



# Friends of Green River Reservoir Inc.

P. O. Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655

email: [fgrr@pshift.com](mailto:fgrr@pshift.com)

**Board of Directors:** Sally Laughlin, President (644-5651), Milford Cushman, Vice President (888-3362), Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591), Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365), Dave Hallquist (888-6877), Paul Moody (888-4908), Heidi Rich (851-1268)

## Spring, 2009

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## Its Membership Renewal Time - see page 5

### FGRR Merchandise

Give a gift that gives on multiple levels. Not only do those who receive FGRR hats, bags, guides and shirts get a great gift, the proceeds support the Park.



### Spring Wildflower Talk - Thursday, May 7th, 7:00 - 8:00pm

Danielle Owczarski presents VT Spring Wildflowers Science and Lore: Bloodroot, Hepatica, Trillium and Others.



photo by Danielle Owczarski

As the sun becomes stronger and the days longer small green buds emerge from amongst the slowly decomposing brown shades of maple, birch, and cherry leaves. Learn the science and folklore behind some prominent and striking Vermont spring wildflowers at the **Green Mountain Technology and Career Center on Thursday, May 7th from 7:00 to 8:00PM.** Danielle Owczarski,

field naturalist and botanist, will also be discussing reproduction and habitat as well as traditional and medicinal uses.

**This talk is sponsored by the Friends of Green River Reservoir and is FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.** ■

### Message to Friends from your Board

The Annual Meeting will be on 7/9/09 at the Vermont Electric Coop in Johnson at 6:30 pm. Members are urged to attend (bring your own brown bag supper or a dish to share). Important items to be covered are:

Updating the Bylaws. Check the website at <http://www.fgrvt.org> for full details. Major points are: expanding the board from 7 members to a potential of 11 (not less than 5 or more than 11), clarifying the memberships' role in amending bylaws and electing Board members, specifying that the annual meeting shall be in July, and defining that the fiscal and membership year as the calendar year.

Let us know if you are interested in serving on the Board! We need a good balance of gender and generation; members with interest in and talent for graphic design (newsletters and brochures), educational interpretation, and fundraising are especially needed. The Board meets 11 times a year, usually the first Thursday of the month. Contact any of the Board members for more information. ■

FGRR Newsletter

### ADA Trail Dedication - Saturday June, 20th, 10am

The Friends of Green River Reservoir and the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation invite you to join us on Saturday, June 20th at 10 AM (rain or shine) to dedicate the new Americans with Disabilities Trail at Green River Reservoir State Park.

The new ADA Trail is the latest improvement at Green River Reservoir State Park. The construction of this Trail is part of a commitment by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to bring this Park into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. At the dedication learn more about plans to make several campsites ADA compliant in the near future as well as plans to have the Trail also serve as an interpretative trail. ■



photo by Milford Cushman

### Viewshed Update - Hyde Park DRB Permit Review

On March 3, 2009, the Hyde Park Development Review Board heard the preliminary PUD application of Joe Alfieri and Charles Hight who jointly own a 25 acre parcel of undeveloped property near Collins Pond. The property is located within the GRRVOD district. Milford Cushman, FGRR board member, testified that the PUD, as proposed in the preliminary application and presentation to the DRB, complies with the GRRVOD bylaws due to both topography and significant forest growth that will obscure and block the development of the PUD from the GRR. In addition to aerial satellite photography, USGS topographic data and local information gathered from previous GRRVOD viewshed studies; Milford made two snowshoe site visits to analyze the specifics of the site conditions to develop his opinion. He additionally noted at the DRB hearing that every building and further individual site development will need to be applied for, reviewed, and approved by the DRB.

It should be noted that significant opposition to the preliminary application was voiced by several adjacent landowners. ■

Spring 2009

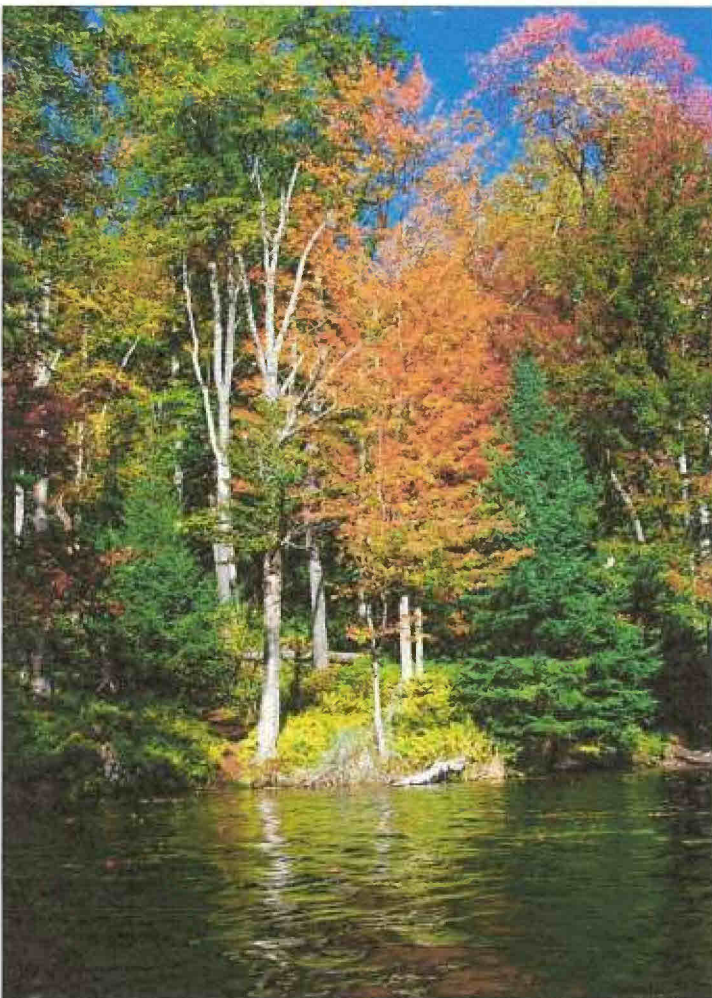
**ADA Accessible Campsites**

With the ADA Trail at the Green River Reservoir State Park now open – the next phase is to enhance two existing campsites with ADA capability.

Persons with disabilities and other park visitors now have full access to the waters of the Green River Reservoir via the recently completed trail (Fall 2009) that meanders from an ADA designated two space parking area adjacent to the existing vehicle turnaround area down to the waters' edge. (See a related article about the Dedication of the ADA trail on June 20th).

The next phase of ADA design and construction will be to enhance two existing campsites with ADA capability. Design features will include: a short ramp made of a porous plastic grid that is embedded in crushed ledge at the water's edge that creates a solid, sure footed surface; an ADA accessible toilet and a level tent site area.

During the 2009 operating season, design, engineering and pre-permitting work will commence. Susan Bulmer, Parks Regional Manager, Jason Kelly, Chief Ranger at the Park since 2001, Facilities Engineering Division along with FGRR board members and The Cushman Design Group will again work side by side to provide the details and muscle power to enhance the quality of accessibility, preservation and experiences for visitors and staff at the GGRSP. ■



*photo by Paul Moody*

**New Kiosk Plans**

Plans are that by midsummer a new Kiosk will be constructed just to the right of where the existing Kiosk is currently located. The new Kiosk will be accessible on all sides and will feature GRRSP information on the side facing arriving visitors. On the two ends and the back side will be educational and interpretive materials and displays. The FGRR has been asked by Susan Bulmer to take the initiative in pulling together educational and interpretive suggestions and materials for the State's review and comment. FGRR board members Sally Laughlin and Heidi Rich, both professional educators, will take this FGRR mission specific opportunity to help create unique learning experiences for visitors and staff at the GRRSP.



The design of the Kiosk is a collaboration between Milford Cushman and Kelley Osgood of the Cushman Design Group and Susan Bulmer, Parks Regional Manager of the Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation. ■

**Visit the Friends Website**  
[www.fgrrvt.org](http://www.fgrrvt.org)



**Our Mission**  
 The Friends of Green River Reservoir is a non-profit membership group. We are dedicated to educating and acting to protect the wilderness-like character and wildlife habitat of Green River Reservoir State Park while preserving its heritage and historical uses for future generations.

(Continued from previous column)

**The Amazing Life of the Eastern Newt**

Everyone knows that an amphibian is an animal that, in most cases, spends part of its lifecycle in the water and part of it on land. And, most folks that spend any amount of time in the woods around here have seen plenty of amphibians. Especially noticeable just after a spring or summer rain event is that almost ubiquitous denizen of the moist leaf litter, the bright orange Eastern Newt. Also known as the Red-spotted Newt and the Red Eft. If this particular specie's numerous monikers seems confusing, take heart, it is the only Newt found east of the Mississippi. One Newt, three names; that is the simple part of this creature's story.

Lots of people, for good reason, ask about the difference between a Newt and a Salamander. A newt, actually, is a type of salamander characterized by dry, almost rough skin during its terrestrial, or Eft stage. When you see a salamander on land and its skin is moist and shiny, it is most likely not a newt, but one of our other types of salamanders.



photo by Danielle Owczarski

Whether you are paddling on Green River Reservoir in shallow water or if you get out of your boat to walk around a bit, your chances of encountering an Eastern Newt are excellent. If you see a salamander just lazily floating in the water or swimming rapidly up from below to catch an invertebrate, it's probably an Eastern Newt in the adult stage of its lifecycle. Adults typically have an olive-brown coloration on their dorsal surface with a row of black-encircled red spots running along each side of their body. Bellies, or ventral surfaces, are yellow.

On land, the brilliantly colored juvenile Eastern Newts, or Red Efts as they are known, can be seen sauntering across the forest floor, along trails or even through your campsite. The Eastern Newts in their eft stage seem less reclusive than other salamanders as if they possess special powers to shield them from predation. And as it would be, any predator that would chance an easy meal by nabbing one of these little efts, would surely never try it again. It seems that in nature, orange is the universal sign to advertise toxicity, and the little Red Eft wears the colors with apparent confidence.

The toxic substances in the Eastern Newt's skin are not only present during its terrestrial eft stage, but also in its aquatic, Red-spotted Newt, adult stage. No wonder the Eastern Newts seem so casual hanging out several feet above a hungry Bass. They don't have a thing to worry about in terms of getting munched by fish. Many salamanders, by comparison, rely on vernal pools and other fish-free wet habitats to live out their aquatic lifecycle stage.

