

◆ The Watershed News ◆

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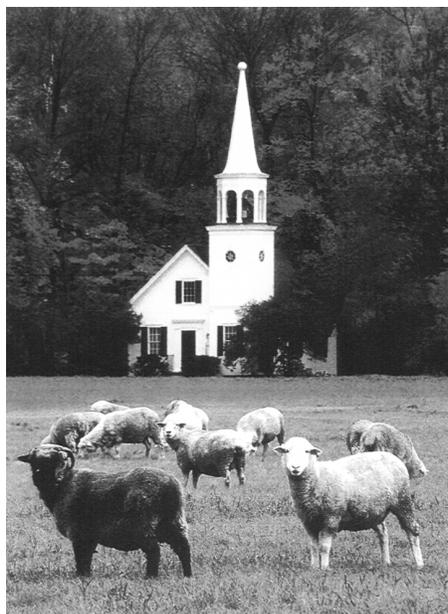
A Quarterly Publication for the Ossipee Watershed Published by the Green Mountain Conservation Group

Farm land in Wonalancet to be conserved

Wonalancet, the quiet intervale at the north edge of Tamworth is the current focus of a significant land conservation effort by the Green Mountain Conservation Group. GMCG has been awarded a matching grant of \$228,500 from the USDA Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, for the purchase of a conservation easement on 88 acres of the Birches Intervale Farm (also known as the Steele Farm.) The property includes the sprawling farm fields that border Route 113A in Wonalancet Intervale, across the street from the picturesque Wonalancet Chapel.

The Birches Intervale Farm, with its open fields, the Wonalancet Chapel, and the nearby Sandwich Range have long been an icon of scenic beauty in the White Mountains. GMCG considers this land conservation project significant for many reasons. Not only is it pivotal in linking existing conservation land to the White Mountain National Forest, but this land hosts valuable agricultural soils and is important from a broader perspective of conserving crucial farm land in the Ossipee Watershed. GMCG needs to raise \$496,450 to realize the goal in protecting the Steele Farm. "We are very excited that the USDA has awarded this project \$228,500," reported Duane Dale, GMCG Board President, "Now, we are hopeful that the community will step forward to back this project by helping to raise an additional \$268,000 to realize the goal of protecting the Birches Intervale Farm."

In the late 19th century, inn-keeper Kate Sleeper established Birches Intervale Farm and Wonalancet as prime vacation destinations. In the 1930s, the farm was sold to Mr. Collins



who ran it as a dairy farm. He sold the farm to his step-son Justin Brand who sold it to Whip Farnum. Whip owned it after WW II and ran it as a dairy and horse farm. He built the unusual silos but was unable to maintain the property. Small farms had already become almost an impossible dream. Helen Steele's father, Richard Read, bought it in the 50's to keep it from being sold for development. Helen bought it in the 1980s and has run it as a sheep and hay farm since.

Helen Steele worked as a teacher for 41 years to support family and farm. Helen has continued to look for ways to be a faithful steward for this beautiful piece of Wonalancet. While she has managed to continue the hay operation, tend a small sheep herd and grow two acres of vegetables, she also has been aware that she had to find a way to conserve the farm in perpetuity.

Helen was excited to learn that GMCG was interested in purchasing a

conservation easement on the property. In less than two weeks, GMCG was able to draft and submit a grant application to United States Department of Agriculture under the New Hampshire Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Services. "It was clear from the first meeting with Helen, that GMCG was very interested in helping to conserve this farm land," said GMCG Executive Director, Blair Folts. "Not only does the land support important agricultural soils, but the property abuts a conservation easement that GMCG already holds on 405 acres on Mount Katherine. The property is also located over an isolated but highly productive part of the Ossipee Aquifer," said Folts.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is very pleased to be part of this conservation effort. "The protection of New Hampshire farmland is critically important to maintaining the agricultural infrastructure in the State" said George Cleek, State Conservationist. "The Helen Steele Farm, with its highly valued agricultural soils, is an excellent example of the quality of farmland the NRCS wants to help place under a permanent conservation easement."

