

# The Watershed News

Volume XV, Issue II

Spring 2011

A Quarterly Publication for the Ossipee Watershed Published by the Green Mountain Conservation Group

## Four towns approve groundwater protection ordinances

The Ossipee Aquifer has been the center of much discussion as Groundwater Protection Ordinances were voted on by residents in Watershed towns this March. A great milestone was reached in that planning boards in all six towns—Effingham, Freedom, Ossipee, Madison, Sandwich and Tamworth—voted to place the ordinances on the ballot this year. Over two years of hard work by citizen volunteers, planning boards, subcommittees, and business representatives, working alongside Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC), and NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) went into this ordinance.

In Freedom, the ordinance passed by a large margin, 279-89; Effingham's passed 174-120; Sandwich's passed 332-137; and Madison's updates passed 326-144. In Ossipee, amendments to the ordinance, including a new USGS map to replace a 1977 map, failed 204-277. In Tamworth, the ordinance failed 428-536. NH DES

and LRPC report that this is a state record in that four towns is the greatest number of towns to pass a groundwater protection ordinance for the same aquifer at the same time. "A majority of voters in the watershed read, understood, and liked what they saw and heard. A strong showing overall," commented Kimon Koulet of LRPC. Pierce Rigrod of DES agreed, "I think it is rather unique...I don't know of any group of four communities acting at one time in concert to pass very similar ordinances to protect an aquifer."

Many planning board members, residents, business representatives and organizations supported the ordinances with letters to the editor in local newspapers, calls to radio stations, and with their votes. GMCG is thankful for all of these efforts to inform the public about the importance of keeping our drinking water clean, and applauds the hard work of town boards for bringing

the ordinances to the ballot this year.

While the editorial board of the Granite State News and the Carroll County Independent agreed that "it is vital to the literal health of Carroll County itself that these protections be put in place", there is more work to be done.

GMCG will continue to work with stakeholders in watershed towns, state planners, and DES officials to ensure that groundwater protection measures and meetings are collaborative and inclusive. Monthly steering committee meetings with the Ossipee Watershed Coalition will continue and are open to the public. GMCG looks forward to building new stakeholder support in 2011, and encourages new individuals and area businesses to get involved by contacting (603)539-1859 or [gmcgnh@roadrunner.com](mailto:gmcgnh@roadrunner.com). For information, visit: [www.lakesrpc.org](http://www.lakesrpc.org).

## GMCG receives grant for Youth Coalition

GMCG is pleased to announce an award of \$15,000 from a Community Impact Grant by the Lakes Region Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) to establish the Youth Coalition for Clean Water. The goal of the Youth Coalition is to engage students from the Ossipee Watershed in stewardship of the region's shared water resources through water quality research, service learning projects, and public outreach efforts.

In 2010, NHCF also provided support to help create the Ossipee Watershed Workbook, a collection of watershed-specific lessons and activities that are correlated to New Hampshire state

standards. Schools and teachers were presented with the Workbook this winter and are already making use of various chapters in the classroom.

Activities provided in the Workbook engage students in Youth Coalition service learning opportunities where students can make real improvements to their environment while giving back to the community. GMCG's Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator, Elena Piekut, describes the Youth Coalition as "an excellent way for kids to learn by engaging with the place where they're growing up. Testing your own well water makes chemistry relevant. Planting a rain garden reinforces the concept that human

land use can easily affect that chemistry. We are very grateful that the Charitable Foundation has chosen to fund these programs. We'll be doing a number of very hands-on, place-based projects this year, and they all focus on this place where we live and the resource that makes this place so unique in the world: water."

Students of all ages, as well as adult volunteers, are invited to become involved with the Youth Coalition. High school students can apply for spring, summer, or fall internships to assist with these programs and mentor younger students. To sign up, contact [gmcgnh-wqm@roadrunner.com](mailto:gmcgnh-wqm@roadrunner.com) or 539-1859.

