

# ◆ The Watershed News ◆

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## GMCG partners with Francis Small Heritage Trust to conserve land on Sawyer Mountain in Maine

GMCG is excited to announce a new partnership with our "downstream neighbors" the Francis Small Heritage Trust (FSHT.) This spring, GMCG will be gifted a conservation easement on the 1100 acre Sawyer Mountain Highlands in Limerick and Limington, Maine.

For over twenty years, the FSHT has been working with landowners, funders and Maine organizations to acquire land on Sawyer Mountain and create a large area of conserved land for habitat protection as well as open space for the many people in the area that have traditionally hiked, birded, hunted, and recreated in the woods and hills of the property. As a way of further protecting this property and ensuring that this land will never be converted to commercial development, the Trust approached GMCG to hold a conservation easement on the properties.

The Sawyer Mountain Highlands rise above the floodplains of the Saco, Ossipee and Little Ossipee rivers to form an island of forested peaks--some of the highest in Southern Maine south of the Ossipee River. The property consists of an unusual limestone gorge with ferns and wildflowers and a stream forming a pool at its base. From the summit there are extensive views to the mountains of New Hampshire, east to Sebago Lake and Portland. It is said that long ago there was a lighthouse on the summit which was the first light that travelers would see on their way to North America.

Sawyer Mountain Highlands lie in an area of transition from coastal plains to foothills. This habitat creates a unique home for rare and endangered plants. The terrain is made up of forests, ledges, cold spring brooks, sand bank eskers,



The Sawyer Mountain Highlands

vernal pools, a hemlock wetland and a shrub wetland. Because this parcel is an intact large block of un-fragmented land, there is also a great opportunity for large mammal habitat which includes black bear, moose, bobcat, fisher, mink and even lynx. The Highlands also form the headwater of two important Atlantic salmon nursery and trout streams.

Sweet Water Trust, a major supporter from the beginning, has contributed funds to help complete the conservation easement. Sweet Water Trust, which works to protect land in the Northern Appalachians for wildlife and wilderness values has assisted with 39 land protection projects in Maine totaling over 300,000 acres.

Funding from Land for Maine Future Program (LMF) also was instrumental in the conservation of the land. "With spreading development and changing land uses, Maine is at risk of losing many of the natural landscape that residents cherish and that are so important to Maine's natural and cultural heritage as well as to its economic vitality," said Steve Brooke, Senior Planner with LMF. In 1987, the Maine Legislature created the LMF Program to secure "the traditional Maine heritage of public

access to Maine's land and water resources for continued quality and availability of natural resources important to the interests and continued heritage of Maine people."

FSHT was awarded funding from LMF in 2001. Their proposal also included an access improvement grant from LMF that enabled them to construct a small parking area and access site on the Sawyer Mountain Road in Limerick. From here visitors can access the trail system that is maintained by the Trust. One of the guarantees with lands protected with LMF's funding is public access, and that the LMF protected land will be available for hunting, fishing and trapping.

Other supporters have included Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust, Davis Conservation Foundation, Fields Pond Foundation, Clark Charitable Trust, William P. Wharton Trust as well as numerous individuals who have made financial and in kind donations of support to FSHT to purchase land on Sawyer Mountain.

"There has been so much conservation land created in Northern Maine but sadly Southern Maine has been a bit neglected. Part of what makes the FSHT land so exciting to GMCG is its close proximity to the nearly 9000 acre Leavitt Plantation in Parsonsfield which connects to conserved land in NH along the Ossipee River and up Green Mountain," noted Blair Folts, GMCG Executive Director. "GMCG is honored to be working with our partners in Maine and looks forward to exciting future events together."

To learn about Francis Small Heritage Trust visit <http://www.fsht.org/>.

## The Watershed News

The Watershed News is a quarterly publication of the Green Mountain Conservation Group, a non-profit, 501(c) 3, charitable organization established in 1997 and dedicated to the preservation of the natural resources in the Ossipee Watershed. The towns of Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Sandwich and Tamworth make up the boundaries of the Ossipee Watershed. This watershed includes one of the largest and deepest stratified drift aquifers in New Hampshire. It covers 47 square miles and receives drainage from a 330 square mile area. It is a critically important resource for existing and future community water supplies.