Amphibians, as a whole have pretty interesting lifecycles as they metamorphose from aquatic larvae into terrestrial adults. But the Eastern Newt has a pretty unique approach to lifecycles. Instead of the same old, same old hatch in the water, grow some gills,

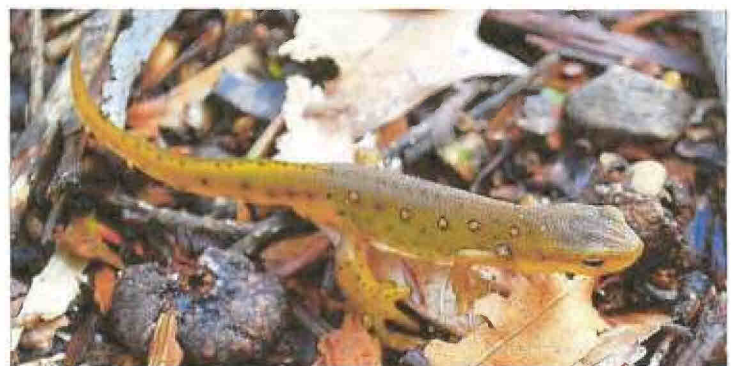
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metamorphose into a lung breather and move onto land until it's time to lay some eggs routine, the Eastern Newt adds a lifecycle stage. It begins its life as many salamanders do, as an egg deposited on submerged vegetation. Then, like so many others, after a few weeks (depending on water temperature) a larval salamander begins swimming about obtaining oxygen from its



used with permission: Jolley [www.flickr.com/photos/11501790@N02/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/11501790@N02/)

external, feathery gills. Towards late summer, a metamorphosis has transformed the gilled, aquatic salamander into a terrestrial one that breathes with lungs. Up to this point, nothing is too unusual in terms of an amphibian's lifecycle. But after about 5 to 7 years (!) as a forest dwelling juvenile, another metamorphosis occurs and the Eastern Salamander returns to the water as an olive-colored, red spotted, yellow bellied adult.



used with permission: Rick Welch [www.flickr.com/photos/thewildhare](http://www.flickr.com/photos/thewildhare)

The adults spend most of the rest of their lives in the water, sometimes leaving to migrate over land to colonize new, less crowded, bodies of water, or to find new water should the pH or temperature become unsuitable. They also hibernate on land sometimes, returning to the water come the first warm, rainy, spring night. So, the next time you're out and the Reservoir and encounter one of these tiny creatures, pause for a moment to imagine all the places it has been, the adventures it has had as it reinvented itself time and again and how many giants it has faced armed only with its reputation. ■

**Friends of Green River Reservoir's Vision of GRRSP**

Each year the Friends of Green River Reservoir (FGRR) Board reviews its vision of what Green River Reservoir State Park (GRRSP) should be like in 10 or 15 years, and what the FGRR should do to make this vision become reality.

1. GRRSP, if managed as currently planned, should be a more unique recreational experience in 10 or 15 years than it is today.
2. GRRSP should retain its sense of being a place available to local people, consistent with its legacy from pre-state ownership days.
3. The FGRR will focus on providing educational information regarding how GRRSP is understood and experienced. The FGRR may host organized, low-impact events that are aligned with its philosophy and vision.
4. The FGRR will connect our educational efforts to campers and day users as well as to local schools and colleges by providing educational materials (and perhaps financial support) for their use of GRRSP for educational purposes consistent with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation policies.
5. The FGRR will provide education on:
  - a. "Leave no trace" camping at every opportunity, including minimizing the gathering of wood for campfires.
  - b. The flora and fauna of the area, including a birding list for GRRSP.
  - c. The cultural history of the lands within GRRSP.

The FGRR Board welcomes comment on the above vision statement from any and all members. Please help us improve this vision by offering your thoughts, comments, suggestions and criticisms. The FGRR can be reached at [fgrr@powershift.com](mailto:fgrr@powershift.com), [www.fgrrvt.org](http://www.fgrrvt.org), or at PO Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655. ■

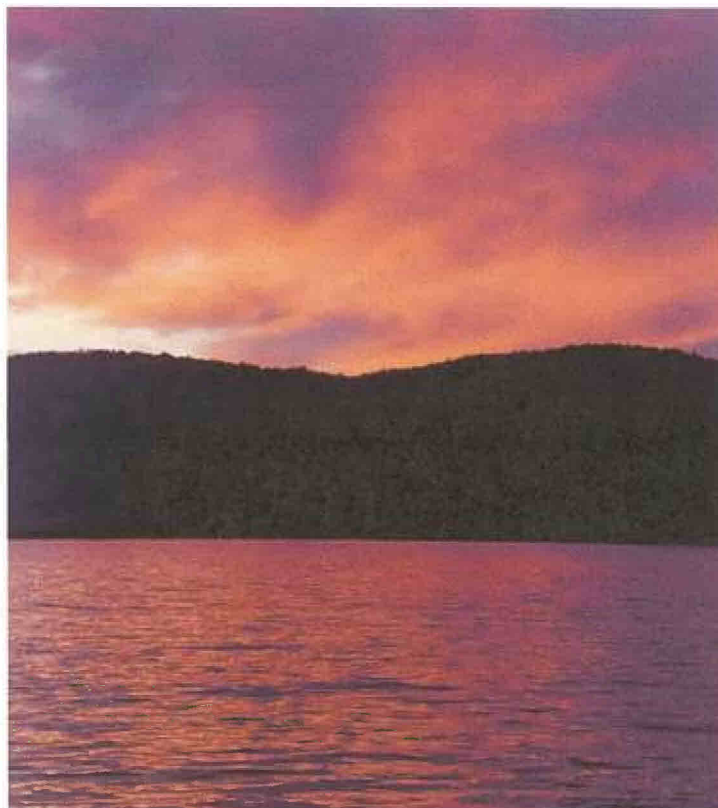


photo by Paul Moody

**GRRSP Operations - 2009 season is almost here!**



Green River Reservoir Park staff will begin taking reservations for the 2009 camping season on May 4th. Call early for your favorite campsite!!! The telephone number to call for reservations remains 802-888-1349.

Camping fees for 2009 will begin at last year's rate of \$12.00 per site and then an additional \$4.00 per person after three people up to the site capacity. Group permits are still needed for any party of eight to twelve people using the park together. There will be no day use fees for 2009. However, the FGRR has been advised that fees are likely to increase "sometime" mid-summer to \$15.00 per site with an additional \$5.00 per person after three people as part of an overall increase in the Vermont State Park System's fee structure statewide. However, if you reserve and pay before the fee increase (date unknown), you will pay at the rate in force at that time regardless of when your reservation is for.

Our understanding is that the gate at GRRSP will be unlocked in early May provided that the access road is dried out enough for vehicle traffic. There will again be a total of five rangers at the Park this year under the continued leadership of Park Ranger Jason Kelly. Most of last year's staff will be returning.

The contact station will have electricity sometime this summer from a small solar panel. Once the contact station is electrified, staff will be able to take reservations at the Park. Currently this is done from an office in Morrisville. Park staff expects to continue to install red-worm composting toilets to replace older pit facilities.

The ADA trail is now open and will be dedicated on June 20th at 10:00 AM. Please join us and bring a friend. A new informational kiosk at the access area is being planned and we hope will become a reality this summer! ■



photo by Paul Moody

Got a comment for the Friends?  
Contact us by email. [fgrr@pshift.com](mailto:fgrr@pshift.com)

# 2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Friends of Green River Reservoir Memberships run from January 1 through December 31 Each Year. Your membership is due now - Please renew!

Members of Friends of Green River State Park share enthusiasm for 'Friends' projects and provide financial support to ensure that these programs continue. Thank you for your membership support last year!

## We want update our records and get your email

The Friends would like to have your email to more efficiently inform you of our events.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Help us Grow our Membership

The Friends are continuing an effort to grow our membership to give us a larger base to call on when opportunities to protect and provide for the park arise. Please consider who you know that might be candidates for new members of the Friends. We will contact them once by post and only for this reason.

<b>Possible new members:</b>	<b>Address</b> (or at least Town)
_____	_____
_____	_____

## Yes, I will renew at:

- Noble Loon \$1000
- Patron \$500
- Associate \$100
- Sustaining \$50
- Supporting \$25
- Basic Membership \$15
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to the FGRR are tax deductible. FGRR is a 501 (c) (3) organization.



Mail to: **Friends of Green River Reservoir Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 359**  
**Hyde Park , VT 05655**

Your membership is due now - thanks!

# FGRR Merchandise



Detail of canvas Tote bag



Detail of Hat front



Detail of Hat back



Detail of T-Shirt chest

Item:	Price:	Quantity:	Total:
Waterproof GRRSP Map	\$4	_____	_____
Nature Field Guide	\$5	_____	_____
T-shirt (list quantity for each size)			
Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XLarge _____ XXLarge _____	\$20	_____	_____
Hat (one size fits all – adjustable)	\$20	_____	_____
Medium Tote (11" x 5" x 12")	\$20	_____	_____
Large Tote (14" x 7" x 14")	\$25	_____	_____
		Subtotal:	_____
		Shipping and handling:	\$3
		<b>Total:</b>	_____



Please make check to and mail order to:  
**Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 359  
 Hyde Park, VT 05655



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## Fall, 2008

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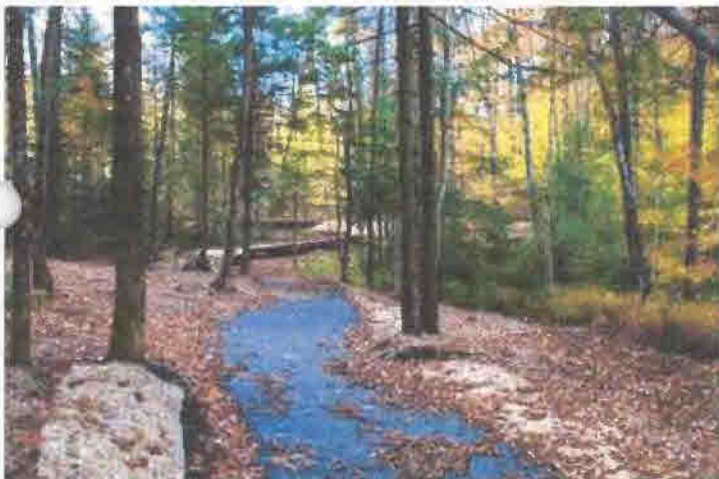
## FGRR Merchandise

Give a gift that gives on multiple levels. Not only do those who receive FGRR hats, bags, guides and shirts get a great gift, the proceeds support the Park.



## Green River Reservoir State Park ADA Trail Opens

Persons with disabilities and other park visitors now have full access to the waters of the Green River Reservoir via the recently completed trail that meanders from an ADA designated two space parking area adjacent to the existing vehicle turnaround area down to the waters' edge.



*The new ADA trail winding its way down to the water*

The trail is made from hard packed crushed ledge stone that links three low wood bridges spanning drainage sections of a Class III wetland that the trail crosses. While it will take a few years for the fern ground cover and woody under growth to re-establish itself, the recent October leaf litter has already begun to blend the edges of disturbed and un-disturbed areas along the trail.

At the water's edge is a ramp made of a porous plastic grid that is embedded in crushed ledge that creates a solid, sure footed surface for persons in wheel chairs, for persons using a walking device and for other users of the ramp. The ramp begins just above the high water line and extends into the water approximately 50 feet to accommodate the seasonal water levels of the reservoir and the depth of various watercraft.

In addition to the challenges of working along and within a Class III wetland, Scotts Construction Inc. (SCI), the general contractor from Newport, Vermont had to deal with the excessive rainfall that the area experienced during June, July and August 2008.

John Guilmette and John Roman of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Susan Bulmer, Parks Regional

*Continues on page 2*

## GRR is Number One in Loon Productivity

For 31 years territorial pairs of Common Loons have been making their presence known on Green River Reservoir with their tremolos,



yodels and haunting, wolf-like wail calls. The diverse repertoire of loon vocalizations is unspeakably beautiful and undeniably moving to those of us fortunate enough to share a body of water with this ancient avian specie. As paddlers we often find ourselves pausing mid-stroke to listen, in respectful reverie, to the enchanting calls of

*Continued on page 3*

## Contact Station Dedicated

On Saturday June 21st, the new Contact Station at the Green River Reservoir State Park was officially dedicated. In front of about 20 supporters, there were speeches by the Friends' Sally Laughlin and Milford Cushman, and by Craig Whipple and Susan Bulmer of Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation (DFPR) dedicating the Contact Station, and thanking the Friends members



## GREEN RIVER RESERVOIR STATE PARK CONTACT STATION DEDICATED 21 JUNE 2008

*With appreciation to the Friends of Green River Reservoir  
whose contributions made this building possible  
and thanks to the Vermont Dept. Forests, Parks, and Recreation.*

*A portion of the Contact Station plaque honoring the Friends*

*Continues on page 2*

ADA Trail Opens (Continued from page 1)

Manager, Jason Kelly, Ranger for the GRRSP and Milford Cushman, FGRR board member coordinated construction, engineering and design efforts with SCI throughout the duration of the construction phase of the ADA trail project.



