
◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume 1, Issue 4

Spring/Summer 1999

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

Watershed Weekend to be held August 14-15

Come celebrate the Ossipee Watershed with the Green Mountain Conservation Group at Watershed Weekend August 14 and 15. Saturday's event will be co-sponsored by Camp Calumet on Ossipee Lake in Freedom. Throughout the day, representatives from dozens of environmental groups and state agencies will be on hand to staff information booths. Hourly interpretive walks through the Ossipee Pine Barrens, a globally rare pitch pine forest, will be led by The Nature Conservancy. Other narrated walks will be conducted by N.H. Audubon, UNH Cooperative Extension and Society For the Protection of N.H. Forests to identify plants and animal habitat endemic to the Ossipee Watershed. In addition to land exploration, visitors will have the opportunities to tour Ossipee Lake by pontoon boat to view the whole watershed, or opt to canoe to the mouths of the Bearcamp and Pine rivers.

Scheduled lectures begin at 10 a.m. with a presentation by the Friends of the Sandwich Range on adding wilderness designation in the White Mountain National

Forest.

At 11 a.m., Trish Carrigan, New England watershed specialist with the EPA in Boston, and Sherry Godlewsky, of the state Division of Water, will give a talk on ***Watershed Work in New Hampshire***. They will also be available to talk informally over lunch with area residents interested in nonconfrontational watershed activism.

At 1 p.m., Tom Curren, executive director of the Lakes Region Conservation Trust in Meredith, will talk on the ***Anatomy of a Local Conservation Project***, specifically LRCT's acquisition of 1,700 acres in the Ossipee Mountains.

The day's featured speaker will be David Carroll, author of "Year of the Turtle," whose newest book, "Swamp Walker's Journal: A Wetlands Year," will be published this summer. Carroll will speak on ***Turtles in the Watershed*** at 2 p.m. He'll also be on hand to sign copies of his new book.

The weekend's keynote address will be given by Dr. Robert Newton, a professor of geology at Smith College in Massachusetts, who will speak on ***Formation of the Ossipee Aquifer***. Dr. Newton is a seasonal resident of the Ossipee Watershed and an expert on the Ossipee aquifer. His talk will be complimented by Sarah Thorne,

research director for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and a groundwater specialist, who will speak on ***Protecting New Hampshire's Water Supply Lands***. Dr. Newton and Sarah Thorne will speak from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday will be capped by a BBQ dinner from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and music by the Deerfield Coffehouse Band, which plays an eclectic selection of folk, Celtic and bluegrass tunes, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Sunday's program will be a canoe trip and picnic on the Ossipee River from the intersection of Routes 25 and 153 in Effingham to the covered bridge in Porter, Maine to emphasize that the watershed knows no political boundaries. At the bridge, the event's co-sponsors, The Natural Resource Council of Maine and The Saco River Corridor, will show maps and speak about this watershed's hydrology and its importance as a drinking water supply for a densely populated area of Maine.

The weekend's events will be open to the public and free with the exception of the BBQ and dance, which is \$8. Suggested

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

Forest City Community Reclaimed By Nature

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 74 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

On Jan. 1, 1883, Irma J. White, a 20-year-old Ossipee woman began her diary: "I am keeping school in Forest City District. Have kept for 17 weeks. I board at Mrs. Connor's." Later entries show that she and her family often went to church in Forest City and would have found there, at that time, a lively residential community, with a store and a blacksmith's shop, clustered around a steam mill in the vicinity of Connor's Pond in the Ossipee Mountains.

In Ossipee, saw mills were the first businesses. Located on rivers and streams for power, the saw mills cut logs brought to the mill into lumber that could be used to construct houses and barns for the early settlers. The invention of the steam engine

meant that the saw mill could be moved directly to the area to be logged. At first logs came down the mountains on rivers and streams to Ossipee Lake where they were floated down the lake to Effingham and loaded on carts to be hauled to Maine mills, but after the Civil War, the railroad provided transportation for the lumber cut in the mountains.

No one is precisely certain when Forest City was settled, but it is known that Joseph Roberts' steam mill was operating near Connor's Pond in Forest City in 1882. Unfortunately, there is no full account of life in Forest City, although bits of written history remain to tell us what life there was like. Roberts apparently hired Canadian choppers, who were found of a good time after hours. Lena Tasker, writing in 1969, said she remembered Dr. Harmon coming to her house when she was a child and telling about being called to Forest City to pick the glass out of the head of a woman who had been hit with a lantern during a drunken brawl.

You can get to Forest City today, but only in a four-wheel drive vehicle and you have to know where you are going. The buildings are gone, replaced by thick forest growth. The cellar holes, all with large trees growing in them, are lined up just as if they were on a street. The only human residents are in a small cemetery nearby. Otherwise, nature has reclaimed Forest City.

