
◆ The Watershed News ◆

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

Advocacy to protect shared resources knows no political boundaries

Since our inception in 1997, Green Mountain Conservation Group has been advocating for the protection of shared natural resources across political boundaries. In the past twenty years, we have fostered strong partnerships with towns, other non-profits, federal and state agencies and have relied on sound science to guide our advocacy work. GMCG has always promoted sustainable growth and has encouraged municipal officials to pursue natural resource based planning for individual towns with the idea that growth can happen and shared natural resources can be protected at the same time.

Many readers have been following the proposed expansion of Westward Shores Cottage and RV Resort on Ossipee Lake over the past year. After what seemed to be an average spring, parts of the proposed development area located at the mouth of the Bearcamp River were under water. Once again, we witnessed the characteristics of an alluvial flood plain that functions as such to absorb snowmelt and upstream water runoff from rains and spring melt.

GMCG has been advocating for a closer look at the proposed expansion of doubling the number of campsites at this site and has stressed concerns about impacts to ground water, and the lake and river. Though this proposal is located in Ossipee, the large scale nature of the plan will have impacts on Freedom and Effingham located downstream. Per the Town of Freedom's appeal, which sites three main concerns with the permitting, the Superior Court ordered the Ossipee Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA) to rehear this case to determine if the Ossipee Planning Board should also

rehear the proposal. The ZBA did hold another public hearing on May 9th but decided that the Ossipee Planning Board approved this proposal properly. Due to lack of proper notification of the Town of Effingham and Lakes Region Planning Commission, the ZBA was ordered to hold another hearing on June 13th so they could give input but the same conclusion was drawn with this case likely returning to the Superior Court.

Another large scale development that GMCG has been following that also has concerns of regional impact, is the proposed gas station in West Ossipee at the intersections of routes 41 and 16 which was approved by the Ossipee Planning Board on June 6th. There have been many concerns about citizen's rights to due process as well as issues concerning health and safety risks from a gas station to be located in a town designated aquifer protection area. Residents in Ossipee voted to protect this area by enacting a Groundwater Protection District by town vote in 1989 which means no gas stations or underground storage tanks are allowed here. Despite this town regulation put in place for protection, the ZBA granted the variances needed on July 14, 2015.

This site, known as NHDES case #199309040, is also known for its contamination from unregistered underground storage tanks that had either leaked from the bottom or during filling which contaminated the Aquifer in that area. NHDES classifies this site as "Risk Category 2. Potential Human Health Risk (Residential Well within 1000' or site within wellhead area)" While this proposal, according to the Ossipee Planning Board, sits 212 feet from the Tamworth boundary, the

majority of the Board voted to not consider this project one of "Regional Impact." This site is also over the aquifer relied upon by many towns. According to Dr. Robert Newton, Professor of Geosciences at Smith College, "Locating a gas station at this site would recklessly endanger the health and well being of both the people who rely on nearby domestic wells and the public who drink water provided by area restaurants."

GMCG has continued to express regional concerns about the aquifer particularly with regards to excavating a site known to have been contaminated in the past. The soils here are highly transmissive and excavation could create a new bloom of contamination in the underground water supply.

Installing an eight pump gas station with 40,000 gallons of gasoline stored underground in four separate tanks over our highly productive and transmissive aquifer could put our water quality at risk.

GMCG supports the foresight expressed in the Aquifer Protection Ordinance established in Ossipee in 1989. We all rely on clean drinking water and the Ossipee Aquifer knows no political boundaries. Are you concerned? The 30 day window to appeal this proposal began on June 7th with a deadline of July 7th.

If you care about protecting our drinking water resources, please speak up and send your note of concern to the Ossipee Planning Board at: PO Box 67 Center Ossipee, NH 03814
For state permits: NHDES Drinking Water Bureau Attn.: Tom Willis PO Box 95 Concord, NH 03302-0095 and please copy Matt Jones in the NHDES Waste Division.

