



The watershed community and beyond is invited to explore what water means to them in an all ages community art exhibit.

WOW! Community Art Show Explores the Wonders of Water

BY MOSELLE SPILLER, OUTREACH COORDINATOR
AND TARA SCHROEDER, EDUCATION COORDINATOR

GMCG is excited to announce the **“Wonders of Water” Art Exhibition**, a virtual event hosted by GMCG with an opening showcase via Zoom on August 20, 2020. Dr. Rick Van de Poll will begin the Exhibition with a reading from his recently published work *“Crossing Higher Ground: Poetry From the Mountaintops”*, a book of poetry inspired by exploring countless mountaintops over fifty years. Participants will then have the opportunity to speak about their artwork and interact with other artists. The community is invited to a celebration of all things water through art, poetry, performances, and any other creative expressions. The opening celebration will be showcased virtually on August 20 from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom and then hosted as a web gallery on GMCG’s website. Participants will also have the option to be included on a traveling outdoor mural to be displayed throughout the watershed

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2020 Watershed Challenge Surpasses Halfway Point

BY NOREEN DOWNS, MADISON BOARD REP.
AND MEMBER, GMCG DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Actively fundraising for GMCG is the role of the board of directors and the executive director. As we navigate this unprecedented time, board members and volunteers on the Development Committee are following through with an array of plans to meet our 2020 budget and put GMCG on a strong footing to start 2021.

Foremost on our agenda is completing the \$45,000 2020 Watershed Challenge. Since we accepted the generous offer of a local family foundation in January, the GMCG community has contributed nearly \$25,000 leaving us with \$20,000 to raise by August 31 in order to earn a \$45,000 grant that will secure our programs through the end of the year.

This giving pyramid on page 10 shows how we can make this happen. No matter what level works for you, there’s a piece of the puzzle you can help us solve.

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WOW Art Exhibition continued...

through September. Please visit our web page for more information on how to submit artwork:

<http://www.gmcg.org/wonders-of-water-art-exhibition/>.

Local organizations and businesses are invited to participate as project partners who will share the virtual exhibit (and traveling exhibit, if possible) with their members and online audience any time from August 20 through September 28, 2020. This is a great opportunity to collaborate in a safe way across town boundaries to celebrate the water that inspires and connects us all. We welcome participants of all ages and all artistic inclinations to express themselves through this project, and we hope to share the collective community mural in every watershed town. Project partners will be listed in press releases and radio broadcasts, added to the virtual exhibit, and their names and logos will be displayed on the traveling mural.

This is an opportunity to examine the relationship between people and water, whether it be salt or fresh water. This exhibition will explore the myriad ways that water influences our lives and celebrate the beauty of water in the world around us.

Guidelines:

Artists working in all media are encouraged to apply. This invitation is open to all artists of all ages. Participants will be asked three questions to consider prior to creating their work or selecting work from their portfolios. Our intent is to be accessible to all ages yet provocative in ways that will spark inspiration among all involved:

1. What effect does water have on you? How does it make you feel?
2. During your lifetime, have you noticed any changes in the water around you?
3. What would a day in your life be like without safe water to drink or without clean water in which to bathe or swim?

Through contemplation of these questions we hope to spur creativity among our participating artists while reminding everyone of their daily, inseparable and indispensable relationship with water. We hope that this process of creation can be, for both participants and observers, a chance to explore the ways that water influences their lives, and to recognize its importance as a source of personal and community sustenance, spiritual enrichment, and beauty. All subject

matter must be related to the theme of **water** and it is the sole discretion of the curator to determine which works are accepted into the exhibition (both digital & physical).

How to Submit:

Submit your art digitally to info@gmcg.org. Please include in your email: Name, Telephone Number, Title of Artwork, Medium, and Date of Completion, and anything short that you would like to share about your piece.

If you cannot email your artwork you may submit a burned CD through the mail to Green Mountain Conservation Group at PO Box 95 Effingham, NH 03882. Digital art (photos, poetry, performances, etc.) may be submitted any time now through **Friday, August 7th**.

