

◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume 1, Issue 3

Winter 1999

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

IRS oks exempt status

The Green Mountain Conservation Group is pleased to announce that it has been granted tax exempt status as a publicly supported organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

Under IRS rules, GMCG is a tax-exempt charitable organization. Contributors to GMCG may be eligible to deduct their charitable contribution from their federal income tax.

In accordance with federal requirements, GMCG will provide donors with written substantiation of their charitable contribution.

GMCG encourages your tax deductible contribution in order to assist us in carrying out our mission to provide education to the public about the importance of protecting the natural resources of the Ossipee Watershed. For more information, call 539-7926.

Forum set on Pine River State Forest

A Forum on the varied uses of the Pine River State Forest will be presented by the Green Mountain Conservation Group Wednesday, April 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Ossipee Town Hall.

Phil Bryce, the director of the state's Division of Forests and Lands, will participate on the panel, as will Rich McLoud, director of the state's Division of Parks and Recreation. The state has proposed the development of 12 miles of ATV trails in the Pine River State Forest, which is currently managed by the state as a forest resource.

Other panelists will be Dick Boisvert, the state archeologist; David Van Luven, coordinator of the state's natural heritage inventory; Laura Demming, senior biologist at Audubon of New Hampshire; Peter Benson, director of northern lands for The Nature Conservancy; and a representative of the New Hampshire ATV Club.

The state archeologist will present a slide show on the earliest inhabitants along the Pine River; Laura Demming will discuss the wildlife habitat of the area; Peter Benson will talk about the globally rare pitch pine forest located in the area; and David Van Luven will discuss the state's program to inventory possible rare and threatened plant

and animal species in the Pine River State Forest.

Bryce and McLoud, both from the state Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED), will discuss how forestry management and recreational development decisions are made involving competing uses of state-managed land.

In the late 1970s, when the state purchased the land that is now the Pine River State Forest, the commissioner of DRED assured area residents that only "low intensity" recreational uses would be permitted. The ATV trail proposal would bring a developed recreational facility to this forest, which until now has been managed primarily as a forest resource.

The Green Mountain Conservation Group invites all those interested in the varied uses of the Pine River State Forest to attend the forum, listen to the presentations from the different interests represented and ask questions. Our goal is to present a neutral forum in which all ideas can be expressed and individuals can form their own opinions on how this 3,200-acre forest should be used and managed.

GMCG's 1st Annual Meeting a Success

Sixty-two people braved the rain and fog on the evening of Jan. 23 to celebrate the first birthday of the Green Mountain Conservation Group. The officers and board of directors thanked all who attended for being "founding members" of the GMCG.

After a potluck supper, complete with birthday cake, a slide show on the wildlife habitat of the Pine River was presented by Audubon of N.H.

Officers and board members elected were: Blair Folts, president; Susan Slack, vice president; Henry Spencer, secretary; Jennifer Van Cor, treasurer; Bill Piekut, education coordinator; and representatives from each of the six towns: Barbara Ross, Effingham; Bill Klotz, Freedom; Dan Stepanauskus, Madison; Greg Bossart, Ossipee; Chip Kimball, Sandwich; and Marlene Ostrowski, Tamworth.

Laura Demming, senior biologist at Audubon N.H., showed slides and spoke about the varied habitat and wildlife of the Pine River.

Joanna Magoon, land protection coordinator at Audubon of N.H., explained how conservation easements serve to encourage open space and provide tax benefits for landowners.

The Watershed News

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

The GMCG's purpose is twofold:

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

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

Blair Folts, President
Susan Slack, Vice President
Jennifer VanCor, Treasurer
Don LaChance, Secretary
Bill Piekut, Education Coordinator

Town Representatives

Effingham, Henry Spencer
Freedom, Bill Klotz
Madison, Dan Stepanauskus
Ossipee, Greg Bossart
Sandwich, Chip Kimball
Tamworth, Marlene Ostrowski

Special Places

Early Settlers Meeting House Needs Repairs

Editor's Note: *Special Places* will be a regular feature of the Watershed News, highlighting an historical or cultural resource within the six towns of the Ossipee Watershed. The Green Mountain Conservation Group recently joined Citizens for New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage, a broad coalition of 74 grassroots organizations whose aim is to build support for the increased public and private commitment to conservation of our natural, cultural and historic lands and resources. For more information on Citizens for N.H. Land and Community Heritage, contact Brian Hart at 230-9729 or e-mail him at bhart@igc.org.

