

◆ The Watershed News ◆

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Winter 2011

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

North Country journalist John Harrigan featured speaker at 2011 Annual Meeting



On Sunday, January 23rd GMCG will hold its 13th Annual Meeting at the Calumet

Conference Center from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Lake Ossipee in Freedom. The evening's featured speaker will be John Harrigan, a resident of Colebrook and an award-winning journalist of the outdoors from New Hampshire's North Country.

The evening will commence with a wine and cheese social hour from 3:30-4:15pm, business meeting from 4:15-5:00pm, dinner, community awards and election of officers 5:00-6:00pm, and featured speaker John Harrigan's

presentation from 6:00-7:00pm.

Harrigan is a well known writer and farmer, who formerly owned and published three weekly newspapers in northern New Hampshire and still maintains an office at the News and Sentinel in Colebrook. His outdoor column "Woods, Water and Wildlife" has run in the New Hampshire Sunday News for 36 years, and he has been a frequent commentator on New Hampshire Public Radio. In addition, his column "North Country Notebook" runs in thirteen weekly newspapers of the Meredith-based Salmon Press Group, circulating in the northern two-thirds of the state. He was First Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for getting his paper out the

night of the Colebrook shootings in 1997, in which his editor, his long-time companion and two police friends were killed.

A college dropout, Harrigan worked as a logger, grocery store clerk, farm hand, hunting camp helper, furniture maker and lumber yard hand until 1968, when he got his first newspaper job at the Telegraph, a daily paper in Nashua. His January 23rd presentation promises to be an entertaining blend of humor, history, wildlife and wilderness.

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.

Student scientists share water quality results

Nearly 70 students, parents, teachers, and community members attended the "Ossipee Watershed School Presentation & Open House" on November 18th at the Remick Museum in Tamworth. Local 4th, 5th, and 6th graders from Effingham Elementary, Ossipee Central, and Sandwich Central Schools presented information they learned about water quality and stewardship through the Volunteer Biological Assessment Program, a program of NH Department of Environmental Services that is provided to schools by GMCG.



Sandwich 4th and 5th graders present water quality data with teacher Justin Chapman as part of the annual Open House.

Each fall since 2005, local school children help GMCG sample rivers and streams for macroinvertebrates, tiny critters that have no backbone and are visible to the naked eye. Aquatic macroinvertebrates can tell us about the water quality of a stream because some species are sensitive to pollution, while others are more tolerant of pollution. The field trip to a local stream is often a memorable and enjoyable hands-on learning experience. One student noted, "The day was so fun I didn't even notice we were also learning."

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.

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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 Water Quality Coordinator, Mia Akaogi

It takes a village.... Freedom Village Store is a success story

BY JENNIFER MOLIN

“Welcome to the Freedom Village Store. Is this your first visit? It is. Well let me tell you about us.” This is the greeting that many who cross the threshold for the first time receive when they come to the store that was started by volunteers and has been run by volunteers since opening in July of 2009.

The store is filled with consigned items from local artisans, antiques, as well as products from the local agricultural community. One can buy an antique clock, some maple syrup, the birthday card and the decorative bag to put everything into, and then sit down and have a cup of coffee and some pastry or soup and visit before heading home.

Open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Freedom Village Store (FVS) on Elm Street in the heart of the village was started to satisfy the need so many Freedom residents had of having a place to just hang out and visit. The lobby of the post office would get so packed at times with people milling around, it is a wonder that the post master, Janet Meyers, never kicked anyone out. Now people meet while getting their mail and say, “Let’s continue this conversation over a cup at the Store.”



Visitors gather at the Store for a public event
 (Courtesy Photo).



Where neighbors, friends & visitors come to meet, mingle & shop!

The Freedom Village Store: “Where neighbors, friends & visitors come to meet, mingle and shop” (Courtesy Photo).

Something else has happened with the store’s creation that never was anticipated; it is not just a place to buy coffee and things in support of local artisans, it is becoming the hub of the community. Boards and committees meet at the store and store management organizes events from trivia night to a the recent workshop on conservation easements with Tom Howe from the Forest Society.

Like any business, even a non-profit, the FVS has expenses. Selling a few cups of coffee or tea on a daily basis would never be enough to cover them all. That is why, in order to be successful, the store needs an active and large volunteer base to keep it operating. The Store also seeks support from the local community and raises some income from consigned items.

Please come by and see what the Store has to offer! If the weather permits you can sit outside either on the street side or on the back deck and admire the view or listen to the falls on Cold Brook.

