

# The Watershed News

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## Pinetree Power groundwater discharge demonstrates the need for local drinking water protection

On December 28, 2018, NH DES granted a temporary permit to Pinetree Power to discharge up to 100,000 gallons per day of wastewater into the heart of the Ossipee Aquifer (Figure 1). A total of approximately one million gallons of wastewater was infiltrated before the temporary permit expired on April 22. Infiltration occurred in a Rapid Infiltration Basin (RIB) that Pinetree Power constructed just west of the power plant. This basin lies within 80 ft of the Well Head Protection Area (WHPA) of the Tamworth Pines Public Water System that supplies water to over 100 people. There are an additional 50+ homes with domestic wells that lie within the potential zone of influence of this infiltration basin (Figure 2).

After learning of this project in April, GMCG and members of the Ossipee Aquifer Advisory Committee (OAAC) worked to analyze the potential hazards associated with disposal of this wastewater into the Ossipee Aquifer. This included testing of local wells and the continued monitoring of lakes and streams. GMCG does regular testing of critical water sources in the watershed, and has conducted three groundwater studies in the area over the past decade in collaboration with Smith College.

On June 28th, Pinetree Power made a request for a full permit (duration of five years) to discharge up to 100,000 gallons of wastewater per day from a series of five infiltration basins. NH DES has 90 days to review this type of permit and either approve or deny. Both GMCG and OAAC submitted detailed letters of concern to NH DES, the Governor, Pinetree Power, and local residents on August 14. Thankfully, ENGY, the parent corporation of Pinetree Power, withdrew all permit

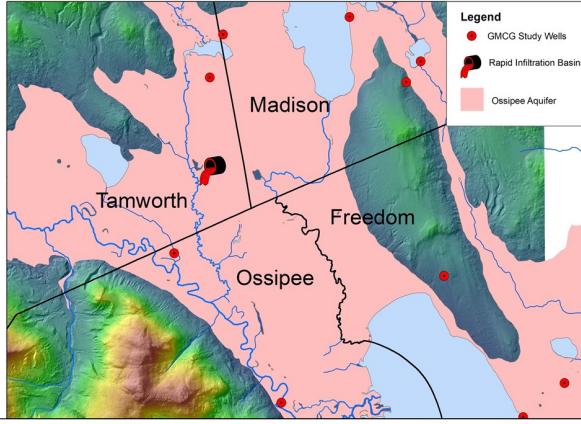


Figure 1. Map showing the location of the waste disposal site within the Ossipee Aquifer. Note the location is close to the boundary with 5 different towns.

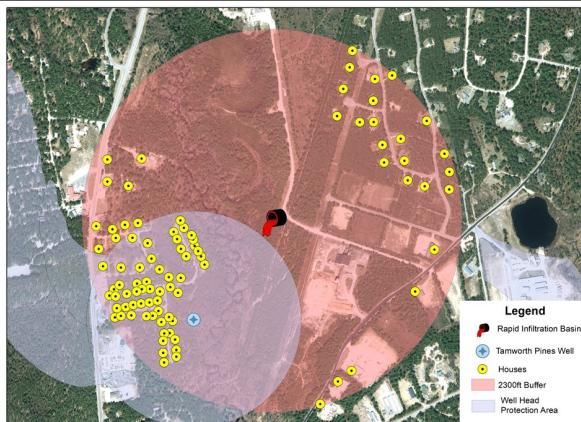


Figure 2. Potential area that may be impacted by disposal of wastewater into the Rapid Infiltration Basins.

applications 12 days later. Fortunately, for now, this means that no more wastewater will be permitted to be infiltrated at the site. Of course there is still the issue of the one million gallons of wastewater that is moving through the aquifer system that was dumped earlier this year. This problem is currently being studied by a group of geoscience students at Smith College who are taking this on as a class project in their upper level groundwater geology course.

