

**Elbridge Commission on the Environment
Skaneateles Creek Gorge Cleanup**

2005 Special Project Award

The Elbridge Commission on the Environment organized a project involving an intensive cleanup of property in the Skaneateles Creek Gorge. Ownership of this neglected private property was transferred to the Town of Elbridge after its highway access was condemned by the NYSDOT. The Commission applied for and received a CNY Community Foundation *Green Space* grant to be the lead agency for removal of debris strewn across an otherwise rare natural site.

Commission members visited the site numerous times over the last year and made plans for all aspects of the cleanup. Leaders of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were contacted for involvement by their troops. Area businesses were canvassed for supplies they might be willing to donate. A week prior to public participation, Commission members used a power winch on a *Cayuga Tree Service* truck owned by member Chris Sandstrom to drag the largest items up the steep riverbank. On Saturday, April 30, 2005, over 100 people of all ages showed up on a very drizzly day to "blitz" the seemingly endless assortment of garbage that seemed to be everywhere. Incredibly, the area was scoured and essentially completed in a mere three hours.

For further information contact Dr. Stephen Schwab, Conservation Commission Chairman, at Town of Elbridge, Route 31, Jordan, NY 13080, e-mail at kschwab@twcny.rr.com.