The Watershed News

Volume XXIII Issue I *Winter 2020*

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

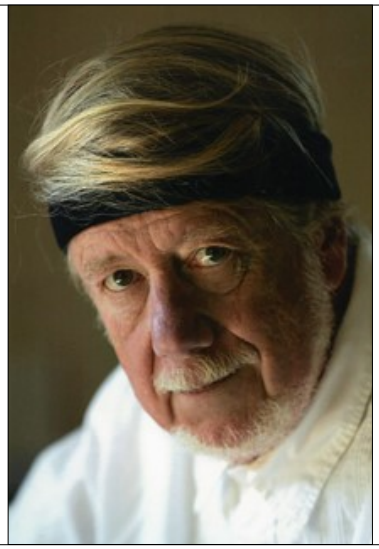
Annual Meeting 2020— "Beyond Conservation" with David Carroll

GMCG invites the watershed community to Save the Date for the 22nd Annual Meeting with keynote speaker David Carroll, renowned artist, writer, turtle biologist, and recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship "Genius Grant" on March 14, 2020 at The Preserve in Chocorua, NH. This year's meeting will be an afternoon event with the public business meeting starting at 12:30 p.m. and a catered luncheon and presentation from 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets are $25 and are available online at www.gmcg.org or by check noted "Annual Meeting" to GMCG, PO Box 95 Effingham, NH 03882.

Mr. Carroll will give a presentation titled "Beyond Conservation." Mr. Carroll will present selected readings from his published work, together with commentary and exploration of considerations relative to conservation initiatives. He will focus on the need for enhanced protection for species in decline or considered at risk, as well as their associated ecologies and biodiversities, from an ecosystem perspective.

Courtship Spotted Turtles by David Carroll.

Mr. Carroll will also speak on the rights of nature, with these rights established in the constitution of Ecuador as a model, together with the need to see with aboriginal eyes. He will offer suggestions for incorporating these needs and concepts in the language and intent of conservation



Artist-naturalist David M. Carroll will give a keynote presentation entitled "Beyond Conservation" at GMCG's 22nd Annual Meeting.

easements. Strategies for evaluating conservation holdings in terms of best serving natural landscapes and their resident wildlife will be offered, and the role of self-protecting habitat zones will also be discussed. Consideration will also be given to reconciling impediments inherent in accommodating public access while establishing habitat space and margins necessary for preserving ecological integrity in its own right. Discussion and Q&A are welcome.

Mr. Carroll, who in 2006 was named a MacArthur Foundation Fellow, is the author of three acclaimed natural histories: *The Year of the Turtle*; *Trout Reflections*; and *Swamp-Walker's Journal*. The latter was awarded the John Burroughs medal for distinguished nature writing. This "wet-sneaker trilogy" was expanded to a quartet with the publication of his memoir centered on his lifelong connection with turtles and their habitats, *Self-Portrait with Turtles*. His fifth book, *Following the Water, A Hydromancer's Notebook*, which was published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in August 2009, was awarded a Finalist Medal in the nonfiction category by the National Book Foundation.

In addition to his own field work, Mr. Carroll has conducted investigations for the Endangered Species programs of New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine, as well as for such agencies as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Park Service. His field work has been published in scientific journals, including *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*, and *Northeastern Naturalist.*

GMCG's 22nd Annual Meeting marks two decades of conservation work. Founded in 1997, GMCG now enters a third decade of providing expertise, sound science, education, and a commitment to "Healthy Water, Healthy Communities". Please join the watershed community on March 14 to celebrate GMCG's accomplishments, and learn more about how you can contribute to protecting shared natural resources.

The snow date for this event will be Sunday, March 15, same time and place. Visit GMCG at www.gmcg.org or write to info@gmcg.org to learn more.

The Preserve at Choorua, located at 88 Philbrick Neighborhood Rd, Tamworth, NH

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.

