

◆ The Watershed News ◆

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GMCG Receives EPA's Highest Honor

BY BLAIR FOLTS

May 4th, GMCG received an Environmental Merit Award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at a New England-wide celebration for EPA's 35th Anniversary in Boston's historic Faneuil Hall. GMCG received this award for "adopting a style of "non-confrontational" advocacy...GMCG is educating local officials and residents about the Ossipee watershed and the impact that a projected 50 percent growth will have on the area over the next 15 years...GMCG is an excellent example of a grassroots organization that is making a large impact on the protection of critical natural resource areas in New England."

These awards have been given out since 1970 and are the highest honors EPA bestows to recognize environmental accomplishments. Over 50 nominations from across New England were reviewed with 19 winners chosen for this year's awards. From New Hampshire, there were two individuals recognized:



GMCG Executive Director and co-founder Blair Folts receives the EPA Merit Award from Robert Varney of EPA New England.

Ron Polak, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and Christian Martin, New Hampshire Audubon; and three organizations honored: GMCG, The Jordan Institute and Stonyfield Farm.

After a moving rendition of the National Anthem, National EPA Administrator, Stephen Johnson spoke about the many important environmental efforts taking place across the country. He also shared a visual synopsis of the past 35 years of

EPA. It was moving to see footage from the 70's with such visible air and water pollution and realize just how far we have come in a short time. He spoke of the importance of responsible stewardship and the need to establish important partnerships between government, businesses, communities and individuals.

Presenting the awards was New England Administrator, and former New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Commissioner, Robert Varney. Having worked with Bob Varney during GMCG's beginning years, I was particularly moved to have the award presented by him. As I stood on the stage, I was transported to George Washington's time and all the amazing things that have transpired in that very room.

It is a deep honor to receive this award on behalf of GMCG and all the great members, volunteers, municipal officials, friends and family who have helped create and sustain this organization. Thank you!
Blair Folts is the Executive Director & co-founder of GMCG.

Celebrate Wildlife in the Watershed July 22nd & 23rd

Mark your calendars! The 8th Annual Watershed Weekend offers fun for everyone:



- * *turtle slide presentation*
- * *live animal demonstrations*
- * *bug walking adventures*
- * *boat rides on the lake*
- * *live music*
- * *exhibits*
- * *local crafts for sale*
- * *kids' activities*
- * *craft making*
- * *loon talks*
- * *beach BBQ*
- * *raffle prizes*
- * *information booths*
- * *wildlife presentations*
- * *bird walk Sunday 7-9am*

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 A Functioning Forest Ecosystem in Our Midst

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 DAN STEPANAUSKAS

Forests in New Hampshire are diverse in species composition and soils, and provide an interesting variety of forest eco-types as well as forest management scenarios. The amazing part of this picture is that the most important interactions in the forest occur below the forest floor. It all starts with the soil.

If you observe a natural forest in New Hampshire you will notice that it is rather disorganized and messy looking. Humans crave order; conversely, the forest thrives on disorder and debris. A significant portion of the food chain in a forest environment is provided by woody debris and the fertility which it provides. From a zoological perspective, fungus eats the dead wood, insects eat the fungi, mice and birds eat the insects, and all manner of predators eat the mice and birds. An 'orderly',

aesthetic forest harvest in which all of the limbs and tops are chipped and removed does a great disservice to the forest ecosystem and works against nature's design. Forestry should emulate nature, while providing for the needs of mankind.



When you see a sustainable timber harvest with limbs (slash) on the ground turning brown and looking unsightly, please remember to view it through the lens of the forest ecosystem. This woody material serves as the fertilizer of the forest. Small clear-cuts can serve an important purpose by regenerating tree species which are intolerant of shade, and by providing habitat for birds and animal species that depend upon these openings to survive. Also, allowing portions of the forest to age undisturbed serve as our forest eco-system classrooms and preserves.

Information technology has made the world impatient, but working within nature's design requires patience.

Dan Stepanauskas is a local forester and owner of Northern Forest Resources. He manages the Eaton Town Forest and has been a forestry consultant for 25 years.

