

◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 1998

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

Calendar

August 14, 1998

Environmental Day sponsored by the Freedom Conservation Commission, Camp Calumet and The Nature Conservancy. Camp Calumet Freedom 539-4773.

August 29, 1998

Sludge Symposium sponsored by the Green Mountain Conservation Group. Runnell's Hall 9am-noon. Chocorua 539-7926.

October 3, 1998

Special Places Conference, Concord, Brian Hart, 225-3852.

Oct. 24, 1998

Pine River State Forest Clean Up sponsored by the Effingham and Ossipee Conservation Commissions, 539-4964.

Experts to Speak at Sludge Symposium

The GMCG will host a Sludge Symposium Saturday, August 29 at Runnell's Hall in Tamworth from 9 am to noon. Panelists scheduled include experts from a range of disciplines and representing varying opinions about the controversial issue of land application of sludge. Each panelist will present a brief discussion of the issues, and ample time will be devoted to questions from the audience. The Sludge Symposium is open to the public. Susan Slack, vice president of the GMCG will be the moderator.

In addition to environmental advocates, including Daisy Goodman, a nurse from N. Stratford, panel members will include: Harry Stewart, director of the Division of Water with the N.H. Department of Environmental Services, which has proposed new and tougher

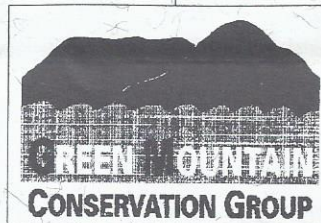
(some say not tough enough) rules governing sludge application; Francesca Latawiec, a senior planner with the N.H. Office of State Planning, who advises towns on drafting local ordinances to regulate sludge spreading; Scott Sudweeks, a toxicologist with the N.H. Department of Health's

Bureau of Health Risk Assessment; Tom Buob, a UNH Extension Educator dealing with agricultural re-

source issues; and Jasen Stocks of BFI Organics, a sludge distributor.

Among the issues discussed at the symposium will be: proposed new Department of Environmental Services rules governing land application of sludge, federal EPA regulations and local health and zoning ordinances regulating sludge; public health concerns; areas within the Ossipee Watershed suitable and not suitable for sludge spreading; and classes and types of sludge, including paper mill sludge and municipal sludge.

The goal of the GMCG is to provide an educational oppor-



GMCG Seeks ATV Delay

The Green Mountain Conservation Group joined three other New Hampshire environmental groups in July to urge the State to hold off on its plan to construct ATV trails in the Pine River State Forest until an environmental assessment of the Forest is completed and a statewide OHRV plan is developed.

The Pine River State Forest is a 3200-acre pitch pine/scrub oak forest located in Effingham and Ossipee.

GMCG joined the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, The Nature Conservancy and the New Hampshire Lakes Association in asking Commissioner Robb Thomson of the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) to delay implementation of the ATV trails proposed for the Pine River State Forest until the Forest's significant natural resources can be assessed, and managed accordingly. We also urged DRED to develop a statewide OHRV plan that establishes selection criteria and deals with management

The Green Mountain Conservation Group Board of Directors: pres. Blair Folts, vp. Susan Slack, treasurer, Jennifer VanCor, secretary, Henry Spencer, Bill Piekut, Barbara Ross, Chip Kimball, Marlene Ostrowski, Greg Bossart, Dan Stepanauskas.

Conservation Conversations

Sandwich

Sandwich conservation groups have been working hard on the naturally created problems of the ice storm and June flooding. These have affected local hiking trails and required above normal work effort for trail clearing.

The Conservation Commission planted four maple trees in the fairgrounds area.

