# A Review of 2020
## with Warren County
## Soil & Water Conservation District

*The District's mission is to protect and improve the lakes, rivers, streams, soils and other natural resources of Warren County through locally-led conservation projects and programs.*

WARREN COUNTY
Soil & Water
Conservation District

After reflecting on this past year, it seems as though it went by in a blur. We had more questions, comments, site visits, and interactions with landowners than I ever recall during my 23 years at the District. With so many people at their second homes or on extended stays, items that are frequently overlooked became noticed. Whether there were questions about house drainage, stormwater, streams, forest management, invasive species, gardening, farming, rattlesnakes, chemicals,... if you can think of it we were probably asked about it.

It's nice to assist on issues that directly impact people and our natural resources. I believe that one of our District's strengths is the fact that we know we don't have all of the answers, but we are involved in many partnerships with people who do. I believe all of us here take the time to move questions or issues along as far as possible, even if that means spending time reaching out to others outside of our field of expertise.

The District staff truly enjoy helping others and made sure of it especially during a year with many challenges. I see that firsthand when we discuss projects and their potential positive or negative impacts when we conduct site visits, when we manage grants and when the staff communicates with others in a professional, courteous, and genuinely helpful manner. So while this was a tough and sometimes brutal year for our county, state and the country, I will look upon it and accept that what we do for the Warren County community does have a positive and lasting impact. This document is a brief summary of our programs and projects that assist with protecting our natural resources, undertaken by your Conservation District in 2020...

*Jim Lieberum, District Manager*

# We Prioritize Water Quality...

Water quality is the measure of the physical and chemical constituents of a waterbody that support a mixture of native plants and wildlife. Any number of actions taken in a watershed can have a direct correlation on the quality of our waters. Many of our programs work to mitigate the issues that cause degradation to our aquatic environment. These programs address concerns in various ways; whether it is for our health, our economic viability or for simple aesthetics.

**The Warren County Small Lakes and Pond Assessment Program** was created in 2017, in an effort to assist municipalities and private landowners with determining the basic health and conditions found within smaller waterbodies. We are able to analyze aquatic plants, fish species, algae growth, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and water clarity, and then provide basic recommendations to the landowner on pond management strategies. To date the District has visited over 30 waterbodies, with 2020 being among our busiest year for the program. If you have questions about your pond, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

## Glens Falls Water Supply Monitoring Program

Photo taken by Gwendolyn Craig, The Post Star

The District assists the City of Glens Falls with water quality testing of their water supply. The city manages four main reservoirs and three small intake ponds that are constructed as the entry source(s) for the city's pump station and treatment plant, which supplies water the drinking water to the City of Glens Falls. Samples are taken monthly at each waterbodies deepest point from May through October. During the 2020 season, over 2,300 sample readings were taken and analyzed to find any trends or changing conditions within the waterbodies. This information is then provided to the City's Engineering office and provides baseline water chemistry data for managing the water system. Water quality protection is especially important for the City and its residents!

CITY OF WATER AND SEWER DEPT. GLENS FALLS

# ...And you'll spot us in the streams too

That's right! You may have seen us putting on waders, grabbing equipment, and working in steams. We work with many partners to ensure high water quality in our county streams. In the past we have partnered with Trout Unlimited completing a stream stabilization project, setting brush bundles for structure, assessing culverts for fish passage, and much more. Many of our current grants involve habitat restoration or improvement, municipal assistance for culvert sizing and replacement, stormwater runoff abatement, and streambed and bank improvement and restoration. Whether it's assisting municipalities with new culvert options, permits, assisting with culverts or funding; the staff, our programs and grants in many cases make us the first entity that municipalities call when it comes time for road and stream crossings projects.

# Water Quality Improvement through Stormwater Management

Stormwater retrofitting is a top priority for the District's stormwater management program. In the urbanized areas of the county where we have significant amounts of impervious surfaces (roads, driveways, houses…), the District works with municipal highway departments to install stormwater best management practices (BMP's). Projects treat existing stormwater runoff to improve the water quality of an existing stormwater system are known as retrofits. Green infrastructure retrofits use vegetation or soil systems to filter stormwater pollutants including fertilizers, heavy metals, bacteria, and sediment. Some of the green infrastructure projects the District installed with highway departments this year were…

**Village of Lake George, Schuyler Street:** We installed 115 liner feet of precast porous concrete sidewalk to infiltrate water, reducing ice build up. Without water freezing on the sidewalk surface, you don't have ice and can reduce your salt usage!

