

**2010 Annual Report
Ulster County
Environmental Management Council
March 2011**

Overview

The Ulster County EMC has had a very successful year with the council members growing and sharing many experiences throughout the year in the efforts to use, protect and conserve the environment for the benefit of all the people. With the activation of the Department of the Environment in 2008, the council was able to revert back to its primary role of reviewing and advising the county and local governments on environmental issues. In 2008, The Department of the Environment completed the county's first Environmental Plan which has been used as a management tool for multiple county departments' environmental activities. The EMC also began operating under the new Charter form of government in early 2009.

Environmental Management Council

Sixteen of the twenty-four municipalities in Ulster County have Environmental Council/Commissions (See Exhibit A), up from 14 in 2008.

At the end of 2010 the membership of the Environmental Management Council Board included 11 town representatives, 5 at-large members and one ex-officio member for a current total of 17(See Exhibit A). We are continuing to work with the three municipalities, Lloyd, Marbletown and the Village of New Paltz, who have Environmental Council/Commissions but do not have a representative on the council. Throughout the year, attendance was excellent with a quorum at nearly every meeting.

One of the goals of the Ulster County EMC is to educate the membership about local environmental initiatives and organizations in the area by hosting guests at the monthly meetings to share their information. During 2010, we had two special presentations, which included learning about Emerald Ash Borer as well as DEC Program and Budget Cuts during the 2010 budget cycle. Another of the more effective communication tools has been to document in detail the information that is exchanged at each meeting in minutes and sharing these minutes both with the members of the council and the municipal supervisors/mayors.

Department of the Environment

The Department of the Environment along with the UC Environmental Management Council held a roundtable conference for all the municipal environmental committee members in June of 2010. The purpose of the conference was to bring all the municipal boards together to share local successes, allow an opportunity for networking, and identify opportunities for additional trainings and seminars focused around watersheds. There were approximately 40 attendees for this evening conference. Municipal environmental groups were surveyed on past projects completed, strengths, weaknesses and future goals.

The Department of the Environment also helped advance the county in the areas of sustainability, stormwater and natural resources with exciting energy efficiency work including a photovoltaic project, continued work on “greening” the county office building, and providing GIS support to towns and CAC’s to advance natural resource planning. Additional information can be found in the 2010 Department of the Environment Annual Report.

2010 Accomplishments

2nd Annual CAC Roundtable

This event organized by the UCEMC was held at SUNY Ulster in June of 2011. Attended by over 50 participants, this years theme was Watersheds and led the official Kickoff to planning the 2010 CreekWeek Event. Numerous watershed groups were in attendance to offer guidance and suggestions to Ulster Counties’ CAC’s.

CreekWeek 2010

During September of 2010, dozens of Community Organizations and CAC’s across Ulster County came together to offer a wide variety of educational, watershed based programming to Ulster County residents and visitors. A complete listing of the 2010 CreekWeek programs can be found in Appendix B. Positive press was received in many local papers including Ulster Publishing’s Community newspapers.

Web/Communication Development

For the first time, the Ulster County EMC has a presence on the web. www.ucenvironment.org was officially launched during the summer of 2010 as a lead up to CreekWeek. This website has allowed the EMC to post Agenda’s, meeting announcements, a variety of Ulster County maps, as well as CreekWeek events. Plans for the website include articles, links, and resources for CAC

members and their communities. Additionally, the EMC, with the help of Cornell Cooperative Extension, now has a list serve, where members can receive and share information with EMC members and other Ulster County residents who are interested in environmental issues.

Water Quality

During 2010, the EMC discussed water quality issues surrounding the Lower Esopus Creek. In early October 2010, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection began releasing turbid water into the Lower Esopus Creek. The EMC was provided information each meeting which culminated with a resolution supporting the end of these turbid discharges as well as independent studies to determine the impact these events had on the Lower Esopus ecosystem.

Accolades

In late 2010, the Ulster County Environmental Management Council received an award from the New York State Association of Environmental Management Councils for its work watershed education work related to developing and hosting CreekWeek 2010.

