

Education and Outreach Committee Meeting
Schoharie Watershed Stream Management Program Office
Tannersville, NY
Thursday June 24th at 2pm

Meeting Notes

Present: Liz LoGuidace (CCE), Dave Burns (DEP), Josh Gorman (GCSWCD), Jeff Flack (GCSWCD), Michelle Yost (GCSWCD-WAP), Diane Galusha (CWC), Judd Weisberg

❖ **Schoharie Watershed Week**

- The group reviewed the attendance and discussed the lessons learned at this first inaugural event. The SWW debriefing meeting was scheduled following this meeting; therefore we kept the discussion to a minimal. Josh briefing discussed that we will need to visit the idea of a Schoharie Watershed Week vs. Month. There are benefits to having a month long event, Saturdays are good for attendance.

<u>SWW Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Participants</u>
• DEP Gilboa Dam Tour ***DEP Cancelled the Event	Sat May 15	~50-70
• CWC Septic Workshop	Monday May 17	6
• CSBI West Kill Presentation	Tuesday May 18	1
• WAC Presentation	Wednesday May 19	2
• WAP Open House	Thursday May 20	1
• Adopt A Stream	Friday May 21 st	75
• Film Series	Friday May 21 st	20
• Rain Barrel Building	Saturday May 22 nd	15
• Windham Art Alliance	Saturday May 22 nd	33
• CD Lane Family Day	Saturday May 22 nd	
• Fly Fishing Demo		5
• Nature Hike and Crafts		8
• Canoe and Kayak Safety Class		7
• Scavenger Hunt BBQ	Saturday May 22 nd	28
• Spring Fling @ MTHS	Saturday May 22 nd	~30
• Film Series	Saturday May 22 nd	15
• Film Series	Sunday May 23	6
<u>Total Participation</u>		<u>~250</u>

****With Gilboa Dam Tour ~300 people

❖ **Schoharie Watershed Tour**

The Schoharie Watershed Tour was held June 19, the goal of which is to show participants the variety of possibilities to protect water quality while at the same time serving as a catalyst for local communities, agencies and watershed stakeholders to identify and implement opportunities in their communities.

The 2010 watershed bus tour highlighted the impacts of acid rain and climate change in the Schoharie basin. The tour showcased the Hunter Landfill wetland and wind turbine to illustrate the benefits of constructed wetlands and the connections between renewable energy and water quality. Starting at the Hunter Tannersville Elementary School with a presentation from Gary Lovett, Forest Ecologist with the [Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies](#). Gary has studied Catskill forests for 25 years. He discussed how three environmental problems—acid rain, climate change, and the invasion of forest insect pests—may impact our lives in the Catskills in the coming years.

Dr. Lovett gave an overview of all three problems, discussed how they are inter-related, and gave examples from our local forests and streams. To view the full presentations please go to our website at

http://www.gcswcd.com/wap/pdf/ClimateChangeWatershedTourPresentation_GaryLovett.pdf

Dennis Lucas followed Gary Lovett with a presentation on the Hunter Towns Climate Smart Community Pledge. Dennis gave an overview of the town's effort to participate in the statewide program. For an overview of the program please check out the state website at;

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/50845.html>

Following these presentation the group carpooled to the Hunter Landfill site where Rene VanSchaack gave the group an overview of the wetlands & Wind Turbine.

For a full review of the event please visit our website at <http://www.gcswcd.com/wap/EO/swtour>

❖ **Batavia Kill Stream Celebration August 7th, 2010**

Saturday, August 7, 2010 –once again on the grounds of the Country Suite Bed and Breakfast in the town of Ashland, Greene County, the fourth annual Stream Celebration. Planning is in full swing!

Call for volunteers - this event requires approximately 25 volunteers and we are always looking for folks. Please let us know if you can recommend a good community group, or please post in coming outreach. Volunteers can fill out the contact information and send to our office;

<http://www.gcswcd.com/wap/pdf/StreamTeamVolunteerApp.pdf>

Stream Steward Awards; this year we will initiate a formal recognition of those landowners, businesses and community members who have gone up and beyond the call to protect and preserve their local streams.

- ❖ **SCA Service Learning Project September 15, 16, & 17 2010** SCA member will spend three days this September planting at a stream restoration project in Prattville. The service project has several components. During the stream bank stabilization there are several different stations that SCA members will implement the planting plan. One station will be the assembly of the soil bioengineering treatments. SCA members will need to assemble fascines and vertical bundles from willow cuttings, and construct revetments from woody debris. Another station will be the installation of these bioengineering treatments, and the third station will be for planting cuttings and potted material. Each station will have a GCSWCD or NYCDEP employee overseeing the work and evaluating safety concerns. In addition to the restoration work, at the campsite GCSWCD will organize educational presentations and activities. This is a fun way to get a lot of work done!

❖ **New Website**

- Our SCA intern Robyn Worcester updated the Watershed Assistance Programs website. Now she will begin the task of updating GCSWCD entire site. This is a big project and we are always looking for sites to model the design after –feel free to send your favorites.

