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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.

Grants Available for Water Quality Improvement Projects

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has announced that Round 11 of grants for Water Quality Improvements Projects is now open, with a deadline of November 8, 2013. Funding is available in the following categories:

- Non-agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control (25% match required)
- Municipal Wastewater Treatment Improvement (15% match required)
- Aquatic Habitat Restoration (25% match required)
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) (25% match required)

Municipalities are eligible applicants for all four categories. To be eligible to receive a grant, a project must address a documented water quality impact or threat. Information for waterbodies is available in the New York State WI/PWL, available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/42978/html#pwl>.

Grant materials are available on DEC's website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>. Contact the Tug Hill Commission staff if you have a possible project.

CTHC Welcomes New Staff Member

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council is happy to announce that they have filled the Associate Circuit Rider position left vacant by the retirement of Jeanne Wooding. Joining the CTHC staff is Beth Steria, a Lowville resident. Beth has lived in Lewis County since she was fourteen and her husband is a life-long resident of the area. Beth was a teacher at the Copenhagen Central School before she was married, and later became a caseworker for the Lewis County Department of Social Services, traveling throughout the county for home visits during her fifteen years with the department. Beth then worked as a counselor with the NYS Department of Corrections working in Malone, Rome, Fallsburg, Ogdensburg, Gouverneur and Watertown. She recently retired from the NYS Department of Corrections and is working as a part-time postal clerk in Port Leyden, in addition to her new position with the Cooperative Tug Hill Council.

Beth and her husband enjoy traveling, hiking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing, as well as spending time with their nieces, nephews and family members. Beth and her husband are active in the Lowville Mennonite Church, serving on various committees. She is also the Treasurer for the Region II Correctional and Youth Services Association, which offers yearly seminars for correctional employees throughout Northern New York.

Beth says "After seeing other parts of the State and several other counties, I feel blessed to live in the beautiful North Country which has so much to offer in every season of the year. It never seems there is enough time to enjoy all the events and activities scheduled throughout the area. I am very happy and excited to be working as Associate Circuit Rider and look forward to meeting many of the local officials and working with them in the weeks and months ahead."

Beth will begin making the rounds to towns she will be covering in August, as well as attending the upcoming Fall Dinner and Meeting. Welcome aboard Beth!

Public Invited to Lake Ontario Ecosystem Forum in Oswego

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and New York Sea Grant will host two forums in August about environmental issues affecting Lake Ontario and the work being done under the Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) to address these issues. Closest to Tug Hill, a public meeting will be held on Thursday, August 22 in Oswego: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Campus Center Room 132, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of Tug Hill drains to Lake Ontario, with the remainder draining to the Mohawk River.

Expert presenters from NYSDEC, the U.S. Geological Survey, the NY Natural Heritage Program, key universities, and county and local watershed organizations will offer presentations on water quality in Lake Ontario, the quality of Lake Ontario beaches, the lake's food web, restoration of native fish species, research on toxic contaminants in fish, and monitoring and restoration of the lake's coastal wetlands. A Question and Answer session will follow the presentations. Agendas and additional meeting information are available on the temporary meeting website: <http://www.scgcorp.com/lakeontariomeetings2013/>.

Lake Ontario is the 14th largest lake in the world, provides drinking water for 8 million people, and supports a multi-million dollar sportfishing industry. As part of the largest freshwater system on earth (the Great Lakes), Lake Ontario is a unique biological resource which supports special fish and wildlife species and a complex food web. The watersheds of the Lake Ontario basin cover nearly 1/3 of New York State's land area; and influence conditions in the lake, especially the areas close to shore where people have the most contact with the lake.

Lake Ontario's ecosystem is affected by nutrients and other pollutants, invasive species, and climate change. With support from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and guided by the binational LAMP, work is underway to improve water quality, reduce levels of toxic contaminants in fish, restore native fish species such as Lake Sturgeon, prevent the spread of invasive species, and improve habitat quality in the lake's coastal wetlands.

For more information, please visit the temporary website: <http://www.scgcorp.com/lakeontariomeetings2013/>, or call Jennifer Baker with the DEC at (315) 785-2261 (jbaker@gw.dec.state.ny.us), or Steve Gibb with SCG at (301) 670-4990 (sgibb@scgcorp.com).

NEW Geospatial Technology Institute

On August 29, 2013 a new Geospatial Technology Institute will start, hosted by the NYS GIS Association for the Tug Hill area. The program's purpose is to provide people who have an interest in geospatial technology a way to see how others are using GIS/GPS and learn from them. The program will consist of monthly sessions and provide participants knowledge of how they can utilize different technologies for their projects or work.

Participants will be asked toward the end of the program to do a geospatial project that will benefit their community (i.e. charity, non-for-profit, local government, etc.) and do a presentation to the group on the Project Presentation day.

Potential sessions include: Kick-off/Basics Meeting, State Government, Data Creation & Collection, NYSGeoCon (optional), GIS Day, Natural Resources, Recreation, Education, Local Government (potentially held at the Local Government Conference), Agriculture, Project Time (optional), and Project Presentation. For more information on what these sessions might cover and to keep posted on updates you can go to <https://sites.google.com/site/geospatialinstitute/>.