Exhibit A

Municipal CACs and EMC Membership

1. 16 Municipalities with Environmental Commissions/Committees (CAC):

- Town of Esopus
- Town of Gardiner
- Town of Hardenburgh
- Town of Hurley
- City of Kingston
- Town of Lloyd
- Town of Marbletown
- Town of Marlborough
- Town of New Paltz
- Village of New Paltz
- Town of Rochester
- Town of Rosendale
- Town of Saugerties
- Town of Shawangunk
- Town of Wawarsing
- Town of Woodstock

2. Environmental Management Council Current Membership (End of 2010):

11 Municipal Members

- Henry Bartosik, Town of Wawarsing
- Joseph Damrath, Town of Saugerties
- Lillian Green, Town of Rochester
- Joseph Liuni, Town of Rosendale
- Julie McQuain, Town of Hardenburgh
- Catherine Quick, Town of Esopus
- John Sansalone, Town of Gardiner
- Virginia Starke, Town of Hurley
- Gregg Swanzey, City of Kingston
- Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk
- Stephen Osborn, Town of Marlborough

5 At Large Members

- Ann Brandt

- Cindy Lanzetta
- William More
- Steve Noble
- Julie Noble

1 Ex-Officio Representative:

- Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Planning

Appendix B

Welcome to your online source for Ulster County watershed awareness events during the 2010 Creek Week celebration, September 9-19th.

Event Registration Form can be downloaded and mailed or emailed!

[2010 Ulster County CreekWeek Event Registration](#)

2010 Events

Walkill River Watershed

Thursday, September 23rd at 7pm, A movie will be shown in the Shawangunk Town Hall located on 14 Central Avenue in Walkill. The movie Blue Gold: World Water Wars is an award winning 2008 documentary about environmental implications of our dwindling water supply. The movie will be shown in the basement of the new town hall followed by open discussion.

Saturday, September 25th 9am to noon Pond Life on the Walkill River at the Popp Park Pavilion on Route 208 in Walkill (between Stewarts and Sunoco). Rain or shine under the pavilion.

Ecologist Jamie Morgan will bring the water to life with her collection of aquatic insects—learn how dragonflies and other flying insects begin life in the water. Learn about water quality and the effect humans can have on it. The pH of the river will be tested and you can learn how to capture river bottom insects with a net. Bring a water sample from your own stream or pond and discover what lurks within.

For more information, contact angelasisson@gmail.com

Rondout Creek Watershed Events

RONDOUT CREEK COMMUNITY TRAIL WALK & LUNCH

Tuesday, September 14th, 7:15, Public Screening of "FLOW"

sponsored by Rosendale Environmental Commission, Marbletown Environmental Commission, Rondout Creek Watershed Council and Stand for Land

Where: Rosendale Theatre, Main Street, Rosendale, NY

Cost: FREE

Description: This critically acclaimed documentary film, directed by Irena Salina, investigates what experts have labeled the most important political and environmental issues of the 21st Century--the World Water Crisis. The New York Times calls FLOW an "astonishingly wide-ranging film" that is "less depressing than galvanizing, an informed and heartfelt examination of the tug of war between public health and private interests."

Contact Information:

Natasha Williams: willamskircher@earthlink.net / 845-687-7116

Jennifer Metzger: jennmetzger@yahoo.com / 845-658-8967

sponsored by: TOWN OF WAWARSING & THE WAWARSING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

SUNDAY, SEPT. 26, 2010 10AM- 2PM

EASTERN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY EMPLOYEE RECREATIONAL AREA (on Berme Rd.,across from Ulster Correctional parking lot, behind Unity Hall)

No cost to attend, lunch available for \$10

Join the Wawarsing Environmental Commission for a short walk on the D&H Trail to the hamlet of Port Ben--- then over the Rondout Creek bridge to the farm lane along the Rondout to the Vernooy Kill and back. This is an easy walk on mostly level ground. Lunch (wraps) are available or bring your own picnic lunch. The picnic grounds are located right on the Rondout Creek. The Environmental Commission hopes to foster an appreciation of the Rondout Creek Watershed and its surrounding natural resources.

