



Summer 2023 Edition 2

**Supporting Water and Wastewater Systems in New Hampshire**

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Visit our website at [GrantieStateWater.org](http://GrantieStateWater.org)



**Cornish, NH – Private Well Technical Assistance**

In the fall of 2022, Justin Shaw of Granite State Rural Water Association was contacted by the Cornish Conservation Committee with the hopes of holding a public event regarding drinking water, however the committee needed some assistance in terms of topic material. Coincidentally, Granite State Rural Water Association had just obtained a grant through National Rural Water Association to assist in promoting training and technical assistance for private well owners. As Cornish, NH does not have a public water system, everyone utilizes private wells for their drinking water needs. A virtual meeting was scheduled to brainstorm ideas, and from that it was determined that a public event discussing different topics involving private wells was the best. Justin suggested collaborating with Amy Hudnor from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and Laurel Jackson from Endyne Labs; a local environmental laboratory. A number of virtual meetings occurred with all parties and the project began to take form. It was decided that the Cornish Conservation Committee would host the event at their Town Hall on April 27, 2023 at 6pm. Informational handouts would be made available and Endyne Labs would provide water testing kits for homeowners.

Continues on Page 5

## Our Mission

Supporting public water and wastewater systems by providing training, onsite technical assistance, and legislative representation.

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## Board Director's Message

This is my story about how I came to be affiliated with Granite State Rural Water Association, and what they have done to help me, my neighbors, and lots more people throughout the state. I spent my career as an engineer for the Department of Defense, dealing with large systems and major Defense contractors. Once that got wrapped up, my wife and I returned to our roots in New England and settled in to a residential community of about 70 homes in New London.



But you know what they say about engineers: “Once an engineer, always an engineer.” My neighbors recognized this, and asked me to take over leadership of the small group that tends our little ‘Public Water System’. I developed an understanding of the layout of our system, and of the organizations that support it. These include our Operator who deals with major repairs and upgrades and is our interface to state agencies, the contractor who helped us be among the first in the state to respond to new regulations regarding uranium, and a group called Granite State Rural Water Association.

I quickly came to appreciate GSRWA’s unique mission — providing services to water systems that might lack the staff, the specialized equipment, the depth of knowledge, the connections to other sources of support, all necessary to keep the water flowing.

We fell in love with our Circuit Rider. He was a constant source of practical, helpful knowledge, even to the point of rolling up his sleeves to help with the situation at hand. Highly responsive to our needs. Able to bring in assistance and equipment from among GSRWA’s more specialized staff, or to point us to external sources of assistance and material.

GSRWA asked me to join their Board, and I quickly came to recognize that I represented a system much smaller than those of the other members of the Board. And that there were GSRWA members with systems much smaller than mine. Trailer parks! And that there was a parent organization, National Rural Water Association, which worked with agencies in Washington and kept the money flowing.

I regard my career at the Department of Defense as one of public service, and I am happy that GSRWA continues to provide that opportunity.

## From the Executive Director



There is a town on Southeastern Italy where every person was removed due to extremely poor water and sewer conditions. This 1950's rescue mission saved the lives of approximately 16,000 residents and at the same time dismantled a community that had been in existence since 7500 BCE.

Recently, I was able to visit Matera, Italy and get a glimpse at this city's complicated history. For hundreds of years this place was a model for sustainable living: houses were carved into the hill side to handle the cool winters and hot summers; massive interconnected cisterns were built to catch and store valuable rain water; and animal and human waste was incorporated into roof-top gardens.

Then, history happened. Overcrowding led to water cisterns becoming living quarters, excess raw sewage flowed down the streets, and food supplies became so scarce, children were fed poppies so they would sleep through their starvation.

Now the stone village of Matera is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Boutique inns, restaurants are galleries are inhabiting restored caves. Some evacuated residents are returning to their homes. With thoughtful re-development Matera is blooming.

Coincidentally, days after returning from Italy, I read about New Hampshire's own housing crisis. While not comparative to Matera in severity, NH does have a concerning housing shortage. And like Matera, New Hampshire is doing something about it. The New Hampshire Housing Champion Program is a possible model for how to build housing while protecting natural resources. The HCP sets aside technical assistance funding for municipalities. This is money that could be used for updating master plans, for water and sewer upgrades, and for creating walkable neighborhoods.

GSRWA supports the Housing Champion Program initiative because we all know that building homes means a lot more than building houses.

With hope for the future,  
Heidi Lauricella  
Executive Director

Bones support gutter in Matera, Italy



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## Your Letters!