The design phase for the ADA trail was initiated in 2000 by FGRR board member Milford Cushman who worked collaboratively with Susan Bulmer, Parks Regional Manager, Ann Holmblad, ADA & Employment Coordinator, Morrisville Water & Light, and Cleary Buckley, AIA and a person with disabilities who paddles a kayak on the GRR to create impetus for the design, permitting and construction of the trail. The project is another example of how the FGRR have actively participated and engaged with Vermont Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation to enhance the quality of preservation, management and experiences for visitors and staff at the GRRSP.

The short-term plan is to convert two of the existing campsites on the reservoir to be assessable in a similar way that the ADA trail now provides. This work may happen during the 2009 or 2010 operating seasons.

Next Spring, the FGRR, DFP&R and Morrisville Water & Light will jointly announce a public dedication to celebrate the completion of this phase of the ADA trail and to acknowledge the collaboration among the many participants in the design, permitting and construction phases of the ADA trail. Please watch for details in the local media and on the FGRR web site.



Contact Station (Continued from page 1)

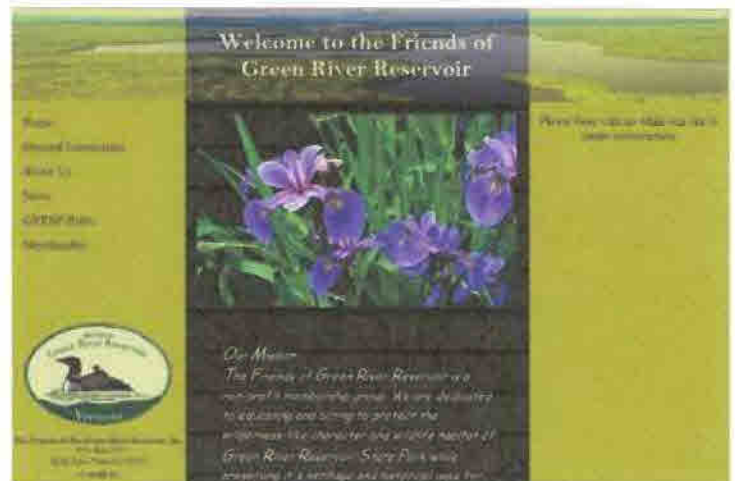
for the tremendous support that made the station possible. Craig in particular pointed out the unique relationship between DFPR and the Friends as a new model for supporting parks in ways that only concerned local groups can.



Craig Whipple (left), Susan Bulmer (far right), along with Rangers Jason, Jillian, Charlot, Luke and Dan, showing their appreciation for the new Contact Station.

The Friends of Green River Reservoir website

Our new website is up and running. Take a moment to go to [www.fgrrvt.org](http://www.fgrrvt.org) and browse through the information. The first things you will notice, when you get to the home page, are the beautiful pictures. These pictures change each time you go to the site (or "refresh" the home page). These pictures were taken by Danielle Owczarski during the summer of 2006. Danielle, a Johnson College Environmental Studies student, worked as an intern for the Friends to develop the Interpretive Natural Field Guide of the Green Reservoir State Park.



Home page of [www.fgrrvt.org](http://www.fgrrvt.org) - the Friend's new website

Continues on page 3.



*Loon Productivity (Continued from page 2)*

these elegantly plumaged birds that only a short time ago were all but extirpated from Vermont.

Fortunately, due in large part to the efforts of Eric Hanson of the Vermont Loon Recovery Project, Common Loons have made a strong come-back. There are now numerous lakes and ponds around the State that host nesting pairs of loons each season, many of them producing one or two chicks during most years. This level of consistent reproductive success over a number of years has helped loon populations recover to the point of being taken off of Vermont's Endangered Species List. Noteworthy among these bodies of water hospitable to nesting loons and their vulnerable young is Green River Reservoir.

In 1978 a pair of Common Loons established a territory on the Reservoir, nested and hatched one chick. For the next fifteen years, GRR was home to nesting loons. During all but three of those years, there was a successful nesting attempt and the loons hatched out one or two chicks. 1994 presented the only year since



1978 that had no loons establish a nesting territory on the Reservoir. In 1995 loons reestablished themselves and have been nesting and raising young there ever since. However, the nesting attempts of five of these past thirteen years were not successful and no chicks were hatched. This past summer two pairs nested on the Reservoir, neither of them were successful though, with the nest at the South Eastern end of the Reservoir being abandoned while the nest to the North was flooded out.

Despite the number of nesting failures that have occurred on Green River Reservoir, it still holds the distinction of yielding the highest number of loon chicks for any body of water in Vermont since 1978. Since loon populations have been monitored in the state, Green River Reservoir has seen 34 Common Loon chicks hatch out. A few other lakes and ponds that have hosted nesting loons for as long or almost as long as GRR come close to this impressive number, but as far as loon productivity in the state of Vermont, GRR is number one! Hopefully, next summer's weather will provide conditions suitable to successful loon nesting and the Reservoir will continue to be a landmark location for loons to raise and fledge their young.

(For more information on Common Loons and the Vermont Loon Recovery Project and to listen to loon vocalizations, visit [www.vtcostudies.org/loons](http://www.vtcostudies.org/loons).)

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**Permit Activity in GRR Viewshed Overlay District**

It has been 3 years since the Hyde Park Selectboard voted unanimously in support of the Hyde Park Planning Commission's proposal to create the Green River Reservoir Viewshed Protection Overlay District (GRRVOD).



On November 4, 2008, The Cushman Design Group represented by Milford Cushman, a FGRR founding Board member and Andrew Volanski, AIA will be presenting to the Hyde Park Development Review Board the first significant GRRVOD project seeking a zoning permit to construct a residence and garage on one of the upper Kusserow Sub-division Lots overlooking the west side of the reservoir. They will provide public testimony with supporting graphic documentation as to how the proposed residential development will comply with the GRRVOD by-laws and thereby set an excellent example of how the GRRVOD by-laws work for both the landowner and the protection of the viewshed.

The presentation will include site plans, viewshed analysis plans, sections and photographs from off site and from on site, a colored rendering of the proposed residence indicating the muted roofing material and color, siding color and trim color selected to minimize off site visibility. In addition, the presentation will include typical submittals as required for an application for a zoning permit.

*FGRR Website (Continued from page 2)*

This Field Guide, along with other merchandise are available to order from the Friends. Information will be made available via clicking the "Merchandise" tab on the home page.

"General Information" describes the park, its surroundings, and the wildlife. "About Us" has pictures of each board member, along with their biographies, as well as describes the mission of the Friends.

"GRRSP" rules are to let park users know what the rules are, and how to use the area in such a way that it will continue to be remain beautiful for generations to come.

While the website is not yet fully functional, the "Merchandise" and "News" sections still need to be developed, the Friends hopes that it provides helpful information for those who are interested in the Friends and the Green River Reservoir State Park. The Friends would like to thank Kelly Osgood for his hard work in putting the site together.



ADA Trail Opens (Continued from page 1)

Contact Station Dedicated (Continued from page 1)

**Green River Reservoir State Park 2008 season**

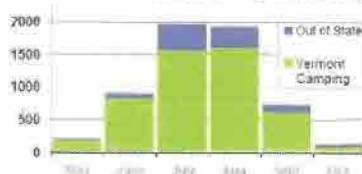
As we have for many years now, the FGRR Board hopes to meet with Susan Bulmer, District Park's Manager and Jason Kelly, GRRSP Park Ranger to review how the recently concluded park season has gone and to compare notes about the future. We very much appreciate and value this opportunity to partner with and communicate directly with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

The Department of Forests Parks and Recreation successfully completed their zoning permit review meeting with the Hyde Park Development Review Board the beginning of September. Next year's review date is September 1, 2009 and there will be a boat tour of some of the campsites and new composting toilets. This is an annual meeting between GRRSP officials and the local zoning officials.

In addition to their many on-going duties, see article entitled "A Day in the Life of GRRSP's Staff", the Park staff assisted with site work for the new Contact Station and the ADA Trail. In addition they added two more composting toilets in an on-going program to replace all pit toilets. The entire Park Staff meet with the FGRR Board at the beginning of the 2008 season and attended our Annual Meeting in July.

GRRSP had an overall camping occupancy rate approaching 50% in 2008 and was full on most weekends during July through early September. The total number of campers in 2008, though down slightly due to an unusually rainy summer, was nearly 6000 with a similar number of recorded day users. The camping usage is based on actual usage while day use levels is based on park staff tallying when present at the contact station and voluntary sign-ins at the access area. We strongly encourage our members to record their day use to help with better long-term management decision-making.

*In vs. Out of State Camping (2008)*



**Preliminary Figures for 2008 (incl October reservations thru 9/30/08)**

Month	Camping		Day Use	
	In State	Out of State	In State	Out of State
May	170	33	183	57
June	805	101	994	182
July	1535	418	1294	309
August	1590	320	1302	364
September	609	130	692	79
October	81	34	0	0
Totals	4790	1036	4465	991

Usage of GRRSP in 2008 was consistent with the long-term pattern over the past 5 years. About 80% of the campers and day users are Vermonters and about 20% are from out-of-state. GRRSP Camping Data Last Five Years

Year	In State	Out of State	Total
2008	4790	1036	5826
2007	5016	886	5902
2006	4612	947	5559
2005	4833	966	5799
2004	4793	1145	5938

Working collaboratively the FGRR and the Department jointly updated the GRRSP map for the 2008 season. This map, which contains information about the Park, the Friends, and leave no trace camping is now provided gratis to each camping party.

The FGRR and the 2009 GRRSP staff plan on meeting again early in the 2009 operating season.

**As the Reservoir Turns**

Observations and insights from the 2008 season by the GRRSP park rangers.

**The Camper who learned the most:** This guy has learned two very important lessons at the reservoir.

- 1: Always wear your lifejacket when boating while intoxicated.
- 2: Tie up your canoe before bed, or it may float over the dam.

**Most popular question this Season:** What's going on down by the boat launch?

**Second most popular question:** Is this the way to the reservoir?

**Worse camper behavior:** After camping for the weekend the camper asked if we had a dumpster. We told him no, he had to take it with him. The next day we found a huge bag of garbage in the middle of the campsite.

**As good as blind:** We placed a new warning sign on the bridge to keep people out because of bird nesting. Moments later, we were checking to see if there were indeed any bird's nest, when a visitor floated right by. We asked if he had seen the sign and he said "no". We knew this wasn't the truth, though, because he had to duck his head to avoid it!

**Most annoying visitor behavior:** BAD PARKING!!!!!! People will park directly in front of the "no parking" sign. They will park horizontally, taking up three. They will park just right so that there is lots of space but not enough for another vehicle. They drive by a huge, empty upper lot, and a sign that says "parking", but can't find a spot.

