

THE Trib

Esopus Creek News Briefs

Published by Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County

Esopus • Birch • Bushnellsville • Fox Hollow • Peck Hollow • Broadstreet Hollow • Woodland Valley • Stony Clove • Beaver Kill • Little Beaver Kill • Traver Hollow • Bushkill

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!

Community Grants Support Stream Improvements

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) recently awarded community grants to support the participation of Town and County officials in stream and floodplain management trainings, and to reimburse Ulster County for a portion of the costs to build the Steven F. Fischer Memorial Bridge in Oliverea. Construction of the bridge was completed in 2012. The \$77,300 grant to the County supplements a recent FEMA payout. The new 60-foot bridge opening is substantially larger than the previous culvert that was blocked with sediment, and then blown-out by flood waters during Tropical Storm Irene (see photo at left below). The new opening is large enough to pass more than the 100-year flood flow and substantially reduces the risk of future failure. The County also restored the natural channel bed during bridge construction, which aids fish and wildlife passage.



Cty. Rt. 47 immediately after T.S. Irene in August 2011 (left) and the new County bridge (right).

Through the community grants program, AWSMP has awarded funding for 76 projects since 2009 to towns, Ulster County, education and research institutions, and not-for-profit organizations. Of these awards, 26 supported education projects; 9 supported development of environmental plans; 17 funded stream research, assessment and monitoring; 9 supported stream restoration projects; and 15 funded stream-related infrastructure improvements. Many of the projects were matched with federal funds or in-kind services from Highway Departments.

Interns Join Survey Crew to Monitor Streams



WCC Interns Cassidy Ryan (left) and Catherine Luttinger (right).

New technology has drastically changed how we monitor streams, however, as with all projects the most important component is the surveyors. Every year a group of Watershed Conservation Corps (WCC) interns, a partnership between SUNY-Ulster and NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, work alongside an Ulster County Soil and Water District (UCSWD) survey crew to learn about stream geomorphology, assessment, and management. The hardworking interns spend the summer



NEWS STREAM

Bennett Science Kids Release Video!

The Watershed Detectives Club at Onteora’s Bennett School did the acting and helped to make an educational watershed video. Check out the way cool science at: <https://vimeo.com/169135621>

Communities Set to Adopt Flood Maps

Ulster County towns have received final Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). To stay in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Towns must adopt the maps and any updates to floodplain management regulations by November 18, 2016. Check Town websites for notices on public hearings as the ordinances near adoption.

Anchoring Home Fuel Tanks

Town of Shandaken residents can contact the Shandaken Building Department about funding available to anchor fuel tanks. Call (845) 688-5008. Video on how to anchor fuel tanks: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/80366>

New Website for Scenic Byway

The Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway has a new website. The Byway stretches 52 miles and was organized by the Towns of Olive, Shandaken, Middletown and Andes. See: <http://sceniccatskills.com>

Towns are Climate Smart

Both the Town of Olive and the Town of Woodstock have adopted the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge. The Towns are now eligible for state funding programs that enhance community resilience and prepare for the effects of climate change.

Hurricane Season Started June 1

Are you prepared? See our Flood Emergency Preparedness Guide. Find it here: <http://bit.ly/2a6PiCz>

Follow us!

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





EVENTS AROUND THE WATERSHED

Thursday, August 4

Ulster County Fair runs August 2-7, New Paltz. AWSMP is scheduled to be at Fair on Thursday, August 4 to give stream table and floodplain model demonstrations in the 4-H Youth Building. Stop by and see us!

Saturday, August 27

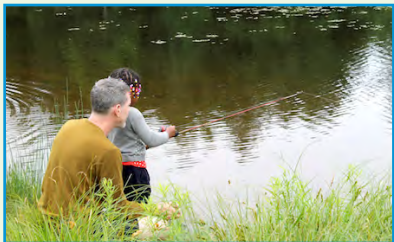
We'll be at Shandaken Day! 10am-4pm at Big Indian Park, Big Indian. Visit the AWSMP display and join us for family friendly activities.
<http://www.shandaken.us/recreation/shandaken-day/>

Saturday, September 10

We'll be at Olive Day! 9am-6pm at Davis Park, West Shokan. Enjoy free music and games and visit the AWSMP display.
<http://town.olive.ny.us>

Thursday-Friday, October 27-28

Catskill Environmental Research & Monitoring Conference at Belleayre Ski Center, Highmount. Researchers present findings of environmental studies. <http://ashokanstreams.org/conferences-training/research-conference/>



Saturday, October 1

Family Fun & Fish Day! 11am-1:30pm at Kenneth Wilson Campground, Mount Tremper. DEC and TU experts teach how to fish. Fishing poles provided, or bring your own. Registration is required. Call the office for details (845) 688-3047. Visit www.ashokanstreams.org.

months in the field mastering the scientific techniques of stream monitoring. "It's cool to be near the water every day. There's so much to learn about streams; I had no idea. Even so, the crew is so knowledgeable and patient and really make sure you learn," said Cassidy Ryan, a WCC intern. As the summer comes to an end we hope the interns will have gained a knowledge base that will not only inform their future interactions with the watershed, but also fuel their careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

Who Needs an Elevation Certificate?

An elevation certificate is an official document required for all new and substantially improved buildings in the regulated FEMA floodplain. The information in the certificate is used to show compliance with a community's floodplain management ordinance. Owners of existing building stock can also obtain an elevation certificate to demonstrate that a structure is above flood stage, which can lower flood insurance premiums. Only a licensed professional engineer, land surveyor, or architect can fill out an elevation certificate. A completed elevation certificate must be kept on file with a community's local building department and submitted to FEMA.



Local surveyor Don Brewer uses a total station to shoot an elevation.

Stony Clove Creek Projects Shown to Reduce Sediment Loading

From 2011 to 2015, the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program completed 7 projects in the Stony Clove Creek watershed to restore stream corridor stability and improve water quality. The projects treated 8,355 feet (about 1.6 miles) of stream channel at a cost over \$7 million. The Stony Clove Creek drains into the Esopus Creek at Phoenicia, NY. The projects had multiple goals - to stabilize the channel bed and adjacent hillslopes and substantially reduce erosion of coarse and fine sediments, to reduce bank erosion threatening nearby properties, and to slow and store water on undeveloped floodplains (thus protecting infrastructure downstream). The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has monitored the Stony Clove Creek since October 2010. Their findings show that on a daily basis the amount of suspended sediment in stream water decreased significantly from 2010 to 2014. The greatest reductions were measured at the highest stream flows. The full USGS report will be released later this summer and posted on the AWSMP website, see: www.ashokanstreams.org.

Ashokan Watershed
Stream Management Program

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A restored section of Stony Clove Creek and hillslope in Chichester shown in 2015, two years after project construction.