## Chalk Pond Water Company

a Division of

Sunapee Hills Association

P.O. Box 8

Newbury, New Hampshire 03255

March 30, 2023

Heidi Lauricella, Executive Director  
Granite State Rural Water Association  
P. O. Box 596  
Walpole, NH 03608

Dear Heidi,

Through an unfortunate series of events, the Chalk Pond Water Co. (CPWC) recently terminated a long-term relationship with our contract water operator. We were immediately faced with the need to perform two critical functions on our own: maintaining a proper pH balance, along with the associated equipment, and meeting water resting and compliance standards established by NH DES.

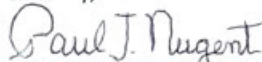
I remembered how helpful Justin Shaw was to us last November as we dealt with a major water leak and I reached out to him right away. As I expected he would, Justin came to the Pond the very next day and calmly walked me through the steps I would need to take to meet our immediate needs. His presence, and expertise, was reassuring and comforting. He convinced me that we could successfully perform these tasks without any service interruption to our customers and also promised to be available whenever I needed him.

This was the second time that Justin has guided us through what was, to us, a serious and urgent need and I cannot overstate how much his knowledge and professionalism meant to us in both instances. I am beyond grateful for Justin's help and I consider him not only a valuable resource but also a trusted friend.

I have also had the pleasure of meeting, and working with, Alexandra Herlihy in revising and updating CPWC's Emergency Response Plan (ERP). Although new to GSRWA, Alexandra has already established herself as a dedicated and competent professional who is committed to assisting small water systems in meeting their reporting and administrative requirements. She is always eager to help and has already assisted CPW immensely in the revision of our ERP.

In short, as the relatively new Director of CPWC I have come to rely on the immediate help and continued assistance of the GSRWA staff, particularly Justin Shaw and Alexandra Herlihy. I know that GSRWA relies upon USDA and EPA funding in order to provide this assistance to small water systems throughout NH and I strongly support continued funding for their efforts, which enable us to provide safe and reliable drinking water to our customers.

Sincerely,

  
Paul J. Nugent, Director



Your letters help secure funding for training and on-site technical assistance programs.

Please send your letters to:



## Cornish, NH – Private Well (continued from page 1)

Endyne labs graciously offered free Total Coliform/E-coli test kits for attendees and discounts on other testing packages. The Cornish Conservation Committee worked at advertising the event in the community and setting up the event venue.

On April 27, 2023 at 6pm the event opened to the public with an outstanding turnout. Approximately 50 residents turned out for the event. It was great to see so many attend and the feeling of community was evident.

Jody Schubert of the Cornish Conservation Committee introduced the speakers for the evening. The first speaker of the night was Justin Shaw (GSRWA). The topics of Justin's presentation were regarding types of wells, susceptibility to contamination, and the importance of protecting your well from potential contamination sources. Common sense takeaways; such as proper housekeeping around your well, inspecting your well cap, and what not to flush; were emphasized. As money often drives people's decision, making a strong emphasis was placed on the cost of protecting your well versus the cost of treatment or replacement.

The next speaker was Amy Hudnor from NHDES. Amy's presentation was full of great information regarding common contaminants both aesthetic and health related. She also delved into the sources of these contaminants and whether they are naturally occurring or manmade. Additionally, she spoke to the common health concerns associated to each contaminant.

The final speaker of the evening was Laurel Jackson from Endyne Labs in Lebanon, NH. Laurel focused on the process of having your water tested at a certified laboratory. She expanded on the process for residential testing by explaining the details of requesting sample kits from a lab, how to properly fill out the paperwork (Chain of Custody), and proper sampling technique. Amy and Laurel both emphasized the importance of having your water tested but also added in how to interpret the lab results when you receive them. Both presenters discussed the State of NH "Be Well Informed" website as a tool to interpret your test results. By entering your results into the "NH Be Well Informed" website you can determine if any of the contaminants are above or below acceptable levels and necessary treatment if needed.

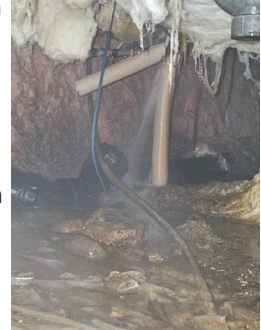
Finally at the end of the presentations, the floor was opened for a question-and-answer session. There were a number of excellent questions from the attendees in which the presenters answered. Once the Q&A session was over the presenters stayed for one-on-one questions. Endyne Labs had a table set up with sampling kits for people to take home with them. The conservation committee offered to transport resident's samples to the lab on a certain day if they are dropped off at the predetermined drop off location. Paper handouts were made available as well as Granite States Water Model which shows how contamination travels through the ground and water table. In closing, the event was a great success. The turnout was great, the venue was great, and the presenters did a fantastic job of presenting their material. The Cornish Conservation Committee was very appreciative of our help in putting the event together. It was wonderful working with the Cornish Conservation Committee and to see that their efforts resulted in such an excellent project.



