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Forest Plan is Underway!

By Fred Gliesing, Forester Coordinator

DEP is undertaking the first comprehensive forest inventory of all city watershed lands and developing the first watershed forest management plan, a \$2.6 million investment in the watershed forest and a 2007 FAD deliverable. Under the direction of the Natural Resources Section and in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, work began in early 2009 and is scheduled to be completed and delivered by November 30, 2011.

A suite of resource pro-

fessionals from DEP and the Forest Service have teamed up to provide practical, sustainable, and science-based guidance for the long-term management of the watershed forest resources and to protect the water supply. To date, 59 DEP and 57 Forest Service resource professionals

have been involved in the project. Many DEP employees from Watershed Protection Programs, Water Quality and Operations have



USFS planning staff in the field with DEP foresters in Kensico

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DEP Sponsors Catskill Environmental Monitoring Conference

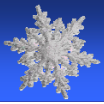
By Beth Reichheld, Section Chief Streams

DEP co-sponsored an informal forum on monitoring and research efforts in the Catskills on November 17-18, at NYSDEC's Belleayre Mountain Ski Center in Highmount, N.Y. Coordinated in cooperation

with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the United States Geologic Survey, the Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies and the Catskill

Institute for the Environment, the conference was attended by 114 representatives of research, natural resource management, environmental advocacy and community groups

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From the Desk of Dave Warne



As 2010 draws to a close, I've been thinking about the many accomplishments achieved by Watershed Protection Programs during the year. We continued to make strong progress in all program areas. As usual, there are too many activities to list them all, but here are a few of the highlights.

In September, the Bureau reorganized to strengthen our capital planning and project delivery capabilities. Two sections - Planning and Infrastructure Design and Construction - moved out of WPP to report directly to Paul Rush under the leadership of Todd West. In addition to providing greater focus on capital functions, the reorganization streamlined WPP and our emphasis on source water protection. We'll need to bring all our abilities to bear as we head into 2011 and the negotiations for the next five years of the FAD.



On the regulatory side, an update to the Watershed Regulations was completed in April. This represents the first major update of the Regulations since 1997. The revised Regulations incorporate some recent updates in State stormwater standards and will now allow a variance so that certain wastewater projects can move forward east of Hudson to address areas with failing or likely to fail septic systems. The process of updating the Regulations literally took years to complete and included countless meetings with stakeholders and internal discussions. This fall regulatory staff held education sessions with engineers to explain the new Regulations and the application process. As always, our preference is to work with applicants to achieve voluntary regulatory compliance. However, when necessary we will take enforcement actions as needed to protect water quality. In 2010, we were successful in getting favorable outcomes in several important enforcement actions.

As a companion to administration of the DEP Regulations, we also review and comment on watershed projects under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). Our SEQRA reviews provide another tool for ensuring that development proposals in the watershed incorporate maximum protection of water resources. In 2010, a number of large projects were reviewed by the SEQRA "Tech Team" including the Somers Realty Hamlet, Union Place, Cortina Mountain Estates and Windham Mountain Sporting Club.

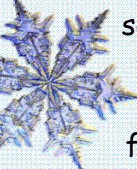
Other accomplishments within Regulatory and Engineering Programs (REP) include the ongoing efforts of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) compliance inspection program, to ensure that all watershed WWTPs are operating properly and that any performance upsets are corrected quickly; management of a contract to maintain City-funded stormwater control practices that have been installed around Kensico and other select reservoirs east of Hudson; roll out of the new engineering database with a WaLIS interface, mapping capabilities, and creation of one click letters; renewal of septic system delegation agreements with local

health departments in Westchester, Putnam and Ulster Counties; and completion of a sampling program for a potential stream clean up at Red Brook in Grahamsville.



The WWTP Upgrade Program reached an important milestone in 2010





with completion of the upgrades of plants accounting for all wastewater flow west of Hudson. East of Hudson, plants accounting for more than 90% of flow are now treating to tertiary standards. As upgrades have been completed, the Program has taken on the task of administering the City's share of the annual operation and maintenance costs for the plants. The annual O&M costs for this program will account for a large share of WPP's expense budget going forward, and containing costs will be a key focus for the future of the Upgrade Program.