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 Eaton, 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 also partners across the Maine border into Parsonsfield and beyond. Water does not have any political boundaries.

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.

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 Education Coordinator: Karen Deighan

Think Locally, Act Watershed

By
 Aysia Morency

My first encounter with Green Mountain Conservation Group was in High School. Volunteers came to our school to teach us about macroinvertebrates and water quality monitoring. This experience stuck with me, and given my long standing passion for environmentalism it isn't too surprising that over a decade later, I am serving as secretary on the GMCG board, an organization that advocates for the environmental health of the very watershed I grew up around.

One of my earliest memories of environmental activism was building a compost with my dad when I was kid. I came home one day and demanded that we compost. In college, I went on to Environmental Science and while doing so, I designated an unused open space to be a nature park and I helped map vernal pools. In recent years, I have become more politically aware, focusing on how the government deals (or does not deal) with preserving and protecting natural resources. Specifically, I was closely following the Flint Michigan water crisis and the lack of political readiness and the protests against the North Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock. I was bothered by politicians choosing profit over clean natural resources. "Water is life" resonated in my mind.

So, it was quite fitting that in the late winter of 2017, I received a phone call from an acquaintance and a GMCG volunteer. She told me they were looking for board members, and asked if I had any interest. Serving on the board sounded like a full time job and I was worried because I was about to start a new position, putting me at having three jobs for the summer. There was no way I would have time, I thought. I agreed to the position

anyway because I felt that this would be my way of contributing. Maybe I couldn't protest at Standing Rock, but I could help protect the waters in my own backyard. My busy schedule hasn't prevented me from missing any meetings and I've been able to attend some GMCG events, and even town planning board meetings. This is how I'm doing my part where I live, and I couldn't feel better about it.

Just like the lakes, streams, rivers, and groundwater all make up the larger watershed, small acts of environmentalism on a local level all contribute to the larger picture of a healthy planet. So, in conclusion, I would encourage more millennials, like myself, to get involved on a local level and I really commend the ones that are. I remember in college, having a discussion in my first Environmental Science class, raising my hand and saying, "It's like that bumper sticker, 'Think Globally, Act Locally'". My professor had never seen or heard that before and she loved it! It's nice to feel that I might be making a difference in the long run and that I'm able to think globally and act watershed.



Aysia Morency, GMCG Secretary (left) and Karen Payne, membership/development volunteer (right) at recent Chamber After Hours at Tuckerman Brewing Company.

Summer programs highlight “what is an aquifer; what is a watershed”

By Karen Deighan,
Education Coordinator

There are some great events taking place with Green Mountain Conservation Group this summer, both at Huntress Bridge Road in Effingham and across the community. For more information on anything of interest, please visit the website at gmcg.org. You may also call or email Karen at 539-1859 or education@gmcg.org.

On June 16th, Green Mountain will participate in the Alternative Learning Day at Snow School in Fryeburg, Maine. Karen will bring preserved macro invertebrates and will use them to teach the students how looking at bugs will give them important information about the quality of their water.

In late June, Karen will hold the first Education Advisory Committee Meeting. Educators and community members are invited to be part of this steering committee which will help guide the organization’s educational programming. GMCG wants to be sure that all of our diverse audiences are being reached and that the needs of the local community are being met.

On July 8th, GMCG will be part of the 5th Annual GET WILD at Sumner Brook Hatchery. There will be a lot for families and children to do at this fun event themed around trout and water. Wildlife Encounters will be there with live animals. GMCG will have an educational display where kids and adults can participate in hands-on activities to learn about trout and healthy water. They will also have the opportunity to try real water testing equipment.

Green Mountain will host a community round table on July 19th at the Cook Memorial Library. This roundtable, *Community Conservation Conversation over Coffee* will offer valuable information on home energy audits, proper chemical disposal, composting, soil quality, rain garden

installation, and water quality projects. The public will get the chance to speak one on one with the experts and ask questions on these topics. Everyone will leave with an abundance of resources and knowledge.

