
◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume IV, Issue I

Autumn 2001

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

Conservation planning workshop offered

Town officials and interested citizens are invited to a workshop on natural resource conservation planning Saturday, December 1, at Runnell's Hall in Chocorua from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Francesca Latawiec from the Water Protection Assistance Program in the Office of State Planning, Sherry Godlewski from the Drinking Water Protection Program in the NH Department of Environmental Services, and Darrel Covell, wildlife specialist with UNH Cooperative Extension, will each discuss ways for towns to creatively implement natural resource conservation as they update local master plans and plan for growth in their communities.

After the presentations, participants will break into groups by town, look at the Natural Resource Inventory maps recently donated to each town by GMCG, and work with the three experts to assess important resources, discuss ways to protect them and think about areas of town best capable of supporting future development. Participants will also work with maps that depict aquifer recharge land and discuss ways towns can work together to better plan for drinking water protection.

The workshop is free and open to the public. Lunch and handouts will be included. Donations will gladly be accepted to help defray the cost. Call GMCG for more information at 539-7926.

GMCG, CLA hire Americorp volunteer

The Green Mountain Conservation Group and the Chocorua Lake Association have joined forces with the NH Department of Environmental Services to hire an Americorp volunteer to help design and implement a watershed-wide water quality monitoring program and data base.

The CLA was formed in 1968 and has concentrated its efforts in the upper reaches of the Ossipee Watershed in the Chocorua Lake subbasin in Tamworth. The mission of the CLA has been to protect the Chocorua Lake Watershed, a subwatershed of the Ossipee Watershed. GMCG was formed in 1997 to bring a watershed-wide approach to natural resource protection.

CLA and GMCG first began working together in 1999 when a commercial trash transfer station was proposed in the Ossipee Watershed. The two groups came together to oppose the proposal and to protect the aquifer. The two conservation groups began co-sponsoring educational events and working together on forestry and land protection issues.

This summer, GMCG and CLA received grants from NH DES and New England Grassroots Environment Fund to

hire Brianne Fowles, an Americorp Volunteer. Brianne graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in sociology and business and most recently received her master's degree in environmental policy from Vermont Law School.

Working with both organizations, NH DES, UNH Cooperative Extension, EPA and the Saco River Corridor Commission in Maine, Brianne is helping to design a water quality monitoring program that will include the six watershed towns in New Hampshire and extend into the Maine portion of the Ossipee Watershed.

The three main goals of the project are:

1. Establish a watershed-wide water quality monitoring program;
2. Work cooperatively across state boundaries;
3. Track the water quality health of the watershed.

Over the next several months, Brianne will meet with town officials across the watershed to introduce the project and to gather information on water related issues in each town. GMCG will host a series of educational workshops as well as training for interested monitoring volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering

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 Protection Project. 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.

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 issues 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.

Board of Directors

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Madison, Dan Stepanauskus
Ossipee, Greg Bossart
Sandwich, Ben Shambaugh
Tamworth, C. Scott Aspinall
Maine, Dennis Finn

Executive Director, Blair Folts

Forestry in the Watershed

Timber harvesting can affect

BY
PETER POHL

Water issues, both quantity and quality pose serious challenges as our demands and development pressures increase. To maintain an adequate supply of quality water, society must do a much better job of controlling sources of contamination.

In addition to chemical and septage contamination of our water supplies, the uses of our land pose a major impact. Three major areas that can be a source of pollution include construction activities such as roads and buildings, agricultural practices involving tillage and use of fertilizers and pesticides, and timber harvesting activities which impact our forested acreage. I would like to address the forestry aspects that threaten our water quality.

Most forested landscape in New Hampshire includes rolling and steep terrain, frontage along major rivers, streams, brooks and or bodies of water. What occurs on the acreage abutting these water courses directly impacts not only the quality but also the quantity of the water. Major research on just these issues has been conducted by researchers stationed at such facilities as the Hubbard Brook Hydrologic Research Station in Thornton. This U.S. Forest Service research station has published a wealth of information on forest harvesting practices and their impact on water quality and quantity and the buffer zones needed to protect this important resource.

