
◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume II, Issue 1

Autumn 1999

A Quarterly Publication of the Ossipee Watershed Protection Project Published by the Green Mountain Conservation Group

Watershed Weekend was a great success

Watershed Weekend was a tremendous success for the GMCG in achieving our goal of raising public awareness of the importance of protecting the Ossipee Watershed. About 400 people turned out to peruse the exhibitors' tent, listen to lectures and take part in the guided Pine Barrens hike and Ossipee Lake boat trips. Conservationists and environmentalists of all stripes and persuasions connected or reconnected with each other, and about 100 new members were welcomed to the GMCG, including an anonymous Aquifer level donor (\$500) and the Saco River Corridor Commission as a Lake level donor (\$250).

The lectures and slide shows were well attended by 60-80 people each, capped by geologist Robert Newton's engaging explanation of the glacial formation of the Ossipee aquifer, complete with slides of a living glacier in Alaska and satellite photographs of the Ossipee Watershed. In conjunction with Dr. Newton's talk, Sarah Thorne of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests gave a compelling talk on the importance of protecting critical water supply lands, pointing out statistics that show that 88% of NH's water supply lands are unprotected and vulnerable to development and contamination.

GMCG extends our deep appreciation to Don Johnson and Camp Calumet in Freedom for their generous support in hosting this event. We also thank the Saco River Corridor Commission for their support of our Sunday canoe trip down the Ossipee River from Effingham to Porter, Maine. More than a dozen people patiently awaited a rain delay for an adventurous trip guided by Jeff McEvoy of the Natural Resource Council of Maine.

Mark your calendars for August 12, 2000 when next year's Watershed Weekend will focus on Forestry in the Watershed.

Anyone who had the opportunity to hear David Carroll, author of the *Year of the Turtle*, speak at Watershed Weekend,

Turtle expert leads hike in Pine River State Forest

heard his challenge to the audience, "Preserve turtle habitat and you will preserve all habitat." Intrigued, we invited him to a fall walk in the Pine River State Forest with Laura Deming of NH Audubon and David Van Luven of NH Natural Heritage Inventory, a division of DRED, to look for turtles and to discuss the diversity of this important forest. Our first stop was to several kettle bogs. These unusual wetlands have no inlet and no outlet and are very acidic and stagnant, which allows for thick layers of peat to develop. Biologists have long studied these unique water bodies in the Ossipee area and the rare plants that are found along their shores. (Heath Pond Bog on Route 25 in Ossipee is also a kettle bog.)

The southern slope of the esker above these ponds had been cleared by beavers, and Carroll explained that it was perfect habitat for Wood, Spotted, and Blandings turtles. Often these reptiles use beaver channels as roadways to get to breeding areas in the uplands or just to get to a sunny slope to bask. In the fall, turtles need to sun themselves to get rid of lactic acid before they go into their hibernation.

We next walked along the Pine River. This body of water flows from Pine River Pond to Ossipee Lake taking an unusual route north. It winds 12 miles through very diverse forests and lands. At one spot, Van Luven pointed out that we were standing with pitch pine, white and red pine, scrub oak, balsam fir and black spruce. We walked through hemlock forest as well as open flood meadows. Carroll explained that Blandings turtles are perfectly adapted to pitch pine forests and can happily nest in areas that have recently been burned, a phenomenon necessary for pitch pines to regenerate.

Where the Blandings turtles prefer sandy soils to nest, the Wood and Spotted turtles are found more often along banks and nestled in goldenrod and deer tongue grass. Of the three turtles, Wood turtles are the most vulnerable

since people collect them.

The Pine River State Forest is an exemplary transitional forest from a southern forest to a northern one. It is known to be home to rare plants, moths and butterflies as well as 10,000 year old archaeological sites.

We encountered an illegal ATV after hiking on a trail so badly eroded by illegal ATV use this summer that another trail through the woods had to be cut. We were reminded of the state's recent proposal to develop 12 miles of ATV trails in this forest, which has traditionally been managed as a working forest. The Commissioner of DRED initiated the resource survey of this forest by the NH Natural Heritage Inventory with hopes to incorporate the findings into management planning. Van Luven reported that the most exciting discovery to date has been 20 stems of the federally-classified endangered small whorled pogonia (*Isotria meceoloides*.) This orchid is one of the rarest in New England.

