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NEWS from the CWC

Free class explains septic basics for homeowners

MARGARETVILLE, NY, May 7, 2010 -- The Catskill Watershed Corporation will conduct a free class on septic system operation and maintenance Monday, May 17 at 3 p.m. at the Greene County Schoharie Watershed Assistance Program (WAP) office, 6049 Main St., Tannersville.

“Your Septic System: What Every Homeowner Should Know” is being offered as part of Schoharie Watershed Week, coordinated by WAP, a program of the Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District. Other programs and activities during this first Schoharie Watershed Week are supported by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection and Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee. For a complete schedule, visit www.qcswcd.com/wap/EO/sww.

Pre-registration for the class is not required. A free water saving kit will be provided for each household attending the class. For more information, call the CWC at 845-586-1400.

The class includes a slide program covering types of systems and how they work; basic biology and soil filtration concepts of wastewater treatment; health and environment effects that can result from failed septic systems; roles and responsibilities of homeowners, regulators, engineers and contractors; basic maintenance requirements of septic system components; how to protect against inflow and infiltration; the case against septic system additives, and troubleshooting when problems develop.

Residential septic systems, improperly operated or maintained, can be a significant source of pollution of both groundwater and surface streams or lakes. The CWC administers a program to help homeowners pay for repair or replacement of failed systems, and has addressed more than 3,000 systems over the past 12 years. Homeowners who have benefited from this program, and those who would like to protect their residential investment, are encouraged to attend the class, since ongoing system maintenance is the homeowners’ responsibility and can extend the useful life of your costly system.

CWC programs and projects are explained on the corporation’s web site: • • • • •
www.cwconline.org. Inquiries are welcome Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30

p.m. at the CWC's offices, 905 Main Street, Margaretville, Delaware County, and over the toll-free line, 877-WAT-SHED (877-928-7433).