
◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume VIII, Issue II

Spring 2006

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

Groundwater Conference to be Held on Earth Day

Last September, citizens and municipal officials attending the Ossipee Watershed Coalition Conference raised questions about the future of the region's groundwater resources. A common concern addressed was how could towns protect groundwater and shared drinking water resources. Questions about both water quality as well as water quantity arose, as did the issue of how towns can protect their water resources if neighboring communities are not. Other questions discussed were: What are towns' rights and how can they manage large transnational corporations proposing to extract millions of gallons of water each year.

The Ossipee Watershed towns are fortunate to be situated above a significant stratified drift aquifer capable of yielding a large volume of water and considered a critically important statewide drinking water source. Since this aquifer consists mainly of layers of sand and gravel, it recharges quickly with rainwater, but is also vulnerable to easy contamination.

Safe drinking water is central to our health, well-being, and the economic viability of the region. Water is also a limited resource that requires protection from over-extraction and pollution. To address these issues, GMCG and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will host a Groundwater Conference on April 22nd at the Cody Education Center in Freedom. The conference will

provide municipalities with information about the science of groundwater resources, local and state level planning and legislation, and international trade agreements that potentially threaten groundwater supplies.

Speakers and exhibitors will include the Environmental Protection Agency, N.H. Department of Environmental Services, Lakes Region and North Country Planning Commissions, Arnie Alpert of the N.H. American Friends Service Committee, Saco River Corridor Commission, Save Our Groundwater, and N.H. Water Table. A moderated afternoon forum will provide an opportunity to ask questions of the experts. .

The conference will take place from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Cody Education Center on Ossipee Lake Road in Freedom. Registration and breakfast is from 8:30-9:00 a.m. and speakers will present from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. A buffet lunch will be followed by an afternoon forum. Participants are asked to pre-register by contacting 539-1859 or emailing gmcgnh@adelphia.net. More information is available at www.gmcg.org. A contribution of \$5 is requested to defray the cost of breakfast and lunch. Fun and educational kids' activities including planting seeds, games, a scavenger hunt and nature walk are also planned for the day in order for parents to attend the conference

Special thanks to event sponsors: EPA, N.H. Charitable Foundation, and Timberland.

Rural Planning Sparks New Conversation

GMCG hosted a meeting of the Ossipee Watershed Coalition on March 24 and introduced the next phase—Rural Planning. Since 2004, GMCG and the Coalition have hosted numerous workshops on natural resource based planning. Working with Environmental Planner, Steve Whitman, the Coalition has been promoting the concept of planning for our shared growth while still protecting our natural resources.

Over 50 residents from the six watershed towns attended the Friday night meeting. Whitman gave a short presentation about the history of the Coalition. In addition, he mentioned statistics about New Hampshire and the fact that for four decades it has been one of the fastest growing states in the country. Clearly, growth is headed our way. How do we want to plan for it? How

can we strike a balance using planning tools: town master plans; regulatory tools; non-regulatory tools. Following Whitman's presentation, attendees broke into groups to review their town maps and list the top priority natural resources that should be conserved.

Over the next two years, GMCG will work with the six towns and Whitman to create a Natural Resource Guide for the Ossipee Watershed. What information would you like to see in this guide? Rural Planning needs to be an active process. What resources need to be conserved and where can growth occur so that Rural Character will be preserved? Please join us for the next meeting of the Coalition with Steve Whitman on May 18th. Please visit www.gmcg.org for more information.

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

Funding Needed for LCHIP

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

For the fourth decade in a row, New Hampshire continues to be the fastest growing state in New England, with about 17,500 acres of forest lost every year, mostly to development. In contrast, The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), the state's premier program to support conservation of important lands and historic sites, has been seriously under-funded for years, having been cut from \$5 million a year in 2001 to just \$750,000 a year since.

Recently, LCHIP announced the top 25 places that merit and require immediate protection, selected from a long list of 288 requests by communities for over \$65 million in funding. As the list gets pared down due to funding restraints until now just 12 projects have been invited to submit full applications for funding consideration, what do we and future generations stand to lose from the 276 other projects that will not be receiving funding or protection this year? Among the many historical meeting houses, farmlands, rivers, lakes and forests that did not receive funding was the pine barrens of Ossipee, which LCHIP has stated will need protection in the next two years.

