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NEWS from the CWC

Celebration offers streamside fun August 1

ASHLAND, July 23 -- The Third Annual Batavia Kill Stream Celebration will offer environmental exhibits and demonstrations, children’s activities, music, theater and more on Saturday, Aug. 1 (rain date August 2) on the grounds of the Country Suite Bed and Breakfast, Route 23, Ashland, Greene County, two miles west of Windham.

The free event, coordinated by the Greene County Watershed Assistance Program and funded by a host of regional agencies and businesses, runs from 10 to 5. For a full schedule go to www.gcswcd.com/wap/calendar.

If weather forces postponement of the event to Sunday, an announcement will be provided online, and at 518-589-6871.

Among the highlights will be a 1:30 p.m. performance of Arm-of-the-Sea Theater’s newest spectacle, “Mutual Strangers: Henry Hudson and the River that Discovered Him.” Based on the log from Hudson’s ship the Half Moon, along with the oral traditions of Lenape and Mohican peoples, this mask and puppet story with original music was inspired by the 400th anniversary of the world-changing voyage that foreshadowed a collision of cultures.

The renowned acoustic duo Jay Ungar and Molly Mason will appear on the Celebration stage at Noon and 3 p.m.

Educational features of the Stream Celebration include:

- What’s in the Water?, an exploration of aquatic life in the Batavia Kill
- Guided Stream Walks with Greene County Soil & Water District and NYC Department of Environmental staff showcasing a recent stream restoration project
- A Plant Identification Walk with natural resource educator Bob Beyfuss
- Wildlife Alive program with rehabilitators who have rescued raptors and amphibians

Recycled papermaking with teacher Deb Valerio and students from the Windham-Ashland-Jewett science club; T-shirt fish painting, and rock painting will be among activities for kids. There will be fly tying and casting demonstrations, an exhibition of boomerang and kite flying by “Flying Brian,” and a display of fine arts by Windham Arts Alliance.

Forest land owners will have an opportunity to meet agency representatives from the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, the Watershed Agricultural Council and the Catskills Forest Association to learn about available forestry management programs.

The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, the Catskill Watershed Corporation, and other regional organizations will also be on hand.

Members of the Pure Catskills network will sell produce and products and Clark’s Barbecue will serve up lunch.

Local vendors will sell homemade soap to perennials, and there will be free giveaways throughout the day.

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