In August, Dr. Robert Newton, Director of the Center for the Environment, Ecological, Designing and Sustainability and a professor at Smith College will give a lively presentation on the aquifer. He will teach attendees about the aquifer, specifically the Ossipee Aquifer,— what is it and what is it not. He will also talk about ways we can protect our aquifer and shared drinking water resources. This will take place on August 1st at Runnels Hall.

GMCG will also have an educational exhibit at the Freedom Elementary School during Freedom’s Old Home Week. GMCG Staff will be on hand to discuss some of the educational programs and the public will be invited to make a free craft. The fair will be on Friday, August 4th from 9:30 to 3:00.

Green Mountain will partner with NH Fish and Game to offer a free training to educators and volunteers on August 15th from 9 to 4 at the Community School in Tamworth, NH. This training will give teachers an introduction to stream macroinvertebrates and water quality parameters. They will also learn about Eastern Brook Trout ecology and how to set up and maintain a tank for the program, *Trout in the Classroom*.

GMCG will have an educational exhibit set up at the Outdoor Market at Boyle’s Family Market on September 10th.

Boyle’s is on Route 25 in Effingham. She has coordinated a hike to explore the Heath Bog. This hike will be lead by a naturalist and will be very informative. The group will depart

11:00am. Green Mountain will partner will local summer camps for water testing and best management practice projects. Camp



Ossipee Central School students sorting and identifying macroinvertebrates from the Swift River in Tamworth

Calumet and Camp Huckins will help with weekly water testing of the lake and tributaries. GMCG will help the campers at Camp Calumet, Camp Huckins and Camp Robin Hood build rain gardens to help eradicate erosion. The campers from Camp Cody will be doing a community service project at Green Mountain and help clear trails for a nature trail.

GMCG is proud to be in our 15th year of water quality monitoring through the RIVERS program. 29 volunteers are collecting data from 30 tributary sites throughout the Watershed every other week from May—October with 10 sites monitored year round. Data has also been collected from Ossipee Lake and Bays for 14 years. This adds up to more than 6,500 quality assured site visits by these dedicated volunteers.



Former GMCG employee Stephanie Doyle collects data on Cold River.



New Conservation land will help protect water quality on the Pine River

By Bob Pratt

The Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust is conserving 180 acres of forestland between Granite Road and White Pond in Ossipee. The property has special ecological value because the Pine River runs through it and into Pine River State Forest and expands a protected wildlife corridor along the Pine River. It includes extensive wetlands, early successional growth, and upland forest and is home to a wide variety of wildlife. As with the Trust's other conservation land, the property will be permanently conserved.

The property will be known as the Charles Norman Munroe Preserve, in honor of the man who purchased the land in 1921. His descendants, the Munroe/Ciccotelli family, have cared for the land ever since and were eager to see the property conserved in his memory. The Trust is most grateful to the family for wanting to conserve the property.

The very high ecological value of the property was confirmed this winter by biologist Dr. Rick Van de Poll. He concluded that *"One of the most outstanding features of the Pine River property is its abundant and diverse wildlife community. The two site visits provided ample evidence of nearly all of the region's furbearers, with both upland and wetland species present."*



Pine River flows north from Pine River Pond to Ossipee Lake

The Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust is an Ossipee all-volunteer land trust that works with willing landowners who wish to preserve ecologically important forestland and wildlife habitat in Ossipee and Tuftonboro. It owns 800 acres of conserved land in Ossipee and holds conservation easements on the town-owned "Window on the Ossipees" scenic overlook on Rte 16, and on a wildlife corridor between Pine River State Forest and Red Brook Swamp near Duncan Lake.

The Trust must raise \$150,000 to pay for the property and associated expenses. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust, P.O. Box 8, Center Ossipee, NH 03814. For more information please contact Bob Pratt at 539-2073 or email

danholepondtrust@gmail.com.