"Given the funding we have available our approach has been to prioritize large land protection projects in the most rapidly developing parts of the state, as well as preservation projects that protect NH's most at-risk historic resources," said Rachel Rouillard, LCHIP executive director. "If more funding becomes available, we will be

able support more projects in the top group," she said. Should additional funding become available to the program this year, a second round of grant reviews will consider funding for projects that did not receive funding in the first round.

Of note is the fact that LCHIP funds only cover on average, 20% of the grant project costs. The rest of the funding comes from matching funds that are leveraged by their funds. For every dollar that is invested in LCHIP, an additional \$5.70 in local, private and federal funds are brought to the table. With LCHIP funds shrinking, the ability to leverage funds for worthy projects is also at stake. "The sheer number and character of the important projects represented demonstrates the immediate need in New Hampshire for a strong response to ensure that these places remain a part of our heritage and landscape," said Rouillard. "Efforts over the next ten years will determine the future of New Hampshire's communities and rural character."

Since its inception in 2000, LCHIP has funded 115 projects in 91 communities, protecting more than 200,000 acres of land. As the political debate continues and the amount of state funding for 2006 remains in flux, designated funding for future years is still a looming question. Attempts to appropriate long term funding from a N.H. beverage tax and a tax on property that electric transmission run along, failed earlier this year, and there are no certainties of state funding in the future.

What is clear, however, is that everyone stands to benefit from saving these special places that have contributed to our unique state heritage, wildlife habitat, clean air and water, and quality of life. Strong public support for a state funding program is needed now. Please contact Senator Joe Kenney (271-3073) today to voice your support for this program.

Avian Flu and Wild Birds

BY SUSAN LEE

During the second week of February 2006, western Europe reported its first cases of the highly deadly H5N1 strain of avian flu in wild birds. Mute swans in Italy, Greece, Slovenia, and most recently on the German Baltic island of Rugen, have been found dead apparently from avian flu. The current outbreak started in Hong Kong in 1997. H5N1 has already caused huge economic damage to the poultry industry. World wide there is talk of a possible "pandemic" affecting humans, although at present H5N1 is not easily transmitted to humans. As a recent press release by Bird Life International points out, many people have been exposed to infected birds in the present outbreak, but just 147 people as of January 10, 2006, have caught the disease. Unfortunately more than half of them (78) have died.

While some government agencies and commercial poultry interests have called for culling of wild bird flocks, draining of wetlands and destruction of nests, conservation and ornithology groups world wide question whether wild birds are the cause of the spread of the most recent dangerous strain of bird flu and whether these drastic measures would be effective in curbing the spread of the disease.

There are many different subtypes of Avian or "A" type virus. These subtypes differ because of changes in certain proteins (hemagglutinin [HA] and neuraminidase [NA]) on the surface of the virus. There are 16 known HA subtypes and 9 known NA subtypes. Many different combinations of HA and NA are possible. Avian influenza viruses have been found in many bird species, but are most often found in migratory waterfowl, especially the mallard duck. The only major mortality event known in wild birds killed common terns in South Africa in 1961. This was the first influenza virus from marine birds and it was classified as subtype H5N3.

Influenza virus has been found in wild birds throughout the year, but waterfowl are the only group in which these viruses are found year round. The highest occurrence of infection is in the late summer months in juvenile waterfowl when they assemble for their first

southward migration. The number of infected waterfowl decreases in the fall as birds migrate toward their southern wintering grounds and is lowest in the spring, when only one bird in 400 is infected during the return migration to the north. In contrast, the number of birds infected is highest in shorebirds (primarily ruddy turnstone) and gulls (herring) during spring (May and June). Infection in shorebirds is also high in September and October. Influenza viruses have not been found in shorebird and gull populations during other months of the year. The viruses have been found in marine birds such as murres, kittiwakes, and puffins while they have been nesting, but the pelagic habits of these species preclude sampling during other periods of the year.

Most bird flu poses little risk to animals or humans. Most strains circulate in wild birds at low levels and at worst cause only mild disease. In contrast, some forms of the H5 subtypes can cause extensive mortality in domestic poultry. These "High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) viruses occur in poultry where intensive rearing and crowded conditions allow the virus to evolve into a highly pathogenic form. Wild birds also can be infected and killed by HPAI viruses. H5N1 is such an HPAI virus.