The proper planning and execution of a timber sale should include the marking and layout of the project by a licensed forester and the harvesting by a certified logger. Both these professionals are well trained in the implementation of

best management practices that minimize the threat to our water supplies.

The steps taken in the proper planning and execution of a timber harvest include the following:

1. Proper lay out of logging roads to minimize drainage ways and steep slopes.
2. Limited harvesting within buffer zones along water courses. These distances are equal to about one and a half times the height of the trees bordering the stream or lake.
3. Minimizing stream and drainage crossings and installing a suitable temporary structure where it is unavoidable not to cross.
4. Installing sufficient and functioning water bars spaced correctly on all logging roads and skid trails that can erode.
5. Seeding all roads to provide an adequate vegetative cover.
6. Maintenance of all permanent bridges and culverts to prevent sources of erosion.

These actions, if taken, will go a long way to protect the quality of water entering our streams, rivers and lakes. Each of us has the responsibility to be good stewards of all of our renewable resources. The rewards are many fold.

For further information and assistance with the management of your forest resources contact Peter Pohl, UNH Carroll County Extension Forester, at 539-3331, or e-mail at peter.pohl@unh.edu or write 75 Main Street, P.O. Box 860, Center Ossipee, N.H. 03814

A house with a history

Editor's Note: *Special Places* is a regular feature of the *Watershed News*, highlighting an historical or cultural resource within the *Ossipee Watershed*. GMCG has endorsed the *Land and Community Heritage Investment Program*, a public-private partnership committed to conservation of New Hampshire's natural, cultural and historical resources. For more information on LCHIP, call 230-9729.

BY BRIANNE FOWLES

As the story goes, Sylvester Cone, a conservative, God-fearing man had just about enough with two boys who had been repeatedly skinny dipping at the Narrows, a portion of Chocorua Lake within view of Mr. Cone's porch. On the day of the Sabbath in 1876, something must have snapped inside Mr. Cone to make him get up, grab a shotgun, proceed out to the lake, and take aim at the boys. Whether intentional or not, Mr. Cone took the life of one Paul Williams and was sentenced to 30 years in the state prison. As sad as this story is, without its occurrence, Red Gables might not be the beautiful place that it is today.

A pair of old Civil War comrades, C.P. Bowditch and Henshaw B. Walley, bought the Cone Farm in the winter of 1879-80 at a judgment sale for debts of Mr. Cone. Total acreage was about 100 acres. The house was not used for much except as a bath house in the summer of 1880. In the spring and summer of 1881, a front porch, ice house, and carriage house were built and a well dug. The house was furnished and some modifications were made to the kitchen.

Red Gables, as it is fondly referred to today, is still owned by the Bowditch family's descendents, but has been home to a number of

people throughout its history. Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Harridan occupied the house beginning in May 1881 with the widow Harriman as the cook. H.B. Walley and the Bowditches resided there during the summer months at what was then referred to as Loafer's Rest. They began a garden and had two horses and two cows, one of which Walley sent for from Boston.

In 1883, the ell section of the house was cut off and moved to the north and connected by a dining room and two chambers above. The west wall of the dining room was rigged in such a way that allowed the entire wall to be lifted so that diners could look out onto the lake. Then in 1885-86, the Brown Study was built for C.P. Bowditch as a refuge for the children.

In 1889, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Murdock took over care of the house and in 1891 became in charge. During the fall of that year, the cellar for Conni Sauti (commonly referred to as Toad Hall) was dug and the construction of that house began in 1892. This house was built on the hill about a quarter of a mile to the east of Red Gables. In 1894, Mr. and Mrs. Nickerson became foremen of Red Gables and the Bowditch family moved up to Conni Sauti for permanent residence.

By 1916, Loafer's Rest was wired for electricity and by 1925, the house was equipped with a furnace and a bathroom above the kitchen. However, the roof caught fire in 1926, which led to the installation of fire-proof shingles. In addition, an earthquake in December 1941 shook some bricks from the chimney, but all was well.

Foreman responsibility once again changed hands in 1943 after George Nickerson passed away and Mrs.