GMCG's purpose is twofold:

1. To provide an organizational structure for a coalition of citizens and local officials interested in identifying sensitive areas within the Watershed in need of protection;
2. To offer public educational events about conservation issues and possible solutions regarding the preservation of unique natural resources.

Through research, education, advocacy and land conservation we strive to promote an awareness and appreciation of our watershed's natural resources and encourage a commitment to protect them.

### Board of Directors

Noreen Downs, President  
Don Johnson, Vice President  
Ralph Lutjen, Treasurer  
John Shipman, Secretary  
Education Coordinator (vacant)

### Town Representatives

Effingham, Al Levesque  
Freedom, R.A Oram  
Madison, Carol Felice  
Ossipee, Elizabeth Gillette  
Sandwich, Peter Pohl  
Tamworth, C. Scott Aspinall  
Maine, Peter Zack  
Maine Rep. to SRCC, Dennis Finn

### Staff

Executive Director, Blair Folts  
Program Director, Tara Schroeder

## Can you put a price tag on our quality of life in the Ossipee Watershed?

BY BLAIR FOLTS

It's midnight and I am just finishing up a grant application. I notice that my friendly late night companion, Maine Public Radio, goes off the air---this is one way they are cutting back during these hard times. For over 10 years, I have relied on NPR during these late night writing sessions and the significance of this does not escape me. Many great non-profit organizations are laying off dedicated and long time staff and cutting back on important programs. The media continues to report more bad news about foreclosures, bank failures, mounting unemployment and global economic crisis. Without this "companion" I can not write and head for bed.

Tiring of the news in the morning, I turn off the radio and take a break outside. It's March and still nearly zero out with much snow. A pine grosbeak sits in a spruce tree and jays call at the feeder. Stepping outside for fresh air, I breathe in clean cold almost spring scents and notice how completely silent it is. I sip water not, from a bottle, but from my own tap. I suddenly realize, despite all the news of continued layoffs, bailouts, and a collapsing stock market, we are very fortunate in the Ossipee Watershed to have a peaceful and natural resource-rich life.

We can turn on our taps and drink our water; the skies are dark and we can view numerous stars; children can swim and play in numerous streams, lakes, ponds and rivers; we can fish and hunt; manage timber from our woods and hike through pine forests. On our daily travels we are graced with wildlife sightings of moose, bear, deer, fisher and now bald eagles. It is hard to put a price tag on these things but we have them. And maybe most importantly, we can drink our water---which many folks across the planet can not.

In further reflection, I also released how fortunate GMCG is. In the past 11 years, so many people from across the Watershed

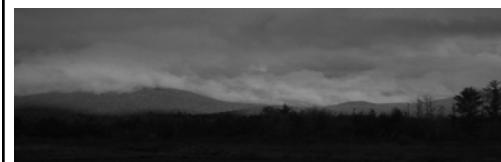
have volunteered for numerous GMCG programs including water quality monitoring, land conservation, advocacy and educational events in each of the six towns. GMCG would not have been as successful as it has without this phenomenal support. Though I often lament that GMCG does not have an endowment, it dawned on me that because we do not have one, we also have not lost 30% of our investments as so many organizations have.

Furthermore, thanks to a generous donor in 2007, we own our home and do not have a mortgage or debt. Gas prices went down by half as we entered a very cold winter and this too was a very fortunate thing for everyone in the Watershed.

GMCG relies heavily on grants and private foundations and many foundations do not have the funds they have had in the past. We are relying more on your membership and individual donations. No donation is too small. Can you give \$1 a day? A week? A month?. Can you lend a hand or talk to a new neighbor and invite him or her to join GMCG?

This is a great opportunity to come together and support natural resource conservation in the Ossipee Watershed. In working together, we can continue to think locally but to act Watershed! I hope you too will realize how lucky we are to have what we have and you will consider joining GMCG. Please help support conservation of these shared natural resources in whatever way you can. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

*Blair Folts is Executive Director and co-founder of GMCG.*



## Volunteer in 2009 for research & stewardship efforts

Each year, volunteers contribute *thousands of hours* of service in their communities and to GMCG. They are the 'roots' of our grassroots efforts, helping with research, education, advocacy and land conservation projects within the towns of the Ossipee Watershed. Volunteers are not only the heart and soul of the organization, they are the reason why we are able to do half of what we do!

