

September 2010

Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter Report for NYS Council of TU

Submitted by Chester Karwatowski, Chapter President September 25, 2010 – Roscoe NY

The Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter www.apwctu.org continues to focus on our five strategic imperatives: Chapter Health and Viability, Youth & Education Programs, Environmental Projects, Chapter/Community Relations and Legal, Licensing and Legislative Activities.

Chapter Health and Viability:

- Our chapter membership, the key to TU's grassroots success, continues to fluctuate due to several factors. We are redoubling our outreach efforts to keep our members informed and engaged in our chapter activities. We have had several very successful Chapter meetings and events over the last quarter, including fishing outings on the Esopus Creek, 3 local community events, the opening of the Leaping Trout Art show in Phoenicia, and participation in several watershed management plans, technical and advisory committees by chapter members. Become our friend on our new Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/The-Ashokan-Pepacton-Watershed-Chapter-of-Trout-Unlimited/483918940047?ref=ts>

Youth & Education Programs:

Trout in the Class Room;

- The Chapter and our members supported 10 tanks in 2010! A new tank was established in the Hunter Elementary School and we are getting ready for a new season. Contact Hank Rope (Hank Rope <tyeflys@hvc.rr.com>) or Glenn Debrosky (Glenn Debrosky <troutman108@gmail.com>) for an update for this coming winter. <http://www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2010/05/17/news/doc4bf0a184be87f788724214.txt>

University Outreach and Services Projects;

- Continue to build our outreach and collaboration with the fly fishing club at the US Military Academy at West Point. We hosted the Cadets for another day of fishing instruction and fishing on the Esopus Creek as well as a fly tying class at the Academy with fishing instruction in the preserve at West Point. Contact Roger Walters for an update or to participate with the Cadets. (Roger Walters <rewalt@hvc.rr.com>)

Education;

- The chapter provided two scholarships to the NYS DEC Environmental Education camp (\$325x2) for 2010. This is in partnership with the Onteora HS and Marbletown HS. We have also connected with the Ashokan Center to assist in future watershed and fishing activities. Here is a link to CWC funded TIC and Youth Education Funding... please examine this and note all of the funding for local schools. (<http://www.cwconline.org/wateredu/round10pegrants.pdf>) The chapter is also promoting better culvert and ditch management. There will be an education session titled "Ditch and Culvert Training for Highway Staff" on October 15th and 16th 2010. There is also a watershed wide "Crummy Creekside Culvert" Contest. (<http://www.google.com/search?q=crummy+culverts+ashokan&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a>) that ends Nov. 30th.

Environmental Projects and Activities:

Pepacton Watershed - Upper Delaware River;

http://www.catskillstreams.org/majorstreams_ebdr.html

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- Upper Delaware River Management Plan Participation (since 2007) - proposal to remediate issues due to a dam on the upper East Branch of the Delaware that creates Holcottville Lake. This creates thermal issues in this headwater reach. Working with Margretville Chamber of Commerce to create signage to promote fishing and the economic benefit of fishing in the watershed.

Ashokan Watershed Management Plan; <http://www.ashokanstreams.org/index.html>

- Very active participation since 2004 as a member of this multi-stakeholder effort which is having a great deal of impact in the Watershed. Several exciting events occurred, including Ulster County Creek Week. Contact Lenny Millen for an update.
- Upcoming activities include:
- Catskill Environmental Monitoring & Research Conference November 17-18, 2010;
<http://ashokanwatershed.blogspot.com/2010/08/call-for-papers-catskill-environmental.html>
- Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed chapter again sponsoring the second year of a "Quantitative assessment of Water Quality in the Upper Esopus Creek: Fish, Macroinvertebrates, Periphyton, Turbidity and Nutrients"
<http://ny.cf.er.usgs.gov/nyprojectsearch/projects/2457-DWZ-00.html> This is supported by a comprehensive **Telemetry Study in the Esopus Creek above and below the portal**. This is a joint project with the USGS, NYS DEC, NYS DEC, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ulster County Soil and Water and Cornell University. This tightly integrated macro-invertebrate and bio-diversity study on the Esopus will be a major input into management practices in the future.

Community Outreach Activities:

- Trout Unlimited 50th Anniversary Activities
 - The Leaping Trout Art Project www.theleapingtrout.com was conceived and sponsored by the A-P Chapter to raise awareness of TU's 50th Anniversary, Trout and Watersheds in the central Catskills. What do trout and people have in common? They both need clean, high quality water to survive and thrive. Local artists have created 27 magnificent visions of trout leaping into the air. This art is now on display at the Art Upstairs gallery in Phoenicia with an auction scheduled for Sunday October 10th. These 36" leaping trout have not only raised awareness in the community and region, it is also a major fundraising opportunity, with an on-line auction underway right now.
- Chapter Meetings - The chapter continues to conduct regular membership meetings (September - May), fishing outings (June-August), and conservation events.
- The chapter has a new world class website. www.apwtu.org

Legal, Licensing and Legislative Activities:

- The Chapter Legislative Initiatives Committee is working with the Ulster County Environmental Management Committee to define a protocol to baseline groundwater resources prior to any natural gas drilling related to the Marcellis Shales in Ulster County. We are also discussing the need for a policy on pharmaceuticals in our watershed. We are also studying the fisheries management options for recommendation to the NYS DEC for the Esopus Creek. One local chapter has recommended "catch and release" regs on the Esopus, the Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter believes there may be other approaches.

Respectfully,

Chester Karwatowski

Chapter President, Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter

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