



# Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York (CWICNY)

Clinton Essex Franklin Warren Washington Counties

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## 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

### IN THIS EDITION...

- NEW PROJECT FUNDING AWARDED TO CWICNY!
- COUNTY PROJECTS COMPLETED AROUND THE WATERSHED
- 2012 NORTH COUNTRY STORMWATER TRADESHOW AND CONFERENCE
- PROJECT FUNDING...FROM THE BEGINNING

**CWICNY MISSION:** To provide a coordinated effort to improve water quality and other natural resources within the New York Lake Champlain Counties through project implementation.

### Member Organizations:

Soil and Water Conservation Districts & Water Quality Coordinating Committees of:  
*Clinton - Washington - Warren - Essex - Franklin Counties*  
&  
*The Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board*

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## NEW PROJECTS RECEIVE FUNDING IN 2012..

In 2012, CWICNY was fortunate enough to have successfully secured over \$100,000 to continue its mission and implement new projects during 2013!

Funding for these water quality improvement projects has been awarded through the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) and the Scott Paper Foundation.

### Lake Champlain Basin Program-Funded Projects

#### **I. Road Corridor Erosion**

CWICNY has its sights set on working with NY's Lake Champlain watershed communities to develop a comprehensive secondary roadway erosion management program. Building upon our recently completed *Roadside Erosion Assessment and Inventory* (photo top right), this project aims to address and repair identified chronic, environmentally-impairing, and infrastructural-destructive peripheral roadside erosion.

In an effort to maintain uniformity throughout the entire Lake Champlain watershed, CWICNY will model this program after the successful, well-established Better Back Roads Program in VT.

The main objectives of this initiative will include:

1. Assemble a program steering committee of experienced professionals including Soil and Water Conservation managers and Municipal/State Highway officials,
2. Implement corrective action pilot projects, and
3. Develop a program sustainability strategy to obtain future project funding.



#### **II. Town of Lake George Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration Project**

In cooperation with the town of Lake George building and maintenance staff, CWICNY will install an innovative rainwater collection and irrigation system at the museum complex located in the heart of the village of Lake George (left).

Funded by the LCBP's Local Implementation grants, this project will introduce a self-contained system that re-uses rainwater through a solar-powered irrigation system. This practical, education demonstration project will introduce a water quality management practice for local residents and tourists to observe and consider for their homes and businesses.

### Scott Paper Foundation - Funded Project

#### **III. Town of Keene Public Recreational Area**

New York State was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Scott Paper® Foundation to share amongst watershed organizations throughout the state. CWICNY selected a public site along route 73 in Keene to utilize its portion of the grant. In cooperation with the Town of Keene, a small public picnic area adjacent to the Ausable River will be constructed. The area (right) will include new tree plantings and interpretive signage, overlooking the recently repaired section of the Ausable River flowing through Rivermede Farm.





# WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMPLETED AROUND THE WATERSHED IN 2012



**Essex County** - Post-Tropical Storm Irene streambank and stream corridor evaluations completed on 10 streams experiencing massive erosion. An intern provides the scale of erosion at this location (above).

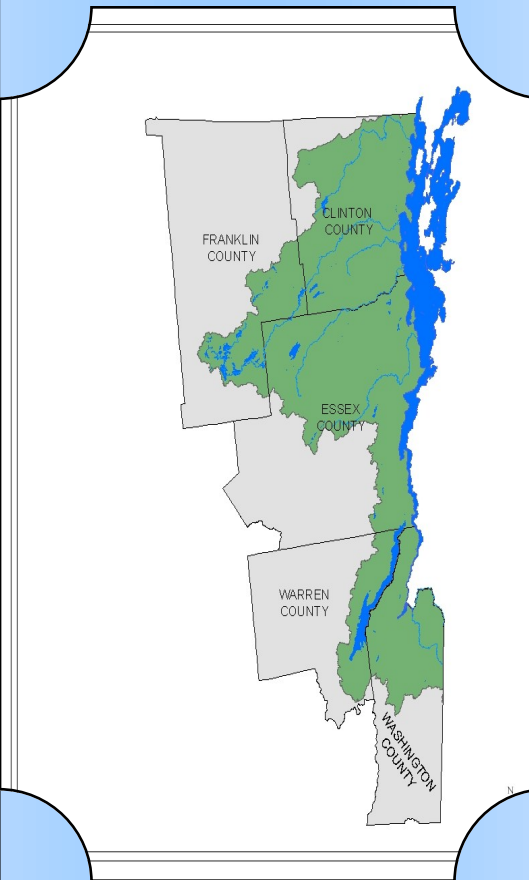


**Essex County** - Two grazing workshops were held to address the beneficial effects of grass management for animal health, soil stabilization, and field weed/pest control. National and state grazing experts Katy Roth & Dave Roberts attended (above).



## Clinton County

The Clinton County SWCD assisted the Town of Saranac with roadside erosion issues, expanding the Districts' hydroseeding efforts. In response to the *Roadside Erosion Assessment and Inventory* planning project, the Town of Saranac pursued corrective actions on sites identified throughout the report. Utilizing the Districts' hydroseeder and materials purchased through CWICNY grant funds, Clinton County municipalities can realize cost savings and environmental benefits.



## Washington County

Stream habitat improvements on Halfway Brook. Partnering with US Fish and Wildlife Service, this project included installations of rock vanes, woody plants for bank protection, channel restoration, and fish habitat (left). Farm milkhouse wastewater treatment and subsurface filtration installed on a sheep dairy in the Mettawee River sub-watershed (right).



**Warren County** - Stormwater Filtration through subsurface retro-fit technologies on the roads around Glen Lake (above). These systems collect stormwater, capture sediment and filters suspended nutrients.



**Franklin County** - Residential lake shore septic pump-out and educational project on lakes in the Saranac River watershed. Program focused on locations in the western reaches of the watershed: Lake Colby, Saranac and Rainbow Lakes (above).



## 2012 North Country Stormwater Tradeshow & Conference

The 2012 North Country Stormwater Conference and Tradeshow was held at the City Center in Saratoga Springs on October 2nd. CWICNY took a non-traditional approach to organizing this year's event and joined efforts with the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) - Northeast Chapter. Nearly 150 stormwater industry professionals and officials attended the conference and the review course offered for certification in



Erosion and Sediment Control. A special *'thank you'* to the many local and regional product vendors and instructors that made the 2012 conference a huge success!

## Grant dollars awarded and implemented through CWICNY's collaborative efforts, since 2001...

- **Local Grants Expended:**

Lake Champlain Basin Program.....**\$68,710**

- **Federal Grants Expended:**

EPA Targeted Watershed.....**\$900,000**

American Reinvestment & Recovery Act.....**\$130,000**

Americas Great Outdoors.....**\$40,000**

- **State Grants Expended:**

Aid to Localities I & II.....**\$438,000**

**Total to Date.....\$1,576,710**

Projects completed with this funding have included planning and implementation of non-point source water quality improvement projects targeting priority stormwater, erosion, and agriculture runoff issues, as well as educational needs throughout the watershed.

Visit [www.cwicny.org](http://www.cwicny.org) for more information

Cover Photo: Lake George, looking northeast from Shepards Park, Lake George Village