By BARRY HILL

The area known as Granite, in the southeastern part of Ossipee, is a contrast between high ridges, dominated by 1,200-foot Pocket Mountain, and deep valleys surrounded by steep, forested slopes. The area is nestled among town boundaries of Effingham on the northeast, Wakefield on the southeast and the Pine River Valley to the west.

It seems a place quite inhospitable to agriculture, yet by the 1790s, a number of farms clung to the hillsides and the residents began to think about a place of worship.

Ephraim Leighton, from Rochester, had cleared a farm in the 200-acre parcel he owned around the intersection of Granite Road and Foggs Ridge Road, and his family donated land and timber for a meeting house. The exact date of the construction is un-

known, but Elizabeth Sanders, who came to live in the area in 1812, wrote that the Meeting House was standing then. The first church building in Ossipee, it is still standing today.

The meeting house is owned and maintained by the Ossipee Historical Society and open at various times in the summer. Each year in August, we conduct church services, since the deed of gift requires us to hold an annual religious meeting.

We have recently made extensive repairs to the Meeting House, including interior replastering, site drainage and foundation work. Still, we find that repairs are never completed in a nearly 200-year-old building and now it is in need of having clapboards replaced on most of the exterior.

We are aware that work will have to be done on the roof also, but whether a complete replacement is necessary will not be known until the spring.

One of the goals of the Ossipee Historical Society is to preserve the artifacts and buildings that are part of our local history. The existence of these buildings on the landscape gives context to our lives, preserving the connection between past generations and the present, helping us to understand and appreciate how those who came before us met the challenges of their lives.

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



Conservation Conversations

Effingham

The Effingham Conservation Commission reports that the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) picked up the entire cost of disposing of the 5 1/2 tons of trash and three 55 gallon drums of oil that were cleaned up at the Pine River State Forest Clean-up last October. The Clean-up was sponsored by the Effingham and Ossipee conservation commissions, the Green Mountain Conservation Group and DRED. This will be an annual event if needed. The next event on the conservation commission's agenda is Earth Day.

Madison

The waterway between Cooks Pond and Silver Lake will be the subject of a UNH Department of Natural Resources senior class project this spring. The Madison Conservation Commission was notified in February that its application to participate in the program was accepted. The goal of the project is to identify and inventory the natural resources of this 320-acre parcel, which includes a beautiful isolated pond. Shoreline protection laws will be examined and abutters will be interviewed with the hope of establishing a preserve for future generations. The waterway is approximately a half-mile long, six feet deep, ranges from 20 to 60 feet wide, and is surrounded by marshland. Beaver dams and huts, bird nesting sights and unusual plants are found in this area. Five to seven students, each with expertise in different areas, will work on the project. For information about the Community Environmental Outreach Program, contact Dr. Paul Johnson at UNH (862-1717).

Ossipee

The Ossipee Conservation Commission has made an offer to purchase the old Ossipee Inn property to resurrect this parcel into an aesthetically pleasing park. The forestry subcommittee is conducting an inventory of the entire town via tax maps to determine all land that is currently owned by the town of Ossipee and to identify what parcels are under the auspices of the conservation commission. It is suggested that the commission develop a management plan for these parcels. The master plan is reviewed and implemented this year and the conservation commission will watch this process with interest. A vacancy on the conservation commission needs to be filled. Those interested in serving should contact the conservation commission.

Sandwich

The Sandwich Conservation Commission is looking forward to better snow conditions to create more enjoyable outside recreation opportunities. Despite the ice, grooming of the ski and multiple use trails is in progress with mixed results. There have been several high school ski races held at the fairgrounds so far and recreational skiers and racers use the area almost daily. There have also been several great days on the multi-use trails in North Sandwich.