When the state purchased the land that is now the Pine River State Forest in the late 1970's, the commissioner of DRED assured area residents that only "low intensity ... passive recreation" would be permitted. The ATV trail proposal would change this promise. Anyone who has hiked, canoed, hunted, fished or just sat in this forest knows what a unique place it is. The Green Mountain Conservation Group is very pleased that DRED has taken the initiative to undertake the Natural Heritage Inventory, and we look forward to the final report in January.

The Watershed News

The Watershed News is a quarterly publication of the Green Mountain Conservation Group, a non-profit 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 Protection Project. This watershed includes one of the largest and deepest stratified drift aquifers in N.H. 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.

The 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 concerns and possible solutions regarding the preservation of this unique natural resource.

Through education and advocacy we strive to promote an awareness and appreciation of our natural resources and encourage a commitment to protect them.

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Special Places

Early Shawtown was settled by coopers

Editor's Note: *Special Places* is a regular feature of the Watershed News, highlighting an historical or cultural resource within the six towns of the Ossipee Watershed. The Green Mountain Conservation Group has endorsed Citizens for New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage, a broad coalition of more than 87 grassroots organizations whose aim is to build support for the increased public and private commitment to conservation of our natural, cultural and historic lands and resources. For more information on Citizens for N.H. Land and Community Heritage, contact Brian Hart at 230-9729 or e-mail him at bhart@igc.org.

BY BARRY HILL

One of the last parts of Freedom to be settled was an area off Ossipee Lake Road, where in 1822 Noah Shaw established his homestead. He was followed by other Shaw relatives, who built their homes along a now little-used road, extending north and into Madison. As Shaw children came of age and married, they too made their homesteads along the road. Though clannish, it was a thriving community, complete with a school, and it became known as Shawtown.

Carol Foord, president of the Freedom Historical Society, has studied Shawtown for 10 years and has found that although the residents were listed in the town census as farmers, their strong sideline was the coopering (barrel-making) trade. The Shawtown residents, Carol discovered, did not make complete barrels, but their specialty was "shook," the staves, hoops and flat ends that made up the barrels. These were crafted from strong oak wood, that grew in abundance in the area, and shipped to other locations where they were assembled. Until the

late 19th century and the development of vacuum packing, most liquids and foods were shipped in barrels and casks to preserve and contain them.

Two generations of Shaws lived in Shawtown, worked the land and made barrels there, but by 1870, most of the houses had been abandoned. By 1890, there were only two people living in the original Shawtown. Some of the houses may have been moved, but most of them just collapsed after the residents abandoned them, leaving only cellar holes to prove they were there. What happened to the Shawtown residents? Carol's research shows that most of the men went off to the Civil War and were killed or were too severely injured to do the heavy work required on a farm when they came home. By mid-19th century, many New Hampshire rural towns declined in population as young people left the farms for jobs in villages or far-off cities and Shawtown follows this trend. With the coming of railroads around 1870, local craftsmen, like the Shawtown coopers, were unable to compete economically with products made in quantity by national manufacturers.

Hundreds of tourists and lake-users pass by the remains of Shawtown every year, but few realize it existed, or know the story of the community of family coopers who once lived there.

Barry Hill is president of the Ossipee Historical Society. For more information, call him at 539-2161.

FORESTRY IN THE WATERSHED

SILVICULTURE AND ECONOMICS

**BY DAN STEPANAUSKAS
FORESTER**

Forestry has been studied in the leading universities of Europe and North America for well over 125 years. Silviculture is the science of growing and managing forests. For the first 75 years it was comprised of learning how to imitate nature's processes, albeit while trying to speed growth and manipulate the species distribution. The practice of silviculture was entirely based upon what we learned from the study and observation of nature. Only late in this century did we begin to study silvicultural methods which were antagonistic to nature's methods, such as the wholesale harvest of immature trees, and the use of herbicides. The ownership of large tracts of forestland is frequently viewed and weighed in economic terms. Wood markets and aesthetic perceptions have a great deal to do with how our forests are managed. Human tendency gravitates towards order, however nature's processes do not. Working with nature provides a win-win situation: higher economic and environmental return.