Jennifer Molin is a Freedom resident and was one of the leaders of the Friend’s of Trout Pond who worked to procure the Freedom Town Forest.

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

Fall found the Effingham Conservation Commission busy with several projects and initiatives. The Larry Leavitt Preserve Kiosk on Rt. 153 in Effingham is now completed and awaiting the final posters to be installed depicting the bird and animal species found there. This is a great place to come and sit, reflect and watch birds in their natural habitat.

Variable milfoil was detected just above the dam where Ossipee Lake meets the Ossipee River on the Effingham side. A successful and expeditious plan was put together to have a diver from New England Milfoil harvest the milfoil prior to winter. Two dives were made and a significant amount of milfoil was removed. Additional inspections will be made in the spring.

Two Effingham Conservation Commission members attended the NHACC annual meeting in Concord, NH. Seminars attended were multiuse foresting, wetlands, stream crossing and the use of conservation land to protect drinking water supplies.

Madison

The Madison Conservation Commission is in the final phases of establishing a new scenic nature walk around Madison's Durgin Pond. Located on the McNair Family Conservation Easement, the Commission worked with the family to layout the 1.6 mile trail through the forest. The Forest Land Improvement company worked with Commission members to build the trail located off East Madison Road. The Commission hopes to build a boarded walkway through the wetlands that border the road to help avoid traffic problems. The new trail, easily accessible to the community, joins five other sponsored trails which are maintained by the Commission.

Tamworth

Commission members worked with the Bearcamp Trackers to explore the feasibility of creating a trail on the property owned by the town for its transfer station. The lot is approximately 90 acres on the south side of Route 25, and climbs to upper edges of the Ossipee Ring Dike. The transfer station only uses about ten acres at the bottom of the slope. The rest of the lot is heavily forested, with some rocky ledges and a few streams. Unfortunately, due to the thick forest, there are no good views from the top, so it is unclear what benefits a trail might offer. At this time the Selectmen are considering options.

The TCC also partnered with the Tamworth Outing Club to complete some critical maintenance on the woods road/trail up Page Hill. Because of vehicle use during the past year or two, some severe and eroding ruts have developed in steeper sections. This trail, which leaves from near the high point on Page Hill Road, is on private property, but the Conservation Commission has permission to maintain the trail for public use. Waterbars were installed that should help stabilize the trail. A few intruding trees were cut, and a gate was installed at the bottom of the trail at Page Hill Road. The trail is currently closed to vehicles to allow the trail to stabilize. Non-motorized use is fine, as always, thanks to the generosity of the landowners. The view from the end of the trail at the top of former ski slope is very much worth the 20-minute hike.

Meanwhile, the Commission continues its land conservation work, focusing on ensuring long-term habitat connectivity between the Whites and the Ossipees. On September 30th, the closing was held for the Gilman Forest property, 130 acres in the heart of this area, along Mill Brook. The Forest Society now owns the parcel and the Town has a conservation easement on it. The Commission is grateful to almost 150 donors who made this project possible. Part of the land conservation work is stewardship, and the Commission is doing baseline documentation on the Gilman Forest, as well as doing its usual fall easement monitoring on all of its conservation easements.

Groundwater protection ordinances to be voted on in March

Citizen groups in six Carroll County towns are working with the assistance of the Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee on proposed zoning ordinances that would, if adopted by voters in March 2011, protect groundwater from potential contamination. The six towns – Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Tamworth and Sandwich – are part of the Ossipee Watershed and share the Ossipee Aquifer as a drinking water source. Ultimately, the planning boards in each of the six towns will decide this fall and winter whether or not to support the effort to protect the aquifer and community public water supply wells.

The goal of the collaborative effort is to provide a consistent level of regional protection for this immense, shared groundwater resource. The joint effort has drawn on a model groundwater protection ordinance provided by the Department of Environmental Services and the New Hampshire Office of State Planning. Technical assistance has been provided to the citizen groups and

the town planning boards by GMCG and the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC).

If the planning boards in the six towns decide this fall to propose groundwater protection ordinances, they will each conduct public hearings at which townspeople will have the opportunity to obtain more information and share their opinions. The ordinances would then appear on the March town meeting ballot, where they will need a majority vote for adoption.

For more information about this regional groundwater protection effort, contact GMCG, visit the LRPC website at: www.lakesrpc.org/services_resources.asp, or attend the next meeting of your planning board. **The next Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee meeting will be January 12, 2011 from 10am to 12pm at the GMCG office located at 196 Huntress Bridge Road in Effingham.** These meetings are always open to the public. For more information, please contact 539-1859.

