
◆ The Watershed News ◆

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

Watershed Coalition holds first meeting

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

GMCG is working with Steve Whitman of Jeffrey H. Taylor and Associates to provide professional planning assistance during this project. Steve has worked in the planning field at the local, regional, and state level in New Hampshire. Steve also teaches courses in community planning and environmental planning at Plymouth State University.

The first meeting of the Coalition included a presentation by Steve Whitman on some of the significant natural and man made features in the Ossipee Watershed. Steve provided a glimpse into the future with a discussion of population projections and demographic trends for each of the six towns. Steve presented examples from other New England communities to illustrate creative ways of protecting significant natural resources while accommodating future growth and development in a form that contributes to the local and regional character. The message was one of balance, and that all planning begins at the local level. The six towns' master plans set the vision, and regulatory and non-regulatory tools can be used to implement that vision.

After Steve's presentation, the over 35 attendees discussed and voted on: what

people valued most about the region; biggest concerns and next steps. Issues that were "most valued" included: peace and quiet, open land and forests, aquifer; natural beauty, protected land, water resources including lakes and ponds, abundant wildlife. Top concerns included: loss of resources due to uncontrolled growth; protection of the aquifer, need for more diversity with age, housing to match need and employment opportunities with affordable housing, loss of water, sprawl, polarization.

The next step for the Ossipee Watershed Coalition is the development and distribution of a survey. On September 16 a follow-up meeting was held at the Ossipee Town Hall to discuss the content, format, and distribution of a survey that will reach over 10,000 residents and property owners in the watershed.

Upon completion of the survey, GMCG will hold a second regional meeting on December 9th (see page 7) You are encouraged to attend on behalf of your town and the watershed. The meeting will include a recap of the process, a presentation of the survey results, and a working session to help each town prioritize areas related to planning and zoning that need attention in their town. Some funding will be available in 2005 for Steve Whitman to provide technical assistance to each of the six watershed towns. The goal is for the six towns to work together to address important resource issues.

For more information about this project please visit the website at www.gmcg.org or call 539-1859.

Trout Pond project receives support

For three years the Green Mountain Conservation Group and the Friends of Trout Pond (FTP) have been working to conserve the 2600 acre Trout Pond properties in Freedom and Madison. The vision is to conserve land and create a Town Forest.

Since 2002, the partners have been working with the national organization, the Trust for Public Land to secure a purchase and sale agreement on the property and craft fundraising and stewardship plans. Milestones that have marked the project include securing a \$250,000 LCHIP award and a vote from Freedom Town meeting to support a Town Forest.

On September 15 the Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$3.2 million in funding from the USDA Forest Legacy Program (FLP) for two significant forestland properties in New Hampshire, including Trout Pond.

Funding was secured by U.S Senator Judd Gregg, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee with support from U.S. Senator John Sununu and is included in a bill that sets spending priorities for natural resource programs for the next federal fiscal year. The bill will be considered by the full Senate and then reconciled with the House-passed bill before going to the President for signature and enactment into law.

The Trout Pond tract is the largest contiguous forest in the Town of Freedom. A Town Forest Committee will oversee stewardship of the tract's natural resources for multiple-uses, including recreation, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and timber production.

GMCG thanks everyone who wrote to Washington to ask for support for this important project.

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

Thurley Mountain is host to unusual old growth forest

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

BY

RICK VAN DE POLL

Thurley Mountain lies just east of the heart of the 65 square mile Ossipee Mountain range in central New Hampshire. At an elevation of 1684 feet, its summit is cloaked in a sub-boreal forest of beech, birch, maple, and spruce. Historic use of the lands around Thurley Mountain included scattered farms and high elevation pasture. Not all of the forests on the south slope of the mountain were cut, however, and in rocky and steep ravines, ancient forests still exist. The 283-acre Thurley Mountain property that the Dan Hole Watershed Conservation Trust intends to buy contains two such old growth areas. The first lies along an unnamed brook that descends from between Thurley and Knox Mountains, where the northern-most occurrence of the rare plant, spotted wintergreen, can be found. Craggy hemlocks and stately pines that exceed 300 years in age rest between boulder-strewn slopes above the brook. Ancient beech trees and gnarled sugar maples of comparable age provide a mosaic of sun-dappled shade amidst the cool and clear understory. This area has miraculously escaped the logger's saw for over two centuries, and comprises one of the best intact examples of a mixed hemlock-northern hardwoods forest in the Ossipee Mountains.