Infiltration of cooling tower wastewater (blowdown water) into the ground is not an accepted practice and is specifically outlawed in some states. The high concentration of salts and other constituents make this water undrinkable. The State of New Hampshire does not regulate sodium or chloride, so it is allowable in New Hampshire to discharge high concentrations of salt water into an aquifer.

Specific Electrical Conductance is a general measure of the concentration of dissolved salts in water. For reference, seawater has a Specific Conductance of 55,000  $\mu\text{S}$ . This compares to a sample of blowdown water from the Pinetree Power facility that had a specific conductance of 47,000  $\mu\text{S}$ . Thus, the cooling system wastewater is a brine with a salinity nearly that of seawater. For comparison, the average specific conductance of groundwater from wells in this part of the Ossipee Aquifer is only 75  $\mu\text{S}$ . This means that the blowdown water is more than 75 times saltier than the natural very high quality. Infiltration of the cooling system wastewater at a rate of 100,000 gallons per day would result in large areas of the aquifer being contaminated with undrinkable water.

While further contamination of the aquifer was temporarily averted, this case clearly shows that people cannot

rely on state regulations to protect this fragile resource. It is up to all of us to work together to ensure that additional layers of protection for critical drinking water resources are in place and that all developments follow best management practices.

- Dr. Robert Newton is Professor of Geosciences at Smith College.

Visit [www.gmcg.org](http://www.gmcg.org) to learn more about this issue and how to protect drinking water.

## 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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## Searching for the elusive blue spotted salamander

BY RICH FAHY

**Big announcement.** I just met the future Executive Director (ED) of Green Mountain Conservation Group, and she's going to be an amazing leader. Her name is Rebecca. She wears pink shorts and ties her hair back in a ponytail, and doesn't care if the ADDIDAS sneakers that she borrowed from a friend get wet. She's about 4'10" and she's in the 6th grade at Conway Elementary School. I met her during a VBAP (Volunteer Biologic Assessment Program) field trip in early October, and as the boys were busy looking for salamanders and minnows, Rebecca turned over rock after rock along Swift River and within the first five minutes discovered a caddisfly larva - the only one we found all afternoon! It looked like an old stick, but it's a living creature and a favorite treat of fresh water trout. While the bigger kids whacked the water with thin white nets trying to bag blacknose dace to add to the "fun bucket" (we caught about 11 of the half inch squirmers), a quiet boy in the slower part of the river reached down and snagged a slimy sculpin - talk about an amazing find! Alas, I had hoped one of them would snag a rare blue spotted salamander (uncommon habitat), a leech (not likely in the river anyways) or a tadpole (too late in the season).

Okay, 12-year-old Rebecca is still a little young to start leading vernal pool walks and talking with home owners about putting their properties into an easement. But GMCG does have a track record of grooming our Executive Directors early in life. Rebecca Hanson (no relation to the above), one of the first employees at GMCG, is leaving Squam Lakes Association this year and heading off to be the ED of Newfound Lake. Congratulations, Rebecca! Moselle, our Outreach Coordinator and future ED, first showed up at the kitchen table of GMCG as a 19-year old and is now leading amazing initiatives to restore shore lines and land parcels with Best Management Practices that combine design and engineering with heart. And Tara started as the Program Director for GMCG in 2003 and is now in her second stint leading school initiatives in classrooms from Conway to Wolfeboro as the Education Coordinator. I can't wait for her daughter to grow up so she has time to take on a fulltime ED position.

So, what does it mean to be a protégé of the "GMCG System?" Well, that's simple - integrity. We follow scientific protocol with the students as they collect the data, and feed that information back to UNH and other

organizations to track trends in water quality. During the VBAP field trip, the students spent hours collecting habitat data and culling the various insects in to ice cube trays. Black fly larvae are put in to one cube. Stoneflies in another section. Damselflies in another. Count them. Put them back in the bucket. When we're done with the field trip, just dump the water on the...ground?! WHOA! Not so fast! Bugs and water are hauled back in five gallon sloshing buckets to the stream. Even the black fly larvae get to live? Yes, even the black fly larvae get tossed back in the fast moving current ... back where they came from. But who cares? There are billions of black fly larvae, and a few less in May is not going to change anything! Well, tell that to Tara (I thought about this, smiled, and just joined the bucket brigade).