Currently there are five schools, six camps, and thirty local residents from area towns who participate in the water monitoring programs alone. Even still, we are always in need of more help –



Anyone can help with the Community Garden this year! Call 539-1859 to find out how, or to sign up for a plot!

there is just so much to do, and there are more programs coming up in 2009, such as the drinking water protection project and a new community garden.

In 2009, GMCG is looking for many new volunteers, and has opportunities for everyone, including local students and classes, to participate in citizen science and service learning projects.

### 2009 Volunteer Opportunities include:

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Water Monitoring Volunteers
- Community Garden Coordinator
- Community Garden Volunteers
- Master Gardener Workshop Leaders
- Aquifer Committee Volunteers
- Research Assistant Volunteer
- Office Volunteers
- Web Manager Volunteer
- Newsletter Contributors, Editing & Mailing Volunteers
- Ossipee Watershed Coalition (natural resource planning) Volunteers
- Lake Host Volunteers (milfoil inspections and education)

Anyone interested in volunteering for GMCG can call 539-1859 or email

[gmcgnh@roadrunner.com](mailto:gmcgnh@roadrunner.com). Even if someone cannot participate as a volunteer, there are other ways to help.

The Fred Van Cor Memorial Fund was established in 2008 to honor dedicated and beloved volunteer, Fred Van Cor, who passed away last winter. Fred was one of the first river monitoring volunteers when the program began in 2002. He continued testing the Beech River through 2007, at 88 years of age.

The Fred Van Cor Memorial Fund was established in light of Fred's commitment to the environment and his spirit as a volunteer, teacher, and steward of nature. Anyone can honor Fred's memory and help these volunteer programs to continue each year by making a contribution to:

Fred Van Cor Memorial Fund  
c/o GMCG  
PO Box 95  
Effingham, NH 03882

The fund enables GMCG to hire a local student to work with volunteers, run the water monitoring programs and teach students about river and lake water quality and stewardship.

## Celebrate Earth Day in the Ossipee Watershed



### Earth Day is April 22nd — *how will you celebrate?*

Here are two ideas for anyone who wants to lend a hand in honor of Earth Day! Call (603) 539-1859 or email

[gmcgnh@roadrunner.com](mailto:gmcgnh@roadrunner.com) if you are interested in participating. Both service projects are from 2-5 p.m. on April 22nd.

### Build a Community Garden in Effingham

Volunteers will help build a community garden at the new GMCG office on Huntress Bridge Road. The garden will provide local residents, families, school children and campers with the opportunity to have their own space to grow food, flowers and herbs and learn about the growing cycle, sustainability and the interrelationship between soil, plants, water and wildlife.

Volunteers will help build raised beds, spread soil and prepare gardens for planting. Items needed include donations of manure, pressure treated wood, chicken wire, gloves, seedlings, plants, compost, manure, rakes, hoes, shovels, wheelbarrows, stones, nails and hammers.

### Clean up Archers Pond in Ossipee

Volunteers will help the Green Mountain Conservation Group and the Ossipee Conservation Commission clean up this beautiful area of ponds, streams, beaver dams and forest in Ossipee. Volunteers will work in teams to collect litter and debris and make a real difference for this area, helping to improve and protect the waterways, drinking water and wildlife. Donations of gloves, trash bags and refreshments for volunteers are appreciated!

\*\*\**Special thanks to Project Learning Tree for funding the Community Garden through a GreenWorks! grant and special thanks to Calumet for their support for these projects through the "Saving the Planet" Retreat!*

# Conservation Conversations

**Editor's Note:** *Conservation Conversations is intended to provide a forum for the conservation commissions in the six towns of the Ossipee Watershed to share news of their activities and an opportunity to find creative solutions regarding watershed issues.*

**Think Locally; Act Watershed.**

## Effingham

The lead scientist of the Effingham Wildlife Action Plan Implementation project (funded by a Moose Plate grant) Dr. Rick Van de Poll has compiled the 2008 Seasonal Summary Report. This is a major document with maps, tables, figures and species lists that spells out the five completed and one partly completed task on the wildlife and habitat in Effingham. The full report can be found on the GMCG website, [www.gmcg.org](http://www.gmcg.org). Another rare moth has been confirmed from the field study of Dr. Van de Poll. It is Zale sp. 1, a rare Pine Barrens moth that is on the list of critically imperiled species.