**Warrensburg, Highway Department Building:** We installed 2,800 square feet of grass permeable paver parking. The paver grid prevents soil compaction, allowing for long term infiltration and grass growth. This parking area is now a retrofit that filters pollutants and greens up the site!

**Lake George, Flat Rock Road:** This problem area was receiving a significant volume of stormwater, which on this steep section of the road, led to erosion and icing issues. This project consisted of four catch basins to capture sediment and reduce road flooding with a grass bioretention as a final stormwater filter in the system. The grass and soil in the bioretention do a great job at removing nutrients and petrochemicals from stormwater.

A closer look at grass permeable pavers

**Queensbury, Sunnyside North Road:** Stormwater runoff was causing shoreline erosion and stormwater runoff to Lake Sunnyside. The District worked with the Town for the installation and maintenance of 780 square feet of rock-filled permeable pavers. In an area with limited space, this stormwater retrofit also doubles as a parking area. Similar to other porous surfaces, this is a salt reduction project.

# Prioritizing Water Quality with Partnerships

In 2019 we teamed up with the Lake George Association (LGA) and our regional NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to reduce stormwater runoff and its subsequent impact to Lake George. The LGA received funding through a Lake Champlain Basin Program grant to support the installation of green infrastructure practices. In 2020 work did not stop and after site investigations and discussion, a new project was developed. The project consisted of constructing a "diffuser pond" that creates a reduction in the volume of untreated stormwater getting into West Brook and utilizes vegetation to take up nutrients, further enhancing the runoff quality. This project was rapidly completed and has been functioning very well.

*To see more about this project, SCAN the QR Code*

# What Does MS4 Mean to Your Community?

The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), consists of in-depth management of stormwater runoff in the defined urbanized areas of the county (https://www.warrenswcd.org/ms4.html). Three of the four green infrastructure projects we presented on page 3 were installed in MS4 communities, but why does this matter? Municipalities that are designated MS4s are required to follow management plans for their stormwater systems which include those grates in the road that collect rainwater and snowmelt. The reason MS4s exist and why we install green infrastructure projects to clean stormwater runoff is that the majority of our road stormwater systems drain to a lake, stream/river, or wetland. Some of these waterbodies are drinking water sources and through simple methods, we can filter our stormwater and clean it up, before it flows to a stormwater system. That should be a top priority for all of us, MS4 or not. How can you help keep stormwater and our waterbodies clean? Here are a few simple ideas…

Field staff sampling the stormwater system

**Only Rain In The Drain:** Never dump anything other than rainwater into a road storm drain. Remember, the majority of these drain directly to waterbodies, some of which are drinking water sources.

**Lawn Care:** Most lawns drain to a road, so limiting or not using fertilizer or chemicals on your lawn will keep your stormwater runoff cleaner. Instead, leave grass clippings and let them provide nutrients back to the soil. You can also compost your leaves and spread them back onto your lawn for a long-term nutrient boost. "Raise the Blade" on your mower will not only reduce stormwater runoff but will improve your soil health and allow for grass to set deeper roots that will be more drought tolerant during those mid-summer dry spells.

**Pet Waste:** Picking up after your dog is a stinky job but you certainly don't want that waste getting into our waters.

**Car Wash:** If you going to wash your car at home, it is best to wash over a grassed area to prevent soapy water or residue from getting into a storm drain. If you can't wash on the grass, go to a carwash facility where the water is properly collected and disposed of.

