

# The Watershed News

Volume 1, Issue 2

Autumn 1998

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

## Calendar

Nov. 17, 1998

Linda Wilson of NH Division of Historic Preservation will speak about historic preservation within the Ossipee Watershed at Ossipee Public Library at 7 p.m. 539-7926.

Bad weather date:

Nov. 24, 1998

Dec. 12, 1998

Informative hike with Karen Bennett and Peter Pohl, UNH Extension, in the Pine River State Forest.

Meet at Huckins Dam, Effingham at 9 a.m. 539-7926

Jan. 23, 1999

Annual meeting, potluck supper, contra dance and slide talk on Pine River State Forest with Laura Demming and Joanna Magoon. Runnell's Hall, 6-9 p.m. 539-7926

## GMCG to Hold 1st Annual Meeting

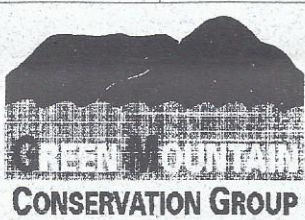
The Green Mountain Conservation Group will host its first annual meeting on January 23, 1999 at Runnells Hall in Chocorua from 6-9 p.m. We will have a potluck supper, followed by a program by Laura Demming and Joanna Magoon of New Hampshire Audubon. The evening will also include a contra dance.

Members of the GMCG will elect officers and a board of directors. The public is invited. Those who are not members may become members that evening or by returning the membership form enclosed with this newsletter. Memberships are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for families.

GMCG board members have met regularly since forming the group in the Fall of 1997. We have sponsored talks by natural resource and environmental experts from throughout NH, focusing on the protection of the Ossipee Watershed.

One of the highlights of the year was GMCG's sponsorship of the Sludge Symposium

in August. Our goal was to provide an educational forum where experts on a range of topics concerning the environmental impacts of the use of sludge shared their knowledge and responded to questions from the audience. We were disappointed with the unwillingness of local anti-sludge activists to participate



as panelists at the symposium. However, Julian Zelasny of NH Audubon agreed after a last-minute

cancellation, to serve as a panelist. He provided sound, common-sense reasons for urging caution in the use of sludge on or near environmentally sensitive areas.

GMCG will sponsor a Watershed Symposium in April. Topics will include the history and formation of the aquifer as well as the importance of land conservation within the entire watershed. We welcome ideas or suggestions for speakers or topics. Please send suggestions to P.O. Box 95, S. Effingham, NH 03882.

## Linda Wilson to Speak on Historic Preservation

Linda Wilson of the NH Division of Historic Preservation will speak at the Ossipee Public Library Tuesday, November 17, at 7 p.m. at a program sponsored by the Green Mountain Conservation Group.

Linda Wilson is a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker and will talk about historic sites in the six-town Ossipee Watershed area: Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Tamworth and Sandwich. She will include a brief slide presentation with her talk and will take questions from the audience. Refreshments will be provided by the GMCG. The public is invited. (Bad weather date is Nov. 24.)

A central theme in Linda's presentation will be the identification of historical resources important to each of our six communities. A new state conservation program is under consideration by a commission appointed by the state legislature. The commission is studying the feasibility of creating a new public-private partnership to conserve New Hampshire's

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The GMCG Board of Directors: pres. Blair Folts, vp. Susan Slack, treasurer, Jennifer VanCor, secretary, Henry Spencer, Bill Pickut, Barbara Ross, Chip Kimball, Marlene Ostrowski, Greg Bossart, Bill Klotz, Dan Stepanauskas.

## Conservation Conversations

### Madison

The Conservation Commission is responsible for 15 or so conservation parcels ranging in size from under one acre to over 300 acres. The total area under conservation is just over 1200 acres, nearly 5% of the total town area.

The CC has also received generous cash gifts from residents of Madison to make possible the purchase of important open space in the Town. This Conservation Fund receives 10% of the annual "change of use tax" on any land which has been withdrawn from current use.

Of the 1200 acres of conservation lands, the greater part was given to the Town to add to the Town Forest. Unlike all the other conservation gifts, it was intended to produce income for the Town by responsible forest management. A Town Forest Committee was formed with the Town Forester as chairman. Income from forestry beyond a \$5000 working balance is transferred to this Conservation Fund.

