
◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume II, Issue 2

Winter 2000

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

Thanks to all who helped make 1999 special

As we start another year of watershed work, we would like to thank everyone who helped make 1999 an important year for natural resource education in the Ossipee Watershed. Thanks to all who donated time and money, participated in monthly lectures and outdoor events, advocated for protection of natural resources, wrote letters and helped with petitions and participated in our first big annual event, Watershed Weekend.

We thank all of the many non-profit as well as state organizations who gave us technical assistance and volunteered staff to help us present many different educational events. Thanks to all the folks who gave up time to help put together the many events we hosted this year; everyone who contributed to the Watershed News, and the folks who helped fund our second year—New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, Lakes Region Charitable Foundation, The River Network and our 170 dues paying members.

In 2000, we will continue to produce a quarterly newsletter, host Watershed Weekend and offer monthly educational events in the six-town area in an open format where many different opinions can be presented and expressed. We look forward to the year ahead.

Blair Folts, President
President

GMCG to celebrate second annual meeting January 22

The Green Mountain Conservation Group will celebrate its second year of watershed work at its annual meeting and potluck supper Saturday, January 22, at Runnell's Hall in Chocorua from 6 to 9 p.m. A brief business meeting and election of officers will be followed by a potluck supper and two slide presentations.

Dr. Richard Boisvert, deputy state archaeologist, will make a presentation on the varied cultural history of the Ossipee Watershed over the past 10,000 years. His emphasis will be on the evidence of Native American presence in the region prior to contact with Europeans in the 17th century. This time period saw the colonization of this area immediately following the retreat of the glaciers. Boisvert's presentation will feature slides of artifacts found in this area. He will also discuss the various field schools he has directed here.

Archaeological research has revealed a complex interrelationship between the peoples and the local environment as well as contacts with distant regions, extending as far away as the sub-arctic of Labrador. The nature of these developments and the ways in which they have been identified will be discussed in the presentation. If you have questions about the archaeology of the area, or even about a spear point you might have found while hiking the woods and streams, this is your chance to find out more.

Bob Zimmerman, executive director of the Charles River Watershed Association in Massachusetts, will also give a presentation on the need to

understand watersheds. He will discuss the delicate ecological balance between land and water in order to insure that they will continue to support fish, game and other species. Zimmerman said the Charles River has been one of the most abused rivers in the United States, home to the industrial revolution in this country beginning at the end of the 18th century, and the site of the first significant changes made to rivers by Europeans in this country, dating to 1634. He said its restoration is useful in helping people understand how to preserve more remote and more pristine rivers. Systematic scientific analysis, coupled with forward-thinking environmental policy work can insure that pristine waters will continue to provide fish, wildlife and fresh drinking water in abundance, Zimmerman said.

The Green Mountain Conservation Group invites the public to attend this exciting evening of food and discussion.

As the new year begins, it is time for GMCG members to renew their memberships. Anyone can become a member at the annual meeting, or by sending in the form on page 7 of this newsletter.

At the annual meeting, members are encouraged to participate in electing officers and other members of the board of directors. The annual meeting is free and open to the public. Please bring a favorite dish. For more information call 539-7926.

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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Sandwich, Chip Kimball
Tamworth, Scott Aspinall

Special Places

Team of Archaeologists return to the

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 100 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 DICK BOISVERT

The summer of 2000 will see a return to the Ossipee area of the SCRAP archaeological field school. SCRAP is the acronym for the State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program which is run by the NH Division of Historical Resources. The field school is operated in conjunction with Plymouth State College and participants in the field school may join either as credit students or as volunteers.

This field school will be a return to the region after two seasons' work in 1992 and 1993. In 1992 a survey was carried out which recorded six prehistoric archaeological sites and was followed by intensive research on one of the sites in 1993. This research documented an occupation in the watershed, principally in the towns of Freedom, Ossipee and Effingham, which spanned at least 9000 years. Artifacts found included chipped stone spear and arrowpoints, ground stone adzes and gouges, fragments of ceramic vessels

and the bones of animals hunted and trapped for food and furs. Several academic papers have been presented on these findings, and research is still underway.