Integrity must define everything that we do - from our water monitoring to our search for the next ED. When we educate the children early, we're introducing them to rivers that, in many cases, haven't changed since the Native Americans walked this land. And when we scientifically monitor the water sources with modern equipment, and amazing volunteers, we ensure kids are offered the same healthy drinking water that their grandparents drank when they moved up here after the Korean War.

This week, Allen and Joanne Brooks finally completed a Land Trust deal after five years of collaboration with GMCG, ensuring that the landscape within the watershed will remain healthy and vibrant. THANK YOU ALLEN AND JOANNE! And, by building on Research, Education, and Land, Advocacy becomes a gentler clarion call ... so when companies that are integral to this region are weighing choices in terms of economic and environmental factors, there is an appreciation for the impact. The cost-benefit balance tips in favor of healthy air and water. Companies, government agencies and other stakeholders are confronted and engaged thoughtfully. With integrity. And we give future leaders like Rebecca that time to splash on the river banks on beautiful fall days ... and eventually find the elusive blue spotted salamander.

*Rich Fahy is GMCG's Treasurer.*



# GMCG “Natural Area” trails to be unveiled October 29, 2019

Though it has taken nearly twenty years, we are excited to announce the opening of the GMCG Natural Area trails. This property is GMCG’s very first conservation land comprised of 41 acres at the base of Green Mountain. This land was acquired through an anonymous donation in 2000. Thanks to GMCG AmeriCorps members Haley Parent and Victoria Green, and volunteers Brian Taylor and Timothy Otterbach, the trail will be unveiled for Halloween. The new information kiosk for the trail was designed by GMCG Outreach Coordinator Moselle Spiller.

**The public is invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, October 29, at 1 p.m. at the trail head located on**



Haley Parent, Victoria Green and Blair Folts rest at “Turtle Rock” after clearing trails.

**Green Mountain Road, just 0.1 miles South of Rt. 25. Spooky costumes are encouraged for a group walk of the trail starting immediately after the ribbon cutting.**

Not only is this land important from a conservation perspective, but the process followed to procure it is also an excellent example of how GMCG’s mission of R.E.A.L.—research, education, advocacy and land conservation—works as a “braid.” The interest in protecting this land began in 1999 when a waste management company sought to locate a commercial trash transfer station there. An informal group of area residents, K.E.E.P.O.U.T., opposed this proposal, and worked to educate others about the important natural resources on the property and in the surrounding area. GMCG supported the efforts of this group and worked with them. The site was then studied and mapped to see where the development would be in relationship to the water resources that included the

stratified drift aquifer and bedrock aquifers. (Research)

GMCG then partnered with citizens on a series of educational events to explain why this was not an appropriate site for what was proposed. (Education) GMCG worked with members of the community (businesses, school, GMCG members and town officials) on a letter writing campaign that urged the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to deny this application primarily because of its close proximity to the largest stratified drift aquifer in the state. (Advocacy) Finally, the moment the P&S on the land expired, an anonymous donor purchased the property and gifted it to GMCG. (Land Conservation)

While GMCG’s main involvement focused on the importance of the aquifer, there was an equal concern with the importance of this land as a link to several critical conservation lands in the immediate area. The parcel provides an important corridor for wildlife movement and habitat sanctuary.