The Conservation Commission's "Five Days of Sandwich" conservation day camp is in full swing with two one week sessions this year. Activities include canoeing, bushwhacking in the Ossipee Mountains, and hiking up a river bed. The camp is designed to expose local children to our natural environment. A small group coordinated by the Wilderness Society has been reviewing land use adjacent to the Sandwich Range Wilderness and Sandwich Notch. Some of the concerns include protection of the designated roadless areas, adequate wilderness size, protection of historic sites, and logging practices in the White Mountain National Forest. When the process to revise the

WMNF plan is restarted, the various interest groups will be ready to present their views on use options in the Forest. Also, the Selectmen have met with the Forest Service regarding planned timber sales in Sandwich Notch.

Freedom

In addition to our normal review of state Wetlands Bureau applications, the Conservation Commission is involved with these projects:

-Earth Day. August 14, 2pm Sponsored by FCC, TNC and Camp Calumet. Reps. from IP, Fish & Game, environmental groups, Extension Service.

-Sludge. Town has formed a biosolids committee with CC, Planning Board, & ZBA.

-LRPC Resource Inventory Commission has identified a number of critical natural resource areas within the community for inclusion in the Lakes Region Planning Commission's Critical Resource Inventory.

-Compost Area. Commission is currently in the process of filing with the NH Dept. Environmental Services for a permit to utilize a for-

mer sand and gravel pit as a compost area for leaves, brush and stumps.

Tamworth

The Conservation Commission maintains six properties and trails, including the Bearcamp Natural Area, Spruce Bogs and Waterfowl Haven preserves, and trails at Jackman Pond, Big Pines and the Earle Remick Natural Area. Trail fliers are maintained, which point out unique wildlife, fauna and flora that might be seen in the area, as well as glacial attributes and natural history features. New member Bob Griffin recently headed up a team to clear several of these trails after the ice storm devastation left them unnavigable.

While easements, letters of intent to develop on or near conservation areas, wetlands and other administrative tasks take up a major part of our meetings, the TCC is a visible presence at annual NHACC meetings, and has hosted the Audubon, SPNHF, The Nature Conservancy in their meetings to discuss the Ossipee Watershed Protection Project.

Effingham

In addition to reviewing Intents to Cut and site inspections of wetlands, the Conservation Commission has been involved with other projects. The Commission initiated an Adopt A Road program encouraging residents to clean up 1- to 3-mile sections of road for 2 years. Bumper stickers will be given to each volunteer and an honor roll will be placed at Town Hall. The Commission framed the 5 maps donated by SPNHF, Audubon and TNC as part of the Ossipee Watershed Protection Project and hung them in the Town Hall. Each year the Commission donates money so elementary school students can attend The Environmental School at Ferry Beach, Maine. This year the entire 3rd grade (6 students) was able to attend. Effingham and Ossipee have organized a clean up of trash dumped in the Pine River State Forest on Oct. 24 at 9 am.

Madison-An Historic Perspective

by Richard Hocking

The Madison Conservation Commission began, in 1973 I think, in the usual way; an article in the Town Meeting Warrant, with ten signatures, a good strong vote for the article support, and a commission appointed by the Selectmen.

A good example of how we worked is our nearly first acquisition of conservation land. In Silver Lake there is a

charming and splendidly wooded island of only three and a half acres, large for Silver Lake, hence called "Big Island." In 1973 its owners had to sell it, and put it on the market up and down the Atlantic coast, for "development." Most of the residents around Silver Lake wanted to preserve the island as a natural area. They began to collect money from around the lake, \$100 from each family. The new

Conservation Commission offered its office and services to coordinate the effort. The Conservation Commission learned of a fund, originating in the Department of the Interior in Washington, for securing parks and natural areas. The fund was handled in New Hampshire by the state Department of Resources

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GMCG Seeks Pine River ATV Delay

and enforcement issues.

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The Pine River State Forest is the last extensive area of pitch pine/scrub oak forest found in New Hampshire.