Forests for the Future

In addition to becoming familiar with state timber harvesting laws and best management practices, towns can protect forest resources in other ways. Many towns already have town forests and are working on tree farm status and stewardship plans. However, large forest tracts may still be vulnerable to unsustainable forestry practices. Some towns in the state have ensured that forestland remains productive and continues to provide functions for natural and human systems in the future.

Here are some helpful resources:

N.H. Timber Harvesting Laws:

<http://extension.unh.edu/>

Best Management Practices:

UNH Cooperative Extension
<http://extension.unh.edu/>
NH DRED Division of Forests and Lands
<http://www.dred.state.nh.us/>

Zoning Ordinances/Forest Districts:

Enfield, N.H. www.enfield.nh.us/EnfieldZoningOrdinance.pdf
Shelburne, N.H. http://www.shelburneh.com/Zoning_ordinances.html

The Hidden Costs of Lawns

BY TARA SCHROEDER

The desire to have perfect, verdant green lawns has been around since the invention of the lawn-mower in the mid-1800s. Today, NASA estimates that the United States has about 79,535 miles of lawn—enough to cover New Hampshire a total of 8.5 times. Americans spend \$12 billion each year to maintain this much grass, as reported in a 2004 survey by the Professional Landcare Network. Increases in demand and costs of equipment, gas, fertilizers, pesticides, weedkillers and other chemicals has no doubt inflated this figure in recent years. According to a Hubbard Brook study, sales of nitrogen fertilizer alone increased by 30 percent between 1965 and 2001. While monetary costs can be quantified, there are other more complex and even more significant costs of having a lawn that are now being considered.

In order to keep 79,535 miles of grass green, considerable natural resources are required. The Smaller American Lawns Today program of the Connecticut College Arboretum estimates that this amount of lawn requires: 200 million gallons of water per capita per day; 3 million tons of fertilizer per year; 580 million gallons of gas per year; and produces 1,726 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year. Millions of households across the nation also expose children, pets, and water supplies to toxic pesticides that threaten public health and the environment. Not only are lawns resource-intensive undertakings, the long-term and collective cost of having a nation of lawns could be substantial.

Water: In regions of New Hampshire's seacoast, bans on outside water usage are already in effect. Both Seabrook and Newmarket enacted bans in 2002 and 2003 which remain in force. Newmarket recently moved to a stage 3 ban which allows for limited watering based on the day of the week and a person's street address, although washing sidewalks, vehicles and sidewalks is still prohibited.

While it may be difficult to believe that such a situation is unfolding in New Hampshire where water has always seemed plentiful, it is commonly known that water bans and shortages persist in other parts of the country. In fact, groundwater extraction is the primary cause of the most common,

and most dangerous form of land subsidence in the United States. USGS maintains that land subsidence is occurring in 45 states and is estimated to cost the nation over \$125 million annually (Commission on Geosciences, Environment and Resources, 1993). Induced subsidence is also a global issue and its severity warrants careful consideration of how water resources are used in our communities and whether or not having high maintenance lawns is sensible.

Pollution: According to Andrea Lamoureaux of the Department of Environmental Services (DES), half of the surface water quality problems in this country are associated with nonpoint source pollution (NPS). NPS pollution occurs when rain or snowmelt flows overland as runoff, or through the ground as groundwater, picks up pollutants, and eventually discharges to a body of water. Without buffers or filters, sediments, nutrients, pesticides, bacteria and petroleum products can directly enter surface waters and impact water quality. Lawns do little to slow run-off and erosion, and have likely contributed to the aging of N.H.'s lakes which have aged more in the last three decades than they did in the previous ten thousand years (Lutjen, 2006). Since the Ossipee Aquifer consists mainly of layers of sand and gravel, it recharges quickly with rainwater and is particularly vulnerable to easy contamination.

Commercial fertilizers contain nitrogen and phosphorus, and in excess, these additives that can seem so beneficial to a lawn can degrade water quality. A study by the N.H. Estuaries Project found that in 2002, approximately 1,005 tons of nitrogen entered the Great Bay/Upper Piscataqua estuary. Much of this nitrogen came from nonpoint sources such as fertilizers. A Hubbard Brook Foundation study also found that nitrogen fertilizer accounts for 11 to 32 percent of nitrogen found in the Northeast.