The goals of the 2000 survey are to extend the survey into new territory, including the Pine River State Forest and the interior of the Ossipee Mountains. Each of these areas is environmentally distinct and has the potential to hold unusual prehistoric archaeological sites. There has been virtually no previous research into the prehistory of these areas and this survey will hopefully bring to light some important new sites.

The field school is open to the public for individuals 16 or older and requires at least a two-week commitment. It is structured into three 2-week sessions that begin on June 19, July 3 and July 17. College credit can be obtained at both the undergraduate and graduate level through Plymouth State College. For more information contact Dr. Richard Boisvert at the Division of Historic Resources at 271-6433 or write to him at PO Box 2043, Concord NH 03302-2043.

Dick Boisvert is New Hampshire's Deputy State Archaeologist.

Forestry in the Watershed

New Hampshire forest inventory and analysis results released

BY PETER POHL

The USDA Forest Service is charged with conducting an inventory and analysis of the nation's forests on approximately 10-year intervals. New Hampshire's latest inventory results have been recently released and the information reveals some interesting as well as alarming trends.

The field sampling for the most recent inventory conducted in 1997 used a combination of aerial and ground survey techniques. Forest Service crews examined 1,800 plots throughout the state. This study looked at changes in forestland area, ownership, stocking, growing stock, and sawtimber.

Several trends have been identified that raise some concern for the future. New Hampshire has experienced a permanent loss of 164,200 forested acres since 1983. This represents an annual loss of about 12,000 acres per year. The good news is that since our forests are aging we are growing a greater volume of sawtimber. Between

1983-1997 we have increased our softwood sawtimber volume from 9.5 billion board feet to 12.6 billion board feet and 8.5 billion board feet to 10.7 billion board feet for hardwood. Currently, 79% of the hardwood and 79% of the softwood is being harvested. On an individual tree species basis, all species except for spruce/fir and yellow birch have experienced an increase in sawtimber volume.

The majority of the loss of forested acres is due to development. The total loss of timberland acreage used for the production of forest products is 6.2% or 299,500 acres since 1983. This loss in acreage is due to an increase in land classified as Wilderness, urban forest or unproductive land.

Currently, almost 70% or 3,150,700 acres of the timberland in New Hampshire is privately owned by 84,000 non-industrial private landowners. This is a decrease of 9.6% since 1983. Forest industry ownership decreased by 27.7% to 10.5% representing a change of 182,400 acres. Public ownership increased by 83.7% to 360,800 acres.

The remaining 11.7% or 525,600 acres of timberland belongs to the White Mountain National Forest, which increased 11.4% or 53,900 acres. The average ownership held by the 84,000 non-industrial private landowners is 37.5 acres.

These periodic evaluations are critical in order to determine trends that are taking place. A healthy forest economy and tourist industry depend upon the condition and status of our state's forest resources. Continued monitoring is essential if we are to ensure these two industries retain their status.

Peter Pohl is a forester with UNH Cooperative Extension, Carroll County.

The Sapling **Young Conservationists News**

BY ELENA PIEKUT

On November 11, my grandmother, cousin, sister, and I stumbled upon the Loon Center in Moultonboro. We looked through the informational and gift shop parts, where there is a computer with a program about loons, maps indicating pairs and chicks in New Hampshire, a couple of stuffed loons and tons of various loon merchandise. In back of the center on the sanctuary land there are trails, a 10-minute forest walk and a 90-minute nest-sighting walk. We first intended to take the short walk, but were drawn to the longer one.

At first we followed a beautiful, clear river. There were lots of little bridges over various streams and soggy places. We went along the path near the lake and saw huge boulders, big trees, lots of funky fungi, and moss everywhere. "It looks like a leprechaun could just pop out from here," said my

grandmother at one point where the sun was only hitting the tops of the trees and the hundreds of mossy rocks. Along the path, we climbed through small gaps in huge boulders, clambered over many smaller ones, through big pine trees, and even crossed a stream by stepping stones.

Even though it wasn't loon season, I had a lot of fun on the hike. We plan on going back every season to see the sanctuary in different stages.

So, go learn about those birds with the "loony" laugh — go to the Loon Center.

