

NEW YORK COUNTRY

By Steve Freeman, President of NYRWA

I received an email this morning from Pat Scalera, reminding me that my article for the Fall issue of Aquafacts was due. Hum.... what to write about? About five minutes later, a fellow operator from a neighboring system dropped in and asked me if I had a few minutes to help him out. Of course, I replied, anytime! Knowing he would do the same for me. Well that got me to thinking....

It occurred to me, yet again, as often times in the past, how fortunate I am to live in a rural community, where the spirit of small town family life and friendly neighbors flourishes. This is what I like to refer to as "New York Country". The thoughts of many who have never visited New York Country, assume that New York is skyscrapers and pavement. Those that live here know that New York is really mountains, trees, rolling farmland and quality drinking water. It is a place where we can, and do, rely on our neighbors for their assistance. We, as small water and wastewater system operators, find we often rely on neighboring systems for aid in emergencies. If you're wondering where I'm going with this, hold on, I'll explain.

I have always considered the New York Rural Water Association to be the epitome of New York Country. Your friendly neighbor that's always there to lend a helping hand. Our Circuit Riders and Wastewater Techs are traveling the countryside assisting small communities with on-site technical assistance and training. Our Groundwater and Source Water Protection Specialists are in the field assisting small communities with water protection plans, which should be termed "Product Protection Plan", but that's another article. Let's not forget about our Solid Waste Management Specialist assisting small communities with waste issues. The office staff deals directly with small system operators on a daily basis, answering questions and directing the appropriate "Friendly Neighbor" in their direction for assistance. Lastly, we cannot forget about the Board of Directors, each of which, represents a small community system.

With the short explanation given in this article, you should now understand my point. I believe that as a whole, the New York Rural Water Association truly represents "New York Country". The next time your rural system is in need of assistance, don't hesitate to call on your friendly neighbor, The New York Rural Water Association, who will provide you with the best, high quality, professional service available.