A second example of old growth forest on the Thurley Mountain tract exists on the upper northwest slopes, where tall oak, beech and maple trees can be found interspersed between large, rounded boulders of Conway granite. This area is above the 1200-foot elevation that approximated the lower level of severe ice storm damage in 1998. The canopy, though cracked and broken, shows numerous scars from ice storms of the past. With a greater amount of light reaching the forest floor, the understory is more diverse. Red spruce is a significant component of this old

growth forest, and on its easterly edge lies a patch of 20 – 22 inch diameter trees that exceed 175 years in age. A tumble of boulders and steep slopes have kept the area the primary home of moose, deer, porcupine and fisher, the sign of which is relatively abundant. This old growth patch forms a bowl at the upper headwaters of one of the tributaries that leaves Thurley Mountain, and helps ensure the high quality of water that feeds brook trout, slimy sculpin and other aquatic life in the clear-running streams below.

The property has historic cellar holes and stone walls, old pastures and corrals, all of which typify the 19th century agriculture that shaped this region. Old byways can still be found running through the property, and excellent trail potential exists for walks that lead one over the mountain to Bean, Moody and Connor Ponds that lie beyond. The lower slopes contain an unusual pine-oak forest that has survived from post agricultural days by virtue of the deep sand and gravel deposits at the base of the mountain. These habitats support a wide range of different plant and animal species, including those that occupy several kettle hole depressions and bank side seeps. The diversity of Thurley Mountain stands as a further testament to the biological richness of the Ossipee Mountains, and suggests the overwhelming potential it contains for biodiversity conservation.

The Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust is continuing to raise funds to meet the project goal of \$190,000. They need \$70,000 to complete the campaign. Please send contributions to The Thurley Mountain Project, Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust, P.O. Box 8, Center Ossipee, NH 03814.

October 7, 5-7:30 p.m.
Celebrate the 3rd Biennial
Land Conservation Barbecue
 at
Lakeview NeuroRehabilitation
Center
Effingham
603-539-1859

Stormwater runoff can be a pollution problem

BY

KAREN COFFEY

According to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, storm water is one of the leading causes of water pollution nationally. In both urban and rural areas it is a major source of nonpoint pollution. Nonpoint pollution is defined as pollution that does not come from a single, identifiable source. Unlike pollution from industrial plants, nonpoint source pollution stems from many diffuse sources like rainfall or snow melt moving over and through the ground. Stormwater runoff gathers and carries human-made and natural pollutants. These pollutants get deposited into wetlands, lakes and rivers, as well as underground sources of drinking water.

As water flows over our driveways, sidewalks, and lawns, it gathers not only litter but pollutants such as chemicals, oil, garden waste, sediment, pet droppings, and fertilizers. When a rainstorm occurs the rainwater can become polluted runoff water. Stormwater pollution affects humans, plants and animals. It reduces water quality by:

- ◆ Making waterways cloudy which reduces light that is essential for the healthy growth of aquatic plants.
- ◆ Adding fertilizer runoff rich in phosphorous and nitrogen that can cause algae blooms, killing fish and other aquatic animals.
- ◆ Litter clogs the waterways and often releases toxins as it breaks down.
- ◆ Depriving plants, fish and other aquatic animals of essential life giving properties. As garden waste decays in water it uses up oxygen.
- ◆ Adding chemicals and debris from construction sites and construction waste.

