

# ◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume XIV, Issue I

Winter 2010

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

## Award winner Richard Kahn will present “Arctic Dreams: Travels in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska” at Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 25th, GMCG will hold its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Calumet Conference Center from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Lake Ossipee in Freedom. The evening’s featured speaker will be Richard Kahn, a resident of Wilton and an award-winning filmmaker and photographer.

The evening will commence with a social hour, appetizers, community awards and election of officers. Richard documented a 70-day journey on the Utukok and Colville Rivers in northern Alaska during the summer of 2008. He returned to the region this summer and spent forty five days paddling on the western edge of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. While Richard has usually let his photos and films speak for themselves, the pressure of oil and coal development in one of this



A campsite on a ridge above Illuguruk Creek, Utukok Uplands

country’s last unspoiled frontiers has prompted him to tell the story of this remarkable land, its people and its challenge. Richard has spent the past ten summers north of the Arctic Circle and has developed a deep appreciation for this remote part of Alaska. His presentation will combine still photographs, entries from his journal and

a short film to illustrate how much is at risk in this wild and beautiful land.

Richard’s repertoire of award winning films includes many produced for the History Channel, CBS Productions/Discovery Health, Vermont Public Television, WGBH-TV Frontline, WBZ, Boston and Fox TV. He has received the New England EMMY on multiple occasions, in addition to the many others around the country. He is currently working on a film

“Voices from the Land: the impact of industrial development on the land and people of Alaska’s Western Arctic”, a co-production with the Alaska Wilderness League.

*Annual Meeting is open to the public. Tickets are \$15 pp for dinner and the presentation, \$10 pp for children or \$5 pp presentation only. To reserve tickets, contact (603) 539-1859 or email [gmcgnh@roadrunner.com](mailto:gmcgnh@roadrunner.com).*

## BMP project to prevent erosion completed on Province Lake

GMCG, the Effingham Conservation Commission and the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA) recently completed a water quality improvement project on Province Lake in Effingham. The project finished November 4<sup>th</sup>, after six months of planning and obtaining the proper permits, with funding provided in part by a Watershed Assistance Grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services with Clean Water Act Section 319 funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Since 2007, property owner Grace Barter has worked with the Effingham Conservation Commission and AWWA to mitigate erosion on her property. In 2009, GMCG received 319 funds from DES to help with such a project, and the



Al Levesque and Kamal Nath cut coir logs.

partnership was formed.

Over the years, runoff and ice action deteriorated caused Barter’s bank to crumble, adding sediment to the lake and compromising the lawn above the bank. For the project, coir logs (essentially rolled coconut husks) and live staking

were used to stabilize the bank, in addition to vegetative buffer strips, and infiltration steps.

Volunteers from GMCG, AWWA and the Effingham Conservation Commission assisted with the construction. The project cost was \$850, of which \$210 was the Wetlands Permit application fee, and the rest was materials. Nearly \$400 in materials were donated by GMCG, AWWA, and local residents Jean Hansen, Karen Payne, Kamal Nath, as well as Indian Mound Hardware. Barter was responsible for about one third of the cost of the project. Kamal and Grace were both delighted with the outcome and look forward to the live stakes taking roots next spring.

## 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.

### Board of Directors

Noreen Downs, President  
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### Town Representatives

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### Staff

Executive Director, Blair Folts  
 Program Director, Tara Schroeder

## Greetings from Mongolia

By Blair Folts

I am grateful that the GMCG Board granted me a short sabbatical so I could travel to Mongolia for a month. I spent most of the visit in the far western area of Bayan Olgii, in high mountains on the China-Russia border. The landscape is stunning with 4000 meter peaks, glaciers, fields of eidelweis and herders dotted across the fields.

It is an area that invites you to go back in time. Even the runway where your plane lands is a dirt landing strip.

Most people in the city of Bayan Olgii do not have running water but, instead, share wells and have pit latrines. There is a central bath house where families go two or three times a week for a hot shower. In the homes in the city there are sinks with one-gallon tanks above them for face washing each morning.



A wash basin outside a winter home.