A few years ago the Town Meeting voted in favor of zoning. Most of the Town area

was voted rural residential by an overwhelming majority. New problems began to arise which combined the protection of natural areas with the protection of the historical heritage of the Town. The new state law providing for a Heritage Commission as counterpart of the Conservation Commission gives us the means for dealing with such zoning problems. Madison now has a Heritage Commission. Its chairman is drawn from the Executive Committee of the Madison Historical Society.

### Freedom

On August 14 several hundred people attended Summer Earth Day at Camp Calumet. The event was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, Freedom Conservation Commission, and Camp Calumet. Other participating organizations included NH Fish and Game, Cooperative Extension Service, Science Center of NH, Tin Mountain Conservation Center, Pine Tree Power, International Paper and GMCG.

The focus was to increase

awareness of the Ossipee Pine Barrens, which are a rare and dwindling collection of pitch pine/scrub oak woodlands that at one time covered 7,000 acres in the Ossipee Lake area. Surveys found these woodlands support five species of moths and butterflies which occur nowhere else in NH. Development and fire suppression have combined to reduce the Pine Barrens to 3,000 fragmented acres. The Nature Conservancy has protected 573 acres and is working toward preserving and managing additional land in cooperation with local landowners.

### Ossipee

The Ossipee CC submitted a letter to the NH DOT regarding the application of salt along Rt. 16. The formula is presently made up of 90% calcium chloride. The letter suggested considering a salt reduction area along Rt. 16 from the fish farm to Rt. 28. Alternative measures to salt were mentioned in the letter and the state suggested that letters such as these (ie: input from conservation commissions and others)

encourage the state to take a serious look at alternative applications. Evidently, alternative measures to salt have been practiced in the Albany/Conway area of Rt. 16 due to public comment.

### Effingham

The Effingham Conservation Commission, worked with the Forest and Lands Division of DRED, the Ossipee Conservation Commission and the GMCG to clean up the Pine River State Forest on October 24th. The collaborating groups mobilized 27 volunteers who managed to clean up over 30 illegal dump sites. Donna Nicholson, an Effingham CC member, was able, through contacting different state agencies including the Governor's office, to have the state pay the garbage disposal fee. It was a very successful clean up. Thanks to everyone who helped.

## Sandwich: An Active Approach to Conservation

All the Sandwich Conservation Groups have been very busy. The **Sandwich Sidehillers**, a new winter trail group, has been formed. They are working to develop multiple use winter trails for snowshoeing, dogsledding, snowmobiles and skiing. They are currently obtaining permission from landowners for use of existing trails and developing connections between them and trails in adjacent

towns. Some trail maintenance has been done on Saturdays; they meet at the North Sandwich store at 8 AM. They plan to groom the trails throughout the winter.

The **Land Trust Committee** has recently been concerned with the threat of timber liquidation. In one scenario a lumber company will buy a property, remove all the merchantable

timber and then resell the property. These companies and workers are mostly from outside the area; therefore local jobs are lost as well as the timber base for the near future. The **Land Trust Committee** is telling large landowners to consider other options before they sell.

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priority natural, cultural and historic resources. Known as the **Land and Community Heritage Commission**, it is scheduled to deliver a preliminary report to the legislature in late November. New Hampshire had considerable success in the late 1980s with the Land Conservation Investment Program, which worked in partnership with towns and private

**Land and Community Heritage Commission is studying ways to conserve NH's natural, cultural and historic resources.**

landowners to conserve a number of critical natural resource areas. This new program would differ from LCIP in two key ways: First, it would be a permanent, not

temporary, public-private partnership; second, it would include the preservation of cultural and historic resources, not just natural resources.

The Green Mountain Conservation Group has strongly supported the creation of this new state conservation effort. At a public hearing in North Conway October 8, the GMCG told the Land and Community Heritage Commission that our cultural, historic and natural resources are inextricably linked to create the rural landscapes we'd all like to see preserved.

Linda Wilson will talk about ways in which local residents can inventory and prioritize these important resources so that if and when a new state program is available to help fund preservation efforts, we will have already identified the key sites in need of protection.

To become more involved contact Brian Hart, Citizens for NH Land & Community Heritage, 230-9729.

**Sandwich**

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Some options may include the purchase of conservation easements, or a timber sale run by a forester.