GMCG and local individuals have begun fundraising efforts. The campaign kicked off with Bread donated from Tamworth resident Peg Loughran which brought in \$255 at the Memorial Day at the Wonalancet Chapel. This day also saw a lead gift of \$50,000 from a very generous anonymous donor committed to conservation in Wonalancet.

If you would like to make a donation please send Checks Payable to and mailed to Birches Intervale Farm Project—Green Mountain Conservation Group, c/o Stephen Gaal, Treasurer. PO Box 91, North Sandwich, NH 03259. or visit gmcg.org.

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

GMCG Accepts Easements in Freedom

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.

The Green Mountain Conservation Group is very excited to announce the donation of two conservation easements in Freedom. For over a year, GMCG has worked with Freedom resident, Penny Vestner to create two separate conservation easements on her beautiful property on Old Portland Road. When Penny first contacted GMCG, she was focused on creating one conservation easement on the lovely 20 acre field in front of her farm. As the process continued she realized that she was also very committed to seeing the 100 acre wood lot behind her home conserved.

According to Penny, Lt. Col. Eliot Vestner and Priscilla came to Freedom in 1955 and purchased the house, surrounding fields and a small shore lot from Dr. Albert Rogers. They bartered with various farmers to put their cattle on the front field in exchange for keeping the fence repaired and the field healthy. Later, the Vestners were thrilled when Arthur Nason of Effingham brought his beautiful retired race horses to foal there – a gorgeous sight.

Next, Alan Fall family brought their sheep to cultivate the field in succession. The Falls' unique oxen of various colors and sizes did a superior job of bringing the field back. Finally a pair of their huge white oxen appeared in Mel Gibson's movie 'Patriot'. Under Alan's tutelage the 4H kids came regularly and learned a lot about farming.

Over the years, Penny has watched vehicles slow down to see what may be in the field: Deer, fox, coyote, bear, the smaller mammals like woodchuck, winter ferret and birds: Marsh hawks, bobolink, bluebirds, turkeys, red-winged blackbirds and above, herons, loons, and owls.

"One September day a pair of moose rolled over on the freshly-hayed field, scratching their backs, hoofs in the air – taking turns as a look-out near the road. Later, they headed down to Loon Lake. Unbelievable,"



explained Penny as we signed the easement in June in this very field.

"It is never dull living on the edge of this field. The winter sunsets fill the western sky. The lake evaporation rising delineates the pine plantation, and the snow falls on Green Mountain announcing the weather."

In 1998, the Kennett Family offered the Rogers 101-acre woodlot to Penny and she purchased it as a way to preserve it as open space and animal habitat. She was also interested in seeing that sustainable forestry would be practiced on the land. "I wanted to make sure that the land would continue to be a peaceful home for animals and birds. Dr. Rogers oversaw the planting of 6,000 trees in stands of specific species and I wanted to make sure that proper forestry would continue to be practiced on the woodlot," Penny said.

"I am extremely thankful that the Green Mountain Conservation Group will now monitor this land, it will be preserved forever."

GMCG is very grateful to Penny for her vision of conservation on these lands. GMCG would also like to extend an enormous thank you to Land Conservation Volunteer, Theresa Swanick who spent hundreds of hours working with Penny and GMCG to create these two easements. We would also like to extend a thank you to Sue Hoople for her help at the Registry. Thank you all!

To learn more about Conservation Easements visit www.gmcg.org

Ossipee protects environment with new regulations

BY ROBERT GILLETTE

The Ossipee Planning Board, drawing on environmental principles emphasized by the Green Mountain Conservation Group in its workshops, and the experience of neighboring towns, has adopted new site plan review regulations that for the first time set design standards for new commercial developments and multifamily housing.