Digital artwork must be a minimum of 300dpi. If you cannot digitize your own artwork and would like GMCG staff to assist you, **physical artwork may be dropped off between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. August 3-7th** at 236 Huntress Bridge Road, Effingham, NH 03882. It is also the artist's responsibility to pick up their artwork (or make alternative arrangements for timely pickup with GMCG staff).

If your work is for sale, or if you would like to donate the piece/sale of the piece to GMCG, please indicate asking price and your contact information for the buyer to reach you directly.

Thank you!

ENJOY MAKING ART!



"Tadpole" by Moselle Spiller. The WOW water theme encompasses all things water, including the lifeforms supported within it.

Green Mountain Conservation Group

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.

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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Eaton, open
Effingham, open
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Madison, Noreen Downs

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Tara Schroeder, Education Coordinator
Moselle Spiller, Outreach Coordinator
Jill Emerson, Water Quality Coordinator

AmeriCorps Members

Sarah Goldsmith, Water Quality Assistant
Ellie Stoermer, Education & Outreach Assistant

Thank You to our Dedicated Local Business Sponsors

The following local businesses helped GMCG continue to carry out our R.E.A.L. programs this spring, and sponsored our virtual Earth Day celebration. Please consider supporting these great partners!



www.secanews.org



www.snowvillageinn.com



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www.cormackconstructionmanagement.com



MADISON LUMBER MILL INC
www.madisonlm.com



www.kindnessanimalhosp.com

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.

Finding the Good During the Bad



Photo Credits: Before DOMINIQUE FAGE/TAFP via Getty Images After Yawar Nazir/Getty Images



© Courtesy Carl Triggs

(L) Air quality sees a marked improvement in cities like New Delhi during global shutdown; (R) Kashmiri goats check out the sights

BY JILL EMERSON, WATER QUALITY COORDINATOR

In hindsight, I feel really silly complaining about 2019. Knowing what I know so far about 2020, and still trying to wrap my head around the fact that we still have a half a year of it to go, it makes any complaints I had about 2019 seem so trivial. Frankly I'm scared of whatever the next thing 2020 thinks we need to live through.

What's that? Now there's murder hornets? Go home 2020, you're drunk.

Seriously, with all the horridness that the year has thrust upon us, it can be really hard to find anything good. But it's out there, if only we pick our heads up above our despair and seek it out. Summer is here! I finally got to know my neighbors! John Krasinski started a YouTube channel! There is some good stuff happening out there.

A nice result of the pandemic for me is all the time I've gotten to explore the woods right outside my backdoor. My kids started a project growing oak saplings from acorns collected, and now they're about 6 inches tall. We've been able to talk about how trees grow, why leaves are made, and why they are green. It's been a great project for the kids – something I'm not sure we'd be able to do if there wasn't a pandemic and the schools were not closed for the

rest of the year. We've trekked on every trail the town forest has to offer, and there's always something new to look at, particularly during this time of year.

Nature has been surprisingly rebounding in places where communities have been under stay at home orders. While humanity has been holding its breath, it appears that nature is finally exhaling. Pumas have been spotted in Santiago, Chile, while coyotes are roaming around San Francisco. Goats have taken over a Welsh town, meanwhile in Japan deer have been spotted in what would normally be a bustling city.

Air pollution in some major populated areas has also seen a dramatic drop. Wuhan, Mumbai, Seoul, and New Delhi saw dramatically improved air quality in February and March, as have other major cities since lockdowns went into effect. Los Angeles had significantly improved air quality in just two weeks of being shut down. In fact, 2020 is shaping up to globally have the largest decline in carbon dioxide emission ever at about 5.5%. That's not to say that we still don't have a carbon dioxide problem; CO₂ is still at the highest level of the past 3 million years or so. But this type of

decrease, if sustainable year after year, is the level of emissions drop that the Paris climate agreement urged countries to achieve in order to keep the Earth from exceeding a 2°C increase in temperature.

