

August 26, 2011

Tug Hill Times

Tug Hill Times is published semimonthly by the Tug Hill Commission for its board members, staff and associates, and the local representatives of the region's communities.

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COGs Reach Out to Regional Economic Development Councils

The chairs of the five Tug Hill Councils of Government recently corresponded with the co-chairs to the three Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs). In their letter, they congratulated them on their appointment to the REDCs and expressed their willingness to working with the REDCs, Governor Cuomo and Lieutenant Governor Duffy on this opportunity to rejuvenate New York's economy and employment opportunities. The COG chairs noted the Tug Hill Region of New York State as one of the most rural, remote areas of the State and as the third largest contiguous forested area outside the Adirondack and Catskill parks. They also noted that for over 37 years they have worked diligently to sustain and improve the rural economy and quality of life of Tug Hill Region, together with the State through the Tug Hill Commission, which has produced results in sustaining the region's natural resources and rural economy.

The chairs further noted that Tug Hill Region includes portions of three of the new REDCs (map on page 2) and that while some may view this as fractionalizing the Tug Hill Region, they actually view it as an economic reality that Tug Hill communities have lived with for decades. Pointing out that Tug Hill is a unique geologic and natural resource area of New York, recognized by Congress and the New York State Legislature, but economically it, like other rural areas of the State, has binding ties to the economies and communities that surround it. So goes the economy of Syracuse, Utica-Rome, Oswego and Watertown, so goes a portion of the Tug Hill economy.

Through partnership with the Tug Hill Commission, the COG chairs emphasized that stewardship of the region depends upon the ability to effectively communicate regional priorities and needs to the State and Federal government, non-profit organizations and local towns and villages. Unlike other significant resource regions of New York such as the Adirondacks and Catskills, whose regional effectiveness has relied on regulation and acquisition, the Tug Hill Region has depended upon an approach of collaboration and cooperation between the State and local governments, which they believe has had tremendous regional and statewide benefits.

The chairs noted that over the years, the COGs have developed and participated in numerous State and Federally sponsored strategic planning processes and plans. The letter included a list of over 20 strategies/plans (Byways, Blueways, Watersheds, etc.) that the Commission has helped the COGs develop and over 20 local priority projects. They went on to express that as the REDCs develop the regional strategies for the North Country, Central New York and the Mohawk Valley that these strategies and plans become part of the foundation developed for these REDCs to the degree they affect the Tug Hill Region.

The Lewis County Department of Economic Development and Planning is pleased to sponsor a professional development session presented by CaRDI—Cornell University’s Community and Regional Development Institute. CaRDI is a center of dialogue and collaboration addressing needs at the local, state and national levels. They specialize in providing training, based on research and data, for elected and appointed officials and community leaders to foster informed decision making. Mayors, supervisors, trustees, and town council members are strongly encouraged to attend. The session is open to Lewis, Jefferson, Oneida, and St. Lawrence Counties.

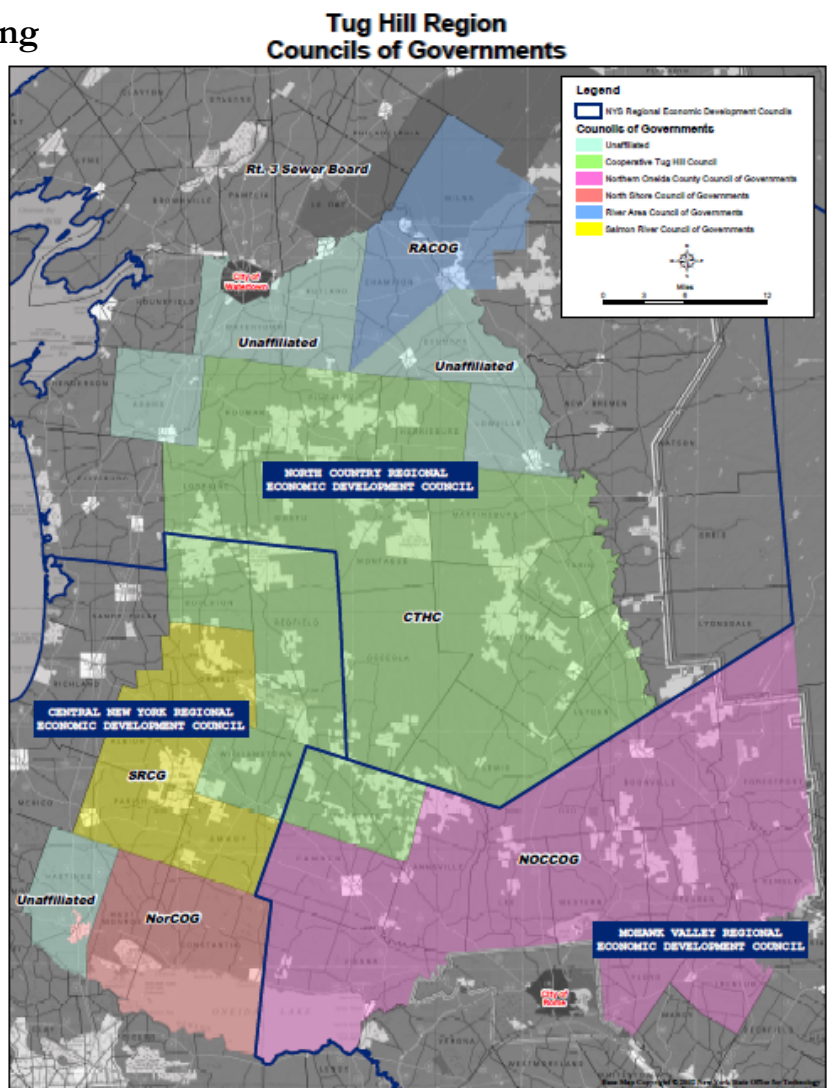
The session will take place on **September 28th** from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM (check in begins at 12:30 PM) at the Glenfield Fire Hall, 6229 Blue Street, Glenfield, NY. **Please RSVP your attendance before September 21, 2011 by calling 315-376-5422 or sending an e-mail to syoung@lewiscountyny.org.**