From Nation to Grassroots: American Ground Water Trust applauds GMCG's efforts

BY JACQUELINE DAOUST

American Ground Water Trust (AGWT) is a national non-profit education organization headquartered in Concord, New Hampshire. AGWT programs focus on promoting the efficient and effective management of ground water by increasing citizen, community, and decision maker awareness. The value of a water resource can be related to its use (and potential use) for environmental and economic purposes. AGWT believes strongly in management and protection strategies that will not jeopardize sustainability. While AGWT strives to achieve this objective on a national level, we feel it is important to stay in close contact with local groups with similar missions that protect resources well by well, citizen by citizen.

AGWT has watched GMCG develop into a potent local force that is tackling source protection awareness at many different levels in the Ossipee Watershed. If GMCG could be cloned and transported to watersheds throughout the nation the results would be spectacular. Not only is GMCG a leader in resource protection in New Hampshire, but

must surely rate as a national leader in the creative development of diverse approaches to resource protection.

Water does not stop flowing once it hits a town line. Just as in surface water management, ground water protection strategies often need to extend beyond a political boundary, and effective protection may involve cooperation among several different jurisdictions. Ground water and surface water are integrated hydrologically. Ground water is even more of a complex system to map and manage than surface water, because we can't readily see this water and need to "map" it in three dimensions using data from water levels and knowledge of geological conditions.

In the process of creating regulations to properly protect water resources, ecosystems and watersheds need to be included. This kind of planning aids in making sound, science-based, and long-lasting management decisions. It also creates a more comprehensive protection. GMCG has done just this. As the sole "voice" for the largest aquifer in New

Hampshire, GMCG, in partnership with Lakes Region Planning Commission and NH Department of Environmental Services, has motivated all of the towns above the Ossipee Aquifer to create ground water protection ordinances. The ordinances promote: recharge of the aquifer; the best quality water for its users; and overall conservation of the aquifer. Drafting regulations on a town level will also assure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to be considered and the expertise and knowledge available on a local level will be present in the decision making process.

Residents should consider themselves lucky to have GMCG working daily on their behalf to assure the protection of their drinking water. Few regions in the US have groups as active and successful as GMCG. In our national outreach to encourage aquifer awareness and resource protection, AGWT will hold GMCG's success as a beacon to help inspire other watershed organizations. *Jacqueline Daoust is an Environmental Specialist & Policy Analyst, for AGWT.*

Ossipee Lake Natural Area showed improvements in 2010

The Ossipee Lake Natural Area (OLNA) Working Group met on 15 October in order to assess the short-term effectiveness of the OLNA Management Plan put in place in 2009, including natural resource protection, historical resource protection, and provision of a clean, safe environment for recreation. The OLNA Working Group, an advisory group to the Department of Resources and Economics Development (DRED), is comprised of representatives from Ossipee, Freedom, NHDES, Marine Patrol, Forest Protection Bureau, the local boating community, Ossipee Lake Alliance and GMCG. DRED and its Natural Heritage Bureau are responsible for overseeing the OLNA; Don Kent, PhD of DRED is the Committee's chairperson.

DRED observed that the site was kept quite clean during the summer of 2010, following a spring-cleaning of man-made debris by working group members. This site is only accessible by boat, although boats

(except kayaks and canoes) must be moored and cannot be drawn up on the shore itself. Access and recreation is restricted to an approximately 1000' section in the middle of the OLNA shoreline. DRED also established fencing and signage behind the sandy shore area to protect plants. DRED employed public education and advisory actions to inform the public about use and restrictions to this shoreline area. In 2010, in addition to education by working group boaters, the Marine Patrol issued summons for trespassing in closed areas. The Working Group recognized the need for more signs, and fencing along property boundaries

In 2010, the threatened and endangered plants and exemplary natural communities seemed to be showing signs of recovery. Fine grass-leaved goldenrod and hairy Hudsonia are two of the state-listed plant species monitored. The twig-rush sandy turf pond-shore and bulblet umbrella sedge open sandy pond shore communities also showed

signs of re-establishment in the protected areas.

Bacteria (*E. coli*) monitored at the OLNA were lower than the state standard on each of testing dates in 2010 and lower than counts at neighboring reference sites. Results indicate that the water along the shoreline of the OLNA is not showing evidence of contamination from human waste. The Working Group and other volunteers plans to sample again in 2011.