## Leak Found in Waterville Acres

Granite State Rural Water field staff assist systems in many ways and keeping the water in the pipes tops the list.

One of Josh Worthen's first jobs as GSRWA's newly hired Drinking Water Specialist was to perform leak detection services for Waterville Acres in Thorton, NH. Josh met with interim specialist Nathan Olmstead, from National Rural Water Association, who was in New Hampshire to help while GSRWA had some job vacancies. The goal was to get Josh up to speed as Nathan headed off for his next assignment.



The water operator for the system, Jack Evans, had discovered a metered 10 gallon per minute leak, and the well was having trouble keeping up with the large volume of water lost. Nathan and Jack gave a quick rundown of the site plans and pipe construction so Josh could join the team and tackle the job.

Because it was suspected that all pipe was plastic, dousing rods were used to estimate the line location. A ground microphone led Josh to a turn in the road, but the acoustic was not strong enough to warrant excavation. The survey continued to a vacant condo, where, coincidentally, the realtor was performing a closing. After introductions, Josh and Nathan went in with Jack and found the leak down in the basement crawlspace.

Jack was able to have the internal plumbing repaired before the main valve and the pumphouse flowmeter stopped spinning. The association had been losing significant water for almost 30 days. Operator Jack estimates 10 GPM based on a 2" master meter, which in turns means 432,000 gallons of water were lost. Since treatment was not a part of this issue, the only fiscal loss was electricity to pump the water, estimated at \$360.00.

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- Enjoy a fun day at Mt Sunapee Resort with BBQ and Chairlift rides.

Seminar Series

Please check our website this summer for the list of seminars. We will host nine different classes throughout the day, with the option to attend up to four. All seminars will be credit approved by NHDES for drinking water and/or wastewater credit.

Event Details

**Date:** September 12, 2023

**Location:** Mount Sunapee Resort, Newbury, NH

**To Register:** Online registration at [www.Granitestatewater.org](http://www.Granitestatewater.org) is encouraged. Or call our office at 603-756-3670



## Training Class Schedule

9-12-23	Operator Field Day & Tradeshow	4	DW & WW (DW & WW approval pending)	\$95/\$115	Newbury, NH
10-10-23	FOG & What's Flushable	6	WW	\$105/\$138	Ashland, NH
10-12-23	Selecting Underground Material	6/dw 4/ww	DW & WW	\$105/\$138	Lebanon, NH
10-17-23	Protecting our Watersheds through Stormwater Management & Erosion Control	6	DW & WW (DW & WW approval pending)	\$105/\$138	TBD
10-24-23	Groundwater Supply Development	5/dw 4/ww	DW & WW	\$90/\$115	Madbury, NH
11-9-23	Handling Distribution Components with New Technology	6	DW & WW	\$105/\$138	Concord, NH
11-14-23	Polymer Owner's Manual & Corrosion Control	5	DW & WW	\$90/\$115	Jaffrey, NH
11-16-23	Safety Potpourri	6	DW & WW	\$105/\$138	Lebanon, NH
11-28-23	EPA RTCR – A "Find & Fix" Approach to Protecting Public Health	2	DW & WW	\$31/\$39	Virtual
11-30-23	Lab Skills for Operators	4	DW & WW	\$70/\$94	Madbury, NH
12-5-23	Distribution Health: Innovative Solutions & Best Practices	6/dw 4.5/ww	DW & WW	\$105/\$138	Gilford, NH
12-7-23	Troubleshooting the Activated Sludge Process with a Microscope	3	WW (approval pending)	\$38/\$54	Virtual
12-12-23	Understanding your Motor Control Panel	5	DW & WW	\$90/\$115	Greenville, NH
12-14-23	Pipe Repair & Maintenance	2	DW & WW	\$31/\$39	Virtual

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603-756-3670,

email [info@granitestatewater.org](mailto:info@granitestatewater.org)





## Meet Our New Staff



**Patrick Hickey** recently joined GSRWA as the new Water Specialist/Circuit Rider in late March. He is 47 years old and was born and raised in The Great North Woods of New Hampshire. He attended Unity College in Unity, Maine from 1994 to 1998 to pursue a B.S. in Environmental Science. He then worked in Law Enforcement for a few years. Afterwards, he got involved in the water and sewer infrastructure construction jobs as a laborer, heavy equipment operator and foreman. From there, he worked in Natural Gas Construction. After a few years, he moved back to the North Country where he worked for the North Conway Water Precinct for 15 years. Patrick's main focus at the water precinct was Backflow Prevention and Meters. He is located mostly North of Plymouth and look forward to being able to assist anyone in any way he can.