Clearly we cannot live through a global pandemic and a major economic shutdown every year for the sake of environmental health, but this world pause is giving humanity a glimpse of an alternative view of the future. This pandemic is showing us not only how much our natural environment will improve but how quickly results would be seen if only we'd collectively use more green energy and transportation. We don't have to fall victim to climate change; we have the power to alter our future.

While I suspect these gains in environmental health will be short lived, the optimistic side of me hopes that many positive lessons will be learned in light of the pandemic. Humans have banded together to show an unbelievable and awe inspiring amount of love for each other during these tough times through actions both great and small, and I hope once we're on the other side of this thing, that we can show the same amount of love for our planet.

Hang in there everyone!

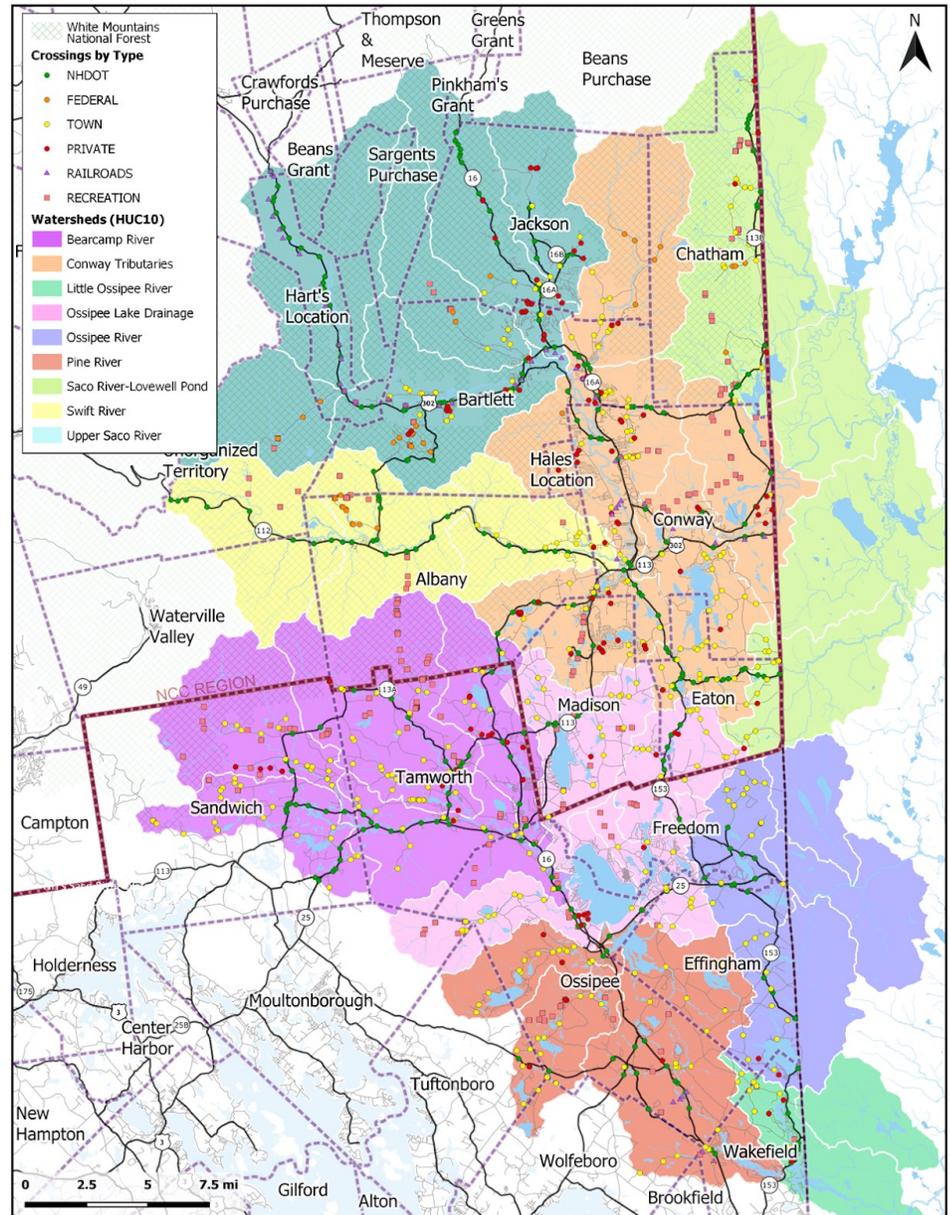
GMCG to Conduct Stream Crossing Surveys this Summer

