



# Esopus Creek Currents

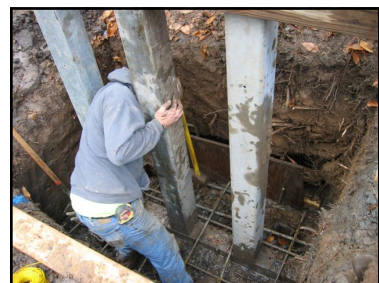
a publication of Esopus Creek Conservancy, Inc., Saugerties, New York  
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## The Bridges of Esopus Bend — *Built to last, here to stay!*

by Susan Bolitzer

In 2005 ECC received a Grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway to fund the building of three pedestrian footbridges over small streams that intersect trails at Esopus Bend. In 2006, following a lengthy period of planning and site preparation, volunteers, under the dedicated leadership of project managers, Chris Florsch and Steve Chorvas, set to work. By the fall of 2007, they had successfully constructed three carefully engineered bridges spanning streams that are subject to dramatic elevation of water levels during periods of flooding and heavy rain.

By using all volunteer labor and services, and some donated materials and equipment, in the end the Stewardship Committee had a surplus in grant funds.



*Volunteers Pour Footings*

photo by Susan Bolitzer

Consistent with the intent of the grant, they requested and received a time extension and project re-scoping to include construction of 260 feet of boardwalks over wet and environmentally sensitive areas in Esopus Bend. Thanks to Matt Galchus's Eagle Scout project, five more trail sites were protected with a series of boardwalks spanning minor streams on the eastern third of the Preserve.

ECC welcomes this opportunity to join the



*Mt. Marion 3rd Grade Class On Wetlands Boardwalk*

photo by Susan Bolitzer

Hudson River Valley Greenway in its mission to increase the public's access to natural environments throughout the Hudson River Valley. We thank Mark Castiglione, Greenway Acting Executive Director, and his staff who have been most helpful and supportive to ECC project managers throughout this entire project. Chris Florsch, commenting on this 5 year endeavor, said, I only wish to thank the dozens of ECC volunteers who gave up week-ends and vacation days to work on this project in its various stages, and a special thanks to Steve Chorvas who gave a lot of his time and expertise and also administered the Grant.



*Why EBNP Needed Bridges - Really Strong Ones!*

photo by Steve Chorvas



## Decks and Docks 2010

### — *A Moveable Feast for the Senses!*

by Harriet Tomasko

Decks and Docks on the Esopus is definitely a most unusual and delightful event! It's a safari trip by canoe, kayak or rowboat on the Esopus Creek in Saugerties with stops at some beautiful secluded decks, docks, lawns and patios of creek residents.



*Life Is Sweet on the Creek*

photo by Logan Callahan

Last June, on a perfect sunny day the tour opened a whole new world for me. At each stop welcoming and hospitable homeowners encouraged us to relax and enjoy their beautiful views and delicious refreshments. If you aren't fortunate enough to have your own waterfront



*This Must Be the Place*

photo by Logan Callahan

deck it's just great to come spend the afternoon relaxing on these inviting spots. (All homes may also be reached by car or bike.) And, for me, a true highlight of this event was listening to Geoff Harden and Friends' bluegrass band. Music permeated the air that day.

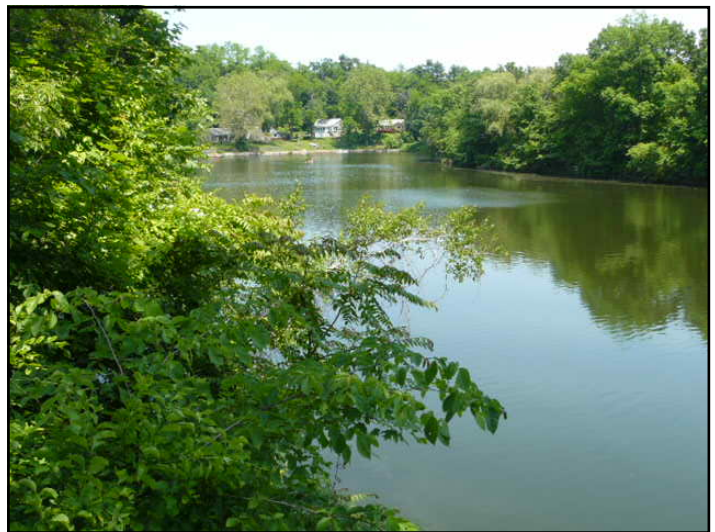


*Dock of the Bay?*

photo by Logan Callahan

The tour also includes a visit to Esopus Bend Nature Preserve, Saugerties' own unique 161 acre preserve that supports an amazing variety of birds, butterflies and wildlife thriving in habitats as diverse as meadows, wetlands and upland Hemlock groves. There is much to explore along the well- marked trails and viewing points.

