

Upper Esopus Creek Management Plan Program Highlights: October - December 2007

- Project Advisory Council: The Upper Esopus Creek Management Plan Project Advisory Council (PAC) met once during the period on October 18th. Sixteen people attended.
- Aquatic Ecosystem Working Group: This working group met once during the period on October 22nd. Nine people attended.
- Education & Outreach Working Group: This working group met once during the period on December 17th. Six people attended.
- Committee to organize a Post-Flood Response Workshop for Ulster County: This committee met once during the reporting period on December 18th. Thirteen people attended.

Streamside Buffer Restoration Project (11/4/07)

Approximately 20 volunteers helped plant 300 feet of streambank with a 100 wide buffer of trees and willow stakes on the property of Leimgruber in Mt. Tremper. The property had some active erosion and was mostly covered only with grass. Trees were donated through the “Trees for Tribs” program of the Hudson River Estuary Program. Courtney organized and coordinated several adjacent streamside property owners and staff from DEP, CCE, and DEC to discuss possible planting projects. This simpler project was completed first and more projects are being planned for the spring. Articles on the plantings can be reviewed in the attached Newsletter and Ulster Current. About 300 trees were planted with weed matting and tree tubes, representing a market value of \$937 and a total project grant value of \$1,273 including DEC staff time.

“Kool School” After School Program (Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13 @ Phoenicia Elementary)

Courtney provided five sessions of one-hour programming on stream education with elementary school students using leaf pack stream monitoring method, tree identification and stream processes education.

Esopus Creek News and Riparian Plant Guide (11/20/07)

This issue included *An Abbreviated Guide for Selecting native Riparian Plants in the Catskills*, with content on plants and opening information provided by CCE summer intern, Robert “Bobby” Taylor to fulfill his required extension project. Content on how to plant trees, as well as guide layout and production was coordinated by Courtney and produced by multiple CCE staff. The guide was distributed as an insert in the *Esopus Creek News* to streamside landowners and others on the Esopus Creek Watershed mailing list. Many positive comments have been received on the guide, and one landowner reported changing his preference for grass to native shrubs and trees on his property after reading the guide. Extra copies will continue to be distributed and a PDF version is available on the website www.esopuscreek.org.

Aquatic Ecosystem Research and Assessment Strategy:

A draft report was produced by Magliaro and presented in draft form for review by the working group at the October 22nd meeting. The report was subsequently revised based on the working group participant comments and redistributed prior the holiday break for further review.