The **Committee's** effort to complete yearly maintenance on the Bearcamp River Trail remains thwarted as a beaver pond is now blocking access.

The **Conservation Commission** is exploring a project called the "Facts of Sandwich." This list will include natural, historical and cultural facts such as miles of roads, hiking trails, percent land in National Forest, current use, old mill sites, acres of ponds and wetlands. They hope to have some of the research done by students in the town. This work could be the base for a full natural resource inventory.

**The Sapling-Young Conservationist's News**

by Danielle Riss, age 13  
Madison

I had the chance to attend the Canoe Voyageur camp in August, 1998 with Tin Mountain Conservation Center based in Conway.

Canoe Voyageur camp was a great experience. During the first day, the campers did activities at the center to get to know each other and their counselors. Around noon, we went to Loon Lake to practice how to steer the canoes and how to escape if the canoe turned over. For the next four days, we went on overnights in northwest Maine on Richardson Lake and Mooselookme-guntic.

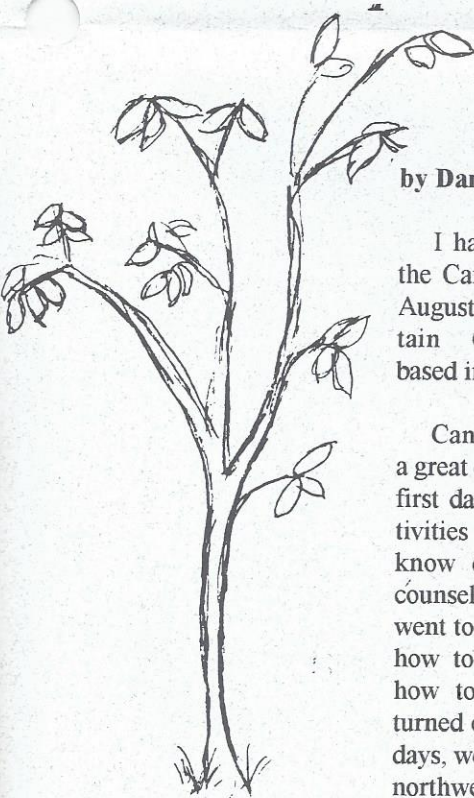
We camped and then paddled to different areas. I learned many things about wildlife and saw three or four bald eagles. Others were lucky to see moose, but I missed seeing them.

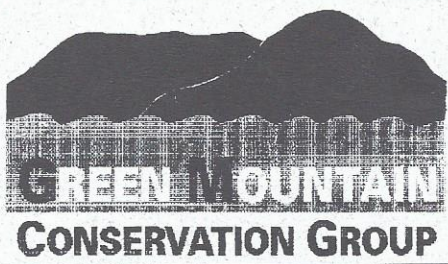
I think that it is very important to learn about the environment at a young age. I urge other kids to learn about the environment near your own house.

Tin Mountain camp was a learning and a fun experience for me. I hope to help others learn at Tin Mountain camps someday as a counselor.

**Members Attend NH Coverts Workshop**

Two members of the GMCG, Blair Folts and Susan Slack, participated in the NH Coverts workshop at the Bear Brook State Park. The Coverts Project (pronounced "cover" with a "t") is coordinated by UNH Cooperative Extension with funding from Ruffed Grouse Society, Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge, NH Fish and Game Dept. and NH Division of Forests and Lands. The goal of this program is to increase the amount of NH's private and public forest lands that are managed with good stewardship. Coverts Cooperators learned the latest concepts and issues in wildlife and forest ecology, habitat management, land conservation, management planning and effective outreach. For more information contact GMCG.





GMCG  
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03882

Deadline for next edition of  
The Watershed News is  
January 24. Mail news  
items to the above address  
or phone 539-7926.

# The Watershed News

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

## FOG

*Marnie Cobbs, Eaton*

Something about the fog,  
or the quiet and birdsong.  
About having wet feet  
already, so running  
Right through moss bottomed  
puddles.  
About the full length  
of blueberry field from  
The south end, looking back,  
and the dog lying in the  
Woods-hid pond.

Something handed me my  
Life, water trembling  
in two cupped together hands:  
Deep, ripe and glad.

And there, in the full holding,  
I found fear and terror:  
the quaking presence  
Of all to live  
and lose.



FOREST PROPERTY AVAILABLE. FULL APPLIANCES.