## 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.

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, Chairman  
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### Town Representatives

Effingham, Doug Caron  
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### Staff

Executive Director, Blair Folts  
 Program Director, Tara Schroeder  
 Water Quality Coordinator, Elena Piekut

# Northern Pass is not a good idea for NH

By Blair Folts

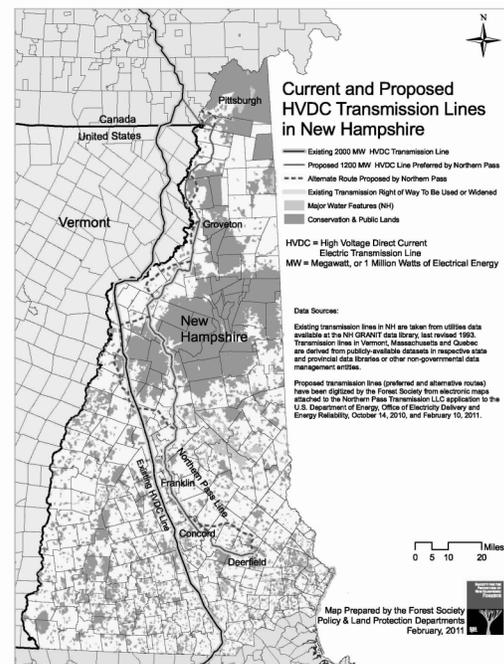
GMCG members have contacted us and asked for more information about the high-voltage electricity transmission line marketed as the "Northern Pass" and have stressed their concerns.

The proposal for this power grid is 180 miles of steel towers ranging from 90-135 feet in height that will bisect the heart of New Hampshire and extend from the Quebec border to Deerfield, New Hampshire. Whether the hydro power from Quebec is needed, green or renewable, the sore that the will cut through the State if the Northern Pass is granted is a high price for New Hampshire to pay. NH currently produces more electricity than it consumes. New England has the capacity to generate 5,000 megawatts of electricity beyond what consumers demand on peak days. Hyrdro Quebec has flooded more than 7 million acres to generate their electricity, an area larger than New Hampshire. It remains to be seen what carbon benefits will materialize from such a project.

## If we scar our New Hampshire landscape, the sore will remain forever.

While the Northern Pass route will not directly impact the Ossipee Watershed, it will greatly impact our state. Since our inception, the Green Mountain Conservation Group has partnered with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the Conservation Law Foundation, the Appalachian Mountain Club and The Nature Conservancy. These partners and others have taken a stand in opposition to this project for numerous reasons. In support of their work and their opposition based on protecting our shared natural resources, GMCG would like to share this information with our members and urge you to research this issue. If you can, write to Governor Lynch and express your concerns. Some of the reasons for concern from this proposal include:

- \* Impact on NH working forests
- \* Contribution to land fragmentation
- \* Loss of wildlife habitat
- \* Impact on lands in conservation easement and lands protected with private, state and federal donations



- \* Impact on human health
- \* Impact on tourism and economy
- \* Loss of property values
- \* Impact on water quality and ground water from line maintenance

To learn more about this project, visit these informative websites:

Forest Society: [www.forestociety.org](http://www.forestociety.org)  
[www.burynorthernpass.blogspot.com](http://www.burynorthernpass.blogspot.com)  
[www.livefreeorfr.org](http://www.livefreeorfr.org)  
[www.jamesbayroad.com/index.html](http://www.jamesbayroad.com/index.html)

For information on the Environmental Impact Statement process visit Department of Energy: <http://northernpasseis.us>

Whether you live in or visit New Hampshire, please consider writing a letter to Governor Lynch today stating your concerns about this project—the largest construction project proposed for the state since the completion of Interstate 93.

Honorable Governor Lynch  
 Office of the Governor  
 State House  
 107 North Main Street  
 Concord, NH 03301

*Blair Folts is the Executive Director of GMCG.*

# 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 Conservation Commission will host a Roadside Cleanup on Saturday, April 23 at 8am at the Effingham Town Hall. Gloves and bags are provided and all are welcome to a barbeque back at the Town Hall at noon. Informational flyers are available at the Effingham Town Hall. This spring will also bring renewed cleaning and improvements to the town-owned Larry Leavitt Preserve on Route 153. This is a great place in town to observe birds and animals in their natural habitat.

