

◆ The Watershed News ◆

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Summer 2008

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

GMCG partners with UVM for drinking water protection



Mia Akaogi grew up in southern Vermont on her parents' organic farm and through this experience was instilled with an appreciation of the environment at an early age. After high school, she attended Cornell University and obtained a

bachelor's degree in Natural Resources with an applied ecology concentration. She then applied to the AmeriCorps program and moved to Knoxville, Tennessee to become a part of the CAC

AmeriCorps Water Quality Team. This opportunity let her explore potential career paths while at the same time gain experience by working with environmental professionals.

As an AmeriCorps member she implemented the Adopt-A-Watershed program for middle and high schools and worked alongside members of local government, environmental agencies, and the public on many watershed improvement projects. This experience inspired her to return to school where she is currently an Ecological Planning (EP) master's student at the University of Vermont.

The purpose of the EP program is to provide students with the skills necessary to be successful professionals in today's environmental field. An integral part of this non-thesis program is the master's

project. This project supplies students with a real example of how to apply the scientific knowledge obtained from coursework to an environmental issue and collaborate with and learn from an existing non-profit. This year Mia chose the Green Mountain Conservation Group as her project sponsor and she will be working with GMCG this summer on the Source Water Protection Project. "I really look forward to working with the local community to increase knowledge about the Ossipee Aquifer and potential contamination sources in the watershed and how to prevent pollutants from entering drinking water. It is my dream to implement environmental change at the local level."

Thanks to George and Marcia Forrest for providing Mia with a place to stay!

Danielle Dugas of Ossipee joins GMCG as new intern

Danielle Dugas lives in southern New Hampshire but likes to spend her summers at her family's cottage in Ossipee. It was her frequent trips to the northern part of the state that inspired Danielle's love for nature.

This past May, she was the first student to graduate with her bachelors from Southern New Hampshire University's newly developed Environmental Program. She hopes to continue her education by returning to school to receive her masters in Environmental Education.

This summer Danielle will be the Water Quality Monitoring Intern for the Green Mountain Conservation Group and will be helping to coordinate various

water testing programs, including local summer camp water testing.

Danielle has a lot of experience with kids and has taught summer Environmental Education Programs through the Audubon of New Hampshire in Laconia. Providing hands-on programs for children made her realize that she can combine her passion for the environment with education.

Danielle has also volunteered for the Lakes Lay Monitoring Program which helped her learn the importance of water testing. "I have personally seen the changes that groups like GMCG can make in a community. I have been a supporter of GMCG for a few years and thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to join their team for the summer. I look forward

to working with the many volunteers of GMCG and the local summer camps."



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. 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.

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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Special Places

Land conservation boosted by new committee & farm bill passage

Editor's Note: Special Places is a regular feature of the Watershed News, highlighting an historical or cultural resource within the Ossipee Watershed. GMCG continues to endorse the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) a public-private partnership committed to conservation of New Hampshire's natural, cultural and historical resources. For more information, on LCHIP call 224-4113, or email www.lchip.org.

BY THERESA SWANICK

This spring the GMCG Land Trust Committee (LTC) formalized from being an ad-hoc committee into a standing committee of the GMCG board. Comprising the LTC are board members Peter Pohl (chair), Scott Aspinall and Carol Felice, and former board member Dan Stephanauskas, as well as Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff member Debra Eddison.

Land Trust Consultant, Theresa Swanick, is currently advising the LTC and helping to review all current land and easement holdings to ensure the files are all brought up to date per national Land Trust Alliance (LTA) standards and practices. Theresa is also assisting GMCG in the compilation of a policies and procedures manual following the guidelines advocated by LTA.

The big land trust news of late is the tumultuous but final passage, including the very

unusual override of a presidential veto, of the 2008 Farm Bill which extends the 2006-2007 IRS tax deduction rules for donation of easements for another two years, retroactive to January 1.