A NHDES representative presented information about floating restrooms, which have been discussed for the OLNA since there are no sanitary facilities in the area (other than what boaters supply for themselves). DRED is taking working group and public comments into consideration to determine if the site is indeed appropriate for this type of facility.

The Working Group will meet in the spring to conduct a clean up and make final preparations for the 2011 season.

Water Quality & Conservation

Watershed Workbook

BY MIA AKAOGI

The Ossipee Watershed School Program Initiative continues through the fall and winter with school programs, training workshops, and the completion of the Watershed Workbook curriculum. After VBAP stream sampling days in September, local students analyzed and compiled their results in preparation for the "Ossipee Watershed School Presentation and Open House"



Students at Effingham Elementary School work on their PowerPoint presentations in small groups.

on November 18th. Students in Effingham, Ossipee, and Sandwich adopted the stream sites they visited and put together PowerPoint presentations that described their experiences and the water quality results. In addition to learning about their local environment, students developed computer skills (Excel, PowerPoint) and public presentation skills.

To support local teachers in their efforts to implement hands-on, watershed education in their classrooms, GMCG obtained funding from the PSNH Environmental Community Grant Program to provide ten teachers with free Project WET and Project WILD Aquatic Training. On November 20th, teachers from Tamworth,

Ossipee, Madison, North Conway, Moultonborough, and Meredith were led through several activities in these two internationally recognized environmental education programs. Hosted by The Community School, the training was led by Alicia Carlson (NH DES) and Judy Tumosa (NH Fish & Game). At the end of the training, teachers received curriculum and activity guides for each program to take back with them to their schools.

In January 2011, local teachers will be provided with another curriculum guide specific to the Ossipee Watershed. The Watershed Workbook will be completed by the January 23rd Annual Meeting event, where it will be presented to local teachers and the public. Anyone interested in providing comments to Workbook drafts should join the Yahoo Group: http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/watershed_workbook/.

Special thanks to the Quimby Foundation, Dorr Foundation, and Lakes Region Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation for their support.

Mia Akaogi is GMCG's Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator.



Teachers examine macroinvertebrates as part of the Project WET and Project WILD Aquatic training.

Pequawket Foundation funds GET WET! kit for Madison



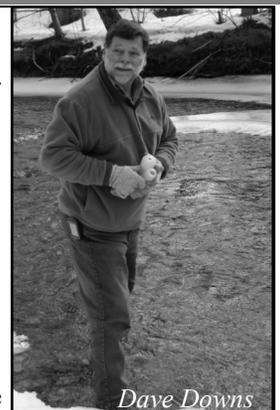
GET WET! kits were presented to Catalina Kirsch of Mustang Academy Program by Mia Akaogi of GMCG.

Through generous funding from the Pequawket Foundation, students at Madison Elementary School will be able to continue the GET WET! (Groundwater Education Through Water Evaluation and Testing) program each year to test their own drinking water. The funding covered a set of GET WET! kits (equipment to test nitrate,

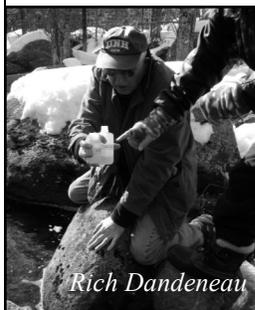
chloride, pH, conductivity, hardness, and iron in the classroom) with enough refills for a 100 students. On Thursday, November 18th at the Ossipee Watershed School Presentation & Open House Catalina Kirsch, Director of Mustang Academy, Madison Elementary School's before and after school program, was presented with the kits. GMCG partnered with University of Maine to bring GET WET! to local schools this past spring.

Winter water testing volunteers brave the cold and ice

Just as water knows no boundaries, the water quality monitoring schedule knows no seasons. In fact, regular monitoring of rivers and streams continues throughout the winter, thanks to two very dedicated volunteers from Madison. Dave Downs and Rich Dandeneau head out to the nine winter sites once each month, testing sites in Madison, Ossipee, Tamworth, Sandwich, Effingham, and Freedom. The two



Dave Downs



Rich Dandeneau

were trained last winter to collect samples and have been a tremendous help for the RIVERS program, even delivering samples to water quality labs in Concord and Durham. Their consistent testing and sampling will provide valuable data for rivers and streams to track conditions over time, factoring in seasonal changes as well. Thank you!