The new standards, formally put into effect earlier this month, set explicit policies for environmental protection – including wildlife habitat, the town’s rural qualities, and its dark, starry skies. Outdoor lights, for example, must be fully shielded to prevent any upward light pollution, and sign lighting must be directed downward.

Developed by a committee of the Planning Board in cooperation with Ossipee’s Zoning Enforcement Officer, the new regulations are the culmination of a seven-month process that began by

comparing and contrasting site plan review regulations from other communities in the Ossipee Watershed.

The new regulations include as policy aims preventing “the pollution of air, streams, ponds, wetlands and ground water; to ensure the adequacy of drainage facilities; to safeguard the water table; and to encourage the wise use and management of wildlife habitat and other natural resources throughout the municipality in order to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the community and the value of the land in the public interest” as well as “to preserve the natural topography and rural beauty of the municipality, including its scenic views and dark night skies, and to preserve the integrity of its historical features.”

According to the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department’s 2006 Wildlife Action Plan, 70% of Ossipee’s land area qualifies as highest quality wildlife habitat, putting the town in the state’s upper tenth percentile.

At the urging of the Ossipee Conservation Commission, the new design standards

emphasize preservation of existing natural vegetation on development sites and include a requirement for the replanting of trees on land that was forested within 10 years prior to a proposed development. Provisions for protection of steep slopes and scenic viewsheds are also included.

In addition to the planning board’s efforts to protect viewsheds, the Ossipee Conservation Commission is currently leading a project to buy and manage a parcel of land in order to protect the Ossipee Mountains view. Watch for this sign the next time you travel NH Route 16 in Ossipee. For more information and to support the project, call 539-4181.



Examples of sustainable living are closer than you think

At the June 14th Ossipee Watershed Coalition meeting participants were treated to a presentation about “Sustainable Communities” by Environmental Planner Steve Whitman of Plymouth State University. Both local and international examples of the sustainable use of shelter, water, waste, energy, food, and mixed use development were provided. Whitman emphasized the need to focus on maintaining resources for current and future global citizens, taking into account biodiversity, natural resources, and food resources. He pointed out that we currently use the resources of 1.25 planets, and half our personal energy use is for the production and transportation of food, illustrating the need for a more localized existence.

In the northeast, there are many examples of communities that have taken steps towards sustainable living. In Hull, Massachusetts a municipally owned wind-



The Living Machine: Plants take nutrients and minerals out of waste water in a multi-chamber system. This is one of many innovative strategies helping communities across New England to reduce their waste streams and energy needs, as well as curb the depletion of local natural resources.

power facility powers 240 homes while Brockton, MA boasts the largest array of solar panels in New England. The Living Machine, a greenhouse powered by solar energy and built as a natural waste disposal

system (an alternative to a septic system), is used in Weston, Massachusetts as well as towns in Vermont.

Farther north, six towns in the Upper Valley of New Hampshire and Vermont are reducing transportation needs for residents by providing a commuter bus service. Also in Vermont and New Hampshire, sustainable neighborhoods include homes built from locally found reused and natural materials (whiskey barrels, sod roofs, dirt blocks, etc) clustered together to share and save natural resources. Mixed use development is another used at Union Mill in Peterborough, NH, that combines commercial and residential uses, requiring less transportation and making food and other resources more

locally accessible. To see the full presentation as well as meeting minutes, visit: www.gmcg.org. Call 539-1859 to learn how you can be involved in sustainability initiatives in your town.

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 Wetland Review Committee, has reviewed a dredge and fill application submitted to DES. The Open Space Committee has initiated the construction of a bird-watch path on Larry Leavitt Preserve (LLP). Funding is through a Recreation Trail Program (RTP) grant of DRED. The town had accepted both the RTP and the 2007-'09 Moose Plate grants, awarded to the Commission, following a public hearing on May 29.