BY TARA SCHROEDER,
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Stream crossings refer to structures such as culverts and bridges that carry a road over a river, stream, wetland or other waterbody. The way these structures are built and how they function is essential to the health of a watershed, keeping water flowing and connecting lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. When they are clogged or improperly built or functioning, they can cause flooding, overtopping, erosion, pooling, a decline in water quality and also prevent wildlife from being able to move to critical habitat that they need to survive. They can also cause serious damage to roads, infrastructure and property while posing a safety hazard to the public. (See *North Country Council's Stream Crossing Guide* for more information: <http://bit.ly/nccSCGuide>.)

Stream crossings should seem “invisible” in the stream, maintaining natural stream flows, depths, velocities upstream, downstream and within the structure itself. Poorly designed and underperforming structures can inhibit the ability of aquatic organisms such as fish, salamanders, frogs, turtles and invertebrates from being able to move to areas upstream or downstream. Wood, leaves and trash can clog undersized crossings, creating a barrier to water and wildlife and causing overtopping and flooding.

In addition, the expected increase in frequency and severity of flooding associated with climate change poses a very real threat that communities need to address in order to maintain a safe, healthy and resilient watershed, as well as



Map of stream crossings in the upper Saco River Watershed, credit Ashley Newell, Planning Technician for North Country Council.

prevent flood-related disasters that could negatively impact the region economically.

This summer GMCG staff, AmeriCorps members and volunteers will perform field assessments of stream crossings in collaboration with partners at Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Saco Headwaters Alliance, North Country Council, Saco-Swift LAC, and Trout Unlimited, with support from

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, New Hampshire Geological Survey, New Hampshire Department of Transportation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, New Hampshire Homeland Security & Emergency Management, and University of New Hampshire Technology Transfer Center. The trained teams will be using a statewide assessment protocol developed

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through the New Hampshire Stream Crossing Initiative. The multi-year project will consist of culverts assessments and fish community surveys in watershed towns, and will have long-term ecological, economical and social benefits to communities across the entire Saco River Watershed.

There are more than 20,000 stream crossings in New Hampshire, and it is estimated many of these structures (50-80%) may be in poor condition and in need of improvements based on watershed-scale crossing assessments that have been conducted previously by North Country Council, New Hampshire Fish and Game and Trout Unlimited, among others. The upper Saco River Watershed is the last major watershed in the state to be surveyed, representing a large gap in data and understanding of the condition of stream crossings (see NH Aquatic Restoration Web Mapper: <https://bit.ly/2tXNoiq>).

There are estimated to be approximately 1,000 road-stream crossings in the upper Saco River Watershed that need to be surveyed, including crossings under roads, trails and railways. This is a major undertaking, as the Saco River Watershed is 1073 square miles, stretching from the White Mountains of New Hampshire and flowing to the southeast through Maine before reaching the ocean in Saco, Maine. New Hampshire's portion of the watershed spans 869 square miles, crossing through portions of 32 communities in 3 counties. These many communities in New Hampshire and Maine depend on the health of the watershed for their drinking water, livelihoods, economies, health, recreation and quality of life.

