

Esopus Creek Management Plan Program Highlights, June - August 2006

Stream and Public Assessments:

- Riparian Vegetation Characterization Analysis: CCE has drafted a contract for this service from consultant Barry Vittor Associates for a 200 ft buffer analysis along the ~24 mi Esopus.
- Aquatic Ecosystem Study: Walt Keller has produced a draft annotated bibliography of all previous studies and data pertaining to the Esopus Creek watershed. The document has been distributed to peer reviewers and other knowledgeable contacts for critical review and identification of additional resources. The next step includes an analysis of the data and peer review discussion on 9/26.
- Landowner Survey: Working with Cornell University Professor Max Pfeffer (Chair, Department of Rural Sociology), Linda Wagenet (CCE Agent, Rural Sociology), and Tommy Brown (Chair, Human Dimensions Research Unit, Department of Natural Resources), a survey of 250 property owners along the creek is under development. CCE has contracted with Human Dimensions to format, mail, and produce a report from survey results. Expected date of mailing: ~Labor Day.

Advisory Meetings:

- A Project Advisory Council meeting was held 6/21/06. DEP representative from Shandaken Tunnel operations now sits on the Council and has arranged for this group to tour the Gilboa Dam emergency construction. Next PAC Meeting: October 3, 2006.
- Education & Outreach Work Group has continued to meet on 2nd Wednesday of each month. Current projects include final design and distribution of Japanese Knotweed magnet, producing a mural in Phoenicia, and assisting with community outreach, among others.
- The **next public meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2006 at 7 pm** at the Phoenicia Fish & Game Building, Rte 28, Phoenicia. Project scientists will be on hand to present their initial findings. CCE will be gathering further input from the community.

Education & Outreach Events/Materials:

- Knotweed Mapping and Control: (June 2) Foxfire 4-H Group in Oliverea mapped and implemented control measures on invasive Japanese Knotweed plants in McKinley Hollow. Received press and newsletter coverage.
- KCCNY Whitewater Slalom (June 3) – CCE attended the whitewater slalom race with the intent of surveying participants, but heavy rains prevented effective surveying.
- Neighborhood Stream Cleanup in Oliverea (June 6th) was coordinated by volunteer Pat Rudge with CCE assistance in arranging trash pickup by DEP.
- Stream Walk & Talk with the Experts (June 17): Approximately 10 residents from the Esopus Creek watershed attended this educational event. A follow-up packet was mailed to all participants that included a program survey, listing of riparian plants, stream management guides, and avenues to gain more information. Survey results are still being collected.
- Big Indian Outreach Potluck (July 28) hosted by Chris Kupec and Anique Morrison provided an opportunity to connect with at least four local landowners about the project.
- Wetland Tour: (Aug. 5) sponsored by CCE at Zen Environmental Studies Institute was attended by 7 persons. A tour of the wetland was given by naturalist Spider Barbour.
- Shandaken Day: (Aug. 26) CCE will have a booth with interactive stream demonstration table, info on invasive species, and will be available to discuss the management plan.
- Printed Resources: The 3rd edition of the *Esopus Creek News* was mailed to partner organizations and approximately 1,300 streamside landowners on the Esopus Creek and its tributaries in Olive and Shandaken in July. The project website: www.esopuscreek.org continues to be updated. And a streamside landowners guide produced from regional collaboration has been completed.
- Youth Watershed Mural: Local artists Michelle Spark and Christy Scheele have been meeting regularly with Michael to plan the youth mural project.