Some of the deciduous trees, shrubs, and a few evergreens. Some of the trees available are birch, sassafras, oak, and maple. Shrubs include buttonbush, burning bush, redosier dogwood, butterfly bush, and american cranberry. You can find the full list online at: www.ucswcd.org or call (845) 883-7162 ext. 5 to have an order form mailed to you directly.

Seedlings are sold in bundles of 10, 25, 50, and 100 at prices ranging from $8 for a bundle of 10 to $50 for 100. Sizes range from 6 inches to 3 feet. The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County Master Gardener Program will be offering evergreen seedlings, berries, and other plants for your vegetable garden. The evergreens include balsam fir, white pine, and white and blue spruce. We will also have blueberries, everbearing strawberries, raspberries, asparagus roots, and rhubarb plants.

You can pick up an order form anytime at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County office at 10 Westbrook Lane in Kingston, or off the website at: http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/ulster. Click on the Master Gardener link. Please phone the office at (845) 340-3990 to be added to the seedling sale mailing list.

Pick up will be in April at two locations: the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District offers great discounts on bareroot seedlings of evergreens, berries, and other plants for your vegetable garden. The evergreens include balsam fir, white pine, and white and blue spruce. We will also have blueberries, everbearing strawberries, raspberries, asparagus roots, and rhubarb plants.

It’s not too early to think about spring planting! If you’re planning on enhancing your riparian buffer or planting some new varieties in your garden this year, don’t miss out on our 2009 spring plant sales!!

To help landowners control flooding, erosion, and create healthy riparian ecosystems, each spring the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District offers great discounts on bareroot seedlings of deciduous trees, shrubs, and a few evergreens. Some of the trees available are birch, sassafras, oak, and maple. Shrubs include buttonbush, burning bush, redosier dogwood, butterfly bush, and american cranberry. You can find the full list online at: www.ucswcd.org or call (845) 883-7162 ext. 5 to have an order form mailed to you directly.

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Pick up will be in April at two locations: the Ulster County Fairgrounds in New Paltz on April 20 and 21 and at Ulster County Highway Garage, 66 Hurley Ave, Kingston on April 22 and 23.

2008 was a year that saw many changes to our work in the watershed. We expanded our focus on the Esopus Creek to encompass the entire Ashokan Reservoir watershed. The emphasis of our work shifted from planning to implementing plan recommendations. And we said goodbye to staff members Jeremy Magliaro and Laura Weyeneth, who moved on to new opportunities.

We expect 2009 to be an exciting and busy year! Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County and Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be working together even more closely in the Ashokan watershed. The project team is moving to a new office in Phoenicia this January, which will be shared by both agencies to serve the community better.

With several openings on the new Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Advisory Council and working groups, there are many opportunities this year to become involved in the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program. We also have an active volunteer Stream Stewards Program and a new Youth Watershed Steward Program for high school students. We will also continue to offer a wide variety of workshops, presentations, and community events.

In response to input from the Esopus Advisory Council, the new Ashokan Watershed Project Advisory Council will be comprised of 20 representatives from organizations, agencies, and individuals who live and work in the watershed. Along with CCE, SWCD, and the New York City DEP, the Advisory Council will develop annual plans of work for the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program and will prioritize funding needs that are identified by the working groups. The Advisory Council will also help CCE develop guidelines for recognizing working groups for: (1) Flooding, Erosion, and Infrastructure, (2) Stream-based Recreation and Tourism, (3) Watershed Ecosystems, and (4) Education and Outreach. A working group made up of town government officials and agency staff such as highway departments and floodplain code enforcement officers is being formed to bring their concerns into the project and better coordinate stream management projects with other municipal activities.

For more information about the advisory council or working groups, contact Elizabeth Higgins, Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Coordinator at (845) 340-3990 or emh56@cornell.edu.

Visit Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County online at: http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/ulster or email ulster@cornell.edu.
Placing Willows to Reduce Erosion

Are you looking for a relatively low-cost way to reduce streambank erosion? Here’s an activity best done during late fall through early spring when many other landscaping and gardening chores are on hold. Gathering and planting willow cuttings during the plants’ dormant season (November – March) will protect exposed streambanks and other vegetation during high water events.

The Benefits of Willows

Woody vegetation planted along stream banks can be extremely useful in reducing water velocity, controlling soil erosion, providing wildlife habitat, and improving water quality. Dormant woody stakes and posts can be used to stabilize eroding banks. Properly selected and planted vegetation can withstand flooding and can often be used instead of costly structural approaches.

Willow Posts

are large branches from willows growing naturally along the stream that are planted into deep holes during the dormant season. Cuttings should range from one to four inches in diameter and from two to eight feet long. The wider and more forceful the stream, the larger the cuttings’ dimensions should be to keep them from washing away. In general, shorter cuttings will be next to the water, but they should be longer forceful the stream, the larger the cuttings’ dimensions should be to keep them from washing away. In general, shorter cuttings will be next to the water, but they should be longer

LIVE FASCINES (fa-sheens) are long bundles of live woody vegetation wrapped together and laid in trenches dug parallel to and buried in the streambank (see figure). We recommend using thin, flexible branches of dormant willow or red osier dogwood. Fascines are most often used to stabilize fairly long slopes. They can also help protect slopes from shallow slides and assist with the seepage of ground water, which can de-stabilize a bank. Live fascines are best applied on small headwater streams, or they can be placed above the line of incipient flooding on larger streams.

When not to use fascines?

Fascines are not likely to stabilize a streambank on a section of stream channel that is unstable and undergoing systemic change (e.g. deepening or widening). Severe erosion at multiple sites in one section may indicate such instability.

Remember, winter is the best time to harvest willow branches, while plants are dormant. Cuttings from the sandbar and black willow species – both common in New York – are effective for streamside plantings. Landowners can get site-specific advice by contacting Cornell Cooperative Extension at (845) 340-3990 or Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District at 845-883-7162, ext. 5.

For additional information, read the “Willow Cuttings” fact sheet that is part of the riparian ground water, improving water quality. Dormant woody stakes and posts can be used to stabilize eroding banks. Properly selected and planted vegetation can withstand flooding and can often be used instead of costly structural approaches.

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