



Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District

2007 Annual Report



It has been said by many of our national leaders that a defining issue in the coming decades will be conservation and the environment. We couldn't agree more. In fact, we believe that many of these issues are already at the forefront of our consciousness, as they grace the local newspapers on a daily basis.

As you read this report, you will see conservation work not only being done by your Soil and Water Conservation District, but also by local municipalities as well. This is tremendously encouraging, as our

environment is shaped considerably through leadership at the local level. Much of what is accomplished by the District could not have happened without the support of town supervisors, mayors, and highway departments. We thank them for their efforts and long-term foresight in protecting and improving our lakes and streams.

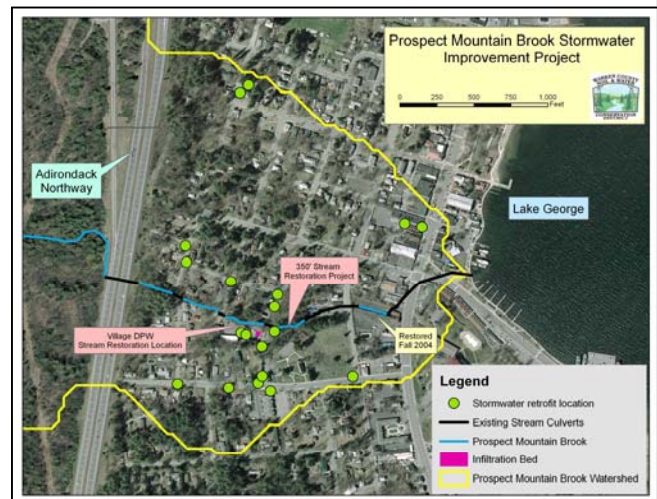
At the District level, Chairman Ed Milner (pictured third from right) retired after ten years on our board. Ed was outstanding in his leadership abilities, both within our county and at the state association of Conservation Districts. He is a true friend and mentor, and he will be greatly missed. Stepping into this role is Frank Thomas, Supervisor of the Town of Stony Creek. Frank has a strong interest in conservation and is highly regarded at the county, and we have no doubt his leadership will guide the District successfully into the next decade.

- Dave Wick, District Manager

Prospect Mountain Brook Stormwater Improvement Project

Prospect Mountain Brook's headwaters begin on Prospect Mountain in Town of Lake George, flowing through the heart of Lake George Village and ultimately outletting into Lake George. Although the headwaters of Prospect Mountain Brook are pristine and in very good condition, this stream becomes degraded and heavily managed through the Village. Pollutants from this watershed including sediment, phosphorus, chlorides, and others degrade the water quality of the southern basin of Lake George. To address some of these issues, the Warren County SWCD received grant funding in the amount of \$168,400 from the NYS DEC, and another \$78,000 provided by the Lake George Association.

This project had two specific components: stream restoration and stormwater runoff management. Over the period of two years, the District and the Village of Lake George Department of



Public Works worked to restore and protect over 600 feet of stream channel through the Village, and install 15 different stormwater treatment and infiltration systems within the Village roadways. One of the largest problems was the Village DPW property itself, which was re-structured to capture and treat all stormwater from over one acre of blacktop, vehicle parking, and materials storage.

Including the local match, there was over \$350,000 worth of environmental improvements within this watershed, working to protect and improve the brook and Lake George. Many thanks go to Village DPW Superintendent Dan Hajeck and his crew for their hundreds of hours of work to get these projects on the ground.

A Look at Some Watersheds...

Figuring Out the Problems

The Warren County SWCD undertakes a large number of conservation projects every year to fix identified problems on streams and in lakes across the county. What is not well known is the amount of time and effort it takes to identify where the problems are in the first place.

Our office spends hundreds of hours every year walking up and down streams to determine where erosion is taking place, where polluted stormwater runoff is entering the stream, and thinking of ways to fix these problems. Armed with a camera and a Global Positioning

System (GPS) unit, we pinpoint and photographically

document all stormwater outfalls to the stream and observe stream conditions revealing erosion and deposition. When the stream work is done, we drive and walk the road networks to map where pollutants might be entering the stream.