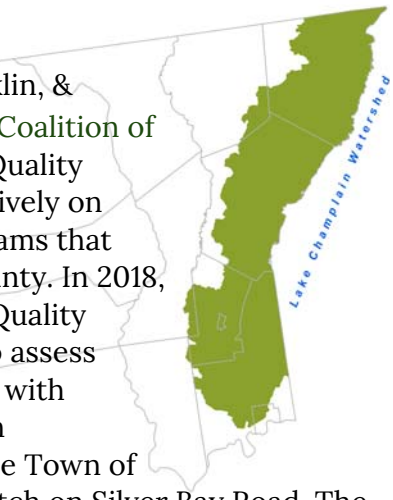
**Volunteer:** Our office organizes a stream cleanup in the Queensbury area every year at the end of August and we are always looking for helping hands! The highway departments also have adopt-a-highway programs to keep roads garbage free. Contact the District to join!

# Roadside Erosion and Sediment Control

Each year the District provides technical and stabilization assistance to our municipalities for erosion sites through our hydroseeding program.
In 2020, 51 sites were stabilized, covering 16 acres (over 13 lane miles) with a conservation seed mix, fertilizer and a heavy wood flowable mulch, to hold materials in place. A couple of the highlights this year included a permeable paver parking lot at the Warrensburg Highway Garage, critical area seeding to protect a wetland in Queensbury, and our coordination with municipalities to get areas seeded in a timely fashion!

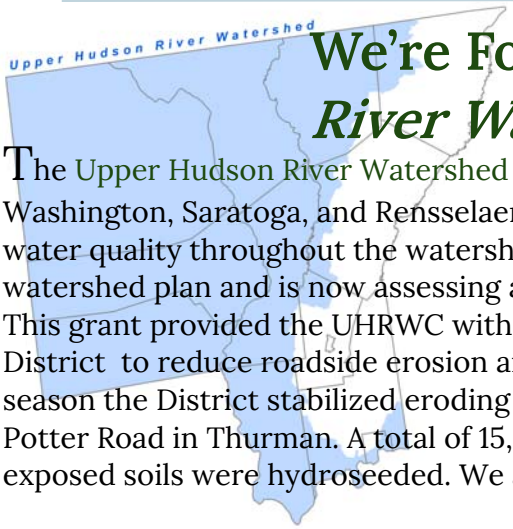
*Funds provided by NYS DEC Water Quality Improvement Program*

# What are we doing for Roadside Erosion *in the Lake Champlain Watershed*




Each month the District meets with the other counties (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, & Washington Counties) that make up the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of NY (CWICNY). CWICNY was formed in 2004 to allow the SWCD's and Water Quality Coordinating Committees within the Champlain Watershed to work cooperatively on addressing natural resource concerns. Since its inception, projects and programs that address concerns have been implemented in each county. In 2018, the District received $60,000 from a NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) grant with CWICNY, to assess roadside erosion sites and stabilize high-priority sites with municipalities. To date, the District has completed ten stabilization projects. This year, we teamed up with the Town of Hague Highway Department to stabilize an eroding ditch on Silver Bay Road. The Hague crew worked closely with the District learning how to establish check dams and install erosion control blankets before runoff enters a tributary to Lake George. We are happy to be a part of CWICNY and are thankful for our partners for their support and funding for projects like these.

To find out more about CWICNY, visit www.cwicny.org




# We're Focused on the *Upper Hudson River Watershed* too...

The Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC) is comprised of Essex, Hamilton, Warren, Washington, Saratoga, and Rensselaer Counties. The UHRWC continues to move towards improving water quality throughout the watershed. In 2020 the coalition completed a Department of State watershed plan and is now assessing and stabilizing roadside erosion through an NYSDEC WQIP grant. This grant provided the UHRWC with $389,178 in funds, of which $55,000 was earmarked for the District to reduce roadside erosion and treat stormwater runoff along town and county highways. This season the District stabilized eroding sites on States Road East in Stony Creek, and Ski-Hi Road and Don Potter Road in Thurman. A total of 15,500 linear feet of roadside ditching covering 124,040 square feet of exposed soils were hydroseeded. We are looking forward to continuing this work in 2021.