**Most high-tech Camper:** This camper didn't need a map of the campsites. He had all he needed to find #14, a GPS and a Topo map. After visiting the southern end and talking to a local, we caught up with him. He had paddled for two hours and was still forty five minutes away from his site. It should have taken an hour!

**One Trip is better than two:** Camper's want to get there ASAP. This causes them to overload their canoes, and perhaps take an unexpected swim.

**Maintain your boat:** One couple was loaded and heading out to their site, when their canoe seat snapped. This caused weight to shift, and sure enough the canoe went right over. Make sure you drag your boat from the car, to the water.

**First Timers:** One guy came with a truck load of stuff and had no idea he had to boat it all out. First timers also have some great questions. "Can I get cell service out there?" "Is there a fire ring, picnic table, lean-to?" "Where's the dumpster?" "Do you sleep in there?" (The 12x12 contact station).



Sunlit ferns reflect on the water as an early fall leaf floats by

**A Day in the Life of GRRSP's Staff**

By Jason Kelly, Chief Ranger at GRRSP since 2001



The new contact station, dedicated this summer, has been a wonderful improvement for the staff. As of the end of the season we still do not have power, though. This means, among other things, that we have to keep a separate office in town to make reservations and print out receipts. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday the Ranger can be found toiling away the mornings in front of the computer with a phone on one ear.

Next up is cleaning and upkeep. After the contact station has been opened for business, we walk the grounds picking up litter and other refuse. This summer we found bathing suits, paddles, lifejackets, fishing poles, sunglasses, and many other items. We also keep a large map at the boat launch updated daily. This lets our campers know which sites are reserved. Next, we load up the canoes with supplies and head out to the campsites.



The campsites need limited upkeep, as most campers are very respectful of our "carry in, carry out" policy. The most popular things left behind are clotheslines and nails in living trees. We also clean and rebuild the fire pits as needed.

Some of our most challenging and unpleasant work involves the pit toilets. We scrub the toilets, just like you would at home, with an environmentally safe cleaner. Also, every couple of weeks we have

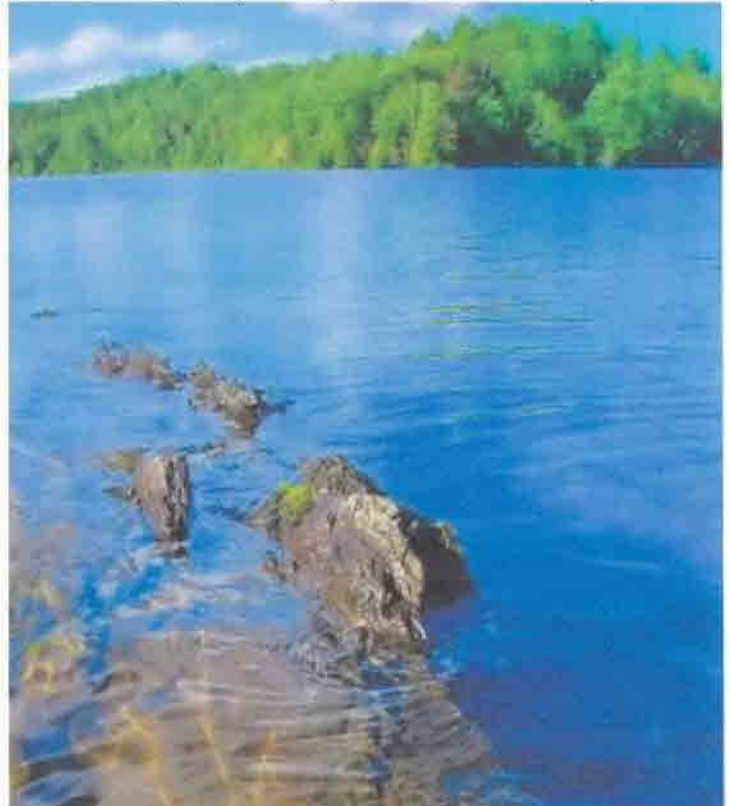
*Continues next column*

*A Day in the Life (Continued from previous column)*

to put a dry based bio-product into the pit. This product contains microorganism, enzyme systems, and nutrients that accelerate the break down of waste. Even with the bio-product some toilets still reach maximum capacity and must be manually pumped. This happens to about five toilets annually.

In efforts to reduce the time spent pumping pit toilets, we have started to build "red-worm toilets". These are also known as composting toilets, but are above ground and utilize red worms to naturally breakdown solid waste. Due to being above ground odor is reduced and degradation is quicker. The only maintenance is adding the worms and cleaning the seat.

While we're out, every five days we collect water samples for the



Lay Monitoring program. This state program keeps track of chlorophyll, phosphorus, and general water quality levels of many bodies of water in Vermont. This volunteer position has been filled by Reservoir staff for many years.

Last but not least, our greatest job is to communicate with, and inform our visitors. Day use is free here, but we do keep track of the number of visitors. We check-in campers, and answer their plethora of questions. We also hand out maps and Friends of Green River Reservoir brochures. On busy weekends we work traffic duty. If the parking lots are full, the Reservoir is at its carrying capacity. This means we have to stop any vehicles from entering until someone leaves.

If users of GRRSP have any suggestions for how the Park Staff can improve your experience or better serve your needs at Vermont's wilderness-like state park, please let us or the FGRR know.

Got a comment for the Friends?  
Contact us by email: [fgrr@pshift.com](mailto:fgrr@pshift.com)

# FGRR Merchandise



Detail of canvas Tote bag



Detail of Hat front



Detail of Hat back



Detail of T-Shirt chest

Items:	Price:	Quantity:	Total:
<b>Waterproof GRRSP Map</b>	\$4	_____	_____
<b>Nature Field Guide</b>	\$5	_____	_____
<b>T-shirt</b> (list quantity for each size)			
Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XLarge _____	\$20	_____	_____
<b>Hat</b> (one size fits all – adjustable)	\$20	_____	_____
<b>Medium Tote</b> (11" x 5" x 12")	\$20	_____	_____
<b>Large Tote</b> (14" x 7" x 14")	\$25	_____	_____
		Subtotal:	_____
		Shipping and handling:	\$3
		<b>Total:</b>	_____



Please make check or mail-order to:  
**Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 359  
 Hyde Park, VT 05655



Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.  
 PO Box 339, Hyde Park, VT 05655  
 Email: fgrr@pahift.com

Board of Directors: Sally Laughlin, President (644-5651), Milford Cushman, Vice President (888-3362), Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591), Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365), Dave Hallquist (888-6877), Heidi Rich (851-1268), Danielle Owczarski (413-652-4946), Emma Marvin (888-9339)

## The Dedication of the ADA Trail at GRRSP

On Saturday, June 20, 2009, fifteen folks and GRRSP staff gathered at the GRRSP to dedicate the opening of the universal access trail. Ann Holmblad, ADA & Employment Coordinator was joined by Susan Bulmer, Parks Regional Manager, Susan Bartlett, Lamoille County Senator, Floyd Nease, Lamoille County Representative and Milford Cushman, FGRR board member for the ribbon cutting at the trail head.

It is very satisfying that persons with disabilities and other park visitors now have full access to the waters of the Green River Reservoir via the completed trail that meanders from an ADA designated two space parking area adjacent to the existing vehicle turnaround area down to the waters' edge.

The trail is made from hard packed crushed ledge stone that

*(Continued on page 3)*



Anne Holmblad taking a spin down the trail.

## Green River Reservoir Steward Spotlight: Peter Krusch

Next time you are at the loading area carefully removing your boat from your car, you may recognize a man of tall stature and calloused hands emptying his Volkswagen bus for a week of solitude on the water. Peter Krusch is a man of many talents and trades: soldier, farmer, government worker, teacher, associate director of the Peace Corp,

ski patroller, and iron worker. He first became aware of Green River Reservoir while examining a map in 1959 noticing a large body of water he had a yearning to find. After the usual couple attempts of trying to find the road and navigating through the deep potholes on its ungraded surface, Peter parked his rusted station wagon by the dam and

made his way to a first encounter with the reservoir. He was, like most of us, very pleased with his discovery and visits the park regularly for its quiet beauty and unlimited panoramic views of the forest. Initially, when Peter paddled on the reservoir, the water was drawn down in the late summer about 15 feet by Morrisville

*(Continued on page 2)*

## 2009 Fall Newsletter

11/24/2009

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## FGRR Merchandise

Give a gift that gives on multiple levels. Not only do those who receive FGRR hats, bags, guides and shirts get a great gift, the proceeds support the park.



## Peter Krusch cont.

(Continued from page 1)

**Water and Light.** As a result of the low water level, he could discern algae soaked historic stone-walls through the morphing sky reflections on the surface while floating along. In the north, past the bridge to the marsh, he could see oxidized barbed wire and rotting wooden fence posts; all of which were signs of times past. Stumps from old logging areas were easily spotted and the reservoir was in its youthful stage, not yet fully developed into the body of water we know today.

I asked Peter what camping was like in the early years of the area and he responded by saying that "the campsites were mostly the same. Blueberry Island had an assortment of vegetation compared to today and was a favorite campsite before the conditions deteriorated." With a mischievous

smirk he spoke to me of a memorable camping incident. "We were camping on the island in the north beyond the large (island) with the picnic sites. The wind came along and blew our tent into the water. We had to swim out (in the water) to get the tent back!" Peter gathered up his soaked tent and disheveled breakfast and spent the rest of the morning drip drying. The reservoir is never without its share of events and happenings which are part of its truly distinctive character.

As the years passed, Peter noticed the damaging effects and degradation of the reservoir and camping sites caused by overuse, lack of management, and uninformed campers and day users leaving behind trash and personal belongings. Eventually because of public awareness and volunteerism, things changed for the better. Morrisville Water and Light stopped drawing the water down for the

health of the loon population and the State of VT began to manage the park. Peter believes not much has changed at the park since he first discovered it years ago. He likes the limited number of people allowed in the park which keeps the intimate nature alive, he likes the gravel by the launch instead of the old mud hole that used to be there and the more car friendly parking spaces. One of his favorite parts about the reservoir is its sinuous nature and ability to keep everyone hidden enabling him to feel like he is only one of a few paddlers out for the day on a busy afternoon. Whether its mistaking a moose for a beaver or watching the large graceful animal swim to the mainland from an island, he is able to enjoy the many aspects of the park thanks to the people who are committed to keeping it the same, but working to make it better.

## Red Worms: Working for You

Campers may have noticed something different on some of the sites this year. The Green River Reservoir State Park staff, have been replacing the pits toilets with new Red Worm Composting toilets.

The **pit toilets**, existing at most of the sites, consist of a barrel buried underground. With the addition of microorganisms the waste is very slowly composted. The downfalls of this system include extensive maintenance, unpleasant odor, and limited cleanliness. Once a week staff must add the microorganisms by mixing a dry product, called SST-850, with water and add it to the barrel. Most seasons, staff must also pump waste that has not composted quickly enough. This is not a glamorous job. In order to pump the waste, approved disposal containers must be boated to the site. Then a diaphragm pump is used to move waste from the toilet to the container. Staff must closely watch this process as there are opportunities for error. The waste is then boated back to the boat launch to be taken away by a local waste management company. This process is time consuming and costly. Staff can only pump an average of three toilets a day, and must rent all equipment needed for this process.