Over the years the Commission has planted several hundred daffodil bulbs throughout the community. Last year, with a grant from Litter Free NH, two elm trees were planted on Elm Street. Once again the Commission has applied for elm trees. Planting locations have yet to be determined; all suggestions are welcome.

Finally, the annual Earth Day poster contest will be held with the students of the Effingham Elementary School this spring.

### Tamworth

In the fall of 2010, the Commission responded to the request of life-long South Tamworth resident and farmer Bob Floyd, who is

interested in conserving his lands. Floyd's acreage borders Route 25 and includes farmland with scenic views of the Ossipees and Sandwich Range. One parcel, known as The Beaver Brook Lot, has been placed in conservation through purchase by The Community School with funding from private donors. The School is donating a conservation easement to the town. This property, along the Bearcamp River and Route 25, is adjacent to other significant wildlife conservation areas and is an important piece of the "Whites-to-Ossipees" wildlife connectivity initiative that the Commission has played a role in moving forward.

In other news, a group of citizens petitioned to place two articles on the Warrant for the voters to consider in March. One sought to abolish the town Planning Board and the other to abolish the Conservation Commission. Neither article passed. For more information, visit: [www.TamworthConservationCommission.org](http://www.TamworthConservationCommission.org).

### Madison

The Commission has been updating town lands that were either bought or gifted to the town, but not under the regulations of RSA 36-A, to determine if the Board of Selectmen would like the Commission to continue to manage these lands for forestry and recreation. At town meeting, the Commission's Warrant Article for \$5,000 for the Town's Conservation Land Reserve Fund for future land acquisition passed 81-80, making the total land reserve fund \$20,000. The Commission congratulates retiring member Edie McNair for her 15 years of service to the Commission.

## State recommends management plan for Ossipee Lake Watershed

According to studies by New Hampshire Lakes Association, the tourism-based economy of New Hampshire would be affected by a decline in water quality, with half to two-thirds of visitors decreasing or ceasing their visiting days to a particular water body if they perceived a decline in water clarity and purity, natural views and scenery, crowding levels, and water levels and flows. As the Ossipee Watershed becomes more developed and

impervious surfaces increase, storm water runoff carrying more nutrients, salt, and sediment will have an increasing impact on water quality, unless proper controls are put in place.

Elevated levels and increasing trends for phosphorus, sodium, chloride and conductivity levels for lake, river and stream sites are apparent in the Ossipee Watershed. Statistical analyses performed on Ossipee Lake system data already show decreasing lake transparency trends in testing locations (chart). Transparency can decrease due to a number of factors, including increased sediment

Ossipee System Historic Transparency Data		
	Sampling Period	Visual Analysis Trend
Berry Bay	2003 - 2009	Decreasing (worsening)
Broad Bay	1990 - 2009	Decreasing (worsening)
Lower Danforth Pond	2003 - 2009	Stable
Leavitt Bay	1990 - 2009	Decreasing (worsening)
Ossipee Lake	2003 - 2009	Variable (but overall decreasing)

Ossipee Lake system data already show decreasing lake transparency trends in testing locations. (NHDES VLAP Program, 2009).

and nutrients in the water column. Based on initial calculations of each of the bays' median phosphorus levels from 2002-2010, both Berry Bay and Danforth Pond exhibit levels of phosphorus that indicate they are impaired (Berry Bay 8 ug/L; Danforth Pond 10 ug/L). Other sites have median phosphorus levels close to the threshold for oligotrophic lakes (Broad Bay 7.9 ug/L; Leavitt Bay

7.3 ug/L; Ossipee Lake 7.7 ug/L), meaning they are close to being considered impaired according to the state's criteria.

In 2011, GMCG will work with stakeholders, NH Department of Environmental Services (DES), and water resource professionals to create a "road map" for a Watershed Management Plan over the next five years, pending Governor & Council approval of a High Quality Waters grant. For an example of a management plan for Lake Winnepesaukee, visit: [www.lakesrpc.org/lwwmp/](http://www.lakesrpc.org/lwwmp/). To learn more, contact GMCG.