With the information gathered in the field, District staff then work to gather information on parameters such as stream morphology, classification, hydrology, water quality, soils, land use, wetlands, and stream ecology. The last step is to generate a report outlining the current natural resource conditions within the watershed, along with areas in need of improvement or restoration. We call this process and these final documents "Watershed Assessments".

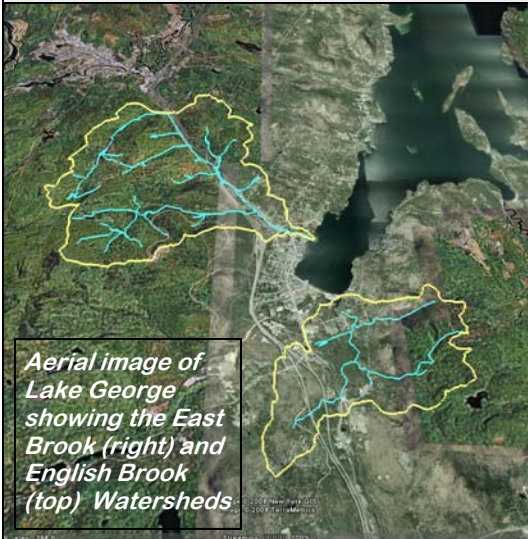
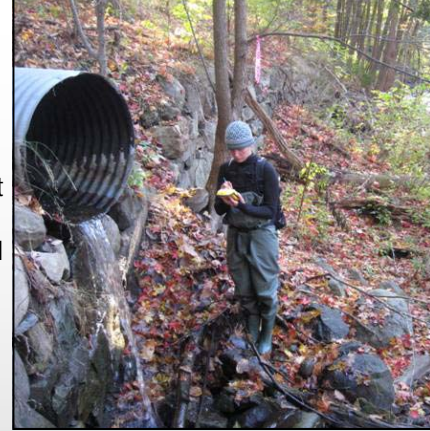
In 2007, the District focused its study efforts on the following watersheds:

East Brook Watershed Assessment: A major tributary stream to Lake George, East Brook flows into Lake George next to Million Dollar Beach. With moderate levels of development, logging, and road networks, this study will help identify current impacts to the brook and Lake George from these activities. Report will be complete by April of 2008.

English Brook Watershed Assessment: One of the largest tributaries to Lake George, English Brook is in the southern basin of the lake and has a tremendous delta at its outlet. With funds from the Lake George Watershed Conference and a private landowners group, the District began to study this watershed in the fall of 2007. A report will be complete by summer of 2008.

Schroon Lake Management Plan: The Schroon Lake Association is undertaking a comprehensive Lake Management Plan, and the District is undertaking the upland portion of this study. Working with the municipalities, the District submitted a funding proposal to the NYS Department of State to help fund these initiatives. The watershed (upland) portion of this report is expected to be completed by fall of 2008.

Dream Lake Watershed Assessment: This is a small, 7 acre lake located in the Town of Queensbury but has a very large watershed since it is downstream of the much larger Glen Lake. Having a watershed management plan opens the avenue for different funding sources for the remediation of nonpoint source pollution and other identified issues. This report was completed in November of 2007, and will act as a guide for future protection and restoration activities for this lake.



Aerial image of Lake George showing the East Brook (right) and English Brook (top) Watersheds

Dream Lake Watershed Assessment



Prepared by the
Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District
Jim Laderman, CPESC
Water Resources Specialist
33 Elm Street, Warrensburg, NY 12095
Phone: (518) 623-3119 Fax: (518) 623-3519

November 2007

Projects and Programs...

