



## *4-H Youth Program & Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP)*

The Catskill Stream Champions are a group of Ulster County youth of middle and high-school age who have volunteered to participate in a new program sponsored by the AWSMP. The grant connects them to nature and provides them with the opportunity to share what they have learned with visitors to the Catskills. During the course of the program, which began earlier this summer and continues through autumn and early winter, the youth will be hiking on heavily used trails inside the Ashokan Watershed and interacting with hikers. Their role is to educate these visitors to the Catskills about local water quality issues and provide them with skills that they can use to lessen their personal impacts, as defined in “**Leave No Trace**” which is a wilderness ethics approach to lessening one’s impact on wild places. The visitors are asked to pledge to adhere to one or more of the seven principles, which are: 1) Plan ahead and prepare. 2) Travel and camp on durable surfaces. 3) Dispose of waste properly. 4) Leave what you find. 5) Minimize campfire impacts. 6) Respect wildlife. 7) Be considerate of other visitors.



The Catskill Stream Champions will be at the Ulster County Fair, in the Jane Barley Youth Building, on Wednesday August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11am-2pm to interact with the public. Additionally, the program aspires to have a Job Shadowing Day in the fall at the NYS DEP office in Kingston and provide career exploration to youth living in or near the watershed.

4-H Program Leader: Melanie Forstrom maf357@cornell.edu

## *Master Gardener Program*



In acknowledgment of New York Invasive Species Awareness Week, July 9-15, the Master Gardeners hosted a fun and informative class on making paper from both recycled and invasive plant material. Instructors Marjorie Colao-Pullman, a Master Gardener, Master Forest Owner and **artist presently working with repurposed and/or recycled materials**, and Gia Alyce Rowan, a 2014 Kingston High School graduate earning a degree in Environmental Studies, gave a presentation to twenty attendees on invasive plants in NYS prior to the hands-on use of invasive plants in the actual papermaking.

Twenty enthusiastic participants created their own artisan paper and were encouraged to share their war stories and battle strategies for combatting invasive plants. The workshop was made possible by a grant from the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership. (CRISP)

Master Gardener Coordinator Dona Crawford, dm282@cornell.edu.

## Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) & Agricultural Livestock Program



On June 22nd the Crafty Clovers, 4-H Club of RAPP, took a field trip to Van Aken Dairy in Kerhonkson with [Allison Solian, RAPP Youth Educator](#) and [Jason Detzel, CCEUC Livestock Educator](#). In the barn, Jason gave a presentation on how milk is processed and how the animals are used; how male calves (bulls) are used for veal, for example. The kids watched the cows being milked by machine, saw how milk is processed, and got to pet

the cows and see the young calves. They also talked to some 4-H's who will be showing cattle at the **Ulster County Fair** this year. Following that, the club members took pictures that they will enter in the upcoming Ulster County Fair photo exhibition.

The field trip ended with ice cream at Cherries Ice Cream in Stone Ridge, completing the cycle of how some milk is used after processing! It was a great experience for the youth as they witnessed first hand how many people and procedures are involved, and how much work goes into the milk they drink. And the ice cream we all enjoy!

RAPP Program Coordinator: Jennifer Patterson, [jmp394@cornell.edu](mailto:jmp394@cornell.edu).

### *Speaking of Cows - What's New in Livestock?*



The [Ulster County Agriculture Livestock](#) team has been hard at work getting the areas producers up to speed on the latest research and techniques, ensuring that they have the best year possible. We understand that growing healthy animals requires a whole system approach. CCE Ulster is proud to be a leader in sustainable techniques that consider the health of the animals, the fields, and the farmers, as sustainability can be achieved only when all components are considered.

You may have noticed the proliferation of grass fed beef, pastured chickens, and wood lot pigs in the area. These are not just buzz words but are animal production systems that cater to small scale, specialty production models striving to incorporate natural systems into agriculture. For example, we will review calving strategies at the [Rotational Grazing Clinic](#) on August 25-26 here at CCEUC Education Center in Kingston. Through research it has been identified that ranchers can produce the healthiest and quickest growing calves by mimicking nature and planning to calf at the same time as the deer in the area. This allows for the calves and cows to recover on fresh spring grass which is the most abundant and natural feed we have at our disposal. This calving strategy is just one of the techniques that CCE Ulster Agriculture Program is excited to pass onto the area's farmers and ranchers to make them the most successful and profitable businesses possible.