The annual town roadside clean up was held on April 21, coinciding with the Earth Day events. It was concluded at noon with lunch, thanks to Lazy Susan's of Ossipee, who had donated hot dogs and hamburgers for this occasion. This was the start of the Keep Effingham Litter Free (KELF) program where town volunteers pick up litter during the rest of the year. The 800 daffodil bulbs planted by the Commission in fall of 2006 (provided by NH the Beautiful) has brought color to the library, LLP and Municipal office grounds.

Members have attended several workshops and conferences including one on invasive species in Crawford Notch (April 19); drinking water at Camp Calumet (April 28); Wildlife Action Plan in Rochester (May 5); local officials basic workshop in Stratham (May 22); dragon fly survey in Brentwood (May 31) and others.

This year's topic for the yearly poster contest was, "Saving the Earth at Home". The winners (kindergarten through grade 6) received a book award and each grade teacher was presented with a photograph of all the entries from that grade as a collage.

Madison

The USDA announced in late May that it had granted The Town of Madison approximately \$150,000 to be dispersed over a ten year

period. The grant will be used to restore the pitch pine habitat in a portion of the Goodwin Town Forest. The money will be used to establish fire break trails and access roads; to cut, mow and disrupt some of the buildup ground cover which prevents the pines' seeds from germinating; and to work with The Nature Conservancy to prescribe burns. In other news, the Commission has invited the Loon Preservation Committee to give the annual Old Home Week conservation lecture on Sunday, August 5th at 7:30 pm at the Madison School.

Ossipee

The "Window on the Ossipee Mountains" project to buy the NH Route 16 view property has made the final round of the 2007 LCHIP application process. The Ossipee Conservation Commission is in the process of finalizing the grant request as well as soliciting financial pledges to help buy the property, create a scenic pull-off and a nature trail (see previous GMCG newsletter for details). At the Ossipee boat landing off Pequawket Trail the Lake Host Program to check for milfoil and invasive plants is in full swing, led by returning Point Person Nick Paquette and colleagues, and overseen by Commissioner Jean Hansen.

Sandwich

The Commission is working with the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen on a gravel pit reclamation plan for the north part of the Ambrose gravel pit. They are working to provide reasonable guidelines for the operator as well as the town in terms of proper reclamation and restoration procedures. In the past, this has brought about some innovative solutions at Ambrose pit, such as retaining an area that lies below the water table as a cranberry bog. Other shallow ponds have also been left in the southern part for shorebird migration. The Commission would like to determine the appropriate closure guidelines that utilizes the terms of RSA 155-E while addressing site specific concerns of the Town. One small bit of advice to other towns: do this well in advance of the closure date!

Supreme court upholds Tamworth ordinance

After a fairly quiet fall and winter, the Racetrack issue is heating up again. There are four separate proceedings:

1: **Maud Anderson, et al vs. Motorsports Holdings LLC.** On May 30th, the NH Supreme Court denied CMI's appeal of the Superior Court ruling that they needed a town wetlands permit before constructing their racetrack. The strongly worded ruling upheld all elements of the Tamworth Wetlands Ordinance which CMI had challenged.

2: **Motorsports Holdings vs. Town of Tamworth and Tamworth Planning Board.** CMI applied for a wetlands permit last August, which was denied in November 2006. With the Supreme Court case decided, CMI's appeal of the Planning Board decision will go to trial in Carroll County Superior Court.

3: **Huntington and Caitriona B. Barclay, et al vs. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, et al.** This suit, filed with U.S. District Court

in October of 2006, challenges the dredge-and-fill permit issued to CMI by the Army Corps in 2005 on behalf of a list of Tamworth residents including St. Andrew's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church. The suit claims that the Corps did not properly consider the findings of its own sound expert in setting operational noise limits for CMI's racetrack, and asks that the permit be revoked. This case is in its early stages; and Focus: Tamworth expects it to take shape over the next few months.

4: **CMI's second Special Use Permit application.** In December 2006, CMI submitted another application for a Special Use Permit, seeking a permit to build several access ways across wetlands. The access ways required six wetlands impacts which are identical to six wetlands impacts on the original application filed in mid-2006. There have been several legal delays, but a decision should be reached at the next Planning Board meeting.