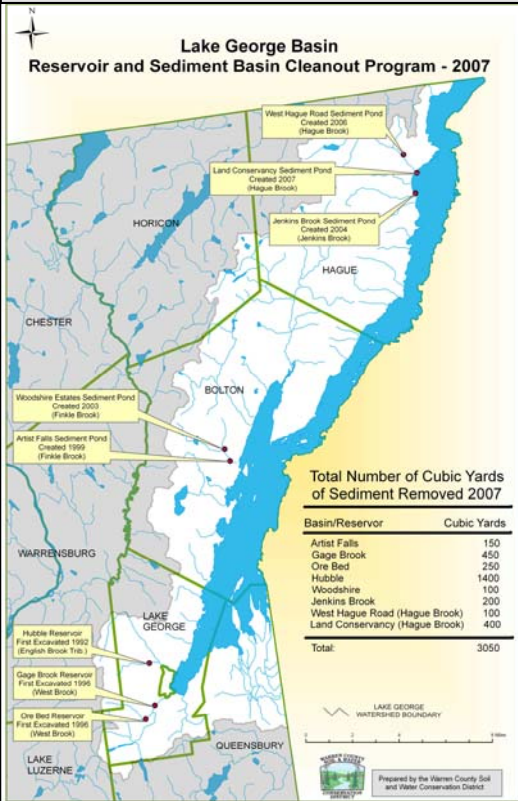
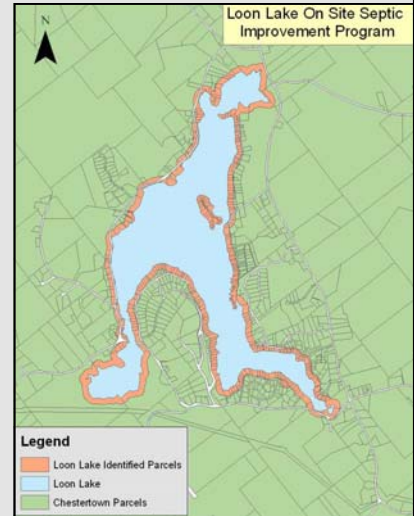
Loon Lake On-site Wastewater Project



Loon Lake is a 586 acre lake located in the Town of Chester, in the northern part of the county. With hundreds of camps and second homes on the lake, septic system issues are a large concern for water quality. To help bring awareness to these issues, in 2007 the District wrote a proposal and received a \$15,150 water quality improvement grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. This project included four specific aspects: a septic system inspection and cost-shared pump out program, a water conservation program, septic system and water quality education, and the development of GIS database of the onsite systems.

This program was a partnership between the Warren County SWCD, the Loon Lake Park District, and the Town of Chester. The cost-shared septic pumpout program was open to all residents within a 200 foot buffer from the lake, and over 60 landowners have participated so far.

While the pumpouts were being conducted by the septic hauler, SWCD staff were available to discuss septic system issues and water conservation. A septic system folder and water conservation kit (low-flow showerhead, faucet aerators, etc.) were provided to each landowner at no cost to them. The Loon Lake Park District and the SWCD are looking to continue this type of program in the future, based on costs and the available financial support.



Reservoir and Sediment Pond Program

The Lake George Reservoir and Sediment Pond Cleanout Program is a very successful effort to keep excess sand and silt in streams from reaching Lake George, greatly slowing the growth of deltas in the lake. The Warren County SWCD organizes and manages these efforts, working with the local highway departments who generously conduct this work with their crews and equipment.

In year 2007 alone, just over 3000 cubic yards of sand and silt were captured and effectively removed through this program. That's more than 200 dump truck loads of sediment that isn't adding to the deltas in the lake. In all, seven in-stream reservoirs and sediment ponds were maintained in 2007, plus a new pond on Hague Brook was created on Lake George Land Conservancy property.

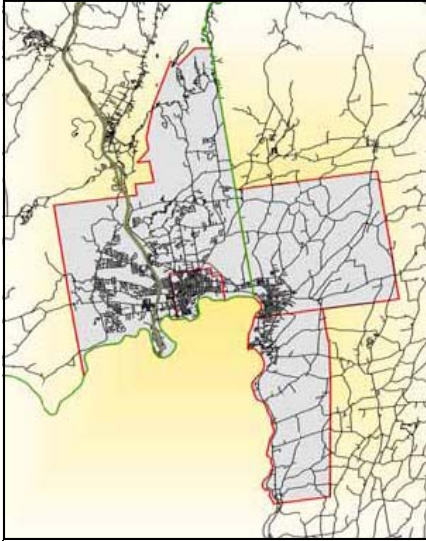
This program in 2007 was funded by a \$20,000 grant from the Lake George Watershed Conference using NYS Department of State funds. Every grant dollar is matched by at least two dollars of local highway department time and equipment, demonstrating the strong local commitment to Lake George. These projects, coupled with upland measures of protection and restoration have proven to be effective in slowing the growth of deltas in Lake George.