In the end, the land was protected and GMCG’s land conservation efforts began. Through the project GMCG also began lasting partnerships with other organizations focused on resource conservation, including: the Forest Society; NH Department of Resources & Economic Development; The Nature

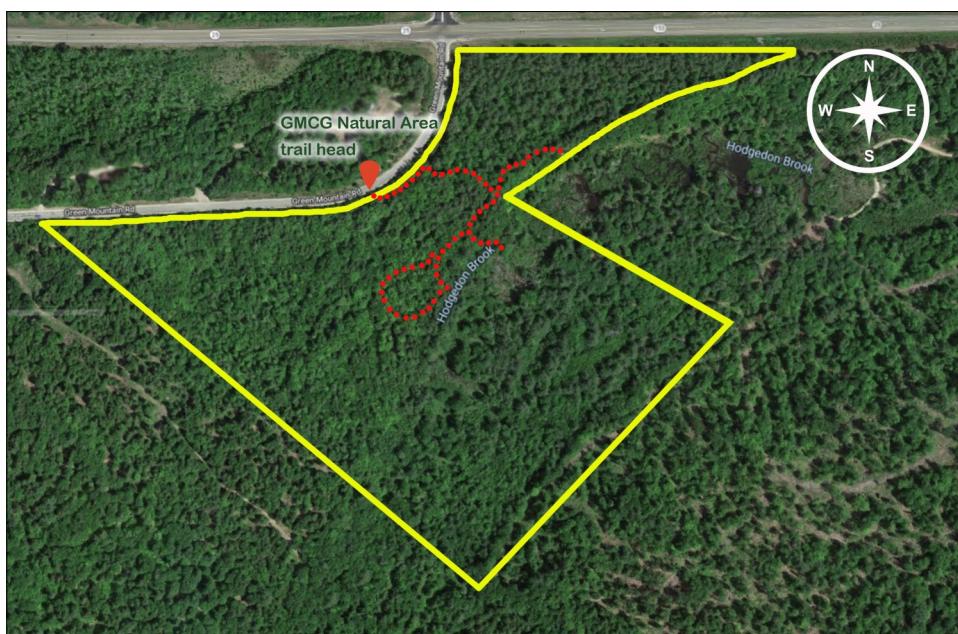
Conservancy; and NH Audubon.

Please join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration to open the family friendly trails on this special property!



A welcome kiosk at the trail head will provide visitors with local habitat information and trail etiquette.

- *Moselle Spiller is GMCG’s Outreach Coordinator*



The GMCG Natural Area outlined above, and shown from Google Earth Images, contains a sensitive wetland directly over the Ossipee Aquifer. The 41 acre parcel also provides an important corridor for wildlife movement, and habitat sanctuary for native brook trout, a New Hampshire species of special concern.

# Plastics make it possible (to pollute an entire planet anyway)

Plastic is everywhere.

Plastic pollution is a well known, globally pervasive problem, with increasing attention on plastics found in aquatic environments. According to NOAA, it is the most abundant form of marine debris. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is the most well-known, though recently more "Garbage Patches" made up of many single use plastic items have been found in the Mediterranean and the North Atlantic, providing evidence that this issue is only getting worse.



The Great Pacific Garbage Patch. *Photo courtesy of The Ocean Cleanup.*

While pictures of turtles entangled in floating pieces of plastic have become the “go-to” image to showcase our pollution issue, the problem actually goes deeper than the plastic items that you can see. Microplastics are small pieces of plastics that are less than 5 millimeters in length, or smaller than the width of 3 pennies stacked on top of each other. These microplastics can either be from primary sources created intentionally for production, like microbeads for beauty products, or from secondary sources like larger pieces of plastic broken down over time.



Two common forms of microplastic pollution: microfibers (L) and microbeads (R). *Photo courtesy of A. Barrows and M. Coren.*

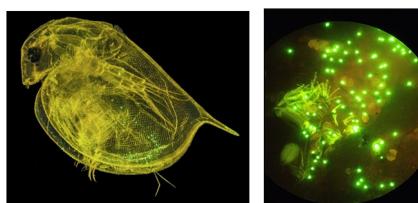
Fortunately, in 2015 President Obama signed the “Microbead-Free Waters” Act (HR 1321) that bans plastic microbeads in cosmetics and beauty products, but there is still a long way to go to eliminate microplastics from our aqueous environments. Recent studies have shown how microplastics have had negative

impacts on marine life. To name a few, microplastics have had negative impacts on crab reproduction and growth, predator performance in certain types of fishes, and have been isolated from inside numerous organisms (de Sá 2018). Humans are no exception to the ingestion of microplastics. It is estimated that the average human ingests anywhere between 50,000 to 100,000 pieces of microplastic a year, which translates roughly into a quarter to a half pound a year (Gibbens 2019). That is a credit card’s weight in plastic every week!