Watershed Water Quality Monitoring

Notes from Upstream

Spring brings new volunteers & staff

The volunteer monitoring season is in full swing. GMCG thanks the many returning volunteers and newcomers joining the program. New volunteers include: Debbie and Paige Eldridge, Steve Gray, Charlie Smith, Mark Martin, and Jim Pittman. GMCG also bids a fond farewell to Roger Thurrell of Freedom who has volunteered for the past four years testing the outlet of Danforth Bay. GMCG thanks him for his service and commitment to caring for the rivers and streams and we wish him well in his future endeavors!

GMCG also welcomes summer intern Claire Remmetter of Effingham. Claire attended Clemson University this past year and will be moving on to study at the The University of Glasgow in Scotland for the remainder of her degree. Claire will be coordinating the water quality monitoring programs with volunteers and summer camps. She will be working with Lake Hosts to provide visitor information and boat inspections at the Pine River boat launch.

Lake Hosts this summer include local students Andrew and Jared Stepanauskas, both returning from Madison, and Paige Eldridge of Freedom. This will be Andrew's third year with the Lake Host program and he has taken on the important role of Point Person for the season.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Lake Host program, lake monitoring, and other lake-related issues can come to the **Lake Celebration at Camp Calumet on July 21st**. For more information, please see the calendar page and



New volunteers learn how to monitor local streams at a training session on the Bearcamp River in Tamworth.

brochure enclosed in this newsletter.

Volunteers are still needed to adopt testing sites on Cold Brook in Freedom and Bearcamp River in Ossipee, in addition to stream sampling for the Volunteer Biological Assessment Program (VBAP) in all six Watershed towns. VBAP training for new volunteers will be on **August 22nd from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** Returning volunteers are welcome to attend the training both as helpers for new volunteers and to get a refresher course. For more information, please call 539-1859.

Notes from Downstream

Summer E. coli testing ensures swimmer safety

With summer comes sunny weather, warm temperatures, and many opportunities to visit your favorite swimming hole. Summer is also the time when the Saco River Corridor Commission begins testing for swimmability at five locations in the Saco Corridor. In order to determine swimmability at a site, volunteers must carefully collect sterile water samples. The samples are stored on ice until they can be dropped off at the lab within 6 hours of collection in order to be viable samples. Once at the lab, samples are tested for Eschericia coli, a bacteria that is found specifically in the intestines of warm-blooded animals including birds and mammals.

The number of individual E. coli bacteria in the feces that one human passes in one day averages between 100 billion and 10 trillion. For this reason, the Commission tests for the presence of this bacteria as a possible indication of sewage contamination. Although the E. coli bacteria is not harmful by itself, it can be accompanied by other disease-causing bacteria (pathogens) that also live in the intestines of warm blooded animals. Therefore, when testing reveals high levels of E. coli there is a possibility that there may also be high levels of these other pathogens that do pose of health risk for swimmers and other direct contact recreationists.

At the lab, samples are poured onto mediums that allow any E.coli bacteria present to grow. After 24 hours the lab technician counts how many spots (colonies) are on each petri dish. Each colony is averaged together using a fancy equation called a geometric mean. The State of Maine has a threshold of 126 colonies per 100 ml as their cutoff for determination of swimmability. If the results are less than 126 colonies the water is deemed swimmable. Results greater than or equal to 126 colonies will result in the lab giving us a call and then we pass the information on to the appropriate town.

Even though high E.coli levels can indicate possible sewage contamination, high levels can also result from a deer passing through just moments before a volunteer visits the site in the early morning hours. Consequently, when high levels are reported, the SRCC retests the same spot immediately to be sure that the readings are accurate. On average, 8 times out of 10 the second test comes back well below normal. Typically, this would rule out a possible septic system leak. More likely this situation would be the result of some other natural, transient occurrence of E.coli bacteria. Please contact us if you have questions regarding our swimmability testing or the water quality monitoring program in general (207) 625-8123.