Conditions in the countryside were more primitive. I traveled with a translator and thus was able to stay with local families in their gers—traditional felt houses similar to a yurt. These families are nomadic herders and move four or five times a year, following the grasslands for their animals. They were all very connected to the environment and aware of even subtle changes in environmental conditions these past 10 years.

In one valley, I had the opportunity to stay with an elderly herder couple. The man was the Environmental Protection Minister for the entire valley and this required him to stay in the valley until the first snows arrived when no more people would be able to travel to the area. I shared GMCG's information with him and he explained his role in protecting the forests there



A herder and his son outside the family ger.

(the only area in the region with trees), tracking the nearly extinct snow leopard and looking out for the cultural artifacts -- bronze age tombs and Man Stones, which are scattered throughout the valley. (another photo?)

He and his wife live in a beautiful ger. They walk each day to the river to collect water for cooking and drinking. The ger has a small wood stove in the center and young grandchildren gather dried cow and yak dung to burn for fuel. The ger has a grass floor and is very cozy as long as the fire is burning. I wondered what it would be like to live there when the winter temperatures drop to minus 40 degrees.

One morning I awoke to three inches of fresh snow. It was August 31. Many scientists are studying climate change in Mongolia, particularly since the steppe and Gobi desert are very sensitive and are exhibiting dramatic changes already. Not only have I contemplated how fortunate we are in New Hampshire to have so many natural resources and to be able to "turn on our faucets for water", but I also have had the opportunity to think about how important it is for us to work in our own neighborhoods to teach about the need for conservation of all shared resources -- not just shared from town to town or state to state, but across the globe.

And from the other side of the Earth, I am grateful for all the connections at GMCG -- great volunteers, municipal officials, friends, neighbors, partners in other organizations, kids, schools. One tiny step at a time we can each make a difference and we ARE!

*Blair Folts is the Executive Director of GMCG and was one of the founding board members in 1997.*

## 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

Two Commission members attended the NHACC Annual Meeting, at Concord High School held on November 7th. The Keep Effingham Litter Free (KELF) project concluded on October 10th with a lunch at the Municipal Office building following a morning of roadside clean up. The Commission has received two large maps from The Nature Conservancy's Jeff Lougee on the Effingham Wildlife Action Plan, compiled by Rick Van de Poll, that is to be displayed in the Municipal Office.

The Northern Research Station, a Forest Inventory and Analysis Unit of the USDA, is in the process of completing an annual inventory of the forest resources in New Hampshire. The Research Station has selected a lot near Wilkinson Brook as part of the randomly selected research sites.

The Commission has received the following documents related to wetlands issues: 1) Notification of Geotechnical Borings at the Ossipee Lake Dam from NHDES; 2) NHDES request to a Dredge & Fill applicant to respond to Commission comments and the applicant's response to NHDES; 3) NHDES approval of a Notification of Trail Development Activities Having Minimum Wetlands Impact. Following the approval of a revised application submitted by Adam Shoukimas on Grace Barter's MIEA, GMCG, Acton-Wakefield Watersheds Alliance, and Commission members completed this shore stabilization project on Province Lake utilizing coir logs and live stakes (see page 1 for details).

Thanks to substantial financial support granted by the 'Celebrate Effingham' Committee, the Commission is in a position to move forward with the construction of the bird-watch platform at the

Larry Leavitt Preserve. This project, headed by Mr. Steve Zalewski of the Open Space Committee, is to be completed in stages. Members of the Commission worked for four days to pour six concrete footings for the foundation, following site preparation and digging. The project will be completed in the spring of 2010. Please visit the Effingham Conservation Commission website: <http://EffinghamConservationCommission.web.officelive.com>

### Madison

The Madison Conservation Commission is in the final stages of entering into an agreement with DRED to help assist in the maintenance of the Madison Boulder geological site. The MCC is also working with the Board of Selectmen to finalize the legal documents that are necessary to establish the relationship with several NH geological societies that will help with fundraising, people power, and educational stations. The project was initiated when DRED began reorganization of some of its properties due to long term funding problems. Member Brian Fowler has been instrumental in leading both the state and the Commission toward an acceptable agreement that will ensure long term maintenance of this important site.

