



WHAT A YEAR!

Joe Redmond | Apprenticeship Trainer

It has almost been a whole year at the time I am writing this! For those of you whom I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, let me introduce myself.

My name is Joe Redmond, Apprentice Trainer for NYRWA. I started my career back in 1998 as a Water Operator for the Village of Cobleskill. During that time, I was able to operate their 2A water treatment plant and assist the wastewater department on occasion. The Village then took over the Warnerville Water District and expanded to the Town of Cobleskill Water District. I also assisted the Schoharie County Fairgrounds with the required Health Department sampling and monitoring. I also worked for the Central Bridge Water/Sewer District on the side.

In July of 2020, my hard work and dedication helped me acquire the job with the NY Rural Water Association as their Eastern Technical Assistance Provider. I enjoyed the opportunity to help so many other municipalities and privately owned water systems. Covid-19 sure had its hand in limiting our in-person services, but we all worked together to serve our members, as well as many non-members.

In January of 2021, the association needed another Apprentice Trainer. Once again, I was rewarded with the opportunity to fill that position. Helping operators to gain skills and knowledge was right up my alley! Many of these operators are in the process of becoming certified themselves. I love teaching people about our trade, and never would I have thought that I would be in this position way back then.

So, my advice to all the readers would be, always do your best and be proud of what you do. You never know what opportunities will find you. I have the utmost respect for all you operators. I have been there; it is a tough job, and sometimes a long one. Remember that people are counting on you and we are here to help.

The NYRWA offers so much to water and wastewater systems. Did you know we have services like, 24-hour emergency service, CEU's for training recertification, line locating, leak detection, smoke testing for wastewater systems, source water protection and planning, VA/ ERP, and water quality report assistance, operational troubleshooting, as well as assistance for applying for funding? We also offer backflow device testing.

I encourage you to reach out to the NYRWA about this great program or any other services the association has to offer. Whether certified or not, operators will learn skills that will help them do their wonderful jobs even better! I look forward to meeting you and serving your systems for many years to come. 💧💧