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# ◆ The Watershed News ◆

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Volume VII, Issue I

Winter 2005.

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

## 7th Annual Meeting presents 'Eyes on Owls'

On Saturday, January 29, the Green Mountain Conservation Group will celebrate its 7th annual meeting at Runnells Hall in Chocorua from 6 to 9 p.m. The evening will commence with a brief business meeting and election of officers, followed by a potluck supper.

The featured speakers this year will be noted naturalists Mark and Marcia Wilson founders of *Eyes on Owls*. Marcia brings 30 years of experience in natural history and field ornithology to her environmental program. Mark, a wildlife photographer, photojournalist, writer and avid birder, will complement their presentation with dazzling photos from his travels across New England. The highlight of the evening will be a "hooting lesson" and much audience participation. Marcia will present five live owls to the audience and discuss things such as "which owls eat skunks," "what do owl pellets tell us about the food and the web of life," "how can we protect owls and preserve their habitat?"

During the Annual Meeting, GMCG staff and board members will present a synopsis of the group's conservation and educational projects and will be on hand to discuss ideas and concerns members

may have regarding future projects.

In 2004, GMCG worked closely with the University of New Hampshire as well as the six towns in the Ossipee Watershed, Saco River Corridor Commission and the children's camps on Ossipee Lake to refine and expand the watershed-wide water quality monitoring program. Final reports from the 2004 season will be available at the annual meeting. GMCG's Water Quality Program Coordinator Jennifer Smith will also give a short presentation.

The Ossipee Watershed Coalition survey results and final report will also be presented. (see story below)

The Annual Meeting is open to the public. The evening promises to be an exciting one full of good food, and interesting discussion. Please bring a favorite dish to the potluck supper. A suggested donation of "7" is encouraged to celebrate GMCG's 7th Birthday! (\$7, \$70, \$700, \$7000, 70,000, 7 Acres, etc!)

## Watershed Coalition presents survey results

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 recently sent out a survey to nearly 8000 residents in the Ossipee Watershed. The Coalition was 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 has hired Steve Whitman of Jeffrey H. Taylor and Associates to provide professional planning assistance for this project through 2005. In December, Steve presented the survey results at a meeting held at Runnells Hall. He also gave a short presentation on natural resource based planning which he summarized as:

- \* Identify significant natural resources in the region
- \* Understand what they provide, how they are impacted and how they can be protected
- \* Identify areas that are suitable for development or other uses
- \* Define the type of activity that is allowed based on the resources

Over 400 surveys have been returned so far. The majority of respondents stated they do their shopping and errands in towns outside the watershed. 85% of respondents stated that they are

concerned with the rate of growth; 88% stated they support local efforts to protect the Ossipee Aquifer; 69% said they feel that groundwater is threatened while 20% said they needed more information.

In 2005, GMCG has some funding to hire Steve to work with individual towns in the six-town Ossipee Watershed and assist local boards with a priority planning project related to natural resource based planning. With an emphasis on natural resource based planning, over the next two years, the Coalition will also provide educational opportunities on issues related to growth, opportunities to see how neighboring towns are dealing with long-range planning issues, and assistance with local planning priorities. GMCG will be presenting information and asking conservation commissions and planning boards if there is a natural resource based project that they would like to work on in 2005.

For more information about this project or to view the December presentation or complete survey results, please visit the website at [www.gmcg.org](http://www.gmcg.org) or call 539-1859. If you have not had a chance to fill out a survey you may do so online until January 15th.

## The Watershed News

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

GMCG's purpose is twofold:

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

Through research, education, advocacy and land conservation we strive to promote an awareness and appreciation of our watershed's natural resources and encourage a commitment to protect them.

### Board of Directors

Eve Klotz, President  
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Effingham, Emelyn Albert  
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### Staff

Executive Director, Blair Folts  
Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator, Jennifer Smith

## Special Places

# Effingham is home to the first Normal School in New Hampshire

*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](http://www.specialplaces.org)*

BY CLAIRE REMMETTER

In 1778, Effingham, formally known as Leavitt's Town, acquired its present day name and began its climb into modern day society. The section north of the Ossipee River was called North Effingham until 1832 when it assumed the name Freedom and two separate towns were formed.

