

Kaatskill Life

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shoreline along the creek. To end the day I joined a hike led by ECC's own guides through this jewel of undeveloped land in the heart of Saugerties. This year, more events are being planned in and around "Frog's Island" in the preserve.

The cost for the 2009 tour is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12 if tickets are purchased in advance. Tickets purchased on June 7 are \$30. Sign-in is between 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Saugerties Village Beach, located one block from the intersection of Partition and Hill streets; participants receive a map showing houses on the tour. As of this writing, ECC hopes to arrange for kayak rentals to be available at sign-in. Anyone touring on the water must wear life vests.



Tickets are limited, buy early! Purchase tickets in advance from the Esopus Creek Conservancy, PO Box 589, Saugerties, NY 12477, and from several Saugerties store locations to be announced. For information call (845) 247-0664 or visit www.esopuscreekconservancy.org

HOUSE CALLS

Saugerties has 68 stone houses within its boundaries, and all but a handful are in pristine shape and inhabited. To celebrate this historical treasure, the Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Commission will hold its first Stone House Tour on Saturday, May 16, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (torrential rain date, May 17). Eight houses, constructed from locally quarried stone, will be shown as examples of the changing life and architectural styles between 1750 and 1943.

Tickets are limited and cost \$10 if bought in advance; or \$20 on the day of the tour. In the Village of Saugerties, tickets will be available at the following stores: Smith's Hardware, Hudson Valley Guild Booktrader, and Muddy Cup/Inquiring Mind. Or, obtain tickets by mail from Stone House Tour, P.O. Box 296, Saugerties, NY 12477. For information call (845) 246-1823.

GENERAL INTEREST

ACCESSING HEALTHCARE

HealthMatch, an innovative community-specific, health professional recruitment service, has received a \$200,000 award from the Health Care Efficiency and Affordability Law for New Yorkers (HEAL NY) Grant Program.

"This grant will enable us to focus on increasing the number of healthcare professionals in our 11-county region," said Kathryn Reed, executive director of Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (Catskill Hudson AHEC), which established the HealthMatch service earlier this year. "The need to bring communities together to tackle healthcare access needs is essential. This funding will help us take important steps in connecting healthcare professionals with the communities that need them."

The grant is awarded under the Local Health Planning Initiative of the HEAL NY Program. This grant program is intended to stimulate and subsidize the development of multi-stakeholder, collaborative local health planning efforts aimed at promoting healthy communities by identifying community healthcare needs and aligning the healthcare delivery system with those needs.

HealthMatch is a collaborative effort that unites the commitment of healthcare, business and civic leaders in order to provide increased local access to quality healthcare. It was specifically established to increase the number of healthcare professionals that move to and work in our communities.

Grant funds will be used to launch this innovative approach to health professional recruitment as a demonstration project, with the goal of replicating this service across the Catskill Hudson AHEC 11-county service region (Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Otsego, Putnam, Rockland, Schoharie, Sullivan, and Ulster) and throughout New York State.

Catskill Hudson AHEC is one of nine AHECs statewide whose initiative is to find solutions to the drastic shortages and serious lack of diversity within New York State's healthcare workforce. Strategies include introducing young people and adult career seekers to various healthcare career options, developing opportunities for future health professionals to receive their clinical training in underserved areas, providing continuing education and professional support to health practitioners, and recruiting health professionals to underserved communities.

For information on Catskill Hudson AHEC, visit www.chahec.org