## Revisiting the Shoreland Protection Act

BY DAVID W. PACKARD

It was a great idea with an unfortunate name. The Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA) was a means for the State to protect New Hampshire's water resources. But it was given a name that suggested to everyone – especially fans of big government, environmentalists, and property owners – that the Act would mandate how waterfront property owners could use their own lands. To some extent it did exactly that. But the CSPA had a very specific purpose and it wasn't to make people resent the intrusion of NH government into the enjoyment of their lakeside homes and yards. The laudable goal was to maintain the quality of our lakes and ponds through shoreland conservation. If water quality becomes degraded, then property values decline and the recreational and ecological value of a lake or pond is compromised.

New Hampshire contains over 900 bodies of water that are ten acres and larger. You may have learned in a long ago civics class that the State of New Hampshire owns those lakes and ponds along with the "land" beneath the water up to the high water mark. But the State can not gate all these water bodies and prevent their use. To the contrary, our State holds them in trust for use by the public while permitting all reasonable uses for the benefit of both the shorefront property owner and the public at large. Shorefront property owners are accorded certain privileges such as the privilege to "wharf out" over the public water, or to have a swim raft or a mooring.

We all recognize the public's recreational enjoyment of NH waters is important for both personal and economic reasons. However, the most critical consideration is that more than

half of our residents rely on surface waters for their drinking water. The State recognizes that certain uses of the shoreland can impair that water quality and are prohibited. The CSPA was enacted in 1991 to protect water quality by setting minimum standards and requirements for the development, use and subdivision of waterfront land. The intent of the CSPA was to prevent soil and other pollutants from entering a lake or pond, thereby protecting water quality.

Soil, pollutants such as fertilizers, and the unintended discharge from faulty septic systems provide nutrients to a lake that decrease water clarity, quality, and also increase plant and algae growth. These in turn degrade the ecological, recreational, aesthetic and economic value of our public waters. A natural, vegetated buffer zone adjacent to the water consisting of trees, shrubs and ground cover – not just lawns – is the single most effective strategy in preventing surface run-off from rains or melting snow.

Rules require that dwellings be set back fifty feet from the waterline and that the amount of impervious surfaces – building roofs, driveways, walkways, patios and the like can be no more than 20% of the property's area. However, allowances are made if the property owner adds runoff protections. These are reasonable constraints to maximize the amount of ground available to absorb rainwater which prevents runoff into the lake. Unfortunately, this rule favors large properties where greater expanses of land are available to remain in an undeveloped state. Owners with small lots have limited options.

While some may consider the CSPA an unnecessary burden on shorefront property owners due to its regulations and restrictions, it is important to remember that the CSPA has been the only statute that protects this vital natural resource for both the waterfront property owner and the general public. It was intended to balance "best practices" with the rights of property owners. On one hand there were significant new restrictions such as limiting the cutting of vegetation, but the Act also grandfathered all existing structures and developments of waterfront properties.

Clean water is the most precious resource that our citizens possess. This becomes ever more important as our population grows. Once a water body degrades and becomes choked with vegetation it requires tremendous resources to bring it back. It has been 20 years since the original Act and the time has come to review the original aspects of the CSPA to determine what has worked well and consider changes to those requirements that have either failed to protect our natural resources or created unintended burdens on homeowners. The concept behind the CSPA is simply stewardship of the shorelands by private property owners to preserve our lakes for everyone. The Legislature must reformulate the CSPA into the Comprehensive Water Quality Protection Act that continues the mission of improving and sustaining New Hampshire's lakes and rivers.

*David W. Packard is a Board Member of the NH Lakes Association.*

## Film *Bag It* inspires us to reduce plastic in our lives

On March 4th GMCG hosted a public screening of the popular film *Bag It* to celebrate National Groundwater Awareness Week. The documentary is a powerful look at the impacts of plastic on society, through the travels of Jeb Berrier, an average citizen who wants to know more about our use of plastic, what it is made from, and where it ends up when it is thrown "away". What he ends up discovering is shocking and touches upon

every one of our lives in some way, but most of all, it inspires us to take action.

While a handful of cities in the U.S. have actually started to ban plastic bags, other countries have demonstrated that plastic bag reduction on a large scale is also possible. In Ireland, for example, plastic bag use was reduced by 90% after instituting a fee on single-use disposable plastic bags. In China, "ultra thin" plastic

bags have been banned since 2008, reducing the country's use by 40 billion bags in the first year alone.