This only happens once

Happy 2020! Whatever your connection to GMCG may be, thank you for being a part of our past, our present and our future. As I settle in as your new Executive Director, I am heartened and inspired by so much of what I see, but nothing is more reassuring than walking into the Blue Heron House each morning and seeing the vast list of volunteers, donors, foundations and businesses who rebuilt this house – this beautiful house that is now a base for our good work and a beacon for what more we can achieve and become together.

Blair Folts blazed a clear and bright path. Over the past few weeks she has led me on a tour through GMCG's remarkable history and she has graciously passed the torch. I am ever grateful for her support and guidance.

Blair's vision forged not just an environmental group protecting land and water but a multi-faceted organization embedded in its community. She built a platform for citizens across the Ossipee region to learn about and mediate environmental issues of all kinds. She permanently secured our role as a guardian of the region's water supply. Through her persistent message of Research, Advocacy, Education and Land Conservation (REAL!) she guided the community to think more deeply about how the pursuit of environmental quality is interwoven with the pursuit of wise community development, the enhancement of human health and well-being, and the education and empowerment of our youth.

She will be the first to remind us that she didn't do it alone, but this is the moment for us to express our collective gratitude, to celebrate her legacy and pledge to carry it forward.

Whenever I try to define environmentalism or think about my responsibility to the planet, a simple phrase comes to mind: *this only happens once*. My journey. Your journey. This earth. We only have one chance at this.

The retreating continental glaciers finished their work 15,000 years ago. Their meltwater rivers have deposited their sandy, gravely layer across the Ossipee Watershed. That incredible geological one-off left us with one fragile aquifer. One aquifer to nourish us and our economy for generations to come. And we have one chance to protect it.

At this turning point for GMCG we have a responsibility to get this right. As your Executive Director I will draw on my experience and expertise to support our mission in every way possible. It goes without saying that Tara Schroeder, Jill Emerson, Moselle Spiller and our always awesome annual AmeriCorps team will do the same. We must count, however, on each of you to find at least that one thing each year you can do to help us get this right. Donate. Volunteer. Educate. Lead. Every action you take will matter.

Thank you for your confidence in us and for your commitment to your water, your land and to all those who will inherit it. This only happens once.

GMCG's new Executive Director, Matt Howe, stands in front of GMCG's conservation center, the Blue Heron House, in Effingham, NH.

GMCG welcomes new AmeriCorps Members

An interview with Outreach Coordinator Moselle Spiller

Moselle: Where are you from?
Ellie Stoermer: Seattle, WA
Sarah Goldsmith: Grantham, NH

M: *What did you study in college*?
E: Majored in Terrestrial Ecology and minored in GIS
S: Environmental Science

M: *What inspired you to serve in the conservation field?*
E: The desire to help and the realization that if I couldn't save the whole world I could at the very least make some small part better.
S: Growing up in NH, I always felt very connected to and curious about the natural world. I was inspired to serve in the field of conservation to learn more about managing our shared natural resources in sustainable ways so we can continue to enjoy and learn from our natural world in the future.

M: *How do you find living in Effingham?*

AmeriCorps Members Sarah Goldsmith and Ellie Stoermer explore the Ossipee Watershed from Foss Mountain this November. (*Photo by Jill Emerson)*

E: So far it's been lovely but I suspect that I am fully unprepared for the winter. It's great to be in such a beautiful and welcoming place. I'm excited to explore, there are so many different plants I haven't met yet.
S: It's been great so far! I'm happy to be back in my home state and after being away for a few years, I feel that I have a new appreciation for our beautiful forests, rivers, and mountains and look forward to spending more time in them.

M: *What are you looking forward to during your 10 months at GMCG?*
E: Learning whatever there is to offer when it comes to watersheds and really seeing how a conservation non-profit like GMCG operates.
S: I am very excited to get out in the rivers and lakes and learn a new set of skills focused around water quality! I am also looking forward to working with the amazing staff and network of volunteers and citizen scientists here.

