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## NEWS from the CWC

### Forest threats are topic of March 17 program

DELHI, March 1, 2011 -- Specialists from the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) will provide an overview of native and invasive species that are attacking the Catskill forest in a program to be held Thursday, Mar. 17 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Okun Theater, Farrell Student and Community Center, SUNY Delhi.

The public is warmly invited to this free program. For more information, visit [www.catskillinstitute.org](http://www.catskillinstitute.org), or call 607-746-4483.

“Threats to Our Forest: Defoliators and Worse,” will be sponsored by the Catskill Institute for the Environment (CIE) as part of an ongoing series of lectures and panel discussions. The series, titled “20/20 Vision for the Catskills,” is intended to cast a spotlight on issues facing the region today that will impact Catskill people, waters and lands in 2020.

Speakers at the March 17 program will be Joshua VanBrakle, Wood Products Specialist at WAC, and J. Rebecca Hargrave, Natural Resources Educator with CCE Chenango County. Moderating the discussion will be Jack Tessier, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology, SUNY Delhi. They will discuss life cycles, detection and means of combating defoliators such as gypsy moth and forest tent caterpillars, as well as destructive pests like the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), which has the potential to decimate the ash tree population in the Catskills.

VanBrakle oversees WAC’s Catskill WoodNet initiative, supports woody biomass research and projects in the region, reviews forest management plans and develops initiatives to support the economic viability of forestry in the NYC Watershed region. He holds a BA in Environmental Economics and Policy from Lebanon Valley College, and an MS in Forest Resource Management from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Hargrave provides technical assistance on horticulture, agroforestry and invasive species management to youth and adult audiences. She earned BS and MS degrees in Forest Science from Penn State and the University of Minnesota. She is currently working on the Emerald Ash Borer Early Detection and Rapid Response Program in conjunction with Mark Whitmore, Forest Entomologist at Cornell University

The CIE, established in 1998, is a consortium of representatives of colleges, institutions and individuals that coordinates symposia and special programs to promote environmental awareness, education and scientific cooperation in the Catskill region.

Upcoming 20/20 Vision programs will focus on aquatic invasives threatening our waterways, bioaccumulation of mercury in flora and fauna, and trends in wildlife populations, including comebacks of some previously threatened species.

For more information, contact Dr. Morton (Sam) Adams, chairman, [madams@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:madams@mail.nysed.gov), or go to [www.catskillinstitute.org](http://www.catskillinstitute.org).