Here's what you eat in plastic every week. (Not my credit card info.) *Photo courtesy of B. Adams*

Depending on your lifestyle and what part of the world you live in, those numbers may be even higher. One study showed that people who normally consume bottled water over tap water ingest significantly more microplastics in the same volume of water (Mason et al 2018). A second study showed that people who eat a diet rich in seafood, particularly shellfish, have a higher likelihood of ingesting more microplastics than those who hardly eat or abstain from seafood (Cole et al 2014). This is because many of the base organisms of the aquatic food web, like plankton, are consuming microplastics in the environment, that when eaten by another larger organism, pass their microplastics along. Microplastics are getting into the food we eat and the water we drink, and even the air we breathe.



A water flea (L) and blue mussel (R) shown with microplastics in them (green). *Photos courtesy of M. Ogonowski and S. Makelin.*

So how harmful are microplastics to humans? Well, the short answer is that we don’t know. Most of what we know about ingestion of microplastics is correlative at best, since it is highly unethical to ask people to eat plastics for a case study. Another added complication is that plastics are comprised of different combinations of polymers and chemicals which may change characteristics depending on which organism in the food chain has consumed, metabolized, and excreted them (Royte 2018). What we do know is that microplastics are being consumed by humans: a small pilot study in 2018 consisting of a very select sample group showed that all participants had microplastics in their stool (Schwabl 2018). While more work needs to be done in this field, the major concern with ingesting microplastics would be chemical contamination, either from the plastics themselves, or as a carrier for other free floating environmental pollutants that can stick to plastic surfaces.

So, how do we reduce our microplastic consumption?

- 1) Drink less bottled water. Unless there is something wrong with your tap water, reducing or eliminating the amount of bottled water consumed will go a long way in both reducing your microplastic consumption and single use plastic use.
- 2) Eat more fresh foods. Fresh foods will have a reduced rate of microplastics in them, as packaging can contribute to the problem.
- 3) Reduce your use of single use plastic items. When each of us reduces our plastic use, we reduce the amount of microplastics getting into our food and water systems.

Ultimately, the microplastics issue won’t go away until humanity collectively changes their plastic habits. And I get it, I really do – I write this article knowing that I am not immune to plastic use in my household. Plastics, for better and worse, have made our lives easier and have many wonderful uses – nobody can deny that. But globally we are now beginning to pay the price for our plastic dependency.

*- Jill Emerson is the Water Quality Coordinator at GMCG*

## VBAP and macro's have a bumper year, but studies point to global decline in insects

The Volunteer Biological Assessment Program (VBAP) is now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year and GMCG staff and volunteers are busier than ever this fall conducting the bio-monitoring program on local rivers and streams. The program has truly become a watershed-wide annual event that schools look forward to every year. As one student expressed in his thank you card to GMCG this year, "...this field trip has been one of the best field trips I've gone on. I hope you keep doing this field trip so others have this experience like I did."

This year, there are 8 schools participating in the program and over 250 children involved. That figure does not include the many more volunteers, chaperones, teachers and other community members who are ultimately involved in the program through field sampling days and the final community presentation. Schools participating in the program this year include: Effingham Elementary; Freedom Elementary; Madison Elementary; KA Brett School in Tamworth; Ossipee Central School; Sandwich Central School; Pine Tree Elementary School in Conway; and Sacopee Valley Middle School in Maine.



Madison Elementary School students get excited about sorting their macro sample on the Lovell River in Ossipee.

