

Community invited to assist with watershed tree plantings

Margaretville — Staff from The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development (CCCD), Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD), New York City DEP, Catskill Watershed Corporation and The Roxbury Arts Group (RAG), will be assisting local elementary students and community members in planting trees in Andes, Roxbury and Margaretville in celebration of a project titled The Man Who Planted Trees. Watershed community members and school groups are encouraged to participate in this team effort to protect the water supply and to help beautify common spaces.

The kick-off tree planting will be in Margaretville at the village park on Wednesday, May 12 from 10 a.m. to noon. At 10 a.m., speakers from participating organizations will speak briefly about their work in the watershed as it pertains to vegetation and protecting water supply from erosion and harmful runoff. At approximately 10:30, Adam Stewart, a Student Conservation Association (SCS) intern, will give a presentation demonstrating the benefits of diverse native vegetation in streamside environments. At 10:45 all participants will be invited to take part in planting close to 40 trees in the village park.

Plantings in Roxbury and Andes will follow the same schedule on May 13. The event in Roxbury's Kirkside Park will start with a short

watershed educational program at 10 a.m., followed by tree plantings beginning at 10:20 and ending at noon. At Ballantine Park in Andes the watershed education program will run from 1-1:20 p.m.

"We're really excited to work with watershed residents on combined outdoor projects that serve multiple purposes in the community," says Lisa Jemison, CCCD director of education. "Flooding has been a difficult issue for home and business owners in recent years. While it is not something we can fully prevent in this area, planting trees, especially along streams, can help minimize the damaging impacts of flooding. Trees protect our water supply and this event provides communities the opportunity to work on something relatively simple that benefits everyone, and also the environment" she went on to say.

The tree planting project is the final phase of The Man Who Planted Trees, which began in the summer of 2009 when RAG proposed bringing a play of the same name to their theater.

Interested residents are encouraged to participate in any of the plantings, with no pre-registration required. Any tools residents can provide to assist in the project, including gloves, shovels, trowels, mulch and soil, would be very much appreciated. Questions can be directed to Lisa Jemison at the Catskill Center, at 586-2611.