CONTACT: John Adams at portbenfarm@mac.com

September 15th, 6:00pm: Dinner & Documentary

The Kingston Land Trust's 'Dinner & Documentary' Series featuring the film "The Chances of the World Changing" by Eric Daniel Metzgar

Where:

Mint Wine and Tapas Restaurant, 1 West Strand
Kingston, NY , 845/338-6139

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kingston-NY/MINT/116922751658645>

Costs if Any:

Dinner and Drinks not provided. The film showing is complimentary. Donations will be accepted on behalf of the Kingston Land Trust.

Short Description:

The Kingston Land Trust's 'Dinner and Documentary' Series is a fun and educational community event that invites the public to enjoy dinner and drinks (not provided) followed by a complimentary showing of a documentary film that focuses on compelling environmental issues. Our September documentary will feature the critically acclaimed film 'The Chances of the World Changing' by Eric Daniel Metzgar (Merigold Moving Pictures). For more on the film, visit:

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/chancesoftheworld/>

Contact phone and website:

Rebecca Martin, Executive Director of the KLT 845/877-5263 or visit on the web:

<http://www.kingstonlandtrust.org>

September 10th, 6:00pm: Rondout Creek Sunset Paddle

The City of Kingston/Forsyth Nature Center offers an educational paddle on the tidal Rondout Creek.

Where:

Hudson River Maritime Museum
East Strand, Kingston, NY

845/481-7336

Costs if Any:

\$10 for Kingston Residents, \$15 for non-residents (Mention Creek Week to receive these discounted prices)

Contact phone and website:

Visit www.forsythnaturecenter.org or www.kingston-ny.gov for more information. Steve Noble, Environmental Educator, 845/481-7336

Saturday September 11th & 19th, 2pm: D & H Canal Five Locks Trail Walking Tour

Sponsored by the D & H Historical Society and Museum

Where: D & H Canal Museum, 23 Mohonk Road, High Falls, NY

Cost: FREE

Description: Join us on this Five Locks trail walk as a D & H Canal Museum docent guides us along the historic D and H canal. The mostly level and accessible walk follows the towpath of the High Falls segment of the D and H canal, a major transportation route of the 19th century. The trails is a National Historic Landmark (Walk is approx 1 hour).

Contact Information:

Info@canalmuseum.org / Weekends only (845) 687-9311

September 14th & 16th, Rosendale Elementary School Stream Monitoring Day

Sponsored by Clearwater, Rondout Creek Watershed Council, Hudson Basin River Watch

Where: Epworth Camp and Resort Center

Cost: FREE -Not a public event

Description: *We will collect, compare, and identify aquatic invertebrates that live in the river and learn how to use them as indicators of water quality. Life cycles and adaptations will be discussed, as we compare as contrast invertebrates from different habitats and niches. Get up close and personal with the foundation of the aquatic food web! This experience will empower youth to make wise decisions for watershed protection and have fun!*

Hudson River Watershed

Contact Information: victor@clearwater.org / 845-265-8080 ext 7144

September 11th, 9:00am and 6:00pm, Hudson River Paddles:

The City of Kingston/Forsyth Nature Center offers an educational paddles on the Hudson River.

Where:

Kingston Point Beach

Delaware Avenue, Kingston, NY

845/481-7336

Costs if Any:

\$10 for Kingston Residents, \$15 for non-residents (Mention Creek Week to receive these discounted prices)

Contact phone and website:

Visit www.forsythnaturecenter.org or www.kingston-ny.gov for more information. Steve Noble, Environmental Educator, 845/481-7336

September 11th, 10:30am; Clearwater's Esopus River Walk and Wade

Sponsored by Clearwater, Inc.

Where: Esopus Meadows Preserve, 257 River Road, Ulster Park, NY 12487

Cost: FREE

Description: Come explore the Hudson River Estuary and follow the path of the water as it enters the estuary. Take a moderate hike through the preserve. This will be followed by a beach seine program. We will wear chest waders and catch, examine, and identify the fish we catch.