With the ever increasing development rate in New Hampshire, we must be aware of the problems associated with

stormwater pollution. According to the Natural Resource Defense Council, regional land use and transportation policies encourage developers to pave over the soil which traditionally absorbs rain and snowmelt. This results in the increase in the volume and speed of often contaminated runoff which leads to widespread and hazardous flooding in low-lying areas. High flows of rushing floodwater scour stream banks and beds, destroying habitat for aquatic life and is also a source of bacterial contamination for humans.

Stormwater pollution created by humans can be reduced or prevented in a number of ways such as more responsible and efficient urban design and better homeowner practices. Workable prevention methods do exist. There are software programs specifically written for modeling hydrology and hydraulics of stormwater runoff. For a given rainfall event, techniques are used to generate hydrographs throughout a watershed. This allows an engineer to verify that a given drainage system is adequate for an area under consideration, or to predict where flooding or erosion problems are likely to occur.

These models are often used because storm water is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Clean Water Act. Since March 2003, municipalities and developers have been subject to new requirements dealing with storm water management. The new requirements are called Phase II Storm Water Regulations since they are the second round of storm water rules implemented by the EPA. Phase I, passed in 1992, dealt with larger municipalities (none in New Hampshire), privately owned industries, and construction sites of 5 acres or larger.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program is administered by EPA in New Hampshire. There is also a website designed to assist regulated entities in New Hampshire in complying with Phase II. There are guiding parameters in regards to the identification of best management

practices (BMPs) for construction activities and development of storm water pollution prevention plans (SWPPP).

There are many things we can do to help prevent problems:

- ◆ Control soil erosion by leaving trees and plants along streambanks and lake fronts
- ◆ Don't over-fertilize and over-water your lawn or garden
- ◆ Maintain your vehicle and avoid oil leaks
- ◆ Encourage stormwater-sensitive development
- ◆ Preserve natural drainage systems such as vegetative buffers
- ◆ Recycle used oil
- ◆ Report illegal dumping or discharges
- ◆ Support or implement local stormwater ordinances in your town
- ◆ Advocate that an expanded national Clean Water Fund include grants and loans to bolster local stormwater funds
- ◆ Do not let Congress weaken the Clean Water Act by repealing its existing stormwater protections.

We can work together to try to prevent and reduce stormwater runoff problems. By remembering that even the little things matter you will make a difference.

Karen M. Coffey, is a GMCG member, a naturalist and training and support coordinator for a software company that produces hydrology and hydraulics software in Chocorua, NH.

Conservation Conversations

Editor's Note: *Conservation Conversations is intended to provide a forum for the Conservation Commissions in the six towns of the Ossipee Watershed to share news of their activities and an opportunity to find creative solutions regarding watershed issues.*

Think Locally; Act Watershed.

Effingham

The conservation commission reports that the Effingham transfer station is now recycling paper. Not only does this help the environment, but it also will reduce the town's waste disposal fees. Please bring newspaper, cardboard, catalogues, phone books and other paper you can "rip" to the transfer station in bags or boxes. Thanks to the Selectmen and members of the solid waste committee for their help with this!

Freedom

The Freedom Conservation Commission continues to work with the Friends of Trout Pond to establish a Town Forest on the property known as Trout Pond. The Friends and the FCC co-sponsored an event at Old Homeweek on the Trout Pond property. Peter Pohl and Barry Keith spent a hot Sunday afternoon on wagon rides discussing the unique features of the Trout Pond Lands and the benefits of a Town Forest. We thank our two local foresters for their time and effort with this project. They talked to over two

hundred people that day. The private capital campaign has raised \$285,000.

The conservation commission thanks Ossipee Lake Alliance for their work to establish a plan to remove milfoil from Danforth Pond and Ossipee Lake. The commission will assist with the project and is looking into grants that may be available to assist with removal.

Madison

The conservation commission is planning to establish a deer yard and hiking trail on the recently donated Wold property; extending the trail recently cut on the Ward property; and looking into cost estimates for mapping the wetlands of the town. The commission is in the process of designing a memorial to the founding 1972 conservation commission members at the Cascade property.