M: *What are your plans after AmeriCorps?*
E: Continue gaining experience in the conservation/restoration field. Grad school is somewhere in the future probably, but I would need to figure out exactly what I wanted to use it for first.
S: I'm not quite sure what my plans are, but I would definitely like to continue my career in conservation!

GMCG hosts PFAS Workshop in Tamworth

GMCG welcomed guest speakers Brandon Kernen, Manager of Hydrology and Conservation at NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES), and Shaina Kasper, Toxics Action Center's (TAC) Vermont and New Hampshire State Director, at a recent workshop in Tamworth on the emerging contaminant PFAS. PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a large group of human-made compounds that can repel both oil and water. As such, PFAS are very good at making things not stick and have become ubiquitous in our everyday lives —think non-stick pans and pizza boxes and water-resistant clothing among others. They're also in products like stain-resistant carpets, industrial surfactants, some dental floss, fire-fighting foam, and countless other items.

PFAS have been found in the soil, air, and groundwater, in places as remote as the Arctic, as well as in blood samples from humans and wildlife. Due to their strong fluorine-carbon bond, they tend to resist typical degradation processes and are very persistent in the environment—hence the moniker "the Forever Chemical." The toxicity, persistence, and potential for accumulation in organisms (bioaccumulation) make these compounds a cause for concern. There are many ways in which humans may be exposed: for example, through food cooked in non-stick pans, food packaging or processing equipment that contain PFAS, drinking contaminated water, or living or working near a production facility.

While thousands of these compounds now exist, the two most-studied forms of PFAS are perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). These two chemicals were voluntarily phased out of production by manufacturers in the U.S., but are still available in existing products, from goods imported from other countries, and still exist in our landfills—which can result in PFAS leaching into groundwater.

Human epidemiology studies have linked PFOA and PFOS to numerous health impacts including high cholesterol, thyroid disorders, cancer, effects on the immune system, and reproductive and developmental effects. Newer compounds are thought to have lower toxicity, but there are still many compounds for which there is little to no data.

Revised Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards were recently enacted in NH to lower the acceptable concentrations of 4 PFAS compounds in groundwater. NH DES has also been testing public and private wells, landfills, and firefighting training facilities for PFAS compounds. Sampling in the Ossipee Watershed found sporadic detection, although there has been limited sampling in the area so far.

Shaina Kasper discussed some of the ways TAC has been empowering communities and facilitating action against PFAS contamination, including working with community groups to ensure long-term water safety, help with obtaining lawyers, and running workshops to help people understand their bloodwork results. TAC has also been involved with the National PFAS Contamination Coalition, a coalition of grassroots groups formed to fight PFAS contamination, protect human health, get justice for past exposures, and enact a national, enforceable drinking water standard for PFAS.

FMI visit: http://www.gmcg.org/advocacy/pfas/. *Special thanks to The Tamworth Foundation for their support.*

The Shape of (Frozen) Water

If I asked you which of the following three states of matter is the densest – a solid, a liquid, or a gas – you'd probably answer "the solid". In most cases you'd be right. (If this were the answer for all cases, my article this month would be pretty short).

If I told you the substance I was talking specifically about was water – now how would you answer the above question?

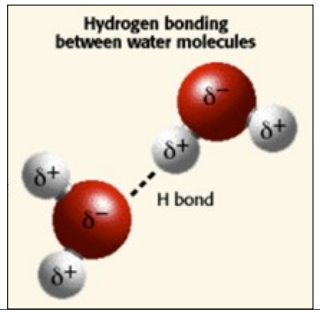
Ice ice baby...*Photo credit: National Center for Families Learning.*

Hopefully you'd answer "the liquid". And you'd be right: All of us have seen frozen lakes and ponds where the ice is at the top (otherwise ice skating would be a real challenge), or at the very least have experienced ice cubes floating to the top of our water glasses. Why did your answer change? Well, again many of you would say "because the solid state of water is less dense than the liquid state", which is absolutely correct. Normally when a substance is in its solid state, the molecules are all jam-packed together in a smaller area. This is why most substances are denser as a solid than a liquid. However, with water...it's not how it works.