### Ossipee

Invasive milfoil has managed to creep onto the Ossipee Conservation Commission's agenda for 2010 in spite of best efforts to prevent its spread. The Commission's Lake Host Program sponsorship for the past three years at the Pequawket Trail landing and town-approved hand-pulling for the past several years have both been attempts to mitigate the lake's milfoil problems. Amy Smagula, DES Limnologist and Exotic Species Program Coordinator, confirmed in late September two serious infestations that she recommends be treated chemically. The Effingham, Freedom and Ossipee Conservation Commissions are working to coordinate information sharing on this issue so that town officials and residents are fully informed.

## Road salt workshop sparks discussion about brine, training

As winter approaches, GMCG is keeping a close watch on levels of sodium chloride, commonly known as road salt, in the streams and rivers of the Ossipee Watershed. Recent studies are showing negative effects of road salt runoff on surface waters around New Hampshire, and water quality research since 2002 also shows that this area's streams and rivers are not immune. In fact, one of the top concerns of water quality professionals, state agencies, town officials and local residents is the impact that winter deicing and road salting can have on our rivers, streams, and lakes, in addition to drinking water.

On November 5th thirty people attended a workshop entitled "Road Salt BMPs for the Ossipee Watershed". Officials from NH Department of Environmental Services, NH DOT, UNH Technology Transfer Center, and UNH Natural Resources Department provided information and a forum for participants to learn about cost-saving strategies and issues around the state.

Some of the main points covered by speakers included:

- \* **Salt pollution is an expensive problem to fix.** The Route 93 project is a \$2.5 million project, and other examples from Maine include the town of Sabbatus which had to spend \$500,000 to mitigate salt contamination of municipal wells.
- \* **Training and educational outreach are cost efficient & effective,** and, combined with the use of more efficient technology and alternatives (such as salt brine), were successful in reducing chloride applied on the Route 93 corridor by 16.5% in the four years since beginning chloride reduction efforts. This resulted in 1,894 tons of salt not being applied for an average savings of \$94,000 over 4 years.
- \* **A winter maintenance plan template is available** to reduce the liability of towns and individuals in the case of an accident.
- \* **New legislation will soon make certification and training mandatory for anyone who applies salt.**

GMCG will work with partners such as UNH and NH DOT to offer workshops and trainings in 2010. FMI, contact GMCG.

*Watershed Birder***Where are the birds?**

BY SUSAN LEE

For most birders in the Watershed, feeders must be put away in the spring, when black bears emerge from hibernation, and re-hung in the fall. Some lucky folks can leave feeders out all summer. I have often tried to remember to bring them in at night; but hungry bears can smell food over tremendous distances and are not at all averse to pulling down feeders in the middle of the day!

Fish and Game recommends that you finish your bird feeding activities by April 1st each year and don't begin feeding the birds again prior to December 1st or the onset of prolonged winter weather (the birds will do just fine). Bears are clever. This, coupled with their strength and agility, make it very difficult to establish bear-proof bird feeders. Purposeful feeding can result in bears getting accustomed to humans. This "habituation" of bears may cause a variety of conflicts with humans. The end result may be the removal (most often with lethal consequences) of the bear.

All of us need to adhere to these guidelines. Many people have an irrational fear of bears, and a black bear's presence in a residential area may create fear among neighbors and lead to negative consequences for the bear. Regardless of

the dates specified above, if a bear is active in your community, you should cease and desist all bird feeding activity. Bears that have access to winter feeders will sometimes remain active, visiting the feeder late into December, and periodically, beyond.

This year, with no bears in sight, I put out two feeders which I hang off the second story of my house in Madison. Still no bears; but so far almost no birds. And, I am not the only one to notice. So many birders have expressed concern about the lack of birds, that Dr. Pamela Hunt of NH Audubon issued a release on the perceived decrease in bird population common in autumn. Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont birders are reporting fewer birds at their feeders so far this feeding season.