The goals of VBAP are to foster connections with the natural world; inspire a sense of wonder and stewardship for water resources; assess the health of local rivers and streams; and create a long-term database to track water quality over time. This year, some VBAP surveys have found double to triple the number of macroinvertebrates (primarily insects, including mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, etc.) at sites that are sampled annually. For example, 1,124 macro's were found this year versus 476 macro's found at the same



Effingham Elementary School students had a great day on South River for VBAP this year.

four sites last year. Insects appear to be having a "bumper" year in 2019, sparking many questions on the part of staff and students alike. Judy Tumosa of NH Fish & Game also reports that during VBAP sampling in Hanover, Rollinsford, Wentworth, Dunbarton, and Concord she noticed a lot more macros in many of the rivers and streams (personal communication, October 2, 2019).

Other insects appear to be having a population explosion this year as well, including monarch butterflies. "This really seems to be a bumper year for them," said Don Chandler, an entomologist at UNH. "I've never seen so many caterpillars at least in the last 10 years...In contrast to previous years, where I could see maybe two adults during the summer in Dover, it has been an outstanding increase." He cautions, however, that trends can only be discerned from many years of data. "When it comes to insects, you have to look at many years. This hasn't established a trend...You can toss out all sorts of suppositions and hypotheses, but they have to be tested," says Chandler (Brooks, 2019).

Indeed, while they appear to be having a "bumper" year this year, monarchs, among many other insects, are in decline for a variety of reasons, including habitat loss and climate change. A new survey of global research on insect populations suggests that 40 percent of the world's insect species are in decline. The study highlights a few groups of insects that are particularly at risk, including: moths and butterflies; pollinators like bees; and dung beetles and other insects that help decompose feces and detritus. The study also lists one of the aquatic macro's studied every year through VBAP as being in trouble, stating: "caddisflies are among the worst off—63 percent of species are threatened, likely due in part

to the fact that they lay their eggs in water, which makes them more vulnerable to pollution and development" (Douglas, 2019).

There are a number of reasons why these insects are imperiled, and ecologist David Wagner at the University of Connecticut laments, "I'm afraid the answer is that it's death by a thousand cuts." Habitat loss and land use changes, deforestation, agriculture, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and climate change all play a role in these insect species' demise. As any student who has taken part in VBAP knows, insects like macro's play an essential in the food web, pollination, waste disposal and nutrient cycling. "No insects equals no food, (which) equals no people," says Dino Martins, an entomologist at Kenya's Mpala Research Centre (Douglas, 2019).

While most of the data for this new study comes from Europe and some from the United States, the rest of the world is understudied. There is also a lack of long term studies, as insect abundance is difficult to study since many have boom-or-bust life cycles that can cause considerable variability in populations, like causing population explosions when conditions are prime (Douglas, 2019). Whatever the reasons for the increase in macro's this year, keeping an eye on their numbers over time will be important, and having good stewards to protect them and our water resources will be even more important.

### References

Brooks, David. (2019, September 9). 'Bumper year' for monarch butterflies in New Hampshire, but will it last? *Concord Monitor*. Retrieved from <https://www.concordmonitor.com/monarch-butterflies-nh-28186799>

Main, Douglas. (2019, February 14). Why insect populations are plummeting—and why it matters. *National Geographic Society*. Retrieved from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/02/why-insect-populations-are-plummeting-and-why-it-matters/>

- Tara Schroeder is GMCG's Education Coordinator.

## Conservation Conversations

**Editor's Note: Conservation 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.

### Eaton

The Commission is working toward a controlled burn on Foss Mountain with WMNFS this fall or next spring.

### Effingham

In June the ECC completed trail maintenance at the Larry Leavitt Preserve on Rt. 153 and at the Pine River Cherubini Preserve. The presentation by the Squam Lakes Science Center on June 22 in conjunction with the Street Fair was very popular. The ECC thanks Kamal for his efforts to bring it to fruition. Long-time ECC member Al Levesque submitted his resignation to the Board of Selectmen. Al will be sorely missed. New England Milfoil surveyed Marist Cove in August and found enough milfoil to warrant a half-day of

hand harvesting. They will also survey the Effingham side of Ossipee River. The ECC has authorized the harvest and river survey. The ECC is gathering information to draft a solar energy ordinance.