The first settlers in Effingham found much difficulty in building a town because the beautiful terrain they knew as home also proved to be a rocky challenge to build upon. It wasn't until 1820 that settlers were able to use the power of the river at Effingham Falls to their advantage by producing sawmills and gristmills. At that time, roads were constructed and stores were built along

with the church, school and tavern. Believe it or not, Effingham grew so rapidly that by 1858 it had a higher population than it does today.

In 1819, the Effingham Union Academy was built and then in 1830, James W. Bradbury used the second floor of the existing Union Academy building to found the First Normal School. The First Normal School was the first college of its kind in New Hampshire, working only to instruct and train individuals in the trade of teaching. The school is located on Hobbs Road in Effingham, and is also part of the present day Lord's Hill Historical District.

As you can see, the First Normal School Building is not currently in great shape, but rest assured, it is in the process of being restored in order to become a museum of Effingham.

*Claire Remmetter is a resident of*

*Effingham and a sophomore at Kingswood Regional High School.*

## Owl 'invasion' predicted for winter 2005

BY SUSAN LEE

According to several sources, this winter may provide a major northern owl invasion for New Hampshire. States and Canadian Provinces to our north have already reported large numbers of northern owl species in October and November. Closer to home, the Erroll-Umbagog Christmas Bird Count, conducted on December 16, 2004 reported that for only the second time in the count's 47 year history, three owl species were seen: Great-horned, Barred, and Northern Saw-whet.

Four species of owls breed in New Hampshire. The Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*), occurs in hardwood stands, pine woods, old orchards and sometimes in suburban neighborhoods. They are the least common of the resident owls and are considered to be a species of Special Concern in the state. Their call sounds more like a whinny or a wail and it is the Barn Owl which really makes a screech.

The Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) is the largest of our New Hampshire owls. This owl usually resides in woods near open areas and often soars over marshes, swamps and other open areas especially at dusk or first light. Pairs of these owls frequently call to each other on winter nights from late December through March. The most familiar of their calls are the deep series of 5 or 6 hootings: "hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo" or "hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo".

The Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) is the most common owl in New Hampshire. The preferred habitat for the Barred Owl is extensive forests of mature mixed deciduous and coniferous trees, often bordering a lake or river. While deciduous trees provide large cavities for nesting, the conifers offer better concealment and cover for winter roosting. In winter, when small mammal prey are harder to find, Barred Owls may enter towns and perch near bird feeders which attract mice and squirrels. Listen for the Barred Owls call: "Who cooks

for you, who cooks for you all."

The smallest of the native owls is the Northern Saw-whet (*Aegolius acadicus*) which occurs year round in thick evergreens or shrubs near wetlands. The call of this nocturnal owl has been compared to the sound of a saw blade being sharpened or "whetted", or the backup warning beep of a bus.

In an "invasion" or "irruption" year, the owls of the northern tundra turn up in northern New Hampshire, usually driven by a combination of poor hunting or heavy snow cover or intense cold farther north. Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*), Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*), North Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*), and Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) are the northern invaders we can hope for this winter. A Northern Hawk-Owl was seen on the Tamworth/Sandwich Christmas Bird count last year. This is one of the few owl species which hunts during the day. In the east during irruptions, Snowy owls reside in coastal sand dunes (check out Hampton Beach State Park on a cold winter day!), on salt marshes (Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island often hosts a Snowy over President's Day weekend in February), in farmland or near airports (Snowy Owls are found every winter at Boston's Logan Airport) – all areas that look like the Arctic tundra above tree line where these beautiful owls normally live and hunt.

