

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

July 29, 2023, Bearsville Theater, Woodstock, NY



ASHOKAN WATERSHED CONFERENCE

Landowners Forum

Presentations delivered from the Theater Main Stage

- 1:00 Welcome and Introduction**
- 1:10 Emerging Invasives in the Ashokan Watershed**
John Thompson, Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) Director, Catskill Center for Conservation & Development
- 1:30 Stream & Wetland Permits: What Landowners Need to Know**
Brian Drumm, Biologist II with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Bureau of Ecosystem Health, Region 3
- 1:50 Introduction to the Cornell Master Forest Owner Program**
Shane Stevens, Natural Resources Program Coordinator and MFO Regional Director, and Greg Clarke, MFO Volunteer and member of Society of American Foresters
- 2:15 Film Screening: Exploring the Upper Esopus Creek Watershed**
A documentary-style video 'tour' of the Upper Esopus Creek stream system created by the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program. Written by Amanda Cabanillas with cinematography and editing by Northguild Production.
- 2:35 40 Years of Flooding, and Counting: Experiences and Impacts on a Lifelong Resident**
Aaron Bennett, lifelong resident of the Ashokan watershed who has experienced significant flood events in the region every decade since the 1980s
- 2:55 A Users Guide to the Geology of the Catskills**
Dany Davis, Stream Studies Coordinator, NYC Department of Environmental Protection
- 3:15 Question & Answer with Speakers**
- 4:00 Honoring the Great Circle of Life: Indigenous Teachings About the Esopus Watershed**
Evan Pritchard, Director of the Center for Algonquin Culture

Whether you are a Catskill native who moved across town, or completely new to the area; a year-round resident or weekend warrior, we welcome you to the Catskills and the Ashokan Reservoir watershed. Living with wild rivers (that regularly flood and move large amounts of sediment) in an important drinking water supply comes with unique challenges and opportunities. We hope you learn more today about this region and the unique services available to landowners.

Stream program:

AWSMP Office
3130 Route 28
PO Box 667
Shokan, NY 12481
(845) 688-3047
info@ashokanstreams.org

For more information on Ashokan watershed streams, visit ashokanstreams.org. If you have a question about erosion or stream management on your Ashokan watershed property, call the stream program office at (845) 688-3047.

Check out our riparian buffer planting program, the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative at catskillstreams.org/catskill-streams-buffer-initiative.

See back page for outdoor workshop schedule!

The 2023 Ashokan Watershed Conference was organized by the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program with funding provided by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection. The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program is a joint effort between Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.



Ashokan Watershed
Stream Management Program

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Workshops

Check-in at the patio outside the Theater Lounge Bar

1:40 Hands-On Identification and Management of Backyard Invasive Species

Join John Thompson, Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) Director, to take a closer look at some invasive species that may be found in your backyard. Look at specimens of common invasives to learn how to identify them and ways that you could help slow their spread.

2:20 Woods Walk & Discussion with Trained Foresters

Woods walk and Q&A with Greg Clarke, MFO Volunteer and trained forester, and Shane Stevens, MFO Regional Director with CCE Columbia-Greene. Learn what a MFO site visit entails, what resources the MFO program can provide, and how to get involved.

Nature Activities

2:00 - 3:30

Families can visit three activity stations to learn about streams and stream organisms at your own pace.



Look for activity stations in the yard outside the Theater



Station 1 - Magnificent Macroinvertebrates

Station 2 - Building Streams with Legos

Station 3 - Fun with Fish

Connecting Youth with Nature

The AWSMP delivers a watershed youth education program in collaboration with the Onteora Central School District, town recreation departments, and independently through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County.

Check our website and sign up for email notices to learn more about future offerings for school-aged children. Occasionally we run programs for pre-school children as well.

The Ashokan Watershed, with its numerous streams and forests, provides families with a variety of rich opportunities to connect children to the natural world.

Our lead youth educator Matt Savatgy is reachable at mjs593@cornell.edu.

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal employment and program opportunities.

Links to more information:

Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership
<https://catskillcenter.org/crisp>

NYS Department of Environmental Protection - Permits
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/96314.html>

Cornell Master Forest Owner Program
<https://blogs.cornell.edu/ccemfo/>

Esopus Creek at Coldbrook Hydrologic Predication
<https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?gage=mtrn6&wfo=aly>

Catskill Watershed Corporation - Septic Repair and Replacement, Flood Mitigation
<https://cwconline.org>

Local Glaciation in the Catskill Mountains
<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.1086/621285>

Center for Algonquin Culture
<http://www.algonquinculture.org>

Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative
<https://catskillstreams.org/catskill-streams-buffer-initiative/>

NYC Watershed Stream Management Program
<https://catskillstreams.org>

AWSMP on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/AWSMPUlster/>

Instagram: @ashokanstreams