This year the third annual Decks and Docks Tour, a benefit event for Esopus Creek Conservancy,



*Up the Lazy River*

photo by Logan Callahan

will be held on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 4 PM. (Rain date: June 13<sup>th</sup> ). Tickets are limited, so buy early! They are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (\$50 for a family group) and can purchased in advance by writing Esopus Creek Conservancy, at PO Box 589, Saugerties, NY 12477. For more information please call

845-247-0664 or go to [www.esopuscreekconservancy.org](http://www.esopuscreekconservancy.org)



## A Story in the Snow — *Basic Needs and Kinship*

by Greg Perantoni

As you enter the Esopus Bend Nature Preserve these days you are greeted with a blanket of snow. Like a magic carpet that brings a hidden manuscript into view, the snow reveals a story written on the forest floor. The letters and words that tell the story are



*Otter Lope*

photo by Greg Perantoni

animal tracks that record the daily comings and goings of those that call the Preserve their home. Largely invisible during the other seasons, during the winter these tracks offer a fascinating insight into the lives of these forest beings.

When you take the time to follow and study the tracks you begin to realize that the things that drive the forest inhabitants are not so

much different from the things that drive us. When we are hungry we go to the kitchen to find food; they also go to areas where food is available. When



*Mouse Bound*

photo by Greg Perantoni

it is time to retire we go to the security of our bedrooms and lie down; when they retire they go to a place where they feel safe and lie down. Birth, death, companionship, solitude, warmth, coolness,

shelter, protection, the same basics needs exist for us all.

Surprisingly, if you look deeper into the tracks, and break through the barriers of logic and science, you begin to get the notion that the same life force that runs through you, also runs through the track makers. The memory of this kinship has been lying deep in your consciousness like a smoldering ember. You begin to understand that when the white tailed deer



*Otter Slide*

photo by Greg Perantoni



*Turkey Tracks*

photo by Greg Perantoni

browses a striped maple bud, that it is your lips that touch the branch, and when a red fox pounces on a white footed mouse, you hold the mouse in your jaws, and it is you also held in the jaws. You begin to recall a timeless bond.

So, as you enter the Esopus Bend Nature Preserve these days, don't be surprised if you get the feeling that you are returning from a long trip down the evolutionary highway, to a familiar place, a place that harkens back to the childhood of your existence.



*Coyote Paw Print*

photo by Greg Perantoni

## Moira Adamowicz on Volunteering

*"No matter how much or how little".*

Moira Adamowicz has lived on the Creek for many years and often walked the former Schroeder Farm property with her son long before it became EBNP. One of ECC's earliest volunteers, Moira always affably agreed to stuff and seal 1000 envelopes delivered to her home. More recently she has joined our mailing parties and has also made a big contribution of time and talent to the Decks and Docks fund-raising events. Describing her helping-out experiences with ECC, Moira said:

"I like the mailing parties because you get acquainted with others who are involved and get caught up on what's going on. But I also don't



*Moira Adamowicz*

photo by Susan Bolitzer

mind just sitting quietly at home and stuffing envelopes while I'm watching TV or listening to music. And it's great to get a call. Then I know ECC really needs some help. I do believe it's important to support the people who have worked so hard to make

Esopus Bend a great place. No matter how much or how little, it's the proverbial drop in the bucket; it all adds up. Volunteers are essential."

As an all-volunteer land trust ECC offers the community opportunities to sign up for a variety of jobs that are well suited to everyone. You can be in charge of a project or just spend a few hours sharing a task with other volunteers. Just contact Rita, [eccrita@gmail.com](mailto:eccrita@gmail.com) or 236-6875 and let's get started. As Moira has described so well, we really do need your help and it all adds up.

## Spring/Summer Field Trips

**Mar 06 1:30 PM Animal Tracking**

**Mar 14 9:00 AM Winter Tree ID Walk**

**Mar 21 8:00 AM Signs of Spring Walk**

**Apr 03 1:00 PM Vernal Pools Walk**

**May 01 7:30 AM May Wildlife Walk**

**May 08 9:30 AM Esopus Bend Paddle**

**June 19 8:00 AM Breeding Birds and  
Butterflies**

**June 26 All Day Eastern Catskills NABA  
Butterfly Count**

**July 17 11:00 AM Butterfly Walk**

**July 24 10:00 AM Dragonfly Walk**

**Aug 07 10:00 AM Butterfly Walk and  
Slide Show**

**Aug 22 1:30 PM Animal Tracking**

**Sep 05 9:30 AM Esopus Bend Paddle**

**Sep 18 9:00 AM Esopus Bend Ramble**

**Sep 25 9:00 AM Mushrooms**

**Oct 03 9:00 AM Autumn Tree Walk**



ECC is grateful for the support of Kiwanis Club of Saugerties, sponsor of July 4th Celebration and Annual Garlic Festival September 25 and 26.

**Esopus Creek Conservancy**

**PO Box 589**

**Saugerties, NY 12477**

**845-247-0664**

*Fostering Environmental Education  
for the Next Generation.*

Please consider making a  
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[www.esopuscreekconservancy.org](http://www.esopuscreekconservancy.org)



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