For Immediate Release:  
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**PFAS workshop for the public to be held at Runnells Hall Thursday, November 21**  
The Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG) will host an informational workshop on Thursday, November 21 about PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) from 6-8pm at Runnells Hall in Chocorua. PFAS are synthetic chemicals found in many products, including food wrappers, household cleaners and nonstick cookware like Teflon, water repellent clothing like Goretex, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, military-grade firefighting foam, and products that resist grease, water and oil, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. They include PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and many other chemicals. Although PFAS have been used since the 1940s in the United States, PFAS are an emerging contaminant, meaning their full impacts are human health are not yet known. These chemicals can persist in the environment and the human body and can accumulate over time. Studies have shown that PFAS can cause reproductive and developmental problems, liver and kidney disease, damage the immune system as well as cause high cholesterol levels and possibly certain cancers. People can be exposed to PFAS through food, drinking water and the work place if PFAS are used to manufacture goods.   
  
Guest speakers at the workshop include Brandon Kernan, the NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) Manager of Hydrology and Conservation, and Shaina Kasper, Director of Toxics Action Center for Vermont and New Hampshire. Mr. Kernan has been working on PFAS issues in New Hampshire since 2014 when the contaminants were found in water systems in the seacoast region of the state. He will present information about the state’s efforts to identify the occurrence of PFAS in the environment and eliminate exposure to these compounds. Ms. Kasper facilitates the National PFAS Contamination Coalition, a network of 30 grassroots groups from 17 states and Guam fighting PFAS contamination in their communities. She will present her inspiring community leadership work at Toxics Action Center around PFAS. GMCG is committed to protecting water resources in the Ossipee Watershed, and while not equipped to sample for PFAS, GMCG is dedicated to providing citizens with information and science in order to make informed decisions about natural resources. While some may be familiar with the PFAS from news about places such as the former military base of Pease in Portsmouth, the Coakley Landfill in Greenland and the area around the Saint-Gobain plastics factory in Merrimack, the issue of PFAS in the environment is now known to be more widespread in New Hampshire as the chemicals have been found in water supplies in every county in the state (Ropeik, NHPR 2019). More recently, the chemicals have been found in elevated levels in monitoring wells at closed landfills in Effingham and Tamworth.

Learn more about how these chemicals are affecting public health and how communities are dealing with clean up costs at the workshop, as well as how New Hampshire’s recent adoption of the country’s strictest standards for PFAS chemical contamination in drinking water will impact the state. For more information about PFAS, visit: Learn more at [www.gmcg.org/advocacy/pfas/](http://www.gmcg.org/advocacy/pfas/). This event is open to the public and sponsored by The Tamworth Foundation.