The **Red Worm toilets** are constructed out of pressure treated lumber. This lumber is purchased at the local hardware store. They also deliver it to the park at no extra cost. Once the lumber is in our parking lot, we use a generator to cut the lumber to desired lengths. After constructing multiple toilets, we have figured out the most efficient ways to build them. We have eliminated the trans-

*"Many seasons, staff must also pump waste that has not composted quickly enough. This is not a glamorous job."*

port of the generator to the actual site. The staff constructs the ends of the toilets in the parking lot. All the needed lumber and ends are loaded into an old row boat. This boat is then pulled behind a four stroke motor boat to the site where the toilet is going to be constructed. The two ends are then placed into the ground two feet. They are squared and leveled; the rest of the toilet is constructed fairly quickly. The toilet is designed to have two separate compartments, giving the ability to slide the toilet to a new opening when one side fills. The only equipment needed to do this is our hands. We pull up the middle decking and flip it to the other end, and the stairs need to be moved to the

other end also. The new Red Worm toilets that were constructed this season do not



require pumping as they compost faster. Also, the actual toilet seat is raised above the ground on top of a wood platform. This allows

for there to be no dirt splatter on the toilet, and as a result of the extensive amount of air flow, the toilet does not smell. The toilets need to be cleaned on a regular basis and need to receive new red worms every season due to the winter temperatures. The red worms are currently being cultivated at Seyon Lodge State Park. The rangers use their food waste from the small restaurant at the Lodge. This is a great way to eliminate the food waste and eliminate the cost of purchasing worms annually.

ADA Dedication cont.

*(Continued from page 1)*

links three low wood bridges spanning drainage sections of a Class III wetland the trail crosses. While it will take a few years for the fern ground cover and woody under growth to re-establish itself, the recent October leaf litter has already begun to blend the edges of disturbed and undisturbed areas along the trail.

At the water's edge is a ramp made of a porous plastic grid that is embedded in crushed ledge that creates a solid, sure footed surface for persons in wheel chairs, for persons using a walking device and for other users of the ramp. The ramp begins just above the high water line and extends into the water approximately 50 feet to accommodate the seasonal water levels of the reservoir and the depth of various watercrafts.

Susan Bulmer, Parks Regional Manager, John Guilmette and John Roman of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Jason Kelly, Ranger for the GRRSP, Craig Myotte of Morrisville Water & Light and Milford Cushman, FGRR board member, coordinated design, engineering, permitting and construction efforts throughout the nine year duration of the implementation the ADA trail.

This project is another example of how the FGRR have actively participated and collaborated with Vermont Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation to enhance the quality of

preservation, management and experience for visitors and staff at the GRRSP.

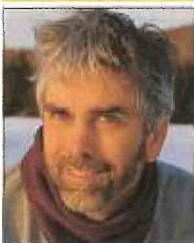
The short-term plan is to convert two of the existing campsites on the reservoir to be accessible in a similar way that the ADA trail now provides. This work may happen during the 2010 or 2011 operating seasons. All users of the GRRSP are invited to use the universal trail which, due to design features, reduces

the impact of foot traffic and erosion particularly at the water's edge.



The ribbon cutting ceremony. From left to right: Milford Cushman, Susan Bartlett, Anne Holmblad, Floyd Nease, and Susan Bulmer. Photo by Jim Deshler/DeshlerPhotography

The Friends of Green River Reservoir Say Farewell to Paul Moody



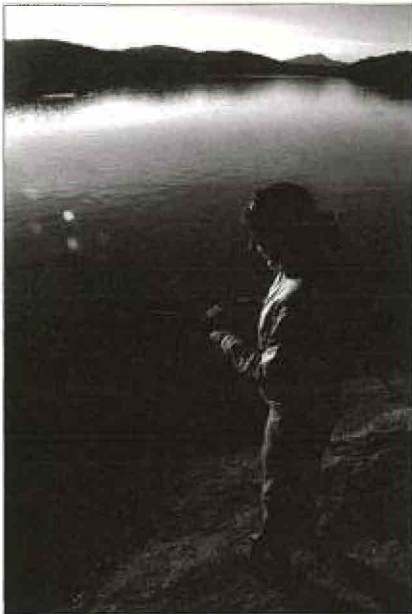
The FGRR Board has accepted the resignation of Paul Moody from the Board of Directors effective July of this year. Paul, a Hyde Park resident and frequent kayak paddler, joined the Board in the fall of 2004. Upon joining the Board, he became the chair of the communications committee and the editor of the FGRR newsletter establishing a new image and format and setting the standards for the quality of the publication.

While a member of the Board he worked to help produce the pictorial and educational materials the FGRR used to assist the Town of Hyde Park in creating the Green River Reservoir Viewshed Overlay District. Paul regularly contributed his photographic, graphic arts and communication expertise as a way to express his care for the Green River Reservoir and the mission of the Friends. He helped and guided Danielle Owczarski, when she was a summer ranger, publish, in conjunction with the FGRR, her Nature Field Guide.

We thank you, Paul, for your 4 1/2 years of dedication and contribution to the Board and we look forward crossing paths with you along the way.

The Board of the FGRR is now seeking to interview interested candidates to serve on the Board. We are a hard working, dedicated group that meets monthly through-out the year to serve the best interests of the Green River Reservoir. If you, or if you know of anyone who might be interested, please call Sally at 802-644-5651, Milford at 802-888-3362 (home) or 802-253-2169 (work) or Bill at 802-888-5591 to discuss the opportunities.

FGRR Board News



The Friends of Green River Reservoir welcomes Emma Marvin to the Board. Emma has a degree in environmental policy, has lived in Lamoille County all her life, works in the family business Butternut Mountain Farm, and she and her husband have two young children. With her commitment to the conservation of Vermont's special places and the sustainable use of our working landscape, she is an outstanding addition to the Board. Welcome, Emma!

At the FGRR annual meeting on 9 July 2009, members reelected Sally Laughlin and Dave Hallquist and elected Danielle Owczarski to three-year terms on the FGRR Board of Directors. Board members with continuing terms are Milford Cushman, Bill Bartlett, Terri Gregory, and Mike Wickenden. Warm thanks were expressed to Paul Moody for his

many contributions to the FGRR over many years as a Board member, especially for his expert help in planning and laying out our newsletter.

The bylaws were amended (full details are on the FGRR website). Besides generally updating and organizing, the major changes are the number of Board members, which is now to be no less than five or more than 11, notification of meetings can be by e-mail, and the membership and fiscal year is now the calendar year.

If any member is interested in more information on serving on the Board, please contact either Sally Laughlin at [laughlin@sover.net](mailto:laughlin@sover.net) or Bill Bartlett at [pairfarmbb@comcast.net](mailto:pairfarmbb@comcast.net).

2009 Season Wrap Up

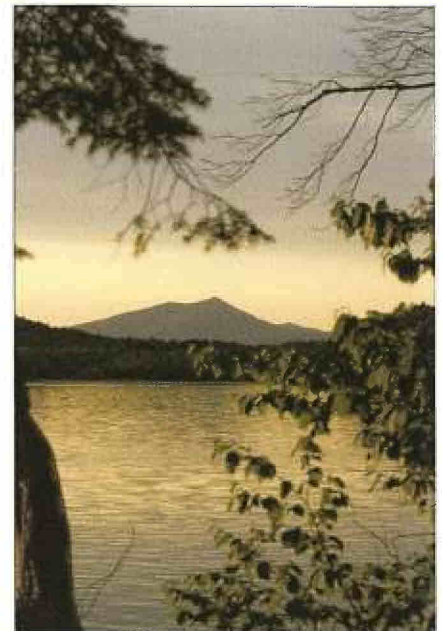
Written by Bill Bartlett

As we have for many years now, the FGRR Board met recently with Susan Bulmer, District Park's Manager to review how the recently concluded park season has gone and to compare notes about the future. We very much appreciate and value this opportunity to communicate directly with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation successfully completed their annual zoning permit review meeting with the Hyde Park Development Review Board in the beginning of September. This is an annual meeting between GRRSP officials and the local zoning officials.

In addition to their many on-going duties, the Park staff assisted with site work in preparation for the dedication of the Universally Accessible Trail in June. In addition they added six more red worm-composting toilets (see related article) in an on-going program to replace all pit toilets. The entire Park Staff met with the FGRR Board at the beginning of the 2009 season; a meeting we plan to continue in 2010. In the fall, a new informational kiosk was built near the site of the old kiosk as a result of state capital money that Vermont State Parks received this past legislative session.

Day use at the Park declined somewhat in 2009 but camping increased. It is assumed that this could be primarily from the wet weather in June and July this past summer. Below are the statistics from the past three years. As a long term average, over 80% of the Park's campers and day users are from Vermont.



Year	Campers	Day Use	Total Users
2007	5906	6496	12,402
2008	5975	5993	11,968
2009	6416	4419	10,835



### Green River Reservoir Fisheries

There is always talk among the fishermen at Green River Reservoir about what type of fish they have caught; "Could it be a northern pike? No, I don't believe there are any in this reservoir; maybe it was a chain pickerel." Well it is hard to say what is not in the reservoir since the only fisheries survey completed by the state was produced in 1977. Before the area was flooded in 1946, it is assumed that wild trout filled the many streams and ponds littered across the Green River landscape. The fish survey conducted in 1977 put Green River Reservoir in the warm waters fishery group. Fish reportedly found in the survey were the chain pickerel (*Esox niger*), golden shiner (*Noemigonus crysoleucas*), white sucker (*Catostomus commersoni*), brown bullhead (*Ictalurus nebulosus*) otherwise known as

the northern catfish, pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*), and yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*). Conditions for most of these fish to spawn are adequate at the reservoir and despite the lack of habitat for chain pickerel they seem to be thriving. So..... are there northern pike? The answer is yes. Refer the photo to the right of the passage. They are here, but how they got here is abstruse.

Year	Fish	Number Stocked
1972	Brook Trout Fry	5000
1973	Brook Trout Fry	30,000
1978	5-11" Smallmouth	300
1979	1" Smallmouth	140,000



Catch and release.

### Conservation of Zach Woods Pond Area



There is an effort underway to conserve lands around Zack Woods Pond and nearby ponds and wetland complexes by a new organization known as the Friends of Zack Woods Pond. Through their efforts a Forest Legacy Grant application was submitted by the Trust for Public Lands to the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

last September. Forest Legacy, a federal program, is the same funding source that helped purchase Green River Reservoir State Park over 10 years ago. The Zack Woods Pond application was approved at the state level last fall and will be reviewed at the federal level in January or February 2010. More news on this next spring.



### The New Kiosk timber frame is in place

The new Kiosk timber frame is in now in place. Tell Gregory, the contractor who also built the Contact Station, poured the six sona tube foundation in early October and lifted the timber frame into place on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The new Kiosk will be accessible on all sides and will feature GRRSP information on the sides facing arriving visitors. On the reservoir end and the back side will be educational, interpretive materials and displays along with information about the mission and work of the FGRR.

The FGRR has been asked by Susan Bulmer to take the initiative in pulling together educational and interpretive suggestions and materials for the State's review and comment during this coming winter. FGRR board members Sally Laughlin and Heidi Rich, both professional educators, will take this FGRR mission specific opportunity to help create unique learning experiences for visitors and staff at the GRRSP.

The design of the Kiosk is collaboration between Milford Cushman and Kelley Osgood



of the Cushman Design Group and Susan Bulmer, Parks Regional Manager of the Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation.