# Our Partnership with the West Brook Conservation Initiative

The south parcel of the West Brook Conservation Initiative (WBCI) was developed to collect stormwater runoff from Route 9 and treat it before it enters West Brook. The system is a series of ponds designed to attenuate flow and allow sediment to fall out of suspension. The vegetation at the site uptakes nutrients, which helps to clarify and improve the water's quality. To keep the system functioning, project partners and volunteers spent two days harvesting some of the overabundant cattails in select areas and remove sediment from the first pond. Although cattails are native, they can form a monoculture creating a yearly nutrient reintroduction back into the system through decomposition. Partners harvested areas by hand and machinery and removed around 70 cubic yards of cattails and an estimated 40 cubic yards of roadside material from Pond One. This site has many opportunities to many people, so there is a balance between an effective and functioning stormwater treatment system, a recreational park, and excellent wildlife and wildflower habitat. If you have not visited the site, stop down in 2021, you may be surprised at what you see!

# Agriculture in Warren County

To say Agriculture Environmental Management (AEM) is one of our favorite programs would be an understatement! Agriculture on all scales is very important in Warren County and growing with conservation practices is equally as important. This year the District expanded its program and assisted our farmers, homesteaders, and community gardeners with a diversity of projects and workshops. Below are some of the highlights from 2020.

## National Association of Conservation District (NACD) Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative

We were one of 21 Conservation Districts across the country to receive funds through NACD, to work with the Warrensburg Community Garden on all things soil health-related. We hosted three educational workshops that covered soil health practices, composting basics, and cover crop planning. With the community gardeners, District staff completed in-depth soil testing, purchased tools and materials for no-till practices, built a compost area, installed a hedgerow for beneficial insects, utilized organic pest management and cover cropped the garden beds for winter. We'd like to extend a special thanks to the Warrensburg Water Department for all of their hard work on this grant!

## Conservation Skills Workshop

The District teamed up with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to teach a Basic Soils Course to conservation organizations around the state and hosted a field portion of the course at SUNY Adirondack. We had a walk-in soil pit to study the soil horizons, conducted field soil tests, and discussed soil management planning. We would like to thank the college and grounds crew for all their help!

**NYS Soil Health Specialist Training:** Nick Rowell was selected to participate in a statewide *Soil Health Specialist Training Program*. The program runs over a two-year period and involves workshops, presentations, and on-farm soil health technical assistance. The training provides in-depth soil science knowledge with soil management systems that are incorporated into farm planning and design.

**NOFA-NY:** The District received a LCBP grant to attend the Northeast Organic Farming Association Conference (NOFA) in Syracuse. Class topics included organic pest and disease management, regenerative systems on no-till farms, and multiple soil health practices.

**The Farm Talks:** Bob Barody, owner of Blackberry Hill Farm in Thurman, gave a very entertaining and informative presentation titled "*Don't Be Chicken… Master Pastured Poultry*" where he discussed his organic practices and soil health benefits in detail. We always appreciate our AEM farmers sharing their knowledge!

## Attention Farmers!

The District works with farms to ensure the protection of resources in our watersheds. This voluntary, incentive-based program allows staff to assist farmers with conservation planning that addresses the farm's overall goals and environmental stewardship while having a positive impact on the community. The District would like to thank all of our participating farms for working with us to ensure the betterment of our natural resources and the sustainability of the farms. For more information about the AEM Program, contact us at (518) 623-3119.

*Learn more about our agriculture programs, checkout our update AEM Strategic Plan 2021-2025 at WarrenSWCD.org.*

# Promoting Beneficial Habitat for Wildlife

The District was awarded a $20,000 grant from the LCBP to implement a series of habitat improvement projects within the Lake Champlain Watershed. Through the Warren County Habitat Improvement Project, there were a diverse set of projects selected that consisted of promoting native pollinators, removal of invasive species, and establishing temporary wetlands for nutrient uptake.

You may have seen the District staff along Quaker Road in Queensbury on a tributary of Halfway Brook hand pulling over 500 pounds aquatic invasive plants. The staff was surprised to find an abundance of Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly-leaf pondweed. We will be keeping an eye on this section and follow up on the management of these species.

This project also included the installation of brush bundles in sand impacted stream segments upstream of Hovey Park and turtle logs, bluebird boxes, and wood duck boxes throughout the watershed. The Halfway Brook Watershed is very diverse and has many recreational opportunities with public access points.

