

◆ The Watershed News ◆

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

GMCG Celebrates Thomas H. Carpenter Preserve

The Green Mountain Conservation Group is excited to announce the gift of the Thomas H. Carpenter Preserve. This 148 acre parcel of land in Freedom is host to important forestry, animal habitat, watershed protection and unusual geology. Located on the northeast side of Cragged Mountain and adjacent to the Eaton Town Forest and the State of Maine boundary line, it also provides an important wildlife corridor.

There are several streams on the property, old cellar holes, steep slopes, glacial scree and granite cliffs and a diverse forest population including a beech grove completely marked by bears.

Tom Carpenter first came to Freedom in 1965 as a counselor at Cragged Mountain Farm. He continued spending his summers until 1972 with the last few years as Director of the camp. "I loved the land and the town—there was

something so fundamental and pristine about it." During the winter, Carpenter would often stay at the cabins and cross country ski. When the land came up for sale in 1972, he purchased it with Betsey Nissen (daughter of Dr. Henry Utter, founder of Cragged Mountain Farm) and they split the property. He had dreamed of living on the land and one summer he did for one month—in a tent.

"The silence up there on the mountainside was wonderful—the signs and occasional sounds of animals that visited were thrilling. A stream running through the land formed a pool that overflowed when it rained. It was a memorable month," reminisced Tom.

As time passed, he found himself further away from Freedom and spending much of his time in Europe where he was working as an archaeologist. In 2001, in Italy, Carpenter had a conversation with fellow conservationists who spent time in New Hampshire. They urged him to

see about preserving this special land permanently.

When Tom and Betsey purchased the land it had belonged to a paper company. At that time, Eaton had been able to obtain a large holding as Town Forest through the "Forever Green" program, but Freedom had not been interested. In conserving this property, a corridor of nearly 1800 contiguous acres has been created. "Making this link permanent now pleases me greatly. One need only slide silently through the land on cross country skis on a cold January day to know why this is so important."

GMCG would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Tom Carpenter for this generous gift of land.

Come celebrate this new Preserve at a GMCG's 4th Biennial Land Celebration October 5th from 5-7:30 on Green Mountain. See Calendar page 7 for more information.

Students Lend a Hand for Macro Project

BY LIZ AHEARN

I read about GMCG's macro-invertebrate training program in the newspaper and decided to get wet! I became interested in macros in the middle of seventh grade when I was going to my old school, a place with many GMCG connections. Some people had come in from a group now called the Saco/Ossipee Water Quality Monitoring Program and talked about the ecosystem, how pollution affected it, and how these



Taylor and Eliza of Tamworth Learning Circle school sort macros at Mill Brook.

aquatic bugs help to give us an idea about how the ecosystem is doing. They let me hold a horsehair worm, which is an aquatic worm that was about one foot in length and looked like a piece of a horse's tail. This creature amazed me at the time, as did the rest of the bugs there. I had forgotten all about the horsehair worm, until I read the article on macroinvertebrate training in the *Granite State News*.

(continued on page 4)

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.

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Special Places Green Mountain: Celebrating a Local Landmark

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 224-4113, or email www.lchip.org.

BY TARA SCHROEDER

Historians, naturalists, residents and bears agree: Green Mountain is a very special place. The mountain holds a unique place in Effingham's history, and has had many ecological, social and economic values over the years. Recently, historian Eric Potter treated local residents to readings and recollections of the mountain and daily life in the town. He explained that the mountain was originally granted to Nathaniel Goodkin, Thomas Marston, John Leavitt, Samuel Marston, Thomas Parsons and seventy four others in 1749. The original property that contained "six miles asquare" was added to later in the year when it was found that nearly two miles of it was too rocky and steep to be developed.

The mountain is a familiar landmark that can be seen from miles around, orienting people to the region and providing a sense of place to locals. The view of the mountain from surrounding areas is spectacular enough, but the 360 degree view from the summit tower is even more impressive. The lookout was moved to Green Mountain from Cedar Mountain in Maine in 1922, and shortened from its original height of 47 feet to 39 feet in 1977 with a Maine-style "perched" wooden cab placed on top. Now in part-time service, it is the only such structure in the state. "Ranger Harry" Libby, the familiar face of the fire tower that sits atop the 1,884 foot mountain, maintains that on clear days he can see barges coming to port in Portland Harbor.

This year, he spotted nine forest fires from his lofty perch as compared with last year's more than thirty sightings.

