



Banner above depicts a mid-May Esopus watershed tributary.

May Zoom meeting: On May 26th at 7 PM the chapter will host a virtual monthly Zoom meeting. Our guest speaker this month is Linda Zimmerman, who has a presentation on Mysterious Stone Sites in the Hudson Valley. There are mysteries in the woods of the Hudson Valley of New York and northern New Jersey. Linda explores stone chambers, perched boulders, standing stones, and massive walls that may just be unique historical treasures that should be studied and preserved. Some stone sites are assumed to be the work of colonial farmers, but author and researcher Linda Zimmermann has found compelling evidence that disputes this misconception. Could the astronomical alignments at these sites provide answers? Could they be the work of Native Americans or Pre-Columbian voyagers? Plan on attending the virtual meeting to find out.

A separate email on this meeting, and how to join, will be sent out prior to the event, but for now mark your calendars. During June we hope to have a chapter outing on the Esopus Creek, most likely on June 23rd. Details to follow in next month's newsletter.

Esopus Creek: As reported in last month's newsletter, NYS DEC R3 Biologist Bob Adams is collecting 2021 angling Esopus Creek only (no tributaries) data via an online survey. Data includes angler results, satisfaction, and access; it's easy to fill out, and should be utilized after each Esopus Creek trip, whether you caught fish or not. The survey can be accessed via phone, tablet, or pc at the following address: <https://arcg.is/15X1GL>. Thanks for participating. In recent years chapter members and anglers have expressed their opinions of the Esopus Creek trout fishery, now DEC is reaching out to anglers asking for their input. Please help.

Based upon current stream flows and weather predictions, it is anticipated the Shandaken Tunnel will remain closed through June 14th so that rehabilitation work on the tunnel can continue. Regarding the Shandaken Tunnel, it is anticipated Esopus Creek recreational water release may begin again in 2021. Typically four such events are requested, the initial release usually being held the first June weekend. We have asked NYS DEC for the dates of these events, but have not received a respond yet. When we have the dates requested, the newsletter will include them. Typically they can be found here, but this is outdated: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/80682.html> Construction of the replacement bridge for Five Arches might

begin in 2022 and it is anticipated the new bridge will include a shared-use path and access to the Ashokan Rail Trail.

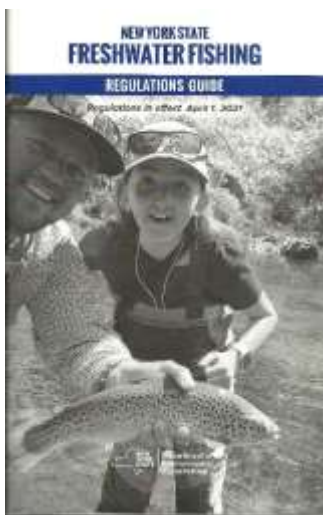
On April 24th, in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation and Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program, members of the Catskill Mountains Chapter planted some 300 trees along the Bush Kill Creek in West Shokan, just upstream of the Olive town office building. Victoria Lawrence, Russell Martin, and myself--- all board members of this chapter--- lent a helping hand.

Blue Hole/Peekamoose Valley Riparian Corridor day use permits required: NYS DEC has announced starting in 2021 a daily “day use permit” will be required between May 15th and September 15th in the Peekamoose Valley Riparian Corridor. These will cost \$10/day and must be displayed in the user’s vehicle. Last year limited permits were free and only required on weekends, thus please note more restrictive regulations this year. The hope is the new requirements will reduce ongoing abuses inflicted upon the region the last several years. And please note, permits are required to fish, picnic, camp, hike, wet-wade the upper Rondout Creek. FYI: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/109922.html#:~:text=Permits%20are%20%2410%2C%20and%20must,walk%2Din%20registrations%20are%20available.>

Acid rain report: Jody Hoyt reported in April there were 7 measurable storms as recorded in Boiceville. These had a 5.5 weighed pH with 3.35 inches of equivalent liquid precipitation, including a trace amount of snow. By comparison in April 2020 there were 9 such events with a total of 7.05 inches of liquid precipitation, including 2.7 inches of snow and 5.9 weighted pH.