Why we need an Aquifer Advisory Committee now

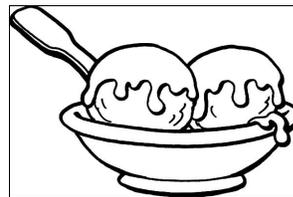
If you have been following news about Westward Shores campground expansion on Ossipee Lake and the proposed 8 pump gas station on route 16 and route 41 in West Ossipee, you know there are several large scale developments planning to build in areas that are known to be in the flood plain and in the aquifer protection district in the town of Ossipee. There have been concerns as to whether or not these and other large scale developments may impact shared water resources.

Because our shared resources know no political boundaries, now more than ever, it is important to come together as a seven town region and work together on ways we can plan for our growth. With Funding from *NHDES Local Source Water Protection Grant funded through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (CFDA #66.468)* GMCG is in the process of forming and Aquifer Advisory Board. GMCG is looking to the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee, bapac.pvpc.org, for inspiration. The Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) is a coalition of 4 Massachusetts communities — Easthampton, Holyoke, Southamptton and

Westfield and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Committee members work together to protect the aquifer, an important regional groundwater resource. BAPAC addresses water quality issues, and educates and advises local governments, citizen groups, and small businesses about groundwater protection and effects on the aquifer. The committee also reviews "Developments of Regional Impact" within the aquifer and provides comments to approval authorities

Please consider joining this committee!

Join us for
Education Ice
July 17th at
Hall, 33 Old
Freedom, NH at



**"Groundwater
Cream Social"**
Freedom Town
Portland Rd,
6:30 pm.

Be a part of this new committee, discuss ways to implement BMP's with local businesses and enjoy free Bobby-Sue's ice cream! Please RSVP Karen at education@gmcg.org or call 539-1859— or just come anyway!

Wildlife Action Plan Maps unveiled and gifted to Towns

By Amanda Stone
UNH Cooperative Extension

The NH Wildlife Action Plan was updated in 2015 and there is a wealth of new data and information on wildlife and habitats! Not to speak of some great new Wildlife Habitat maps (the maps were last updated in 2010). There is a lot of information on wildlife and habitats that communities can incorporate into their natural resources protection documents and activities.

Can you help us figure out how to incorporate wildlife information into our Master Plan Update? What steps should we take to include wildlife in our Natural Resources Inventory? How can we educate our residents about the value of wildlife and habitats? The Taking Action for Wildlife team has been hard at work helping communities across the state use the updated 2015 Wildlife Action Plan data and the Green Mountain Conservation Group is a current focus area!

On May 31, 2017, the Taking Action for Wildlife Team held a great Conservation and Wildlife Round Table meeting with 20 representatives of all seven of the Green Mountain Conservation Group towns. Participants reviewed the Wildlife Action Plan maps for their town and had a rich discussion brainstorming ideas for how they could use Wildlife Action plan data and maps in their ongoing work.



The Taking Action for Wildlife Team offers assistance to communities needing help to take next steps to work towards protecting wildlife and habitats – Read on to find out what they have been up to and get inspiration for your own projects. More [inspiring community stories](#) and can be found on the website takingactionforwildlife.org.

Natural Resources Inventories top the list! Recognizing the need for a current Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) – a critical first step before starting to work on conservation planning and land conservation projects – many towns are working to create or update a NRI for their town.



Bath completed their NRI in 2012, doing the work themselves with a group of volunteers. They used the Wildlife Action Plan data as the basis for their Wildlife section. Recognizing that the NRI is a living document, they updated it in June 2015 with a Brook Trout study, and again in February 2016 to incorporate the updated 2015 Wildlife Action Plan data. Campton Conservation Commission also took on their NRI project as a group of volunteers, completing the project in 2016. Strafford Regional Planning Commission completed a NRI for Somersworth in 2016, incorporating 2015 Wildlife Action Plan data, maps and information.

Wildlife Action Plan data, maps and information.

How do you get local citizens on board and supporting your work? Winchester, NH was looking for a way to engage the public with wildlife and they had a very short time frame to work in.