Most of our aquifer zones are occupied by sand and gravel based soils. These soils are too nutrient poor and droughty to grow an economically viable stand of hardwood trees, but will grow a wonderful stand of softwoods. Good silviculture can predestine these sites to grow softwoods. Heavy cutting without softwood seed or advanced softwood regeneration present will result in these sites being taken over by hardwood, and the land will then "waste" 70 years growing poor quality hardwoods. Growing softwoods on these sites will earn a timberland owner 10 times the return of growing hardwoods. In time, the trees best suited to a soil will take over the site. Nature has shown us that these sites are destined to grow softwoods. As you walk through the woods, see where Sugar Maples are growing well; they will be on sites with rich, moist soils.

There are infinite combinations of soil, slope, moisture, species composition, size class distribution, available seed, etc., in the forest. Each quarter acre of land is different. Foresters are trained and entrusted to make the best decisions using all of these parameters,

and one more -- the goals and needs of the landowner.

Forest Economics: In a Nutshell

An 8-inch diameter White Pine tree which has been chipped yields a landowner +/- 27 cents. In three to five years the tree will be 10 inches in diameter, and will qualify as a sawlog. It is now worth +/- \$5.10. This is a dramatic rate of return, and underscores the critical nature of when to harvest, and how a tree will be utilized after harvest. This is not to advocate harvesting 10 inch trees, as the appreciation of this tree will continue at a very respectable rate for many decades to come. This appreciation is especially evident when one considers not only the growth of the tree, but the increase in timber values over time. Allowing trees to mature before considering substantial harvests creates value for the landowner, the logger, the community, wildlife, and goes a long way to protect our water resources.

Dan Stepanauskas is the Madison representative on the GMCG board.

Forester will show burn management in Pine River State Forest

Bob Hardy, forester with the state Division of Forests and Lands, will present a workshop on forestry management tools used in the Pine River State Forest. He will discuss management activities that improve wildlife and forest habitat while maintaining and regenerating the forest. A morning session will begin Saturday, Oct. 30, at 10 a.m. at the Historical Society on Route 153 in Center Effingham. Hardy will present a video of the prescribed burn undertaken by state foresters two years ago in the Pine River State Forest. He will discuss tools and equipment used, objectives of the burn, and results after one month and up to two years. Prescribed burns are an important management tool for the

regeneration of pitch pine forests. Hardy will also discuss WHIP, a wildlife habitat improvement program, as well as show a video of new forestry techniques, including the Brontosaurus vehicle, which lessens the impact of logging on the forest. During the afternoon, participants will hike into the Forest to view sites described by Hardy during the morning session, including the site of the prescribed burn. Participants will meet at the Duncan Lake Road entrance to the Forest off Route 16 at 12:45. Hikers should wear appropriate clothing for a moderate hike. Those who plan to attend for the entire day should bring a bag lunch for an informal gathering after the morning session.

Conservation Conversations

Editor's Note: This feature, *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. It is the goal of the Green Mountain Conservation Group to encourage the six towns together to create a strong voice as a united watershed community. **Think Locally; Act Watershed.**

Activity was light during the summer months. We invite the Conservation Commissions in Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Sandwich and Tamworth to submit articles or copies of their minutes by Dec. 20 for inclusion in our next newsletter. Mail to GMCG at P.O. Box 95, South Effingham, 03882.

Effingham

Activity was slow for the Conservation Commission due to summer and members on vacation. Two important items of business, are pending this fall. They are: The State of NH Department of Transportation plan for rehabilitating the Ossipee River bridge on Route 153 in Effingham Falls and the proposal by the Casella Waste Management company to build a transfer station on Route 25 and Green Mountain Road in Effingham.