Another aspect of the project will be

Town	Number of crossings by Town
Albany	93
Bartlett	116
Carroll	3
Chatham	59
Conway	108
Eaton	51
Effingham	39
Freedom	39
Harts Location	38
Jackson	45
Livermore	14
Madison	45
Moultonborough	7
Ossipee	100
Pinkham's Grant	2
Sandwich	85
Tamworth	104
Tuftonborough	8
Wakefield	22
Waterville Valley	2
Wolfeboro	8
Grand Total	988

Table of stream crossings in the upper Saco River Watershed, credit Ashley Newell, Planning Technician for North Country Council.

the fish and macroinvertebrate community assessments conducted by New Hampshire Fish and Game. GMCG staff and volunteers will also assist with these surveys to enhance understanding of biological communities in local streams, and in particular, the distribution of Eastern brook trout, a species of greatest conservation need.

Since 2006, GMCG has worked with schools, local experts and volunteers to conduct the Volunteer Biological Assessment Program which examines macroinvertebrate communities in local rivers and streams following the same protocol that will be used by New Hampshire Fish and Game. This citizen science program's historical data is also being used by the state for these surveys.

This spring GMCG staff, AmeriCorps members and volunteers will attend trainings led by state agencies in order to conduct the surveys. By understanding the condition of culverts across the entire watershed, communities, state agencies, municipalities, and conservation organizations will have the information needed to identify and conduct successful culvert replacement projects that will improve community infrastructure resilience and ecological connectivity. An understanding of this depth will also strengthen the relationship between various grant applicants/partnerships, opening up a variety of opportunities from different funding sources.

If you are interested in learning more about this project or participating in the surveys, please contact education@gmccg.org.

You're invited!

The GMCG Board of Directors invites you to participate in a **virtual** GMCG Annual Meeting 7-8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23rd. Zoom will be our platform. The meeting will feature program updates from staff, a finance and fundraising report, and the election of Officers and Board members including several new candidates filling vacancies in Eaton, Effingham, and Ossipee.

We are also delighted to welcome Sherry Godlewski, Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Manager at NH DES, who will give a brief talk on her latest climate change research.

Keep an eye on your email, Facebook or gmccg.org for the official meeting link to be posted soon. If you are unable to join us live, the meeting will be recorded and available to view later.

2020 Highwatch Community Awards Honor Three Outstanding Community Volunteers

BY TARA SCHROEDER,
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Each year GMCG staff select one or more members from the GMCG community who have made an exceptional contribution to the advancement of the organization's programs and to the conservation of shared resources in the Ossipee Watershed. These volunteers are awarded the High Watch Community Award.

This year, staff selected three community volunteers for their extraordinary efforts in 2019 in the fields of water research, education and advocacy. Typically, volunteers are honored at GMCG's annual meeting, however, due to the COVID-19 crisis this year's annual meeting was cancelled.

GMCG would like to congratulate Dr. Robert Newton and Karen and Victor Vitek as recipients of the High Watch Awards in 2020. Dr. Robert Newton receives this award in recognition of his leadership of the 2019 Groundwater Study, the third groundwater study collaboration with his lab at Smith College which has successfully tested over 200



Dr. Robert Newton has been contributing to water research in the Ossipee Watershed for 22+ years. Here he is sampling a well with GMCG and USGS staff in 2009.

wells across the watershed in 2009, 2016 and 2019. Dr. Newton is also recognized for his tireless efforts to prevent further wastewater discharge at Pinetree Power and his continued guidance of water quality research.

Karen & Victor Vitek received the award for their extensive support for and involvement in GMCG's classroom education programs including the GET WET! groundwater education program and VBAP (Volunteer Biological Assessment Program), participation in RIVERS monitoring, and their concerted advocacy work to protect fellow residents from the Pinetree Power effluent threat.

Recipients of this year's High Watch Awards received copies of renowned author, artist and naturalist David Carroll's books, inscribed by the author. Thank you Dr. Newton, Karen and Vic for all that you do for the Watershed!



Karen Vitek helps test well water samples at Freedom Town Hall.



Vic Vitek helps community members conduct tests on their well water at a program in Madison.



Karen and Vic Vitek take macroinvertebrate samples during a VBAP training in the Ossipee River.