Those interested in participating should contact the NYSGISA Regional Coordinator, Mickey Dietrich at (315) 785-2389 or mickey@tughill.org to register for the program. The program will be limited to 20 participants. In the event there is more interest a waiting list will be setup.

Local Government Conference at SUNY Potsdam Scheduled for October 15, 2014

The 22nd Annual Local Government Conference will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 hosted at SUNY Potsdam. This is an opportunity to interact with associates and other local government officials from across the state working together to find solutions to problems and issues that challenge our communities.

Schedule of Events

7:30 - 8:10 a.m. Registration, Coffee & Visit with the Vendors

Session 1

8:15 - 9:45 a.m.

Assessors - Small Town SCAR "Small Claims Assessment Review" Preparation
Board Members - Your Municipality's Fiscal Stress Rating: What Does it Mean?
Budget & Finance - Your Municipality's Fiscal Stress Rating: What Does it Mean?
Code Enforcement - Asbestos/Lead/Mold
Community Development - The Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Process: Perspectives from Experienced Applicants
Municipal Clerks - Records Management Before and After a Disaster
Planning & Zoning - Controversial Land Issues
Public Works - Chemical Pumping Systems Related to the Water and Wastewater Industry

Session 2

10:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Assessors - Small Town SCAR "Small Claims Assessment Review" Preparation continued
Board Members - Fiscal Oversight Responsibilities of the Governing Board
Budget & Finance - Putting Together a Budget/Open Book
Code Enforcement - Subsurface Investigations
Community Development - Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC): Funding Opportunities for Local Governments
Municipal Clerks - Information Training/Technology Workshop and Archival Discussion
Planning & Zoning - Use and Area Variance Case Studies
Public Works - Submersible Pumping Systems Related to the Water and Waste Industry

12:00 - 1:15 p.m. Lunch & Keynote Address

Session 3

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Assessors - Small Town SCAR "Small Claims Assessment Review" Preparation continued
Board Members - Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement
Budget & Finance - Capital Project Management: From Application to Final Payment, Steps You Need to Know!
Code Enforcement - Common Regional Issues and Roundtable Discussion
Community Development - Community Development Benefits from Village Dissolution and Other Operational Efficiencies
Municipal Clerks - Legal Requirements of the Clerk
Planning & Zoning - The Comprehensive Plan - How It Can Help and How to Get One Done
Public Works - Pumping Systems Alignment

For more information and to register for the conference, go to www.potsdam.edu/localgovernment/.

NYS Woodsmen Field Days

Contact us at:

NYS Tug Hill Commission

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Watertown, NY 13601

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The 66th Annual NYS Woodsmen Field Days will be held in Boonville, August 16-18 at the Boonville Oneida County Fairgrounds. Events include a parade, fireworks, forestry displays, forestry seminars, equipment auction, 10K foot race, canoe & kayak race, tug of war & greased pole competition, beard contest and the highlight is the lumberjack and lumberjill competitions and much more throughout the weekend as well as community wide events.

A new attraction added this year will be the appearance of World Wrestling Entertainment legend Hacksaw Jim Duggan on Friday and former WWE Women's Champion and current Impact Knockouts Champion Mickie James on Saturday.

For more information and the full schedule of events and times you can visit the website at www.starinfo.com/woodsmen.

Developing Municipal Budgets

Laird Petrie from the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) will present **Developing a Municipal Budget** at Kunsela Hall, SUNYIT, Utica on Thursday, September 5, 6:30- 8:30 p.m. Sign in starts at 6:00 p.m.. This training program is designed to assist village and town officials in developing a structurally balanced budget. Topics to be covered include:

- Key elements of the annual budget
- Budgetary responsibilities of Town and Village Officials
- Understanding fund balances
- Capital reserve account
- Tools available for assisting Town and Village officials in the budget process
- Monitoring & amending the annual budget

A question and answer period will conclude the workshop. Please register early so that Laird has time to print out a five year summary for your town based on the yearly annual reports.

The Local Government Education Committee from Oneida and Herkimer Counties is sponsoring this training session and brochures with registration information have been mailed. Registrations are due September 2 and the registration fee is \$15. **Payments should be made payable to the College Association** and mailed to the Office of Continuing Professional Education, SUNYIT, 100 Seymour Road, Utica, NY 13504. Visit the www.LGEC.org web site for more information.

Oneida Lake Boating Safety Map

If you have ever been in a boat that hit something on Oneida Lake that should not have been here, then you will be interested in the Oneida Lake Associations' new Oneida Lake Boating Safety Map. The OLA developed and published the map with the goal of increasing boating safety and saving lives. The map points out all the buoys and danger areas in the channel and along the shoreline. The map isn't going to tell you about the debris in the lake which has been plentiful this summer because of all the rain. You will still have to be on the lookout for deadhead logs and other partially submerged obstacles.

The map also includes some common sense navigation tips that bear repeating. The maps will be distributed to the public libraries, schools and village and town offices for in-house-use. A limited number will be available around the lake at marinas. The map is not for sale but it can be downloaded from OLA's web site www.oneidalakeassociation.org.