We installed a total of five temporary floating wetlands in Crandall Park Pond, Hovey Park Pond, Gurney Lane Pond, Dula Pond, and a Westbrook stormwater pond. Each wetland mat holds more than 70 native wetland plants from early summer to fall. As these wetland plants grew, they absorbed excess nutrients and pollutants which helped improve the water quality at the ponds. The District was able to evaluate the effectiveness of the planting locations and the productivity of the species selected for the mats.

## Promoting Pollinators on the WC Bikeway

The District partnered with the Warren County Parks and Recreation Department (WCPRD) to promote pollinator habitat along the Warren County Bikeway. The bikeway is 9.4 miles long and runs through a variety of habitats and land uses. The WCPRD currently mows along the trail to keep the corridor open for visibility and to establish a clear buffer between the path and vegetation, and many of these mowed areas were pollinator friendly.

The District asked to alter management practices at several locations by installing two native pollinator gardens which promote beneficial insects. Pollinator habitat has been lost to development, non-native species establishment, diseases, and mowed lawns. The District and the WCPRD recognized the unique opportunity of the Bikeway green space to expand beyond a travel corridor and become a space for pollinator habitat. Now you will find native species such as New England Aster, Cardinal Flower, and Wild Geranium. The pollinator habitat established for the project totaled 1,800 square feet. The District would like to thank Grey Ghost Bicycles for donating a bike repair station and pump which provides the necessary tools to fix basic bicycle repairs and maintenance. To learn more about these gardens, we encourage you to visit the Route 149 overpass and just north of Sanford Street and Ridge Street in Glens Falls when the gardens are in full bloom this summer!

# Mitigating Hazards in Warren Co

We had an odd year in the region in regards to Hazard Mitigation. 2020 started with ongoing cleanup and evaluating damages from the 2019 Halloween Storm, continued with a growing pandemic, then a tornado in Saratoga County one week, and one in ours the next. We dodged the devastating rainfall that hit Whitehall, and from mid-summer on much of the area was dry as toast. You really can't predict what's going to happen with nature, that is why it's important to have a well-developed and reasoned plan to address potential issues like these.
Hazard Mitigation deals with natural disasters and we have started to see them in our county on a recurring basis. Flooding is the most obvious, but the short duration intense rainfall storms that are accompanied by winds seem to become commonplace. Dealing with "lots of water" in a short time is difficult, but something we can conceptualize. Addressing systematic changes due to invasive species such as the Hemlock Wooly Adelgid (HWA), Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Spotted Lanternfly is something else. Expecting to prevent these terrestrial insects from establishing is not far off from expecting water to be retained in a sieve. That is why scouting and the immediate follow-up to potential outbreaks are critical. There aren't too many silver bullets out there for most environmental issues. However, for every day, week, month, and year that we can keep these insects at bay, that provides the time to research and test new management and eradication techniques, and develop mitigation strategies.

We've focused on invasive species because EAB and HWA are going to create significant problems for private landowners and municipalities when ash and hemlock trees die. Hikers, hunters, bird watchers, runners, walkers, bikers, school busses, commuters, etc, will be subjected to branches and entire trees falling and needing to be dealt with. If you spend any time in the woods or around trees, you know that after storms there is debris. If these two species decline rapidly in a short period of time we will see many issues even during nice sunny, peaceful days. Understand that there will be changes including the amount of sunlight reaching the ground (plant regime change), wildlife species present, and the amount of erosion along streams. Mother Nature fills the voids created hopefully with native species, but whatever colonizes and establishes first will have a headstart for success.

How are we going to handle the volume of debris that will be coming from along trails and bikeways, roads, and municipal properties? How do landowners deal with acres of dead standing trees? If it gets too dry are we more exposed to a significant wildfire? There is no 100% effective way to manage these issues, which is why we have to plan. In 2021 we anticipate that the county will be awarded funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through New York State, to revise and update the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. I would encourage those of you who are interested to look for announcements in regards to in person and/or virtual meetings to help work through this process and assist with developing a comprehensive management plan. This plan will cover all municipalities and breaks out community specific issues, goals, and potential resolutions to issues.