This afternoon session will cover many topics including Local Government’s Role in Economic Development; Community Capacity Building; Schools Districts and Municipalities in the Context of Shared Services and a Tax Cap; and Community, Energy and Land Use Implications.

CNYREDC Holds First Public Meeting

The Central New York Regional Economic Development Council (CNYREDC) held its first public participation meeting Tuesday, August 23 at Campus Center at LeMoyne College. Members of the CNYREDC and over 100 people from the five county CNYREDC Region, comprising Onondaga, Oswego, Madison, Cortland and Cayuga counties, were given an overview of the process to date and a roadmap of what is to come. The attendees then broke up into small groups to identify the region's strongest assets, what is unique or different about the region, and to comment on the draft regional vision statement. After that, the groups were asked to refine their lists to identify the top three to five assets of the region, specific ideas and strategies for economic development, and goals specific to the vision statement.

The outcome from the group's work will be used to further refine the regional vision statement. One of the criticisms of the draft vision statement which emerged at the meeting that the vision statement would be stronger if it was more specific to the region. Some of the content of the vision statement, while true, were statements which could be equally true of other regions, and thus not as useful as they might be in identifying and differentiating clearly the strengths of Central New York. The Salmon River fishery in Oswego County in the Tug Hill Region, is one example of a strength specific to the Central New York Region. The region's draft vision statement can be found on the CNYREDC web page, at <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/central-new-york>. Comments on the vision statement need to be received prior to the REDC’s **September 7th** meeting where they hope to adopt a final vision statement.



2011 Black River Trash Bash - Save the Date!

The second annual Black River Trash Bash will be taking place on Saturday **October 1st** at various locations along the Black River. Details are still being finalized, however, listed below are the sites, group involved, and the Beach Captain's name and contact information. If you would like to help at one of these sites, please contact the appropriate Beach Captain. If you would like to add another site to clean along the Black River or any of its tributaries (Moose, Fulton Chain, Deer, Beaver, etc.), please contact Jennifer Harvill at the Tug Hill Commission: 785-2392 or jennifer@tughill.org.



This event is being coordinated with the American Littoral Society's Annual International Coastal Cleanup. You can read about it at www.alsnyc.org (click on Beach Cleanup News). Beach Captains and their teams will keep track of the types of garbage collected on data cards, which will then be passed along and counted amongst the thousands of pounds of trash catalogued from other cleanup events held all over the world.

Boonville:	Adirondack Communities Advisory League (ACAL), Ian Klingbail, 942-2610
Watertown:	Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (Whitewater Park), Janelle Castro, 779-2239
Town of Greig:	Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District (Glenfield Boat Launch), Nichelle Billhardt, 376-6122
Town of Turin:	Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District (Burdick's Crossing Boat Launch), Nichelle Billhardt, 376-6122
Lyons Falls:	Lyons Falls Alive (Lyons Falls to Burdick's Crossing), Rocky Fawcett, 348-9991
Port Leyden:	Lyons Falls Alive (Davis Bridge Road), Rocky Fawcett, 348-9991

NYS Archives Workshops In Central New York September Through December

You may register for any of the following workshops at the following link:

<http://iarchives.nysed.gov/WorkShops/workshopsServlet?owner=LG&cat=05>

Digitizing Your Historical Photographs

Thursday, September 15th

Manlius Town Hall (Fayetteville, Onondaga County)

Managing Inactive Records

Tuesday, September 27th

Schroepel Town Hall (Phoenix, Oswego County)

Files Management

Wednesday, October 19th

Rome City Hall (Oneida County)

Managing Email Effectively

Thursday, November 3rd

Jefferson County Public Health Facility (Watertown)



LGRMIF Grant Application Information Sessions

The purpose of Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grants is to help local governments establish records management programs or develop new program components. These sessions will provide an overview of the eGrants application system and talk about all that is new with the grants program this year. They will discuss the component pieces of the grant application and provide helpful tips on preparing a successful application. This year there will be additional information provided regarding the expanded Shared Services Grants. Please don't even think about writing an LGRMIF grant without attending one of these sessions:

Tuesday, November 29th

Jefferson County Public Health Facility (Watertown)

Wednesday, December 7th

Onondaga Town Hall (Just south of Syracuse, Onondaga County)

Thursday, December 15th

Marcy Town Hall (Oneida County)

Workshop on Regulating Specific Land Uses

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Jules Center Amphitheater Room 6-002

Jefferson Community College, Watertown, NY



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The Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization, Jefferson County Department of Planning, NYS Tug Hill Commission, and The Center for Community Studies at JCC are co-sponsoring a training session featuring Scott Chatfield, Esq. Mr. Chatfield, Esq. is an attorney in private practice focusing on municipal law. He is a member of the New York Planning Federation Board of Directors, representing the Central New York Region. Mr. Chatfield is an author and frequent lecturer on legal issues.

This session will discuss certain land uses and the extent to which local governments may regulate them. Land uses to be covered will include: mining, day care facilities, group homes, adult uses, religious institutions, mobile homes, and billboards. Come prepared to ask questions and add other types of land uses your town or village has trouble including in the community.

RSVPs are strongly encouraged by September 19th. Please call The Center for Community Studies at (315) 786-2333 or email hbarben@sunyjefferson.edu. If approved by your municipality, this workshop can provide two hours of training to meet the NYS Municipality Training requirement.

Northern New York Field Representative Joins The Nature Conservancy

Mathew Levine recently joined the Nature Conservancy as the Northern New York Field Representative. Mat manages stewardship activities for preserves in Eastern Lake Ontario and Central New York. Currently, he is working in conjunction with multiple agencies to control invasive species, restore wetlands, and improve natural hydrologic flow in Eastern Lake Ontario and portions of Tug Hill. Mat has a background in ecology and ten years of natural resource management experience with government agencies and non-profit organizations. We wish Mat the best and look forward to working with him on projects in the Tug Hill Region.



Mat can be reached at mlevine@tnc.org or by calling (315) 387-3600 Ext. 22. His mailing address is: The Nature Conservancy, Northern New York Office, 269 Ouderkirk Road, Pulaski, NY 13142.

Invasive Species Coordinator Hired

The Nature Conservancy, administrative host for St. Lawrence – Eastern Lake Ontario (SLELO) Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), has hired **Rob Williams** as the PRISM Coordinator. Rob will be based out of the Central and Western NY Chapter of The Nature Conservancy's Northern New York Field office in Pulaski. The SLELO PRISM includes the entire Tug Hill Region. Rob is educated as a freshwater biologist (Brockport State University) and has extensive experience in working with invasive species, water quality assessments, nonpoint source pollution abatement, natural resource management and developing partnerships. Rob's professional experiences include work with the Department of Environmental Conservation as a fishery biologist. He has solid experience in strategic planning and has completed over 200 field level projects through his previous work with NYS Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Rob also worked for New York State Sea Grant Extension on the E.V. Ontario project (Educational Vessel Ontario) linking Lake Ontario salmonid research to the now "season-long sport fishing." Rob is an author of several scientific publications, co-founder of the Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance and co-founder of the North Coast Initiative, a.k.a. Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative. SLELO PRISM is looking forward to Rob hitting the ground running and mobilizing partners and developing and implementing key invasive species strategies. Rob can be reached at rwilliams@tnc.org or by calling (315) 387-3600 ext. 25.

Village of Altmar Adopts Final Dissolution Plan

At its August meeting, the Village of Altmar board approved its final dissolution plan. The plan was slightly amended from the plan which had been put forth for public review and comment. The draft plan had proposed a village dissolution date of December 31, 2012. The amended village dissolution plan includes a village dissolution date of May 31, 2013, which allows the village to go through a complete 2012 - 2013 village fiscal year.