Following GMCG's screening, many audience members were inspired to show the film in schools and to others in their community. The film is appropriate for grades 4-12, and more information for educators can be found at: [www.bagitmovie.com](http://www.bagitmovie.com).

# Water Quality & Conservation

## Trout in the Classroom program takes off in the Ossipee Watershed

BY ELENA PIEKUT

In February, two classrooms became the first in the Ossipee Watershed to participate in "Trout in the Classroom", a program of Trout Unlimited and New Hampshire Fish & Game. Fourth and fifth grade students in Justin Chapman's class at Sandwich Central School, as well as fifth graders in Maud Anderson's class at



Sandwich Central School students look on as the fry they will raise are released into their class aquarium.

Moultonborough Central School, waited patiently through temperature-related delays—and then an unexplained mass death—of the Eastern brook trout eggs they had planned to receive in early January. Thanks to NH Fish & Game's statewide network of fish hatcheries, the students were provided with just-hatched "fry" in their place. Many students then learned about trout first-hand from Trout Unlimited's expert George Embley who paid a special visit to the Watershed in February.

The eager students will serve as the caretakers and observers of the trout fry, which arrived at just a couple of centimeters in length, until they are "fingerling" size. By carefully monitoring the temperature, pH, ammonia, and dissolved oxygen content in their aquariums, the students are applying and reinforcing the mathematical, scientific, and ecological concepts they have learned while ensuring the healthy development of their trout.

Later this spring, the students will release the fingerlings into the Cold River in Sandwich. This river—which has its headwaters in the Sandwich Range and which GMCG monitors year-round—was approved by NH Fish & Game as a release site because it routinely exhibits the cool temperatures, high levels of dissolved oxygen, low turbidity, and gravelly substrate required to sustain brook trout. The students also monitor the site with GMCG for macroinvertebrates through the NH Department of Environmental Service's Volunteer Biological Assessment Program each fall. By participating in the trout program, students will be contributing to a national effort to restore brook trout to part of their historic range.

Students from Sandwich and Moultonborough started discussing their trout on a new blog created as part of the Youth Coalition so that students and teachers can learn from one another's experience. Students from Sandwich report: "We got our trout about three weeks ago and they are doing pretty well. We are excited to see our trout grow, and we are excited because there are a lot of cool trout in our tank. One has an interesting bend in its back. We have had two sets of two-headed fish, but one of them died because we put it under the microscope (we think we cooked it! Oops!)"

Trout in the Classroom has already inspired a number of trout enthusiasts and offers students a unique, hands-on way to learn about water quality and conservation. For more information, visit: [www.nhtrout.org](http://www.nhtrout.org) or contact Elena Piekut at GMCG.

*Elena Piekut is GMCG's Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator.*

BY RACHEL SMITH

*5th grade Moultonborough Central School*

February 10th was a big day for Ms. Anderson's fifth grade class at Moultonborough Central School. Elena Piekut of GMCG arrived in our classroom with two hundred baby brook trout! Now it has been almost a month since the trout have been in our care. When they first arrived they were burrowing into the pebbles at the bottom of the tank, but now they are actively swimming. Most have absorbed their yolk sac and have already started to feed.

Our brook trout are exactly one inch long now. If you look closely you can see their miniscule fins moving with the current. Also we are able to see the trouts' tiny gills moving in and out. They are already developing circular markings on their sides, but not on their pearl white stomach. Some of our trout are very different (two were actually connected to each other, a bit like Siamese twins)! These amazing animals always fascinate us. Thank you very much, GMCG, for helping to make this possible!



4th and 5th graders at Sandwich Central School pose with their aquarium and the brook trout drawings they made while waiting for their fry.

## GET WET! is in new schools

GET WET! (Groundwater Education Through Water Evaluation and Testing) involved 160 students last year, testing 125 wells for 6 parameters, including: pH, chloride, iron, hardness, conductivity and nitrate.

