

◆ The Watershed News ◆

Volume XXI Issue I

Winter 2018

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

Celebrate Wonders of Watershed Wildlife at 20th Annual Meeting

On Saturday, March 3, Green Mountain Conservation Group will celebrate a significant milestone—our 20th Birthday and Annual Meeting. It will take place at Province Lake Golf Course in Effingham from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. The evening will be a celebration of natural resource conservation in the Ossipee Watershed, honoring all of the volunteers, partner organizations, community members, towns, and individuals that have contributed to conserving our shared resources over the past twenty years.

The evening will begin at 4:30 with a business meeting open to the public. Registration, social hour and refreshments will follow at 5:00. This year, Province Lake Golf Course will host an evening of Tapas with different grazing stations and hors d'oeuvres as well as a sweets table. This will allow visitors to visit the memory room where a 20 year history of GMCG slide show will be playing, to bid on wonderful items donated in our silent auction including a week in an ancient stone home in Italy, a week in a charming cottage on Ossipee Lake, a fly over of the Ossipee watershed and many others. There will be time to socialize with friends and neighbors from across the watershed and enjoy some wonderful food. Raffle items will be drawn through-out the celebration, the silent auction will close at 7 pm, just before the speaker presentation.

In addition to the silent auction, there will also be the raffle drawing for the two kayaks donated last year. (See page 7 for more details.) During January and February, anyone who becomes a member or renews membership at the \$100 level will also

receive a ticket for this raffle. Please consider renewing at this level. Extension. During that time, she initiated the NH Coverts Project and coordinated the New Hampshire Living Legacy Project, a statewide public-private partnership to conserve the state's biodiversity. Ellen has written wildlife and land stewardship plans for many landowners including the Green Mountain Conservation Group.

Ms. Snyder was one of the early mentors to the organization and helped Executive Director, Blair Folts with many conservation issues in the early years. Blair also attended one of the first Coverts training sessions with Ellen where she connected with many other conservation organizations that came to be partners with GMCG over the years.



receive a ticket for this raffle. Please consider renewing at this level.

GMCG is honored to announce that the keynote speaker will be wildlife biologist, and independent consultant, Ellen Snyder. Ms. Snyder specializes in habitat management, invasive plant control, land stewardship planning, and nature writing. Since 2003, she has been the sole owner of Ibis Wildlife Consulting. Currently she serves as the Land Stewardship Coordinator for the Town of Durham and is writing stories for local watershed communities. From 1993-2003 she was the Wildlife Specialist for UNH Cooperative

Come meet fellow watershed neighbors and learn how you can help conserve the natural resources of the Ossipee Watershed when you join Green Mountain Conservation Group. The meeting is open to the public, but reservation space for the 20th anniversary celebration is limited. To attend the celebration, please send your check for \$25/pp to GMCG, call 539-1859 to pay by credit card, or visit our website to purchase tickets by February 25th.

GMCG extends a special thanks to Province Lake Golf Course for hosting our 20th Annual Meeting.

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 Eaton, 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 also partners across the Maine border into Parsonsfield and beyond. Water does not have any political boundaries.

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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 Education Coordinator: Karen Deighan
 Volunteer outreach: Noreen Downs

Reflections on a New Decade

By Blair Folts

As we enter a new year and a new decade for GMCG, I am reminded of how grateful I have been for so many connections with amazing people across the watershed. From kids to kingfishers, I have been pleased to share time with amazing people in unique places in Nature. This braid has also been complicated as it has blurred the lines between my job and friendships. Living in a small rural area is also like that. Each day we are presented with how much we need to work together and how dependent we are with each other.

Connections have also grown through the incredible financial generosity of donors over the past 20 years. Some of those folks are no longer with us but were so sweet and often surprised me. To date, GMCG has had two bequests that have been restricted for Blue Heron House---- This includes the Stan and Glad Brown Memorial Bequest for the Natural Resource Library which is being built in the upstairs of the new building and the Larry and Jackie Leavitt memorial bequest that has funded the new "water quality center." Larry was the first Water Quality Monitoring volunteer and Jackie was one of the first people to gift GMCG a conservation easement on their woodlot.

