

**Esopus Creek Management Plan**  
**Program Highlights: September & October 2006**

**Assessment and Research Status:**

- Project Coordination: Met multiple times with DEP, Army Corps, and other partners to coordinate assessment work, public involvement, and local expertise input. A revised outline for the Esopus Creek Management Plan has been developed. The deliverable date to the U.S. EPA is Dec. 31, 2006.
- Landowner Survey: Upon last check, ~41% of surveys have been returned to the Cornell U. Human Dimensions Research Unit (HDRU). HDRU is currently conducting follow-up phone surveys to check for non-response bias. Michael is awaiting results for reporting and program development.
- Aquatic Ecosystem Study: Walt Keller submitted a revised draft Aquatic Ecosystem Assessment of Esopus Creek on 10.31.06. This draft will be reviewed by our Aquatic Ecosystem Work Group.
- Riparian Vegetation Characterization Analysis: A contract with Barry Vittor & Associates, Inc. for this product was signed and work commenced 9.26.06. Work may be complete by end November.
- Stream Geomorphic Surveying: Assisted DEP field staff with surveys at multiple locations.
- History of Esopus Creek – Sarah continues research into early stream history management practices.
- Streamside Business - Gathered a list of all the local businesses along the Esopus Creek.
- Angling & Recreation: Contacted and composed a list of the anglers and whitewater guides along the Esopus Creek, and clubs who sponsor recreational trips.
- Streamside Property Visits: visited multiple streamside properties. Provided information about how stream management plan can be used for guidance and future assistance.

**Work Group Meetings:**

- Project Advisory Council meeting was held 10.3.06. Attendance: 19.
- Education & Outreach Work Group met 9.13.06, Attendance 7. This community-based group is working on public input and education work planning for 2007.
- Aquatic Ecosystem Work Group met 9.26.06 – met to review draft annotated bibliography and ecosystem analysis. Attendance: 15.
- Meeting with NYS DOT Region 8: Coordinated a meeting with our Esopus Creek assessment team on 10.4.06 to discuss stream management opportunities.

**Education & Outreach Events/Materials:**

- Community Meeting: was held October 5, 2006 at 7 **pm** at the Phoenicia Fish & Game Building, Rte 28, Phoenicia. Project scientists presented their initial findings. Michael coordinated break-out session for further input from the community. About ~75 people attended, many which were streamside landowners, our target audience. The meeting was videotaped for show on public access.
- Leaf Pack Training: Organized, advertised and implemented a “Leaf Pack” Stream Team Training (volunteer monitoring of stream-based insect life) on October 21. Eight (8) people attended. A follow-up training is scheduled for November 11. This program is being done in partnership with the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development.
- Youth Watershed Mural: Local artists Michelle Spark and Christy Scheele received a second mural grant from Kids in the Catskills of \$2,500. This money goes directly to the artists for their time/efforts and complements the \$2,000 materials grant that CCEUC received from the Catskill Watershed Corporation.

**Staff Training/Development**

- Michael and Jeremy attended training on Program Design and Evaluation hosted by DEP and led by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- Michael Participated in EPA webcast on developing Volunteer Stream Monitoring Programs.
- Jeremy attended Advanced Facilitation Training sponsored by Cornell U. Small Farms Program.

*Jeremy Magliaro, Coordinator*  
*Walt Keller, Aquatic Ecosystem Scientist*

*Michael Courtney, Educator*  
*Sarah Tarallo, Project Intern*