GMCG Supports the Community with Remote Learning Opportunities

When the stay at home order went into effect and spring weather approached, teachers and families were happy to discover GMCG's remote learning activities. Since many schools recently moved to remote learning for the remainder of the school year, GMCG quickly mobilized to re-invent its educational programs to continue to serve the community. Designed to be enjoyed indoors, in the backyard, or in the woods, GMCG has provided educational content for all ages covering topics from ecology to chemistry.

On Earth Day, April 22, GMCG debuted its YouTube channel. Families with children K-8 will find instructional videos of science experiments and nature activities and crafts they can do from home to celebrate nature such as: planting a tree; turning t-shirts into reusable bags; converting glass jars into stained glass candle holders; and creating nature prints and nature journals. Listen to a reading of "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein with Education Coordinator Tara Schroeder; and watch science experiments led by GMCG's Water Quality Coordinator Jill Emerson. Children can also enjoy tuning into their five senses with a nature journal tutorial led by Outreach Coordinator and artist Moselle Spiller.

With so much learning now being conducted online, GMCG



GMCG's YouTube channel provides budding conservationists with videos on wetlands, vernal pools, salamanders, pitcher plants, nurse logs, science experiments, crafts, and more! Visit www.gmcg.org/remote-learning/

encourages the community to embrace nature's classroom outdoors and use this opportunity to build a sense of place. Guided activities inspire children to begin seeing the small wonders that are usually taken for granted. A small patch of grass in the backyard or an old rotting log can be fascinating when observed with the five senses. Through nature-based learning activities children develop a sense of connection to their surroundings and a sense of stewardship for the place where they live.

Do you have exceptional video footage of a local watershed wonder? The community is welcome to contribute to our video making efforts. Please write to info@gmcg.org to get involved.

The following videos are available on GMCG's YouTube or by visiting our website at gmcg.org/remote-learning/

Earth Day 2020 Activities:

1. The Giving Tree
2. Upcycled Stained Glass Candle Holders
3. Apple and Oak Seed Planting
4. Upcycled T-Shirt Bags
5. Nature printmaking with Blair Folts
6. How to Nature Journal
7. 10 Peaceful Minutes: 10 RIVERS Test Sites

Experimentation Station:

1. Create a model water cycle inside a bottle
2. Create a water xylophone
3. Explore lake stratification in a jar
4. Fresh water vs salt water: What floats?
5. Create fireworks in a jar!
6. Dissolving Seashells
7. Using cabbage to explore pH

Backyard Exploration:

1. Vernal Pool Exploration
2. The Pitcher Plant
3. Salamanders
4. Nurse Logs
5. Stream crossings
6. Coexisting with Beaver
7. Spring Wildflowers
8. Forsythia Bushes with Karen Payne
9. Stumping and Logging with Karen Payne, part 1
10. Stumping and Logging with Karen Payne, part 2

Trout in the Classroom:

1. Tank Q & A
2. Trout Release

Notes from Downstream

BY DALYN HOUSER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SACO RIVER CORRIDOR COMMISSION

The Commission, established in 1973, is a Quasi-state agency with the power and authority of a state agency whose rules and regulations are implemented and enforced by volunteers from our own communities. The commissioners spend countless hours reviewing permits for development in the Corridor to ensure they meet the standards of the Act. These volunteers are dedicated to ensuring the preservation of the Maine natural shoreline, prevent overcrowding from incompatible development, prevent scenic visual impacts, and protect water quality and the lands adjacent to the rivers. As development in southern Maine continues to increase the work of the Commission is just as important today as it was 47 years ago when the work began.

The Commission truly is an organization for the people and by the people, established by concerned citizens from our own communities who wanted to ensure their grandchildren would reap the same benefits from these vital rivers as they have. Before the Commission was established by the State of Maine legislature a poll was sent to riverfront landowners, and the return replies of 51% indicated a widespread concern for the future of the river. When recipients were asked, "Do you think there should be land use controls to prevent overcrowding and to protect the various public and private interests?" An overwhelming majority, 88% of respondents, replied they believe the land use controls are necessary. Likely, in

part, due to the fact that 71% of people responded they use the river for recreational purposes such as swimming, fishing, and boating.