This is very welcome news as these tax rules greatly expanded the amounts deductible. The rules allow deduction of amounts up to 50% of adjusted gross income (versus the previous 30%), or 100% for some farmers, and allows carry-over of amounts more than that for up to 15 additional years (versus the previous 5 years).

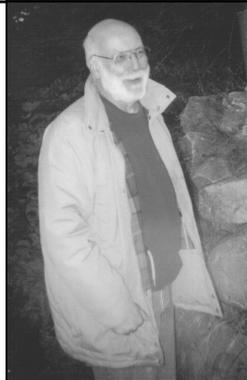
In addition, the Farm Bill, officially called the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, provides a total of \$733 million over 5 years for the Farmland Protection Program (FRP) (formerly Farm and Ranchland Protection Program or FRPP). It also clarifies the eligibility of land trusts to participate directly (effectively turning FRP into a grants program for land trusts, which will no longer require easements to be co-held with the federal government). The following funding levels were approved: \$97M in FY08, \$121M in FY09, \$150M in FY10, \$175M in FY11 and \$200M in FY12. The bill also re-establishes the Grassland Reserve Program with a goal of 1.22 million acres, funded with an estimated \$300 million.

Theresa Swanick, is GMCG's land trust consultant, dedicated volunteer and lawyer.

Celebrating Jim Clemons

GMCG would like to extend our condolences on the loss of Jim Clemons of Freedom. Jim was a long time volunteer and supporter of the organization.

Jim was a water quality monitoring volunteer since 2003, and monitored the Cold Brook in Freedom Village every other week from April until October these past five years. He also served on the GMCG Board as the Education Coordinator, sharing his affinity for working with young people and ideas for



programming in the Ossipee Watershed communities.

Although Jim struggled with health problems over the years, he was a devoted and reliable volunteer who kept up with his duties no matter what, and opened his "red door" to the greater community of water quality volunteers for their convenience.

We will miss his visits to the office, his positive attitude and his spirit of giving. We will remember him fondly!

Come celebrate GMCG's new HOME on July 9th!

With the final arrival of spring, GMCG volunteers have been helping ready Huntress Bridge Road property for GMCG's new office. Throughout the winter, Bill Klotz worked to finish up carpentry and coordinate electrical and plumbing restoration. After a painting party with volunteers one Saturday in May, we were all amazed to be greeted by the song of peepers as the day ended.

Surrounded by wetlands, a large peat bog owned by the Audubon Society and within walking distance to the Ossipee River, the Huntress House promises to be an exciting new home for GMCG as it enters the second decade of conservation work in the Ossipee Watershed.

With funding from the Little Family Foundation in 2007, GMCG purchased this small house and has retrofit it for an office. "We are so excited to have a place to conduct

our educational programs. I am often out with kids and adults teaching about water quality or macro-invertebrates and this new site will allow me to conduct these programs on site," said GMCG Program Director Tara Schroeder.



Volunteers have been working hard all spring to get the new office ready.

"We are thrilled to have an office now where we will be able to conduct more research and educational events as well as to meet with community members who have advocacy concerns or land trust interests. We are so grateful to the Little Family Foundation as well as to all the volunteers who have supported our efforts to renovate this new office," Blair Folts, GMCG Executive Director added.

You're Invited!!!

Please join GMCG for a community potluck barbecue on July 9th from 5-8 at the new office, 196 Huntress Bridge Road in Effingham. Drinks, grills and music will be supplied. Please plan to bring a favorite dish to share with the community. For more information or directions please call 539-1859 or visit www.gmcg.org.

Special thanks to all the folks who are helping make this happen!

*Emelyn Albert
Scott Aspinall
Greg Bossart
Sylvia Carney
Duane Dale
Noreen & Dave Downs
Danielle Dugas
Carole Felice
Elizabeth Gillette
Ned Hatfield
Frank Keville
Beverly Kitsch
Alex Klotz*



Photo courtesy of Ashley Rigazio

*Bill Klotz
Don Lachance
Al Levesque
Becky Mulkern
Kamalendu Nath
Peter Pohl
Edith Sharp
John Shipman
Lyn Slanetz
Henry & Maureen Spencer
Ellie Stokes
Arthur Surette
Theresa Swanick*



Cabinet Concepts, Portsmouth N.H.