Nickerson had moved to the village. Lawrence Flint, along with his wife and two daughters, moved into Red Gables and were helped out by Charlie Chick and Bill Abbott. Abbott married Alta Nickerson (daughter of George). They stayed at the house until 1946 when two men, Campbell and Lausell, hired Loafer's Rest as a bed and breakfast, luring guests with the enticing name of Lakeview Tourist Home. The barn as well as the chickens, raspberries and bountiful garden were kept. The tourist home operated for about three or four years. Cornelia Wheeler remembers, "The two boys that rented out the home painted the rooms purple. A strange color for the day."

After Campbell and Lausell left, C.P. Bowditch's daughter Katy rented the house out to Lawrence "Bun" Nickerson and his wife. They lived there until the Twitchells, descendents of the Bowditches, bought it in the 1960s. Ever since, Red Gables has been in the Twitchell family. Roger and his sister Lucy lived there and then Red Gables was transferred to their sister Betty and her husband Peter Snyder in 1982. The Snyder's have rented out the house on many occasions. Red Gables has been home to many renters in the area, and currently me — Brianne Fowles. Personally, it has been a pleasure to live in a house with so much history. Almost any book that has been written on this area includes the story of Red Gables. The high arching ceilings, the round picture window, and the retractable dining room wall offer an historical experience of the creativity and imagination of a time well since passed.

Watershed Birder**Bird banding on Appledore**

BY

SUSAN LEE

Appledore Island, although one of the eight islands which make up the Isles of Shoals some six miles east of Portsmouth, is actually in Maine. Each year thousands of songbirds stop on Appledore Island during migration. The Appledore Island Migration Banding Station studies these migrants during two blocks of time in the spring and again in the fall. The primary purpose of the station is avian research: to study the migration and stopover ecology of Nearctic-Neotropical migrants.

In addition to the Banding Station, Appledore is home to the Shoals Marine Laboratory (SML) a seasonal field station and teaching and research facility for undergraduate students run co-operatively by UNH and Cornell University.

According to literature on the SML website (www.sml.cornell.edu/research/), the Banding Station began operation in the 1970s. Operated by trained volunteers under the supervision of licensed banders, the station operates daily during spring and fall migration from before sunrise until sunset, weather permitting. Over 65,000 birds of 126 species have been banded at the station since 1981. The largest single day of banding was 444 birds banded on May 19, 1995. The most common bird banded on Appledore is the Common Yellowthroat.

Bird banders and banding stations are regulated and licensed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Additionally, each station operates under a specific permit to capture and band certain

species of birds for research purposes. It is unlawful to capture or possess migratory birds, whether on the federal endangered species list or not, without the proper permits.

On Appledore, the birds are caught in "mist nets," loose nets of fine mesh approximately 10 feet high strung on poles along several narrow trails in a section of small trees and shrubs. The nets are checked regularly and any birds that have been netted are gently removed and carried to the banding station. There the bird is identified as to species and age, and where possible, sex. The bander then places a tiny metal ring on the bird's leg. Each such ring or "band" has a unique number stamped into the metal together with an address and phone number to contact in the event the bird is recaptured or the band recovered at a later date. The bird is then measured, weighed and released to continue its migration.

The data collected at the Appledore station has led to numerous ornithological papers on migration and stopover ecology. Interest in Nearctic-Neotropical migrants (bird species which breed in North America and migrate to Mexico, the Caribbean, or Central or South American for the non-breeding season), has increased in the last decade as scientists attempt to understand the significant population declines of many bird species and the impact of habitat loss both here and in their non-breeding territory. Banding studies show that equally important is loss of habitat at "stopover" points in migration, where birds fuel up for long migration flights.

Both New Hampshire and Maine Audubon Society schedule weekend trips to Appledore while the Banding

Station is in operation. The fall trip is traditionally over the Labor Day weekend. For those interested in becoming volunteers at the station, a week long course is offered. Affectionately called, "Dangle, Tangle and Drudge," the course is given by one of the licensed banders and successful completion earns volunteers the title "Band-aid." Trained band-aids learn to safely remove birds from the net, identify the bird and record the measurements that form the basis for the research.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering at the banding station, you may contact Dr. Sara Morris (morriss@canisius.edu) at Canisius College, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14208. Band-aids are given the rare privilege of holding a living breathing bird, truly an amazing experience. My first bird was a young Song Sparrow, band # 172142304. As Emily Dickinson wrote, "Hope is the thing with feathers."

