

# Legislative

*A quarterly report for government officials & agencies; financial supporters; members of the Board of Directors & Program Committee*



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Ulster County

# Update

Volume 4 Issue 16

Ulster County

Winter 2008

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Streamside landowners in Mt. Tremper participated in a tree planting hosted by the **Esopus Creek Stream Management Program** in an effort to help streamside residents prevent further erosion of their land. Volunteers were organized to help plant 300 trees along a 300 foot streambank on the Upper Esopus Creek. A second planting along the Esopus Creek in Mt. Tremper is being planned for 2008.

120 people attended the 2008 Nursery and Greenhouse Growers School hosted by **Commercial Horticulture Program**. The program included presentations by specialists in the field and covered topics on weed suppressive ground covers as an option to reduce the use of herbicides, greenhouse energy that included alternative fuels (biomass) and equipment to heat greenhouses which included a grower-to-grower panel discussion. NYS DEC recertification credits were awarded to participants who held a valid NYS DEC pesticide applicators license.

The **Family and Consumer Science Program** hosted eight Relatives as Parents (RAPP) support groups and information sessions in Kingston and Ellenville. The Relatives as Parents Program provides an opportunity for residents of Ulster County who are raising the child of a relative to meet with personnel from eight different Ulster County agencies such as Social Services, Food Stamps, Mental Health, DSS Benefits, Family Lawyers and Mediation Services, and Educators of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County. This program also assisted participants with filling out important applications for financial assistance, health insurance, etc.

The **Northeast Small Farm Expo & Rural Living Expo** took place at the Ulster County Fair Grounds in New Paltz in October. This tri-state event, hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster, Orange, Sullivan & Dutchess Counties, attracted nearly 2,500 participants. It featured 86 educational sessions and demonstrations presented by professionals in small farm enterprises and extension educators.

The **4-H Leader's Share Fair Party** was held on Wednesday, January 23. Twelve 4-H Leaders received an introduction to the new 4-H National curriculum in Veterinary Science, Healthy Lifestyles, Environment, and Exploring 4-H. A \$400 educational grant from Ulster Savings Bank provided new curriculum to the 4-H Leaders that attended the Share Fair. Leaders will use the new curriculum for fun and exciting 4-H Projects in their 4-H Clubs. These project resources connect 4-H members to Cornell and the Land Grant Universities.

## IN PROGRESS

**Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program** will host the annual Commercial Fruit Growers School and Trade Show at the Kingston Holiday Inn. The topics covered over this four day event will be commercial Tree Fruit, Berries and Grapes. The trade show will feature over twenty five organizations. NYSDEC pesticides re-certification credits will be available. The sessions are to help local fruit producers remain competitive in the worldwide market by providing them with the latest production and marketing information. The classes will be Tuesday February 26 through February 29. For more information contact Michael Fargione at 845-691-7117.

**Family and Consumer Science** will host free classes that will educate participants about their options for Long Term Care Insurance. The classes will include one-on-one assistance and follow-up consultations. The classes will take place at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County Long Term Care Information Center located at 10 Westbrook Lane in Kingston and at other locations to be announced. For more information contact Elizabeth Higgins at 845-340-3990.

The **Master Gardener Program** is hosting its annual Seedling and Berry Sale in April. Trees available this year are Douglas, Concolor, Fraser and Canaan Firs, and Scotch Pines. Also new to this year's sale is black and red currants. Also available are blueberries, ever-bearing strawberries and red raspberries. For more information or to request an order form contact Dona Crawford at 845-340-3990.

The **4-H Youth Development Program** will once again offer the very popular Veterinary Science Series beginning in January and continuing through February. This five week series in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County and SUNY Ulster Vet Tech Program will lead youth ages 13-19 through an exploration of the exciting world of veterinary sciences and medicine. For more information contact Patti Zellmer at 845-340-3990.

## WHAT'S NEXT

**Esopus Creek Stream Management Program** will host their first Esopus Creek Community Celebration on Thursday, February 28 at the Phoenicia Methodist Church Parrish Hall. For more information contact Michael Courtney at 845-340-3990.

**4-H Youth Development Program** will host the 10th Annual Golf Classic on May 15 at Apple Greens Golf Course in Clintondale. The money raised from the event will benefit 4-H Youth & Leadership Development Fund. Corporate sponsors are being sought. For more information contact Betty Burgher at 845-399-2809.

The **Master Gardener Program** will host their annual Garden Day on Saturday, April 26 at the SUNY Ulster Campus in Stone Ridge. Master Gardeners along with Extension Educators and area professionals present a day of learning and fun. The keynote speaker is Larry Smobke. There will be sixteen classes covering such topics as good gardening basics, pruning trees and shrubs, integrated pest management as well as insect and weed control.

The County of Ulster will contract with **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County** to manage a \$600,000 grant from the New York State Office of Small Cities for its Farm Worker Housing Rehabilitation Program. The monies will be used to provide new modular housing on farms located in Ulster County.