Dr. Leon Bennun, Director of Science, Policy and Information for BirdLife International wrote in an environmental editorial for the BBC News, that while it is possible that the swans now dying in Europe caught avian flu from other wild birds, it is more likely that before starting their spring migration north they picked up the virus from farms, either from infected poultry or their feces. Mute swans often graze in agricultural fields. The use of untreated chicken, duck and other poultry manure as fertilizer and feed for pigs, fish and other livestock is widespread in Asia and Eastern Europe. Birds infected with the H5N1 virus excrete virus particles in nasal, respiratory and fecal material.

A January 18, 2006 article on the BirdLife International website, lists three likely transmission routes for bird flu: movement of untreated poultry and poultry products, and the global trade in poultry; the trade in caged wild birds; and the use of

infected poultry manure as fertilizer in agriculture and aquaculture, and as feed in fish-farms and pig-farms.

Whereas wild birds may play a role in the spread of this disease, the early spread through Asia appears to more closely track the commercial movements of domestic poultry. If migratory birds were the key factor, outbreaks would also have been expected to occur in areas of the world where they have not been recorded, such as the Philippines, Taiwan and Australia which are along regular migratory routes for Asian birds. The timing and pattern of outbreaks have been largely inconsistent with wild bird movements, but they have often followed major trade routes.

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) strongly opposes the culling of wild birds and the draining of wetlands as a means of controlling the spread of H5N1. According to ABC, the best science as well as common sense, indicates that these actions are impractical, and could even result in an increase in the spread of the virus by causing birds to disperse more widely. The World Health Organization and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization have also taken this position.

So far, governmental organizations have been reluctant to draw attention to the role of intensive agriculture, because of the impact on national economies and on access to cheap sources of protein. Bennun suggests that it may be time to take a long, hard look at the way the world feeds itself, and to decide whether the price paid for modern farming in terms of risk to human health and the Earth's biodiversity is too high.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology points out that although exposure to bird flu is currently not a threat in North America, people can contract other illnesses from sick birds and their fecal material. Avoid handling sick birds and always wash your hands with soap and water after filling feeders. There is no need to stop watching, feeding or attracting birds to your yard because of avian flu.

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.

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 first bylaws were signed into effect February 26, 2006, including three officials and two standing committees (Wetlands Review Committee; Open Space Committee). Marjory Swope of the N.H. Association of Conservation Commissions and Susan Slack, Esq. of the Local Government Center provided assistance. The Wetland Inventory project is progressing ahead of schedule. Dr. Van de Poll has reported finding a rare plant on DOT property. DOT has been notified of this finding and following their consent, conservation plans will be explored. The Commission plans to celebrate Earth Day April 22nd with the yearly road clean up as well as the Keep Effingham Litter Free (KELF) efforts by the town volunteers. The meeting place is at the fire station (near Nutter Road off Rt. 153) at 8:00 a.m., followed by a barbeque.

Madison

The town recently voted to appropriate \$5,000 towards the establishment of a Lands Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund for conservation land purchases or easements. This was a compromise to the initial request for \$20,000 in order to get the recommendation of the selectmen and budget committee. The commission will walk the Goodwin Town Forest with Jeff Lougee of The Nature Conservancy to learn more about the forest's important pitch pine. As a result of increasing development, almost \$25,000 was earned this year through the 50% land use change tax. Money is now available for land owners to use for legal and assessment/survey costs to establish conservation easements.

Ossipee

A subcommittee was formed to cooperate with the Recreation Department to foster public understanding and appreciation of Ossipee's public land and parks, focusing in the near future on cleaning up recreation lands. Doug Long, biologist for the National Wild Turkey Federation for New York and Northern New England, recently gave a public lecture on wild turkeys for the town. The commission is currently considering ways to protect viewsheds and how to control light pollution (see Technical Bulletin 16, summer 2001, N.H. Office of State Planning). They will also be starting a Lake Host program in cooperation with Lakeside Marina at their landing and at the adjacent town landing at the end of Pequawket Trail.