The [Wildlife Sightings Map Activity](#) was a perfect fit – it simply requires a laminated copy of the Wildlife Habitats Map, some sticky dots, pens, note paper – and someone to staff the map. This activity has successfully engaged people across the state in thinking about wildlife and contributing information about local wildlife sightings as communities start to inventory wildlife in town. Started by the Town of Easton in 2011 as part of their “Got Wildlife?” program, more than 15 towns have used the Wildlife Sightings Activity to both engage the public and gather data about local wildlife. Read about [Campton’s Frozen Bog Walk](#), [Andover’s Wildlife Outreach Program](#), and [Fremont’s BioBlitz](#) to learn more about additional community outreach activities.

Would your community like assistance with figuring out how to use 2015 Wildlife Action Plan data and information?

Take a look at our web page for [application information](#) or contact amanda.stone@unh.edu Our assistance is free of charge and we are here to help you! we look forward to helping GMCG towns incorporate wildlife and habitats into your ongoing activities.

Conservation Conversations

Editor's Note: *Conversations is intended to provide a forum for the seven towns of the Ossipee Watershed to share news of their conservation and planning activities and an opportunity to find creative solutions to challenges.*

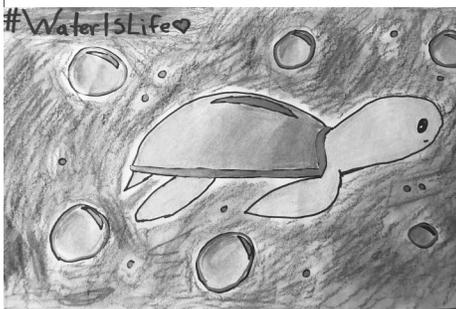
Eaton

Eaton continues to explore different options for managing their blueberry fields. These include such things as a sulphur-spreading program, bumble bees, and spring mowing.

The trails on Foss Mountain continue to be monitored for erosion, ledge crossings, and deadfalls.

Effingham

The Effingham Conservation Committee sponsored an Earth Day poster competition at Effingham Elementary School. The commission also coordinated the annual town roadside clean-up for Earth Day. Keeping Effingham Litter Free (KELF) is composed of a group of volunteers who cover and clean sections of roadside during the year.



Alexis, 6th grade
Effingham Elementary School

Freedom

As part of the Town of Freedom's Old Week, which is July 28th to August 6th, the Freedom Conservation Commissioner will sponsor a hike on Monday, July 31st. The hike will depart at the end of Shawtown Road at 9:30. The hike will be to either Trout Pond or Mary's Mountain.

Madison

The Madison Conservation Commission did a clean-up of the Lead Mine site after the Summer 2016 storm damage. They are working on their summer plans and have the following on their calendar:

Timber harvest on the Goodwin/Burke town properties off Lead Mine Road/Black Brook Road will take place this summer.

A Wildlife Encounters presentation will be held on August 6th at 4pm in the Madison Elementary School gym during Old Home Week.

Updating the 2008 Madison Hiking Trail map will take place by this fall.



Ossipee

Ossipee Conservation Commission will sponsor the 5th Annual Get Wild at Sumner Brook on Saturday, July 8th from 10am to 1pm. There will be free fishing for kids under 12, Wildlife Encounters (live animal exhibit) at 11:00am, educational exhibits, music, and more. They are continuing to work on the Lake Host Program and efforts to monitor at the boat launch on Route 25.

Tamworth

GMCG's commitment to the water Quality Monitoring Project is greatly appreciated by commission members and residents who recognize both the value and the fragility of our shared aquifer.

Tamworth's initiative to protect buffers along all waterways predates Water Quality Monitoring. The efforts complement each other. It was reassuring to hear that our rivers are in good shape.

Water Quality Coordinator, Corey Lane, joined the Conservation Commission again in May in response to

a request for information about the proposed gas station on Route 16 in Ossipee. Our gratitude to Corey for both presentations and to GMCG for its commitment to safeguarding the Ossipee aquifer which is so critically important to our whole region. We look forward to welcoming Corey back with the Tamworth plan for water quality protection is completed.

