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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Workshop Focuses on Practices and Programs to Conserve Wildlife Habitat

The Hudson River Estuary Program and the Cornell University Cooperative Extension Biodiversity Program Work Team are co-hosting a workshop for private landowners interested in managing habitats for both common and rare wildlife and plant species at 9 am on Thurs. Nov. 10, 2005 at the New Paltz Town Hall, 1 Veterans Drive, Rt. 32 (N. Chestnut St). The workshop consists of indoor presentations and field tours of private and publicly owned habitats including a riparian zone, local wetland and a forested site. The goal is to provide workshop participants with on-site, hands-on examples of successful management practices undertaken by private and public landowners who wish to protect or enhance and conserve important habitats for wildlife. The \$10 fee includes handouts, refreshments, and a bagged lunch. To obtain printable flier and registration form go to <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/pwt/bio/>

Agenda:

- 8:30 Registration, refreshments
- 9:00 Welcome, Introductions
Gary Goff, Dept. Natural Resources, Cornell University
- 9:15 *Biodiversity of the Hudson River Valley*
Karen Strong, NYS DEC/NY Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, Cornell University
- 9:45 *Programs Of Key Agencies And Organizations Involved With Management Programs For Private Landowners*
Leslie Zucker, NYS DEC/NY Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, Cornell University
- 10:00 Comments, questions and answers
- 10:30 **On the road to the 3 field sites.** Learn from the owners and natural resources professionals about the ecological value of the habitats, the management practices undertaken to enhance or preserve the habitats, and the cost-share and technical information programs that assisted them in accomplishing their stewardship.
Site #1. Riparian zone management.
Riparian buffer restoration project in the Village of New Paltz on the Walkkill River. Ulster Co. Soil & Water Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service assisted the Village of New Paltz with project design and plantings.
- 12:15 **Lunch** (provided)
Site #2. Wetland restoration.
Private landowner who has used goats to control invasive vegetation and maintain early-succession habitats.
Site #3. Comprehensive forest management.
Private landowner who developed a Forest Stewardship Plan and acquired funding for management via the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP); applied for DEC's Deer Management Assistance Permits to address deer damage concerns; plans to herbicide stands of "tree of heaven" and Norway maple; applied for the NYS Forest Tax Law 480-a; and has enrolled her land in a conservation easement.
- 4:30 **Adjourn**

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