But...why? Why does water behave differently than almost any other substance when in its solid state?

It's all about the bonds.

Water is made up of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom (H2O) that are strongly bonded together by covalent bonds (meaning the atoms share electrons with each other). However, a water molecule has polarity to it, meaning that the three atoms of the molecule don't share all the electrons equally. Oxygen, being electron loving, pulls those two donated electrons from the hydrogen atoms closer to it, resulting in the oxygen side of the molecule having a slight negative charge to it, while the hydrogen atoms get a slight positive charge (with the overall charge of the water molecule being neutral). A hydrogen bond then forms between the slightly positively charged hydrogen atom of one water molecule and the slightly negatively charged oxygen of a second water molecule. Basically, Paula Abdul was right: opposites attract (at least for hydrogen bonding purposes anyway).

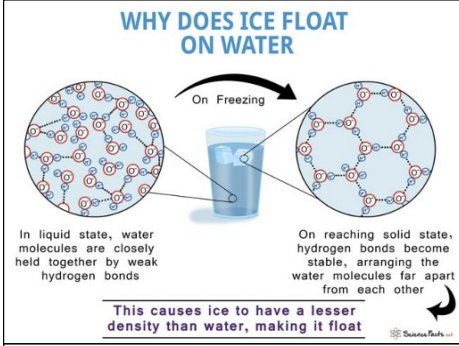


One oxygen (red) and two hydrogen (white) make up a water molecule. While a water molecule overall has no charge, the molecule does have polarity. This polarity allows for weak bonds to form between molecules. *Photo credit: The Biology Project (UA)*

Hydrogen bonds are responsible for water's high degree of surface tension. You can thank the hydrogen bonds for allowing insects the ability to "walk on water" - it's also why when you pour a very full glass of water it seems to create a little bit of a dome at the top.

Water's high surface tension allows our bug friend to run across the top of a pond. *Photo*

So as a liquid, water molecules merrily form and break and reform hydrogen bonds with other water molecules as they move around, since hydrogen bonds are pretty weak. But once that internal moving around - known as kinetic energy - gets reduced, water takes on a solid form that doesn't allow for the hydrogen bonds to break and reform at will – the hydrogen bonds gain a rigidity they did not formerly possess. In fact, these more solid hydrogen bonds now hold the more negatively charged atoms farther apart, forming a crystal structure we call ice. Because now the molecules are not as close together as they were in their liquid form, this makes the ice less dense than the water as fewer total H2O molecules fit into the space of their liquid counterparts (about 9% more liquid H2O molecules fit into the same space as solid ones). Thinking about it another way, the space solid water physically takes up is greater than while in its liquid form; this is why we shouldn't freeze completely full bottles of water (they'd shatter —and yes, I have the wisdom of experience here).



Ice floats because it is less dense than liquid water due to molecule spacing. *Photo credit: ScienceFact.net*

If you think about it, it's a good thing that water has this somewhat unique ability of being less dense as a solid. Lakes freeze over in the winter, helping to insulate the water underneath it and keeping it from freezing. If the ice sank, then the water at the top of the lake would continue to freeze, then sink, and eventually the entire lake would be frozen solid. Very little, if anything, would survive this freezing process (cells of all organisms contain water that would freeze and expand too until they burst, causing cell death). Ice also reflects back a tremendous amount of sunlight, helping to prevent our planet from warming up. This is partly why the increasingly shorten "ice in" time for lakes is particularly troubling; rather than reflecting back the sun's energy, the planet is absorbing more of it.

So then when is water at its most dense, if not when in its solid form? The answer is at about 40°F, or slightly above freezing.