The Commission wrote a letter to the NH Department of Transportation (NH DOT) commissioner requesting a porous pavement pilot project on two sections of Route 153 in Effingham. This was intended to prevent winter salt pollution in sections of the Ossipee and South River in town. NH DOT is not able to help at this time. In a separate request to NH Department of Environmental Services, the Commission asked for a bicycle path if the Route 153 section in Effingham is to be repaved. Both requests to NH DOT were made in anticipation of the Federal stimulus package.

Pursuant to a PSNH award to the Commission, three trail benches have been purchased and will be installed at the Larry Leavitt Preserve in the spring.

## Madison

The Madison Conservation Commission will raise funds to help pay for Madison's share of GMCG's river water quality monitoring. The Commission tried to incorporate funding into the annual town budget but town budget and selectmen members considered other priorities to be more necessary for town funding.

The selectmen have proposed to reduce the Land Use Change Tax 50% contribution to the Commission to zero for one year to increase town revenues. This proposal will be voted on at town meeting in March. In April, the Commission is organizing its first Earth Day Clean-up Project with a Saturday event at the Louise Wold Conservation Area. The Commission also plans to organize a meeting this spring with selectmen and budget committee members to explain their goals and responsibilities.

## Ossipee

In mid-March, snow still covered the "Window on the Ossipee Mountains" conservation property along Route 16, yet regular deer visitors and other wildlife are evidenced by tracks left in the snow. The Ossipee Conservation Commission is very grateful to B.H.

Keith Associates for donating a \$1,225 forest management plan drawn up by forester Rich Gerard which prescribes minimal clearing to maintain the scenic view and early successional wildlife habitat on the property. The Commission also filed a driveway permit application with the NH Department of Transportation for the proposed scenic pulloff planned for 2009 at the property.

For the fourth year, the Commission is planning to sponsor a Lake Host Program team at the Pequawket Trail landing to check boats for milfoil entering and leaving Ossipee Lake this summer. Finally, on April 22nd, everyone is welcome to enjoy one of the most beautiful yet lesser known spots of Ossipee - Archer's Pond off Chickville Road where, thanks to GMCG, there will be an "Earth Day" clean-up. The hope is that the area will be dry enough to remove clutter in advance of black flies!

## Tamworth

At Tamworth's annual town meeting, the Tamworth Conservation Commission proposed two warrant articles based on enabling legislation passed by the New Hampshire legislature. The legislation (NH Senate Bill 381) clarifies the way towns may use their conservation funds. One article allows the town to expend funds on conservation properties and easements in which the town holds no interest. This will make it easier for the town to work with groups such as GMCG or SPNH to protect important conservation resources within the town.

The second article allows the town to expend funds on projects outside the town's boundaries, provided that the town votes to do so at a future town meeting. This article becomes important in the protection of the Ossipee Aquifer, which underlies fourteen separate towns. It would also help to create wildlife corridors, or to consider other projects which would cross town lines. Both articles were passed by a large margin.

For many years, the TCC has sponsored spring birdwalks. These walks, currently led by TCC Chairman Ned Beecher, will take place on five consecutive Wednesday mornings, with the first scheduled for Earth Day, April 22. They take place rain or shine, although not in a total downpour. The walks start at the Tamworth Town House parking lot at 7am. For more information, call Ned at 387-7869.

The TCC will be holding its annual Trail Cleanup on the American Hiking Society's National Trails Day, Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, from 8a.m. to 1p.m. The TCC is responsible for maintaining some seven trails on conservation land in the town. Volunteers are needed to help with light cleanup after a harsh winter: mostly brush and blowdown clearing, tree trimming, trail marking and litter pickup. Volunteers should meet at the Tamworth Town House, at 8am. For more information please go to [Americanhiking.org](http://Americanhiking.org), click on "Our Work," and search "Tamworth". Or, contact Dave at: [wiskers600@roadrunner.com](mailto:wiskers600@roadrunner.com).



# Watershed Water Quality Monitoring

*Notes from Upstream*

## GMCG reports to town boards on water quality

This winter GMCG continued sampling the seven year-round sites in the Ossipee Watershed, in addition to working with a Research Committee of exceptionally qualified water quality professionals to revamp the monitoring program to reflect changes in funding, research goals and results of monitoring efforts to date. The Committee has edited the water quality report which will be presented by GMCG staff and board members to Watershed towns in April. The Committee has also been providing guidance for plans to sample groundwater in the Ossipee Watershed this summer. Details of the groundwater sampling program will be unveiled in the next newsletter once parameters, partners, and testing locations have been firmed up. The program will be an opportunity to gather

a snapshot of drinking water quality in the Ossipee Watershed using samples collected from gravel and bedrock wells.