The Commission is seeking representatives for Dayton, Denmark, Hollis, Limington Newfield, Shapleigh, and Waterboro. Please contact our office to learn more about the opportunity to be a part of the work of the Commission. Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers, this one goes out to you.



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

Executive Director's Corner

BY MATT HOWE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Not long after our world turned up-side-down in mid-March, I recall thinking that wherever this crisis is headed, we should have a clear picture by the first of June of what we can expect and how we should proceed. June is here. Yet instead of a clear picture we only have more pictures. We are venturing into a vast sea of equally credible scenarios of what is possible over the next three to six to twelve months and beyond.

"Re-opening" is underway in New Hampshire and Maine and nationwide. We all want to believe that reopening will be a one-way street back to some kind of "normalcy," but when we examine the hard facts about this virus and listen to the impartial warnings of epidemiologists and public health officials we are forced to accept that reopening may be more of a real-time experiment than any kind of destination we can count on. Indeed, from the standpoint of organizational planning, uncertainty may be our only norm.

At our June 23rd online Annual Meeting (see announcement on page 6), we will provide a full update on the ways GMCG is adapting to the COVID-19 environment and our latest roadmap for the remainder of 2020. These plans will reflect the hard work and thinking we have been doing since mid-March, as well as what I see as some of the key principles we have embraced since the pandemic upturned our personal lives, our work lives and our watershed community:

People and Community First. Protecting our drinking water and other natural resources is as important as ever. However our first priority right now is to support our employees and the people of our watershed community as they endure enormous hardship and loss. This all happened so incredibly fast. In a matter of days schools and day care programs were

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AmeriCorps: Getting Things Done in the Ossipee Watershed

BY ELLIE STOERMER
AND SARAH GOLDSMITH

During this time of social distancing the GMCG AmeriCorps members have been keeping busy with a variety of projects.

When schools closed, Ellie took on the care of Sandwich Central School's Trout in the Classroom cold water tank as well as a warm water tank containing a variety of native species. The trout were successfully released into the Cold River on April 21st as part of GMCG's Earth Day celebration.

Both members have been creating their own educational videos, and assisting other staff with the GMCG YouTube channel. Ellie created a trout Q & A video answering questions from the Sandwich Central School students. Sarah has been adding captions to the videos to make sure the content is accessible as possible.

Both members have been making progress building a public trail behind GMCG's Huntress House, as well as improving GMCG's buildings and properties.

Sarah and Ellie have taken over the RIVERS spring/summer testing until other volunteers can safely step in again. Sarah has been developing a water quality report for the RIVERS program that contains an analysis of the watershed trends over the past 15 years.



Ellie Stroermer (left) and Sarah Goldsmith (below) take water quality measurements for the RIVERS program.



2020 Watershed Challenge Surpasses Halfway Point continued...

Whether your gift is one of thirty-five \$50 donations, or one of seven \$500 donations, you can play an essential part as we close in on the goal! Thank you for whatever you can do to carry GMCG forward.



VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION – Place a winning bid for any item and receive complimentary GMCG membership

benefits through December 2020. The online auction runs from June 21ST through July 5th. Items include a fly-over of the Ossipee watershed, Tin Mountain and AMC memberships, discounted Caribbean lodging good through 2021, local fun outdoor activities for families, themed gift baskets and more.

Go to <https://www.biddingowl.com/GreenMountainCon1859>.

GOT SNEAKERS CAMPAIGN –

Now through the end of August gather sneakers from your family and neighbors, and bring them by the Blue Heron House office anytime. Recycle the sneakers, save the landfills, and help entrepreneurs in 3rd world countries. Got Sneakers provides a donation to GMCG of \$1 for each used pair and \$3 for each new pair. Deposit sneakers in the barrel outside the front door. Or, if you are a big collector and have more than 10 pairs, call the office anytime to arrange for volunteer pick-up.