As this column was being sent to the editor, a report of a Snowy Owl in Exeter was posted on the NHBirds list serve! Boreal Owls are hard to find, even when you know where they have been hanging out. Several years ago the Watershed Birder made three separate trips to Cambridge where a Boreal reportedly spent the winter days roosting in a tree on Commonwealth Ave. and the nights feasting on the local pigeons. I saw the tree and the bird's whitewash in the tree, and the neighbors who said each time, "Oh are you here to see the owl? It was here a while ago." I never did see

the owl. But I still check the Rare Bird alerts for Owl sightings. The Great Gray, known fondly as the Gray Ghost, is much sought after by birders. There have been only three major irruptions of Great Grays in the past 25 or so years. In many years none of these birds are reported south of its normal range in the boreal forests and wooded bogs of the far north, from Ontario west to British Columbia and Alaska. When irruptions occur they generally begin in December or January and peak in late February or early March. These huge owls, the largest North American owl in overall size, hunt mainly at dawn and dusk.

Will there be a northern owl invasion this winter? Early reports from other states seem good. Birders in Minnesota had reported about 85 Northern Hawk-Owls, 165 Great Gray Owls and a record 275 Boreal Owls by the end of November. Keep your fingers crossed and your binos at the ready.

For more information on Owls check out *How to Spot an Owl* by Patricia and Clay Sutton, Chapters Publishing Ltd. Shelburne, VT. For an unforgettable experience with live rehabilitated owls and hawks from all over North America visit the Vermont Institute of Natural Science new facility at Quechee, Vermont ([www.vinsweb.org](http://www.vinsweb.org) or 802.457.2779). And don't miss the demonstration and lecture by owl experts Marcia and Mark Wilson at the January 29<sup>th</sup> annual meeting.

*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: [leegull1@earthlink.net](mailto:leegull1@earthlink.net).*

# Conservation Conversations

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

**Think Locally; Act Watershed.**

## Effingham

The conservation commission is pleased to report that the recycling of paper at the Effingham Transfer station is going well. The waste paper generates about 5 1/2 tons per container. The transfer station has averaged one container each month for the last three months. Not much money is earned from the paper, approximately \$70 but the hauling and tipping fee for 5 1/2 tons of waste cost about \$430 for the 5 1/2 tons. Removing this amount of paper from the waste stream represents a savings of about \$7000 a year to the town.

## 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 will be sponsoring a Town Chat with Dijit Taylor and Peter Pohl on Saturday, February 26 at 9 a.m. in the FreedomTown Hall. Everyone is invited to stop by for donuts and coffee and to learn about how a Town Forest can help your taxes!

The conservation commission recently met with GMCG and the Watershed Coalition to learn more about the results from the watershed survey. Possible

projects suggested included looking at definitions in their town ordinances and possibly updating some of those ordinances.

## Madison

The conservation commission has put together a wetlands buffer protection zone for the 2005 Madison Town Meeting. It is one of the most comprehensive and restrictive in the state and is modeled after the Bow ordinance. The Planning Board endorsed it in mid-December and it will go before the voters in March. The commission has also updated the town zoning ordinance to state standards by redefining wetlands. The commission also granted \$2,500 to the Friends of Trout Pond/GMCG/Trust for Public Land fund raising effort in part to recognize the 200 acres that are in Madison.

## Ossipee

The conservation commission has received a copy of the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act with an explanatory letter as to how it applies to local permitting decision. The commission will make copies of this and send them to real estate offices in the town with directions to distribute them to all employees.

The commission has put an article for water testing on the town warrant to give GMCG \$2000 for water testing in Ossipee. In 2004, GMCG spent \$3000 on water sampling in Ossipee. Last year Ossipee donated \$1000 to the program. A warrant article asking for \$2000 would mean that Ossipee would be paying 67% of the cost.

## Sandwich

The conservation commission reports that in November the town easements were viewed and photographed from the air. It was noted that there were no problems on any of the properties.