Along these lines, NYS Climate Action Council announces a milestone to advance NY’s nation-leading climate law, FYI: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/122962.html>

Catskill Heritage Brook Trout study: Due Covid, a shortage of supplies, and lab access, results from our 2020 Catskill Heritage Brook Trout study have been delayed, but hopefully we will hear later this year. The chapter is also considering the possibility of undertaking another study in 2021 on yet to be determined Esopus Creek watershed tributary.



NYS Trout Stream Sportfishing Regulations: As of April 1st new Trout Stream Sportfishing Regulations went into effect. Information on these found here: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/122602.html> Plus anglers can download, or request a paper copy of the new regs at the bottom of the forementioned link.

Along these lines, DEC is developing a plan to evaluate the new catch and release season from Oct. 16th through March 31st of the following year. This will rollout over several years and include various NYS watersheds. In Region 3 it will potentially include portions of the Esopus Creek and two tributaries. Bob Adams, NYS DEC R3 Fisheries Biologist, mentioned this briefly when he addressed our chapter back in January. As plan details are finalized, we will pass these along to our members.

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP): Recently several chapter members participated in the Stream Access & Recreation Working Group virtual meeting. On June 4th AWSMP is hosting a Praxis Conference. FYI: <https://ashokanstreams.org/join-awamp-for-praxis-conference-on-june-4/>

Treasurer’s report: Jody Hoyt reports as of the end of April the chapter had \$12,807.56, with \$12,019.88 in the General Operating Fund and \$787.68 in the Conservation Fund. During the month we received donations from former Town of Olive Supervisor Sylvia Rozzelle and Frank Skidmore, Jr. Thank you one and all.

Membership: As of this newsletter, our membership stands at 126 members. This month we welcome Lucas Merwin of Flischmanns and Dave Smith of Mount Tremper. Welcome! As always **new** TU members can join for half the “regular” membership fee, or \$17.50, of which the chapter receives a \$15 rebate from National. Membership forms: http://www.apwctu.org/pdfs/TU_membership_brochure2018_web.pdf For membership questions, contact me at: Tailwaters@Hvc.rr.com

Newsletter: This issue was sent electronically to all chapter members and friends that we have valid email addresses. If you received this and would rather not, please hit **REPLY** and write **REMOVE** and hit **SEND**.

Beyond our watersheds and other news: Orvis icon Leigh Perkins passed away on May 7th at the age of 93, FYI: <https://www.tu.org/magazine/orvis-icon-leigh-perkins-dies-at-93/>



Mountain River, the Willow Mixed Media documentary of the Esopus Creek from headwaters to the Hudson, has been accepted by the virtual edition of the 2021 Catskill International Film Festival! Will be screened at www.catskillfilmfest.com on May 21st-23rd for free viewing. Congratulations to Tobe Carey and Mark Loete on a job well done.

Kevan Best pay attention. The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild is hosting a virtual Zoom meeting this Friday, May 21st at 7 PM. I will be doing a PowerPoint presentation, titled *Beyond the dry fly*. It was originally requested by the late Dave Brandt for flyfishers like you; there's more to Catskill fly

patterns than just dry flies. It will touch upon Catskill bucktails, streamers, wet flies, and nymphs. Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86246885372?pwd=cVp1cy9Za1d1SlByRjFIRG41Q0tJZz09>



Useful links:

Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter Trout Unlimited: <https://apwctu.org/>

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program: <http://ashokanstreams.org/>

CWC Watershed Currents: <https://cwconline.org/watershed-currents-e-news/>

Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District: <http://www.dcswcd.org/Stream%20Program.htm>

Esopus Creek hatching chart: <http://www.catskillanglingcollection.org/>

NYC DEP Reservoir Levels-Releases:

https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking_water/release_channel_levels.shtml

Rondout Neversink Stream Program: <http://www.rondoutneversink.org/>

Until next time,
Ed Ostapczuk
May 18th, 2021