# What's Happening in the Forest

One of the highlights about living in Warren County is there is so much publically accessible land. Whether the land is managed by the NYSDEC, towns, college, or your adventure takes to Lake George Land Conservancy properties, there are so many opportunities to explore. Over the years, working on these properties and just enjoying hours and hours out in forests, I've come to realize that all these places are incredibly different from one another. In the northern portion, our forests are a typical Adirondack covertype of spruce, fir, and a mix of hardwoods such as maple, ash, and beech. If you venture in the southern portion you could find species that are not as tolerant to the cold northern temperatures such as Sassafras, Catalpa, Mulberry and even Black Gum. These are species that we might not anticipate finding, but we have come to realize that we should always pay attention to the unique features that this land has to offer and trees are just a tiny piece of a large landscape.

*Thoughts from a District Technician*

In 2020, the District rolled out the **Warren County Tree Challenge** for people to enjoy a fun outdoor activity searching for unique and interesting trees. This challenge was created as a way to find and map trees that are out of their range, are a unique species, have interesting growth, large diameter...you name it! When we released the application we received many positive comments, people even thanked us. We couldn't understand why we were thanked or had an article in the Post Star, an interview on North Country Public Radio, and an onsite interview with News Channel 10. When we mentioned it was funny that this simple app was developed from a strong interest in trees and the uniqueness of nature, someone we know seemed surprised. They responded... "*It's good news. It's something that has nothing to do with COVID, politics, or the economy. It simplifies things and provides an outlet that has no distraction.*" Wow, did we really do that with something so simple? The District gives a special thanks to the Warren County Planning Department for helping us make this possible.

# Landowner Assistance

The District assists on forestry-related projects and programs throughout the county. Technical assistance is available to landowners interested in their forestlands, pests issues, working with foresters to reach management goals, and more. The District provides assistance to towns for their woodlots and incorporating BMP's to protect the natural resources. Our Arbor Day Program is also a popular event and even last year the District provided and/or planted four balled in burlap honey locusts and five sugar maples for the program.

# A Closer Look at our Community Outreach

In a normal year, the staff is usually wrapped up assisting communities with multiple education programs on weekdays, weeknights, and weekends. This year's programs were curtailed due to the inability of students and the public to travel or gather for events. Programs that are held each year such as the Environmental Field Days, Arbor Day programs, Science Day on the Queensbury Campus, or even after-school and enrichment programs where we take our EM river model to, were unable to occur. What made this year so tough is District staff rely on these hands-on education moments to teach the community about natural resources. There is something to be said when you get folks in the field and outside their element, then offer a unique learning experience which may be checking for critters in the creek, celebrating Arbor Day with a group, or planting native plants in a rain garden. While this certainly was a hurdle, as with the District's usual fashion, we tried many creative ways to continue to offer learning experiences and were successful...

Soil health workshop at the SUNY Adirondack Agriculture Program (2019)

## Program Highlights

**The Community Conservation Program (CCP)** supports and encourages conservation and education programs for our communities, with a portion of our funding. Each year our awareness for natural resource conservation grows tremendously and we will continue to show our support in every way. This year's CCP applicants received funding for the creation and improvement of native plant gardens, maintenance of high tunnel structures, community gardens involving schools and master gardeners, materials for the re-launching of community gardens in Glens Falls, and the purchase and installation of an observation beehive exhibit. The beehive exhibit at Up Yonda Farm is a unique project at the education center in regards to the importance of bees for plant pollination and the creation of honey. We encourage you to check it out!

Spring is always a time to look forward to at the District, as it is when we really start thinking about spring planting projects. We see the excitement from the community conservationists who showed their support for the program by purchasing tree seedlings, shrubs, fruit trees, wildlife nesting boxes, and wildflower seeds at the **Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale!** The staff had a blast safely packing orders and treating the sale like a drive-through option at a local burger joint - "*Order number 57 up, want fries with that?!*"

**The fishpond program sale** was held in the fall and brought the regular supporters out of the woodwork and while meeting a few new folks. Most were happy to just get outside and work with their ponds. The sale was well received as we sold several hundred fish and a few minnow habitat structures. The Spring 2021 program information will be coming out soon, stay tuned!