The Watershed Coalition recently met with the conservation commission and learned that Sandwich is currently working on updating the master plan. The commission thought a good project for 2005 might be to ask Whitman to review the plan and evaluate its effectiveness. It was further suggested that it might be good to look at the zoning ordinance for protecting wetlands with a buffer setback and evaluate if this is effective. The commission was also interested in learning how many towns in the watershed have groundwater protection ordinances and what would the possibility be of all the towns in the watershed adopting a similar aquifer protection ordinance.

**NOTE: GMCG would like to extend a special thanks to all the conservation commissions for support towards the Water Quality Monitoring Program and also the Watershed Coalition. With your commitment and voice, we are able to educate the watershed community about our shared natural resources. Thank you!**

## Army Corps of Engineers holds public hearing in Tamworth

On October 6, over 200 people attended the Army Corps of Engineers and New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services hearing on a proposal from Club Motorsports Inc. (CMI) to construct a racetrack in Tamworth. Of the 46 speakers, 45 opposed the project, based on a variety of scientific, legal, economic, and aesthetic arguments. The Army Corps decision will be made in early 2005.

On October 26, the Wetlands Council accepted Focus Tamworth's Appeal of CMI's dredge and fill permit. A pre-hearing will be held January 25.

On December 7, CMI announced that Stefan

Condodemetraky has been replaced as president and CEO. Lloyd C. Dahmen, a shareholder and venture capitalist, will take over.

On December 10, Focus Tamworth filed a petition for declaratory judgment and injunctive relief, asking that CMI obtain all necessary local permits from Tamworth, (special use permit, hazardous waste permit, subdivision approval) before beginning construction. A hearing will be held January 26.

State Representatives Harry Merrow, David Babson, and others, are sponsoring HB 90 to repeal RSA 287-G, which exempts CMI's development from local control.

# Watershed Water Quality Monitoring

Notes from Upstream

## WQM Volunteers celebrate and plan for 2005 season

BY JENNIFER SMITH, GMCG

On December 3, Green Mountain Conservation Group celebrated the completion of the third successful water quality monitoring (WQM) program season. GMCG board members, WQM volunteers, and interested guests sat in front of a cozy fireplace at the Farm by the River eating pizza and drinking warm cider. Approximately 30 people came to the party, providing a hopeful start for the 2005 WQM season.

Blair Folts, GMCG Executive Director, spoke about the history of the WQM program and its formation, while Jennifer Smith, GMCG's Water Quality Program Coordinator, talked about the 2004 season and the upcoming 2005 season. Claes Thelemark, GMCG's Educational Coordinator, spoke about Global Information Systems (GIS) mapping and possible projects for the Ossipee Watershed. The group brainstormed about information that they might want to see mapped about the Ossipee Watershed. To wrap things up, Jennifer thanked all of the volunteers individually by presenting a WQM calendar that featured a WQM site and volunteers for each of the 15 months represented. The calendar also contained important WQM dates such as the training date and the starting date for the 2005 WQM season.

In 2004, GMCG continued to monitor 15 sites throughout the Ossipee Watershed through the Regional Interstate Volunteers for the Ecosystems and Rivers of the Saco (RIVERS) program and 13 sites at the mouths of the 13 tributaries coming into Ossipee Lake. GMCG is grateful to the 19 volunteers who helped sample these sites throughout the summer and even into the freezing mornings of October! In addition, GMCG is thankful for the five camps, including Camp Calumet, Camp Huckins, Camp Cody, Camp

Robin Hood, and Danforth Bay Campground, who helped sample the lake sites.

In 2005, GMCG hopes to expand the WQM program. Some of these changes include deep water sampling in Ossipee Lake, starting the regular WQM season in April in an effort to get more spring run-off data, purchasing a conductivity meter to measure salt concentration in the water at a time when road salt is most prevalent, and purchasing rain and staff gages for each site to more accurately measure rain fall amounts during sampling.

GMCG is eager for the 2005 season to begin and is excited by the enthusiasm shown by the volunteers at the December meeting. Many new volunteers expressed interest at the party as well as five people living around Connor Pond who would like to start testing there. There are many more sites to adopt for the 2005 season as many of the lake sites will now be tested from the road. Please contact us today if you are interested in becoming a volunteer or supporter for the WQM program. Also, please attend our upcoming meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> where Jennifer Smith, Bob Craycraft of UNH Cooperative Extension, and Michelle Daley from the UNH Natural Resources Department will present the 2004 data and speak more about the importance of water quality monitoring.