Elena Piekut is a 7th grader at Kingswood Middle School.

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.**

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

Ossipee

The Ossipee Conservation Commission has been following the proposal by the University of New Hampshire to sell some of its land in the Ossipee area, particularly the Lord property. The Commission has agreed to focus efforts on conservation of these parcels either through conservation easements or direct protection of the land. (See related story on page 6.)

The Commission's project to purchase the old Ossipee Inn has hit a snag due to a disagreement between the current owner and an abutter to discern property lines. The Commission intended to purchase the land to develop green space and a park to benefit the community.

The Commission wrote a letter to Commissioner Bald stating its concerns about the state's proposal to build ATV trails in the Pine River State Forest. The Commission also voted 3-1 against a proposal to construct ATV trails in and around Constitution Park.

Soon the Commission will begin to implement a forest management plan on land that it owns on Depot Road in

Tamworth.

On a final note, the Commission has agreed to work with GMCG on creating an informative sign at the public access to Ossipee Lake on the Pine River on Route 25. This sign will inform the public about the importance of the Ossipee aquifer, as well as point out the unique features found along the Ossipee Lake Natural Area, which was listed by the EPA as one of the top six regions in New Hampshire to protect. The Department of Resources and Economic Development has agreed to support this effort and install this sign.

Sandwich

The Conservation Commission has turned its attention to the problem of invasive plant species. Expansion of invasive species has the second biggest negative effect on native species after habitat loss. When a species not native to the area is introduced, a lack of predators may result in extensive expansion of the species. Local examples of this problem include purple loosestrife, common teal, and water hemlock. Nationally one of the best examples of this problem is the kudzu vine which has expanded throughout the south, occasionally smothering trees, power poles, and buildings. Members of the Commission have attended seminars on the subject and learned that prevention is a much better option than eradication. Methods of eradication include mechanical removal, fire, and herbicides and are not always successful. The Commission intends to develop a brochure or poster specifically addressing invasive species that are problems in our area; this will include good photos and written information. This information will then be disseminated through the school and local groups so that our community can be on the watch for invasives. If we act quickly when an infestation is small, perhaps we can prevent a much larger problem later on.

The Commission has had the normal complement of dock and other wetlands permits over the past six months.

Tamworth

The Tamworth Conservation Commission's current main focus is to encourage Tamworth citizens to vote at town meeting to transfer funds from the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) to the town's Conservation Fund. A warrant article has been submitted by the Commission to the selectmen asking for 100% of the LUCT with a cap of \$5000 to go into the Conservation Fund. This fund would be a contingency fund to acquire easements or land in fee simple. It would also provide money for matching grants with the LWCF or in the proposed program for acquisition of land, cultural and historical resources under the NH Land and Community Heritage Commission.

The Conservation Commission has also been busy with wetlands application reviews, including some major projects such as the town's new transfer station.

Maintenance of trails continues to be a major effort, including the updating of brochures and repair and replacement of signs.

The Commission has submitted an article for a booklet, "Tamworth Today," which will be published by the Tamworth Civic Association. The article is on land protection techniques in Tamworth and offers basic information for landowners on donating land or easements, the tax benefits of doing so, funding sources for acquisition and organizations which have interests in lands in Tamworth.

The Commission continues to seek a few "good people" to serve as Commissioners.

Watershed Birder

Millennium Thoughts

BY SUSAN LEE

Birds respond to light, temperature, weather and the seasons. Seasonal migration enables birds to avoid the physiological stresses of unfavorable climates and to exploit food supplies that are only available for limited periods during the year. It is no mere coincidence that the dreaded black fly and spring warblers arrive at about the same time. Some species of birds migrate like clockwork. They seem to be guided more by the season and the length of day, rather than the weather. Ruby-throated hummingbirds, which exhibit remarkable nest site fidelity, return to my yard during the same week in May each year. Some ducks and geese, on the other hand, may delay their southward migration until the last few square feet of open water starts to skim over with ice. Weather, not daylight, seems to control these migrants.