### Freedom

A milfoil, cyanobacteria, and Best Management Practices discussion occurred at the Freedom Town Hall in September. The event was hosted by the FCC, GMCG, and the Freedom Advisory Invasive Species Committee, and was attended by 30 residents. The FCC and GMCG also conducted well-water testing for 25 residents during Freedom Old Home Week. The FCC continues to coordinate a controlled burn in the Pines Barrens, tentatively scheduled for 2020.

### Sandwich

The crystal-clear Beebe River has long been popular with Sandwich residents for hiking, picnicking, and fly-fishing. But for decades, wild brook trout on the river have had a serious problem due to impassable crossings, obstructing the passage of the trout upstream, thus preventing access to

upland tributaries after spawning. That problem has now been solved. In 2014, The Conservation Fund purchased 30,000 acres of forested land across NY, VT, NH and ME, including 27 percent of the Beebe River watershed. The group enlarged undersized culverts and bridges, rerouted roads, and installed new culverts, opening passage on five tributaries of the river. The restored stream crossings now reconnect wild brook trout to six miles of spawning and rearing locations—good news for a fish that spawns in only 7% of the state's rivers. Wild brook trout have been identified as one of NH's Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

### Tamworth

The TCC participated in the Tamworth Family Day/Fourth of July parade in which the TCC highlighted the Commission-sponsored study on salamanders. The Commission purchased 2.3 acres of land from The Community School for inclusion in the Jackman Pond Wildlife Area. The TCC also sponsored a nature-based summer camp for 11 to 13 year olds with Tin Mountain.

## Notes from Downstream

*"Borders? I've never seen one, but I hear they exist in some people's minds." Thor Hererthal*

*GMCG and SRCC have partnered since 2001 on a shared water quality monitoring program across two states, twenty-six towns and one watershed.*

The SRCC has been busy this summer with the Regional Interstate Volunteers for the Ecosystems and Rivers of Saco (RIVERS) program. The commission just concluded its 19th season of our water quality monitoring program in collaboration with Green Mountain Conservation Group. We would like to thank all our volunteers for getting up early and diligently monitoring water quality from rivers and streams in the Saco Watershed. Our volunteers and staff traveled as far north as Conway NH to as far south as Saco and Biddeford Maine to collect samples, and the program would not be successful without our group of volunteers. Thank you for being a part of this

program year after year, and thank you to all the new people we had hop on board for sampling this year!

This fall, both programs will be working to rewrite our joint QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan), approved by the Maine DEP, NH DES and the EPA, as well as work on processing the data collected. Even though the volunteer monitoring program may have officially ended for the year, the work continues.

The SRCC also partnered with the SOLE class from Sacopee Valley Middle School to do a water quality monitoring project at two sites on the Ossipee River. Students learned about water quality measurements, following a protocol, and what the data they collected means in terms of water health. The students then presented their findings to the community on September 30th. This program was generously sponsored by funding received from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Foundation. We'd

like to recognize the students of the SOLE program for their commitment to learning about how the scientific process and data can inform and influence their everyday lives.

As always, feel free to contact our office with any questions or comments regarding the Commission's work.

- *Dalyn Houser  
Executive Director  
Saco River Corridor Commission  
www.srcc-maine.org*



## Save the Date! 2019 Autumn Calendar

All events take place at 236 Huntress Bridge Road, Effingham, NH unless otherwise noted. For info call (603) 539-1859 or email [info@gmcg.org](mailto:info@gmcg.org).

**Tuesday, October 29: GMCG Natural Area Grand Opening from 1-2p.m.** Join GMCG staff and volunteers for a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the public trail at the GMCG Natural Area. Spooky costumes encouraged! Natural Area is located at the corner of Rte. 25 and Green Mountain Road in Effingham NH.