According to Dr. Hunt there is no cause for worry at this point. Birds migrate in fall and where they stop is dependent on many factors. The cold, wet weather this summer may have resulted in nest failures and fewer young birds. Another explanation for the scarcity of birds at feeders, is the abundance of natural food, called mast, in the woods. This has been a great year for acorns, and weeds along the roads and in fields are heavy with seeds. Maybe that is why the usual squirrels and chipmunks are not present yet either.

Fluctuations are normal in bird populations and not a cause for concern unless declines are sustained for several years. During the 2008-2009 bird feeding season, in the Watershed area and the rest of New England, red breasted nuthatches were not as prevalent as the prior year. On the other hand, common redpolls were present in record numbers, as were American goldfinches. Red-bellied woodpeckers, American robins and Coopers hawks were readily seen. Evening grosbeaks continued to decline.

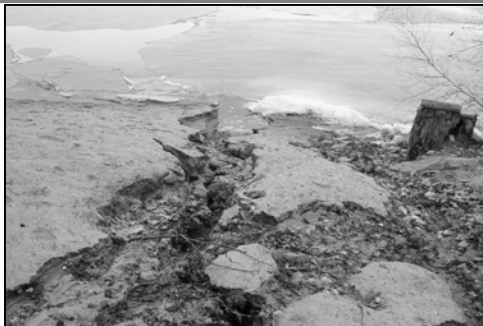
Keep watching your feeders. The birds should be back once snow begins to cover all that food in the woods. NH Audubon holds a Winter Bird Survey each year. The 2010 Backyard Winter Bird Survey will take place on February 13th and 14th. For more information, go to the website for NH Audubon. Your data makes a difference! It takes many observers to provide simultaneous sightings throughout the state. Don't forget to report even if you have no birds. Every participant contributes to our understanding of bird populations over the long term.

*Susan Lee is an avid birder and longtime resident of the Ossipee Watershed. Share bird sightings or comments with her by email: leegull1@earthlink.net.*

**GMCG assists community with water quality improvement projects**

GMCG has secured limited funding from NH DES/EPA 319 funds to assist local communities with water quality improvement projects in 2010. GMCG, working with the Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee (OASC), is seeking nominations of sites in the towns of Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Sandwich and Tamworth where structural or non-structural BMP work is needed to improve surface or groundwater protection.

Examples of potential projects include: improved culverts/stream crossings; road salt use/storage plans; rain gardens; porous pavement or other low impact development techniques; vegetative buffer strips; waterbars and drainage improvements; catch basins; berms and swales; labeling of storm drains in sensitive areas; creating a



Storm water runoff and erosion on Lake Ossipee.

strategic plan for a facility/business needing assistance to improve the handling/storage of hazardous chemicals; and providing improved storage for hazardous chemicals.

Anyone interested in applying for assistance should submit a nomination form to GMCG by **December 30, 2009** for each

site nominated. Forms can be obtained by contacting Tara Schroeder at (603) 539-1859 or [gmcgnh@roadrunner.com](mailto:gmcgnh@roadrunner.com).

Projects will be ranked by GMCG, OASC, and NH DES based on factors such as: location of project in relation to water resources; potential contaminants involved; match provided by town/individual/business involved; local support; visibility; and cost (up to \$500 is available for each project).

Ideal candidates are municipal projects, private lots, businesses or facilities where efforts are needed to deal with such issues as: erosion, stormwater runoff, impaired stream crossings, road salt use/storage, sedimentation, hazardous fluid storage or handling, or other nonpoint source pollution.

# Water Quality & Conservation Team 2009

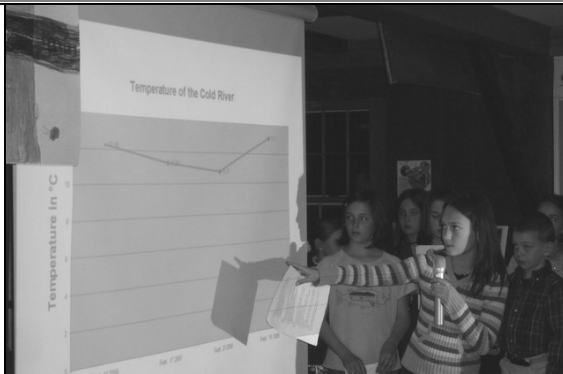
## Schools present biological monitoring results to the community

BY TARA SCHROEDER

Nearly 100 volunteers, including students from four area schools, grades four through twelve, participated in the fourth year of the Volunteer Biological Assessment Program (VBAP). The program is coordinated by GMCG as part of the Department of Environmental Services' statewide efforts to collect water quality data.