Ossipee

The conservation commission held a special meeting September 15 to work on the town forestry plan. Forester Rick Girard presented a stewardship plan and an inventory management plan for eight lots owned by the town. He will next assess the value and potential of the lots; map wetlands, wildlife habitats, endangered species and other resources of interest. Commission members discussed possibilities for the lots and hope to have a plan in place by December.

Tamworth

The conservation commission is now operating with 15 members, six full members, including new appointees, Harold Cook and Claes Thelemarck; five alternates including new appointees Bill Batchelder, Joe Binsack and Jeff Swan; three associate non-voting members including new appointees Chris Clyne and Sue Stowbridge and planning board representative Tom Cleveland. With this complement of members, easement monitoring, record keeping, trail maintenance and wetlands issues will be more efficiently addressed.

The commission is working to acquire 2000 feet along the Bearcamp River in Whittier and also along the Swift River above the village in Tamworth. These projects will protect important waterways and wetlands and are a part of mitigation requirements for impacted wetlands required by the NH DES.

Seven Boy Scouts from Troup 151 of Tamworth under the supervision of Willie Farnum stained the bridge over the Swift River at Big Pines that had been reconstructed under the auspices of the commission a couple of years ago.

Army Corps of Engineers to hold public hearing in Tamworth

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACoE) will hold a public hearing on the proposed Club Motorsports, Inc (CMI) racetrack on Wednesday, October 6 at 7 p.m., at the K.A. Brett School on Route 113 in Tamworth. It is unusual for ACoE to hold a public hearing for a private development project. The public comment period has been extended until October 16.

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) Watershed Management Bureau will also be at the October 6 hearing to accept comments for the 401 water quality certificate, which states are required to administer for EPA, for any project getting a federal permit (ACoE).

DES does not have any scientific information on existing water quality from the Bearcamp River. Fortunately, GMCG has been testing and collecting a wide range of water quality parameters since 2002. Test sites bracket the CMI site, with sites upstream in Sandwich, South Tamworth, and Tamworth, and downstream in Ossipee. This data should give DES a very good representation of the current water quality.

On July 29, DES issued CMI a Dredge and Fill permit,

which contained 36 conditions. This permit gives CMI permission from the state to build in the wetlands. Focus: Tamworth, a citizens group located in Tamworth, filed a request for reconsideration on August 18, which was denied on September 14. The next step in the process is an appeal to the Wetlands Council.

On September 20, DES site specific program issued CMI an alteration of terrain permit, with 12 conditions. This permit is required if more than 100,000 sq. ft. will be disturbed.

On June 17, CMI filed a special use permit application under Tamworth's Wetlands Ordinance. On July 21, the Tamworth Planning Board voted unanimously that the racetrack, if approved, reasonably could be construed as having the potential for regional impact. The planning board then invited 22 towns and 3 Regional Planning Commissions from 2 states to a hearing August 25. In the meantime, CMI sued 2 members of the planning board to force them to recuse themselves. Two days before the scheduled hearing, CMI withdrew its application for the special use permit but has refused to say if or when, they might reapply.

Notes from Upstream

Volunteers complete 3rd season of water quality monitoring

The third season of GMCG's Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) program RIVERS (Regional Interstate Volunteers for the Ecosystems and Rivers of Saco) is coming to a close in late October. The OLT (Ossipee Lake Tributaries) program and the Lake Host program both finished up in September.

The **RIVERS program** takes place over 10 weeks and includes 15 volunteers who have been testing 15 sites throughout the Ossipee Watershed since June. Some volunteers buddy up to test one site, and some volunteers are even testing more than one site. We are grateful to our volunteers who help make this program successful. We could not do it without them.

The **OLT program** finished up its season in August with the close of the summer camps. Camp Robin Hood, Camp Huckins, Camp Calumet, and Camp Cody continued to show their support to the OLT program by providing a boat and early rising campers to help us sample the 14 tributaries coming into the lake. We are very grateful to the camps for their support.