This spring, the program will involve 90 new students, teachers and volunteers in schools in Ossipee, Effingham and Tamworth. Participants are pictured above at a recent training: Elena Piekut, Sarah Olkkola, Teresa Thornton, Noreen Downs, and Al and Sis Levesque. To get involved, contact Elena Piekut at GMCG.



## Milfoil prevention is a wise investment

Hundreds of millions of dollars are spent each year in the United States to control aquatic invasive species. Experts agree that money spent on prevention is a wise investment as once an invasive species takes hold, it is virtually impossible to eliminate it from a waterbody. The cost of managing the problem, let alone the economic downside to infestations, is enormous. Ironically, funding for preventative efforts is dwindling each year for programs such as the Lake Host program, which educates boaters and inspects boats and trailers for invasive species. In fact, last year for the first time since 2002, there was no federal funding available for this program in New Hampshire.

GMCG has participated in the Lake Host program since it began, hiring local youth each year as Lake Hosts to educate boaters and provide inspections at the Pine River boat launch in Ossipee. Unfortunately, as a result of decreased funding, the number of Lake Hosts hired, time at the launch, and thus number of boaters reached and boats inspected has also decreased, leaving the lake more vulnerable to the spread of milfoil and other invasive species.

To date, the NH Department of Environmental Services reports that there are 91 exotic species infestations in 78 waterbodies throughout the state. By far the most widespread of these is variable milfoil, having infested 69 waterbodies. The Ossipee Lake System, which includes the main lake, Broad Bay, Berry Bay, Leavitt Bay and Danforth Pond, has had variable milfoil infestations since the early 1990's. Known milfoil infestations include: Phillips Brook, Leavitt Bay, Portsmouth Cove and Danforth Pond.

Since 1995, local businesses that depend upon the lake, Ossipee Lake Alliance (OLA) and surrounding towns have used chemical treatment, hand pulling and suction harvesting, with marginal success at limiting growth. According to OLA records, more than \$150,000 has been spent to control milfoil in Freedom and Ossipee. In 2010, variable milfoil was discovered for the first time in Effingham, near the Ossipee River Dam. Effingham



A Squam Lakes Association volunteer uses a Diver Assisted Suction Harvester unit (DASH).  
*Photo: Squam Lakes Association.*

Conservation Commission members worked for a half day with New England Milfoil to hand pull 90 gallons of milfoil from the site at a cost of \$1,350.

While towns and private businesses have been kicking in a significant amount of funds over the years to combat the weed, the state has also been providing funds for control efforts. In 2010, NH DES provided \$80,000 in funding in the form of grants for exotic plant control activities. Of the 32 proposed control activities across the state, 16 were funded at a 30% level, 12 using herbicide treatment (2,4-D,



In June of 2010, a herbicide application of 2,4-D was used to control the eighty three acres of variable milfoil in Danforth Pond in Freedom. *Photo by Freedom Aquatic Invasive Species Committee.*

diquat, fluridone and glyphosate) and 4 using divers or DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester units). In 2011, DES is providing \$80,000 once again for control activities, for 22 projects funded at the 30% match level. Eight of these are diver related, 14 are herbicide related.

In 2010, NH Lakes began to provide funding to groups interested in alternative methods of management. The Innovative Exotic Weed Control Granting Program provided \$26,369 to the Moultonborough, Tuftonboro and Wolfboro coalition to procure two large, state-of-the-art DASH units. This three-town coalition is composed of members from the town milfoil committees, town administrators, selectmen and interested citizens. The towns also provided \$15,000 hard cash match for the project. A similar tri-town committee was attempted in 2009 in the Ossipee Watershed, but has since disbanded leaving each town that shares the lake—Ossipee, Effingham, Freedom—to manage milfoil on its own.

This year, there will be significant efforts once again in the Ossipee Watershed to control milfoil. Selectmen in Ossipee and Freedom voted to treat milfoil infestations in 2011 with the chemical 2,4-D with funding provided by the state. Ossipee Lake Alliance will also address the economics of milfoil control at their lake representatives meeting on June 11th this year, and will continue Weed Watcher program efforts to help identify any new or returning infestations. Lake Hosting will continue at the Pequawket and Pine River boat launches to prevent the further spread of milfoil and other invasive species in the lake. Anyone interested in volunteering or contributing to the Lake Host program to extend hours at these launches can contact GMCG or the Ossipee Conservation Commission.

