

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

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. Look for the full-length Esopus Creek News to return this fall and winter. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Trib!



Ulster SWCD Project Manager Adam Doan walks through the site of a major stream repair planned for August-October on the Stony Clove Creek.

AWSMP Tackles another Big Project to Repair Tropical Storm Irene Damage

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) is working this summer on another major stream restoration project on the Stony Clove Creek. The project is located in Greene County about one mile north of Lanesville on NY-214. The repair covers 2,000 feet of stream and rivals the size and scope of repairs completed in Chichester over recent years.

The project will cost \$1.8 million to construct and uses the last of federal Emergency Watershed Protection funds available to repair streams badly damaged by Irene. Federal funding and funding from New York City will cover all of the project's cost.

The project site is heavily clogged with sediment and woody debris. Two large, failing hillslopes are actively eroding, and sediment bars deposited in the channel by Irene are forcing water toward vulnerable stream banks.

The fix involves narrowing and re-aligning the stream channel using the sediment on-site to create the new stream bed and banks. Floodplain benches, rock “vanes”, and rock walls will protect the stream banks, as replanted streamside vegetation grows back to improve fish habitat.

Construction will run from August-October, 2015. Kingston Equipment Rental, Inc.-Baker Brothers Excavating out of West Hurley will construct the project, which was designed by consulting firm Milone & MacBroom, Inc.



NEWS STREAM

‘Back to the Future’ of Rivers

See video of presentations from this year's Ashokan Watershed Conference, including ‘Building the Ashokan Reservoir’, ‘The River Future Generations Will See’, ‘Formidable Pests: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Emerald Ash Borer’ and a lively conversation with the ‘Stream Expert Panel’. Find links to video here: <http://ashokanstreams.org/publications-resources/>

Beaver Kill Plan Now Available

The Beaver Kill Stream Management Plan is designed to promote best management practices in the watershed and be used as a basic guide for restoration and flood mitigation efforts by streamside property owners and stream managers. The plan is available at: <http://ashokanstreams.org/exploring-the-watershed/beaverkill-2/>

Flood Maps Enter 90-Day Appeal

Towns in the Ashokan Watershed are on the verge of adopting new flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs). The Towns have 90 days to either appeal the flood area determinations or make a decision to not appeal. See: <http://town.olive.ny.us/homepage-news-category/flood-insurance-rate-maps-firm-meeting-2514/> and <http://www.shandaken.us>

Hurricane Season Started June 1

Are you prepared? See our Flood Emergency Preparedness Guide. Find it here: <http://ashokanstreams.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Stream-Guide-Flood-Emergency-Preparedness.pdf>

Calling all Junior Watershed Scientists!

Thanks to a grant from the Catskill Watershed Corporation and continued support from the NYCDEP, students in the Phoenicia and Woodstock Elementary Schools can join new stream and watershed science activities. Plus, Onteora District 7th and 8th graders can now attend Riparian Ranger after-school programs at the Ashokan Center campus this coming fall and spring.

Follow us!

<https://facebook.com/AWSMPUlster>
<https://twitter.com/ashokanstreams>





EVENTS AROUND THE WATERSHED

Saturday, August 29

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/>

Saturday, September 19

Join us for the Rochester Hollow Stream Walk from 10am-12pm. Learn more about this beautiful Catskill stream. Call the AWSMP office at 845-688-3047 to register.

Saturday, September 19

Family Fishing Day at the Ashokan Reservoir from 10am-2pm. Experts teach kids how to fish and bait. A limited number of fishing poles provided, or bring your own. Co-sponsored with NYSDEC.

Saturday, September 12

We'll be at Olive Day! 9am-6pm at Davis Park, West Shokan. Enjoy free music and games and visit the AWSMP display.



Saturday, September 26

Learn how to provide habitat for our native pollinators with riparian buffer plantings. From 10am-12pm with "beeologist" Tim Stanley. Held in Lanesville. Call the AWSMP office at 845-688-3047 to register.

New Studies Suggest Trout are Resilient to Flooding but Vulnerable to a Changing Climate

Rainbows Bounce Back


Preliminary data from USGS surveys of fish assemblages at 7 Esopus Creek sites this summer show that rainbow trout numbers appear to be much higher than they were at the same sites over the past 5 years.

Trout Survive Summer Floods


The USGS with support from AWSMP studied the Upper Esopus Creek before and after Tropical Storm Irene. Basin-wide, fish assemblages were not strongly impacted and appeared highly resilient to the flood. Late summer floods may be less damaging to stream fish communities than winter or spring floods, as spawning activity is negligible and early life stages of many species are generally larger and less susceptible. Find out more at: http://ashokanstreams.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/EffectsExtreme-Floods_ShortReportPDF.pdf

Little Refuge in a Warming Catskills River


A study of the upper Schoharie Creek and West Kill from 2010-2012 showed summer water temperatures at all study sites were warm enough to thermally stress brown trout and brook trout unless sufficient thermal refuge was available. The quantity and quality of thermal refuge was poor in both streams. Water temperatures are especially important to coldwater species in temperate regions where climate conditions have begun to change. Learn more at: <http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70146667>




**ASHOKAN WATERSHED
STREAM MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM**



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Ulster County



NYC
Environmental
Protection





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