Field Notes

Volunteers locate and survey Ossipee Aquifer wells

At the April 28th Drinking Water Protection Conference at Camp Calumet residents from New Hampshire and Maine learned about the region's ground water resources, common pollutants, protection strategies and project goals for the Ossipee Watershed Source Water Protection Project. Attendees heard from a panel of experts that potential contamination of drinking water should be one of the greatest concerns in the Ossipee Watershed, even more so than potential large water extraction projects. Thirty two people went home with well testing kits to sample their own wells for such things as nitrates, radon, arsenic,

chloride, and other contaminants, something that is recommended by NH DES for homeowners to do every three to five years.

Since 1997, GMCG has been spreading the message that the Ossipee Aquifer is a critical resource for local communities to protect, and that its porous, sandy soils make it more vulnerable to contamination. Although GMCG has been working with UNH and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to monitor surface waters in the watershed since 2002, a comprehensive groundwater monitoring program has not been



Genevieve Al-Egaily of NH Geological Survey and UNH senior Karen Martel test a well for water levels.

conducted in the watershed since the early 1990's. At that time, the US Geological Survey installed 16 monitoring wells in towns within the Ossipee Watershed. The wells were monitored for water levels by NHDES as part of the statewide groundwater monitoring well network. Unfortunately, due to lack of resources, only one well within the Ossipee Watershed has been continuously monitored for water levels.

This spring, UNH seniors and local volunteers helped locate some of the old wells to survey them and determine whether or not they are viable for future monitoring. The plan is to include

monitoring not only for water levels, but also water quality, allowing for a comparison between groundwater and surface water and long term tracking of drinking water quality. UNH students and volunteers located wells using old maps and GPS devices, assessed their conditions, and took digital pictures. Individuals interested in helping locate the remaining wells and assisting with source water protection in their town can contact 539-1859 to find out other ways to help with the project, including mapping potential contamination sources and serving on a Drinking Water steering committee.

TNC makes headway to protect & restore Pine Barrens

This will be a busy year for The Nature Conservancy's efforts to protect and restore the Ossipee Pine Barrens. On the land protection front, TNC is working to add 616 acres to its preserve of this globally rare and remarkable forest. These lands represent New Hampshire's last viable occurrence of a northern pitch pine/scrub oak pine barrens, an important habitat for several bird species that are declining elsewhere in the state, such as whip-poor-will, nighthawk, Eastern towhee, and brown thrasher. Several rare moth and butterfly species are also found here. This is one of the Conservancy's top priorities, and for good reason: This is one of New Hampshire's most endangered habitats and is recognized as such by the state's recently completed Wildlife Action Plan.

TNC is now in the home stretch of a major fundraising campaign to raise \$3.8 million to acquire several tracts, expanding its preserve in the region to 2,667 acres. The community has shown remarkable support for this project, signaling the importance of the pine barrens as a natural filter for a vast, clean underground water supply. The public side of the



Photo © Eric Aldrich/TNC

In a careful test last year, trained Conservancy staff and partners determine how mechanically treated pine barrens vegetation reacts during a prescribed burn in Madison.

fundraising effort is also encouraging. Congress is poised to authorize \$2.38 million for a federal Forest Legacy grant for the project, a true partnership among TNC, the state and local communities to protect forest and water resources. This Forest Legacy project was ranked second among 80 projects submitted nationally.

On the restoration front, TNC is preparing to return fire to this landscape that needs fire for continued maintenance. After years of science, preparation and mechanical work, the Conservancy expects to conduct its first full-scale prescribed burns on up to six units of its preserve. The units -- ranging between 6

and 14 acres -- have already been prepared by clearing and mowing and will be burned when there's a perfect combination of weather and trained crew members.

"The management that we'll conduct here over the coming years will help restore and maintain this distinct habitat," said Jeff Lougee, Mount Washington Valley program manager for the Conservancy. "Ultimately, this work benefits 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 built up here over the decades." FMI, visit www.nature.org/newhamshire.