In the next few months, WQM Program Coordinator, Jennifer Smith will work on summarizing and analyzing the data from the WQM Programs and work with University of New Hampshire and New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to create a 2004 Final Report. This report will be presented to town officials and also at a public meeting, the date of which is to be announced. There will also be a **WQM volunteer party** at The Farm by the River on **December 3** to celebrate the end of the season. Please

see the calendar for more details.

Thanks to a grant from the New Hampshire Lakes Association, GMCG has also successfully completed its third year of the **Lake Host program** at the Pine River Boat Launch in Ossipee. Lake Hosts staffed the boat launch on weekends and holidays to inspect incoming and outgoing boats for invasive exotic species, such as milfoil. Lake hosts also educated boaters about the dangers associated with invasive species and to always inspect their boat before entering and leaving a launch. The Lake Hosts inspected over 465 boats. Overall, many people's awareness of the problem seemed to be improving since last year, especially with the well known problem of milfoil in Ossipee Lake. GMCG plans to continue with this program next year and hopes to find more volunteers to staff the launch during the weekdays as well.

We are always looking for more volunteers for all of these wonderful programs. Even though this season is coming to a close, we are still looking to create a stronger group of volunteers for next year. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for any of these programs please contact GMCG's WQM Program Coordinator Jennifer Smith at 539-1859. Call before the season is over so you can become familiarized with the program for next year. Adopt a site near you today!

Notes from Downstream

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

A frequent question asked of our water quality monitoring volunteers is "what good does it do to collect all of this data?" The best answer to this type of question comes in the form of an example. This past summer was as interesting as it was hectic and this season also provided the Saco River Corridor Commission volunteers with just such an example.

Sample testing at one of our sites at the Canal Bridge in Fryeburg, Maine, gave us unusually high *E coli* readings. The usual protocol is to alert the authorities. This means to notice the health officer in town of the problem and to give the campgrounds and canoe liveries in the area advanced warning that the readings were high. In this instance, the bacteria levels were exceeding the State of Maine's swimming standards for Class A waters. The second step in the process is to return to the area to take additional samples, and to also bracket the area by taking samples at intervals up and down stream. This bracket helps to identify possible sources for the high readings.

Upon contacting the town, it was learned that a pile of horse manure had been dumped on an inland area that was near a stream that led to the Saco River. Each subsequent test of the waters upstream of the initial high bacteria reading also exceeded the state's swimming standard. Over a period of several days and testing cycles we were able to pinpoint the exact source of the problem. The manure pile was slowly leaching into the stream and finding its way to the river. Bacteria was being washed into the

river via the stream with each rain event. SRCC immediately contacted the landowner the manure pile was located and convinced him to remove the material out of the floodplain and away from the stream and river.

The beaches were closed for several days and the canoe traffic was negatively effected. Fortunately, there were no reported cases of bacteria related illness. It took five days from the first lab result indicating that there were high bacteria counts in the river until the water tested clean again. Without the water quality monitoring program in place and without the hard work of our volunteers, this slow leaching of bacteria into the water could have taken place all summer long.

Testing surface waters often appears to be a long process of collecting data, grabbing samples and compiling information. But in truth, the program is much more than crunching numbers. The real intent and benefit of the water quality monitoring program is about keeping the river clean and about making sure that the community that uses the water is protected and informed.

Dennis Finn is the Executive Director of the Saco River Corridor Commission in Cornish, Maine. GMCG has been partnering with the SRCC on the Water Quality Monitoring Program since 2001.

Global economy affects the insect and disease world

BY PETER POHL

The old axiom, "Every Action has a Reaction" certainly holds true in this day and age where global economy plays a significant role in supplying the goods that our society consumes, and also enabling serious insect and diseases problems to enter the United States and threaten some of our very important tree species. There are three very serious insects and one major disease that threaten commercially important tree species. The three insects include the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, the Asian Longhorned Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer. The major tree disease is the Sudden Oak Death fungus.