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

Conservation Conversations

Effingham Madison

The Effingham Conservation Commission wrote to the DOT to support the Freedom Historical Society's effort to retain a walkway on a bridge over the Ossipee River. Also, members attended the second Pine River State Forest Forum sponsored by the Green Mountain Conservation Group and a workshop on wireless telecommunication facilities presented by the Lakes Region Planning Commission.

The commission completed an open land inventory of Effingham for the LRPC and Effingham Planning Board to aid in the town's land use and development programs. The commission again voted to donate \$150 to the Effingham School to help defray costs of sending students to the Environmental School at Ferry Beach, Maine.

The Earth Day Roadside Cleanup program in April was a success thanks to excellent weather and a good turnout of volunteers. Our yearly efforts with this event seem to be making a difference, particularly with the work being done by our Roadside Custodians. All the volunteers reported that the amount of trash was not nearly as bad as in previous years.

Freedom

Earth Day in Freedom was a big success. About 30 local people participated and all the major roads in town were cleaned up.

The Madison Conservation Commission received the spring report from seven members of UNH's Department of Natural Resources Senior Project, *Policy Audit and Natural Resources Inventory of the Silver Lake/Cooks Pond Waterway*. Though the project was limited to study of the waterway during the spring thaw, the students did an excellent job studying the ecology of the waterway and detailing the different options that the principal owner of the 320-acre tract of prime wetlands/forest land could perhaps utilize to make the waterway a permanent conservation protected area for future generations. The commission will make the report available to the landowners and the town library. The commission encourages other towns to take advantage of the opportunities available for study by the Department of Natural Resources at UNH.

Ossipee

The Ossipee Conservation Commission continues to work on the purchase of the former Center Ossipee Inn lot and development of it as a park. The conservation commission also authorized spending \$1,000 for six to eight trees to be planted in Ossipee Village.

The Conservation Commission will co-sponsor, with the Green Mountain Conservation Group, an educational meeting Sept. 15 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 to 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.

Tamworth

The Tamworth Conservation Commission voted at its May 10 meeting to support a zoning ordinance for the town that would protect natural resources. The conservation commission believes it has a mandate to protect the natural resources of the town and it voted to authorize one of its

Seminar to focus on forested sites

The present and future effects of recreation, sightseeing, logging and development on historic sites in forested landscapes will be the topic of a day-long seminar Thursday, July 22, featuring a panel of distinguished experts as well as site visits. The program will be held at the Doris L. Benz Center in Center Sandwich.

The seminar, *Preservation of Historic Sites in Forested Landscapes*, is sponsored by the Green Mountain Conservation Group. Welcoming remarks will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by a two-hour field trip to two nearby unpreserved historic sites: the Col. Lewis Smith Farmstead in the Sandwich Town Forest and the Mead Tract in Sandwich Notch in the White Mountain National Forest. From 11:15 to noon a panel of representatives

from the U.S. Forest Service, the state archaeologist's office and Carol Foord of the Freedom Historical Society, will discuss the field trip sites.

After a bring-your-own lunch, Karl Roenke of the U.S. Forest Service will give a presentation on the Forest Service's vegetative treatment of the Moody Ledge site.

From 2 to 2:45 p.m. a panel including a representative of the Appalachian Mountain Club, a real estate developer and others will discuss site changes in forested landscapes due to development, recreation and logging.

Another panel will consider a variety of strategies regarding protection of historic sites in forested landscapes, ranging from no action to interpretation to reconstruction and reuse.

Panelists will be Peter Benson of The Nature Conservancy, Linda

Wilson of the state's Division of Historic Resources, Kris Bonatites, wildlife biologist with the N.H. Department of Fish and Game, and a representative of the Society for the Protection of

New Hampshire Forests. The day will end with a discussion from 3:30 to 4 p.m. of conclusions to be drawn regarding the treatment of historic sites in forested landscapes. The public is welcome. Pre-registration for the day-long program is required. For more information or to

The present and future effects of recreation, sightseeing, logging and development on historic sites in forested landscapes will be examined.

The Sapling

Young Conservationists News

School Recycling Program a Success

BY ELENA C. PIEKUT
OCS STUDENT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE

The Ossipee Central School has started a school-wide recycling program. Each classroom, and the office, media

center, art room, music room, and gym/auditorium and other rooms has a bin for paper. OCS has started by recycling white paper only, but we hope to add other materials in time.

It is stressed to students to use the paper as much as possible before putting it in the bins. There may be an incentive for the class that recycles the most

paper.

This project is created and funded by the Student Council. Representatives from the 4th, 5th and 6th grades collect the bins biweekly.