Countertops, Inc., Salem N.H.

Forest Lands and Improvement, Tamworth N.H.



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

Dr. Rick Van de Poll presented a progress report on the Effingham Wildlife Action Plan (EWAP) project on June 9th to an audience of about 22. Highlights included wildlife species of concern such as the spotted turtle, veery, wood thrush (Serious Threat Category) and others. Two town wetland maps (from the wetland inventory project of 2007) were also given to the town.

The Planning Board is in the process of incorporating the Natural Resources Inventory chapter for the town, provided by the Commission, into the Town Master Plan.

The Commission recently gave awards to elementary school students for this year's poster topic: 'The Three R's: Reduce/ Reuse/ Recycle'. A total of 82 entries were received from grades K through 6 and a photo-collage of each class's entries was provided to teachers. The Commission provides funding to the school for the summer environmental camp on behalf of the town of Effingham. The Earth Day/Spring Road-side Clean-Up for the 2008 Keep Effingham Litter-Free (KELF) program was held on Saturday, May 3rd, combined with the Valley Pride Day.

Ossipee

Commissioners removed debris from the old 19th hole shack on the "Window on the Ossipee Mountains" property, and hope to complete the job by July 4th. Surveying for the overlook will begin so plans can be drawn up for state approval. Savor the mountain view every time you pass the property and praise the many generous donors who helped conserve it permanently!

Thirty people filled the Ossipee library in late April for the Open Space & Land Conservation Easement workshop co-sponsored by GMCG and the Commission. Thanks to speakers Phil Auger and Wendy Scribner of the UNH Cooperative Extension, Peter Pohl of the GMCG Land Trust Committee, and Dave Babson, Vice Chair of SPACE. Nick Paquette will return for a second summer to supervise Lake Hosts at the Pequawket Trail boat landing. Kevin

Houle was recently appointed to the Commission.

Madison

The Commission donated \$25,000 of its change-of-use tax money to the The Nature Conservancy to help buy the Goodwin Family Trust land surrounding Cook's Pond.

Plans for August's Old Home Week lecture include a lecture by Fish and Game's Kristine Rines about moose ecology. The Commission is also actively working on the Master Plan update and posting new trail signs as well as conducting clean-ups on town properties.

Tamworth

Ned Beecher and Bryan Berlind will lead the Commission as Chair and Vice Chair, and Charlie Townsend has once again been elected Treasurer. The Commission welcomes alternate Jeremy Phillips who is a naturalist at the Squam Lakes Science Center. If you have an interest in conservation issues and would like to learn more about the TCC, please stop by the booth on Family Day, July 4th at the Brett Elementary School or contact: Ned @ 323-7862 ned.beecher@gmail.com or Donna @ 986-1080 mdveilleux@roadrunner.com.

This spring, Ned Beecher once again led bird walks, a long-standing tradition started by TCC founder Betty Steele. TCC members and volunteers also participated in National Trail Day on June 7th with a trail clean up.

The Conservation Land Review sub-committee continues work on the Natural Resource Inventory and will present it to the Commissions for their review. The CLRC is also working on a Conservation Easement Stewardship Plan Proposal to more clearly define the TCC role in land trust functions, policies, partnerships and responsibilities.

Stay tuned for an invitation to celebrate the placement of a plaque on the historic Great Hill Tower. The TCC and state officials have finalized the plaque to be placed on the tower, which has been designated as a National Lookout Tower. The tower was built by a Civilian Conservation Corps group in 1934. During World War II, it was used as a look-out as part of the aircraft warning system. In 1977, ownership of the tower was transferred to the Town of Tamworth. Finally, please read the July issue of the Tamworth Civic News for a summary of the Wetlands Ordinance.

