



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Ulster County

**Ashokan Watershed  
Stream Management  
Program Newsletter**

**Cornell Cooperative  
Extension of Ulster County**  
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Free to residents by request.

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## CCE and UCSWCD Annual Spring Plant Sales



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](http://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 Co. Fairgrounds in New Paltz on April 20 and 21 and at Ulster County Highway Garage, 66 Hurley Ave, Kingston on April 22 and 23.

Non-Profit Organization  
Bulk Postage  
PAID  
Permit No.1  
Kingston, NY 12401

**We've Moved!**  
**New Location:**  
**6375 State Route 28,  
Shandaken**  
Former Black Bear  
Hollow Café  
Near Allaben Cemetery  
Phone:  
**(845) 688-5496**  
Email  
**info@esopuscreek.org**

# Esopus Creek News

**Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Newsletter**  
**Winter 2008 - 2009**

Broadstreet Hollow - Woodland Valley - Stony Clove - Fox Hollow - Birch - Beaverkill - Little Beaverkill - Peck - Bushnellsville - Bush Kill

## Happy New Year!



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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 also will 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

reorganizing 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](mailto:emh56@cornell.edu).

### Inside this Issue

**Planting  
Willows to  
Reduce  
Erosion** 2

**Got Japanese  
Knotweed?** 3

**Program  
Calendar** 3

**Annual Spring  
Plant Sale** 4

**We're on the web!**  
[www.esopuscreek.org](http://www.esopuscreek.org)

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## Planting Willows to Reduce Erosion



**Willow Fascine**

*Woody vegetation planted along streams can be extremely useful in controlling soil erosion.*



**Laying fascine in a trench**

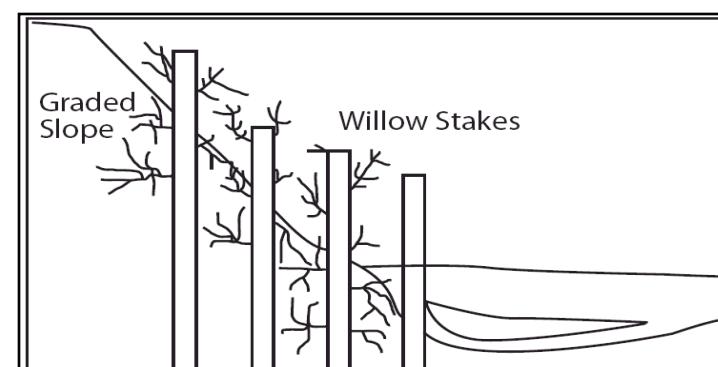
Are you looking for a relatively low-cost way to reduce streambank erosion? Here's an activity best done during late fall through early spring when many other landscaping and gardening chores are on hold. Gathering and planting willow cuttings during the plants' dormant season (November – March) will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

**The Benefits of Willows**  
Woody vegetation planted along streams 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.

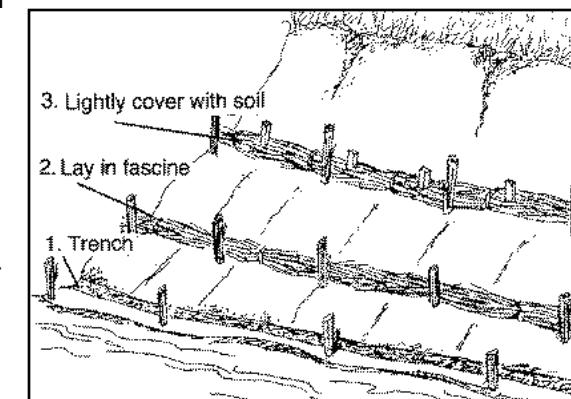
**Willow Posts**  
are large branches from willows growing naturally along the stream that are planted into deep holes during the dormant season. Cuttings should range from one to four inches in diameter and from two to eight feet long. The wider and more forceful the stream, the larger the cuttings' dimensions should be to keep them from washing away. In general, shorter cuttings will be next to the water, but they should be longer as they're planted up the bank (see illustration). That's because when they're driven into the ground, their base must end up at or below the water table. Black willow (*Salix nigra*) is native to this area and will quickly reestablish root structure on streambanks that are exposed to sunlight.