Ossipee

The Conservation Commission and the Green Mountain Conservation Group will sponsor an educational meeting November 17 on the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. Jim McCartney from the state Department of Environmental Services and Carl Paulsen of the N.H. Rivers Council will explain the program, which was enacted by the legislature in 1988. It is hoped that the

towns of Ossipee and Effingham can work together on nominating the Pine River for inclusion in this program. The purpose of the program is to protect the state's significant river resources through the joint efforts of state and local governments and volunteer advisory committees. It recognizes that better management is necessary to protect limited river resources as the demands of competing uses increases. A river may be nominated by any citizen or organization, following a complete inventory of the river's resources. Interests such as business, agriculture, recreation and conservation must be represented on the local advisory committee. The Pine River is one of the more rural and natural rivers in the state and is known for its fishing, large flood plains that provide riparian habitat, and abundant wildlife. Designation of a river can promote greater public understanding and awareness of the unique problems and issues faced by landowners along the river.

Underground Gas Tank

Another major concern for the Ossipee Conservation Commission was the recent proposal by Westward Shores to install a 10,000 gallon underground gas tank on Ossipee Lake in an area zoned by the town as Water Resources Protection District where no underground tanks are permitted. The Commission worked with the Planning Board, the Selectmen and area residents to encourage the Zoning Board of Adjustment to deny the variance request and to uphold the town's ordinance, which protects the drinking water and aquifer. At the October hearing the ZBA voted to deny the variance due to the fact that the 5 criteria needed for a variance could not be met. The landowner can apply to the planning board for a special permit to put in an above ground tank.

UNH land sale

A final issue that the Commission is concerned about is the proposal by University of New Hampshire to sell some of its land in the Ossipee area. The Commission has written a letter requesting an extension of time to allow the Commission to consider acquiring some of this land being divested. It was agreed that purchase of wetland might be an appropriate action for the Commission to consider, pending a recommendation from the

Forestry Committee.

Tamworth

The Tamworth Conservation Commission has voted to an article on the 2000 town meeting warrant requesting that money from the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) be placed in a Conservation Fund. The LUCT is imposed when land that has been in Current Use no longer qualifies. The fund may be used for expenses associated with land acquisition, land management, or other commission projects authorized by RSA 36-A. In a time of development pressures, a substantial fund would help the town be ready to protect land with outstanding natural resource values.

Tin Mountain Conservation Center and selected students from Mt. Washington Valley Academy are working with the Conservation Commission in planning and implementing an interpretive trail around Jackman Pond. A brochure to be placed at the trailhead will focus on wetland natural history with descriptions keyed to numbered signs along the trail.

Fall means monitoring of the Conservation Commission's 16 parcels totaling 1,300 acres held under conservation easements. Monitors are comprised of Conservation Commission members and other citizen volunteers. Three parcels totaling 1,100 acres were acquired as part of the NH Land Conservation Investment Program.

*Watershed Birder***Fall migration in the watershed**

BY SUSAN LEE

Fall heralds the start of the migration season for many birds of the Ossipee Watershed. September sends off the Ruby-throated hummingbirds and most of the warblers. Those wonderful cool nights and sunny fall days create up-drafting winds called thermals which attract swirling groups of Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*). These groups of Broad-wings are called kettles and the thermals push them skyward until they are nothing more than specks against the blue. Once each bird has risen to maximum height, it breaks off and streams in a straight line toward the next updraft. No other hawk is as social, and large concentrations of birds swirling in a kettle are almost invariably Broad-wings. Open ledges or mountain tops, with views to the North are the best places for hawk watching. Several ledges in Sandwich and Tamworth, the top of Edelweiss in Madison, and Green Mountain in Effingham are all good. Blue Job Mountain in Strafford, though not in the Watershed, had 7,766 Broad-wings in one day on September 19, 1999!

The first ospreys, bald eagles and American kestrels actually begin to drift south in mid-August. Unlike the Broad-wings, these birds are more solitary. Some research from banding of eagles suggests that the earliest migrants are actually birds which have nested in Florida and have traveled north as far as Canada after the nesting season. Eagles, which have nested in northern Canada and New England, migrate through our region later in the autumn.

Often seeming to follow highways, the turkey vulture is another watershed migrant that soars and rides the thermals. These large

black birds, once having gained altitude, flap infrequently and almost seem to hang in the air rocking from side to side. Turkey vultures hold their wings in a V-shaped dihedral. Eagles, which do not rock back and forth, appear to be much stronger flyers.