**Tuesday, October 29: Community VBAP presentation from 6-7pm.** Volunteer Biological Assessment Program watershed students from eight towns will present their water quality research. Hosted at Effingham Elementary School

**Friday, November 8: Map & Compass Basics for Volunteers from 1-4p.m.** A free UNH Cooperative Extension Natural Resources program. Perfect for conservation commissioners, land trust volunteers, private landowners, or others interested in navigating off-trail. If you own your own compass please bring it to the workshop. Pre-registration is required at [www.gmcg.org](http://www.gmcg.org).

**Wednesday, November 13: AmeriCorps Member Meet & Greet from 12:30-2:30p.m.** Please join us as we welcome our new 2019-2020 AmeriCorps members with a potluck luncheon! Bring a dish to share and get to know the new "Team Green" members!

**Thursday, November 21: PFAS Workshop from 6-8p.m. at Runnells Hall in Chocorua.** Brandon Kernan from NH DES and Shaina Kasper, State Director of the VT & NH Toxics Action Center, will present at this free workshop. Learn about PFAS, drinking water contamination issues, mitigation, funding sources and what is happening around the state and the rest of the country.

**Saturday, November 23: Holiday Felting & Crafting Workshop Fundraiser from 10:30a.m.-12:30p.m.** Help support GMCG's watershed work in this fun, holiday-themed crafting workshop and fundraiser. Learn how to interpret a form from nature into felt and other fun crafts like water color bookmarks and nature journals. Small children may work with soap felting and adults and older children may work with needles to create holiday ornaments or other crafts to make your own holiday gifts and decorations. No experience necessary. \$25 for families; \$15 for adults; \$5 for children. RSVP encouraged.

## We bid farewell and thanks to our 2018-2019 AmeriCorps Members

### Victoria Green: Water Quality Resources

The AmeriCorps motto is to get things done, and I definitely did. During my year of service, I was able to help with all of GMCG's programs. The organization is able to do such amazing things because of their dedication and hard work.

*Green now lives in South Carolina and works as the Water Quality Coordinator at Coastal Carolina University.*

### Haley Parent: Education & Outreach

This service has allowed me to grow personally and professionally through the well-rounded experience I have had at GMCG. I saw how critical non-profits are to the conservation field and witnessed dedicated volunteers and community members coming together to help carry out GMCG's mission of protecting the watershed.

*Parent now lives in South Carolina and works as the Water Resource Agent with Clemson University Cooperative Extension.*



Haley and Victoria on the summit of Mt. Washington

**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/](http://www.gmcg.org/we-need-your-help/)

Vernal Pool \$25 Stream \$50 River \$75 Pond \$100 Bay \$250 Lake \$500 Aquifer \$1000 Other \_\_\_\_\_



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

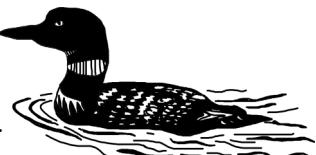
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in being a GMCG Volunteer?  YES

GMCG is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization funded by grants, memberships, and donations.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!





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**Save the date!**  
**Holiday**  
**Crafting Fundraiser**  
**for**  
**Watershed Protection**

**November 23**  
**10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Winter Newsletter items due:**  
**December 16**

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

I HAVE LITERALLY SPENT DAYS TRYING TO COME UP WITH A SINGLE PANEL THAT ADEQUATELY COMMEMORATES THE SERVICE THAT BLAIR FOLTS HAS RENDERED TO COMMUNITIES IN THE OSSipee WATERSHED, DOWN-STREAM ON THE SACO, AND FAR BEYOND. I COULD BREEZE PAST IT AND DO A PANEL ON GMCG'S CURRENT AND UPCOMING PROGRAMS, OR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN GENERAL, BUT NO. BLAIR WAS THE RIGHT PERSON AT THE RIGHT TIME, AIDED BY A WELL-TIMED COALITION OF OTHER INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTORS. WE WERE ALL VERY LUCKY THAT SHE CHOSE TO DO WHAT SHE DID. THANK YOU, BLAIR.



Sign up for event updates with *Watershed Happenings* and stay in the flow! Sign-up at [www.gmcg.org](http://www.gmcg.org)