If you would like to learn more, feel free to contact Livestock Educator Jason Detzel at [jbd222@cornell.edu](mailto:jbd222@cornell.edu)

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## *AWSMP Watershed Detectives Program*

For the past five years, Matt Savatgy, environmental youth educator for Cornell Cooperative's Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program, has worked closely with Onteora Central School District elementary teachers to help deliver a "hands on" approach to science.

Matt provides engaging activities on a weekly basis that support the science topics being discussed in class. With the demands on today's teachers, they no longer have the time to deliver these types of activities. Matt creates the scheduling, acquires the materials and sets up large rotational laboratory type science activities. When the activities are over, the class moves on to their next lesson and Matt handles the cleanup. In addition to participating in exciting lab activities, students regularly spend time outdoors with Mr. Savatgy on the school's nature trail. It is there that they have the eye opening opportunity to see firsthand what they learned about in class, bringing to life the pictures from their text books or a video screen.

The youth learn about many aspects of the Ashokan watershed which aligns nicely with the current NYS elementary science curriculum. Discussions include everything from healthy streams and wetlands to plants and animals to water and weather, earth materials, and the impact of climate change and invasive species. The diversity of the Watershed Detectives program provides the youth with experiences that cannot typically be accomplished in a traditional classroom setting. Many students say they can't wait for next week's activity!

For the past two years, members of the afterschool Watershed Detectives Club have been producing education science movies as a way of reinforcing what they have been learning about all year. Fourth and fifth grade students at the Bennett Intermediate School in Boiceville who are also members of the "Watershed Detectives" afterschool science club, were motivated to convince others of water's importance and what can be done to protect and conserve water. They shared their knowledge of water in a 22 minute educational video entitled "All About Water" now available [online](#). The group served on the video production crew as directors and actors, camera, light, and sound technicians, cue card holders, and script planners. Students produced the video over two and a half months with help from Watershed Detectives club leader Matt Savatgy, who wrote the movie script with input from club members. Savatgy said "the students don't want people to take water for granted." In the video the students describe how water plays an important role in their daily lives.

"All About Water" is an excellent resource for elementary school science teachers and aligns directly with science concepts learned in class. The video was made possible thanks to funding from the NYC DEP, and has been released to the public for educational use, and circulated online.

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Leader Leslie Zucker at laz5@cornell.edu





## *CCEUC Digital Library of Publications*

*We have lots of information and interesting articles to share.*

### [The Trib: Summer Newsletter of AWSMP](#)

Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*, *Impatiens pallida*), an annual plant commonly found growing along the edges of streams. Known for its skin healing properties and used by herbalists as a treatment for poison ivy, insect bites, and other rashes.

### [Ranching from a Firefighter's Perspective](#)

CCEUC Livestock Educator Jason Detzel's weekly *Farm Animal Blog* deals with the everyday life of livestock and farm management.

### [Food Safety for Summer Grilling & Cornell's Famous BBQ Sauce](#)

USDA guidelines for thawing, marinating, transporting BBQ foods, pre-cooking, reheating, how to keep leftovers safe, pit roasting and smoking foods.

### [Ulster Current, July Issue](#)

Lee Reidy, CCEUC Executive Director, reminisces about "Fair" as she winds down a career with Cornell Cooperative Extension after forty plus years. See page 2.

### [FREE Invasive Species Identification](#)

Want to know more about those weeds in your garden?

### [New York EDEN \(Extension Disaster Education Network\)](#)

A wealth of information on disaster preparedness, natural disasters, and emergency situations.

CCE Education Center, 232 Plaza Road Kingston, NY 12401  
*where education provides enrichment*

### [WORKSHOPS/CLASSES](#)

[Link to CCEUC website for details and locations of classes](#)

[Post-Harvest Wash and Pack Workshop](#): Tuesday, August 8

[Wildlife Proofing Your Garden](#): Saturday, August 19

[Owning Donkeys Class](#): Saturday, August 19

[Kitchen Classes - Quick Pickles](#): Thursday, August 24

[Two Day Rotational Grazing Clinic](#): Friday & Saturday, August 25-26

[Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale](#): Saturday, September 16

The inter-connectedness of CCEUC programs is highlighted in this  
Legislative Report by the collaboration of program areas.

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