Ten sites in the Watershed are assessed for macroinvertebrate communities each year as part of GMCG's long-term water monitoring programs. Macroinvertebrates are organisms that lack a backbone yet are visible to the naked eye. Volunteers, including students, are trained to collect, sort and identify these aquatic creatures to get a sense of water quality conditions.

Students from Ossipee Central and Sandwich Central Elementary Schools presented the results of this year's sampling efforts to a crowd of thirty community members. Sixth graders, with guidance from teacher Carolyn Hemingway from Ossipee Central School, showed how their field experience translated into math education in the classroom and also how they learned to make pie charts in Microsoft Excel to display their results. Fourth and fifth graders from Sandwich Central School, with guidance from



Sandwich students show graphs of their results.

teacher Justin Chapman, compared the 2009 results over time for the Cold River using bar graphs to show water quality conditions for the past four years. Emma from Sandwich said, "I liked how we all worked together to find out some information about the Cold River. I also liked how everyone seemed to care about what we were doing to help the community. It was really fun, exciting, and interesting, both last year and this year." Other students said, "We felt like scientists!"

Teacher Justin Chapman commented:

"It was a lot of fun to be part of the event. I know my students were very proud and they happily shared their experiences with their classmates (the next) morning".

Ben Mallard from UNH helped to coordinate the event this year, which was made possible by many volunteers who collected data, WMWV's and local newspapers' promotion of the event, and the Remick Museum staff who hosted the event. Thanks to Jamie Riel and Tamworth Learning Circles school students, Johanna Vienneau and Kenneth A. Brett School students, as well. FMI or to view reports, please visit [www.gmcg.org](http://www.gmcg.org).

*Tara is the Program Director for GMCG.*

## Maintain your septic system to protect drinking water

BY DR. ROBERT E. MORENCY

Septic systems are the way that most of us living in rural areas dispose of what goes down our toilets and drains. Typically, water leaves the house after having been used in the kitchen, workshop, or the bathroom, and first enters a system of pipes leading to the basement. Larger pipes carry the water out of the house to a buried tank where solids settle down to the bottom, and greases and suds float to the top. Water that has been allowed to become clear while the settling has taken place leaves the tank as more water enters. The water that leaves the tank (now called "effluent") is only partly treated, and now enters a system of perforated pipes, which allows the effluent to trickle down into a drainfield, where it is cleaned by bacteria in the soil that consume the remaining nutrients in the effluent. Finally, the treated effluent percolating downward re-enters the aquifer system, and is recycled.

Maintaining your septic system means paying attention to some simple procedures. The goal is to avoid KILLING the bacteria or CLOGGING the pipes and/or the drainfield. Let's break it down to: how we dispose of what we're using, daily use of the septic system, and keeping the septic system working and intact.

**How we dispose of what we're using:** Use bleach sparingly, put only toilet paper in the toilet. Don't use a garbage disposal/keep

food scraps out of drains, and don't pour paints or other household chemicals in drains. Only human waste goes in the toilet (no plastic, cigarettes, trash, napkins, etc.).

**Daily use of the septic system:** Conserve water -overloading the system means too little time for settling. Take shorter showers, and do laundry in a few large loads rather than many small loads.

**Keeping the septic system working and intact:** Know where the drainfield is, and respect it as a delicate structure. Don't pave, dig, drive or play on it, or allow excess water to flood the drainfield. Schedule inspections and pumping every 3-5 years. Don't use septic system additives - they are a waste of money and can do the system harm. Call a professional if you suspect a problem (strange odors, slow draining, septage backups into the house, pooling of water on the surface of the drainfield, or an unusually vigorous growth of grass on the drainfield).