Outside of the Lake George Basin, two other reservoirs were also successfully reclaimed in 2007. The Crandall Park Pond in Glens Falls was excavated and 200 cubic yards of material was removed. Gurney Lane Recreation Center Pond in Queensbury was excavated back to its original bed level as well.

Stormwater Management

Glens Falls Regional Stormwater Program



New state regulations exist which require urbanized areas to begin to address stormwater runoff issues within their boundaries. In our area, there are eight municipalities (three in Warren County and five in Washington County) which are required to meet new standards under the Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System Program (MS4). With funding from a \$100,000 NYS DEC grant for the Greater Glens Falls Urbanized Region, the Warren County SWCD undertook a large amount of work and public awareness of stormwater issues over the past two years.

This effort, administered by the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board (LG-LC RPB), addressed the new stormwater permit requirements including public educational activities, new construction and site plan reviews, and highway operations for these municipalities. A project final report for these initiatives is on the Warren County SWCD website at www.warrenswcd.org. The outcomes of this project include larger public perception of stormwater issues, more highly informed decision makers and municipal departments, and on-the-ground

improvements to local infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff.

Although this grant was a tremendous start in opening the door to increase public awareness and map existing conditions, there is still much to be done to improve the existing runoff and water quality situation in the Glens Falls urbanized area. Towards that end, we hope that the Glens Falls MS4 communities continue to work together to address these issues at in partnership to achieve the maximum benefit.



North Country Stormwater Tradeshow and Conference

The Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York held its third North Country Stormwater Tradeshow & Conference on October 18th, 2007 at the Roaring Brook Resort in Lake George. The goals of this conference are to provide high quality training and networking for people in the field of stormwater management, and showcase cutting edge technologies and methods in this field. Keeping the Conference in Lake George has allowed CWICNY to reach audiences across the North Country as well as from the Capital District. The LG-LC RPB, the Warren County SWCD and the NYS DEC organized this event, with funding assistance from the Lake George Watershed Conference.



Presentations for both technical and municipal audiences were provided, including a key note presentation from nationally respected stormwater guru Don Lake. Professional Engineering and Code Enforcement Officer credits were offered with the presentations, giving people even more incentive to attend.

Over 250 people from the area attended the conference and 19 different vendors showcased the latest in stormwater products and services. The conference was chaired by Sarah Gebbie-Measeck, the LG-LC RPB representative on CWICNY. The success of the conference was due to planning and technical assistance from various CWICNY member organizations. The partnerships and collaboration that took place made the conference and its continued success a tangible reality. The 2008 North Country Stormwater Tradeshow & Conference is already scheduled for October 16th at the Roaring Brook Ranch again in Lake George. Mark your calendars!



Partnering for Progress

Lake Champlain Gets a Boost

It has been an exciting and fruitful year for the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York (CWICNY). CWICNY is a coalition of the five Soil and Water Conservation Districts and many other conservation organizations in the five counties encompassing the Lake Champlain watershed in New York (see picture at right). Although CWICNY has been working to put conservation projects "on the land" since its creation in 2001, this past year marked a major turning point for the organization.

CWICNY was awarded two major water quality improvement project grants in 2007. The first is was a \$250,000 Aid to Localities Grant provided by New York State through the hard work of NYS Senator Betty Little and Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward. These dollars will be utilized to both plan and implement over a dozen conservation projects in the Champlain basin.

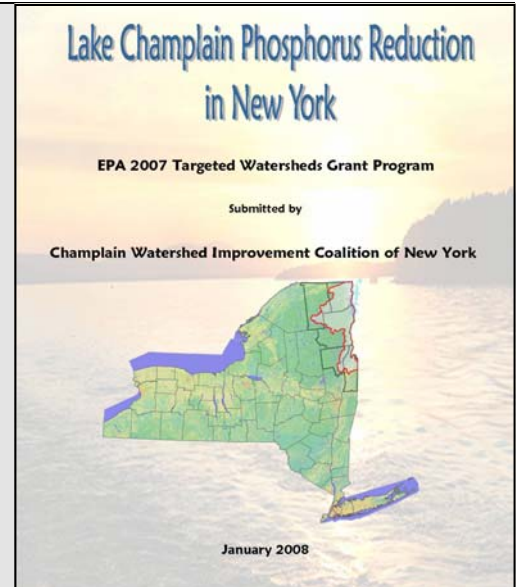
CWICNY was also successful in receiving an EPA Targeted Watersheds Grant in the amount of \$900,000 to undertake numerous

phosphorus-reducing water quality projects in the basin. Phosphorus in the lake causes algal blooms and excessive weed growth. The main sources come from upland erosion and runoff from both urban and agricultural areas. CWICNY's proposal was one of only sixteen projects funded out of over 130 applications from across the country. These funds will provide CWICNY with much needed assistance to implement the many identified natural resource needs that are within the New York side of the Champlain Basin. Stormwater, streambank erosion, agriculture, flooding, tertiary wastewater treatment and invasive species are a few categories that these funds will address.