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Watershed Challenge continued...

SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS – If you are an active member of GMCG, you possess a membership card offering myriad discounts from local businesses. GMCG Board member Mark Longley has recently reached out to each of them to confirm their continued support of GMCG and received an overwhelming positive response. Each of them continue to want to offer support to our members and GMCG. Yet as you know it has been a difficult time for them and the summer of 2020 is sure to be challenging. **GMCG encourages you to support these local businesses by considering purchasing “gift cards” via telephone, in person or online.** Let’s keep them as our partners as they show their ongoing support for GMCG’s mission. “Thank You” for taking time to consider what GMCG membership means to you and for helping protect our shared natural resources.

Much appreciation goes to the Development Committee members (Nancy and Larry Wogman, Aysia Morency, Mark Longley and Noreen Downs) for their diligence in crafting creative ways to help you show your continued support for GMCG’s mission. Memberships, donations, participation in the Got Sneakers campaign, and the virtual silent auction all qualify for the 100% match of the 2020 Watershed Challenge. If you are able to participate in one of these fundraising efforts, you help sustain the efforts of staff and show you care about the ongoing work to protect our environment and shared natural resources of the Ossipee Watershed. Keep in mind, even in these exceptional times, “hope” is not cancelled.

Executive Director’s Corner, continued...

closed; jobs were lost; businesses closed; and people we know – and countless more we do not know – were becoming sick and dying. Thanks to your support and to being a fortunate beneficiary of the federal Payroll Protection Program, we have been able to employ our staff through this time as they’ve worked to update current programs and create new ones while adjusting to remote work and disruptions to their home routines. Every day we are mindful of our dependence on the watershed community and the well being of its people, and we are doing what we can to bring attention to community needs and to the nonprofit, municipal and volunteer services that are helping people through these difficult days.

Pivot with Patience. “What are you doing to pivot?” has become a common catch phrase. It’s a good question,

because we must pivot, adjust, retool and recalibrate. Tara, Jill, Moselle, Sarah and Ellie’s creative burst of remote learning content and the launch of our YouTube channel are a stellar example of pivoting in the face of change. Directing additional resources this summer to our stream crossings survey project is a solid pivot toward mission-centered work that can be done in adherence to social distancing protocols. At the same time, we can’t figure everything out at once. All the right moves will come in time, but we must remind ourselves to be patient, and appreciate your patience as we navigate this new unknown.

Cash Preservation. With economic forecasts ranging from a sharp upturn by the end of the year to a prolonged collapse on the scale of the Great Depression, we must play it safe. We are curtailing expenses to every extent possible. Our cash flow is stable for now, but with the possibility looming that 2021 could be a very hard year for everyone, we need to save money every step of the way.

Adherence to Mission. “Pivot” does not mean pivot away from mission. It means pivot toward new ways to stay on mission. The pandemic has not diminished the importance of our goals and programs. If anything, it accentuates the vulnerability of the aquifer and our dependence upon it for safe drinking water. It is well documented that the Administration in Washington is using the pandemic to justify the repeal of environmental laws and/or the suspension of regulatory enforcement. We must all remain vigilant.

The language of conservation easements may be an unusual place to find solace, but the other day as I was reviewing one of our documents I was struck by how reassuring it was. Conservation easements, after all, are fundamentally a defense against uncertainty. Those who grant them are rarely protecting the land from their own inclinations; they are recognizing that their conservation values may not be shared by those who follow. Hence the words “shall be preserved in perpetuity” feel rather good amidst all this worry and confusion.

GMCG is an agent of change to be sure. Yet as we nimbly pivot and position our organization for success in the face of enormous uncertainty, it is good to be reminded that we are also in the business of permanence, and that we are here to stay.



THE WATERSHED NEWS

A Quarterly Publication for the Ossipee Watershed

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SAVE THE DATE! "Wonders of Water" Art Exhibition

A virtual event hosted by GMCG with an opening showcase via Zoom on August 20, 2020.