**Saturday, April 11th** is the annual **Water Quality Volunteer Training at Huntress House from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** New volunteers will learn how to sample rivers and streams so as to monitor the health of surface waters in their town. No experience necessary. Call 539-1859 to sign up.

This year there will be a **Volunteer Picnic** and **“Bugs of the Underworld” film showing from 1-2 p.m.** as part of the event to thank all of GMCG’s wonderful volunteers and welcome newcomers! Please RSVP if you plan to come to the picnic and film showing. Water quality reports will also be on display and a synopsis of results to date will be provided during the event.

## GMCG welcomes new Board President Noreen Downs

GMCG recently welcomed Noreen Downs as new Board President at the 11th Annual Meeting in January. Noreen has been actively involved in GMCG for many years, and has first-hand knowledge of its programs from having been a volunteer. Noreen has served as the GMCG Board Secretary since 2004, a water quality volunteer since 2006, and has been involved in many conservation projects in the Ossipee Watershed over the years.



She and her husband Dave moved to Madison in 2000. Professionally, both provide systems and technical consulting to small businesses and the behavioral health care industry. Noreen became active with GMCG in 2001 when she signed up to participate on the Executive Steering Committee to protect and acquire the Trout Pond Property in Freedom.

Noreen is an energetic volunteer who lends her administrative skills to the board, participates in town government, and actively supports conservation efforts. Below she answers some questions about herself and shares her views on the environmental issues we face.

### **1. What other conservation activities are you involved in?**

Dave and I have been a part of an organization which mobilizes marine biologists with volunteer scuba divers. We have participated in over 20 expeditions including leading tropical fish counts (variety and abundance), underwater data collection marine animal behaviors, underwater photography and videography, and specimen collection. I also have participated on the town of Madison Planning Board, and I am currently assisting with Master Plan surveys and draft revisions.

### **2. Why did you decide to put your land into easement?**

Our property borders one of the Madison town forests, which

borders the Trout Pond Land. When we first moved to Madison in 2000, we were quickly introduced to the efforts of a local group of folks who wanted to protect that acreage. GMCG was a catalyst for this small group to help us get organized. Protection of that acreage took five years, but it was well worth all the effort. My husband and I decided that our property could add to the wildlife corridor. We placed 92 acres into a conservation easement in 2007, and at the same time our donation

of the conservation easement was leveraged as an in-kind donation to assist The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with a Federal Forest Legacy grant they were applying for to acquire 355 acres within a half mile of our property. It was rewarding to have GMCG accept our conservation easement to extend the protection of the Ossipee Watershed and the size of the contiguous property now protected for recreation, forestry and wildlife, and to know that we were also helping TNC acquire a conservation easement grant for a local high value parcel.

### **3. What do you think are the most pressing environmental issues that we face in our Watershed? Globally?**

*Watershed*: “Complacency” about the protection of our shared natural resources, and specifically for clean water, worries me the most. We take for granted the purity of the water in this region, and have little actual experience, exposure, or appreciation for the impact of an upset to our otherwise safe and abundant resource. Another worry is “insular town thinking and planning”, rather than regional concern for the natural resources that we share. *Globally*: The time and energy spent on the controversy about whether we are experiencing and/or causing climate change rather than spending those resources taking responsibility and care of the planet with which we have been entrusted.

## Invest in the sun!

*Oliver Sheridan works for Alteris Renewables, a company that offers renewable energy alternatives in our region. He is now based out of Meredith, N.H. and hopes to work with GMCG to provide workshops and services to local residents and businesses to make alternative energy options more accessible. Below is some information about Alteris, including the benefits of alternative systems, and how to contact Oliver if you are interested in learning more.*

Alteris Renewables, Inc. is the leading renewable energy company in the Northeast with local consultants in the New Hampshire and southern Maine areas. They design and install renewable energy systems for residential, commercial and municipal projects. Heat the hot water in your home and generate your own electricity from the sun! The systems Alteris offer are solar domestic hot water systems, photovoltaic systems (solar electricity) and wind turbines. Now is a great time to invest in renewable energy systems because of the 30% Federal tax credits and state and local rebates. These financial incentives significantly lower the cost of these solar and wind energy systems. You can become your own producer of energy for your home.