The Student Council has been educating the student body directly, over announcements, and through an assembly. So far everyone is cooperative and it has been a success. We

Watershed
News

Calendar

THURSDAY, JUNE 24 *Friends of The Sandwich Range*, local residents concerned with the future of the White Mountain National Forest, *slide show and discussion on Sandwich Notch and the Sandwich Range Wilderness*. Co-sponsored by the Green Mountain Conservation Group. *Tamworth Town House. 7 p.m.* For information, call Chris Conrod, 284-6686.

THURSDAY, JULY 22 *Preservation of Historic Sites in Forested Landscapes*, seminar sponsored by *The Green Mountain Conservation Group* featuring panels of experts and nearby site visits. *Doris L. Benz Center, Center Sandwich. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.* For information, call Chip Kimball, 284-6506. (See story, Page 5.)

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, AUGUST 14-15 *Ossipee Watershed Weekend*, featuring lectures, interpretive walks, guided boat tours, BBQ dinner, musical entertainment, sponsored by Green Mountain Conservation Group. *Camp Calumet, Freedom. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, Ossipee River, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.* For information, phone 539-7926. (See story, Page 1.)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21 *Discover The Ossipee Riverlands*, to celebrate the protection of 300 acres of Ossipee Riverlands sponsored by the *Society For the Protection of N.H. Forests*, featuring an interpretive hike through a pitch pine forest on the shores of Loon Lake and a 2-mile guided canoe trip on the Ossipee River. *Route 25, Freedom. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.* For information, phone SPNHF at 224-9945.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 *N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program*, presentation and discussion on nominating the Pine River for 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.)

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

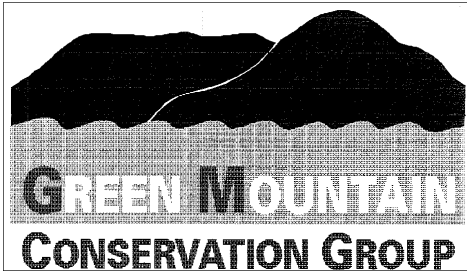
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The Watershed News

Deadline for the next edition of
The Watershed News is Sept.
20. Mail news items to the
above address or phone 603-539
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EVERY PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND EACH PERSON SHOULD TRY.

Rain

Marnie Cobbs, Eaton

After two days of
wholehearted rain,
the June green has
escaped, slightly berserk.
Resplendence has given over
to total, lush abandon.
Water is held everywhere;
drenching from drooping
leaves, soaking
from any stepping.
The roads wash and wash;
sheets of water
fly wide and sassy
through trees and rocks.
To step in grass
is to stand in an inch or two.
The red squirrel lords
over the wall, flying
between downpours, flinging
his furry, orange otherness,
leaping through
the fresh, green grass.

WATERSHED ACTIVISM

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

Edward Everett Hale

Pine River State Forest Forum draws 70 Citizens

GMCG hosted a forum of experts on the Pine River State Forest April 28 and 70 area residents turned out to express their concerns about the state’s proposal to build 12 miles of ATV trails there. The proposal is “on hold,” according to state officials, pending the outcome of a natural resources 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 ATVs in this forest write to: Commissioner George Bald, DRED, P.O. Box 1856, Concord, 03302.*

S.T.O.P.I.T. organizes against Casella proposal

Casella Waste Management of Rutland, Vt. has proposed locating a high-volume garbage transfer station on Route 25 in Tamworth next to Stony Brook, only 2000 feet from the Bearcamp River.

The area is within the floodplain and sits atop one of the deepest points of the Ossipee aquifer. A local group, S.T.O.P.I.T., has formed in opposition to this proposal. They are also concerned about traffic impacts throughout the region. *They encourage you to send a short handwritten note stating your concerns about the transfer station 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*

Watershed Birder

110 species spotted during Birdathon

BY SUSAN LEE

Birdathon/Bloomathon is the annual fundraiser for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire wildlife programs. Hardcore and beginner birders alike solicit pledges from friends, family, co-workers and businesses. In Tamworth (and contiguous towns) it’s a real team effort. Organized by Ned Beecher and Betty Steele, the group of 17 birders from six area towns split into smaller teams and canvassed the well-known bird areas of the watershed. By visiting a variety of habitats, sometimes more than once to locate birds that are active at different times of the day, the team counted 110 different species in one day on May 22. Almost all of the areas visited are easily accessible to the public and include ASNH and The Nature Conservancy reserves as well as town conservation lands, state roadside areas and rivers and lakes within the watershed. Most

of the 110 birds seen can be found in this area any day in spring with a little patience and practice. Many can be seen or heard right in your own backyard.

According to Ned Beecher, the “most noteworthy birds of the day” included two olive-sided flycatchers on the Oliverian Brook Trail, a northern saw-whet owl, a gray-cheeked thrush (near James Pond), a Virginia rail, two yellow-throated vireos, several pairs of wood ducks, northern harriers, field and vesper sparrows, and a gray jay seen on Mt. Passaconaway where Peregrine falcons were also spotted. More common and typical birds on the list included common loon, great blue heron, common merganser, broad-winged hawk, killdeer, northern flicker, four kinds of swallows, 12 different types of warblers, eastern bluebird, Baltimore oriole and American goldfinch.

