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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(See image attached: 4-H Youth Watershed Stewards, Left to Right: Robyn LaBarr, Stefanie Landman, Karina Buckholz, and Angie Cross with Frank Parisio of the NYCDEP teaching a class on wetlands)

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Cornell Cooperative Extension Offers Watershed Internships this Fall

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program is offering a fall semester Youth Watershed Steward Intern program starting on September 15, 2009 for students in grades 7-12 who either live in the Ashokan Watershed or attend Onteora schools.

Interns will meet every Tuesday from September 15 to December 15 at 2:30pm at the Onteora High School. The sessions will last until 4:00pm or 5:00pm depending on that days activity. Occasional outdoor activities will take place on Saturdays. A spring semester program is also planned.

The watershed internship is both fun and educational. Interns will meet environmental professionals, spend time outdoors, and develop hands on skills in environmental science. Specific topics to be covered this fall include watershed science, field biology, Computer Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and working with public media. The project culminates with participants creating their own community service project in the watershed.

Last spring, five Onteora students participated in the program and developed their own community project. Armed with augurs, waders, and plant identification books, the watershed interns set out to identify and map wetlands. With the help of a local NYC Department of Environmental Protection wetland scientist, Frank Parisio, the interns identified the boundary of a wetland on Mink Hollow Road in Lake Hill, NY using plant identification, soil sampling, and hydrology.

Youth Watershed Internship applications are currently available by contacting Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County. For more information or to obtain an application contact Kristen or Colleen at 845-688-3047 or email Kristen at kew67@cornell.edu. The applications can also be downloaded online at www.esopuscreek.org.

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