The Land Acquisition Program (LAP) had another strong year in 2010. Topping the benchmark set in 2009, LAP had its best year ever in 2010, setting a new record for acres acquired. More importantly, we were able to wrap up negotiations with multiple stakeholders on the next Water Supply Permit, which will allow us to continue to buy land. This is a major accomplishment that ensures the uninterrupted implementation of LAP. We owe a special thanks to our colleagues in BEPA, DEP Legal and the Law Department who were instrumental in the process - we truly could not have done it without them.

The Watershed Agricultural Program (WAP) achieved a significant FAD milestone in September 2010, with 90% of all large farm Whole Farm Plans finally meeting the FAD definition of "substantially implemented" at least once. WAP is now proceeding with a new BMP prioritization methodology that will better target and maximize water quality improvements on farms. In tandem with this milestone, WAP also conducted a comprehensive program evaluation during 2010, that culminated in a presentation to the WAC Advisory Committee in October during which DEP and WAC proposed several new metrics for measuring the program's success moving forward.

The Stream Management Program continues to advance throughout the watershed. Accomplishments include the launch of the Catskill Stream Buffer Initiative; completion of the Rondout Stream Management Plan, with adoption by the towns; construction of a 750-foot stream restoration project along County Route 22 on East Brook in the Town of Walton; organizing the first annual watershed summit conference in May at Belleayre Mountain; and completion of the Prattsville Restoration Project, which planted riparian vegetation along 3,127 feet of the Schoharie Creek and included 1,200 feet of streambank stabilization.

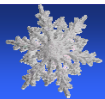
Elsewhere within WLCP, other achievements included: opening an additional 12,000 acres of lands for recreational access and revising the Recreational Rules; advancement of a number of initiatives within the Invasive Species Working Group, including development of a rapid risk assessment procedure; completion of a new wastewater treatment plant at Boiceville; and the continuation of key partnership programs with CWC, including repair of more than 300 septic systems.

All of these accomplishments were achieved in a budget climate that continues to be challenging. WPP has reduced costs where possible and some vacancies have been eliminated. We must continue to focus on maximizing efficiencies and being creative in ensuring that we continue to meet our mandates while exercising our fiduciary responsibility to the rate payers.

All the best for a healthy and happy 2011.

Dave





Conference attendees view posters during a refreshment break

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from throughout the Catskill region.

Twenty-seven presenters (and an additional ten posters) updated attendees on past and current research efforts focused on the Catskills related to climate change, biodiversity, forest health, water quality and stream ecosystem integrity. The conference committee structured the agenda to include extended discussion forums in each session, offering ample opportunity for conference participants to identify monitoring and research gaps,

and to explore possibilities for collaborative efforts that might address present and future environmental issues within the Catskill region. During each discussion period, moderators posed the question: "In twenty years, what research along these lines will we wish we had started collecting in 2010?" Participants were also encouraged to identify other researchers in each topic



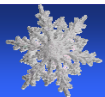
Dr. Michael Kudish, at front left, talking with other researchers over lunch



The organizing committee are the following, from left to right: Barry Baldigo, United States Geological Survey, Gary Lovett, Institute for Ecosystem Studies, Mark Vian, NYC DEP, Liz Higgins, Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program, Morton Adams, Catskill Institute for the Environment, Steve Parisio, NYS DEC

area whose work in the region was not represented at the conference, and linkages across disciplines were explored. Audience consensus was that the conference should be repeated regularly, perhaps on a two year cycle.

A highlight of the conference was forest ecologist Michael Kudish's presentation of his research on the bogs of the high peaks. Dr. Kudish has been conducting research on the forests of the region for over forty years, and is the author of the book, *The Catskill Forest: a History*.



Personal Notes

The Stork has arrived for ...

Steven Boek from REP has a new daughter, **Made-line Cecelia Boek**, born 6/8/10

Andrew Stor from REP has a new son, **Gabriel Jackson Stor**, born 10/26/10

FAD Coordinator, Erika Boetsch, has a new baby boy, **Mateo Frederick d'Arlhac**, born 11/21/10

David Burns from Streams and wife Lori welcomed a new baby girl, **Clair Burns**, in September

Ian Wyatt Sheldon was born 12/9/10 to Jenne Sheldon from REP, weighing in at 7lbs. 8oz. and 21 inches long

Congratulations to ...