Not only has the mountain been used for locating forest fires, it has also served as a popular site for recreation, logging, pasturing sheep, hunting, and not too long ago, for collecting ice from its caves to make ice cream on hot summer days. The *Dover Gazette* mentions a crowd of "at least one thousand people" celebrating July 4th on the summit as far back as 1857. That same year, The Green Mountain House inn was built on the summit and sheltered guests for three years before burning down.

From an ecological perspective, the open space on and around the mountain is critical for wildlife that depend upon large, unfragmented lands for survival. Naturalist Dave Anderson of the Forest Society noted that deer, moose, black bear, fisher, coyote, fox, and porcupine are common residents. Many other mammals, raptors, songbirds, and amphibians rely on the mountain's forests and vernal pools for their survival.

Green Mountain also protects and maintains water quality and quantity. Ground and surface waters, including wetlands, are protected by the natural filtering that the mountain soils and vegetation provide, thereby controlling sedimentation and turbidity. Uplands that have been extensively developed can negatively impact water quantity and quality, energy and nutrient systems, and wildlife habitat.

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests has an opportunity to protect the Dearborn Trail corridor that leads to the summit. The addition of this 87 acre tract would create more than 10,800 acres of acres of contiguously protected land. FMI, contact 224-9945.

Tara Schroeder is GMCG's Program Director.

BY SUSAN LEE

The Ossipee Pine Barrens, located between Lake Ossipee and Silver Lake, are an area of glacial sand and gravel supporting rare forests of pitch pine and scrub oak. Once covering nearly 7,000 acres in Carroll County, due to development and fire suppression, the Ossipee Pine Barrens have been reduced to approximately 2,500 acres. Stretched across the Towns of Madison, Tamworth, Freedom and Ossipee, the Ossipee Pine Barrens sit over the largest stratified drift aquifer in New Hampshire. The sand and gravel of the Barrens acts as a natural sand filter for the aquifer below.

Thousands of years ago, melting glaciers deposited sand and gravel in the Pine Barrens area. These sandy soils are acidic and dry, so leaves and twigs that fall from the pitch pines and scrub oaks decay slowly and build up on the ground. The area is a patchwork, dense and tangled in some areas and open and airy in others where blueberries abound. The Pine Barrens are home to a wonderful variety of birds and animals not found in other habitats.

Several of the bird species common in the Pine Barrens are declining elsewhere and are birds of concern, if not endangered. Here you can easily find eastern towhee (formerly called the rufous sided towhee), brown thrasher, common nighthawk, prairie warbler and whip-poor-will. Other birds that nest in or pass through the Ossipee Pine Barrens include black-billed and yellow-billed cuckoos, numerous sparrow species (field, vesper, song, chipping), killdeer, indigo bunting, chestnut-sided warbler, yellow warbler, American goldfinch, eastern phoebe, gray catbird and eastern kingbird.

Fire has been a naturally occurring event in the Ossipee Pine Barrens for thousands of years. Historically, natural

wildfires started by lightning burned the Barrens every 5 to 50 years, far more frequently than other forest types. The plants which typify the Pine Barrens are perfectly suited not only to the sandy dry soil, but are also adapted to survive regular repeated burnings. Pitch pines (*Pinus rigida*) have thick bark that insulates the heartwood of the tree, even in intense fires. Scrub oaks (*Quercus ilicifolia*) and low-bush blueberry have extensive roots that send out prolific sprouts after their crowns have been burned.



Bob Hardy of the Department of Resources and Economic Development and Jeff Lougee of The Nature Conservancy stand in a previous burn area of the Pine River State Forest.

The Pine Barrens are a fire dependent community. These forests need fire to promote growth of new seedlings and to burn out faster growing species that are not fire-tolerant, such as white pine. Without fire, the Pine Barrens, and many of their inhabitants, will cease to exist.

The last fires in the Ossipee Pine Barrens occurred in 1947 and again in 1955 when nearly 3,000 acres burned in Madison and Freedom. Since then, decades of fire suppression, for reasons of public safety, have reduced the

existing barrens, and have created dangerous levels of fuel on the forest floor.