In March, a good crowd turned out for a program presented you the Conservation Committee in cooperation with the Cook Memorial Library and supported by the NH Humanities. John Harris offered his very engaging talk: "Returning North with the Spring: Retracing the Journey of Edwin Way Teale." Harris recounted his own travels in 2012 from the Everglades to the summit of Mt. Washington mirroring the journey of naturalist Teale and his wife of 65 years earlier. It was thoroughly engaging and fascinating to witness the changes through Harris' eyes.

Sandwich

The Conservation Commission will be sponsoring the Five-Days of Sandwich Day camp for children and grandchildren, ages 7 to 14, of Sandwich property owners. The camp is focused on historical and natural history of Sandwich and includes conservation.



Samantha Perry, 3rd grade
Effingham Elementary School

Save the Date! 2017 Summer Calendar

July 8, 2017 5th Annual GET WILD AT SUMNER BROOK, 10 am—1 pm. Location: 277 Route 16, Ossipee, NH. The day will feature Wildlife Encounters, free fishing for kids under 12, music, and education activities.

July 17, 2017 “Groundwater Education Ice Cream Social” 6:30 pm at Freedom Town Hall, 33 Old Portland Rd, Freedom, NH. Join us and help create ideas for ways to share BMP’s with local businesses. FREE ICE CREAM Thanks to Bobby Sue’s! Please RSVP Karen at education@gmcg.org or call 539-1859 or just come !

July 19, 2017 Community Conservation Conversation over Coffee 6:30 pm—8 pm at Cook Memorial Library, 93 Main Street, Tamworth, NH. This *free* and educational round table will offer information on home energy audits, proper chemical disposal, composting, soil quality, rain garden installation, and water quality projects. Refreshments will be served. To reserve your spot, email Karen at education@gmcg.org.

August 1, 2018 What Exactly is an Aquifer and How Do We Protect It, 7 pm– 8:30 pm Dr. Robert Newton, Director of the Center for the Environment, Ecological Designing and Sustainability will speak at Runnells Hall, 25 Deer Hill Road, Chocorua, NH (next door to the library). Dr. Newton will talk about understanding and protecting the aquifer, specifically the Ossipee Aquifer.

August 4, 2017 Old Home Week Craft Fair, 9:30 am-3:00 pm at Freedom Elementary School, 40 Loon Lake Road, Freedom, NH. Green Mountain will be there so stop by and say “HI!”

August 15, 2017 Teacher and Volunteer Training 9 am– 4 pm at the Community School, 1164 Bunker Hill Road, South Tamworth, NH. Green Mountain and NH Fish & Game are offering a free VBAP and TIC training. Teachers can earn up to 6 CEU’s. Reserve your spot today at education@gmcg.org.

August 17, 2017 5 pm-8 pm, Open House and Volunteer Celebration at Green Mountain, 196 Huntress Bridge Road, Effingham, NH. Come and help us celebrate all of the hard work of our many volunteers. There will be music, food, and fun. You will also get a tour of the Heron House and see what we have been up to here at GMCG. RSVP at education@gmcg.org

September 10, 2017 Explore the Heath Pond Bog 11 am. Meet at Boyle’s Family Market 41NH Route 25, Effingham, NH. There will be an outdoor market from 9 am to 1 pm and Green Mountain Conservation Group will have a display table. A group will depart with a guide at 11:00 am to explore the Heath Pond Bog. For more information, email Karen at education@gmcg.org

September 23, 2017 Hike Foss Mountain at 7:00am with a guide. FMI visit www.gmcg.org.

PLEASE! Renew your membership today! Every drop counts! Thank you!