Contact Information:

Contact Eli at Clearwater at eli@clearwater.org or 845-265-8080 ext 7106

Esopus Creek Watershed

Saturday September 11th, 9am, Hurley Rail Trail Family Bike Ride (Rain Date September 18th, 9am)

Where: Meet at the Hurley Rail Trail Parking Lot, Route 209, Hurley

Cost: FREE, meal on your own

Program description: Bike the Hurley Rail Trail from the Esopus Creek to the Hamlet of Cottekill and back on this flat ride for the Whole Family. The ride follows the trail for six miles, paved and unpaved sections, and then travels a short distance on a low traffic road for a lunch stop at the Crossroads Deli (or bring your own). Bike helmet and water bottle required.

Contact Information:

Tom Polk, tpolk@hvc.rr.com / 845-228-2153

Saturday September 11th, 10am, Come and find out what lives in the Esopus Creek sponsored by the Hurley Conservation Advisory Council

Where: Meet at the Hurley Town Hall Parking Lot, Hurley

Cost: FREE

Program description: The Hurley C.A.C. is offering a stream ecology workshop for youngsters as part of Ulster County's First Annual Creek Week. We will use aquatic equipment such as kick nets to look for the various species that live in the Esopus. Possibilities include snails, clams, worms, crayfish and shiners. Be prepared to go wading and get muddy. Meet at 10 a.m. in the Hurley Town Hall parking lot.

Contact Information:

caccouncil@townofhurley.org / 845-331-1422

Sunday, September 12th, 11am-2pm, Ashokan Center Creek Week Event sponsored by the Ashokan Center

Where: Ashokan Center, 477 Beaverkill Road, Olivebridge, NY 12461

Cost: FREE

Description: Bring a picnic lunch and join Ashokan staff along the Esopus Creek for birding, streamside ecology and other water wonders at Ashokan's magical 374 acres and the lower Esopus that runs through the campus in Olivebridge, NY. For more information or directions visit ashokancenter.org

Contact Information:

www.ashokancenter.org / 845-657-8333



Saturday, September 18th, 9am-12pm, Esopus Bend Wildlife walk

sponsored by the Esopus Creek Conservancy

Where: Esopus Bend Nature Preserve: Meet at Saugerties Village Beach Parking Lot(RT 9W)

Cost: FREE

Description: We will take a leisurely 2.5 hour guided walk in one of New York's newest nature preserves uniquely situated along a dramatic bend in the Esopus Creek. Migrant birds, late-season butterflies and dragonflies, and early fall foliage are some of the expected attractions this year.

Contact Information:

Steve Chorvas, schorvas@verizon.net / 845-246-5900

Parks along the Esopus Tour and Dinner

Sponsored by the Lower Esopus Watershed Partnership and the Forsyth Nature Center

Date: September 24, 2010

Time: 4:00pm-Twilight

Location: Forsyth Nature Center (Dietz Stadium Entrance)

Cost: Free, in honor of CreekWeek 2010

Join us for a tour of existing public spaces along the Lower Esopus Creek in the City of Kingston, and Town of Ulster. We will travel via van to showcase what our Lower Esopus has to offer. The tour will end with an optional pay your own way dinner at a local restaurant in the Esopus watershed. Please register via email or phone. This tour will explore six locations with extended walking at three. Make sure you dress appropriately! All are welcome. We meet at the Forsyth Nature Center Parking Lot (Adjacent to Dietz Stadium) and the program is free. To register for the program, please contact Steve Noble, snoble@kingston-ny.gov / 845-481-7336. You can find more information at www.ucenvironment.org and for detailed driving directions at www.forsythnaturecenter.org

Ashokan Reservoir Watershed

Sunday, September 12th, 11am, Streamside Native Plant Walk

sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

Where: Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Office, 6375 State Route 28, Phoenicia, NY

Cost: FREE

Description: Led by Violet Snow. Native plants provide important ecological roles but are having to compete with invasive plants more and more. Learn to identify native streamside plants so you can landscape and conserve them and your property. Native plants grow well as they are naturally adapted to the local environment.

Contact Information:

mcc55@cornell.edu / 845-688-3047

Monday, September 13th, 6:45pm, Environment Film: Dr. Seuss - "The Lorax"

sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

Where: Olive Free Library, 4033 Route 28-A, West Shokan

Cost: FREE

Description: People young and old will enjoy this classic Dr. Seuss film about caring for the environment. Free and open to the public. Film starts promptly at 6:45pm. Free popcorn.