## The Warren County Envirothon goes Virtual!

The 2020 Warren County Envirothon was a success, especially considering schools were adjusting their new routines to accommodate mandates and protocols being initiated. Amidst it all, 25 students representing 5 teams registered to compete from Warrensburg, Glens Falls High School, and WWSHE BOCES. Warrensburg Team 1 was the winner and advanced to the State Envirothon, which was also held virtually. An enormous shout out to our sponsors who remained committed to the event! The 2021 Envirothon will occur, in person, virtually, or a combination.

**We always have opportunities for our community to get engaged in conservation projects. To find out more about our other outreach programs visit our website at www.warrenswcd.org**

# Learning about Topography and Watersheds

A significant accomplishment of the District was the development of a successful LCBP education grant on behalf of CWICNY. Through it, we acquired an **Augmented Reality Sandbox** to be housed at Up Yonda Farm. This extremely engaging exhibit projects contour lines in real-time as you alter the sand level and shape in the model, which changes geographic and topographic features. It is calibrated to project water features including the water table, floods, and drainages, and it has the immediate capacity to answer the question of where does the water go, and who may it affect if it is polluted? Scan the link to see how it works!

# Conservationist of the Year Award

**Randy Rath, Project Manager / GIS Specialist**
**Lake George Association**

Randy Rath has provided enthusiasm and support, along with a strong conservation ethic working on projects in conjunction with the District. Randy understands the importance of local lakes, streams, and other natural resources. He consistently works on project ideas and assists with the implementation for the protection of critical features. Randy works on a variety of projects such as stormwater remediation, erosion and sediment control, habitat improvement, and many others. The District believes that Randy's willingness, his foresight when it comes to conservation projects, and his support for resource protection is essential for the long-term sustainability and improvement of our local natural resources.

*Congratulations Randy!*

# Ronald Montesi Conservation Recognition Award

*Named in honor of our longtime, always active and supportive Board Member Ron Montesi, this award is presented to groups or individuals, recognizing their spirit and above ordinary efforts for conservation in our county.*

For 12 years **Tom O'Dea** has been a Master Gardener, maintaining gardens at Hovey Park, The Hyde Museum, Up Yonda Farm, and other locations weekly. He assisted the District with the soil health grant at the Warrensburg Community Garden with the maintenance of the soil health demonstration beds, implementing cover crops on his plots while encouraging others to do the same, and assisting with the installation of a native plant hedgerow garden.

**Lee Rounds** is the Senior Groundskeeper at the Queensbury School District and a Warren County farmer. For the past two years, Lee has set up and coordinated successful Arbor Day Programs for the students. Lee has helped with setting up the events, installing osprey nests, and maintaining the school's trail system. Aside from his dedication at the school, he works his family twice as hard running and maintaining their Christmas Tree Farm in Chester. Visit this conservationist at Rounds Fir Farm!

**Dr. Jeremy Farrell** is a researcher for the Darren Freshwater Institute and Lecturer at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Limnology and Freshwater Biology. He has worked on several projects related to aquatic invasive species, cultural eutrophication, acid deposition, and salinization with local groups such as the NYSDEC, LGA, and the Lake George Park Commission. Jeremy has also been a team player with the District and other groups and continues to help us whenever we ask!

WARREN COUNTY
Soil & Water
Conservation District

# A Bit of Background on Us...

- The Warren County SWCD was created by the Warren County Board of Supervisors in 1956 under NYS Soil and Water District Law. The District is a ***Non Regulatory*** county-based organization overseen by a seven member Board of Directors for local priorities.
- The District's 2020 operating expenses were $541,085. Our 2020 funding allocation from Warren County was $345,817, 0.30% of the 2020 approved county budget. The remainder of our income from competitive grants, earned income programs , municipal contracts and funding from New York State.

***Tel: (518)623.3119***

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**Visit us at: 394 Schroon River Road Warrensburg NY 12885**

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