Record rainfall last fall resulted in record amounts of phosphorus loading to most of the state's surface waters (DES, 2006). Phosphorus is the most significant limiting nutrient to plant growth in lake and pond ecosystems. Along with nitrogen, too much phosphorus can lead to quicker and more dense growth of aquatic plants, a special concern for lakes dealing with milfoil infestations like Lake Ossipee. Higher incidences of algal blooms and cyano-

bacteria blooms are also a concern since some blue-green algae produce toxins that could pose a health risk to people and animals when they are exposed to them in large enough quantities.

Wildlife: Lawns are monocultures which lack the biodiversity found in nature: just one kind of seed, requiring time and energy to maintain to make sure no other types of seeds or weeds take root. In fact, most grass species were introduced from Europe and are therefore of limited use to native wildlife. Lakeside lawns actually encourage nuisance populations of Canada geese. These days with wildlife habitat shrinking, the ability to support wildlife in our backyards is becoming more critical to many species. Not only are beneficial shrubs and berry-producing plants necessary for a host of migrant bird species and resident wildlife, but these animals are also important seed disseminators for NH's trees, shrubs and vines. When the food is no longer available, the animals don't stick around, impacting the entire ecosystem.

There are fortunately many ways to reduce the impact of having a lawn and alternatives that can be just as, if not more, aesthetically pleasing. Here are some tips from the experts:

Tips to minimize impacts of your lawn:

- * Keep native vegetation along shorelines
- * Mulch with grass clippings to reduce the need for chemical fertilizers and retain moisture
- * Test soils before applying fertilizers
- * Use organic, phosphorus free, or slow-release fertilizer
- * Apply fertilizer in the fall and never after a rain event
- * Water slowly, deeply, and less often
- * Water early in the morning so water is not lost to evaporation
- * Decrease lawn size with mulch, native plants and perennials
- * Use a reel push mower
- * Remove pests and weeds by hand or find alternative solutions
- * Encourage native plants, fish and wildlife with shoreline habitat
- * Use a rain barrel for watering
- * Install a rain garden to catch runoff

FMI, visit: www.ceinfo.unh.edu

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 is sorry to see two of its long-standing members, Fred VanCor and George Mueller, leave their posts, and welcomes replacements Tim White and Celine Bergeron. The commission has created two standing committees: Wetland Review Committee, (leader Al Levesque) and Open Space Committee (leader Steve Zalewski). Dr. Rick Van de Poll is currently mapping the Wilkinson Brook Basin, one of the largest contiguous clusters of wetlands in the town for the Wetland Inventory Project. This major section of the wetland mapping is on the heels of a completion of the South River Marsh map in 2005. Dr. Van de Poll will then map the Pine River basin, the third major wetland basin in town. The Commission will operate a booth in 'Celebrate Effingham' to be held on July 22.

Madison

The commission is in the final phases of completing its Town Property Reports, recently investigating and documenting Burke Town Forest, Currier Town Forest, and the Gage Lot. August Old Home Week activities include a lecture by black bear expert Ben Kilham at the Madison Elementary School on Sunday, August 6th at 7:30 p.m., the dedication of the Cascades Town Forest and a walk on Mike and Penny Hathaway's trail system to Chamberlain Ledge on August 8th. The commission met with Jeff Lougee of The Nature Conservancy about a potential burn of a selected area in the Goodwin Town Forest to help restore pitch pine habitat. A meeting is scheduled with the planning board and GMCG on June 21st to learn more about GIS mapping and review the 2002 Master Plan in regards to natural resource inventories. The commission welcomes and encourages participation from the public in meetings and events.

Ossipee

A workshop on May 23rd explored "Preserving Rural Character amidst Community Growth." Mike Izard of Lakes Region Planning Commission moderated the session in which Selectman Joe Skehan and members of other town boards participated. The workshop idea grew from the GMCG March Ossipee Watershed Coalition meeting on Natural Resource Based Planning. Next steps are to develop tools and language that will supplement town regulations and ordinances governing new development. Boaters using the Ossipee town ramp are being greeted by a Lake Host, thanks to great work by Mark Ciarfella and Jean Hansen. A new kiosk at Pequawket Trail explains the program and shows examples of invasive species. A proposal to manage Ossipee Town Forests developed by B. Keith Associates and recommended by the Forestry Subcommittee was approved by the commission and signed by selectmen. Once Tree Farm status is attained, the town forests will display signs indicating they are managed to protect and conserve the town's natural resources.