There are folks who gave with humor...one sweet woman would joke and say "you better enjoy it while I'm alive because once I'm gone that will be that." There were anonymous gifts sent after long phone calls about the need to protect the largest stratified drift aquifer or because of the work we are doing with school children engaging them to help collect water quality data or because the person I spoke with just loved the area be it a mountain, stream, lake, river or forest.

As founder and executive director, I have had the incredible opportunity of meeting and working with so many different people. I have mentioned many stories about Patricia and Charles Watts and their inspiration in my initial forming of GMCG, and I have written about another local couple, Arthur Little and Jann Leeming who have been loyal supporters and fellow "brainstormers" for two decades now. What I cannot capture in this short space is the hundreds of others who donated emotional and financial support, listened and helped vent so many frustrations, walked land, delivered newsletters, put up posters, crawled under the house to fix frozen pipes or spoke up at their own town meetings about the need to protect our shared water resources.

I am humbled and so very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with so many different people throughout my twenty years with GMCG. I can't thank everyone by name, but please know that you are all deeply in my thoughts and heart and are the threads that have composed the GMCG tapestry since 1997.

I sincerely hope that everyone can join us at our 20th Birthday Celebration on March 3. This will be an opportunity to really rejoice in the work that you have all done. I also hope that folks will consider joining in new committees and help pave the way for our third decade as we move into a new building, the Blue Heron House. GMCG will now be able to provide more education, community connections and renewed passion for water protection. This third decade will mark my "passing the torch." It is important that new people come forward and help guide this next phase of Watershed work in the Ossipee area. Thank you all, Happy New Year and please come celebrate together on March 3!

20th Celebration features kick off business campaign & membership

By Kit Morgan

Conservation is all about partnerships, and that has been true for Green Mountain Conservation Group since its beginnings 20 years ago. Protecting the Ossipee River watershed and making people aware of its importance would not be possible without close working relationships with towns, schools, other conservation groups, and many other partners.

In 2018, GMCG is reaching out to the business and artist community through a new business/artist alliance program. Participating businesses and artists will offer a discount or other special perk to GMCG members who present their membership card. This could be a percentage off a restaurant meal, a two-for-one offer, or whatever kind of reward the business or artist partner chooses.

GMCG needs to grow its membership to help spread the word and get more people involved in protecting our precious water resources. We hope that with the

incentive of rewards at valued local businesses, people will find that their GMCG membership is even more valuable. Also, the business or artist partner will benefit by attracting more customers and being able to promote its support for a healthy environment.



Once a business has signed on as a partner, it will receive a window decal to promote the program, and its logo will be displayed on the GMCG website. The program will run for

the 2018 calendar year, and GMCG members who renew their membership at a \$25 or higher level during the year will receive a card they can show at participating businesses. You will be able to find a list of these membership partners on the GMCG website, as well as what each one is offering.

Everyone needs the clean drinking water the Ossipee Aquifer provides to our region, and we hope that this new partnership helps more people learn about Green Mountain Conservation Group and the importance of protecting our natural resources.

GMCG thanks the business and artist partners that have signed up for the alliance, and encourages anyone who is interested in taking part to contact us at 603-539-1859 or info@gmcg.org.

Kit Morgan is the Tamworth Representative on the GMCG Board of Directors and an avid outdoorsman.

BMP brochure marks completion of Source Water Protection grant

Clean, safe drinking water is one of the most valuable resources we have in this region. Because the Ossipee Aquifer is made up of sand and gravel, it is very vulnerable to contamination which, if even possible, can be difficult and expensive to clean up. One of GMCG's main missions is to promote protection of our drinking water resources through education and outreach. Over the past year, thanks to funding from NH Department of Environmental Services, GMCG has worked with the community to promote awareness and ways to protect this shared drinking water resource.

Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find an educational brochure for homeowners with information on how to better protect your well water through Best Management Practices (BMPs). These simple steps provide measures we can all take to minimize the potential for contamination to our groundwater. A few examples of BMPs for homeowners include using non-toxic alternatives to household chemicals such as vinegar and baking soda, having any fluid leaks in your automobile repaired immediately and maintaining taller grass to filter sediment from runoff on lawns adjacent to water bodies.

NH State administrative rule Env-Wq 401 (Best Management Practices for Groundwater Protection) requires that businesses follow appropriate BMP's when using, storing, handling or disposing "regulated substances" such as oil, gas, kerosene, antifreeze, degreasers, paints, thinners, etc., in greater-than-household five gallons quantities and more information can be found at <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/bmps/index.htm>

A few examples of BMPs for businesses with hazardous materials in quantities of five gallons or greater include specific labeling and capping of the hazardous materials, the use of a secondary containment facility for outdoor storage, the use of drip pans or funnels and posting emergency response information. www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/bmps/index.htm

We really all can make a difference one day at a time!

This project was partly funded by a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Source Water Protection Grant.

Ossipee Aquifer Advisory Committee Hosts a “Delicious” Meeting to review mission

Over the course of this past year, GMCG hosted a number of introductory meetings to spearhead the formation of an aquifer advisory committee. Funding for this project was provided in part by a NH DES Local Source Water Protection Grant. This new committee is being modeled after the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee in western Massachusetts.

GMCG hosted meetings during 2017 for community members across the Watershed to help inspire the Ossipee Aquifer Advisory Committee (OAAC) to move forward. In July, the committee met for an ice cream social and to solicit input from local residents. Out of this meeting, the OAAC framed a mission statement: “To assist communities with regional water resource protection.”

In August, the committee met again and Dr. Robert Newton shared his expertise on what an aquifer is and how to follow best management practices in order to protect this critical drinking water resource. The OAAC revisited their mission statement and decided that the mission statement clearly represented what they stood for. The purpose of this newly formed watershed-wide committee will be to assist and advise. They will not be regulatory in anyway.

In December, the Ossipee Aquifer Advisory Committee (OAAC) along with GMCG hosted a community cookie swap followed by a committee meeting. While the smell of hot cookies was enticing, the diverse group of community members did get down to business.



Tim Otterbach from Ossipee Conservation Commission joins committee.

The goal that night was to begin to draft a memorandum of agreement for the OAAC. Discussion included how to involve various stakeholders and municipal officials so that the committee will succeed in creating an Aquifer Advisory Board in 2018.

An exciting part of this meeting was the demonstration of the Groundwater Model by GMCG’s Education Coordinator, Karen Deighan. She used the interactive model to show the flow of water and toxins through differing gradients. Someone volunteered to “pollute” the groundwater while another “made it rain.” This demonstration helped everyone to understand how groundwater moves and what an aquifer is. The audience was so impressed with the model that Colleen King from Madison, encouraged Karen to bring the model to municipal meetings for educational purposes.



Colleen King and Emily Bass from Madison join the committee for the first time and enjoy some hot cider.

The committee was excited and grateful that Bob Newton was able to join the discussion via Skype from Smith College. Bob has been involved with the Barnes Aquifer Committee since its inception and is a wealth of information and inspiration to this newly formed initiative. He has suggested that interested GMCG stakeholders visit that website, www.pvpc.org to learn more about what they do in hopes of finding what could also work in the Ossipee Watershed.



Committee plans next steps and invites volunteers to join in January.

MARK your calendars!!!!

The next meeting of the Ossipee Aquifer Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Chick Room at the Madison Public Library, Madison, NH. The public is welcome to attend. At this meeting, the committee hopes to confirm the two co-chairs and to work on completing the draft of the Memorandum of Agreement for the OAAC.

For more information please contact GMCG at 539-1859.