Peggy Berardi from the Permits Department on her recent wedding to John D. Heitzman on September 4 at the The Rhinecliff

John Drake, from REP, finished his 2nd Bachelor's degree, BSCE, from Manhattan College this December and has started on his Master's degree

Robbin Rittie from Permits has adopted a 7 year old female French Bulldog named **Zuki**. Zuki was a rescue and has a brother Oscar who is also a French Bulldog

Mary VanSteenburg from Land Acquisition has a new addition to her pack. **Jack** (Happy Jack) is an adopted rescue and is having a great time with his new brothers Jerry Lee, Kane, Max, and sister Sophie

Jo Ann Bielinski from REP just adopted **Bo**, a 3 year old Terrier mix

Welcome ...

Mike Meyer to Kingston. Mike has relocated with his family from Valhalla and works for Community Planning

Good Luck to ...

Jackie Purdy who retired September 21st from Land Acquisition. Jackie was stationed out of Margaretville

Jenn Grieser from Streams who moved back to her home state of Ohio

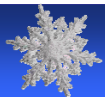
Silvio Mazzella from Stormwater Compliance who retired after 28 years of service with the city.



Jackie Purdy surrounded by DEP friends at her send off party!



Zuki



I Do



Peggy Berardi and husband John D. Heitzman



Jack

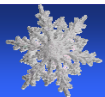


Gabriel Jackson Stor
born 10/26/10 with
big brother Traian Stor



Madeline Cecelia Boek
born 6/8/10,






Farewell



Streams staff says "Goodbye" to Jenn Grieser



John Drake

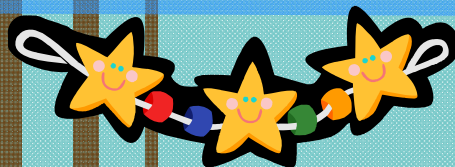
WELCOME!

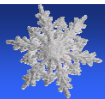


Mike Meyer



Mateo Frederick D'Arlhac
born 11/21/10





DEP's Summer of International Tours

John Schwartz, Working Lands Section Chief

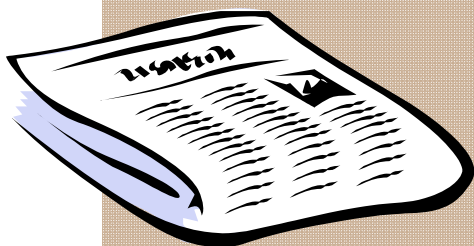
This past summer, WPP was privileged to participate in a series of NYC Watershed tours that were conducted for international officials from nine different countries. Their primary topic of interest was a concept called Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), which essentially refers to the practice of offering incentives to a particular constituency in return for receiving ecological benefits from that constituency. One of the oldest examples of PES can actually be traced to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) which oversees the Conservation Reserve Program and other federal stewardship programs for farmers, ranchers and private landowners.

As it turns out, NYC's Watershed Protection Program is also an internationally-recognized model for the PES concept, with many countries particularly interested in rural issues such as agriculture, forestry and community wastewater. Between May and September, DEP worked with the NYSDEC, NYS-DOH, WAC and CWC - not to mention the World Bank, US Forest Service, US State Department, and the NYC Mayor's Office - to schedule and conduct seven watershed tours and presentations for over 100 representatives from Cambodia, Laos, China, Vietnam, Thailand, India, Canada, Brazil and Mexico. Featured projects included the Boiceville WWTP, Frost Valley Model Forest, a working farm, and a NYC water supply reservoir.

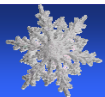


Working Lands Section Chief John Schwartz (far left) joins water resource management professionals from Canada while visiting the Ashokan Reservoir in September

LATE ADDITION
Continued from "Personal Notes"



Ian Wyatt Sheldon born 12/9/10



(Continued from page 1)

had the opportunity to be involved in the project through focus groups, the Conservation Management Practices working group, quarterly meetings, data and document reviews, project development, etc., all bringing excellent knowledge, input and support to the project.

After two field seasons, the forest inventory of 9,500 inventory plots was completed in late August 2010 covering around 95,000 acres of land throughout the entire watershed. The data collected, and the associated analysis, will be the foundation of the plan defining our current forest conditions. The plan will provide direction on how to move from the current conditions to our desired forest conditions while protecting the functions of co-occurring resources such as wetlands, streams, etc. through the implementation of our conservation practices. We are currently making good strides in the data analysis and development phases of the project.



Todd Baldwin & Jeremy Fontenault conducting forest inventory quality control assessment in Ashokan



Post-harvest forest condition promoting forest