-Jill Emerson is the Water Quality Coordinator at GMCG

GMCG engages local schools in Less Plastic Initiative

December 19 was Less Plastic Day, a day that is celebrated worldwide to encourage people to use less plastic in their lives. Less Plastic Day evolved from the "More Clay Less Plastic" movement in Italy, which began in 2014 as an open group on Facebook with the intent of creating a network between ceramicists and the public. The aim is to invite people to rethink their daily habits— for example, by avoiding disposable plastic. Colanders, cups, plates, bowls … once made of clay and then substituted with plastic, can be made of clay again.

Says Lauren Moreira, founder of Less Plastic Day, "It all begins with a single plastic bag. And from that moment, the possibilities are endless. Something as simple, as small, and as unsuspecting as one less plastic bag, can transform itself into something big, a visible difference.

"One day. Together. Worldwide...'LESS PLASTIC DAY' is coming and you're invited to detox with us! The idea is to avoid using plastic for just the day. But, it's not just a bag; it could be anything – from having a meal in a handmade ceramic bowl to talking about the impact of plastic on our planet. So, let's start the conversation, share some ideas and make our planet a little better than when we started" (Lauren Moreira, Poffabro, Italy 2016).

Sacopee students create upcycled t-shirt bags to replace single use plastic at a recent program at GMCG.

Since 2016, GMCG has promoted Less Plastic Day and the concept of using less plastic at local schools, including Kingswood and Kennett High Schools as well as Sacopee Valley Middle School. As a result of these programs and the efforts of students working in school clubs focused around lessening plastic use, Styrofoam trays were a thing of the past (at least for a while) at Kingswood High School. Students from multiple elementary schools and middle schools also participated in the "Less Plastic Challenge" in 2019 to create ways to upcycle plastic feed and pellet bags.

More recently, students visited GMCG's Blue Heron House to test lake water and bottled water for microplastics, create bioplastic out of vinegar and milk, and upcycle t-shirts into reusable bags. They also learned all about efforts to eliminate single use plastics locally and globally, and just how little plastic is actually recycled (just 9%). Imagine the students' surprise when they looked under the microscopes and discovered bits of blue, green, red, white, and black microplastics in samples of purchased bottled water (as well as two microscopic bug skeletons).

GMCG staff took the show on the road to Kingswood High School where students investigated microplastics, bioplastic and participate in a facilitated discussion about how plastic impacts humans and the environment. *How will you use less plastic in 2020?*

Students from Sacopee Valley Middle School look for microplastics under the microscope and create reusable t-shirt bags.

Second year of Project FeederWatch begins at GMCG

The second winter of Blue Heron Bird Club (BHBC) began strong with a record 7 species visiting our feeders! Despite the snowy weather on the first day, we saw Black-capped Chickadees, Dark-eyed Juncos, Tufted Titmouse, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and Red- and White-breasted Nuthatches.

BHBC is part of Project FeederWatch, a citizen science initiative from Cornell University that challenges people of all ages to observe and record the wintering birds at backyard bird feeders. Cornell uses these data to monitor trends in bird populations and inform policy to protect birds around the U.S. and Canada.

No previous birding experience is necessary! For novice birders, GMCG offers an opportunity to gain familiarity with some of the most common backyard birds and to practice birding skills with provided identification cards and guide books. Experienced birders are invited to share their knowledge with others. All bird watching is conducted from comfortable rocking chairs in the GMCG Community Room looking out to a riparian habitat and vernal pool.

Interested in joining? BHBC is hosted by GMCG's AmeriCorps volunteers on specific Tuesdays and Wednesdays this winter, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. (see the details on page 7.). Stop by to see the Blue Heron House, enjoy a complementary cup of hot tea or coffee, and observe some neat birds!

AmeriCorps members Ellie Stoermer (left) and Sarah Goldsmith (right) set up bird feeders for Project FeederWatch.