Over the past 20 years, the Nature Conservancy has acquired nearly 2,000 acres of these unique forests. Recently the Conservancy has announced plans to conduct controlled burns over 15 acres of Pine Barrens in Madison and Freedom. The carefully planned and controlled fires, essential to the health and survival of the Pine Barrens, are scheduled to take place between September 5 and 29. Jeff Lougee of the Nature Conservancy was quoted in a recent Conway Daily Sun article on the proposed burn. The burns benefit not only the habitat and its unique flora and fauna, but also families and businesses in the neighboring communities by reducing fuel loads that have build up over decades.

The Ossipee Pine Barrens, and the birds and other wildlife that depend on them, are at risk not just from fire suppression, but additionally from threats of development, gravel extraction and incompatible forestry. The Nature Conservancy is dedicated to protecting this incredible natural area. For more information on the burns or on how you can help the Conservancy's Campaign for the Ossipee Pine Barrens and Silver Lake Watershed, contact Tiffany McKenna at 603 224-5853 ext. 15 or tmckenna@tnc.org.

Susan Lee is an avid birder and longtime resident of the Ossipee Watershed. Share bird sightings or comments with her by email: leegull1@earthlink.net.



Each year NH Audubon staff conduct surveys the Ossipee Pine Barrens for whip-poor-wills. To learn more about this long-term study, visit: www.nh Audubon.org/

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 commission's booth featuring a mammal skull display and face painting was a hit at "Celebrate Effingham" on July 22. Members attended UNH Cooperative Extension workshops on "GPS & Compass" and "Evaluating Wetlands". UNH undergraduates will help with a Natural Resources Inventory project to analyze the aquatic connectivity in the town. Dr. Rick Van de Poll is mapping Wilkinson Brook Basin for the Wetlands Inventory project. He has carried out seven visits and intends to finish in another two. The commission is working with DES on a wetland violation issue and has reviewed a permit by notification application. The commission was saddened by the passing of long time member George Mueller.

Madison

The commission sponsored Ben Kilham's talk on wild bears for its annual Old Home Week lecture along with a beautiful walk on Mike and Penny Hathaway's land. A GIS mapping session is planned to identify potentially large important land areas that may benefit from conservation easements. Reports continue to better document the easements and properties owned by the town. The Nature Conservancy's interest and campaign for monies to fund the acquisition of the Goodwin family Trust Land surrounding Cooks Pond is enthusiastically supported. UNH's Natural Resource major students will do a natural resource inventory and consider trail management on the new Louise Wold Conservation Area.

Ossipee

Mark Ciarfella oversaw a successful first season of Lake Hosts at the Pequawket Trail boat ramp on Lake Ossipee. As volunteer Point

Person, Mark supervised three paid lake hosts and was assisted by commissioner and volunteer Jean Hansen. Mark calls the first year "absolutely outstanding" and reports no milfoil but has sent in suspicious plants for testing. The commission has been working closely with the planning board to develop a Natural Resource Chapter for the Master Plan revision. The commission's Vice Chair receives copies of the board's working documents and attends meetings and site visits. The commission is actively studying ways to preserve rural character and clear, dark night skies in the face of development pressures, and is forwarding suggestions to the planning and zoning boards.

Sandwich

The annual "Five Days of Sandwich" event was well-received by residents. The commission is organizing materials to assist volunteer easement monitors with their respective properties. Revisions proposed by the planning board to the town's wetlands setback requirements may be considered. A report has been completed for aquatic invasive species monitoring from this summer on Squam Lake. All sites examined do not appear to have invasives at this time.

Freedom

Residents celebrated the Freedom Trout Pond Community Forest's permanent protection on the one year anniversary of the project's completion. The celebration on Saturday July 29th featured speakers from the town of Freedom, the Friends of Trout Pond, GMCG, and the Trust for Public Land. A 100-acre timber sale was recently completed in the forest, along with three information kiosks, a small parking area, and some road and erosion improvements to existing trails and access roads. Nature trail planning has begun, along with an application to enroll the property in the American Tree Farm system. The Department of Agriculture Wildlife habitat Incentive Program has awarded almost \$100,000 to the town for cost share practices in the forest.

(Insects continued from page 1) I like learning about new things and we have a pond in our backyard with lots of aquatic creatures in it, so I jumped at the chance to take the training and learn about these unusual bugs!