The Less Plastic Day inspires positive changes at Kingswood

December 19th marked the second annual Less Plastic Day at Kingswood Regional High School in partnership with More Clay, Less Plastic in Poffabro, Italy. To raise new awareness to the global problems of plastic pollution, a group of theater students from Kingswood decided to showcase their talent and put on an assembly for their peers. At the same time, many of these same students wanted to educate fellow students about the challenges across the planet with plastic pollution and opted to also show a new movie about a very simple plastic that is causing dangerous amounts of pollution—Straws.

With the help of English teacher Gordon Lang, the students wrote and performed a powerful skit that they then shared with peers at their



PLASTIC MAN debuts at the 2nd Annual Less Plastic Day.

assembly on Less Plastic Day. About one third of the student body attended the performance which highlighted the dangers of plastic pollution and offered suggestions as to ways one can reduce plastic in everyday life. Part of the skit also included the showing of the movie STRAWS. STRAWS is a documentary film by Linda Booker. The film is about plastic straws and other types of plastic pollution and what happens when this gets into rivers and ultimately the ocean. The film

highlights how people around the world are reducing plastic use and suggests what we can do too.

One of the discussions sparked from the first Less Plastic Day in 2016 was how could Kingswood make a difference. When students brought up that they throw away their silverware, dishes and trays everyday, it was suggested that perhaps they could begin with switching from styrofoam trays to reusable plastic trays. During 2017, students worked with school officials who did agree that the students could switch to plastic trays if they raised enough funds to replace them.

After the movie, Karen Payne, advisor for the Less Plastic Day Initiative gave the audience an update on the funding for the new trays for the lunch room. She told the group that they just needed \$200.00 more to meet their goal. She asked each student if they could reach into their pockets and just donate change on their way out the door. Karen Deighan, from Green Mountain Conservation Group, also told the students that for every dollar that they donated, GMCG would match it. Students dug into their pockets and by



KRHS students with Ms. Payne and Mr. Lang holding up the new trays.

time they left the assembly they had collected \$121.75! Thus the total raised just that day was \$243.50! A huge congratulations to staff and students at Kingswood High!

Following the movie, a group of students Skyped with artist and teacher Lauren Moreira from Italy. They had a conversation with her about what her students thought of the movie STRAWS

and about their ideas to cut down on straw pollution.

GMCG will also host a screening of Straws in celebration of Earth Day in April 2018 for both adults and youth interested in learning more about this issue.



Some points from STRAWS:

- * We need to stop pollution at the source.
- * As with any resource, we need to use it (plastic) wisely.

Just the facts:

- * Four out of five grocery bags in the U.S. are now plastic (conservingnow.com).
- * The average family accumulates 60 plastic bags in only four trips to the grocery store (conservingnow.com).
- * Plastic straws are consistently one of the most littered plastic items (epa.gov).
- * Each day in the U.S. over 500,000,000 straws are used once and tossed (ecocycle.org).
- * It is estimated that, annually, there is 8.5 metric tons of plastic debris in oceans (nationalgeographic.com).

Kennett High School student, Gavin Williams said, "It starts with one. Once we get in the momentum, we can change the world!"

*Save the date for Less Plastic Day
2018, December 19th.*

Conservation Conversations

Editor's Note: *Conversations is intended to provide a forum for the seven towns of the Ossipee Watershed to share news of their conservation and planning activities and an opportunity to find creative solutions to challenges.*

Freedom



Conservation Commission members were treated to a presentation by Forrest Bell of FB Environmental in Portland, Maine. Forrest explained the Watershed Management Plan and presented Freedom with a new natural resource map for use in town planning.

Ossipee

The Ossipee Conservation Commission continues to work on creating signage for conservation land in town. They would like the public to be able to identify the property and to be able to use the land that is open to the public. Commissioner Tim Otterbach is spearheading the creation of a system of hiking trails in Ossipee.