Visit us on the web:  
[www.fgrr.org](http://www.fgrr.org)

## Our Mission

The Friends of Green River Reservoir are dedicated to educating and acting to protect the wilderness-like character and wildlife habitat of Green River Reservoir State Park while preserving its heritage and historical uses for future generations.



Detail of canvas Tote bag



Detail of Hat front



Detail of Hat back



Detail of T-Shirt chest

Items:	Price:	Quantity:	Total:
<b>Waterproof GRRSP Map</b>	\$4	_____	_____
<b>Nature Field Guide</b>	\$5	_____	_____
<b>T-shirt</b> (list quantity for each size) Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XLarge _____ XXLarge _____	\$20	_____	_____
<b>Hat</b> (one size fits all - adjustable)	\$20	_____	_____
<b>Medium Tote</b> (11" x 5" x 12")	\$20	_____	_____
<b>Large Tote</b> (14" x 7" x 14")	\$25	_____	_____
		Subtotal:	_____
		Shipping and handling:	\$3
		<b>Total:</b>	_____



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 P.O. Box 359  
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Let your  
 gift be both  
 special and  
 sustainable!



# Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.

PO Box 559, Hyde Park, VT 05653

Email: fgrr@psift.com

Board of Directors: Sally Laughlin, President (644-5651); Milford Cushman, Vice President (888-3362); Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591); Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365); Terri Gregory (888-3362); Dave Hallquist (888-6877); Ron Kelley (888-7466); Emma Marvin (888-9339); Danielle Owczarski (413-652-4946).

## Camping and Paddling Etiquette

— Behaving in a Way of Mindfulness

Why an article about camping and paddling etiquette and why a reference to mindfulness?

The Green River Reservoir (GRR) has been described by many as a jewel, as a sacred place, as a place to experience a bit of wildness and as a place that provides personal refuge and peacefulness. Green River Reservoir has also been under significant pressure from being over loved and over visited. Most importantly, I mean to include all the critters, plants, aquatic, upland and ridge top eco-systems that call GRR their home. The diversity, strength and fragility of the birds, mammals, amphibians, insects, fish, woody and non-woody plants, wetlands, and woodlands constitute the fabric of wildness that we, the true visitors, are attracted to for recreational and spiritual meaning and experiences in our lives.



Jason Kelley

Some visitors approach a visit to the Green River Reservoir State Park with an idea or expectation of how their experience might be if they chose to paddle or camp early or late in the season when there are fewer visitors or very early in the morning when most visitors are still asleep. Other visitors are simply unaware of the impact of their behavior or activities, regardless of when they visit the Park.

This, then, is the goal of this article; a bit of education to be shared among all the folks who are visitors to the Reservoir. Each of us, if we are mindful and thoughtful or if we improve some of our camping and paddling techniques, can assist with the preservation of the wild-like experience for ourselves and for each other. Take personal responsibility for the preservation of the character of the Reservoir by reminding others of how their inconsiderate activities or behavior are affecting your experience and all the inhabitants of GRR. It may also be true that when we reduce our impact on the eco-systems of the Reservoir, the wildlife around us will become more apparent to us.

(Continued on page 3)

## 2010 Spring Newsletter

05/15/2010

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### FGRR Merchandise

Give a gift that gives on multiple levels. Not only do those who receive FGRR hats, bags, guides and shirts get a great gift, the proceeds support the park.



### The FGRR Annual Membership Meeting

7/8/2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vermont Maple Sugar Company, Morrisville

All members are invited to attend - to hear annual reports, elect board members, and make minor revisions to the bylaws (clarifying terms).

Full details on the website after June 5.



### It's That Time of Year Again

Annual membership renewal - 2010 renewal form enclosed!

Thanks for your past support! Memberships run for the calendar year - please renew now!

Check if you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically!

See page 6 for details

### FGRR Vision Statement - 2010 Revision

Each year the Friends of Green River Reservoir (FGRR) Board reviews its vision of what Green River Reservoir State Park (GRRSP) should be like in 10 or 15 years, and what the FGRR should do to make this vision become reality.

**Our Mission:** We are dedicated to protecting the wilderness-like character and wildlife habitat of GRRSP while preserving its heritage and historical uses for future generations.

**Vision of Green River Reservoir State Park:** GRRSP will continue to offer a unique wilderness-like recreational experience.

Friends of Green River Reservoir will accomplish this by providing:

+Educational information regarding how GRRSP

is understood and experienced, including:

- ◆ "Leave no trace," which includes minimizing the gathering of wood for campfires.
- ◆ The flora and fauna of the area, including a birding list for GRRSP.
- ◆ The cultural history of the lands within or adjacent to GRRSP.
- ◆ Other topics relevant to our mission.

+Support to research related to the ecology, history, health and sustainability of the Green River Reservoir watershed.

+Expertise and resources to further protection of areas within and adjacent to GRRSP that are of geological, ecological, biological interest or are

of a sensitive nature.

+Support for continued affordable access to GRRSP for local residents.

+Financial support to the Department of Forests and Parks to bring about projects that further the FGRR Vision of GRRSP.

*This document is shared with FGRR members through the newsletter and the website; comments are welcome. FGRR Board welcome comment on the above vision statement from any and all members. Please help us improve this vision by offering your thoughts, comments, suggestions and criticisms. All are welcome!*

The FGRR can be reached at [fgrr@pshift.com](mailto:fgrr@pshift.com). or at PO Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655.

### What in the World is Myrmecochory?



While you may call it bethroot, stinking Benjamin, or purple trillium, an ant calls it lunch.

When I think about ants, I generally associate them with their ability to be in the places I want them the least: in my kitchen, at my campsite, or crawling along my leg as I lay in the warm sun trying to achieve some level of peace. But when I look deeper past my own needs and comfort I see a species that forms a mutualistic (equally beneficial) relationship with some of the most beautiful spring wildflowers in the northeastern temperate forest. Without these "pesky" ants, I might not be able to view the trilliums (red and painted), jack in the pulpits, trout lilies, Dutchman's breeches, bloodroot, and a myriad of others.

The farmer is the role the ant plays in this advantageous relationship. The six-legged insect takes the ripe fleshy seed the plant eventually drops on the forest floor and transports it to the colony nest. A thick fatty appendage called an elaiosome is located on the tip of the fleshy seed and is a tasty and nutritious treat for the ants and their larvae. This method of seed dispersal aided by the ant "farmers" is called myrmecochory (pronounced myrrh-ma-coe-curry). Once the ants have feasted on the lipid and protein rich appendage they drop the seed in their refuse pile which acts as healthy compost to aid the seed in growth. The ant unknowingly protects the seed from small mammals such as mice and squirrels, while providing it with a safe and appropriate place to germinate.



The seeds of Dutchman's breeches are a favorite nutritional treat for many types of ants.

Next time you are walking in the forest at GRRSP or paddling along the shoreline admiring the spring wildflowers remember to thank our friends the ants!



Jim Deshler  
Canada mayflower is one of over 3000 plants that benefits from myrmecochory.

#### Fun for Kids Provided by You!

Be sure to ask for an "I Spy" kit next time you head out on the water with your children at GRRSP. The "I Spy" kit, designed by Jillian Hallquist as part of a college project, provide kids with hours of exploration. Each free kit contains a magnifying glass and a list of objects – inanimate and alive– to search for on your camping or day trip out on the reservoir.

## Camping and Paddling Etiquette – Behaving in a Way of Mindfulness

(Continued from page 1)

So, what are some of the ways we can practice mindfulness when paddling or camping?

♣ Practice “Leave No Trace” principles. “If you carry it in, carry it out”. Before you arrive at the Park, think fully about this while planning your trip, regardless of how short or long it will be. This planning should affect what and how much you bring with you. You should clean up and take with you all your garbage, bottles, cans, paper and any other refuse. Camping ethics ask that you clean up a campsite or day use site that has not been cleaned by the previous visitors.

♣ Remember that the human voice and activities (canoes and kayaks being dragged on rocks or barking dogs), like that of the call of a loon, will carry very long distances especially down wind. Instead of yelling, whistling or talking/laughing loudly to folks on shore or in the next boat over, pull closer together for your communication. Most visitors are moved by the call of the loon, the croaking of bullfrogs or the sound of the wind and not by loud human voices, battery powered radios and barking dogs. Please observe Green River State Park quiet hours between 10 PM and 7 AM.

♣ Be efficient and courteous at the boat launch area and vehicle drop-off location. Load and unload your boat and gear being mindful of the other visitors who may be arriving or leaving at the same time you are, especially when the park is busy. Pull out of the way to allow others to have clear access to the water or their vehicle. Congestion and clamoring detracts from our goals of peaceful and natural experiences.

♣ When you are not using your kayaks or canoes, pull them up and away from the water’s edge and turn them over, nestling them close together if the site allows. This reduces the visual impacts (both onsite and offsite) of boat interiors with paddles and PFD’s, which are more colorful and have more detail than the bottom of boats. Notice the difference in your own campsite if the clutter of boats and

paddling gear is diminished. Then notice the different techniques of other campers as to how and where the boats and paddling gear are stashed either on the shore or up into the woods. Notice how calm the water’s edge becomes when the clutter is removed or camouflaged. Turning boats over also keeps rain and dew from collecting inside. The shoreline will also benefit because of reduced erosion and protection of shoreline vegetation.

♣ When cooking, the very best way to preserve and protect the campsite area is to use a portable stove. The harvesting of firewood and the building of fires, while romantic, causes the greatest impact, increasing the size of the campsite itself. If you do build a fire, bring your own firewood or collect dead or downed wood. Please do not cut, peel bark, or otherwise damage any living trees or plants. Fires are allowed only at designated campsites or day use sites in the fire ring provided. Fully extinguish any fire before you leave the campsite or day use site unattended even if for a short time period.

♣ Notice and use the red worm composting toilets which have been constructed at many popular campsites. These toilets have proven to be very effective at managing the quantities of waste generated at these sites. Other sites have a pit toilet. Please use these also and place dog waste in the composting or pit toilet. Where a composting or pit toilet is not provided, dig a hole 8” deep and at least 150 feet from any water, trail or campsite and mix waste with soil and leaf litter and pack out the used toilet paper in plastic bags.

♣ Please do not soap or rinse yourself, clothing or dishes in the reservoir, any stream or other water source.

♣ Despite the wild character of the area, there is danger from drinking untreated water. *Giardia* and *E-coli* bacteria occur naturally and can be concentrated where there are beavers

or human activity, so either filter your water or treat it before drinking. Dispose of wastewater deep into the woods so as to not contaminate the reservoir, the campsite or attract animals.

♣ Carefully inspect for and clean all boats, kayaks and fishing gear of invasive plant species such as: Eurasian milfoil, water chestnuts and zebra mussels. The Reservoir is currently free from these invasive aquatic plants.

♣ To protect wildlife and out of respect other visitors, keep your dog close to you and under control at all times. When at the access area, all dogs must be on a leash.

♣ The banks and shoreline of Blueberry Island consist of very unstable and erosive gravel and sand. Efforts to control the erosion thru the planting of grasses have had limited success due to natural causes and people who exacerbate the conditions by insisting on walking on the island. Please do your part by not setting foot on the island and by asking others to do likewise.