Sandwich

Planning for the Five Days of Sandwich celebration continues. The event will run for three weeks from the final week of June through the second week of July. Stewardship monitoring of the town's conservation easement is in progress and a monitoring strategy for 2006 is being developed. The commission has also been busy organizing the Bearcamp Trail Clean-Up event that was held in April and continues reviewing new wetland permit applications and investigating wetland filling complaints.

Freedom

Three kiosks funded by the Moose Plate grant program will soon be installed in the Town Forest. Town Forester Barry Keith is working with the Forest Advisory Committee to develop a trail map of the property's nature trails. Work continues on the Natural Resource Chapter of the Master Plan with Lakes Region Planning Commission and Steve Whitman.

2006 Kids' Calendar Contest Winners



Congratulations to this year's winners of the Wild & Wonderful Water & Wildlife Contest...

Grand Prize Winner: *Sander Danielovich, Grade 6*

Grade 1 & 2 Category: *Natalie Young, Grade 1; Matt C., Grade 2; Carissa S., Grade 2; Grace Bartowicz, Grade 2*

Grade 3 & 4 Category: *Melissa Manson, Grade 3; Jennifer N., Grade 4; Jackson Robinson, Grade 4; Maddi Brackett, Grade 4*

Grade 5 & 6 Category: *Sander Danielovich, Grade 6; Alex Brackett, Grade 6; Annie Read, Grade 6; and Jennifer Brady Grade 6*



Sander Danielovich Age 12, Sandwich, N.H.

Winners will be presented with their awards at the 8th Annual Watershed Weekend event at 4:30 p.m. at Camp

Watershed Water Quality Monitoring

Notes from Upstream Watershed Springs to Life with New Activity

BY TARA SCHROEDER

The monitoring season is in full swing with many returning volunteers and twelve new volunteers for 2006. Water Quality Intern Elena Piekut is working closely with volunteers to collect data at 18 river sites and will soon be starting the Ossipee Lake and Tributary monitoring program with summer camps and area residents. Elena is a native of Effingham and attended Sarah Lawrence College. She has been involved with GMCG since its beginning, submitting her writing to the newsletter as a child and more recently serving as a Lake Host during the summer of 2003. Elena is also working closely with Lake Hosts this summer providing visitor education and boat inspections on Lake Ossipee. Local students Andrew and Jared Stepanauskas of Madison and Crystal Hoyt of Ossipee will be providing visitor education and collecting data at the Pine River boat launch for the fifth summer in a row.

This spring has also been a busy time with the launch of the **Macroinvertebrate Sampling Project**. Programs in Tamworth, Sandwich and Freedom have introduced students to the underwater world of macroinvertebrates and how studying these creatures this summer and fall can provide clues to water quality. Watershed schools and residents are welcome to participate in the **training on August 23rd** from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and sampling events in September. To sign up or for more information, call 539-1859. The project will be a feature of the **November 17th "State of the Watershed" presentation** at the



Sandwich 4th graders examine macroinvertebrates in the classroom. Students will head to a local river for the watershed-wide sampling study this fall.

Benz Center in Sandwich from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Professionals from UNH and the Department of Environmental Services will present findings from this project as well as the past five years of water quality monitoring. Special thanks to Ned Hatfield for loaning his macro collections from the Cold River in Freedom for these programs. This project is made possible through a grant from the Quimby Foundation and support from the Department of Environmental Services.

Notes from Downstream The Importance of Floodplains

BY DENNIS FINN

In 1973 the Saco River Environmental Advisory Committee drafted a report titled "The View From The Valley". This report pointed out many of the environmental threats from inappropriate development that faced the Saco, Ossipee and Little Ossipee Rivers and especially the risks of developing the floodplain. The report discouraged development in these important water storage areas; sage advice that was timely and prudent. Over time, this group was endorsed by the Maine Legislature and became the Saco River Corridor Commission.

This spring, a prolonged frontal system stalled over New England bringing abundant rainfall. The rivers in many areas of New England filled rapidly as the watershed released the rain into the ground and surface waters. Predictably, with our relatively undeveloped floodplains, the natural system functioned perfectly allowing the soil to absorb to capacity the excess water overflowing river and stream banks out into the floodplain. Floodplains along rivers helped to retain and control the water, allowing nutrients to cycle, lessening the impact of sedimentation and enhancing floodplain habitat for the diversity of species that rely on this system.