*Jennifer Smith is GMCG's Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator. For WQM data, visit the website at [www.gmcg.org](http://www.gmcg.org)*

## Notes from Downstream

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

BY JEFF STERN, SRCC

At the recent annual conference of Maine Rivers, a river advocacy group, there was much talk about establishing a statewide network of volunteer river monitors. The Saco River Corridor Commission water testing program was held up as a model for enlisting volunteers to collect water quality data.

We're proud our program is on the leading edge of citizen-led river protection efforts in Maine.

In 2004, the fourth year we collected data from the Saco, Ossipee and Little Ossipee Rivers, our volunteers once again did a wonderful job. Twice a month, from mid-April to the end of October, they went about their work, undeterred by springtime bug attacks, occasional inclement weather or temperamental water testing meters. Volunteers ranged in age from grade school students to retirees.

They measured pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and turbidity at all 27 of our test sites. In addition, phosphorus, nitrogen and *E. Coli* bacteria samples were collected at certain

sites for laboratory analysis. During the winter of 2004-05, we'll scour the river of numbers that have been generated to see if, after four years of testing, water quality trends are emerging. Then, we can work to address problem areas.

Grassroots river protection...That's what the Saco River Corridor Commission has been about since its inception in 1973, when local residents took the initiative to protect their beautiful rivers. We look forward to working with volunteer water testers to further the founders' vision in 2005.

*Jeff Stern is the Water Quality Program Director at the Saco River Corridor Commission (SRCC) in Cornish, Maine. SRCC is made up of 20 towns from Fryeburg to Saco, Maine. GMCG has been partnering with the SRCC on the Water Quality Monitoring Program since 2001. Please visit their website at [www.srcc-maine.org](http://www.srcc-maine.org).*

# U.S. Senate committee approves \$1.2 million funding for Trout Pond Forest

The Senate Appropriations Committee has provided \$1.2 million in funding from the USDA Forest Legacy Program (FLP) for the purchase of Trout Pond in Freedom New Hampshire. Green Mountain Conservation Group, the Friends of Trout Pond and the Trust for Public Land have been working together for over three years to secure this grant for the protection of Trout Pond. The 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 was approved by the full Senate for the 2005 fiscal year in early December.

As reported several times in the Watershed News over the past two years, the 2,600-acre Trout Pond tract is the largest privately owned parcel in the Town of Freedom and protection of this land will form a

5,362-acre block of conserved land within the Ossipee Watershed. The Town of Freedom will own the property and manage it as a Town Forest. The New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development will hold the conservation easement on the land to insure that it remains a working forest. 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.

The total cost of this project is \$2.3 million. Presently, in addition to the Forest Legacy Grant of \$1.2 million, a fund raising committee is conducting a capital campaign to seek the private donations from individuals and foundations. A State of New Hampshire LCHIP grant has been received for \$250,000, and the Town of Freedom will be asked to

contribute \$100,000 during the March 2005 town meeting representing the town's investment in the project.

To date the fund raising committee has raised over 70% of the \$500,000 needed as private donations through personal appeals. In early December, a general appeal letter was sent to the community to ask for help to raise the balance of the private funds needed to meet their goal. The Friends of Trout Pond, GMCG and TPL look forward to a successful completion of the campaign by the Spring of 2005.

If you would like to make a private pledge to be a part of securing and preserving this land for town forest, wildlife habitat, and public recreation, please complete the following:

## *Yes, I would like to help conserve Trout Pond!*

Tax deductible donations may be made by check or securities payable to Friends of Trout Pond, P. O. Box 259, Freedom, NH 03836. For information regarding donations of securities, please contact Edward Reed at (603) 539-6520 or Charles Depew at (603) 539-6303.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check for \_\_\_\_\_

I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year

My Employer will match my gift. \_\_\_\_\_ (Please provide necessary confirmation form from your employer.)