The village board adoption of the final dissolution plan starts the 45-day clock for the potential submission of another petition to revisit the subject of local referendum on dissolution. If no petition is received on or before Saturday, September 17, 2011, the village will proceed toward dissolution. If an elector petition is received, the village clerk must review the petition and certify it as valid, and the village board would have to schedule a date for that referendum. The referendum is on whether the elector initiated dissolution plan shall take place. If the majority of voters votes yes, the dissolution goes forward; if the majority votes no, then the dissolution plan does not take effect, and there is a four year moratorium on further elector-initiated dissolution efforts.

The amended final elector-initiated dissolution plan, along with a summary of the plan, can be found at www.villageofaltmar-ny.us.

HOCCPP Land Use Training on October 1st

The Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program (HOCCPP) will be hosting its 4th annual Land Use Training Conference at MVCC in Utica, Information Technology Building on Saturday, **October 1st**, 2011 from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Local planning and zoning board members will receive training on a variety of land use topics, both basic and intermediate in scope and will allow planning and zoning board members the opportunity to complete their yearly training requirement. Attendees for the conference will be able to receive 5 hours of required training in one day. Topics to be covered include: Planning Board Basics, Zoning Board Basics, State Environmental Quality Review Act Basics, Public Meeting and Hearings: Record Keeping, Marcellus Shale: Local Municipal Options, and Maps for Planning and Zoning.

The cost for the all-day conference is \$30.00 for early registration by September 7th, or final registration \$35 by September 21nd. The price for lunch is included in your conference registration fee. Interested individuals can contact HOCCPP by phone at (315) 798-5710 or by email at landuseconference@ocgov.net for additional information and registration forms.

Development Authority of the North Country to Host Open House September 17th

The Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) invites you to their annual Open House at their Solid Waste Management Facility, Route 177, in Rodman, New York. This event will be held on Saturday September 17th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and will feature:



- Fun Activities for the Kids
- Environmental Displays and Presentations
- Bus Tours
- Nature Walks
- Live Birds of Prey
- Touch-A-Truck
- NYS Zoo at Thompson Park Exhibit



**NYS Tug Hill
Commission**

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**Northern Forest Center Reception
in Lake Placid - October 13th**

On October 13th from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM, you will have the opportunity to join Rob Riley, President, John Collins and other Directors of the Northern Forest Center to talk about current programming and needs in the Tug Hill and Adirondacks. Light refreshments will be served. This reception will take place at Heaven Hill Farm, 302 Bear Cub Lane in Lake Placid, New York. Please RSVP or send questions to Doreen Oliveira by email doliveira@northernforest.org or by phone (603) 229-0679 x102.



Two-Day Symposium for Loggers, Foresters, Mill Owners and Forest Landowners November 9 and 10



There will be a two day symposium for loggers, foresters, mill owners and forest landowners on November 9th & 10th at the Boondocks Restaurant on Route 12 in Lyons Falls. The symposium is sponsored by SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and co-sponsored by Northeastern Loggers Association, Empire State Forest Products Association and New York Logger Training.

Wednesday November 9th will focus on logging contractors and topics will include financing, employee benefits, logging costs, business planning, and personnel management. Thursday November 10th will focus on the industry and supply chain management with topics on wood procurement, sawmill characteristics, wood yard lay-out, woody biomass, and certification. The events of both days will begin at 8:30 AM and end at 5:00 PM. You may attend just one day or both. Continuing education credits will be available from NYLT and SAF.

For more information, please contact Mona Lincoln at North Eastern Loggers' Association, Inc. at (315) 369-3078, or e-mail her at mona@northernlogger.com.

One More Pest to Avoid - The White Tussock Moth Caterpillar (WTMC)



This small white tufted caterpillar is one more pest that is prevalent this year. The danger of the WTMC lies in the tufts of hair, some of which are connected to poison glands which excrete venom on contact. Touching these can cause mild to serious reactions. If contact occurs, wash the area with soap and water, followed by an ice pack or calamine lotion for minor reactions. People who experience more severe reactions should seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Adults lay their eggs on the underside of leaves on plants and trees including apple, ash, elm, nut, oak, raspberry, willow, corn and other vegetables and a number of other shrubs. These plants also serve as a desirable food source for the emerging caterpillars. The caterpillars may defoliate an entire tree. Fortunately, this does not cause serious long term damage.

There are several different control methods. Over the counter pesticides sprays can be used effectively – be sure to follow the directions carefully. If you are concerned about using pesticides around your home, you can try picking off the caterpillars from infected plants. Be sure to wear gloves. You can also just let nature take its course and let them die off if you do not have an extensive infestation.

Please alert family and neighbors not to touch or handle the creature!