Sandwich

The Sandwich Conservation Commission received another \$1,000 grant from the White Sylvania Trust, which will be applied towards a Plymouth State University (PSU) seed grant that will be looking at the Squam Range. The expenditure of these funds will include a closer survey of Squaw and Rattlesnake Coves for milfoil this summer. A PSU student will likely take part in this survey. The Commission also has a "Five Days of Sandwich" summer camp leader position open, which Tracy Olafsen has vacated after several years. For more information, please contact the Sandwich Conservation Commission by calling 284-7701.

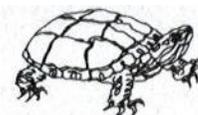
Freedom

The Commission continues updating the natural resource chapter of the Master Plan. The Town recently passed an article at town meeting stating that 50% of land use change tax go to the Commission with a cap of \$15,000. The 108th Freedom Old Home Week is scheduled from Friday, July 28th through Sunday, August 6th.

Earth Day Calendar Contest for Kids!



Wild & Wonderful Water & Wildlife



The 2006 Earth Day Calendar Contest has begun! This year the theme is "Wild & Wonderful Water & Wildlife". The contest is open to children grades K-6 from Ossipee, Tamworth, Sandwich, Freedom, Effingham, & Madison. Awards ceremony to take place at Watershed Weekend, July 22, 2006. Send us artwork of what water and wildlife mean to you, and you could win!

- **12 PRIZE WINNERS** receive signed books by local wildlife experts David Carroll and Ben Kilham, along with a calendar, t-shirt and GMCG memberships.
- **GRAND PRIZE WINNER** receives an additional prize package worth over \$150.00, including tickets to Story Land, Heritage New Hampshire, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center & more!

For an entry form and artwork requirements, please visit: www.gmcg.org.

Watershed Water Quality Monitoring

Notes from Upstream **Aquatic Critters: Fascinating Clues to Water Quality**



BY TARA SCHROEDER

Watershed residents will soon delve into the fascinating underwater world of predators, parasites, and curious creatures capable of clinging to rocks and secreting silken nets, pinching and blood sucking, and developing amazing strategies for surviving in one of the most dynamic environments on earth. This year, GMCG and local volunteers will investigate local waterbodies for macroinvertebrates, (organisms without a backbone and visible to the naked eye), as part of the DES biological assessment program.

Also called benthic organisms, these creatures are an extremely important part of river ecosystems, serving as the base of the food web and providing an important food source to many wildlife species. Most benthic macroinvertebrates are aquatic insects or the aquatic stages of insects. They also include such things as clams, snails, mussels, worms, spiders, and crayfish.

Benthic organisms are typically abundant in most streams and can be quickly identified by experienced biologists. Minimal equipment is necessary for collection, and the process can provide a cost effective approach to assessing habitat and water quality in streams and rivers. Vermont already uses this method of water quality monitoring for their surface waters. In the

Ossipee Watershed, where volunteers have helped to collect physical and chemical water quality data for four years, macroinvertebrate sampling will provide a more complete picture of watershed health by contributing to the understanding of stream biology as it is connected to water chemistry.

Collecting macroinvertebrates is fun and easy, and even more importantly, different species and populations act as indicator organisms for the ecosystem. With their simple physiology, these organisms are capable of limited physical or spatial movement, therefore, they have limited abilities to adapt to changes to their environment. As a result, their response to ecosystem disturbance is almost immediate. Some species are considered pollution *intolerant*, such as stoneflies and mayflies. Their presence indicates minimal disturbance to their habitat. Some species, like worms, midges and fly larvae, are classified as pollution *tolerant* species, and are capable of withstanding stresses better than pollution intolerant species. An over abundance of tolerant species indicates pollution.

The study this year may help determine if water quality has changed since sites in the watershed were first sampled between 1997 and 2001, and may also indicate if pollutants, such as volatile organic chemicals or heavy metals, are affecting local waterways. Look for sampling dates and a fall presentation in the next newsletter.

Notes from Downstream **SRCC's 6th Season will Include Macro- Sampling**

BY LYNN GORHAM

Our sixth water quality testing season is scheduled to begin the week of April 10th. Although we have no planned increases to the current 29 monitoring sites we are always looking to expand our monitoring efforts in the state of New Hampshire. In addition, we encourage input from the Maine communities within the Saco River Corridor regarding sites along the rivers that should be monitored. We are hoping to begin sampling macroinvertebrates during the 2006 testing season, and will have more information to come late in the spring.