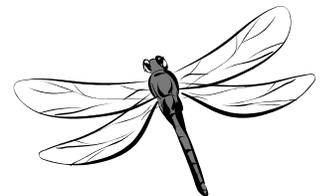
*(Please make checks payable to Green Mountain Conservation Group Box 95, Effingham, NH 03882)
You may also donate online at www.gmcg.org/we-need-your-help/*

Vernal Pool __\$25 Stream __\$50 River __\$75 Pond __\$100 Bay __\$250 Lake __\$500 Aquifer __\$1000 Other _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____



Are you interested in being a GMCG Volunteer? YES



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

Nonprofit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
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 Permit No. 10

The Watershed News

Save the date!

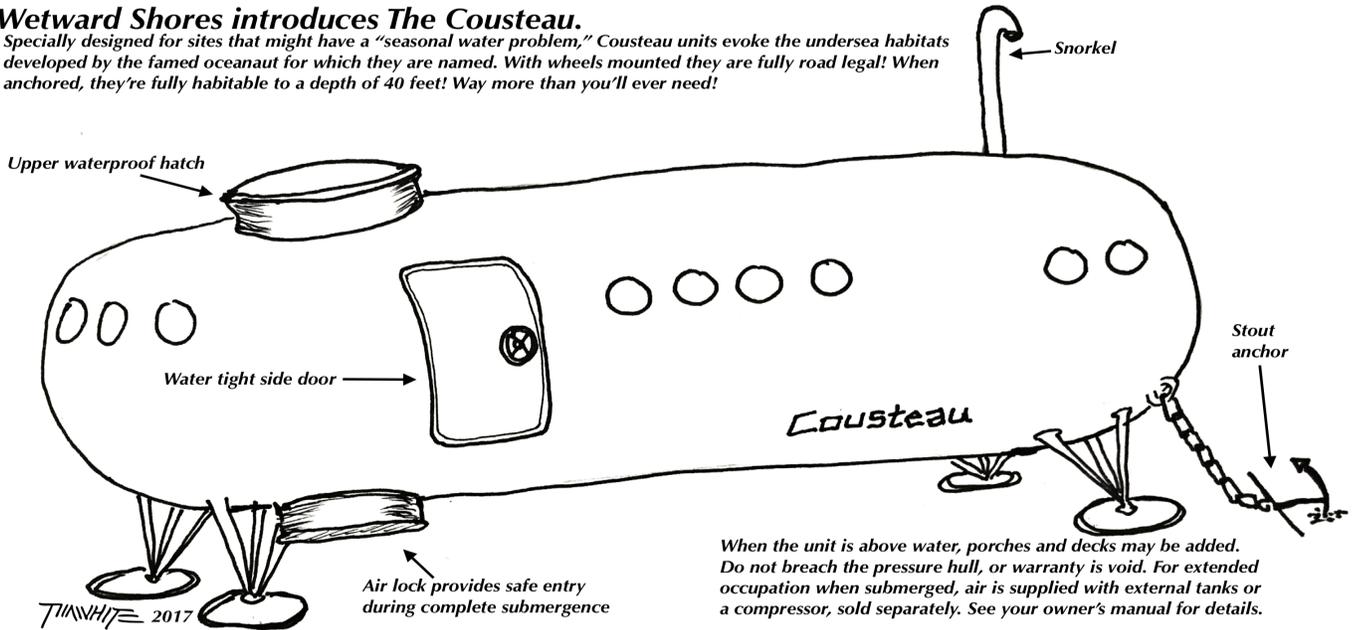
July 17th
Groundwater
Education &
Ice Cream Social

Autumn Newsletter
 submissions due September 10

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

Wetward Shores introduces The Cousteau.

Specially designed for sites that might have a "seasonal water problem," Cousteau units evoke the undersea habitats developed by the famed oceanaut for which they are named. With wheels mounted they are fully road legal! When anchored, they're fully habitable to a depth of 40 feet! Way more than you'll ever need!



When the unit is above water, porches and decks may be added. Do not breach the pressure hull, or warranty is void. For extended occupation when submerged, air is supplied with external tanks or a compressor, sold separately. See your owner's manual for details.

Sign up for event updates with *Watershed Happenings* and stay in the flow! Sign-up at www.gmcg.org