**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 soak up 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.



**Stake bottom of willow posts down to water level.**



**Diagram of fascines protecting stream banks.**

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 management series available on the Web at <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/forst2/samplers/mf2751.asp>.



**4-H Members clearing knotweed in McKinley Hollow.**



**Using landscape fabric to cover knotweed after cutting.**



**Arial view of Woodland Valley Bridge.**

## Stream Stewards Seek Landowners with Japanese Knotweed

If you have stands of the noxious invasive Japanese Knotweed on your property and want some assistance getting rid of it, the Stream Stewards of Cornell Cooperative Extension are looking to help!

Since its introduction to the United States as an ornamental shrub in the late 1800's, Japanese knotweed has become one of the most aggressive invasive weeds in the Catskills, colonizing miles of stream banks with dense thickets that crowd out native species. The mass of dead stems left at the end of the growing season inhibits native plant regeneration in the spring, which in turn leaves river banks vulnerable to erosion and flooding.

The Stream Stewards, a group of local volunteers, have been meeting regularly, mapping



knotweed stands in the Esopus Creek tributaries and planning demonstration sites at popular spots on local streams. The Stewards and Trout Unlimited hosted an informative presentation with Jenn Grieser from the NYC DEP's Stream Management Program at the Boiceville Inn in December, and they are now creating a database of landowners in the Ashokan Basin Watershed to track the effectiveness of various control options.

A video summarizing the results of some experimental

knotweed control projects conducted by Hudsonia and the NYC DEP in Greene County is now available. The study compared various control options such as mowing and herbicide injections, both of which were helpful with the regrowth of native plants.

To obtain this video or join the Ashokan Basin Stream Stewards volunteer group, Contact Michael Courtney at [mcc55@cornell.edu](mailto:mcc55@cornell.edu) or 845-340-3990.

As always, you are welcome to stop by our Phoenicia office to discuss Japanese knotweed control options. We'll be happy to provide you with information and assistance, whether you're looking for native plant suggestions or options for how to get help with the hard work of controlling this invasive plant.

## Program Calendar

*All events below are FREE and open to the public. Please RSVP for events.*

### Thursday, January 29, 7pm-8pm "Birdseye View of the Esopus Creek"

Video Presentation by Dan Davis, NYC DEP Stream Management Program.  
St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Plank Road, Phoenicia  
RSVP to Jenny Burkins 845-340-3990 or email [jlb64@cornell.edu](mailto:jlb64@cornell.edu)

### Thursday, January 15, 6pm-8pm and Thurs, February 12, 6pm-8pm

**Stream Stewards Meetings** Cornell Cooperative Extension Office  
If Interested, call Michael Courtney 340-3990 or email: [mcc55@cornell.edu](mailto:mcc55@cornell.edu)

### Sunday, February 15, 1pm - 4pm Streamside Native Plants Workshop

Cornell Cooperative Extension's New Office Location! 6375 State Route 28 (Former Black Bear Hollow Café – Across from Margo's Hungarian Restaurant. RSVP to Jenny Burkins 845-340-3990 or email [jlb64@cornell.edu](mailto:jlb64@cornell.edu)

### Saturday, March 28, 10am – 1pm Willow Planting Demonstration

Location TBA Come to an on-the-stream demonstration of how to plant willow fascines and stakes to protect your stream bank! See article about willows page 2. RSVP to Jenny Burkins 845-340-3990 or email [jlb64@cornell.edu](mailto:jlb64@cornell.edu)

For more information on any of these events, call Michael Courtney at Cooperative Extension at 845-340-3990 or email: [mcc55@cornell.edu](mailto:mcc55@cornell.edu)