We now have five years of data covering over 100 miles of river within the State of Maine. Since the inception of this program our dedicated volunteers and staff have performed over 19,000 individual water quality measurements. Our current parameters include:

pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, alkalinity, *Escherichia coli*, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, total phosphorus, and orthophosphate. Data is available on our website: www.srcc-maine.org. When you visit our website you can also learn more information about our monitoring program including the exact testing locations, explanations of all water quality parameters, why we chose to monitor those parameters, and product information on the equipment our volunteers use as part of our program.

If you have questions regarding data results or volunteer opportunities please contact Dennis Finn or Lynn Gorham at the Commission Offices located in Cornish, Maine. Telephone 207-625-8123.

Lynn Gorham is assistant 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***Effingham Wetlands Inventory & Assessment Project**

BY RICK VAN DE POLL

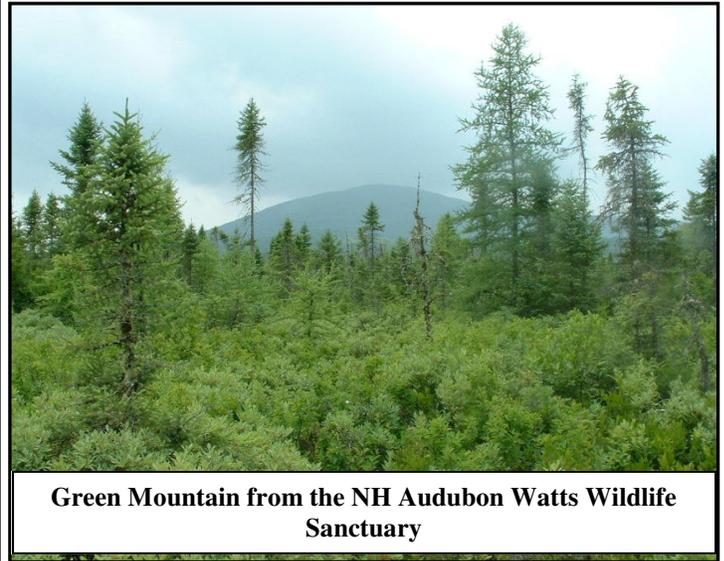
The Effingham Wetlands Inventory and Assessment Project came into being in early 2005 when Kamalendu Nath of the Effingham Conservation Commission (ECC) successfully applied for and negotiated a contract with the State Conservation Committee under the “Moose (License) Plate Grant” program or MPG. The Town of Effingham recognized that wetlands were vital to the citizens of Town, and that they need clean drinking water supplies, protection from flooding, wildlife habitat and other benefits that wetlands afford. Working with The Nature Conservancy, the Natural Heritage Bureau, and a private consulting firm from Sandwich, N.H. owned by Dr. Rick Van de Poll, the ECC formulated a two-year plan to inventory, evaluate, and strategize ways to protect the wetland resources of Town.

This two-year project will provide detailed, field-checked maps of all wetlands in Effingham, complete with photographs, GPS-based delineation data, and individual assessments of each wetland using the ‘NH Method.’ Large format maps will designate wetland cover types within each wetland complex, areas of permanent open water, riparian corridors, and exemplary natural communities. Charts and other graphics will demonstrate how each wetland compares with one another, as well as how certain high value wetlands stand out as providing invaluable benefits to area residents. The latter information will be used to develop a strategic conservation plan for protecting the best wetlands in Town.

This project will focus on the protection of surface and groundwater resources in Effingham, and will assist the Town in gathering the information necessary to plan for water resource extraction in the future. Areas where sediment and toxicant loading could be the most harmful will be identified, as well as areas where future public water



South River Marsh behind Larry Leavitt Preserve



Green Mountain from the NH Audubon Watts Wildlife Sanctuary

supplies make the most sense. Any water quality concerns will be noted, as well as where future impairment may have a detrimental effect on wetlands.

Perhaps one of the most fundamental functions that wetlands serve – wildlife habitat, will form a critical component of the analysis. Areas where high value wildlife habitat is identified from field evidence will be described in the final report. These may include great blue heron rookeries, raptor nesting areas, fish spawning areas, deer wintering habitat, moose feeding areas, bear denning sites, and critical breeding areas for rare aquatic invertebrates such as certain dragonflies and damselflies. All rare species information will be kept confidential, however, and will not be published without the express written permission of the landowner.