**Luis Adorno** is the latest addition to the GSRWA team, joining as the new Small Systems Specialist as of May of 2023. Luis brings over 15 years of experience that expands from the operator's point of view to the regulatory side of the industry. Luis worked for Laconia Water Works from 2007-2014, obtaining his Grade I in Treatment and Grade II in Drinking Water Distribution certification from the State of New Hampshire. After that, he worked in the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau for NHDES for 9 years. Luis resides in the beautiful Town of Meredith NH with his wife Rebecca and two children (Alec and Damien). Luis' other passion in life, aside from his family, is providing back to the community via youth sports. Luis coaches' basketball, football, and a little baseball as well.

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## The NH Drinking Water Festival Returns!

On Wednesday May 10, 2023, Sourcewater Specialist Alex Herlihy and Executive Director Heidi Lauricella attended the New Hampshire Drinking Water Festival. This was the first year since 2019 that this event has taken place due to COVID-19. Alex participated as a volunteer for NHDES to make sure the festival ran smoothly and was tasked with making sure teachers signed up for the raffle. Heidi, on the other hand, was on the panel of judges for the science fair. The festival was held at the Keene Recreational Center and had 14 schools attending, with an estimated total of over 275 attending students. The students walked around many different booths and learned about current topics in the water industry, such as water conservation, plastics, watersheds, macroinvertebrates, and more. Along with providing students with useful information, these booths would also have fun and creative activities to keep the kids engaged and shows that science can be fun.

The kids also got to taste test water from three different systems and vote on who had the best tasting water. There were multiple systems who participated, but Concord Water Department came out on top with the best tasting water. Due to generous donations, all teachers who participated in the teacher raffle went home with an award of their choice. They got to choose between different science classroom supplies, water testing kits, or gift baskets.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Water Poetry Contest had the prompt of fitting into the theme of “Water Rising”. The goal was to create thought-provoking poems about climate change. 237 students entered the competition, and the winners were: Maksim Knezevic from Durham with the poem “The Blues of the Ocean” in third-place, Phineas Mitchell from North Hampton with the poem “Our Earth” in second, and Miriam Talcott from Durham won with the poem “World Warming”. The second and first place winners got to read aloud their poems to everyone present once they received their awards.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Water Science Fair finished up this day as well, with numerous judges walking around and making final decisions. The third-place winner was Ruthie Lawlor from Keene for “Saguaro Cactus”. Second place went to Demi Dimos and Eve Turner (Manchester) for “Tsunamis”. The first-place winner was Ardyn Washburn (Harrisville) for her project “How Clean is Rainwater”.



All in all, the NH Drinking Water Festival was a massive success and is slated to return for good for the foreseeable future.

Poetry Contest Winners



## Terry Hall-Untsung Hero

Written by former Small Systems Specialist Justin Shaw.

Clean and safe drinking water is a basic necessity of life and its management is crucial for maintaining public health and environmental sustainability. In this regard, we as operators play a vital role in safeguarding the water systems of our communities. As I have traveled around the state visiting water systems, I have often observed people working in the background during my visit. Often times I don't get to meet these people other than to say hi as I pass by. It occurred to me that maybe we should shine the light on these individuals and immediately Terry Hall came to mind.



Terry Hall has resided at View Point Cooperative in Swanzey, NH for twenty years. He is retired from the State of NH DOT and has assumed the role of Operations Manager for the Cooperative. I had the pleasure of meeting Terry about 5 years ago when he called asking for assistance locating some valves. Terry is one of those people that always has a smile, waves hello to everyone, and is diligent at his work. Although Terry is not the operator for the View Point system, he cares for it as if it were his own. In my time working with Terry, I have seen him do some pretty amazing things. Brian Vose and I worked closely with him to develop a GIS map of his system. With his hard work and assistance from GSRWA, we were able to locate all of the gate valves and curb stops as well as some missing gate valves with Terry leading the charge. Now that Terry has a map, he takes the time every fall to paint the gate valve boxes in the road and mark every curb stop with a stake. Once all of the gates had been located, we educated him on inspecting his gate boxes to make sure they are accessible. Terry immediately inspected them and found that a number of them were filled with silt. He creatively rigged up his shop vacuum powered by a small generator and a long pipe and rode around cleaning out the gate valve boxes. This summer along with all of his other duties, he plans to start a valve exercising program. Terry is also involved with distribution and collection system repairs as well general pump-house inspection and housekeeping. Now as operators we understand that we don't get a lot of accolades because what we do is largely unseen by the public. With Terry all of this work is done with a smile a wave and no need to attention. I have to say that after all of my travels to visit small systems it is rare to see someone like Terry take such pride in his work, and makes such a difference for his community.