There are many benefits to investing in energy from the sun. You can lower your energy bills to save money, which makes you less affected by rising energy prices. Investing in solar increases the value of your home, yet is tax exempt so you don't pay higher property tax. Each system that is installed helps to lower the United State's dependency on foreign oil, which is not only an economic issue but also a national security issue. Finally it's CLEAN ENERGY, so it has less impact on the environment.

Solar domestic hot water systems can provide 60% to 80% of your hot water needs on an annual basis. You can feel good knowing that your boiler won't have to turn on during the summer months and will work less to heat your domestic hot water in the winter.

Solar electricity (photovoltaics) can provide varying amounts of your home's electricity, depending on how much electricity you use and how much you want to generate from the sun. Some people eliminate their electric bill right away. Others

invest in a smaller system to maximize the financial incentives, and often plan to add to the system later on.

Alteris Renewables was formed when two well established New England-based renewable energy companies, (SolarWorks, Inc. and SolarWrights, Inc.) merged to create a single company. Bob Chew founded Solarwrights in 2000 after a strong track record in passive solar and home remodeling.

Leigh Seddon, another solar pioneer in New England founded Solarworks in 1980. Alteris has many other renewable energy specialists on their team. These specialists choose the quality products Alteris uses and design and install the systems they value engineered specifically for your home. With over 2000 installations in the northeast, Alteris is a turnkey company priding themselves on attending to the whole process from initial design to permitting paperwork to final commissioning of system.

A proud moment recently for Alteris Renewables was being involved in a recent episode of "Extreme Home Makeover" on ABC in which a family in need had a new house built for them and a 5 kW Photovoltaic system was included in this project. Alteris was the company that installed the system. Not only did that family get a new home but they also don't have to worry about rising electricity rates from now on – you could join them and eliminate the worry of rising energy costs by investing in clean energy from the sun!



Volunteers help raise Alteris solar panels during the Extreme Home Makeover edition.

For more information visit [alterisinc.com](http://alterisinc.com) or call 1-800-339-7804. To learn more about the Sustainability Network and the next meeting in the Valley, contact bluesky-des@gmail.com.

## Tamworth tackles idling, air pollution

Global warming often seems like an enormous issue that is too big to tackle on a local level, yet one town in the Watershed is taking some steps towards lowering greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, saving fuel, and reducing the risk of health hazards associated with car exhaust in the process.

The Tamworth Energy Committee, in a grassroots effort to diminish greenhouse gas emissions, began working with town officials and community business to encourage placement of "No Idling" signs throughout town. This committee of volunteers was appointed by the Board of Selectmen based on an overwhelming vote in 2007 by the town of Tamworth to create such a group. The Committee was appointed in November of 2007 and has been meeting once or twice a month since December of 2007.

The Committee worked to get a grant from New England Grassroots Environmental Fund for outreach and education and the purchase of six small signs. The Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) provided an additional 8 free signs. Signs are currently on wide display to promote this environmentally friendly venture. The town office, transfer station, libraries, schools and private businesses in Tamworth have already joined the charge to reduce idling by displaying the signs.

Thus far, the effort seems to be working, especially at the dump and post office, reports a volunteer. Handouts for the project contain facts from the scientific literature alerting individuals about some of impacts of idling, such as:

- \* Idling for more than 10 seconds burns gas almost twice as fast as driving and produces double the amount of toxic emissions per second than a vehicle moving at an average speed.
- \* Ten or more seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it.
- \* Idling gets zero miles per gallon and is linked to increases in asthma, allergies, heart and lung disease and cancer.

# Spring Calendar

**Thursday, April 2nd: New Hampshire Water Resources Primer & Public Session** GMCG and the Sandwich, Tamworth, Freedom and Effingham Conservation Commissions host NH Department of Environmental Services at the Ossipee Town Hall from 6-8 p.m. for a presentation on the state's water resources and town level planning tools that safeguard drinking water.