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) was introduced into the US from Asia in the 1950s. It arrived on the West Coast where, fortunately, Western Hemlock proved to be resistant to the insect. It did cause damage to the Eastern Hemlock in Virginia during the 1980s and it is now established in 12 states along the Eastern Seaboard from Massachusetts to Virginia. During the past several years, spotty infestations have been detected in Maine and New Hampshire, where efforts to eradicate it are underway.

This small insect feeds by sucking plant sap at the base of the needles. A mature tree can be killed in 3-5 years. Evidence of this insect is indicated by small blackish insects (1/8 inch long) on the undersides of the needles. Most of the time the insect hides under a mass of white woolly material at the base of the needles on the undersides of twigs where it feeds and lays eggs. Widespread hemlock decline producing pockets of dead trees with gray coloration may be indicative of an infestation. Up close, infected trees display off-color yellowish needles often with a grayish cast leading to premature needle drop and twig dieback.

The spread of this insect is through the introduction of infected nursery stock, wind and birds. Control of this pest can be achieved on individual trees by a thorough drenching of an approved pesticide. It would be impossible to treat a forested area with an aerial spray application since the material would not penetrate the dense forested canopy. It was hoped that extreme cold winter temperatures might eradicate the problem in our region. Although extreme temperatures seem to cause a setback, the survivors are able to quickly repopulate the insect since it produces six generations in one season. A variety of ladybug is proving to be an important natural

predator in laboratory trials.

Hemlock is a desired species not only for landscaping and wildlife purposes, (such as deer yards), but also as a commercial tree for framing material and pulp and paper products.

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) is a new introduction to the US from China. It appears to have entered the states in wooden shipping pallets. It was found in 1996 in several locations around New York City and later discovered in Chicago, Illinois in 1998. It attacks a variety of tree species including maple, elm, birch, ash, poplar and willow. ALB kills by boring into the trunk or branches and disrupting sap flow. Mature trees can be killed in three years if heavily infested.

The adult beetles are large (3/4 - 1 1/4 inch long) with very long black and white banded antennae. The body is shiny black with irregular white spots and is visible from June to November. The adult chews shallow, oval or roundish wounds in the bark where the female lays an egg. Large round holes 1/2 inch in diameter on the trunk, branches and exposed roots create the exit hole from which the adult emerges. Signs of beetle activity include large piles of sawdust at the base of the tree and branches and oozing sap from egg sites and exit holes.

This insect poses a serious threat to maple trees which play an important role in the forest economy throughout the Northeast. Sugar and red maple are desirable lumber trees for a wide range of products including furniture and flooring. The production of maple syrup is another significant and valuable product from this species.

The Emerald Ash Borer is a new exotic beetle from Asia which was discovered feeding on ash trees in southeastern Michigan. It was identified in 2002 but is believed to have entered the region about five years ago. The larval stage feed in the phloem and outer sapwood producing galleries that eventually girdle and kill branches and entire trees. Adults are larger and golden green in color with metallic emerald green wing covers. D-shaped exit holes are evident on the outside bark of infected trees during the summer following the initial attack. If few in number they may be overlooked.

Typically, little crown dieback occurs during the first year of attack. In the second year less foliage develops and the crown appears thinner. Epicormic branching and longitudinal bark splits can develop along the main trunk and major branches. By the third year of attack, many branches have died, little foliage is present, bark splits are common, exit

holes are present throughout the trunk and epicormic branches are common.

The resource at risk includes about 60 species of ash worldwide including 16 in North America. It is a very important commercial species used for furniture, flooring, baseball bats, tool handles and snowshoes.

A major tree disease facing the area today is Sudden Oak Death Fungus which first appeared in California several years ago. All species of oak are affected. It is a disease much like the Dutch Elm Disease which blocks the flow of water from the root system to the crown, causing the crown to die quite suddenly.

It was believed the disease was confined to the California area until spring 2004 when thousands of infected plants were discovered. In a similar way to how the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid entered New Hampshire on infected nursery stock, Sudden Oak Death most likely has shared the same history entering via infected stock.