Tamworth

This fall the Tamworth Conservation Commission twice welcomed the participation of Corey Lane, Kit Morgan and Blair Folts. In November, Commission members worked with Corey and Kit to update local information to assist in the dissemination of information regarding groundwater protection. In December, Kit, Corey and Blair Folts joined the Commission to hear an informational presentation by Forest Bell of FB Environmental Associates regarding progress on the development of a multi-

faceted management project to ensure water quality protection throughout the Ossipee Lake watershed.

Eaton

The maintenance of the blueberry field continues with brush cutting on Foss Mountain. Trail maintenance has also been performed. A sign reporting Loons on Crystal Lake was posted at the Eaton Beach. A new sign preventing motorized vehicles is being considered.

Madison

Members of the Madison Conservation Commission attended the Ossipee Aquifer Advisory Committee meeting in December. They learned ways they could help protect the aquifer and participated in a round table sharing ideas to encourage others to do the same.

Winter youth programs will include learning about Groundwater

This winter, students in the Ossipee Watershed will participate in two different educational programs with GMCG. The first is Groundwater Education Through Water Evaluation & Testing (GET WET). In this program, students test their well water for the following parameters: pH, chloride, conductivity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, and nitrites. Students also learn about groundwater, the aquifer, and sources of pollutants.

Karen Deighan, GMCG Education Coordinator, will be leading the programs. Sandwich Central School will be the first participant with GET WET. Other schools participating include: Ossipee, Tamworth, and Madison. Karen will also be partnering with the Sacopee Valley Middle School in Hiram, Maine. There, she will be working with science teacher Steven Bridges in the three eighth grade classes.



Students from Sandwich Central School learn about well water through the GET WET! program.

Students in the KA Brett School in Tamworth and at Madison Elementary School will participate in the second program offered by GMCG: Trout in the Classroom. In this program, students learn about trout and raise them from eggs to fish. In May, students will release the trout in local streams. In combination with the trout program students are also introduced to and



Student from Freedom Elementary School observes trout in his class.

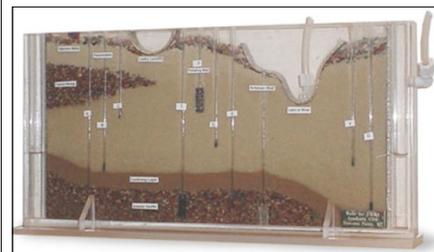
learn about issues surrounding water quality. Trout need clean cold water to live.

Karen will introduce a new component to the water literacy programs by inviting students to create quilt squares and write letters about their watershed. They will exchange their squares and letters with

other schools across the state. They will learn about different watersheds across the state and complete a quilt.

GMCG recently restored a groundwater model that Karen found in the shed "out back." She will be using this great new tool in classrooms this winter to demonstrate how water flows through the ground and what happens when pollutants are present.

This is an interactive model and students will be able to take a hands-on approach and to see first hand what



Groundwater model helps promote understanding of how the aquifer

happens when pollutants are introduced to the water. For more information on programs offered by GMCG, call 539-1859 or email education@gmail.org.

Save the Date! 2018 Winter Calendar

January 27, 2018, Saturday, 9-10:00 a.m. GMCG Education Advisory Board Meeting, GMCG Office, 196 Huntress Bridge Road, Effingham, NH. Come and help plan educational events for the coming year.

January 27, 2018, Saturday 10am to 12pm. GET WET Training for Volunteers, GMCG Office, 196 Huntress Bridge Road, Effingham, NH. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this program, please call to register for this training. You will also be able to test your well water. A light brunch will be served. Call Karen @ 539-1859.

January 30, 2018, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Ossipee Aquifer Advisory Committee Meeting, Madison Public Library, the Chick Room, 1895 Village Road (NH 113), Madison, NH. The committee will meet to discuss next steps which include choosing co-chairs for the committee and completing the memorandum of agreement. **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.**

February 13, 2018, Thursday, 6:30pm. Cook Library, Tamworth, NH. MOLLY MAPS and Love of Place. This is a family friendly fun workshop to help celebrate "Sense of Place." Artist and geographer, Molly Brown of mollymaps.com from Maine will guide participants in creating a map of a favorite place. Please bring an image or map of your favorite place and come prepared to create your own map to share with someone you love! Call Karen at 539-1859 for more information or to register for this free workshop. (art supplies provided)

March 22, 2018 WORLD WATER DAY! Celebrate Clean Water with GET WET! presentation. See details on GMCG Website www.gmcg.org in February.