Other areas of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts did not fair as well. Impervious surfaces, houses and buildings now occupy the land that the rivers formerly used to carry out their natural functions. A year has not yet elapsed since the last hurricane season. The images of how truly devastating the power of water can be when human activity gets in the way are still quite vivid.

We, as residents and collectively as towns, find ourselves in a constantly evolving series of planning efforts. In the six towns served by Green Mountain Conservation Group and the twenty towns of the Saco River Corridor there is an especially heightened focus on our natural resources. Clean water, healthy forests, and a wide diversity of wildlife are all important. When looking at these resources the floodplains of our surface waters should come to the forefront. Floodplain lands are our first line of defense and help to protect all of our other resource values.

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

Mapping the Future for N.H.'s Wildlife

BY ELENA PIEKUT

One of the most intriguing pieces of information for the Watershed Coalition and others who attended a May 18th rural community planning workshop at the Community School came from SPNHF's Bob Sundquist, who made a presentation on Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. Sundquist, Director of Research for the Forest Society, spoke of the imminent release of a new set of map data showing wildlife habitat statewide. With the sophisticated GIS computer programs, this can be layered with other information to craft highly evolved maps, often for the purpose of identifying priority lands for conservation. The sixteen-layer set was made available in early June by the maps' creators, the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game (NHFG). The maps can be downloaded or ordered on CD from the New Hampshire Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer System (NH GRANIT), a collaborative effort between the University of New Hampshire and the state Office of Energy and Planning.

The Department of Fish and Game developed the wildlife habitat layers as a part of their recently completed Wildlife Action Plan, a federally mandated and funded project. The draft form, submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for approval last fall, is available at NHFG's website. While Fish and Game created a comprehensive state-specific document and integrated their own Big Game Plan, the project was based around criteria set by the USFWS. In every state, the plan had to evaluate the current state of wildlife distribution and abundance, the locales and conditions of habitats critical to their survival, and potential harm to wildlife species and their habitats. The plan also identified research still to be done, prescriptions and goals for conservation, and the means of monitoring future progress. Finally, it had to address the planning involvement of other parties and that of the public, and set a time—not to exceed ten years—for assessment of the plan in the future.

In what it calls a "mammoth effort by hundreds of people and organizations", NHFG produced a similarly huge document—it is several hundred pages long—full of maps, charts, and narrative written by thirty-four wildlife experts from ten conservation agencies, organizations, and academic institutions. Extensive appendices profile each species and habitat.

The Wildlife Action Plan is a critical project coming at a critical time; with New Hampshire's rapidly growing population and the uncertainty of future global climate conditions, the future of wildlife is in doubt. The plan urges prompt action, provides the courses of action to follow and the information to support and direct efforts. The Department of Fish and Game is committed not only to

encouraging an informed citizenry and an "actively prepared" network of partners, among other things, but also to being a resource for everyone involved with land use planning. The Wildlife Action Plan is largely supported by GIS maps, some of which, as mentioned above, are being made available for public use in new mapping projects.

Some of the plan's findings and conclusions are expected, while others are surprising. For example, the plan offers exciting information on cliff habitat in Carroll County—there are five known sites that could serve cliff-nesting raptors. And, while there is hopeful news, such as the many ways in which our state is progressing and succeeding, there is upsetting news as well. Unfortunately, however, NHFG found that some things are just out of our the state's control. The Wildlife Risk Assessment chapter explains that "even if all the land necessary to support New Hampshire's critical populations could be protected from development, without improving air and water quality, the long-term viability of New Hampshire's wildlife will not be sustained."

The broad issues of atmospheric pollution, acid deposition, and climate change have been identified as serious factors that put wildlife and their habitats at risk. The plan also recognizes the "enormous pressure" that human population and recreation put on habitat. For each species and habitat of concern, the plan identifies and outlines greatest risks. There are many risks factors, but NHFG has come up with as many ideas to help, from wind farm development in high elevation spruce-fir habitat to greater incentives for landowners.