Town ordinances reviewed by experts at Watershed meeting

On June 12th the Green Mountain Conservation Group, the Ossipee Watershed Coalition and members of the Ossipee Watershed community met at Runnells Hall in Chocorua to hear a series of speakers who presented information on town ordinances, commercial water extraction, and how towns can collaborate on natural resource protection across political boundaries.

John Shipman, Chair of the Ossipee Watershed Coalition, gave a synopsis of projected population growth for the Watershed, and encouraged towns to work together now on planning for future growth. Alex Klotz, GMCG intern, presented to towns the newly created, watershed-wide, Natural Resource Ordinance Booklet and Matrix, which brings together all the natural resource ordinances

from each town. Steve Whitman, Environmental Planner with Jeffrey Taylor & Associates, offered professional feedback to individual towns on the quality of their natural resource ordinances and regulations. Susan Slack, Esq and Municipal Processes Attorney offered advice on how towns could create more effective natural resource ordinances. Finally, Brandon Kernen of NH DES offered insight into how the state-regulated water extraction permit process works and what local towns can do to protect drinking water resources. Visit www.gmcg.org for more information or to look at the matrix.

Alex Klotz is from Effingham and has been an intern with GMCG since February working on the Ossipee Watershed Source Water Protection Project. Thank you Alex for all your help! We will miss you!

Watershed Water Quality Monitoring

Notes from Upstream

New volunteers & schools help with monitoring

This spring GMCG welcomed six new volunteers who will be helping adopt a river or stream in their town to monitor as part of the RIVERS water quality monitoring program. They include: Mike Veilleux, Beverly Klitsch, Melanie Lekousi, Fred Peabody, Liza Flanigan and Marilyn Tillingham. Volunteers learn how to test designated monitoring sites for field-measured parameters, such as pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, turbidity and temperature, and to take water samples that are analyzed at the University of New Hampshire in two separate labs for a suite of chemical parameters. Volunteers monitor their sites every other week early in the morning until mid-October. Thank you to all of these dedicated individuals for their help and commitment to the program!



Camp Calumet's boat driver Pete Girardi helps a student take secchi disk readings on Lake Ossipee this May.

Also this spring, over 200 elementary school students from Wakefield, Portsmouth and other towns in New Hampshire learned about water monitoring and how to be good stewards of our rivers and lakes. GMCG staff and

Camp Calumet staff collaborated on multiple occasions to teach the students about environmental stewardship, river and lake ecology, and water quality research.

Camp partnerships in education such as this one will continue over the summer months when Water Quality Intern Danielle Dugas will coordinate deep water testing of the lake and bays with camps Calumet, Cody, Huckins, Marist, Robin Hood and Danforth Bay Camping Resort. Water quality programs for campers will involve them in collecting data for the N.H. Department of Environmental Services' Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP). The 2007 VLAP Report, in addition to the 2007 Volunteer Biological Assessment Program (VBAP) Report, are now available online at: <http://www.gmcg.org/water-quality-data.php>. Stay tuned for more reports and presentations to Watershed towns this summer and fall on data and water quality trends from these programs and the RIVERS and tributary testing programs.

Notes from Downstream

Branching out from the Maine stream

BY DENNIS FINN

Last month, I had the opportunity to attend the 9th Biennial River Management Society Symposium in Portland, Maine. This year's event marked the 40th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The gathering of river managers, scientists, planners and administrators is set up for the sole purpose of sharing ideas and transferring information about river systems nationwide.

Part of this year's focus was on the collaboration of river protectors that include landowners, river organizations, conservation agencies and businesses. Rivers protected by such a collaboration are being called "Partnership Rivers". The symposium was well-attended with representatives from all sections of the country from as close as Augusta and as far away as Fairbanks, Alaska. Topics were also diverse as issues relating to urban

waterways, dam removal, protection and restoration and cultural resources were all discussed with ample opportunity for questions and answers.

