



Water Chestnut Project

Ze'ev Willy Neumann aptly offers this description of the water chestnut plant: "I think of the water chestnut plant as one living organ, one creature. Not as individual creatures but as one massive creature that wants to take over our waterways and deprive every thing below of light which equals life. And the ultimate proof of its menacing image is the nut itself – it looks like it was produced in the Middle Ages." These are strong words that aptly describe the challenge. This past summer ECC volunteers experimented with several methods of eradicating the WC's in the cove by the Saugerties Beach, including hand cutting, use of a fabricated handsaw, and finally running a battery-powered lake-mower. We learned a lot, but mainly that first, we must start much earlier in the season; second, use the method

appropriate to the site; third, we need to set realistic goals; and fourth, involve more volunteers to help over the long stretch of summer months.

During this coming winter season we plan to learn more about the "science" that describes the plant and communicate with the several communities both in Saugerties and elsewhere in Ulster County that also have attacked this problem over the past few years on the Esopus and on the Hudson River. So, stay tuned. This is an challenge that we can address together in the interest of rescuing the Esopus Creek not only for the health of the aquatic plant, fish, bird, and animal environments, but also for the our enjoyment of swimming, fishing and kayaking this beautiful water-way.

- Susan Bolitzer



Creek Update

Lately, the lower Esopus Creek has been more like what we were accustomed to seeing in the years before New York City's large-volume turbid releases. Since March, the release channel has been set at the minimum level for maintaining stream health. Overall, turbidity levels have remained relatively low.

In late May, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation reached a draft Consent Order and Interim Protocol with the city regarding the use of the release channel. Local stakeholders submitted comments insisting on stronger enforcement and higher civil penalties. The DEC is still reviewing comments.

In August, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a decision to require the NYSDEC to put the lower Esopus Creek on its list of impaired waters due to the excessive turbidity. Such a listing would impose stricter water quality requirements on the city's reservoir releases.

The Impact Assessment of turbid releases is moving forward again after being put on hold last year in the aftermath of Irene and Lee. Data from the Impact Assessment will be used to inform the draft Environmental Impact Statement which is required for upcoming modification of the city's CatAlum SPDES permit. - Patrick Landewe

News on the Fracking Front

The movement to ban fracking in NY is having an impact and has caused Gov. Cuomo to announce that there will be a "review" by the NY State Health Dept. of the health effects of hydrofracking, delaying final regulations and permitting for fracking. They have,

however, refused to consider an independent study of the long term cumulative health effects that hydrofracking poses, which is essential. It is important to maintain and increase public pressure. Please call the Gov-(518) 474-8390. In Saugerties the CAC is working on zoning regs which will prohibit fracking.