ASNH has bird and wildlife sanctuaries in Tamworth (Alice Bemis Thompson Sanctuary on Route 113 a

mile east of North Sandwich Village), Madison (Gertrude and Edward Hoyt Sanctuary on Route 153 at the junction of Horse Leg Hill Road), Effingham Falls (Charles and Mabel Watts Sanctuary on Route 153 along the Ossipee River), and the new Dahl Sanctuary in North Conway right off Route 16. Trail guides to each of these are available for \$1 from ASNH, 3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 03301. The sanctuaries are open dawn to dusk free of charge. Some are wheelchair accessible. The Nature Conservancy West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve is also open to the public on the east side of Route 41 in Madison about 2 miles north of the Route 16 intersection.

Watershed Birder will be a regular feature of the Watershed News. Susan Lee is an avid birder and a long-time resident of the Ossipee Watershed. Share bird

Timber Liquidation An Issue In County

**BY PETER POHL
CARROLL COUNTY EXTENSION
EDUCATOR, FOREST
RESOURCES**

As your County Forester, it is my opinion that liquidation harvests are on the rise in Carroll County and that the majority of timber sales and the acreage harvested is not being treated using sound forest management practices. The problem with this approach is that it does not insure a sustainable supply of forest products for society.

Liquidation harvests are harvests that remove most or all merchantable timber without regard to future forest values, which include both timber values (such as regeneration and residual stand quality) and non-timber values (such as wildlife habitat, soil productivity, water quality and aesthetics).

In May 1997 a N.H. Forest Liquidation Study Committee was appointed at the request of the state's Forest Advisory Board to study this issue. Conclusions drawn from the committee's work include:

1. This type of harvest activity is occurring throughout the state, but it is still unknown what proportion of the total harvest in the state is of the liquidation type.

2. There is evidence that this type of harvest is on the increase.

3. Liquidation harvesting has silvicultural, ecological, economic and social impacts.

Silvicultural impacts include delayed regeneration of commercially valuable species and retention of low quality trees with little potential of future growth in value.

Ecological concerns include impact on wildlife habitat and rare or sensitive ecological features.

Economic impacts include reduced future tax revenues to towns, lost job

opportunities and lost value-added opportunities for local mills.

Social impacts include aesthetic impacts and the creation of a negative impression of forest management and timber harvesting.

The Forest Liquidation Study Committee has recommended increased efforts to educate individuals about sustainable forest practices, better data collection on the level of liquidation harvesting within the state, and enhanced enforcement of existing laws.

In Carroll County the problem of liquidation harvesting is further exacerbated by a number of county and out-of-county based operations that are in the business of purchasing tracts of timber land, liquidating the majority of the merchantable timber and reselling the property either in its entirety or as a subdivided lot. These transactions often occur within six months to a year of the initial purchase.

The impact to the county from local-based operations is both positive and negative. On the positive side, the business transactions are often conducted by local realtors, the timber harvest work is accomplished by local logging contractors thus providing employment to local loggers and trucking contractors. Local mills may receive some of the forest products to process into higher value-added products.

On the negative side, this extensive harvesting is not sustainable; both the landowner and the town are deprived of periodic income on 10 to 15 year intervals. A poorly executed operation may have a negative impact on the aesthetic appearance of the area, thus negatively impacting other industries such as tourism.

For those operations that are conducted by out-of-county based companies, the impact is largely negative. Once the land sale has been

accomplished, the majority of the economic activity is exported out of the county. Logging crews are often imported from neighboring states or Canada. The speed and thoroughness at which the forest resource is harvested are shocking. Much of the trucking is done by out-of-state truckers. Mills outside the county are often the recipients of the diverse products harvested from the forest. A resale of the devalued land is accomplished as quickly as possible in order to generate cash and seek out the next victim so as to repeat the process all over again.

In the above scenario it is easy to see how the local economy has been deprived of local employment opportunities for loggers, truckers, and mill owners. The town in which the land is located receives yield tax revenue, but then because the timber has been liquidated, a waiting period of 40 to 60 years transpires before additional yield tax revenue can be generated. Because the harvest has not been conducted on a sustainable basis, the full productive potential of the wood lot is never realized. In other words, the only winners in this example are the land investors who may have recovered or exceeded their initial land investment from the sale of the timber alone. The resale of the property is often pure profit. Since these individuals have little interest or long-term investment in the community, the transaction is viewed as a business venture. The goal is to purchase the property, liquidate the timber and resell the land as quickly as possible.

As your County Forester, my major purpose is to insure that landowners have enough information so that they can explore all their options in order to accomplish their land ownership objectives. Seek the advice of a