Contact Information:

mcc55@cornell.edu / 845-688-3047

Tuesday, September 14th, 6:30-7:30pm, Crummy Culverts Talk with Liz Higgins

sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

Where: Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Office, 6375 State Route 28, Phoenicia, NY

Cost: FREE

Description: Culverts convey water under our roads and driveways. But poor design can lead to hassles for landowners and streams. Learn the difference between a "Crummy Culvert" and a good one and get details on the Crummy Culverts Contest. Enter Crummy Culverts Contest by submitting a photo of the worst culverts you can find in the Ashokan Watershed. Grand Prize is a Kodak ZX3 Pocket Video Camera!

Contact Information:

mcc55@cornell.edu / 845-688-3047

Thursday, September 16th, 6:30-7:30pm, Learn to Make Your Own Rainbarrel Workshop

sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

Where: Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Office, 6375 State Route 28, Phoenicia, NY

Cost: FREE

Description: Rain barrels collect stormwater runoff to save water, reduce runoff and provide chlorine-free rain water for your garden! Learn how to make them on the cheap! Free rainbarrels for the first three families to sign up.

Contact Information:

mcc55@cornell.edu / 845-688-3047

Saturday, September 18th, 1pm-3pm, Learn to Fish (Youth event)

sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

Where: Kenneth Wilson State Park

Cost: FREE, but there is a \$6 per car day use fee at the park

Description: Fishing introduction for kids including loaner poles at an easy pond. Ages 8-13. Space limited. registration is required. Led by licensed fishing guide Bill Colagrande.

Contact Information:

mcc55@cornell.edu / 845-688-3047

Saturday, September 18th, 9am-Early/Mid afternoon, Streamside Restoration Planting Project

sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

Where: Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Office, 6375 State Route 28, Phoenicia, NY

Cost: FREE

Description: Volunteers Needed! Help plant trees and shrubs to restore stream side vegetation on a local stream. We will meet at the project office and carpool to the planting location. Bring boots, workgloves and water bottles.

Contact Information:

mcc55@cornell.edu / 845-688-3047

Anytime dring Creekweek 2010, Annual Watershed Creek Week 2010 Photo Contest

sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

Where: Anywhere in the Ashokan Watershed

Cost: FREE

Description: Got photography skills? Enter us to two framed photos, o larger than 8"x10" taken anywhere in the Ashokan Reservoir Watershed by September 30th. First prize of a \$100 gift certificate to Artcraft Camera and Digital! Opening with photos to take place next spring in Phoenicia. All photos entered become property of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Contact Information:

Dona Crawford dm282@cornell.edu / 845-340-3990

Sawkill Creek Watershed

Sunday, September 12, 12-4pm, Drawn from the Creek

sponsored by Sawkill Watershed Alliance

Where: Comeau Property, Woodstock

Cost: FREE

Description: Come spend Grand Parents day together on trails near the banks of the Sawkill creek at the Town of Woodstock's Comeau Property.*Contact Information:*

Trail HIKING 2-4pm: Take a guided hike along The Comeau's meandering paths through forest, wetlands and along the Sawkill Creek. Led by retired DEC trail educator and naturalist Rich Parisio

Nature STORIES 12-2pm: Hear & Share nature stories we have in common, meet your neighboring naturalists & help create our own local natural history stories led by improve theatre/story teller Jana Smith. Hear readings from our own: Will Nixon's writings & poems about hiking

along the Sawkill and in the Catskill mountains and Jo Schwartz reading from Alf Evers “ Watch Dog Mountain”.

Creek SCIENCE 12-2pm: Play with the interactive ENVIROSCAPE led by our own inter-generational environmental stewardship group including students and retired science and art educators. Come help with performing water quality monitoring of the Sawkill Creek along different sites. Make sure to bring a picnic or snack to keep you going for this fun afternoon of Strolling, Science and Arts all at our Comeau.

Rain or shine except in extreme storms

Mary McNamara; marywaterbyrd@gmail.com