The conservation commission clarified its budget and is beginning to plan for the Five Days of Sandwich summer conservation day camp. Even as the snow began to fall, preparations for spring building projects resulted in on-site consultations.

The Friends of Sandwich Range group presented its proposed Sandwich Range Wilderness expansion to U.S. Forest Service personnel and a select group of invitees on Jan. 21. The expansion would nearly double the size of the Wilderness to extend from the Notch Road, Whiteface and Wonalancet intervals, north nearly to the Kancamagus Highway, and west to

Loon Mountain. The Friends of Sandwich Range explained how the expansion would include various cultural and historical features, stop clearcutting, and control recreational trail use. Forest Service personnel explained the Forest Plan revision process, which will be restarting this summer, and how revisions to Wilderness designation would be a part of that public process. They also explained how the roadless area review will determine areas eligible for Wilderness designation.

Tamworth

With four of the seven members possessing less than a tenure's worth of time on the conservation commission, it seemed time to new president Kris Bontaites for the Tamworth Conservation Commission to hold a special retreat. She presided over a brainstorming session that asked each member to categorize, discuss and rank priorities. The end result was a mission statement that ranked the conservation commission's priorities. They are: outreach to the community and with other conservation groups, including educational efforts; land maintenance, both of current trails and development of an integrated trails system, monitoring and advising easements; land protection, including identifying important open lands requiring special protection such as vernal pools, and a crisis procedure; education of commission members; environmental issues, including developing policy statements, investigating herbicide issues, burning programs, zoning stance, dredge and fill and other wetlands concerns and helping the town resolve solid waste issues; and funding, including the land use change tax.

In other news, the Tamworth Biosolids Committee is proposing a health ordinance to be presented to the selectmen for review prior to the March Town Meeting.

Campaign Eyes Riverland Protection

The Green Mountain Conservation Group has endorsed the Society for the Protection of N.H. Forests' Riverlands of Ossipee campaign, an effort to save almost 300 acres of important land along the Ossipee River, Loon Lake and Route 25 in Freedom.

The Society has a very brief opportunity to purchase 283 of the 298 acres involved and weave them into the existing conservation lands in the area. In anticipation of success for the campaign, the owner of an abutting 15 acres has generously donated his parcel, adding to the conservation importance of the project.

To save this land the Society must raise \$345,000 by this March 15. The Society has currently raised \$262,000 in gifts and pledges toward this goal. Of the

remaining \$83,000, \$50,000 has been pledged by an anonymous donor as a challenge toward raising the remaining \$33,000 by March 15.

The Riverlands of Ossipee offer extraordinary natural values. They contain a rare pitch pine/scrub oak forest, a quiet nesting cove for threatened common loons, extensive scenic frontage on Route 25 and nearly 2 miles of Ossipee River shoreline. The land is a rich habitat for waterfowl and amphibians, as well as moose, deer, fox and bear. It is home to rare plants and butterflies in its cranberry bog and pine barrens.

These lands overlie part of the critical Ossipee aquifer, the largest underground source of drinking water in the state. Sav-

ing this land works to protect drinking water supplies, and it also connects four

existing conservation areas: High Watch Preserve on Green Mountain; the Varrieur conservation easement with frontage on the Ossipee River; Audubon Society of New Hampshire sanctuaries with prime wetland habitat; and a 12-acre conservation area

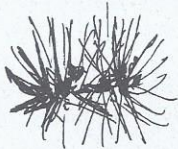
owned by the town of Freedom.

For information, or to make a contribution, contact the Society at 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, 03301, or call 224-9945.

These lands overlie part of the critical Ossipee aquifer, the largest underground source of drinking water in the state.

The Sapling

Young Conservationists News



Scout Troop Hikes in the Pines

By PETER JEWELL, CALEB LEONARD AND PARKER LUCY

On Dec. 12, we, the Boy Scouts of Ossipee joined the Green Mountain Conservation Group on a hike in the Pine River State Forest. Also joining us on this trip were Peter Pohl of the UNH Extension Service, Bob Hardy of DRED and Karen Bennett, special forester for UNH Extension Service.