The first cold snap of October brings accipiters and falcons racing down the mountains and hills. Unlike the companionable broad-wings, two accipiters like the Sharp Skinned Hawk or Cooper's Hawks, are more likely to be chasing and dive bombing each other. Built for maneuvering through forests and thickets at high speed to catch small birds, "Sharpies" and Cooper's Hawks both have fairly rounded wings with long tails. Though the Sharp Skinned Hawk is generally smaller, and much more common in this area, size alone is not an absolute method for distinguishing these two small hawks.

Expert hawk watchers say the Cooper's Hawk has a relatively larger head which sticks out beyond the wings in flight, proportionately longer wings and tail, and "usually" a rounder tail with a wider white band at the tip.

With swept-back wings, falcons are the jet fighters of the bird world, built for speed. Peregrine falcons nest on Cathedral Ledge in North Conway, and American kestrels can often be seen perched on telephone wires along hay fields throughout the watershed. However, falcons are much more frequently seen in fall migration along the coast. The bunker at Odiorne State Park is a great spot to watch falcons in early October.

There are regular "Hawk watch" sites in New Hampshire which are monitored on a daily basis during the migration period. Although none is specifically located within the Ossipee Watershed, a day spent at one of these locations is worth the trip. In addition to Blue Job in Farmington/Strafford, check out Little Round Top, Pack Monadnock in Peterborough, Deering and Prospect Mountain (Weeks State Park) in Lancaster. For more information or directions to any of these sites contact Ian MacLeod at the Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn (668-2045).

Share bird sightings or comments with Susan Lee at: leegull@landmarknet.net.

GMCG member attends Coverts workshop

Bill Piekut, member of the GMCG Board of Directors and the Effingham Planning Board, participated in the NH Coverts Workshop at YMCA Camp Foss in Strafford in September. The Coverts project (pronounced "cover" with a "t") is coordinated by UNH Cooperative Extension. The goal of the program is to increase awareness of good stewardship on

public and private forest lands in the Granite State. Coverts Cooperators learned the latest concepts in wildlife and forest ecology, habitat management, land conservation, management planning and effective outreach. To learn how to become a Coverts Cooperator call Gerry Tiley at UNH Extension at 862-1029.

WATERSHED ACTIVISM

“I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.”

Edward Everett Hale

Rare plants located in Pine River State Forest

After GMCG’s April forum on the Pine River State Forest, The NH Natural Heritage Inventory began surveying the Forest to identify any unusual forest types and wetlands, rare plants and rare insects. The final report is due out in January. The most exciting discovery so far has been the presence of the federally-endangered small whorled pogonia.

The summer months have seen increased illegal ATV use in this unique Forest, which has caused substantial erosion damage to both summer and winter trails. There has been no increased enforcement by state officials to offset this problem. A final decision on the state’s proposal to build 12 miles of ATV trails in the Forest is still pending the outcome of the Heritage Inventory and negotiation of memoranda of understanding between the state and the towns of Effingham and Ossipee about

law enforcement and other issues.

If you would like to express your opinions about ATV's in this Forest write to: Commissioner George Bald, DRED, P.O. Box 1856 , Concord, 03302.

Effingham site eyed for trash transfer station

Casella Waste Management of Rutland, Vt., which originally proposed to locate a high-volume garbage transfer station on Route 25 in Tamworth, now proposes to locate the facility on Route 25 in Effingham, less than 1/4 mile from the Ossipee River and over a high transmissivity area of the state’s largest stratified drift aquifer. The Tamworth site was next to Stony Brook, only 2000 feet from the Bearcamp River, within the floodplain and also atop one of the deepest points of the Ossipee aquifer. The Tamworth group, S.T.O.P.I.T., is still active in its opposition to this proposal not only because of its potential impact on

drinking water, but also due to traffic impacts throughout the region. An informal Effingham group has also formed to oppose this latest transfer station due to its proximity to the Effingham School, area wetlands private drinking water wells, and increased truck traffic at the intersection of Route 25 and Green Mountain Road where there have been a number of serious accidents.