Susan Lee is an avid birder and a longtime resident of the Ossipee Watershed. Share bird sightings or comments with her by e-mail at legal@landmarknet.net

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. It is the goal of the Green Mountain Conservation Group to encourage the six towns to create a strong voice as a united watershed community.*

Think Locally; Act Watershed.

Effingham

The Effingham Conservation Commission is working with UNH Cooperative Extension to conduct a natural resource study of wetlands owned by the town and managed by the conservation commission. The

conservation commission also hopes to build a series of trails on some of these lands so that people can walk and learn more about the valuable role wetlands play in water protection.

Ossipee

The conservation commission as well as the selectmen supported the petition to the Department of Safety to prohibit gas-powered motor boats on Conner Pond and to reduce boat speed to 5 mph on the 89-acre pond. More than a dozen people spoke in favor of the petition at the DOS public hearing September 21 and 90 people signed the petition. This spring-fed pond is the headwaters of the Lovell River, which flows into Ossipee Lake.

Sandwich

The commission has several activities planned for fall, including monitoring easement properties from the air after leaf drop. The commission uses different monitoring methods each year to obtain new perspectives on its easement properties. The commission is coordinating with GMCG on water quality monitoring and has selected a location on the Cold River as its first monitoring site. The commission reports at least one success in the exotic, invasive plant area: through education the commission succeeded in having a private landowner remove and destroy purple loosestrife found in a garden adjacent to one of the town's

Young Sapling

Students research growing cranberries in sandpits

BY
CLAES THELEMARK

Seven students participated in the Tamworth Community School Summer Science Camp. Their chief research project was to explore the feasibility of transplanting wild cranberries in a sandpit as a form of sandpit reclamation. The project came about when Martha Carlson, director of the Community School, heard of a potential proposal to spread sludge on the Jackman Sandpit, which is adjacent to school property and its well.

A common misconception about cranberries is that they grow in water. Cranberries grow in wetlands and prefer well drained soils that are only flooded periodically. Upon researching commercial cranberry bogs we discovered just how intensively they are managed and were a bit disheartened to learn the cost of establishing a commercial bog — \$10,000 to \$20,000 per acre. Without money to establish fancy irrigation or a system of levies and dikes to control the water level we wondered where to start. Underlying all this research was the fact that there was a naturally established 1.5 acre cranberry bog already there. So we wondered if we could recreate this naturalized bog. Each student developed and tested his or her own hypothesis on transplanting and growing cranberries. They tried planting cranberry vine runners at different soil depths, watering them with different amounts of water, planting mats of established cranberries, trying

to germinate cranberries from seed and other research projects. The projects were monitored for four weeks only to find out that it is very difficult to transplant cranberry vines during a drought year. Such is the way of research in natural systems. Some variables are just beyond our control.

We were able to draw some conclusions and plan for future potential projects. Knowing that water is a limiting factor, only to have it reinforced this summer, we hope to replant cranberry vines at differing levels closer to the water table. Newly planted vines are the most susceptible to dry conditions, whereas established vines can tolerate short periods of dry weather quite well. If we succeed in creating a "natural" cranberry bog we hope to enjoy a nice cranberry harvest in the future. Currently organic dry picked cranberries bring \$350 to \$400 per barrel (100 lbs.), compared to the meager \$14 to \$18 per barrel for conventional cranberries. Hopefully, with some future grant funding and some more research by eager young scientists we will have a viable cleaner alternative to reclaiming sandpits over our aquifer. Cranberry relish anyone?

Claes Thelemark is a science teacher at The Community School in Tamworth.