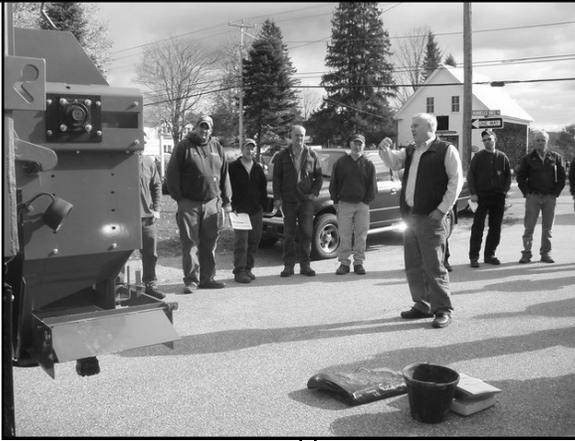
Road agents trained to reduce salt use & impacts

“There is 100 times more chloride in NH waters compared to 50 years ago,” stated Steve Gray, a former NHDOT state maintenance engineer, at a recent road salt and winter maintenance training held in Chocorua. Salt has been used in New Hampshire since the 1940s, and since 1968 when records were first kept, estimates are that 3.25 inches of salt has been spread over every road in NH. As a result of increased salt going into waterways and soil, in 2008, the NH Department of Environmental Services listed 19 waterbodies in the state that were impaired for salt; in 2010, that number had risen to 40. The fact that this number doubled in just two years has Gray and many others concerned about salt, and with good reason. Once salt is in surface and groundwater, it cannot be removed, and the costs of mitigation are high when well water becomes undrinkable and streams become impaired.

GMCG has been monitoring local lakes, rivers and streams since 2002, and the data has shown some hot spots in the area where salt concentrations are high, although levels are not above state MCLs. As a result of data analysis completed through 2009, salt has been identified as one of the greatest threats to water quality in the region in the recently completed BMP Strategic Plan for Water Quality Protection. The Plan includes background information, data analysis and an action plan for towns to begin proactively addressing salt pollution among other threats to water quality for the Ossipee Watershed.

In an effort to provide outreach locally about salt, GMCG recently hosted its third salt workshop in the past two years. Nearly 35 people attended the “Salt Reduction in Winter Road Maintenance” training workshop held on October 29 at Runnells Hall in Chocorua. Most of the attendees were road agents and town workers from the Ossipee Watershed towns. Others in attendance included public works directors, town officials and road agents, in addition to road agents from Conway and as far away as Dover. NH DOT District Engineer Mark Morrill was also in attendance.

Instructor Steve Gray provided the group with some key take-home points that will help towns reduce salt use and impacts. The four “R’s” of using the right material at the right time in the right amount at the right location was one memorable point. “Calibration is the key to sensible salting,” and number one on Steve’s list of priorities. Purchasing groundspeed controller for spreaders, prewetting, training, following a snow and ice policy, plowing, anti-icing, understanding the effect of temperature on chemicals, new technology, good storage and housekeeping and a salt management plan also topped Steve’s top 10 list of priorities for salt reduction. This program is a UNH T2 Center Roads Scholar Training Activity with 5 Environmental Hours. The



Former NHDOT state maintenance engineer and T2 instructor Steve Gray demonstrates to training attendees how to calibrate the Eidelweiss DPW’s new spreader.

workshop was eligible for Professional Development Hours (PDH’s), as well as Continuing Education Units (CEUs), as are most of the UNH Roads Scholar Program. For more information, contact: t2.center@unh.edu.

At the October workshop, GMCG passed out surveys to gather more information for potential future workshops with T2 in the Watershed, and to help inform the BMP Strategic Plan. Everyone who filled out a survey found the workshop helpful, and most participants were in favor of having such a training in the area again. One participant stated that the workshop “explained the right application of salt for it to work properly”, while another

added, “I am in code enforcement did not know some of this. (I am) also am selectman so this will be helpful”.

Suggestions for improvement in winter maintenance for the region included:

“Training needs to be continuous”

“I think the DOT & towns take care in salt usage. I believe the private contractors could be more aware of BMPs.”

“Salt application needs improvement.”

Obstacles cited that may be preventing salt applicators and others from following BMPs included:

“Education!”