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.*

Freedom
Environmental applications have slowed to a trickle and provided the Freedom Conservation Commission time to review documents. The Commission is preparing for 2020 by determining goals & objectives, budget requests and annual reports, updating conservation maps, coordinating the 2021 controlled-burn in the Pine Barrens with The Nature Conservancy, and reviewing the Rules of Procedure. The Commission is researching the objectives of the Sandwich Climate Crisis Coalition and the benefits of participating in this county -wide endeavor to address the issue of recycling. The Commission plans to participate in the NH Municipal Association webinar on 29 January 2020 "Is Recycling Still Worthwhile in New Hampshire Today," 12 - 1 p.m. EST. The Office of Strategic Initiatives, conducted its annual inspection of the Freedom Town Forest on 13 November with the town forester and members of the Commission and Forest Advisory Committee. Entrance gates, kiosks, boundary & trail markings, trails and postings were observed during the walking portion of the inspection. While several minor corrective actions for the town and state were noted, the overall documentation, observations, and avenues of communication between the town and state were well received.

Sandwich
Back in 2012, beautiful Sandwich Notch Park was being loved to death by enthusiastic visitors. Alarmed by extensive soil erosion, conservationists contracted with Off the Beaten Path, professional trail builders, to install a log jam structure called a tree reventment to quell erosion and protect sensitive vegetation. The builders constructed a steel-and-timber bridge and locust fences to restrict visitor access. Seven years later, the log jam is holding well, and vegetation has regenerated, creating healthy animal habitat. This success story was made possible through grants from The Quimby Fund, the Sandwich Conservation Fund, and the estate of Jocelynn Gutchess.

Tamworth
The Red Back Salamander study is complete for the year. SPARCnet (The Salamander Population and Adaptation Research Collaboration Network), is a regional initiative to advance understanding of environmental change on salamander ecology. SPARCnet uses the expertise of collaborators, genetics, physiology, behavior, and demography to investigate salamander responses to changes in temperature, precipitation, and other habitat features.

Notes from Downstream

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

The Saco River Corridor Commission closes the year with several large projects completed. First, the commission created and passed new rulemaking changes, updating Chapters 102 and 107 of the commission's performance standards with several new provisions to coincide with updates to the state Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. The Saco River Corridor Act (SRCA) is not the same as shoreland zoning and never can or will be the same. The SRCA's regulations are more expansive in nature and were created with the intention to preserve the Saco River Corridor for future generations so that our grandchildren can reap the same benefits from the river that we enjoy today.

This year the SRCC also completed an educational program with middle school students from Sacopee Valley Middle School thanks to a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. The students worked with the SRCC to contribute to the water quality monitoring program by sampling on the Ossipee River behind the school. The SRCC completed its nineteenth year of the water quality monitoring program this year.

The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund (MOHF) awards grants to environmental agencies, non-profits, and land trusts and is funded through the sale of Maine's only wildlife lottery ticket. Please support MOHF by purchasing Maine's only lottery ticket dedicated to wildlife conservation! Thanks and see you in 2020!

GMCG Wish List

GMCG is seeking volunteers and in kind donations to sustain our programs and free events at the Blue Heron House:

- Indoor movie screen for educational programs
- Portable speaker and microphone for educational programs
- Help to finish paneling on 3-season porch
- Experienced and licensed electrical help
- Help building shelves at the office
- Help constructing outdoor steps at the office
- Birdseed & suet
- Household cleaning items & supplies: dish soap; toilet paper; paper towels; garbage bags
- Laptop computer in good working condition
- Vacuum cleaner in good working condition
- Washing machine in good working condition

If you can help please write to info@gmcg.org or call (603)539-1859
Thank you!

Save the Date! 2020 Winter 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.