Pitch pine/scrub oak areas are a globally rare natural community and are found only in the northeastern United States. The last extensive area of this type in New Hampshire is found in the Pine River State Forest. This area supports native birds, such

as the common nighthawk, whip-poor-will, brown thrasher and eastern towhee, which are species of concern identified by the New Hamp-

shire Partners in Flight Working Group as a high priority. Several endangered butterfly and moth species are found in this area, too.

The area's unique geological, plant and animal communities were recognized as being of statewide significance in the 1970s, resulting in the drive to preserve the Forest. The GMCG believes there were very good reasons for DRED officials to promise in 1976, when the Pine River State Forest land was purchased by the State, to limit the area to "non-intensive recreational use," and that promise should be kept today.

GMCG welcomes your views on this issue. We suggest you also express your opinions to Commissioner Thomson at the Department of Resources and Economic Development, P.O. Box 856, Concord, N.H. 03302-

Madison

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and Economic Development (DRED). Grants from DRED had to be matched 50-50. The Silver Lake residents raised about \$12,500, which was then matched by DRED. The aim all along was to buy the island and give it to the Town as a natural area under Conservation Commission oversight. The question at that point was: "Will the Town accept the gift?" At the Town Meeting there was a long debate between those who argued that the island should be developed into three or four tax-paying house lots and those who held that it should be preserved untaxed for everybody's enjoyment. Finally the vote was two-thirds in favor of conservation. We were gratified!

The Sapling-Young Conservationist's News

by Elena Piekut, age 11

The Environmental School (TES) is in Ferry Beach, ME (near Old Orchard Beach). I interviewed Heather Fender-son, a third-grader in Effingham School, who was there with Diane Schuette's class in early June.

Elena: How long were you at TES and how many kids were there?

Heather: We stayed four days and three nights. There were six kids.

E: What marine life did you see?

H: Some sand dollars, starfish, and a baby seal, among others.

E: What games did you play?

H: Caterpillar Walk, Camouflage. (Camouflage is a hide-and-peek type game.)

E: Who were the counselors?

H: Older teens interested in environmental studies.

E: How did your day go?

H: I'll start with breakfast. Kids took turns with serving and clean-up. Outdoor class, free time (write home, etc.), short outdoor class, lunch, prepare for next class, outdoor class, free time until dinner, dinner and dinner theater, a night class indoors, free time until lights-out.

E: What crafts did you do?

H: We sketched forest things and made books.

E: What was your favorite part?

H: I liked walking along the ocean.

E: So would you go there again?

H: Yeah!

I was only nine years old when I went to TES, in 1996. Ms. Schuette's class has gone every year for some time. Everyone looks forward to it.

I had so much fun. We saw a seal, endangered dune grass, sand dollars, and a sick starfish. (When sick they turn purple!) We explored a marsh and tide pools. A mock town meeting was held in the dining hall. We discussed what to do about a jetty causing sandy beaches for hotels, yet eroding sand dunes and two blocks of a town. We made candles out of melted crayons.

I think it was a great experience. I wish I could go back!



GMCG
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Deadline for next edition of
The Watershed News is
October 20. Mail news
items to the above address
or phone 539-7926.

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

Hikers Visit Green Mountain

Twelve hikers from around NH joined Tom Howe from SPNHF and Blair Folts of the GMCG for an excursion up Green Mountain July 11. They started at High Watch Preserve in Effingham, hiked to the top and down the other side via the state fire tower path to Libby Road. A nice breeze kept the bugs down and allowed the hikers to enjoy a picnic and some blueberry gathering at the summit. Fire Ranger Roland Libby invited the group into the fire tower to enjoy the spectacular view of the entire Ossipee Watershed and to survey the January ice storm damage, which has enhanced the view of Ossipee Lake from the summit. Despite ice storm damage and flood damage from the June rain storms, the fire tower path was in good shape for hiking. SPNHF and the GMCG have been conducting hikes in the Ossipee Mountains this summer to help acquaint people from around the region with the area's unique natural resources and the ecological importance of the Ossipee Watershed.