“\$, interest”

“lack of knowledge”

“public wanting clear roads fast”

“public demands”

“calibrate sanders & mph”

When asked to rate road salt alternatives/winter maintenance techniques that they would most likely support, most workshop attendees supported: ‘Update winter maintenance equipment such as calibrated spreaders, pre-wetting equipment or Road Weather Information Systems’; ‘Low Salt Zones for environmentally sensitive areas’; ‘Reduced speeds for commuters and drivers’; ‘Keeping records of salt use per lane mile after each storm event to check against recommended application rates’; ‘Completing & following a Winter Maintenance Plan to guide salt use & reduce liability’; and ‘Attend annual salt application/ winter maintenance training for applicators’.

More information about human health, environmental and economic impacts of salt, as well as water quality data analysis and an action plan for the Ossipee Watershed towns to proactively prevent salt contamination can be found in the BMP Strategic Plan which will be provided to each town in 2011. Funding for this training workshop and the BMP Strategic Plan was provided by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services through Environmental Protection Agency 319 funds.

Winter Calendar

January 12th: Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee Work Session. The public is 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 to build awareness and support for Groundwater Protection Ordinances. Please call 539-1859 or email gmcgnh@roadrunner.com if you are interested in attending.

Sunday, January 23rd: GMCG's 13th Annual Meeting. Award-winning journalist John Harrigan will be the featured speaker at GMCG's 13th Annual Meeting at the Calumet Conference Center on Lake Ossipee in Freedom, NH. John will share stories, photographs, and tales of woods and wildlife from 36 years of journalism and exploration in the North Country of New Hampshire. The evening will commence with a wine and cheese social hour from 3:30-4:15pm, business meeting from 4:15-5:00pm, dinner, community awards and election of officers 5:00-6:00pm, and featured speaker John Harrigan's presentation from 6:00-7:00pm. Vegetarian options will be available. 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.

Tuesday, February 15th: "Trout Conservation & Education Presentation". George Embley serves as the Trout in the Classroom coordinator as well as the Treasurer for New Hampshire's Trout Unlimited Council. Embley will present about the role that Trout Unlimited plays in cold water conservation and education for students. These programs teach children about the importance of maintaining native fish populations, both for ecological and recreational reasons, and provide them with an opportunity to assist with state-wide and national efforts to increase brook trout populations. Moultonborough and Sandwich Elementary Schools will be the first schools in the Ossipee Watershed to raise trout eggs beginning in January 2011. Teachers were trained in August by NH Fish & Game's Judy Tumosa. Funding for this program at Sandwich Central School was graciously provided by the Quimby Foundation. This program is from 6-7pm at The Community School in Tamworth and is free and open to the public.

Special Thanks to GMCG Partners & Supporters:

NH Department of Environmental Services, UNH Cooperative Extension & Water Resources Center, The Little Family Foundation, The Adelard A. & Valeda Lea Roy Foundation, The Dorr Family Foundation, The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, The Quimby Foundation, The Pequawket Foundation, PSNH, The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency, Magic 104 FM radio, Lakes Region Planning Commission, NH Fish & Game, The Remick Farm & Country Doctor Museum, The Conway Daily Sun, The Mountain Ear, Carroll County Independent, RCAP Solutions, American Ground Water Trust, University of Maine, the towns of Effingham, Freedom, Ossipee, Madison, Sandwich, Tamworth, The K.A. Brett School, Mustang Academy, Sandwich Central School, Ossipee Central School, Effingham Elementary School, The Community School, local businesses, watershed volunteers, board members and all of our loyal supporting members, THANK YOU and Happy New Year!

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.

January is membership renewal month. PLEASE renew today!

Every drop counts! Thank you!

(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 _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Are you interested in being a GMCG Volunteer in 2011? **YES**

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.



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The Watershed News

Save the Date:
Sunday, January 23rd
John Harrigan at
GMCG's
13th Annual Meeting

**Deadline for
Spring Newsletter
submissions is March 10th**

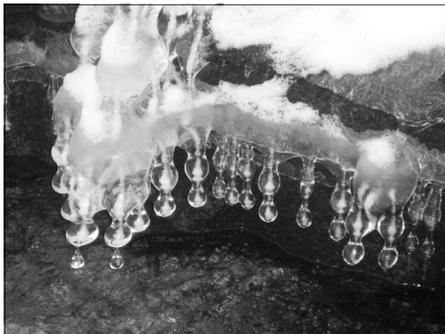
EVERY PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND EACH PERSON SHOULD

Of water's Charge

Snowflakes

From cold kiss ecstasy
Rain drops take
Wing, floating astray in its
Redeemed pith!

~Kamalendu Nath



Ice on the Ossipee River at Effingham Falls (Photo by Tara Schroeder).