Red and white oak are extremely important species throughout New England. It is not only a valuable commercial tree for flooring, furniture and post and beam framing but also as an important mast producer for a wide range of wildlife including deer, turkey, bear and squirrels.

These insect and disease problems are serious issues with catastrophic consequences not only from an economic perspective, but from the wildlife, aesthetic and recreational point of view. One only needs to think back to the early part of the 1900s when the American Chestnut was a major species in the region. Within about a decade or two, this species was literally wiped out by the Chestnut Blight. If you suspect these insects or disease might be present in your forest please contact UNH Cooperative Extension at 539-3331 for more information.

Peter Pohl is Carroll County Forester at UNH Cooperative Extension. Contact him at , 75 Main Street, PO BOX 860, Center Ossipee, N.H. 03814, phone 539-3331 or e-mail peter.pohl@unh.edu .

Autumn Calendar

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP (GMCG) TOGETHER WITH THE FRIENDS OF TROUT POND AND THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND, invites you to celebrate the Trout Pond Town Forest. This 2600 acre parcel in Freedom and Madison, includes important land for aquifer protection. The parcel also is contiguous with other conservation land, thus enhancing animal habitat. Please join us at the 3rd Biennial Land Celebration and Community Barbecue hosted by Lakeview NeuroRehabilitation Center. Remarks will be given by Whitney Hatch, New England Regional Director, Trust for Public Land. **Lakeview NeuroRehabilitation Center, Effingham Falls, 5-7:30 p.m. Please RSVP if you plan to attend. (603) 539-1859 or www.gmcg.org**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP (GMCG) will host a pizza party to celebrate the 2004 Water Quality Monitoring season. Volunteers and others interested in learning more about this exciting program are invited to help celebrate. GMCG is very grateful to the WQM volunteers who worked hard all summer season collecting water samples in the early morning hours braving bugs and rain! Please join us on December 3rd to share stories and learn about the results from the 2004 season. Please RSVP Jennifer Smith, GMCG Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator at 539-1859 or www.gmcg.org if you plan to join us. **Farm by the River, Effingham 6-9 p.m.**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP (GMCG) will host a meeting of the Ossipee Watershed Coalition with Environmental Planner, Steven Whitman of Jeffrey H. Taylor & Associates. Natural resource based planning gives people the ability to link actions on specific parcels of land to larger regional systems. It is up to us to plan with vision, and our greatest responsibility is to retain what we treasure. Steve will present the results from the Watershed Coalition Survey and discuss next steps for the Coalition. **Runnells Hall, Chocorua 7-9 p.m.**

For more information, please contact GMCG (603) 539-1859 or www.gmcg.org

Your Membership Will Make a Difference. Please Renew Today!

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

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

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PHONE _____

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The Watershed News

GMCG
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03882
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Deadline for Winter
Newsletter is December 21.

Moon Glare

Even just a sliver of a moon
must have
the bright face of the sun upon it
to produce its own reflective
glow in the night.

I dig deeply into soil that is muddied by days
and nights of simple rain
I pull enormous weeds
restore the wanted roots.

Standing on the porch
you greet the mud-coated
silken reflection of a morning's earnestness.
It shines on me.

And I write.
My words are simply this:
conversation with life - *Reflected*.

triggered images from thoughts transcribed in verse
before the wake of dawn

the warmth across the dark
a hand on mine

even glancing gestures from
a troubled reaching heart

each and every shard of shining life
touches and generates reflection....
The reaching makes it glow.

I, too
am like the moon
I need the bright face of life upon me
and shine reflective image out to you.

kmr

2004

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

Editor's Note: *Katie Remmetter, Effingham resident and GMCG member, recently spent a day at the Effingham Elementary School with Louis of Tamworth. Katie and Louise, both writers, are working to inspire students to turn to our natural resources for inspiration. Watershed work is more than science about how our water works...it is about how people live in a give landscape and how they share all aspects*