



From left, interns Matt Guile, Tiffany Runge, Adam Stewart, Anthony Lombardo, Jim Nichols, Mike Castiglia, Beth Dickinson, and Stacie Howell stand on a rock vane in Trout Creek at a project site. Stream restoration practices were implemented at this site last summer (2009); the interns planted supplemental native vegetation and removed Japanese Knotweed this June to further improve stream quality and enhance the riparian zone.

Interns from New York State Colleges Assist with Stream Management Projects in the Catskill Region

Warm weather arrived last month and with it the planting season began. The Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI) of the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District began implementing riparian (streamside) restoration practices in early June and will continue summer plantings into July. Delaware County's CSBI coordinator Catherine Skalda has been joined by several interns from SUNY Delhi and the Environmental Studies Program at Ulster County Community College (UCCC) in efforts to improve riparian habitats by removing invasive plants and installing native vegetation along streams. These projects are implemented and funded through a contract between the Catskill Region Soil & Water Conservation Districts and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection to protect streams and streamside property throughout the West-of-Hudson Watershed. For several years, SUNY Delhi and UCCC have provided interns to assist with projects in the NYC Watershed during summer months. The projects include establishing streamside buffers using native plants, removing invasive species, surveying streams, and monitoring progress at previously restored sites.

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