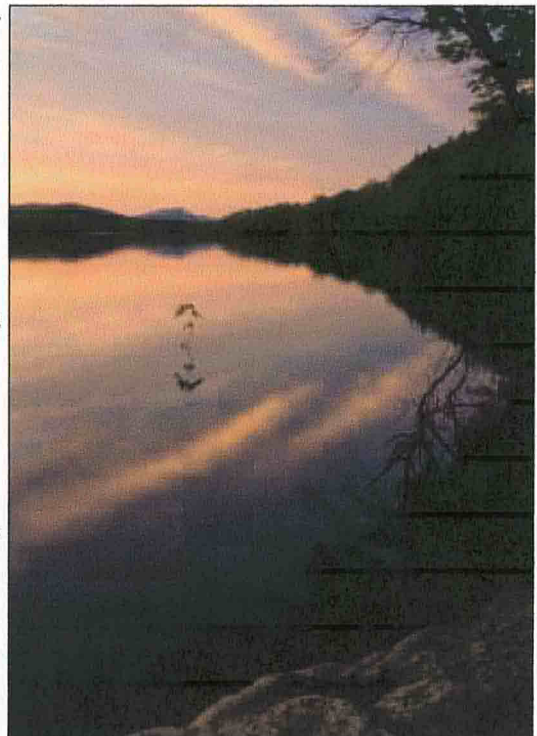


Photo taken by Jim Deshler

### Conservation of Zach Woods Pond Area

As reported in our Fall 2009 newsletter, there is an effort underway to conserve lands around Zack Woods Pond and nearby ponds and wetland complexes by the Trust for Public Lands assisted by a local organization known as the Friends of Zack Woods Pond. Through their efforts a Forest Legacy Grant application was submitted by the Trust for Public Lands through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation last September. Forest Legacy, is a federal program for land conservation and is the same funding source that helped purchase Green River Reservoir State Park over 10 years ago.

The Zack Woods Pond Forest Legacy funding application was approved at the state level last fall and more recently was highly ranked in the competitive national process. This means that the purchase of these lands is in a very favorable position for funding once the federal budget passes in the late fall/ early winter at the end of 2010.

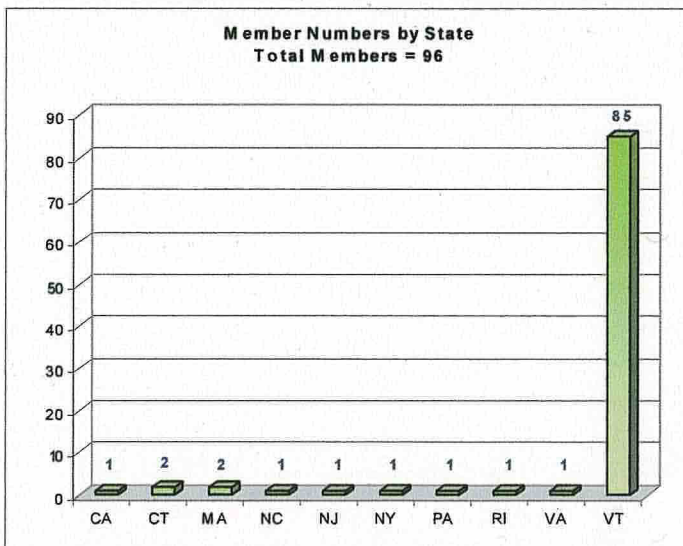
The FGRR have been closely monitoring this situation and assisting where possible. Recently, in response to a concern due to budgetary constraints, the Vermont Department of Forests and Parks had indicated that it might have to decline acquiring this property for management unless a local partner could be found to fund interim management for up to 3 years. In response, the FGRR have supported a proposal in partnership with the Friends of Zack Woods Pond and the Trust for Public Lands to help pay for a limited stewardship position for this property during the summer months. The Department is currently evaluating this offer. Look for further updates in the Fall Newsletter or contact us at [fgrr@pshift.com](mailto:fgrr@pshift.com).

Article written by Bill Bartlett

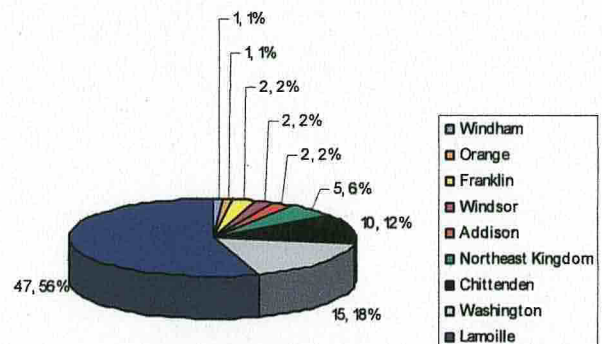


Aerial map of Zack Woods and GRRSP properties.

### Membership Locale and Numbers in 2010



**Membership Number and Percentage by VT County**  
Total VT Members = 85



## GRRSP Operations - 2010 Season is Here!

The ice on the Reservoir went out on April 4<sup>th</sup>, Easter. A hardy group of kayakers, led by Commodore Cole opened the 2010-paddling season that afternoon. Green River Reservoir Park staff will begin taking reservations for the 2010 camping season on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Call early for your favorite campsites!!! The telephone number to call for reservations remains 802-888-1349.

Our understanding is that the gate at GRRSP will be unlocked by May 14<sup>th</sup>. There will again be a total of five rangers at the Park this year under the continued leadership of Park Ranger Jason Kelley. All of last year's staff will be returning.

Camping fees for 2010 will be at the rate of \$15.00 per site and then an additional \$5.00 per person after three up to the site capacity. Group permits are still needed for any party of eight to twelve people using the park together. We understand that the perennial issue of day use fees is still under consideration due to severe budgetary constraints but that there will not be any day use fees at least until July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The contact station will have electricity sometime this summer from a small solar panel. Once the contact station has a power source, staff will be able to take reservations at the park. Currently this is done from an office in Morrisville. Park staff expects to continue to install red-worm composting toilets to replace older pit facilities. There are currently 12 such toilets in use and the staff hopes to add 5 more each year.

A new informational kiosk is in place that will provide a wider range of information than was possible in the past. Additionally the FGRR are currently work with the Department on the design and construction of a simple boat storage facility for GRRSP staff vessels. Finally, the FGRR is also working with the Department on trying to facilitate the construction of a permanent clivus-composting toilet to replace the portalets perhaps in 2011.

Article Written by Bill Barlett



FGRR members George Stone and Dave and Pat Hallquist help clean up on Green Up Day.

## The New Informational Kiosk will be completed this Spring

The new Kiosk timber frame constructed by Tell Gregory, contractor, last October will be fitted with display panels by the season opening of the Park on May 31st. The new Kiosk will be accessible on all sides and will feature Green River Reservoir State Park (GRRSP) information on the panels facing arriving visitors.

Jason Kelly, the returning seasonal Park Ranger, has designed new day use and camper sign in register boxes which will be mounted to these panels. Dave Day, a regular fishing visitor to the Reservoir and a cabinet maker in Stowe, is building the two new register boxes. Sally Stetson, the graphic designer of the GRRSP map, has donated her time and talents to the reissue of the map in a large size for the Park and campsite map at the

kiosk. This map will be utilized primarily by park staff and camping visitors as well as all visitors wishing to view the overall shape, aquatic features, campsite locations and day use site locations of the Green River Reservoir.

On the reservoir end and the back side of the kiosk will be educational, interpretive materials and displays, along with information about the mission and work of the Friends of Green River Reservoir (FGRR). In 2007, when Danielle Owczarski was a summer ranger and a Johnson State College student, she published, with a grant from the FGRR, a Nature Field Guide specifically regarding the flora and fauna of the Green River Reservoir area. The booklet will be magnified and reformatted to become the display posters for the 2010 operating season. We are especially excited to be

reusing the excellent work Danielle accomplished with the Nature Field Guide to additionally promote visitor education and awareness of the natural environment in and around the Park.

Over the 2010 operating season, additional informational and interpretative displays will be designed by FGRR board members Sally Laughlin, Danielle Owczarski, Emma Marvin, Ron Kelley and Milford Cushman in collaboration with Susan Bulmer, Northeast Parks Regional Manager and the seasonal Park staff.

Please give us feedback on what you think about the new kiosk and the type of displays that might most be of interest to you, to children and visitors to the Park.

Article Written by Milford Cushman

# 2010 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Friends of Green River Reservoir Memberships run from January 1 through December 31 Each Year. Your membership is due now - Please renew! Members of Friends of Green River State Park share enthusiasm for 'Friends' projects and provide financial support to ensure that these programs continue. Thank you for your membership support last year!

## We want update our records and keep you informed!

The Friends would like to have your email to more efficiently inform you of our events.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

FGRR will use your email address to send only event and meeting notices, and the newsletter if you check the adjacent box. It will never be shared.

Check box if you would like to receive your newsletter by email only (this will prevent us from mailing you the newsletter).

## Help us Grow our Membership

The Friends are continuing an effort to grow our membership to give us a larger base to call on when opportunities to protect and provide for the park arise. Please consider who you know that might be candidates for new members of the Friends. We will contact them once by post and only for this reason.

Possible new members: \_\_\_\_\_ Address (or at least Town) \_\_\_\_\_

## Yes, I will renew at:

- |                          |                            |          |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Noble Loon                 | \$1000   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron                     | \$500    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Associate                  | \$100    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sustaining                 | \$50     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting                 | \$25     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Basic Membership           | \$15     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other                      | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Additional contribution of | \$ _____ |

Contributions to the FGRR are tax deductible. FGRR is a 501 (c) (3) organization.



Mail to: Friends of Green River Reservoir Inc.  
P. O. Box 359  
Hyde Park, VT 05655



**Visit us on the web: [www.fgrrvt.org](http://www.fgrrvt.org)**  
 Also, join us on **Facebook** by typing **Friends of Green River Reservoir** in the search box on your **Facebook** page and learn about the summer "Species of the Week".



Detail of canvas Tote bag



Detail of Hat front



Detail of Hat back



Detail of T-Shirt chest

Item:	Price:	Quantity:	Total:
<b>Waterproof GRRSP Map</b>	<b>\$4</b>	_____	_____
<b>Nature Field Guide</b>	<b>\$5</b>	_____	_____
<b>T-shirt</b> (list quantity for each size)			
Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XLarge _____ XXLarge _____	<b>\$20</b>	_____	_____
<b>Hat</b> (one size fits all - adjustable)	<b>\$20</b>	_____	_____
<b>Medium Tote</b> (11" x 5" x 12")	<b>\$20</b>	_____	_____
<b>Large Tote</b> (14" x 7" x 14")	<b>\$25</b>	_____	_____
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	_____	_____
	<b>Shipping and handling:</b>		<b>\$3</b>
	<b>Total:</b>	_____	_____



Please make check to and mail order to:  
**Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 359  
 Hyde Park, VT 05655





# Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.

PO Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655

Email: fgrr@pshift.com

Board of Directors: Sally Laughlin, President (644-5651); Milford Cushman, Vice President (888-3362); Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591); Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365); Terri Gregory (888-3362); Dave Hallquist (888-6877); Ron Kelley (888-7466); Emma Marvin (888-9339); Danielle Owczarski (413-652-4946).

## Insects on Water: Part I

— Whirligigs and Fishing Spiders *by Ron Kelly*



Photograph of whirligigs on the surface of Green River Reservoir. —Photo by Ron Kelley

Have you ever wondered about those steel blue or black beetles on the water's surface swimming in endless gyrations as if in a drunken state of euphoria? These are commonly called whirligig beetles, found in the insect family Gyrinidae. They are most commonly seen in calm waters swimming in circles.

