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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ashokan Watershed Program Offers Streamside Native Plant Workshop

For those of you who live by or near streams, March is a great time to start planning landscaping or gardening projects this spring. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program is sponsoring a workshop about streamside native plants on Saturday, March 27 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

The event is free, but you must register by calling Colleen Griffin at Cooperative Extension at (845) 688-3047. The workshop will be at our field office at 6375 Route 28 in Shandaken (Location of former Black Bear Hollow Café).

Francis Groeters of Catskill Native Nursery and Adam Doan from Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District will talk about the importance of landscaping with native plants in the Catskills and how the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative can help landowners in the Ashokan Watershed restore streamside vegetation.

Francis Groeters is the owner of Catskill Native Nursery in Kerhonkson. Before starting Catskill Native Nursery, he was an insect ecologist in academia with degrees from Williams College (Biology BA), the University of Iowa (Zoology MS) and the University of California at Davis (Zoology PhD). Francis will speak about the use of native plants and ecological partnerships these plants have with the animals and insects that live with them.

Adam Doan is the Coordinator for the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI) for Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District, a partner in the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program. His work involves the protection, enhancement and restoration of critical riparian areas in the Ashokan Watershed using native species. His talk will touch on native alternatives to problem plants as well as explore the potential impact of climate change on native plants of the Catskill region. A brief overview of the CSBI program will be provided for landowners in the Ashokan Watershed.

(Continued on next page)

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Participants will learn how native plants fill important ecological niches, provide habitat for wildlife as well as prevent flood and erosion damage. Conservation of these plants is needed as some of our native plants are disappearing. Natives also are likely to do well for landscapers and gardeners since they are adapted to local conditions.

For more information about CCEUC's community programs and events call 845-340-3990 or visit us online at www.cceulster.org or follow us on www.facebook.com

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Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC) is a 501(c) 3 subordinate government agency of the State of New York under Article 5, 224(b) of the NYS County Laws organization that utilizes research based knowledge through their partnership with Cornell University. This information is disseminated through their on-going community programming in the areas of Agriculture, Horticulture, 4-H Youth Development, Family and Consumer Science and Environmental programs held throughout Ulster County.