# Winter Calendar

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, MOOSE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL GREENWAYS AND THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP (GMCG)** will host a roundtable workshop on Community Conservation Easement Issues. The session will be a two-way discussion with conservation experts, Phil Auger and Mike West and community volunteers on key issues that communities and conservation organizations are experiencing with conservation easements. Topics will include: the responsibilities of conservation easements holders; mitigation easement; realistic expectations from community investments in development right purchases. There is no charge but pre-registration is requested. For more information or to register, call 603-817-8260 or email [info@mmsg.info](mailto:info@mmsg.info). **Wakefield Town Hall, Sanbornville, NH 7-9 p.m.**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 29TH, THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP (GMCG)** will celebrate its 7th Annual Meeting. A short business meeting will be followed by a potluck supper. Invited speakers, Mark and Marcia Wilson from "Eyes on Owls," will give a presentation on owls and their habitat. (See story page 1) **Runnells Hall, Chocorua 6-9 p.m.**

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9TH, THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP (GMCG) TOGETHER WITH THE WATERSHED COALITION AND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY** will host a meeting *Biodiversity in the Pine River Forest Region*. Jeff Lougeee, naturalist with the New Hampshire chapter of The Nature Conservancy, will give a slide presentation on the important biological diversity in the Pine River Forest area of the Ossipee Watershed. **Effingham Historical Society, Route 153, Center Effingham 7-9 p.m.**

**Saturday, Feb. 12 THE DAN HOLE POND WATERSHED TRUST AND GMCG** will host a snowshoe hike around the perimeter of the Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust property (the Merrow Property) beside Dan Hole Pond. This will be a three hour hike and will include some steep areas. There will be a "warm house" in Roland Park, Center Ossipee for lunch break. Call Alix or Bob Pratt if you are interested or for directions: 207-233-9249 or email [alixandbob@earthlink.net](mailto:alixandbob@earthlink.net)

**Saturday, Feb. 26 THE FRIENDS OF TROUT POND TOGETHER WITH THE FREEDOM CONSERVATION COMMISSION** will sponsor "*Town Chat: Impact of the town forest on your taxes*" Coffee and Donuts with Dijit Taylor ("Dollars & Sense of Open Space") and Peter Pohl (UNH Cooperative Ext.) **Freedom Town Hall, 9 a.m.**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3, THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP (GMCG)** will host a meeting about watershed water quality. Jennifer Smith, GMCG Water Quality Program Coordinator, will speak about the 2004 WQM season and the upcoming 2005 season. Bob Craycraft, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, and Michelle Daley, UNH Natural Resources Department, will join Jennifer to present the 2004 Water Quality Data. **Runnells Hall, Chocorua, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.**

## 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 \_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# The Watershed News

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

Deadline for Spring  
Newsletter is March 21.

At night, fresh scent  
almost snow, almost winter  
almost clear and fresh and new.

Days ago in morning sun,  
Remaining leaves stirred in gentle applause.  
Wafts of gold sifted over  
the dried remains of summer.

I, too, let go at last  
Releasing the undone.  
November air upon us, now.  
And soon, the storms of winter.

No matter.  
Northern skies of heaven blue  
Fold into winter nights  
bold stars and muffled trails.

release to drifts of white

Morning dawns to wafts of white  
sifting over the remaining tones of fall,  
covering the ground  
like an offering, sweet peace.

kmr 11/5/04 and 12/3/04

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

## Effingham Writers Night

Poets, writers, readers and listeners are invited to attend a Writer's Night at the Effingham Public Library on the **first Thursday of the month**. The Effingham Public Library is located at 30 Townhouse Road in Effingham. For more information, contact: Marilyn O'Kelly at 539-1537 or [Effinghamlibrary@hotmail.com](mailto:Effinghamlibrary@hotmail.com)





***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*