A recent article by Paul Kerlinger in *Birder's World*, suggests that some birds "turn migration on and

off" when needed. Not only ducks, but song birds like the yellow-rumped warbler, seem to turn their migration behavior back on to get away from cold and snowy weather that reaches farther south. Kerlinger calls this "hard weather movement." Other birds who exhibit hard weather movement are robins, bluebirds, sparrows and blackbirds.

Another group of birds appears at backyard feeders in some years and not in others. These are not true migrants and differ from hard weather migrants as well. Common redpolls, crossbills, bohemian waxwings, pine and evening grosbeaks and pine siskins are called irruptive species. Their movements seem to be a result of food shortages in their usual winter range.

The Millennium winter of 1999-2000 has been an extraordinary irruptive year in the watershed. Feeder watchers from all of the watershed towns reported common redpolls in huge flocks. Pine siskin numbers are up and they too are being reported at nyjer (formerly called thistle) feeders. Birders with fruit trees and shrubs reported large flocks of berry loving bohemian waxwings. Also present, in smaller numbers, have been red

crossbills and a few white-winged crossbills, as well. Watershed birders with internet access may want to report their sightings of irruptive winter finches and red-breasted nuthatches through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Web site (<http://birdsource.cornell.edu>).

A correction to the last *Watershed Birder* column: the editor's spell checker converted the sharp shinned hawk into a sharp "skinned" hawk.

Finally, the *Watershed Birder* is interested in hearing from any young birders (10-18) with ideas about what they would like to see in future columns, or possibly arranging field trips to "hot spots" in the Watershed especially for them. The *Watershed Birder* can be reached by e-mail at leegull@landmarknet.net or by writing to GMCG at PO Box 95 S. Effingham, NH 03882.

Susan Lee is a long-time resident of the Ossipee Watershed and an avid birder.

UNH Cooperative Extension to conduct natural resources inventories

UNH Cooperative Extension has begun to work with the town of Effingham to conduct a natural resources inventory (NRI). Extension staff have also committed to work with GMCG to produce an NRI for the entire Ossipee Watershed. The basic idea of an NRI is to gather information on natural features of the land on which to base land use decisions. A typical NRI includes maps associated with mapped features and a report that summarizes the findings and documenting how and by whom it was done.

With computer geographic information systems (GIS) there is now a broad collection in New Hampshire of natural and cultural resources data in a statewide data base known as GRANIT (Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer System) Anyone with a computer can access this data at:

<http://nhresnet.sr.unh.edu/granit/overview.html>.

NRIs are used to document existing land conditions, guide conservation planning, review land use proposals, and plan for land use management. Some examples of this might include a town inventorying a town forest in order to plan for forest management; a town planning for town water supply or prime farmland; or linking conservation lands to create animal habitat.

In 1995, the NH Natural Resources Protection Project inventoried the entire state in order to identify the state's top priority areas for conservation. The Ossipee Lake area was listed in the top six areas of conservation importance in NH.

Extension is planning to work closely with a group of Effingham residents to design an NRI to fit their community and to add to their town's master plan. Anyone interested in participating in these projects should contact GMCG at 539-7926.

WATERSHED ACTIVISM

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

'Friends' unite to oppose commercial solid waste transfer facility

The Green Mountain Conservation Group has joined with several other organizations and individuals to challenge Casella Waste Management's proposed commercial solid waste transfer station 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. GMCG, K.E.E.P.O.U.T., Lakeview NeuroRehabilitation Center and several individuals have hired a Concord attorney to follow the Casella application through the Department of Environmental Services permitting process. The group calls itself "Friends of the Ossipee Watershed."

The Effingham site is located near the populated villages of Effingham Falls and Freedom, within the wellhead protection area of the Effingham Elementary School and abuts the Lakeview Neurological Rehabilitation Center. These groups have worked together to send out a community mailing asking for support, which resulted in more than 525 letters from area property owners to the Department of Environmental Services asking Commissioner Varney to deny the Casella permit. According to DES, no other issue has ever sparked such response. (Tamworth residents generated more 200 letters opposition when Casella first proposed locating the transfer station on Route 25 in that town.) In response to the Casella proposal and other unpopular developments in town, Effingham voters approved an emergency temporary zoning ordinance at a special town meeting in December by a margin of 187-124 as way of stating that they want their town to remain a rural residential town with no heavy industry. On December 20, 1999, DES deemed the Casella permit application incomplete due

to lack of detailed information on a number of site specific issues, including the hydrological relationship of the site to the aquifers.