Warren County SWCD District Manager Dave Wick is the current President of CWICNY, and is looking forward to working with all of CWICNY's member organizations to get these important projects on the ground.



Senator Little meeting with Warren and Washington SWCD's to discuss needs



West Brook Conservation Initiative

By the time you read this report, the \$4.1 million purchase of the Gaslight Village property should be closed, and the plans and designs for the multimillion dollar West Brook Conservation Initiative are quickly moving ahead. This massive project will address the largest stormwater runoff issue in the Lake George Basin, by creating an artificial wetland and other systems for stormwater treatment. In addition to the stormwater wetland and the in-stream sediment pond system, the 12 acre property will be developed as an "environmental park", with educational boardwalks, open space and native landscaping, and a 2.5 acre festival area for staging events.

This initiative is the result of an unprecedented municipal/environmental group partnership. The purchase of the property is split relatively equally between municipalities and environmental groups, and the benefits will be very publicly oriented as well as environmentally sound. The Warren County SWCD has worked with all entities involved on this project from its inception, acting as the county's technical representative for the design process.

The design consultant for this project, Chazen Companies, has recently received approval to bring the design to the next stage. Funds for construction are already being aggressively sought, and there is strong interest in this project from both NYS and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

When completed, this project will be a tremendous asset to Lake George, and to the thousands of residents and tourists who come to the region. The District will continue to play a strong role in the development of this project, and looks forward to the day that it becomes a reality.



Ongoing Conservation Programs

Agricultural Environmental Management

Warren County farmers are putting themselves on the agricultural map in New York State. This year two Warren County Farms, Chris Boggia from the Circle B Horse Ranch in Chestertown, and Sheila Flannagan and Lorraine Lambiasi from Nettle Meadows Goat Cheese Farm in Thurman received the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) award. This road side sign award recognizes their commitment to soil and water conservation.

Nearly 40 farms in the AEM program have worked with our office and USDA NRCS to prevent soil erosion, keep nutrients on the farm and protect surface and groundwater.

In 2007, the Warren County SWCD received an award from the NYS Department of Ag and Markets, recognizing our commitment towards helping to promote AEM's voluntary, comprehensive approach to promoting environmental stewardship and long-term profitability on New York farms of all types and sizes.



District Hydroseeding Program

It was another busy year in 2007 for the District's roadside erosion control program. Over six miles of road ditches were hydroseeded to prevent soil erosion (approximately 12 acres). This program is highly successful thanks to the support from the local municipalities. Covering bare earth with seed and mulch reduces erosion by upwards of 90%, making it one of the most cost-effective erosion control practices on the market. This program is available to any Warren County municipality, and if you have any questions, please free to contact the District.

Dry Hydrant Program

Working with local towns and fire departments, the Warren County SWCD designed and installed six dry new hydrants in 2007; one in the Town of Luzerne, one in Horicon, two in Hague and two in Thurman. These hydrants cost only about \$500, and they provide a reliable firefighting water source where no pressurized hydrants exist. The District has installed 53 hydrants across the county since the inception of this program in the late 1990's. This is an extremely important program for rural firefighting, and if you have any question about this program, please contact our office.



2007 Warren County Envirothon

The Envirothon is a day-long program in which teams of high school students compete to solve environmental problems. The Warren County SWCD's 14th Annual Envirothon was held successfully last April, with 80 high school students attending. The event works much like an athletic competition, and the winners of that event get the chance to compete in the State, and potentially National Envirothon.

The Envirothon program stimulates practical curriculum development by establishing broad study areas and helping schools to find useful resources in their community. The 2007 winning team came from Warrensburg and went on to finish 13th at the state competition. Great job! Many thanks go to the assistance of local businesses that donate funds and prizes to make this event fun and educational.



