

# THE Trib

## Esopus Creek News Briefs

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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!



AWSMP project managers Chris Tran, NYC DEP (left) and Adam Doan, Ulster County SWCD (right) stand before one of several large eroding stream banks in Mink Hollow, Town of Woodstock. The banks and channel will be stabilized this summer.

### Beaver Kill - Van Hoagland Projects to Launch

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) is working with the Town of Woodstock, City of Kingston, and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection to launch a major stream restoration in the Mink Hollow section of the Beaver Kill near Van Hoagland Road this summer.

The story here is one we've heard before - the stream is flowing next to a road in a narrow valley. Over time the channel has eroded downward (incised) and is now undercutting its banks. This process was helped along by high, fast stream flows during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. Here in the Catskills, eroding stream banks can be rather massive hillslopes. The eroding slopes at this site rise 110 feet above the channel. Groundwater flows through these hillslopes and they ooze mud each spring. The mud is composed of fine sediments that can travel suspended in stream water all the way to the Ashokan Reservoir, polluting the drinking water supply for upstate communities and New York City. The Town of Woodstock is concerned about the trees falling from the slumping hillslopes that could block the Mink Hollow bridge immediately downstream.

To improve this situation, the Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) contracted with engineering firm Milone & MacBroom, Inc. to create computer models of this section of the stream. The models were used to compare the effects of different treatment options. To keep both water velocities and flood elevations at acceptable levels, the engineers designed a project that lowers the floodplain to create more room for water to leave the site. The stream channel will be adjusted slightly and stabilized with rock structures.



### NEWS STREAM

#### Water Wow!

The Watershed Detectives Club at Onteora's Bennett School did it again - for the second year in a row, students grades 4-5 produced an educational video on the importance of water to our daily lives in the Catskills. Check out the way cool science at: <https://vimeo.com/217747279>

#### Little Beaver Kill Residents Invited to Join 'Catskill Waters' Project

The AWSMP is working with artist and videographer Keiko Sono on a community arts project exploring life along the Little Beaver Kill and the surrounding watershed. All residents are invited to share their stories about the watershed's land, waters, and history. Contact Keiko at [keiko@catskillwaters.org](mailto:keiko@catskillwaters.org) or (845) 616-4635.

#### Shandaken/Allaben Local Flood Analysis

The Town of Shandaken is mid-way through an analysis to determine the causes of flooding and solutions in the hamlets of Shandaken and Allaben. Check the Town website for upcoming public meetings and notices: <http://www.shandaken.us>

#### Phoenicia Library's Watershed Programs

This summer at the Phoenicia Library learn about watersheds on July 21, join an outdoor classroom in Stony Clove Creek to learn what fish eat on July 29, and about invasive plants and pests and how to deal with them on August 5. See: <http://phoenicialibrary.org>

#### Catskill Stream Champions

Look for middle and high school aged youth providing mobile stream and watershed education on trails in the Ashokan Watershed this summer. For more information on the watershed youth program, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at (845) 340-3990.

#### Follow us!

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





## EVENTS AROUND THE WATERSHED

### Friday, August 4

The AWSMP will be at the Ulster County Fair in the 4-H Youth Building. Stop by to see the floodplain model and stream table demo. 10am-3pm at Ulster County Fairgrounds, New Paltz.

<http://ulstercountyfair.com>

### Saturday, August 19

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. Stop by and join the fun.

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

### Saturday, September 9

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

<http://town.olive.ny.us>

The base of two large eroding hillslopes will be stabilized with rock and a natural channel geometry. Drainage paths will be installed on the hillslope surfaces to capture and redirect groundwater flows.

After construction begins, the project site will look raw for several weeks. Stream water will be pumped out of the channel and around the construction area. Residents can expect to see large trucks carrying massive rocks moving up Mink Hollow. But despite how it will look, the channel and floodplain are being restored to a more naturally stable condition that should improve the health of the stream. The site will be fully restored by the project partners - the site's natural boulders will be used in the project, and native Catskill vegetation will be carefully replanted and monitored to ensure successful growth.

Similar projects on the Stony Clove Creek near Chichester have worked to dramatically reduce erosion and improve water clarity. The same great results are expected for the Beaver Kill.

The full list of project partners includes the Ulster County SWCD, City of Kingston (the City owns much of the site's property), Town of Woodstock, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP), Milone & MacBroom, Inc. and the construction firm for the project Evergreen Mountain Contracting, Inc. out of West Kill, NY. The project is funded by the NYC DEP.

## Little Beaver Kill Gets a Walkover

The Little Beaver Kill (LBK) is the last major stream joining the Esopus Creek before the Ashokan Reservoir and one of its healthiest tributaries. This summer, the stream program is checking conditions on the LBK during a stream feature inventory. A crew of four will walk all 9.8 miles of the mainstem and several major feeder streams. While the crew treks the stream, they pause and take measurements and record observations of eroding banks and other stream features. After the summer walkover, the assessment crew will analyze their findings and write the "Little Beaver Kill Stream Management Plan." The plan will be available in 2018 at [www.ashokanstreams.org](http://www.ashokanstreams.org).

## Featured Riparian Plant: Jewelweed

Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*, *Impatiens pallida*) is an annual plant commonly found growing along the edges of streams. It's easy to identify from the trumpet-shaped flowers that hang from the plant like a jewel from a necklace. The leaves are oval and round-toothed, and are iridescent when submerged in water. Also, the seeds of jewelweed will 'pop' when touched. Jewelweed is best known for its skin healing properties. The leaves and the juice from the stem of jewelweed are used by herbalists as a treatment for poison ivy, insect bites, and other types of skin rashes. Look for this gem of a plant growing along Catskill streams and in other wet places.

Ashokan Watershed landowners interested in restoring streamside vegetation may be eligible for free assistance from the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative. For more information contact Bobby at (845) 688-3047, ext. 6.

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Jewelweed provides food for pollinators.



Jewelweed under water has a fascinating iridescence.