The Wildlife Action Plan devotes a chapter to conservation strategies, divided into four broad areas of focus: regional air and water quality, local land and water conservation, statewide biodiversity stewardship, and conservation science and information management. While the plan presents overarching goals for each focus, it also goes far beyond general intentions to truly *plan*: pages are dedicated to the feasibility of and implementation schedules for specific ideas for each critical habitat and species.

The extensive Wildlife Action Plan is important for all New Hampshire citizens to understand—the plan's ultimate success requires work from *everyone*, including individuals, regional planners, and state and federal agencies. Seize the opportunity to hear from a core Wildlife Action Plan team member at Watershed Weekend—Darrel Covell of the UNH Cooperative Extension will speak from 2:00 to 2:45 on July 22nd at Camp Calumet about this critical plan and its implications.

Elena Piekut is GMCG's Water Quality Intern.



Summer Calendar

Saturday, July 8th: “Animals with Bad Reputations” Ossipee Lake Alliance hosts Squam Lakes Natural Science Center’s live animal presentation at 7:30 p.m. at Calumet Conference Center. FMI, call 539-4773.

Saturday July 22nd: Watershed Weekend: Wildlife in the Watershed. Celebrate wildlife at the 8th Watershed Weekend event at Camp Calumet in Freedom from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Featured speaker David Carroll, the state's prominent turtle biologist and recipient of the John Burroughs Nature Award, will present a slide show and Darrel Covell, N.H. Fish & Game biologist, will speak about the new "Wildlife Action Plan". The day includes lectures, bug walks to nearby streams and beaver ponds, live animal talks, pelt and tracking demonstrations, wildlife craft making, loon talks and pontoon boat trips on Ossipee Lake, and exhibits and crafts from many different organizations and local artisans. Free & Open to the Public.

Sunday, July 23rd: Watershed Weekend Bird Walk. Senior Wildlife Biologist Laura Deming of N.H. Audubon will lead a walk at the Thompson Wildlife Refuge in Sandwich from 7:00-9:00 a.m. See Common Snipes, Kingfishers, Black-Billed Cuckoos, Red Crossbills, Olive-Sided Flycatchers, Green-Winged Teals and other signs of wildlife on the trail through open marsh, brooks and woodlands. Come with your walking shoes, comfortable clothing, water, binoculars and your favorite bug spray. Free & Open to the Public. Call 539-1859 to register.



Saturday, July 29th: Thurley Mountain Celebration. Dan Hole Watershed Trust will host a potluck dinner to celebrate the Thurley Mountain Project at Roland Park in Center Ossipee from 5-8 p.m. Biologist Dr. Rick van de Poll will talk about the special ecological features of Thurley Mountain and the Ossipee Mountains range. FMI, call 539-2073.

Saturday, August 5th: “A North Woods Summer: An Ecological Look at Summer” Ossipee Lake Alliance hosts an evening presentation by Chris Lewey of the Raven Interpretive Wildlife Center. Program starts at 8:00 p.m. at Calumet Conference Center. FMI, call 539-4773.

Saturday, August 12th: Green Mountain Hike. The Society of Protection for New Hampshire Forests will lead a conservation lands presentation and hike up to the summit via the Dearborn Trail. The Society is working to raise additional funds to secure permanent protection of the tract which contains the unprotected, lower reaches of the Dearborn Trail. SPNHF hopes to purchase the tract and improve public access, create trailhead parking and install a kiosk and signs. Protection of the tract will extend the High Watch Preserve to 1,868 acres, making it the Forest Society's fourth largest Forest Reservation. Presentation at 9:00—9:30 a.m. at Effingham Historical Society Building. Hike from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. To register, call 603-224-9945.

Wednesday, August 23rd: Macroinvertebrate Sampling Project Volunteer Training: GMCG staff and biologists from the Department of Environmental Services will hold a training for interested volunteers who will assist with the collection and identification of macroinvertebrates for the research program in September. Training will be from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at location TBA. Call 539-1859 to sign up.

***Please renew your membership today!**

If you don’t see a “2006” on your label, then it’s time to renew!

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

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The Watershed News

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

Deadline for Fall Newsletter
submissions is September 10th

Win A T-shirt!



**Be the first to find the moose
on GMCG's website and win a
t-shirt! Contest starts July 1st.
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T-shirts are \$10.00 and \$12.00
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