Following these few guidelines will help maintain one of the most important (and expensive to replace) systems in your home. Remember, the water that goes down your drain is constantly being recycled in the environment. What goes around comes around!

*Robert E. Morency, Ph.D. is a Water Resource Specialist for RCAP Solutions, Inc.*

## Watershed mourns conservation friends

BY BLAIR FOLTS

Passages and loss in our close and small watershed community come hard and are heartfelt. In 2009, there have been several significant losses for me personally in terms of my work with GMCG and each has given me much cause for reflection.

In August, **George Zink** passed away leaving a huge hole in the Watershed. George was a teacher for over 40 years, a conservationist, a hiker, passionate about the forest and committed to his community of Tamworth and Wonalancet. In 2000 he was awarded the “Individual Champion of Wilderness” award by the U.S. Forest Service for his influence on young people, volunteers and his work in helping to create the Sandwich Wilderness Range.

For me personally, George was a mentor during GMCG’s early years. I met him at the liquidation logging hearings in 1997 where I learned of his passion for sustainable forestry and sound practices that would not negatively impact the Aquifer. He was one of the first people I met back then who was aware of the expanse and importance of the Ossipee Aquifer. At one community hearing, he approached me with a tiny scrap of white paper—I think from the back of an envelope. On it was Dr. Robert Newton’s home phone number. Those of you who are long GMCG supporters are familiar with Dr. Newton and know that he has supported GMCG’s work with GIS maps, mapping recharge of the aquifer and, this summer, sampling groundwater through GMCG’s well-testing program.

Thanks to the scrap of paper from George, Dr. Newton has been active with GMCG since our inception. George handed me this scrap of paper and said, “You are working to protect the aquifer and you need to know Dr. Newton.” From that moment on, George was my mentor. We met over many issues in the early years, and he helped me really understand how to be non-confrontational but still directed in our mission. He was one of the first people to approach me about trying to find a way to conserve the Birches Intervale Farm, a project that finally was successfully completed 10 years after he first spoke to me about it. His passing is a great loss, but his spirit will be here guiding us all well into the future -- particularly when it comes to protecting the aquifer.

This fall, **Sherwood Libby** of Limerick, Maine and founder of the Francis Small Heritage Trust (FSHT), passed away. He was born on Dec. 22, 1932, within a mile of the river that he loved so much and fought to protect. He was a passionate conservationist, hunter and outdoorsman and deeply appreciated all nature's wonders. Sherwood had a vision to link land on the Sawyer Mountains Highland

and to create a large area of protected land that would be open to the public and preserved for wildlife habitat. In creating a non-profit foundation dedicated to linking these lands and conserving them forever, he established permanent protection and public access in a region of Maine that is undergoing much growth and development. I first met Sherwood in 1998 when GMCG was just starting to promote the idea of one watershed, two states and 26 towns. He volunteered to partner on a cross-border canoe trip on the Ossipee River from Effingham to Cornish during our first Watershed Weekend. Through this event, GMCG connected with others at FSHT and 10 years later partnered with them to hold an easement on their lands on Sawyer Mountain. Sherwood was ahead of his time. Future residents will be in awe of his vision to conserve this important land so close to Portland.

In November, Effingham lost **Jack Russell**, a longtime resident who lived on Green Mountain and shared a view of the entire Watershed. I met Jack in 1997 when a small group of residents met to talk about protecting the aquifer from a proposed racetrack development. Jack was one of the first people to share a USGS map with me and express such passion and understanding of the incredible water resources underlying this region. Jack was one of the earliest GMCG supporters and would stop by the “kitchen table” to talk about the aquifer or what animals he had seen “up on the mountain” or to hear more about sustainable forestry practices. He was also a mentor for me in the early years and always gave me courage to try yet one more letter or one more phone call to advocate for conservation of our shared resources.