I learned a lot in the six hours of training. We watched a presentation, and then got acquainted with handling the macros, how to do the actual sampling at the river, and how we were to sort, identify, and count them. I was able to borrow my older sister's hip waders for the training. Hip waders are basically rubber boots that go all the way up to your hip, and because my sister is taller than I am and has a foot about two sizes bigger than I do, they went farther up than my hip, and were a bit big, I looked kind of comical while I was wearing them! My mom pointed out after I got home that this is considered a community service, which hadn't occurred to me so it was an added bonus! I contacted GMCG and asked that they write a letter explaining the project and what we do, I also gave them the address to send the letter to. They responded that they would be happy to write a letter for me! I also discovered that we will be doing something like this in my Environmental Science class that I have in the spring so I will be able to apply what I have learned to what I will be doing in school as well!

I was able to go to the only water sampling that wasn't during the school day. This sampling took place near my house in Ossipee on the Beech River. There were seven people involved, including myself, and we determined that the river was in very good health. Some people believe that there isn't a way to tell if a river is healthy, but the way we determine if it is healthy or not is by taking samples of the bugs that are in the river, sorting them by what kind of bug they are, and then counting how many there are of each kind. If there are lots of stonefly nymphs, mayfly nymphs and caddis fly larvae, then the river is healthy because these bugs are not very tolerant of pollution. In other words, if there is any pollution in the river, then these species are less likely to survive. If there are lots of black fly larvae, worms, leeches and midge larvae and few of the less tolerant species mentioned above, then the river is not as healthy because the midge and black fly larvae can withstand pollution. I love being able to take care of the area around me, while doing something I love to do and can have fun when I'm doing it! To learn more or get involved in this project, call GMCG at 539-1859.

Liz Ahearn is from Center Tuftonboro. She is an 11th grade student Kingswood Regional High School.

Watershed Water Quality Monitoring

Notes from Upstream

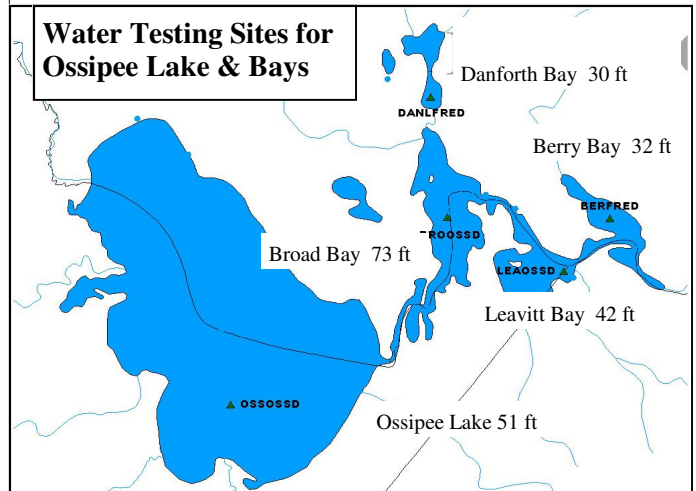
Sampling the Depths of Ossipee Lake

BY ELENA PIEKUT

Piecing together Watershed health is a long process—it requires the diligent gathering of data and, once a baseline is established, the careful consideration of that data's meaning. The Volunteer Lake Assessment Program, GMCG's state partner in Ossipee Lake deep water testing, calls it "monitoring": keeping track of, checking continually. Fall marks end of GMCG's fifth year of routine water quality monitoring.

GMCG conducts deep water testing in addition to sampling the lake's tributaries at their mouths and rivers and streams farther upland. Ossipee Lake and its four bays—Leavitt, Broad, Berry, and Lower Danforth Pond, are each sampled near their deepest spots. By using a Kemmerer bottle (a gift of the Ossipee Rotary Club), a sample is collected at each of the water body's three thermally stratified layers. Samples are analyzed for chlorophyll, chloride, pH, acid neutralizing capacity, turbidity, total phosphorus, and conductivity. In the field, water clarity is also determined by lowering a secchi-disk until it can no longer be seen and measuring that depth. Once a summer, the deep spot is also sampled for phytoplankton.

The types of phytoplankton, or microscopic algae which live in the water, can be used as a general indicator of water quality. In the case of some species, however, they can also pose serious risk to animals and humans. The blue-green cyanobacteria, naturally occurring worldwide, produce harmful toxins. This is not a problem until an algal bloom occurs with cyano-



bacteria in large numbers. Algal blooms happen as a result of high nutrients in a favorable climate of light and oxygen. This year in New Hampshire, record rainfall in late spring and the associated runoff into lakes and ponds resulted in higher nutrient levels and as a result, cyanobacteria have become a serious problem in a few New Hampshire lakes this summer. To learn more about Ossipee Lake deep water testing results and water quality data analysis, be sure to attend the State of the Watershed presentation on November 17th.