Calendar

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26 *THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION GROUP* will sponsor a slide presentation with *Sherry Godlewski* from *NH Department of Environmental Services* on Drinking Water Protection Lands Grants. The presentation will highlight methods to protect critical water supply lands as well as introduce the Water Supply Land Conservation Grant Program. The program is a collaborative effort between DES and the Society for the Protection of NH forests. Success stories from past grant awards will also be highlighted. **Ossipee Library 7-9 p.m.**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 *The Chocorua Lake Association and GMCG* will sponsor a mushroom walk led by John and Peter Lewis from 10 a.m.-noon. **Meet at the Chocorua Lake Bridge at 10 am.** Details call (617) 868-0294.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 *UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION* will lead a tour of the Wakefield Tree Farm in Wonalancet. The hiking is moderate with half the tour leading to the summit of Mt. Katherine and an exquisite view of the Sandwich Range and the Wonalancet Intervale during the peak of the fall foliage season. Foresters will discuss management objectives. Dress appropriately and bring a lunch. **Meet at the Wonalancet Chapel on Rt. 113A at 8:45.** For more information call Extension at 539-3331.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 *The Wonalancet Out Door Club (WODC)* will sponsor an autumn trail clearing day at the height of fall color. Everyone is invited to help and learn more about the trails that the club maintains. **Meet at the Ferncroft kiosk in Wonalancet at 8:15 a.m.** For more information contact Judy Reardon at 323-8827

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3 *New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions* will host its annual meeting at **Rundlett Middle School in Concord**. Keynote speaker will be Steve Taylor, Commissioner of Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food. Taylor will speak on "Agriculture's Changing: Is Your Community Ready." This meeting is open to the public with a cost of \$20 for NHACC members and town officials and \$25 for non-members. The meeting will also include inside and outside workshops. For more information and a full schedule of events contact Marjory M. Swope, executive director, NHACC at 224-7867 or marge@nhacc.org. Visit their website at www.nhacc.org.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 *NH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND NH RIVERS COUNCIL WILL PRESENT THE 2001 RIVER AND WATERSHED CONFERENCE* The conference offers the opportunity for local river advisory committees, volunteer monitoring groups, and watershed associations to meet, exchange ideas, attend information session and workshops. This year's informational sessions include: river and riparian ecology, stream flow and water use, land protection and conservation, and more. Afternoon workshops include GIS watershed management applications and macroinvertebrates identification. **DES OFFICE, 6 HAZEN DRIVE 8:00 AM TO 4:00. 271-3503.**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 *GMCG* will host a Planning Workshop for Municipal Officials. Francesca Latawicz, Office of State Planning, Sherry Godlewski, NH DES, and Darrel Covell, UNH Cooperative Extension will present information about how towns can better plan for natural resource protection. **Runnell's Hall, Chocorua, 9 -1:30.**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26 *The Green Mountain Conservation Group* will hold its 4th Annual Meeting. A short business meeting will be followed by a potluck supper. The keynote address will be by Dr. William McDowell, professor of Water Resource Management at University of New Hampshire. Dr. McDowell will deliver a slide presentation about watershed research locally in New Hampshire and globally in Costa Rica. **Runnells Hall, Chocorua, 6-9 p.m.**

For more information about activities, or volunteer opportunities, call GMCG at 539-7926 or 539-7095.

To submit Calendar listing for the Winter issue of **THE WATERSHED NEWS**, please send information to GMCG

WATERSHED ACTIVISM

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

Edward Everett Hale

Committee Studying ATV Trail Problems

A study committee established by the state legislature has begun meeting to review problems of ATV and trailbike use on state lands. The committee of four representatives and four senators is required to recommend whether the state should remain in the business of operating ATV trails and, if so, what procedures and plans should be followed. The committee is interested in hearing comments, concerns, suggestions and ideas from individuals, town officials, recreationalists, environmentalists and any others concerned.

Currently there are more than 23,000 registered ATVs and trailbikes in New Hampshire and those numbers are growing rapidly.

GMCG has asked the study committee to:

- Consider the overall impact of ATVs statewide and recommend a comprehensive

plan for the location of future ATV trails on state lands.

- Clarify RSA 215-A:31 that gives DRED authority to allow or not allow ATVs on state land.
- Consider the impact of ATV trails on town services and on private landowners.
- Consider the environmental impact of ATV trails.
- Consider the impact ATV use has on other users of public land.
- Recommend stronger enforcement of ATV laws.