Blue Heron Bird Club on January 21-22, February 4-5, February 18-19, March 3-4, March 17-18, and March 31-April 1. Join us select Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9-10 a.m. as we participate in the citizen science birding initiative from Cornell Lab of Ornithology-Project FeederWatch. GMCG will provide hot coffee as we observe and record the winter birds at our newly installed bird feeders. No birding experience necessary.

Wednesday, January 22: GET WET! Volunteer Training 1-4 p.m. GMCG presents the Groundwater Education through Well Water Evaluation and Testing program. At this training, participants will learn how they can volunteer to help bring this important drinking water protection program to local schools and libraries. Participants can bring a sample of their home well water and test it for six parameters: chloride, conductivity, hardness, nitrates/nitrites, pH, and iron. Learn about common contaminants, health concerns and where to go for more information. Register by contacting education@gmcg.org or (603) 539-1859.

Wednesday, January 29: Ossipee Aquifer Advisory Committee Meeting 5:00-6:00 p.m. Are you interested in protecting your drinking water? You are invited to learn about this group whose mission it is to raise public awareness and assist communities with regional aquifer protection. Help guide educational programs and water research, as well as work with local municipalities, agencies, boards and commissions to protect the Ossipee Aquifer. OAAC meetings are open to the public.

Saturday, February 1: Animal Tracking with Naturalist Barbara Bald 10:30-12:30 p.m. Fun for all ages! Naturalist Barbara Bald studied tracking with Paul Rezendes and his senior trackers, with members of the Appalachian Mountain Club and staff of the White Pines program in Maine. Bald has been tracking animals for 16 years, but with so much to learn about the land and the creatures that live in it, she still considers herself an intermediate tracker. Participants will observe casts of tracks, pelts, quills and more before heading out into the forest to explore. Dress warmly and come prepared to trek through the woods.

Thursday, February 13: GET WET! at Madison Public Library 6-7 p.m. GMCG presents the Groundwater Education through Water Evaluation and Testing program. Participants can bring in a sample of their home well water and test it for six parameters, including: chloride, conductivity, hardness, nitrates/nitrites, pH, and iron. Participants should bring a 500ml (~2 cups) water sample in a clean jar or bottle following these directions: 1. Remove aerators from faucet; 2. Run COLD water for 10 minutes (water plants or rinse dishes with it); 3. Fill bottle to the TOP & cap tight; 4. Place in refrigerator; 5. Bring to the workshop. This program is made possible by generous support from the Pequawket Foundation. Register by contacting education@gmcg.org or (603) 539-1859. This program is suitable for families; children must be supervised by an adult caregiver.

Saturday, March 14: GMCG Annual Meeting "Beyond Conservation" with David Carroll (March 15 snow date) 12:30-4:00 p.m. GMCG's annual celebration and meeting featuring renowned artist, writer and turtle biologist, and recipient of the MacArther Fellowship "Genius Grant". The annual meeting will take place at The Preserve in Chocorua. 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-two years. The meeting is open to the public, but reservation space for the celebration is limited. *To order your tickets please visit www.gmcg.org or call the office at 539-1859 by Friday, March 6.*

Wednesday, March 25: Education Committee Meeting Blue Heron House 5:00-6:00p.m. New members welcome! The Committee helps to guide GMCG's educational programs and meets quarterly throughout the year. Help plan fun and informative programs for 2020 and discuss new program and project ideas. Please RSVP to Tara at: education@gmcg.org if you would like to be a part of this exciting work!

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/***

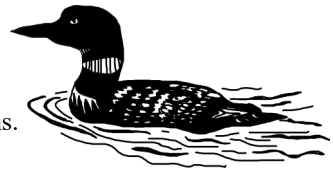
Vernal Pool__$25 Stream__$50 River__$75 Pond__$100 Bay__$250 Lake__$500 Aquifer__$1000 Other_

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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The Watershed News

Save the date!
22nd Annual Meeting
with
David Carroll, artist, writer & turtle biologist
March 14
(snow date 3/15)
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
at The Preserve

Spring Newsletter items due: March 1

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

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