If you have an unsung hero at your water system that you would like to recognize let us know. We would be happy to put an article and a photo in our newsletter!

## EPA Leadership Program Members Announced

GSRWA Board Member, Jason Randall has been the Water Superintendent at Plymouth Water & Sewer District since 2014, and is responsible for co-managing a crew of six operators and two office staff. He is also in charge of a wastewater facility, two (soon to be four) groundwater well sources for drinking water, and around 26 miles of distribution and sewer systems. This system supports two high schools, a hospital, and a State University.

In early April, Jason was accepted into the National Water Leadership Program that's being launched

by the Environmental Finance Center Network. The official press release came out on April 10<sup>th</sup> announcing an inaugural cohort of 38 water professionals across 20 states. The program is a three-month professional development program focused on giving water leaders training and the right resources to face any challenge that comes with the job of making sure the public has clean, safe water to drink. The program features sessions that the water professionals will join to improve their skills on asset and data management, disaster resiliency and planning, environmental justice, strategic communications, and culturally responsive leadership. Jason was brought in as the only representative from EPA District I, which encompasses all of New England.

Currently, Plymouth has been working on a water and sewer line replacement on Main Street. Jason says about this project: "The replacement and rehabilitation of our critical water infrastructure on Main St., the core of our entire network of water distribution and sewer collection pipes throughout the Village, is necessary and inevitable. To think that some of these pipes have been serving the community for well over 100 years is remarkable and a true testament to the quality of workmanship, materials used, and ultimately the operations & maintenance of the system. Once the project is complete, the new and rehabilitated infrastructure will serve Plymouth for the next 75-100 years! I look forward to working with the citizens and businesses of Plymouth to complete a generational project on Main St. this year,". Jason refers to the Plymouth Water System as a "small but large" system, saying that it's been hard to be fair towards everyone who relies on the water system. Industrial users are quoted to having the largest amount of daily flow, so trying to balance rates between industries, commercial/multi-family, and residents has been a hot topic recently.

Jason says about the program: "As an early to mid-career water sector manager I hope to continue to hone my knowledge and skills and always learn new and better ideas, methods, and management techniques,". We at GSRWA are excited for Jason about this opportunity and can't wait to see what he does.





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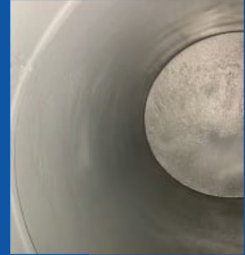
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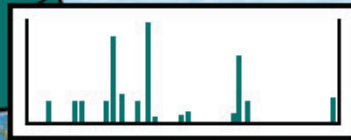
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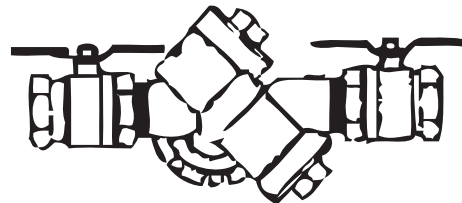
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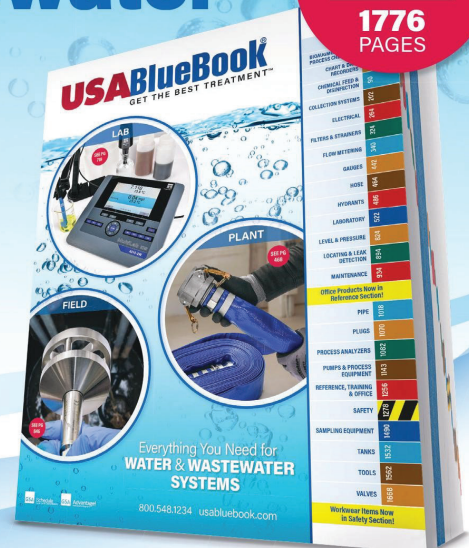
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