A second **public hearing** is scheduled for **October 10 in Room 207 of the Legislative Office Building from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Public comment may also be sent to Rep. John Alger, the committee’s chair, at john.alger@connriver.net or via FAX at 786-9463.

Leavitt Plantation Fundraising Nears Goal

Thanks to an outpouring of support by townspeople and others, Friends of the Leavitt Plantation is within \$300,000 of a goal of \$1.9m needed by October 15 to secure a conservation easement on The Leavitt Plantation. This 8,600 acre parcel of forestland in Parsonsfield, Maine is the largest contiguous forest block in southern Maine. Friends of the Leavitt Plantation, the Town of Parsonsfield, Maine, The Nature Conservancy, the Maine Department of Conservation and others are working to protect the forest with a conservation easement that will provide public access, preserve wildlife habitat, ensure sustainable timber management and protect important aquifer land. To help, send donations to:

**Leavitt Plantation Forest Project
Town of Parsonsfield
P.O. Box 30
Parsonsfield, Maine 04047**

Your Membership Will Make a Difference Please Join Today!

*(Please make checks payable to Green Mountain Conservation Group)
P.O. box 95 South Effingham, New Hampshire 03882*

Raindrop ___\$10 Puddle _____\$15 Vernal Pool ___\$25

(Student membership)

Stream _____\$50 River _____\$75 Pond _____\$100

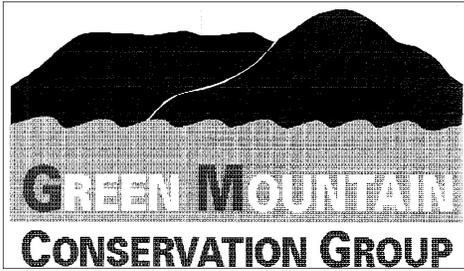
Lake _____\$250 Aquifer _____\$500 Other _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ **E-Mail** _____

Alternate Address _____



GMCG
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03882

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Permit No. 10

The Watershed News

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

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

GMCG launches water quality monitoring program

**BY
BRIANNE FOWLES**

GMCG is working on a new program to implement a watershed-wide water quality monitoring program. Initially, 10 new water quality test sites will be established and volunteers will be trained to collect samples and record data. GMCG is designing the program in cooperation with NH Department of Environmental Services, UNH Cooperative Extension, UNH Water Resources Department, Chocorua Lake Association and the Saco River Corridor Commission.

A GIS map is being developed by UNH Cooperative Extension to show where test sites already exist in the Ossipee Watershed. These sites include testing by both DES and UNH Cooperative Extension through the Lakes Lay Monitoring Program.

GMCG is working with selectmen and conservation commission members, lake associations, and concerned citizens to determine what new sites should be tested. A technical advisory committee is being established with representatives of agencies and organizations in both Maine and New Hampshire as well as EPA New England. The committee will establish protocol and testing parameters for the testing program to create a uniform watershed-wide water quality monitoring data base that will benefit the entire Saco Watershed.

UNH Cooperative Extension and NH DES are working together to create a website that will contain data on the water quality monitoring so that the public will have access to the information.

Last year, GMCG worked with UNH Cooperative Extension and the Society for the Protection of New

Hampshire Forests, through a grant from the US Forest Service, to produce a series of Natural Resource Inventory maps of each town in the Ossipee Watershed. The maps include information on hydrology, soils of statewide importance, town conservation land, unfragmented land, public water supplies, known and potential contamination sites as well as co-occurrences of important resources. GMCG has presented the maps to each town. The Water Quality Monitoring Project grew out of the NRI mapping project as a way to further study our natural resources and begin to work together as a broader community to plan for growth as well as protection of important resources. The water quality monitoring program will enable GMCG to study the health of the entire watershed and track changes over time.

Notes from Downstream

“Borders? I’ve never seen one but I heard that they exist in some people’s minds.”