**Saturday, April 11th: Water Quality Volunteer Training & Picnic** Volunteers will learn how to sample rivers and streams for physical and chemical parameters to monitor the health of surface waters in their town. Volunteers typically work in teams to collect data at a river or stream site in their town, between 7 and 9 a.m. every other week from mid-April through mid-October. No experience necessary; students welcome. Call 539-1859 or email [gmcgnh@roadrunner.com](mailto:gmcgnh@roadrunner.com) to sign up. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Friday, April 17th: Improving Your Land for Wildlife- An Introduction for Landowners** UNH Cooperative Extension and GMCG host this workshop to introduce a number of forest, field, and wetland habitat types. Participants will learn about specific components of habitat that can be used to predict what wildlife species might be found on any parcel of land. Through classroom and outdoor instruction, we will provide examples of habitat improvement projects participants can use to enhance cover and foraging opportunities for mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Remick Museum, Tamworth 12 to 4 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 22nd: Earth Day Service Projects** in partnership with Camp Calumet's "Saving the Planet" retreat. Volunteers needed from 2-5 p.m. 1) **Community Garden – GMCG Office Huntress Bridge Road, Effingham:** Help build a community garden at GMCG's new office to provide local residents, school children and campers with the opportunity to grow food, flowers and herbs. Volunteers will help build raised beds, spread soil and prepare gardens for planting. Donations needed include: gloves, compost bins, rain barrels, seeds, plants, fertilizers, manure rakes, hoes, shovels, wheelbarrows, stones, boards, nails and hammers. 2) **Archers Pond Clean Up – Archers Pond Road, Ossipee:** Volunteers will work in teams to collect litter and debris to help clean up this beautiful area of ponds, streams, beaver dams and forest in Ossipee. Donations of gloves, trash bags and refreshments for volunteers are appreciated! Co-sponsored by the Ossipee Conservation Commission.

**Thursday, May 7th: Drinking Water Protection in the Ossipee Watershed** GMCG and the Sandwich, Tamworth and Effingham Conservation Commissions host a regional workshop on watershed planning, aquifer overlay districts, threats to our drinking water resources, and upcoming projects. Speakers include: Steve Whitman of Jeffrey H. Taylor & Associates, Dr. Robert Newton of Smith College & the Barnes Aquifer Steering Committee, Bob Morency of RCAP Solutions, Erica Anderson of the Lakes Region Planning Commission, John Shipman of the Ossipee Watershed Coalition, and Mia Akaogi, UVM Graduate Student. 6-8 p.m. at the Madison Library. Please pre-register by calling 539-1859 or emailing [gmcgnh@roadrunner.com](mailto:gmcgnh@roadrunner.com).

**Friday, June 19th: Managing Fields and Old-Fields for Wildlife - For Landowners and Professionals** UNH Cooperative Extension and GMCG host this workshop on a variety of management techniques that can be used to attract and support different wildlife in fields of any size. The Community School, Tamworth 12 to 4 p.m.

*\*All programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.*



**The Other Store  
in Tamworth**



***\*Please renew your membership for 2009 today!  
Your Membership Will Make a Difference.***

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

**Vernal Pool** \_\_\_\$25    **Stream** \_\_\_\$50    **River** \_\_\_\$75    **Pond** \_\_\_\$100    **Lake** \_\_\_\$250  
**Aquifer Society** \_\_\_\$500    **Other** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you interested in being a GMCG Volunteer in 2009?**     **YES**

GMCG must boost income from non-grant sources, specifically from membership dues and donations. **PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY** and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to join GMCG. Thank you!

GMCG is a non-profit 501 (C)(3) tax-exempt organization. We are funded by grants from foundations, memberships, and donations. Please consider us in your estate planning. We accept donations of real property, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, life insurance policies and gift annuities. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Our Federal Tax Identification number is: 02-0498020.



Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Effingham, NH  
Permit No. 10

GMCG  
P.O. Box 95  
196 Huntress Bridge Road  
Effingham, NH 03882  
(603) 539-1859  
www.gmcg.org

# The Watershed News

**Save the Date:**  
**Watershed Weekend**  
**Saturday, July 18th**  
**“Coyotes & Wolves in  
New England”**  
**Calumet Conference Center**

**Deadline for  
Summer Newsletter  
submissions is June 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Lake Hosts needed to  
inspect for milfoil on  
Ossipee Lake**



**\$10 per hour; training in May;  
weekends, Memorial Day Weekend  
through Labor Day.**

**For a 2009 Position Description and  
application, visit:  
www.gmcg.org.**

**Mail applications to:**

**GMCG  
PO Box 95  
Effingham, NH 03882**

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