Blue Heron House Renovation "RAFFLE" Tickets - \$100



Limited Raffle - Only 100 tickets to be sold to **WIN**

Nearly New TWIN Prijon 16' and 16'- 9" Kodiak Kayaks w/paddles and PFD's



More Details:

- Also Included: •Large Perception hydration bags
- Medium Dry Sacks •Cockpit skirt

Kayak features:

- Adjustable seats •Fore and aft deck hatches with Sealed bulkheads and watertight covers on both hatches
- Fore and aft deck mounted cargo netting
- Deck mounted safety line extending full length, both sides
- Retractable rudder with foot rest activated cable's
- Adjustable foot rests •Carrying handles fore and aft

Contact the GMCG office at 603-539-1859 to purchase your tickets or see below to purchase on-line.

Kayaks donated by local Ossipee Watershed Resident

PLEASE! Renew your membership today! Every drop counts! Thank you!

*(Please make checks payable to Green Mountain Conservation Group Box 95, Effingham, NH 03882)
You may also donate online at www.gmcg.org/we-need-your-help/*

~~Kernal~~ Pool ___\$25 Stream ___\$50 River ___\$75 Pond ___\$100 Bay ___\$250 Lake ___\$500 Aquifer ___\$1000 Other ___

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Are you interested in being a GMCG Volunteer? YES

GMCG is a non-profit 501 (C)3 tax-exempt organization funded by grants, memberships, and donations.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!





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The Watershed News

Save the date!

**20th ANNUAL
MEETING
MARCH 3
Province Lake
Golf Course**

**Spring Newsletter
submissions due March 15**

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

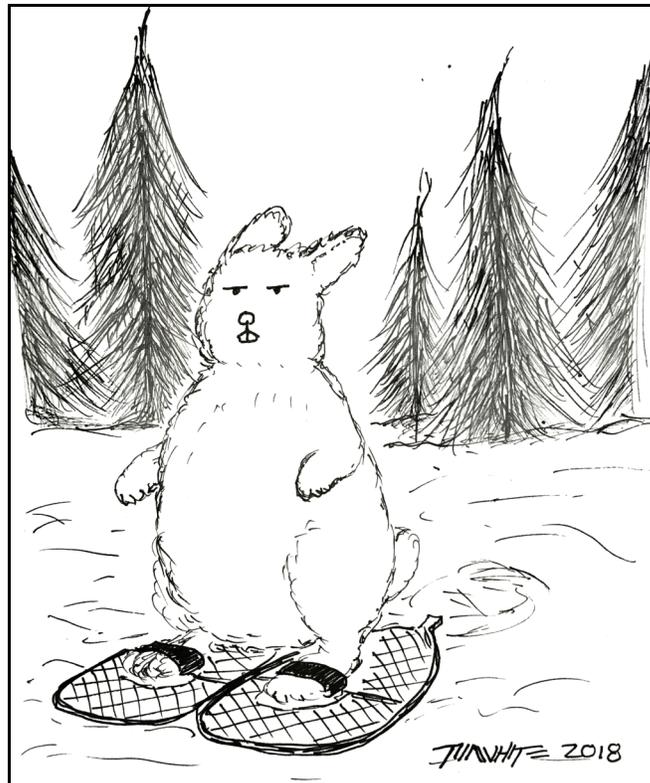
**ENCLOSED IN
THIS ISSUE !**

**A Homeowner's Guide
to Protecting
Your Well Water**



*Best Management Practices for
Groundwater Protection*

**Green Mountain
Conservation Group**



Sign up for event updates with *Watershed Happenings* and stay in the flow! Sign-up at www.gmcg.org