Municipal and Landowner Assistance

Conservationist of the Year - 2007

Congratulations to Gary Clark, Highway Superintendent of the Town of Chester, for receiving the District's 2007 Conservationist of the Year award. The District has worked with Gary and his crew on numerous projects, including the replacement of two large culverts to improve fish passage. Gary is also a representative on the NYS DEC Region 5 Fish and Wildlife Management Board from Warren County, and is always there to lend a helping hand to the District when needed. His interest and dedication to conservation is more than evident, and we were honored to recognize Gary as our 2007 Conservationist of the Year!



*Left to right:
Ed Milner, SWCD
Chairman and
Gary Clark, Town of
Chester Highway
Superintendent*

Municipal Assistance

The Warren County SWCD is a highly utilized resource to the county's 13 municipalities on a variety of issues including drainage, stream culverts, bank stabilization projects, hydroseeding, GIS mapping, flooding, mineland plans, lake management, forestry, grant writing, project permits, and much more. The District often steps in to directly assist municipalities with their issues, find funding to address them, or directly take on a project. All SWCD services are provided to municipalities free of charge.

Often in contact with numerous town officials on any given day, the District offers its technical services to help municipalities address both municipal and constituent natural resource issues. By providing these services to our local governments, we help to significantly reduce costs locally to the taxpayers of Warren County.

*SWCD staff surveying
for the Johnsbury
mineland plan permit
renewal*



Landowner Technical Assistance

The Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District works to meet the ever growing conservation needs of the county landowners. We receive over 100 landowner requests for assistance every year, and meet with each of these landowners out on their property to directly address their needs. Most site visits are conducted within the same week as the request, providing timely response to their concerns. There is never a fee for these services, whether it is a 30 minute site visit or an ongoing relationship to develop a full conservation plan for their property.

In addition to the on-site assistance, the District has historic aerial photography, many kinds of maps, and a huge resource library of conservation practices. If we cannot answer your question, we generally know who can. If we can be of any assistance relating to natural resources and conservation issues, please feel free to contact our office at 623-3119.



Fish and Tree Programs

Enhancing wildlife and fisheries in Warren County is a priority for the District. Not only is this done through specific conservation projects, but we assist landowners through our annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Program and the Fish Pond Management Program.

In 2007 we sold 7,200 low cost tree and shrub seedlings for conservation, along with 475 pounds of various conservation seed mixes. Sixty-five habitat boxes (bluebird, wood duck and bat) were sold as well to promote and increase local habitat for these critters.

In the fall 3,700 fish (brook, brown & rainbow trout, largemouth & smallmouth bass and fathead minnows) were sold and distributed from our office. Please contact us if you would like to be added to our mailing list for these programs.



By The Numbers...

- The Warren County SWCD has been in existence for 51 years. It was created by the Warren County Board of Supervisors in 1956 under NYS Soil and Water District Law. The District is a county-based organization overseen locally by a seven member board of Directors.



- The District's total 2007 operating expenses were \$344,105.
- Our 2007 funding allocation from Warren County was \$219,000. The remainder of the District budget comes from competitive grants and some reimbursement from NYS.
- The District has received over 35 grants in the past eight years, totaling over \$2.5 million dollars. These dollars go directly to conservation projects and programs for Warren County.

Board of Directors

Frank Thomas—Chairman
Ron Montesi—Vice-chair
Dan Belden
Mark Brown
Tim Costello
Charlie Maine
George Ryan

District Staff

Dave Wick, District Manager
Rhonda Jarvis, Office Manager
Lori Kerrigan, Nat. Resource Spec.
Jim Lieberum, Water Resource Spec.
Dean Moore, District Technician
Josh Davis, Intern
Dorrie Haymon, Intern

The District's mission is to Implement projects and programs to protect and improve the lakes, streams, and other natural resources of Warren County.

Working with municipalities and landowners, the District puts conservation on the land, with cost effective



51 Elm Street
Warrensburg, NY 12885
Tel: (518)623-3119
Fax:(518) 623-3519
district@nycap.rr.com
www.warrenswcd.org

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Warrensburg, NY
Permit #19

Visit us online at our website: www.warrenswcd.org