Finally, the public is invited to attend the "State of the Lake" forum on August 9th at Ossipee Town Hall where milfoil, among other lake issues, will be discussed. The event is hosted by GMCG, Ossipee Lake Alliance, Broad-Leavitt Bay Association, and area conservation commissions. Speakers include representatives from NH Lakes, conservation commissions, and Russ Lanoie of Rural Home Technology. Topics include: milfoil control; water quality; wetlands inventory; stormwater runoff; dirt road maintenance; septic systems; and watershed management.

# Spring Calendar

**Saturday, April 16th: RIVERS Water Quality Volunteer Training.** 9am-1pm at the GMCG Office located at 196 Huntress Bridge Road, Effingham. Volunteers are needed to monitor water quality of local rivers and streams in the towns of Effingham, Freedom, Ossipee, Madison, Sandwich and Tamworth every other week from April through October. Volunteers will adopt a site with another partner and take water samples and field measurements before 9am on their designated day. The training will cover Quality Assurance Project Plan protocols and methods for the Regional Interstate Volunteers for the Ecosystems and Rivers of the Saco (RIVERS) program, history and background of this program that is in partnership with the Saco River Corridor Commission in Maine, and equipment calibration, maintenance, and measurement procedures. Please call 539-1859 or email [gmcgnh@roadrunner.com](mailto:gmcgnh@roadrunner.com) if you are interested in participating.

**Friday, April 29th: Ossipee Watershed Coalition Meeting. 10am-12pm location TBA.** The public is invited to share their views and participate in working towards enhanced water protection in the Ossipee Watershed towns of Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Tamworth and Sandwich. Please call 539-1859 or email [gmcgnh@roadrunner.com](mailto:gmcgnh@roadrunner.com) if you are interested in attending.

**Tuesday, May 10th: NH Drinking Water Source Protection Workshop.** 8:30am-4pm The 2011 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. This workshop has become the largest drinking water source protection event in New England and is the only statewide event focused solely on how to protect local sources of drinking water. Policymakers, scientists, water supply managers and local officials will present their work and views on a range of topics that involve emerging contaminants, forests and their role in protecting drinking water, managing seasonal water demands and case studies that include “how to” details to successfully implement community-based source water protections. This event is done in partnership with the American Ground Water Trust. You can view the full agenda and register for the workshop by visiting the American Ground Water Trust’s website, <http://www.agwt.org/workshops.htm>. GMCG will be one of the featured presenters at this year’s workshop.

### GMCG Wish List 2011:

- \*Raffle donations for August Fundraising Event and October Land Celebration Event Raffle
- \*Volunteer Appreciation t-shirts, reusable shopping bags, or other items to say “thank you”!
- \*Food & Drinks for Volunteer Celebration
- \*Conference phone for meetings
- \*Digital Waterproof Camera

***Your Membership Will Make a Difference.***  
***PLEASE renew your 2011 membership today!***  
**Every drop counts! Thank you!**

*(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** \_\_\_\$500 **Other** \_\_\_

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

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

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

**Are you interested in being a GMCG Volunteer in 2011?**     **YES**

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 23rd**  
*Forestry in NH  
with Dick Fortin  
& Sarah Smith  
at Camp Calumet*

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

EVERY PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND EACH PERSON SHOULD

## *Snow-ice Melt*

Sparkling in warmth's onset  
Passion unburdens greedily  
In a shameful frolicking -  
Gurgling, naked brook-run fling!  
~ Kamalendu Nath

## **Thoughts from Sandwich students on raising trout in the classroom:**

*I think that the fish are inspiring, because they help us learn responsibility and care for one another. ~Graham*

*I love the trout because they are interesting, and they are an awesome and fun way to learn about trout in the classroom. It is fun having fish in class. ~Sophia*

*The fish are super awesome. I love them because they all have different spots in the tank that they like to go to. I think we should get these every year! ~Belle*

*I like learning about the nitrites, pH, and ammonia, and I like watching them grow. ~Ian*

