

THE Trib

Esopus Creek News Briefs

Published by Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County

Esopus • Birch Creek • Bushnellville • Fox Hollow • Peck Hollow • Broadstreet Hollow • Woodland Valley • Stony Clove • Beaver Kill • Little Beaver Kill • Bush Kill



NEWS STREAM

Final FAD

New York State in consultation with USEPA issued the **Final Revised 2007 Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD)** that allows the NYC water supply to remain unfiltered through 2017. (https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/nyc-fad/docs/mid_term_revisions_nyc_2007fad_review.pdf). The FAD requires stream management projects for reducing turbidity in the Ashokan watershed.

New look for catskillstreams.org

The website catskillstreams.org has a **new look** and features. Check out the map of Esopus (Ashokan) watershed projects. (<http://catskillstreams.org/major-streams/esopus-creek/esopus-map/>)

Climate assessment

The U.S. Global Change Research Program just released the **Third National Climate Assessment**. The report states that river flooding will pose a growing challenge to the Northeast region. (<http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>)

New tool for “matching the hatch”

The Phoenicia Library unveiled its **“Match the Hatch” website** with current information on insect life on the Esopus Creek, plus the history and science of Catskill fly fishing. (<http://www.catskillanglingcollection.org/>)

CERM conference call for abstracts

The **2014 Catskill Environmental Research & Monitoring Conference** for scientists, professionals, and the interested public will be held this fall. Organizers are accepting abstracts through September 12. (<http://ashokanstreams.org/conferences-training/research-conference/>)

Flood insurance

A new federal law modified the **Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012** to slow implementation of higher insurance premiums for some flood insurance policy owners. For more information, see FEMA's website. (<http://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-reform>)

Welcome to the **Esopus Creek News Trib**; a shorter version of the full-length Esopus Creek News. A “trib” (short for “tributary”) is a smaller creek that flows into the main river. The Trib will be published in the spring and summer. Look for the full-length Esopus Creek News to return in fall and winter with a new look and design. We hope you enjoy this first edition of the Trib!



The People, Culture and Place of the Catskill Mountains

Dr. Bill Birns told many fascinating stories of local history and culture at the 2014 Ashokan Watershed Conference. Many commented they'd like to hear his talk again. Luckily, AWSMP filmed the presentation. A video of Dr. Birns' presentation is now available at: <http://ashokanstreams.org/conferences-training/watershed-conference/>.



Dr. Bill Birns

Dr. Birns has studied Catskill Mountain culture since the 1970s and wrote his dissertation on speech patterns of the Catskills. “It’s clear that there’s linguistic and geologic evidence that the Catskills are the same mountains as the mountains south of us that are recognized as being a place of different culture, a place of different people, who deserve our respect because their difference is a mark of culture not a mark of lack of education. That mountain culture we’re talking about really started here after the Revolution,” said Dr. Birns.

Speaking of early European settlers of the Ashokan watershed, Dr. Birns said “After the Revolution they came here to stay, living on self-sustaining farms, and the place they stayed was along the stream.” By the 1930s, many local families could trace their ancestry back to a Revolutionary war veteran.





EVENTS AROUND THE WATERSHED

Friday, August 15

Learn about the state of Esopus Creek fish populations and river restoration for fish habitat, from 1–4pm at the Daniel Pierce Library, Grahamsville. Contact 845-985-2581 or krauter@rondoutneversink.org to register.

Saturday, August 23

Shandaken Day at Big Indian Park, Big Indian. 10am–6:00pm. Join us in a celebration of all things Shandaken and learn about the importance of streams in our town.

<http://www.shandaken.us/recreation/shandaken-day/>

September 20-21

Hudson Valley Harvest Festival at Ulster County Fairgrounds, New Paltz.

<http://www.hudsonvalleyharvestfestival.com>

Wednesday, August 20

Certified Floodplain Manager’s (CFM) Exam at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Kingston. Contact Brent at bwg37@cornell.edu

Sunday, September 14

Creek Week Stream Walk on the Little Beaver Kill. Call the AWSMP office at 845-688-3047 to register.

October 23-24

Catskill Environmental Research and Monitoring Conference at Belleayre Mt. Ski Center, Highmount.

<http://ashokanstreams.org/conferences-training/research-conference/>


New Stream Restoration Projects

Three stream restoration projects in the Ashokan watershed are underway or being developed. A restoration project at the confluence of the Stony Clove Creek and Warner Creek is under construction this summer. This project uses federal funds to cover 75% of costs, while NYC provides local match. Two additional projects are being planned for the Stony Clove Creek at Stony Clove Lane in the Town of Shandaken and at Wright Road in the Town of Hunter.


The Catskill Stream Buffer Initiative (CSBI) is installing two streambank bioengineering projects for landowners this year. Banks will be stabilized along the Esopus Creek in Oliveria (Town of Shandaken) and the Bush Kill (Town of Olive). For assistance with stream buffers and banks, call the office at 845-688-3047.

Planning for Flood Resiliency


A new program is underway to help watershed towns explore flood mitigation options that reduce flood damage and hazards within population centers. The Towns of Shandaken and Olive have formed Flood Advisory Committees to work with engineering consultants and the public to identify cost-effective and sustainable solutions. The Towns will select preferred solutions for implementation. Shandaken will initially focus on Phoenicia and Mt. Tremper. Olive is considering local flood analysis for Boiceville and West Shokan. Look for progress reports from the Flood Advisory Committees at Town meetings and in this newsletter.




ASHOKAN WATERSHED STREAM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Ulster County



NYC
Environmental
Protection





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