If you are concerned, send a short note to: Commissioner Robert Varney, DES, P.O. Box 95, Concord, 03302, or to Gov. Jeanne Shaheen, State House, 107 N. Main St., Concord, 03301. For more information about the Effingham group, contact Carol Neville at 539-1614. You can also contact S.T.O.P.I.T. at 328 Old Mill Road, Tamworth, 03886.

Your Membership Will Make a Difference. Please Join Today.

Members are invited to attend the annual meeting, vote on policy issues and elect the board of directors and officers. (Please make checks payable to Green Mountain Conservation Group)

Individual Membership _____ \$ 10 Family Membership _____ \$ 15

Vernal Pool _____ \$25 Stream _____ \$50

River _____ \$75

Pond _____ \$100

Lake _____ \$250

Aquifer _____ \$500

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

OTHER _____

Calendar

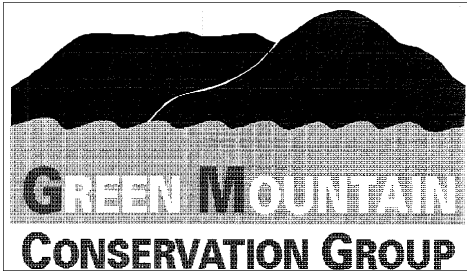
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 *Friends of The Sandwich Range* will sponsor a hike in the historic Sandwich Notch. The group will hike to Black Mountain Pond, one of the areas proposed for extension of the Sandwich Range Wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest. There will be interpretive discussions of the forested landscape, of historic sites, and logging and recreation impacts. These issues will all factor prominently in the revision of the management plan for the White Mountain National Forest. **Meet at the beginning of the Sandwich Notch Road, just north and west of Center Sandwich, at 9 a.m.** Participants can choose to leave the group at noon, or continue until late afternoon. Hikers are asked to bring a lunch and dress appropriately for weather and moderate hiking conditions. For more information call trip leader Fred Lavigne at 284-6919.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30 *Pine River State Forest Management Workshop* will be conducted by forester Bob Hardy from the Department of Resources and Economic Development. **The morning session will begin at the Effingham Historical Society on Route 153 in Center Effingham at 10 a.m.** Hardy will show a video of the prescribed burn in the Pine River State Forest, discuss tools and equipment used, objectives of the burn and results of the burn over time. He will then talk about the WHIP project and show a video of the newest techniques in forest management, including use of the Brontosaurus. He will conclude the morning's presentation by giving a history of logging in this forest. **The afternoon session will begin at 1 p.m. at the Forest entrance off Duncan Lake Road.** We will visit the burn site and the area recently managed with the Brontosaurus. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring a lunch if you plan to attend the whole workshop. For more information call GMCG at 539-7926 or Bob Hardy at 796-2323. (See story, Page 3.)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 *N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program*, presentation and discussion on nominating the Pine, Bearcamp and Ossipee Rivers to the program, *co-sponsored by Ossipee Conservation Commission and Green Mountain Conservation Group*, **featuring Jim McCartney, N.H. Department of Environmental Services. Ossipee Town Hall, Center Ossipee. 7 p.m. For information, phone 539-7926.** (See story Page 4.)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3 *Non-Game and Endangered Species Program*, presentation on the first 20 years of the program and land use changes and their effect on wildlife habitat, by John Kantor of N.H. Fish and Game Department, at the **Madison Public Library, Route 113 in Madison, 7-9 p.m.** For more information, call GMCG at 539-7926.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22 *Green Mountain Conservation Group's Second Annual Meeting*, Business meeting and election of officers will be followed by a potluck supper and slide presentation. Bring a favorite dish for dinner. GMCG will provide coffee and dessert. **Runnell's Hall, Chocorua, 6 p.m.- 9 p.m.** For more



GMCG
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The Watershed News

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539-7926.

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

August Moon

Open the Door Wide!
Let in this white August Moon.
But,
before the light has time
to sneak past chipped paint,
in floats late summer sounds
and cool air.
Nightgowns billow at the rush,
Summer brown feet,
Startled,
feel a need to run.
But where can one hide
from this flood of life?
Moon sweeps in—
Crazy with crickets.
Once
I sat
afraid
under all this white.
Afraid and alone at this
knowledge.
But,
now,
a known silence of cricket noise
protects me
and once more
I face
The late summer tide.