

Ashokan Basin Stream Management Project  
Program Highlights  
June-Aug, 2008

**Stream Stewardship Class: Mapping Invasive Plants**

On Saturday, July 26, a group of volunteer stream stewards gathered on the Esopus Creek to learn about using a hand-held GPS (Global Positioning System) Unit to map locations of invasive Japanese knotweed plants in the Esopus Creek Watershed. After the volunteers recorded size and location data for each knotweed colony in the field, the data was downloaded onto a computer with GIS (Geographical Information Systems) software. The stream stewards will be learning more and developing plans for controlling invasive Japanese knotweed as well as other stream management practices.

**New Staff on Ashokan Basin Stream Management Program**

Since August, Laura Weyeneth has started as a new Watershed Educator who will work with Michael Courtney on education and outreach programs in the Ashokan Watershed. Laura comes to us with great enthusiasm and skills, previously working with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and the Student Conservation Association as an educator on invasive plants.

As of October 1, Elizabeth Higgins will begin as the new Project Coordinator, replacing Jeremy Magliaro who moved on to a new position in Albany last May. Elizabeth Higgins will be continuing the role of coordinating the diverse groups in the Ashokan watershed to work toward our goals of improved stream management practices. Elizabeth Higgins was a Policy Analyst for Winrock International in Arlington, VA. and directed the Center for Rural Development at Louisiana Tech University.

**Shandaken Day**

Shandaken Day – August 23. CCE had its stream demonstration model and other information at Shandaken Day at the proposed future site of the Catskill Interpretive Center. Many people stopped by the booth to learn about stream processes.

**We're Moving**

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Esopus Creek Project Office will be expanding and relocating from the Phoenicia Plaza to the former Black Bear Hollow Café in December.

Extension will be sharing office space with staff from the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District, which will provide technical assistance to the Ashokan Basin Stream Management Project for the next five years. The district will have three staff (yet to be hired) working in the field office: a Project Coordinator, a Streamside Assistance Program Coordinator, and a part-time engineer to implement stream management plan recommendations.

**Community Meeting – September 18**

A community meeting will be held on Thurs., Sept 18 at the Phoenicia Catholic Church Parish Hall to update the community on the program expansion to the entire Ashokan Basin and to discuss plans as we move into an implementation phase to spend \$2 million on stream management-related projects.