Whirligigs have highly flattened middle and hind legs designed for swimming and are unique in having two pairs of compound eyes. One pair of eyes on the upper surface of the head allows them to see upwards toward the sky while the second pair on the lower surface allows them to see downward beneath the water. Imagine having this ability while snorkeling! The beetles feed primarily on insects that fall into the water. When disturbed, they squeak by rubbing the tip of their abdomen against their outer wings called elytra. They also secrete defense fluids to discourage fish from eating them. Sometimes the fluids smell a bit like apples. Research suggests that the secretion of this substance helps to propel them across the water.

Whirligigs typically lay their eggs in clusters or rows on the leaf undersides of aquatic plants. The larvae look like small centipedes and feed on small aquatic animals. These develop into adults by summer's end and the adults hibernate for the winter.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 2010 Fall Newsletter

11/24/2010

### Story Headlines:

Insects on Water: Part I Whirligigs and Fishing Spiders	1
Eagle Sighting	2
Overview of FGRR Membership	2
Green River Reservoir State Park 2010 Season Wrap Up	3
Conservation of Zack Woods Pond	4
Membership Renewal Form	5
FGRR Merchandise	6

### FGRR Merchandise

Give a gift that gives on multiple levels. Not only do those who receive FGRR hats, bags, guides and shirts get a great gift, the proceeds support the park.



### Don't Forget to Renew

Annual membership renewal - 2010 renewal form enclosed!

Thanks for your past support! Memberships run for the calendar year - please renew now!

Check if you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically!

See page 6 for details

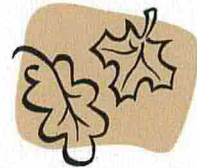
Eagle Sighting by Ron Kelley

I was paddling toward Blueberry Island on July 27 after photographing the southern loon family when I spied a lone adult loon out in front of me. It was making distress calls even though there was no one near it, so that got my attention. I kept paddling in that direction and all of a sudden, a bald eagle swooped down in front of the loon to grab something out of the water. It then flew back to a tree, where I



Bald eagle seen on Green River Reservoir. Photo by Ron Kelley

was able to get the picture. It did not eat anything so the eagle either missed or dropped what it was after. It is good that bald eagles are becoming more common but it is also a concern for the reservoir, since they have been known to capture loon chicks.



Overview of FGRR Membership by Bill Bartlett

Not surprisingly about 88% of our members are from Vermont. The largest percentage of our members are from Lamoille County (38%) with Chittenden (18%) and Washington (15%) counties next. The balance of our Vermont members are from six additional counties in northern and central Vermont. Roughly 12% of our members are from outside Vermont including one hardy Canadian member adding an international touch to our membership.

FGRR members geographical distribution:

**Lamoille County 38%**

**Chittenden County 18%**

**Washington County 15%**

**Windsor County 6%**

**Addison County 4%**

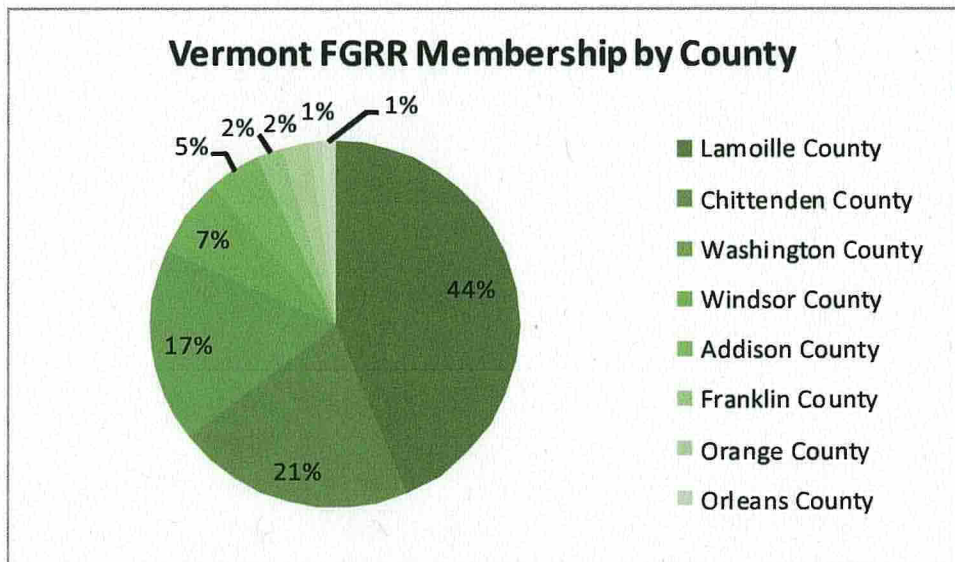
**Franklin County 2%**

**Orange County 2 %**

**Orleans County 1%**

**Caledonia County 1 %**

**Out of state 12%**



Thank you to all of our members!



Green River Reservoir State Park 2010 Season Wrap Up by Bill Barlett and Charlotte Williams

The 2010 season was a year of transformation for Green River reservoir. The most significant developments include the installation of solar power and charging day use fees. A new kiosk was also installed and, in spite of strong summer storms, four loon eggs were hatched. Mother Nature brought us terrific weather the entire summer and as a result, camping is on the rise.

The installation of two large solar panels went off without a hitch. This happened in late June, and the entire process was fast and easy. The panels are able to power the entire contact station, including the reservation system. This comprises a laptop, printer, and credit card machine. We would like to give thanks to Morrisville Water and Light, who donated two utility poles, and to Northern Power, who installed the photovoltaic system. The system has allowed us to serve visitors in a timely manner, and allow more people to visit the park.

The park began charging day use fees for the first time in July of this year. This was necessary to ensure the upkeep and character of the park. Staff and management worked extra hard to prepare for this, and made the adjustment as smooth as possible. All local towns were given advance notice of this change, and the Friends of Green River Reservoir donated free admittance for those who by virtue of hardship were unable to pay the fee. We are happy to report that all went well. The overwhelming majority of people found the fee to be fair

and acceptable and many people wanted to give something to preserve their getaway. Donated funds helped all others wanting to enjoy the park.

A new informational kiosk was finished this spring. It allows more space for camping and day use information, as well as regional and wildlife facts and photos. Staff installed a fence behind the new kiosk to define the space and prevent erosion of the wetlands area.

The ever changing water level of the reservoir has proven to be too much for loon hatching the past couple of years. This season the northern pair nested twice and the southern pair nested late, but both were successful. Each pair hatched two chicks, and even though they were late, they should be able to fly south in late fall.

Replacement of pit toilets continued, with five more worm toilets built. Having the reservation system at the park enabled staff to increase the level of customer service and community connection. This summer the weather was great! Camping reservations increased from the year before, and the staff was busier than ever.

Below are the statistics from the past three years rounded to the nearest 100. As a long term average over 80% of the Park's campers and day users are from Vermont.

*\*Through October 11, 2010*

Year	Campers	Day Use	Total Users	Total Revenue
2008	5800	5500	11,300	Not available
2009	6400	4400	10,800	\$33,400
2010*	6700	3900	10,600	\$52,500

*(Insects on Water: Part I Continued from page 1)*

they spend most of their time on the surface of water, adult beetles can fly if they first climb out onto something dry. They can be seen on the reservoir all summer, often congregating in

large numbers in coves and sheltered areas.

**Fishing Spiders-** The large spiders sometimes seen near the edge of the reservoir are called fishing spiders.

They hang out on rocks, docks, boards, logs, and other debris near shore. Because they especially like docks they are also called dock spi-

*(Continued on page 4)*

Conservation of Zach Woods Pond by Bill Bartlett

Efforts to conserve the lands around Zack Woods Pond continue to make progress albeit slowly. The conservation of the lands around Zack Woods Pond is part of a much larger conservation effort by The Trust for Public Land and the Vermont Land Trust known as the "Northern Green Mountains Linkage", which attempts to link already conserved lands to create a landscape-level protected habitat corridor, among other things.

Efforts to conserve these lands by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) is moving forward but is dependent on two variables: (1) the availability of federal funding and (2) willingness/ capability of the State of Vermont via the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (or someone else) to own

and manage the lands in question once conserved. It is a complex process and there are many moving parts.

Federal funding would come via the Forest Legacy Program, which also funded most of the purchase price for what is now Green River Reservoir State Park back in the late 1990's. The Northern Green Mountains Linkage is a sufficiently large project (8,772 acres, \$6.9 million) that its funding under Forest Legacy is likely to be broken into two federal budgetary years: FY 11 which began on October 1, 2010 and FY12 which begins a year later. At this point we know that the Northern Greens Project is likely to receive \$2.3 million in FY 11, a portion of which will be used to purchase the lands around Zack

Woods

TPL is working with the State of Vermont to address their concerns regarding their ability to absorb the modest cost of managing these additional lands. The FGRR is monitoring those discussions. While there is a positive tone to these on-going discussions, this remains an important loose end.

The bottom line is that the FGRR will continue to monitor this situation and keep its members updated. Nothing is likely to change at Zack Woods Pond in the foreseeable future.



(Insects on Water: Part I Continued from page 3)

ders and wharf spiders. They are in the genus Dolomedes, which contains over 100 species worldwide and a dozen species north of Mexico. Some females are up to an inch long, with a leg span of three inches. They have eight eyes and excellent eyesight and are called raft spiders in England due to the false belief that they construct rafts. The spiders frequently walk over the water's surface or dive beneath it to capture insects and occasionally small fish. Water-dwelling Dolomedes species hunt by waiting at the edge of the water and

when they detect ripples from prey, they run across the surface of the



The fishing spider suns itself on the wooden dock. - Photo by Ron Kelley

water and use their front legs, which are equipped with small claws, to subdue their prey. They then, like other

spiders, inject their victims with venom to kill and digest them. When beneath the water, they encase themselves in a thin film of air trapped in their body hairs. They can stay under the water for as long as 45 minutes.

The only time Dolomedes make webs is for their young. The female attaches her ready-to-hatch egg sac to a plant and ties the leaves around it. She then stands guard near this nursery web after the young hatch. Fishing spiders are not as commonly seen on the reservoir as whirligigs but you can often spot one once you know where to look.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Basic Membership           | \$15     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other                      | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Additional contribution of | \$ _____ |

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Mail to: Friends of Green River Reservoir Inc.

P. O. Box 359

Hyde Park, VT 05655

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 Also, join us on **Facebook** by typing **Friends of Green River Reservoir** in the search box on your **Facebook** page.

*Friends of Green River Reservoir*  
**Merchandise for Sale**



Detail of canvas Tote bag



Detail of Hat front



Detail of Hat back



Detail of T-Shirt chest

- | Item:                                                                                    | Price:                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Nature Field Guide</b>                                                                | <del>\$5</del><br>\$4 |
| <b>T-Shirt</b> (list quantity for each size)<br>Small___ Medium___ Large___ XL___ XXL___ | <del>\$5</del>        |
| <b>Hat</b> (one size fits all - adjustable)                                              | \$20                  |
| <b>Medium Tote</b> (11" x 5" x 12")                                                      | \$20                  |
| <b>Large Tote</b> (14" x 7" x 14")                                                       | \$25                  |
| <b>FGRR Basic Membership</b>                                                             | \$15                  |

To purchase FGRR merchandise please visit our website at [www.fgrvt.org](http://www.fgrvt.org) or send check with order to:

**Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 359  
 Hyde Park, VT 05655

Add \$3 for shipping and handling.

Thank you for your continued support!