The meeting was timely, in that the SRCC is currently looking at a multitude of problems on the upper stretch of the Saco. It was poignant that the term partnership rivers was discussed. Sitting in on the plenary sessions reminded me of the collaborative effort that the GMCG and the SRCC have with respect to water quality and other like minded interests. I was both proud and pleased to realize that the symposium was celebrating nationwide efforts at resource protection and that we are on the very same track right here in our own part of the world.

Dennis Finn is Executive Director at the Saco River Corridor Commission in Cornish, Maine. SRCC is made up of 20 towns from Fryeburg to Saco, Maine. GMCG has been partnering with SRCC since 2001.

Businesses protect drinking water & reap the benefit\$

The Ossipee Watershed Source Water Protection Project is well underway this summer, thanks to the help of graduate student Mia Akaogi from the University of Vermont. This project involves mapping and surveying potential contamination sources (PCSs) to the Ossipee Aquifer and initiating an ongoing monitoring program to prevent pollution of drinking water supplies. The project has been made possible by the Department of Environmental Services (N.H. DES) and many dedicated volunteers from the watershed community.

Many businesses and facilities are considered "PCSs" because they use, store, handle or dispose of regulated substances (such as oil, gas, kerosene, antifreeze, hydraulic fluid, diesel, degreasers, pesticides, herbicides, paints and thinners) in greater-than-household quantities (>5 gallons).

Best Management Practices, or "BMPs", are usually simple, common sense ways to protect oneself and others from drinking water contamination from these substances leaching into groundwater. Diana Morgan of N.H. DES sums it up nicely: "Cover it. Contain it. Don't let it touch the ground." If in doubt about any substance and its storage or handling, her message at a recent Salvage Yard Forum this spring was: "If you wouldn't want to drink it, or your kids to drink it, get it off the ground."

So why should businesses and facilities that use these substances care about following BMPs? One case study provides some good reasons.

Brian Winslow, owner of Turnpike Auto Parts, bought his salvage yard in New Ipswich, N.H. a few years ago, complete with 78,000 tires that littered the lot and mounds of unsorted debris and hazardous waste. As a fledgling entrepreneur in the auto salvage business, Brian's company took a very poorly rated business with an environmental rating of an "F" to a yard with an "A+" rating. This year, he hopes to certify as a N.H. Green Yard.

Brian's story is an example of how implementing best management practices improved the economic future of a business,

in addition to protecting water resources and the surrounding environment. He admits that it had initially been hard work to implement the practices, but looking back he believes it was the best decision he and his partner could have made. His efforts led to improved morale, improved business contacts, the ability to provide better service and the ability to, through better organization, increase his profit margins.

This summer Mia will be working with local businesses such as Brian's along with town officials and volunteers to support businesses' use of BMPs. The newly formed Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee will be guiding these efforts with workshops, trainings and other educational events to provide residents, town officials, public water suppliers, businesses and other stakeholders with opportunities to get training and learn more about how towns can work together to protect shared drinking water resources. Committee representation is needed from all stakeholders on the committee, including town officials, fire inspectors, health inspectors, area businesses, public water suppliers, etc. Meetings are open to the public. Please call Mia at 539-1859 if you are interested in participating. For more information, visit:

- * The DES Guide to Groundwater Protection
http://www.des.state.nh.us/dwspp/pdf/des_guide_to_ground_water.pdf
- * BMPs for Groundwater Protection Fact Sheet
<http://www.des.state.nh.us/factsheets/ws/ws-22-4.htm>
- * EPA List of Regulated Substances:
http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_00/40cfr302_0.html
- * NH DES Powerpoint Presentation on PCSs & BMPs:
<http://www.des.state.nh.us/Dwspp/workshop/2007/Diana%20Morgan%20L.pdf>

New toolkit will help towns deal with water withdrawal proposals

At the most recent Ossipee Watershed Coalition meeting held on June 12th, Brandon Kernan, a hydrologist with N.H. DES, spoke about the importance of protecting the quality and quantity of our groundwater resources. The issue he spent much of his time discussing was that of groundwater withdrawals, stating that groundwater is consistently one of the most important issues to come up in the state legislature.