We discovered many different pines. One was the white pine. The way you can identify it is by taking the word "white." It has 5

letters and the white pine has 5 needles in a group. The white pine is the only pine you can remember this way.

Another pine we looked at was the red pine. It has two needles. Also we learned about the pitch pine and that it has 3 needles.

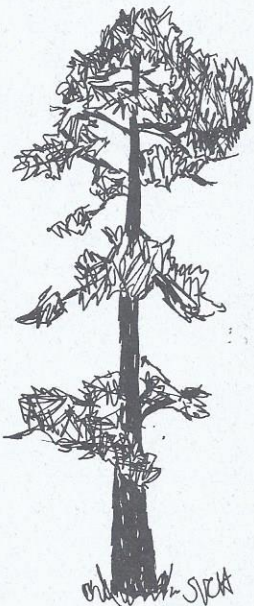
Not only did we learn about the pines' needles but we also learned about their cones. The white pine cone is long and skinny. The red pine cone is short and fat. The pitch pine cone is like the red but it has sharp spikes on it. A good way to remember that is by thinking of pitch forks.

We also learned about tree diseases. One disease causes the Witch's Broom, an unusual growth. There are some other diseases but we forgot their names.

On our way back we encountered a trapper who had just caught a beaver and a fisher. He showed us his trap and how it worked. That was a good ending to our trip.

We would like to thank the Green Mountain Conservation Group for having us on this hike.

Peter Jewell, Caleb Leonard and Parker Lucy are Boy Scouts of Troop 234, Ossipee.



Watershed
News

Calendar

SATURDAY, MARCH 6 Forester Dan Stepanauskus will lead a two-hour winter hike that will focus on wildlife habitat, soils and forestry issues. Meet at the Silver Lake Post Office at 12:30. Dress appropriately for the weather. For more information, phone 367-8111.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23 Ellen Snyder, UNH Extension wildlife specialist, will give a slide presentation on biodiversity, focusing on pine barrens and other unique resources in Carroll County. Madison Public Library, Route 113. 7-9 p.m. For more information, phone 539-7926.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16 Ben Kilham, who has been featured on local and national TV nature programs, will give a presentation on New Hampshire's black bears. Effingham Historical Society, Route 153. 7-9 p.m. For more information, phone 539-7926.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28 Pine River State Forest Forum. Learn more about the Pine River State Forest as panelists address issues ranging from its unique animal habitat, plants, globally rare pitch pine forest, early settlers and prehistoric exploration, to the state's management of its forest resource as well as the state's proposal to build ATV trails in the Forest. Ossipee Town Hall, Center Ossipee. 7-9 p.m. For more information, phone 539-7926.

SATURDAY, MAY 8 Carol Foord will lead an early spring flower hike of the Heath Pond Bog. Meet on Route 25, Ossipee. For more information, phone 367-4626.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19 Slide presentation on land and community heritage, issues facing the state's natural and cultural landscape and the work of the N.H. Land and Community Heritage Commission. Freedom Town Hall, 7-9 p.m. For more information, phone 539-7245.

Your Membership Will Make a Difference. Please Join Today.

*Members are invited to attend the annual meeting, vote on policy issues and elect the board of directors and officers.
(please make checks payable to Green Mountain Conservation Group)*

Individual Membership _____ \$ 10

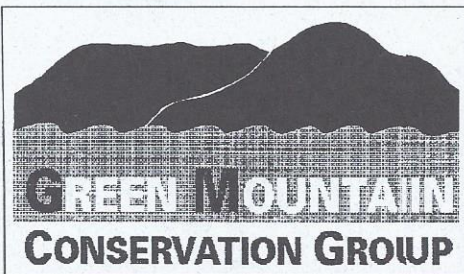
Family Membership _____ \$ 15

NAME _____

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The Watershed News

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South Effingham, NH
03882

Deadline for the next edition of
The Watershed News is May 15.
Mail news items to the above
address or phone 539-7926.

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

Dusk

Jennifer Van Cor
Effingham

Soft-spoken is the dusk.
Sweet murmurings of love and
trust
Enfold me while I'm waiting
thus
For nightfall and the final
hush.

