWVEC) Forestry Task Force is working with the Quebec-Labrador Foundation's (QLF) Community Forests Program to advance forest conservation as an economic development strategy. The MWVEC is a public/private partnership created in 1990 to provide economic planning services for the region, which includes the 12 towns of Albany,

Bartlett, Brownfield, Chatham, Conway, Eaton, Freedom, Fryeburg, Jackson, Madison, Ossipee, and Tamworth. The Forestry Task Force was formed in 1999 to address concerns about the health and future of the local forest as well as concerns about maintaining a viable forest industry. QLF is a conservation and education organization that works to support the rural communities and environment of eastern Canada and New England, and to create models for stewardship of natural resources and cultural heritage.

The MWVEC, in partnership with QLF, is working with local landowners and forest-based businesses to achieve three specific goals:

- ◆ Prevent further fragmentation of the productive forest land base and secure a long-term supply of sustainably managed forest products by organizing an association of landowners committed to long-term sustainable forest management;
- ◆ Redevelop the value-added sector of the forest-based economy in the Mount Washington Valley region by attracting and supporting the needs of value-added entrepreneurs in the region; and,

- ◆ Conduct research on the economic value of local ownership/management of the forest resource to communities in the region.

The work of the Forestry Task Force is focused on the Mount Washington Valley but has relevance across the region. It offers an example of an initiative linking conservation of the productive forest land base to an economic development strategy. And, it represents one of only a few efforts in the region to advance conservation of the productive forest land base by linking landownership and coordinating management objectives to secure a predictable supply of local timber for local use.

If you are a landowner or business interested in participating in this project or, if you have suggestions about how to move these ideas forward, please contact Keith Bisson by email at keith.bisson@yale.edu or phone at (207) 522-8764. After August 6th, contact Mike Cline by email at mcline@tinmtn.org or phone at (603) 447-6991.

Keith Bisson is an intern working with the Forestry Task Force and a master's candidate at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies in

Freedom votes to support Trout Pond Town Forest

The Friends of Trout Pond (FTP) continue to receive support for its campaign to protect the 2000 acre Trout Pond tract in Freedom and Madison. The Freedom town meeting voted unanimously in March in favor of a town forest on that land, and support continues to come from permanent and second home residents in the area and from conservation groups, including the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, the Nature Conservancy, Trust For Public Land, Green Mountain Conservation Group and the Freedom and Madison Conservation Commissions.

FTP has encountered an unexpected obstacle with the purchase of the Trout Pond land. The seller, Republic Financial Corp, has taken the land off the market, while it pursues the possibility of establishing a water extracting business there.

The FTP, the Freedom

Conservation Commission and the Freedom Planning Board have been researching Freedom's land use regulations to determine if they need to be revised. Research is also being done with other towns that have faced and are facing similar water extraction proposals. The planning board will discuss options at its next meeting, including land use ordinances. "The premise of a typical zoning ordinance is that similar land uses will take place in adjacent areas, and that different uses will be allowed in different zones within the town." (1 pg 35) For instance commercial trucking may not be allowed in a residential area.

Other tools may assist with the FTP project, including site plan review regulations, which may address groundwater protection and open space.

Drinking water and wetlands overlay districts may also assist a town with prudent planning. Overlay districts are areas that require special regulations for a particular identified resource. Other options include

wellhead protection, aquifer protection and identifying prime wetlands.

Unfortunately state law says that "municipalities may not restrict the quantity of water withdrawn from a property," but the legislature does "recognize that surface and ground water are an integrated public resource to be conserved, protected, and managed for the public good." (DES Environmental Fact sheet WD-WSEB-22-13)

FTP encourages interested citizens to consider sharing their views with District 3 state Senator Joseph Kenney. He can be reached at: P.O. Box 201, Union, NH 03887-0201 or 473-2569 (home) or 271-3073 (state office).

FTP's goal remains to preserve the Trout Pond land and to continue to think positively and work toward acquiring a future town forest. Some informative websites on this issue are:

www.saveourgroundwater.org ;
state.nh.us/osp/planning/publications ;
www.des.state.nh.us and

GMCG and OLA sponsor summer programs on Ossipee Lake

In addition to water quality monitoring, GMCG and Ossipee Lake Alliance working with NH Department of Environmental Services have designed a lake environmental assessment program (LEAP) for Ossipee Lake. The LEAP 2003 initiative will document and quantify environmental and quality of recreation issues on Ossipee Lake using observational research techniques developed by the state. Volunteers will use checklists to record activities such as swimming, water skiing and picnicking while counting boats and documenting environmental issues such as rafting, shoreline erosion, and littering. Data from the program will help establish a benchmark for quality of recreation on the lake so that improvement or deterioration can be determined over time.

Quality of recreation is important because the lake is a significant economic, recreational, and environmental resource to the towns of Ossipee, Freedom, and Effingham. Ossipee Lake is under the jurisdiction of the state and three differing sets of land use laws. The lake does not have a master plan to ensure its preservation and protection.

GMCG's Water Quality Monitoring program director and

summer interns will work with campers and counselors from the lake's youth summer camps as well as members of the lake community and members of Broad-Leavitt Bay Association, Berry Bay Association, North Broad Bay Association and others to conduct the surveys.

In other exciting news, for the second year in a row, GMCG and OLA have secured a grant from the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLA) to staff the Ossipee Lake Boat Launch on Route 25 for summer weekends with "Lake Hosts." Hosts distribute information on milfoil and inspect boats for possible contamination. DES has documented milfoil on the lake. It is important for all of us to work together to halt its spread. Stop by and meet the Lake Hosts on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Both the LEAP and Lake Host data will be combined with other measurements obtained from the Ossipee Lake Protection Program, such as water quality, to create a benchmark for the state of Ossipee Lake in 2003.