Finally, I would also like to honor the life of **Milton Dow** of Ossipee who passed away in June. Milton was known for his sand and gravel pit in Ossipee. He was also active on the Ossipee Planning Board and admired for his support of kids’ programs in town. Milton was not a member of GMCG, but in his passing I had an opportunity to reflect on the role he had in the creation of this organization. In 1997, he proposed to build a racetrack in Effingham. It was this plan that caused a handful of residents to get together at the “kitchen table” and try to stop it because of its location over the aquifer. In a letter to Mr. Dow in June of 1997 to ask if he might consider not building a racetrack over this land, the name of Green Mountain Conservation Group was created, as was the first board of directors. That was a long time ago and many amazing projects were sparked from that first letter, including the creation of a six-town organization dedicated to the conservation of shared natural resources over the Ossipee Aquifer.

*Blair Folts is the Executive Director of GMCG and was one of the founding board members in 1997.*

# Winter Calendar

**Sunday, January 24th: GMCG Annual Meeting “Arctic Dreams: Travels in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska”.** Richard Kahn, an award-winning filmmaker and photographer, will be the featured speaker at GMCG’s 12th Annual Meeting at the Calumet Conference Center on Lake Ossipee in Freedom, NH. Richard will share still photographs, journal entries and a short film documenting a 70-day journey on the Utukok and Colville Rivers in northern Alaska during the summer of 2008. He returned to the region this summer and spent forty five days paddling on the western edge of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Registration begins at 4pm, followed by dinner from 4:30-5:30pm and 5:30-7pm presentation and community awards. Cost for turkey dinner and the presentation is \$15 per person, \$10 for children. Presentation only is \$5 per person. Vegetarian options will be available. Please pre-register by contacting (603) 539-1859 or gmcgnh@roadrunner.com.

**January 8th: Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee Work Session.** The public, including town officials, business owners, public water suppliers, and residents, are invited to share their views and participate in working towards enhanced drinking water protection in the Ossipee Watershed towns of Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Tamworth and Sandwich. At this meeting, the group will be working on public outreach strategies and what messages the group would like to get to the public to build awareness and support for aquifer protection and best management practices. Please call 539-1859 or email gmcgnh@roadrunner.com if you are interested in attending this meeting or participating on the committee.



Special Thanks to GMCG Partners & Supporters:  
**RCAP Solutions & National Environmental Services Center**



**UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
 COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



## GMCG establishes Memorial Fund to honor dedicated supporters

Memorial Gifts are a meaningful way to acknowledge the passing of a loved one by offering a gift as a tribute to life lived. Memorial gifts become a part of the Green Mountain Conservation Group’s Memorial Fund, which supports conservation work across the Ossipee Watershed. Families sometimes include a request for memorial gifts as part of the newspaper obituary. Often individuals choose to make gifts in memory of their loved ones on birthdays or to mark the anniversary of their passing. A listing of the donors’ names and addresses (but not the gift amount) is provided to the deceased next of kin and is listed on our website. Families can recount stories of loved ones and their commitment to protecting resources in the watershed and we would love to share these stories on our Memorial Gifts page of our website. Memorial tributes can help bring comfort and solace during times of bereavement.

### 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 Society \_\_\_\$500    Other \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you interested in being a GMCG Volunteer in 2010?**     YES

GMCG must host a fundraiser from non-grant funds specifically from membership dues and donations. PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to join GMCG. Thank you!

GMCG is a non-profit 501 (C)3 tax exempt organization. We are funded by grants from foundations, memberships, and donations. Please consider us in your estate planning. We accept donations of real property, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, life insurance policies and gift annuities. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Our Federal Tax Identification number is: 02-0498020.



Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Effingham, NH  
Permit No. 10

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

# The Watershed News

**Save the Date:**  
**Sunday, January 24th**  
***“Arctic Dreams”***  
**GMCG’s**  
***12th Annual Meeting***

**Deadline for  
Spring Newsletter  
submissions is March 10<sup>th</sup>**

EVERY PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND EACH PERSON SHOULD

**July 24th, 2010  
Calumet Conference  
Center**



**Event sponsors & volunteers  
needed!**

**Contact GMCG for more details.**