Elena Piekut is GMCG's Water Quality Intern.

Notes from Downstream

Saco River Sees Intense Recreation Pressures

BY DENNIS FINN

With summer drawing to a close here in Western Maine, we at the Saco River Corridor Commission reflect back on the scenes we remember on the river. Most of our recollections are good. A strong water quality monitoring program, clean water and while the weather didn't always cooperate, a strong turnout of canoeists and recreationists on the river.

At last count, the Saco River alone sees about 100,000 user days per summer. The river is a huge attraction to people from all over New England. In fact, it is estimated that over 3 million people live within a 3 hour drive from the river. The rivers in our part of the world are a tremendous draw to people of all walks of life. Unfortunately, along with the canoe traffic come people's trash. For some unknown reason the Tragedy of the Commons is played out along our waterways. For a decade, the Saco River Recreation Council has employed river runners, basically, a litter patrol to help keep the river and its shores clean.

Recently, an event was held over the weekend of September 10, 2006 to help in the clean-up effort. A consortium of concerned parties led by a local resident, Michelle Broyer of

Fryeburg, all pitched in to clean up the river's banks. Involved in the effort were the Nature Conservancy, the Saco River Recreation Council, the Appalachian Mountain Club and the State's Department of Parks and Recreation along with a large number of volunteers. Together they picked up several dumpster loads of trash in a short stretch from the Swan Falls Canoe put-in to the Canal Bridge in Fryeburg.

It was a huge effort that was wonderful in its productivity and another demonstration of the power of advocacy. Of course, the GMCG and all of its members are no stranger to that notion. Hopefully, this clean-up will become an annual event not only because it's needed, but because it's the right thing to do.

Here on the Maine side of the border we are just starting to see how important citizen involvement can be. We sincerely hope it is a trend that continues into the future for the benefit of all.

Dennis Finn is Executive Director at the Saco River Corridor Commission in Cornish, Maine. SRCC is made up of 20 towns from Fryeburg to Saco, Maine. GMCG has been partnering with SRCC since 2001.

*Field Notes***The Importance of Uplands to Wetlands**

BY MARK KERN

The vast majority of wetlands in New England are valuable natural resources that provide important benefits to the environment and people. But all wetlands are not created equal. There is a huge difference between a rare Atlantic White Cedar community as opposed to a roadside ditch.

Furthermore, many well-intended people make the mistake of treating wetlands as if they were islands in an invisible landscape rather than part of the natural ecosystem with uplands. In fact, many uplands are valuable in their own right and are a major factor in protecting the value of wetlands. There is a huge difference between a wetland in the woods versus one with parking lots all around it. While these isolation impacts are true for many wetland functions and values, I will focus on wildlife impacts in this article.

Almost all the wetland-dependent species in New England also need adjacent uplands to survive, and half of wetland-dependent species use upland corridors more than wetlands for movement. Development in uplands can greatly reduce the value of wetlands without directly filling them, such as green lawns extending down to the edge of a stream. Upland buffers are essential for protecting water quality and wildlife.

Vernal Pools are one of the best examples of the essential role that uplands play in the value of aquatic resources. Most amphibians live hundreds of feet into the upland forest for the better part of the year and travel to the wetlands to breed. The food or energy that drives the life cycle in the pools comes from upland trees. The young frogs and salamanders then leave the pools in the late summer bringing that energy back to the upland forest. Protecting the pools and ignoring the upland makes little long-term sense.

On the other hand, turtles generally interact with wetlands and uplands in the opposite manner. Most of the year turtles spend large amounts of time in aquatic environments but they must leave the wetlands to breed in the sandy upland areas. Many of these species travel several thousand feet or more to find mates and suitable nesting areas. Wetlands,

uplands, and travel corridors must be carefully considered if our rare turtles are to survive.

New England is relatively water-rich and state and federal programs in New England issue thousands of wetland permits to fill approximately 400 acres of wetlands per year. However, we lose several orders of magnitude more upland each year (approximately 70,000 acres). Much of this upland loss greatly reduces the functions and values of the aquatic environment primarily by fragmentation and non-point source pollution.