Summer Calendar



Friday, July 13th: Motor Vehicle Salvage Yard Open House. This Open House will take place at 10:30 a.m. at P & L Auto Parts, Inc. in Berlin, including a tour of the facility, a chance to talk with the owners about ways to implement BMPs on a budget, one-on-one time with a DES representative and of course snacks. Please RSVP to: tgoodrich@des.state.nh.us or 271-0878. It is very important that you RSVP so that DES has the proper number of representatives present. Please call 539-1859 if you would like to carpool.

Saturday, July 21st: 8th Annual Watershed Weekend: Lake Celebration! GMCG, Ossipee Lake Alliance and Chocorua Lake Association invite you to this fun and informative event at Camp Calumet from 12:00-4:30 p.m. Speakers from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, New Hampshire Lakes Association, University of New Hampshire, and the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance will present on lake protection and topics such as: milfoil, water quality monitoring, shoreland protection/riparian buffers, youth stewardship projects, the Lake Chocorua success story, the history of New Hampshire's lakes, recreation, wildlife, and more. Boat trips featuring deep water testing for the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program, bug walks, tent talks and exhibits throughout the afternoon. A barbeque lunch on the beach and live entertainment will kick off the day. Afternoon activities will conclude with a half hour forum for participants to ask questions of guest speakers and lake association representatives. The evening program features a special presentation from Dr. Robert Newton of Smith College entitled: *Fire & Ice: Tales of Ossipee Lake*. All donations for the evening program go to the Ossipee Conservation Commission's fund to purchase the Ossipee Mountains viewshed property.) For more information, call 539-1859. Special thanks to Camp Calumet for hosting this event!

Saturday, August 18th: Mount Shaw in the Ossipee Mountains. Hike up from Camp Merrowvista via Flagg Mountain and down to Route 171. Participants will see remnants of the 1953 fire and explore this unique geological formation and its various forests and wildlife habitat. For more information and to sign up, contact Alix & Bob Pratt at: alixandbob@earthlink.net, 207-233-9249, 603-539-2073.

Wednesday, August 22nd: Volunteer Biological Assessment Program 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.—2:00 p.m. at The Community School in Tamworth. Call 539-1859 to sign up.

Tuesday, September 4th: GMCG Flatbread Fundraiser. Flatbread Restaurant will be holding a Benefit Night for the Green Mountain Conservation Group from 4:00 p.m. until closing. A portion of all flatbreads sold will be donated to GMCG to support conservation programs.

Wednesday, September 5th: Moth Madness. Join The Nature Conservancy's Jeff Lougee for an evening in the Ossipee Pine Barrens looking for rare species of moths. Learn the basics of moth ecology and why so many species make their home in the region. Help set bait stations, collect specimens and identify species. Meet at the parking area of the West Branch Preserve on Route 41 in Madison at 7:00 p.m. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Please RSVP 539-1859.

Saturday, September 15th: GIS Training Workshop. UNH Cooperative Extension's Shane Bradt will lead a workshop on GIS applications for town planners and interested individuals. Beginners welcome! Location & time TBA.

****Please renew your membership for 2007 today!***

Your Membership Will Make a Difference.

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

Vernal Pool ___\$25 Stream ___\$50 River ___\$75 Pond ___\$100 Lake ___\$250
 Aquifer ___\$500 Other _____

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

Save the Date:
July 21st
Watershed Weekend:
“Lake Celebration”
 Calumet Conference Center
 Freedom, NH

**Deadline for
 Fall Newsletter
 submissions is September 10th**

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



Volunteers Sylvia Carney, Lee Pollock and Maynard Thomson help collect and identify macroinvertebrates at the Lovell River.

Learn about Biomonitoring & discover fascinating critters that live in local streams!

Volunteer Training is August 22nd, 9:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. The Community School Tamworth, NH Call 539-1859 to sign up.