Throe Heyerdhal

Editor’s Note: GMCG recently added a representative from the Ossipee Watershed in Maine to its Board of Directors. Our downstream neighbors are represented by Dennis Finn, executive director of the Saco River Corridor Commission. SRCC is made up of 20 towns from Fryeburg to Saco. SRCC will help train GMCG water quality monitoring volunteers in New Hampshire. Please watch for more details in your local paper.

The Saco River Corridor Commission (SRCC), located in the Saco River Basin, and having regulatory jurisdiction within 20 Maine communities, is more than half way through the pilot year of its newest project. Early this summer, the SRCC began testing the quality of the water supplying the 20 communities within its corridor. The program has been testing for dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, E.coli, total

nitrogen, phosphate, and turbidity. The primary goal for this program in its first year was to look for trends occurring in the waters that continuously flow through the basin. This program will continue until the end of October and will resume next spring when safe access can be secured again at each of the sites. Anyone who is interested in seeing the results of the testing or for more information regarding what each of the water quality parameters indicate about water quality, please visit our website in the near future. An addition to our web page is currently under construction in order to bring this information to as many people as possible. Our website address is www.srcc-maine.org. As always the SRCC encourages thoughts both critical and complimentary regarding our water quality monitoring program.

LAKE LINKS

Editors Note: In an effort to introduce lake associations in the Ossipee Watershed to each other, keep abreast of shared concerns, and share thoughts on water quality monitoring, The Watershed News is expanding the newsletter to include this column.

Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust

On August 18, 100 residents of the Dan Hole Ponds area and friends celebrated the acquisition and permanent protection of 200 acres and 3,000 feet of lake front on the south side of Big Dan Hole Pond. The property was acquired in April by the Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust, a new land conservation organization which was formed last year. The Trust's goal is to help to ensure the preservation of the unusual beauty, water quality and wildlife habitat of the watershed surrounding Dan Hole Pond. To do so, the Trust intends to work closely with other groups with similar objectives, including the Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG), Lakes Region Conservation Trust, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). SPNHF is currently preparing a set of GIS maps of the watershed, which the Trust will use to plan future activities. The Trust will grant a perpetual conservation easement on its

Dan Hole Pond property to TNC to ensure that it will be preserved in its natural state. There is a natural link between the Trust's work and GMCG since the ponds' water flows through Moultonville and Center Ossipee to the Ossipee aquifer, and into Ossipee Lake. Blair Folts, executive director of GMCG, and Dan Sundquist, science director of SPNHF, spoke at the celebration, congratulating the Trust's supporters on their success, and pointing out the importance of partnerships among local conservation groups. Readers can contact the Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust by mail at P.O. Box 8, Center Ossipee, NH 03814 and by email at: "alixandbob.pratt@erols.com".

Chocorua Lake Association

The Chocorua Lake Association held its Annual Meeting in August. Blair Folts, executive director of the Green Mountain Conservation Group, was the featured speaker. Folts explained that the focus of the GMCG was on the many natural resources of the entire Ossipee Watershed, with special emphasis on the protection of the important aquifer from surface pollutants as well as general land and lake water protection. GMCG has successfully presented information in a neutral, non-

confrontational format on the assumption that informed citizens will make good judgments on issues of importance, an encouraging affirmation of democratic values, the CLA thought. CLA has just joined forces with GMCG to hire an AmeriCorp Volunteer to help with ongoing water quality monitoring now in its 23rd year. CLA works in conjunction with UNH's Lakes Lay Monitoring Project under the direction of Jeff Schloss. Over the past few years, CLA has pro-actively worked to improve the quality of the water it was monitoring. Last year, the "Berms & Swales" effort was completed. The objective was to reduce the amounts of phosphorous and nitrogen entering the lake by diverting runoff from the high slope above the lake and from plunge pools and sediment-settling basins. In just one year, this project reduced the phosphorous counts at key offshore locations by 82 percent and as much as 94 percent. Another extraordinary achievement was the fact that 12 agencies, governmental and private, worked smoothly and successfully together on this effort. CLA officers include: Alex Moot, president, Dave Fairly, vice president, David Little, treasurer, and Harriet Hofheinz, secretary. For more information contact Alex Moot