The N.H. DES is the entity that approves and monitors large groundwater withdrawals across the state. Any well installed after 1998 that pumps in excess of 57,000 gallons during any 24 hour period requires a permit. The permitting process requires the following steps: preliminary application, public notification, withdrawal tests, final report, a second public hearing and then a final permit decision.

Mr. Kernan explained how local land use planning decisions impact how much water is displaced from the environment, and that there is some local control over these large withdrawal projects. In his experience, new bottled water projects almost always

require a variance in towns with zoning, and usually also require better roads and new infrastructure, and this is where towns have local control.

Mr. Kernan went on to explain how the Groundwater Commission, comprised of N.H. Senators, N.H. Representatives and stakeholders with an interest in groundwater issues, is working with N.H. DES to develop a toolkit that will assist communities with evaluating water supplies. The Commission is also incorporating recommendations and comments from communities into the large groundwater withdrawal permitting process so that towns understand what their role is and where their authority lies in the permitting process.

The toolkit will be ready this summer, following approval by the Commission. GMCG and the Ossipee Watershed Coalition will notify towns when the toolkit becomes available. For more information and to share any comments, contact:

Brandon.Kernan@des.nh.gov or visit:
<http://www.des.state.nh.us/DWSPP/>.

Summer Calendar

Wednesday, July 9th: Huntress House Celebration.

Join us for music and a potluck barbeque (GMCG will supply desserts and drinks) to celebrate the opening of the new GMCG headquarters. Everyone is invited. 5:00-8:00 p.m. 196 Huntress Bridge Road, Effingham. No rain date as we will have tents set up.

Saturday, July 19th: NH's Black Bears with Ben Kilham & NH Coverts Roundtable.

6-9 p.m. at Camp Calumet, Freedom. Dinner and the presentation is \$20 per person. Please pre-register by contacting GMCG at (603) 539-1859, or emailing gmcgnh@roadrunner.com.

Sponsored in part by White Mountain Survey Co., Inc.

Monday, August 4th: Freedom Town Forest & Trout Pond Hike.

Explore the town forest and learn from foresters about its natural history and recent timber harvesting and wildlife habitat improvement projects. Meet at the end of Shawtown Road, past Danforth Bay campground, at 9:30 a.m. Call Beth Earle 539-7357 FMI. Sponsored by Freedom Conservation Commission & Forest Advisory Committee. This hike is part of the Green Mountain Conservation Group's "10 Hikes for 10 Years" series in 2008, sponsored by Sugar Hill Retirement Community. Please bring plenty of water, bug spray, snacks, and layers. We will be hiking until approximately 12:30 p.m., trail level is easy-moderate.

Thursday, August 7th: Green Mountain Hike.

This hike is part of the Green Mountain Conservation Group's "10 Hikes for 10 Years" series in 2008, sponsored by Sugar Hill Retirement Community, and the Freedom Old Home Week Committee. Meet at the ball field at Freedom Elementary School at 9:30 a.m. Call John Shipman 539-5799 FMI. Please bring plenty of water, bug spray, snacks, and layers. We will be hiking the Dearborn Trail until approximately 12:30 p.m., trail level is moderate.



Thanks to summer 2008 program sponsors & partners in education:

**All programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Please call (603) 539-1859 FMI.*



****Please renew your membership for 2008 today!***

Your Membership Will Make a Difference.

(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 _____

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The Watershed News

Save the Date:
Huntress House
Celebration
July 9th
196 Huntress Bridge Rd.,
Effingham N.H.
5-8 p.m.

Deadline for
Fall Newsletter
submissions is September 10th

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

Come help Celebrate
GMCG's NEW HOME at
196 Huntress Bridge Road
at a Potluck Barbecue on
July 9th from 5-8 p.m.
Music, drinks and grills
will be provided!

See story page 3...



Photo courtesy of Laurie Meeder.

Volunteer Lyn Slanetz works on new kitchen cabinets donated for the office.