❖ **E&O Review Stream Management Plan Action Items**

List of Action Items

Status

• **WOH Education & Outreach Strategy**

Continual

West of the Hudson group continues to meet and more frequently. The goal is to streamline any publication of materials so they can be used throughout the NYC watershed, create a clear and consistent message and work together to develop and assess the strategy of education and outreach throughout the watershed.

• **Complete Kiosk Series:**

In progress

Josh continues to work with Fossil Graphics to finalize the design of the kiosk series. A total of six panels will be produced for three project sites. Two panels at each site, one specific to the project and one general watershed panel that will be the same at each site

- **Educational Workshops:** **Continual**
 Josh continues to plug away at the various individual workshops for the target audiences. Here is a quick update on the progress.

Workshop Title	Progress
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Riparian Landowners –

Healthy Buffers, Healthy Streams: A Landowner Workshop July 10th 2010
 Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District - Schoharie Watershed Stream Management Program is pleased to announce a **FREE** Workshop highlighting the importance of riparian buffers to water quality, animal habitat, and overall stream health. The workshop will provide landowners and community members with a basic understanding of the best management practices for the promotion of healthy riparian areas, and therefore healthy streams

Municipal Leaders & Planning Boards

Mountaintop Site Plan Design Workshops Fall/Winter 2010
 The project will walk the communities through a local land use code review by using a model developed by the Center for Watershed Protection - a national agency that provides practical and technical information for people and communities interested in marrying watershed protection with community sustainability. It will involve at least three facilitated roundtable meetings with core municipal officials, consulting firms active in the area and community leaders, with the goal being to build consensus on recommended enhancements to local codes that promote better site design. By conducting this exercise, participating communities will avail themselves of an effective tool to evaluate their local codes and build consistency across the region in implementing better site design and stormwater practices in the early stages of development.

Local/County/State Highway Department

Critical Response Plan Workshop Winter 2011
 This project will work with local Highway Superintendents through the development of a critical response plan to understand the tools and resources available through the stream program to design channels following floods to protect water quality and infrastructure needs. GCSWCD work to date with the local highway subcommittee to identify the reach that the plan will be designed within the workshop.

Banks/Realtors/Insurance –

No progress to date

Many landowner inquiries involve floodplains and the flood insurance program. A joint workshop session for the financial, real estate and insurance businesses would be an effective vehicle to address flood insurance, lending regulations and other issues related to these industries.

Contractors & Developers

DEC 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop Complete
 DEC 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop was held March 15, 2010 83 contractors participants. Contractors and certain on-site inspectors are required to take NYSDEC endorsed E&SC training to comply with General Permit No. GP-0-10-001. GCSWCD will continue to hold these workshops every other year to provide contractors the most up to date information and allow them to retain a current certificate.

- **Conduct Watershed Survey:** **in –progress**

The group discussed the need to do a watershed survey versus simple surveying participants at the various workshops. It was determined that is easier and potentially more effective to survey the smaller workshop with specific question rather than one general watershed survey.

- **Identify Existing Resources:** **Not started**
 The group discussed how best to deliver this product. What was decided is that what we need is really a list of who in the watershed can do presentation on which topics. Organizing the various events is continual work and we need to understand who the experts are in each field, the topics and types of educational presentation they provide.
- **Organize a Schoharie Watershed Week:** **continual**
 First annual SWW was held May 15-23. See notes above.
- **Japanese Knotweed Mailing:** **in progress**
 The brochure is finalized and the proofs are on the way from the print shop. This will be out to landowner's Shorty
- **Schoharie Watershed Summit:** **continual**
 The 2010 Summit provided 140 local officials, community members, planning boards the tools and incentives to help communities think about different design concepts. Expanding on the Low Impact Development theme, the 2010 event focused on incorporating creative options in site planning to produce multiple benefits for your community and to satisfy regulations. Protecting our local communities from flood concerns, water quality pollution, and expensive stormwater costs starts with a detailed site plan review early in the process
- **Schoharie Watershed Bus Tour:** **continual**
 See above....
- **Batavia Kill Stream Celebration:** **continual**
 See above....

❖ **Next SWAC Grant Deadline August 2010**
 The group review the past recipients list form August 2009 and February 2010. Josh discussed the goal of linking –as close as possible the action items with grants. The group discussed the difficulty with the way the current guidelines are for the education category. We discussed the need to give clearer guidelines to help limit the degree of application topic. For a more information on the grants program please visit our website.
<http://www.gcswcd.com/wap/SWAC/smpgrantsprogram/>

❖ **Reappointment of Education & Outreach Committee**
 Josh asked that those who are on the committee present continue to serve. Judd Weisberg was asked to join the committee. Josh will do some recruiting over the next few months. Liz LoGiudice volunteered to be the E&O representative to the SWAC. Josh is going to try to keep it to 2 meeting a year with a max of 4. The EO committee will meet to review SWAC grant sin EO category, review progress with Action Items and develop new action items when appropriate. Please let Josh know if you want to continue to serve on the education subcommittee. If you can not continue to participate please nominate someone from your community or organization to fill the seat.

❖ **Next Meeting Fall 2010**

****The End****