In general, direct losses to our aquatic resources are far better protected in New England than wetland functions and values. We face greater ecological risk from the fragmentation of our intact habitat blocks containing wetlands by the loss of 70,000 acres of upland. These indirect impacts include habitat fragmentation, non-point source runoff, invasive species, soil compaction, stream temperature change, nest predation and parasitism, noise, and interruption of travel corridors.

In New England, we often have preservation of upland buffers in our mitigation packages partly because our other choices are not appealing—it is very hard to find good restoration sites and we don't want applicants destroying good upland. Examples include upland buffers for valuable streams or corridors linking other preserved land parcels that will protect the movement of wildlife between habitats.

While preserving an upland buffer does not replace lost wetland functions, it can protect important water quality or wildlife habitat values from future development thereby doing more long term good for protecting the ecological integrity of the landscape. No-net-loss of wetland acres (counting and replacing acres) is insufficient without much more attention to long-term ecological integrity. An approach focused disproportionately on wetlands (restoration and creation) at the expense of protecting upland buffers will at times prevent biologists from doing what is best for the aquatic environment in the long run.

Mark Kern works for EPA Boston as a wetlands scientist.

Protecting Our Shared Wetlands

On August 30th, forty people from across the Watershed and nearby towns attended a Wetlands Forum. Sandy Crystall of the Wetlands Bureau described wetlands as a valuable resource and noted benefits specific to the Ossipee Watershed region, from contributing to lake quality to providing wildlife habitat. She explained the DES permitting and mitigation processes, in addition to wetlands delineation. Steve Whitman shared recommendations for towns that wish to ensure adequate protection for local wetlands.

While the permitting process of the state exists to do just that—permit dredge and fill applications and construction in wetlands areas—some participants voiced that they would rather have local control of wetlands. Others expressed the need to have similar protection for important wetlands shared within the watershed. The Ossipee Watershed Coalition is making strides in this direction, and welcomes community input for its projects. FMI or to get involved, call 539-1859 or visit www.gmcg for events.

Fall Calendar

Thursday, October 5th: GMCG Community Land Celebration. Join in the celebration of the Carpenter Preserve--a 148 acre forest preserve on the northeast side of Cragged Mountain recently donated to GMCG by Tom Carpenter. This important forest land abuts the Eaton Town Forest and will be preserved for its forest resources, wildlife habitat and water protection and will be open for public access. During this community event graciously hosted by Lakeview Neurorehabilitation Center, Trish Garrigan of the EPA will present GMCG with the Environmental Merit Award and Dan Sundquist of the Forest Society will speak about land protection in New Hampshire. 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Lakeview Neurorehabilitation Center on Green Mountain in Effingham. A free barbeque dinner will be held from 5:00-6:30, followed by presentations from 6:30-7:30. Call 539-1859 to register.

Thursday, November 2nd: Ossipee Watershed Coalition Meeting. What will your community look like in 10 years? 20 years? 50 years? What can you do now to plan ahead? The Ossipee Watershed Coalition Steering Committee will have a work session on the Ossipee Watershed Natural Resource Guidebook to document significant resources and prioritize planning needs. Community Planner Steve Whitman will facilitate discussion and next steps for the two-year project. 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Runnells Hall, Chocorua.

Friday, November 17th: State of the Watershed Presentation. Watershed professionals from UNH and the Department of Environmental Services will present findings from the Ossipee Watershed water quality monitoring programs. GMCG staff, local students, and volunteers will share their experiences from the river, lake and macroinvertebrate monitoring projects. The evening will feature hands-on displays, data analysis, and an opportunity to ask questions of the experts. Doris L. Benz Center in Sandwich from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 7th: Ossipee Watershed Coalition Meeting. The Ossipee Watershed Coalition Steering Committee will have a work session on the Ossipee Watershed Natural Resource Guidebook to document significant resources and prioritize planning needs. Community Planner Steve Whitman will facilitate discussion and next steps for the two-year project. 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Runnells Hall, Chocorua.

January, 2007 TBA: Star Gazing & Protecting the Night Sky. Learn about stars and constellations of the winter sky and join Robert Gillette of Ossipee who will present the Dark Skies Initiative about how towns can protect the night sky from light pollution. 7:00-9:00 p.m. Location TBA.



**Please call 539-1859 for more information about any of the events.*

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The Watershed News

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**Save the Date:
October 5th
Land Stewardship
Celebration & BBQ
at Lakeview
NeuroRehabilitation
Center in Effingham**

**Deadline for
Winter Newsletter
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