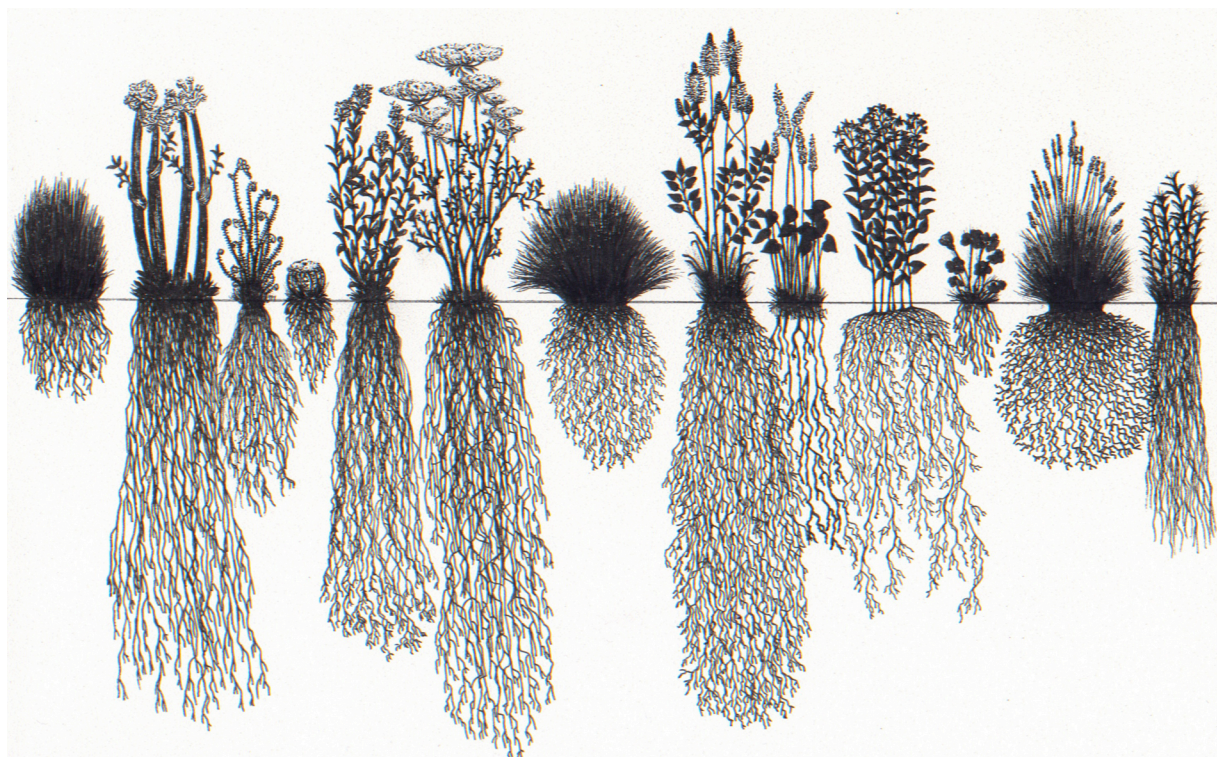


Volunteer Recognition

Esopus Bend Nature Preserve brings so much pride and joy to Saugertesians! It's great to take a short time out of busy days to find respite in Nature's quiet splendor. While many volunteers contribute to maintaining Esopus Bend's well groomed trails, there is one person who deserves special recognition. **Steve Hart** not only joins and leads work parties, but also regularly appears after a rain or wind storm to check the trails. He then

goes to work and repairs what's been damaged, or sometimes creates a lasting solution, such as lining the side of a trail across a hill with 4 by 4's to create a smooth walking path. It's not uncommon to see Steve accompanied by his father, David Hart, working as a team. Thank you, Steve, for your quiet dedication over many years and also for bringing your Dad along to help.

Michael Brown



THE "100 FOR \$100" SHOW

We didn't know quite what to expect when we went to ArtESOPUS at the spacious new Saugerties Performing Arts Factory on Aug. 25. The show, a benefit for the Conservancy, offered "100 works of art for \$100," which was intriguing, and when we visited the preview the day before, we could see that it was indeed an inviting prospect: 100 small art works, each measuring no more than a foot square, representing many media including painting, drawing, modeling, and photography, and many of them by celebrated local artists—but all presented anonymously. The only thing they had in common was that they were all related in some way to the Creek. We earmarked several works we would like to have (excellent bargains at the price) and came back the next day ready and eager to buy. Some of the

works we wanted, by artists we thought we'd recognized had already gone, only minutes after the doors opened, but we found a beautiful color etching and bought it. (My wife Barbara, an artist herself, has an excellent eye.) When we went later to collect it we found that it was indeed by a notable artist, whom we had the pleasure of meeting to discuss her work. All this took place in SPAF's grand gallery space, and over buffet food that was extraordinarily varied and delicious, donated by local caterers.

Nearly half the works sold that very night, the rest were put up on the Conservancy website. It's hard to imagine a better organized or more rewarding way of contributing to the organization, and everyone involved deserves our heartiest thanks and congratulations.

- John Baker



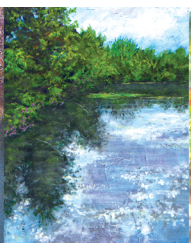
Neumann



Rowley



Radovanovic



Bishop



Knaus



Bryan



Coyle



Niccolls

Howard Frumkin, director of the National Center for Environmental Health at the Centers for Disease Control, recently described the clear benefits of nature experiences to healthy child development, and to adult well-being. "In the same way that protecting water and protecting air are strategies for promoting public health, protecting natural landscapes can be seen as a powerful form of preventive medicine," he said.

While continuing our programming with the local schools, we look forward to sharing plans for expanded nature opportunities for children, families, and everyone in our community. A back-to-nature movement is forming nationwide to reconnect with the outdoors.

Experience the transformative power of nature. Join us at the preserves or on the creek...and bring a kid along. Check our website or Facebook page for events.

www.EsopusCreekConservancy.org

Thank you: Anna Berkheiser for the design of our new logo; **Ze'ev Willy Neumann** and **Chris Nealon** for leading the way on the Water Chestnut project; All the **artists** who participated in ArtESOPUS; **S.P.A.F.** for allowing us to showcase ArtESOPUS in their gallery; **Diane Dwyer of Imogen Holloway Gallery** for her invaluable help; **Steve Chorvas** and **Chris Florsch** and all the Stewardship Volunteers for their dedication to the stewardship of Esopus Bend and Falling Waters preserves.



ECC gratefully acknowledges
the **Kiwanis Club of Saugerties**
for support given to ECC and
other community organizations



Esopus Creek Conservancy, Inc.
P.O. Box 589
Saugerties, NY 12477

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAUGERTIES, N.Y.
PERMIT NO. 110

"The future will belong to the nature-smart -- those individuals, families, businesses, and political leaders who develop a deeper understanding of the transformative power of the natural world and who balance the virtual with real. The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need."

- Richard Louv