At present, the project is about 50% completed. Over 750 acres of wetlands have been mapped, half of which has been visited on the ground. Exemplary natural communities have been identified in at least three areas, one rare plant has been found, and significant areas of moose and deer habitat have been identified. Assessments have been completed on three of the six largest wetland complexes in Town, and over 2200 GPS points have recorded wetland road crossings and wetland boundaries. Permission to access about 40% of the Town has been graciously provided by private landowners, and is still being coordinated by the ECC. Any information that might assist the Project team can be kindly forwarded to the ECC at PO Box 25, 68 School Street in Effingham.

Dr. Rick Van de Poll is a resident of Sandwich, N.H. and owner of Ecosystems Management Consultants. He has been performing natural resource inventories for the public and private sector of New England since 1988.

Spring Calendar



Saturday, April 8th: Training for Water Quality Monitors

Are you a morning person? Do you enjoy the outdoors? **Want to do something fun and worthwhile?** Then become a **Citizen Scientist** for your town! GMCG currently seeks volunteers for the fifth year of the Water Quality Monitoring program. Help is needed to monitor 34 river, lake and stream sites located in the towns of Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Sandwich and Tamworth. Volunteers collect water samples and data using portable meters once every other week at their assigned site. Monitoring is conducted before 9:00 a.m., Mondays through Saturdays on a bi-weekly basis, April-October and from June-August for tributary and lake sampling. This is a great learning experience for students during the summer! **Volunteer Training** will take place Saturday, April 8th 2006 at 1:00-4:00pm at Farm By the River in Effingham. For more information or to RSVP for the training please contact GMCG at 539-1859.

Saturday, April 22nd: Groundwater Conference

Celebrate Earth Day and learn more about how to protect groundwater in your area! Speakers and exhibitors include: EPA, NH DES, planning commissions, Save Our Groundwater, NH Water Table, Arnie Alpert. Topics include: local ordinances; groundwater science; water extraction; town planning; and international threats to water resources. 9:00-3:30 at the Cody Conference Center in Freedom. \$5.00 per person includes breakfast, lunch. Fun Earth Day children's activities will be held throughout the day so that parents may attend the conference. Registration and breakfast begin at 8:30 a.m. Please contact GMCG at 539-1859 or gmcgnh@adelphia.net to register.

Saturday, May 6th: Valley Pride Day

Help clean up your watershed and keep trash out of our beautiful lakes and rivers! GMCG will assist in coordinating efforts to clean up areas of the Ossipee Watershed that are in need of attention. If you would like to help with this annual valley-wide event by: volunteering to collect trash in your town; lending your truck for trash pick-ups and drop-offs; or helping to sponsor the event, please call 539-1859 to sign up today! Check-in is between 8-8:30am at the Freedom Town Hall. Ossipee area volunteers contact Dana Crocker at 539-7300, Tamworth area volunteers contact Tina Craig at 323-2908. Trash pick-up is from 8:30-11:30 followed by a party with a BBQ, games, prizes and give-aways from 12-2pm at the Green Granite.

Friday, May 5th –9th: River Network's 7th Annual National River Rally

The River Network, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people understand, protect and restore rivers and their watersheds, is holding its 7th Annual National River Rally event at the Mount Washington Resort in Bretton Woods this spring. This event brings together hundreds of river and watershed organizations from across the nation each year for professional and personal development, education, networking and celebration. This conference will include river steward trainings, educational workshops and presentations. For more information, visit: www.rivernetwork.org/rally.

Save the Dates! May 18th: Community Rural Planning & Mapping Workshop

July 22nd-23rd: Watershed Weekend featuring Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Protection

For more information, visit the list of upcoming events at 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)

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**Save the Date:
July 22nd & 23rd
Celebrate Wildlife
at
Watershed Weekend
2006
Camp Calumet
Freedom, NH**

**Deadline for Summer
Newsletter is June 10th**

The Watershed News

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



GMCG's new t-shirts are here!
Introducing local artist Tim White's watercolor and ink design on Patagonia organic cotton shirts. Shirts are natural color, with a variety of sizes available. \$10.00 for t-shirts and \$12.00 for long sleeve shirts. Please add \$3.00 shipping & handling unless you would like to pick up your t-shirt in person. Call 539-1859 to order yours today!