Also significant is that the Friends of the Ossipee Watershed group, in addition to opposing the Effingham site, is urging the state to evaluate its solid waste disposal policy, particularly in relation to siting of facilities in important drinking water areas. NH is the 11th largest importer of trash in the nation.

These grassroots efforts have made a difference. 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 K.E.E.P.O.U.T. at P.O. Box 531 Ossipee, NH 03864, or the Green Mountain Conservation Group.

Let DRED know your views on Pine River ATV trails proposal

As a result of GMCG's Pine River State Forest Forum last April, an archaeological study will be undertaken in the Forest this summer by Richard Boisvert, the state's deputy archaeologist. (See Page 2 for more details.) This project further delays a 12-mile ATV trail system proposed by the Department of Resources and Economic Development.

Also, DRED will issue a report this month detailing the results of the Natural Heritage Inventory undertaken in the Pine River State Forest. The Green Mountain Conservation Group continues to be concerned about ATV use in the Forest because of its unique habitat. Illegal ATV use has caused substantial erosion damage to both summer and winter trails, and 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.

Groups to meet about proposed UNH land sale

If you are concerned about the proposed sale by the University of New Hampshire of some of its forested properties in the Ossipee and Tamworth area, please make your opinions known by writing to Chairman of the UNH Board of Trustees, Bruce Keough in care of Thompson Hall, 105 Main Street, Durham, 03824. UNH is expected to complete its analysis of the various parcels in late February. At that time, several conservation organizations plan to meet to determine ways to preserve parcels with important conservation values.

If you would like to be included in these discussions as an individual or representing an organization, please contact GMCG (539-7926) or Sarah Thorne at the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (224-9945).

Watershed
News

Calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6 *The Green Mountain Conservation Group* and the Madison Conservation Commission will sponsor an informative lecture on Class VI roads with attorney Carolyn Baldwin at the *Madison Public Library from 7-9 p.m.*

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. Deputy State Archaeologist Dick Boisvert will speak about 10,000-year-old sites in the Ossipee area, and Bob Zimmerman from the Charles River Watershed Association will speak about watershed work in New England. Bring a favorite dish for dinner. GMCG will provide coffee and dessert. **Runnell's Hall, Chocorua, 6 p.m.- 9 p.m.** For more information call GMCG 539-7926 or 539-7095.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11 *Peter Pohl, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Forester* will give a presentation on Current Use, its history, requirements for enrollment, land categories and assessment rates, the new requirements for the managed forest land category and talk about the overall impact this program has had on New Hampshire's landscape. The talk will be at the **Effingham Historical Society on Route 153 in Center Effingham, 7-9 p.m.** For more information, call GMCG at 539-7926.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 *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 Kanter of N.H. Fish and Game Department, at the **Ossipee Public Library, Center Ossipee, 7-9 p.m.** For more information, call 539-7926. (This program is rescheduled from December 3.)

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)*

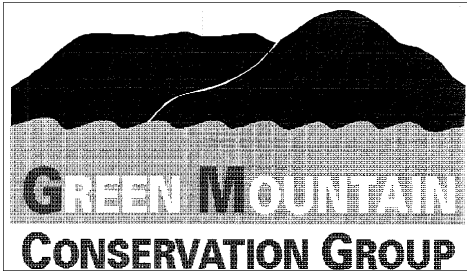
Raindrop _____ \$10	Puddle _____ \$15	Vernal Pool _____ \$25
Stream _____ \$50	River _____ \$75	Pond _____ \$100
Lake _____ \$250	Aquifer _____ \$500	Other _____

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The Watershed News

Deadline for the next edition of The Watershed News is **March 20**. Mail news items to the above address or phone 603-539-7926.

Talk in the Mountains

You ask me, "Why dwell among
green mountains?"
I laugh in silence; my soul is quiet.
Peach blossom
follows the moving water;
Here is a heaven and earth,
beyond the world of men.

Li Po, Chinese poet, 702-762

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