

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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Meet Our New Staff!



We are pleased to announce that after a long and arduous process the position of Circuit Rider has at last been filled. Our new Circuit Rider, who started work last week, is Angie Kimball. Angie is a graduate of Sandy Creek Central School and attended college at D'Youville College in Buffalo, New York.

Angie is a member of the Redfield Volunteer Fire Company where she is both a firefighter and EMT. She is also a member of the Fire Company's Auxiliary. When Angie first came home from college, she tended bar in Redfield and Lacona, and has also, at various times, worked as the Clerk to the Town of Redfield's Supervisor, as the Redfield Town Court's

Clerk, and for Sharpshooters Gun Shop in Orwell. Angie says, "I am really enjoying working for the Tug Hill Commission and the CTHC and I'm sure as I get to know everybody I'll enjoy it even more. I am enjoying travelling around the Hill and to a few places I hadn't previously been. I am looking forward to meeting the officials I haven't been to see yet and putting some faces with names." Angie lives in Redfield, in the house she grew up in with her husband Terry, her Mother-in-Law Betty and their dog Maggie. Angie says, "I'm a pretty typical Tug Hill girl, I like to hunt and fish, to play ball, to go camping and to play in the snow."

We are thrilled to have Angie join our staff! If you have not already had an opportunity to meet Angie at your board meeting, she will be making the rounds to meet all of you as soon as possible. You can contact Angie at angela@tughill.org, 599-8825 (home) or 480-6857 (cell) if you have any comments, questions and concerns now or in the future.

The Tug Hill Commission is also happy to announce that it has filled its secretary position! Gwen Decker joined our staff last week and the Commission could not be more pleased.

Gwen has lived in the North Country all her life and she enjoys all the seasons! Gwen resides in the town of Rodman with her husband, Spike, where they have a little slice of heaven on "Gwendolyn Pond."

Gwen graduated from Carthage Central and describes herself as "a country girl with a community spirit." She is active in the Greater Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce and has been an Ambassador for the Chamber for several years. She organized the 4H Camp Wabasso Run to benefit the 4H Camp Scholarship Fund during her previous employment at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County. She is also a member of the YMCA Race Committee.



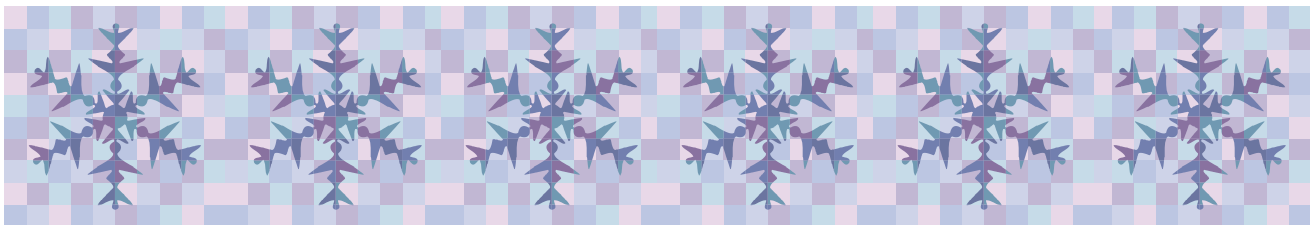
Gwen says, "I am looking forward to my new endeavors with the THC and making a contribution to the community. The atmosphere is warm and welcoming at the THC. I am amazed at the depth of what this organization encompasses and I am excited to learn more as I begin this new journey."

On a personal note, Gwen is an avid runner and enjoys biking, kayaking, hiking, motorcycling, cross country skiing and snowmobiling. "With every season comes a variety of activities to enjoy them. I couldn't imagine living anywhere else."

Commission Members Elect Officers

At their December 12 meeting Tug Hill Commission Members elected officers for the 2013-14 term. Elected unanimously were Jan Bogdanowicz from Montague as Chair; Michael Yerdon (immediate past Chair) from Redfield as Vice-Chair; and, Thomas Boxberger from Watertown as Secretary. Chair-elect Bogdanowicz commended outgoing chair Mike Yerdon on his leadership over the past four years. Mr. Bogdanowicz also outlined some of his priorities for the coming term, including collaboration and team building with state agency partners and non-governmental organizations in the Region; protecting Home Rule while advancing shared services among Tug Hill local governments; and, effective outreach to Tug Hill Legislators and State Legislators throughout the State.

All the Commission Members stressed the need to ensure that the Commission strengthens its commitment to Tug Hill communities and the economy of the region. Chair-elect Bogdanowicz emphasized the need to build the region's economy from the bottom-up while sustaining the region's rural quality of life and abundant natural resources. As a third generation Tug Hiller and Executive with a Fortune 100 business, Mr. Bogdanowicz brings a wealth of familiarity with Tug Hill and over 30 years of private sector business development experience to the helm of the Commission. He thanked his fellow Commission Members for their support and commitment to the region and looks forward to their continued work on behalf of Tug Hill.



Boonville Economic & Industrial Development Corporation Report

The Boonville Economic and Industrial Development Corporation (BEIDC) recently met at the Town and Village of Boonville offices to receive the report done by the Syracuse University Newhouse School. The research project was requested by BEIDC and was conducted by Hill Communications, a student-run public relations firm to gather information about the Boonville community in an effort to revitalize the community socially and economically. Each year the firm takes on several public relations projects and, this semester, they agreed to assist the Village of Boonville at no charge. The research project included a focus group with a SWOT exercise, an interview with a community leader, a survey completed by juniors and seniors at the Adirondack High School and a direct observation completed in the village.

Almost all of the focus group participants agreed that Boonville is good place to live. Residents enjoy the friendly atmosphere of living in a small community where people know each other. Although participant residents in the research project want to see some improvements in facilities and recreation opportunities, they want the changes to come in a gradual way and none of them wants a drastic change.

The four key areas that were identified in the report as needing renewed focus by the community in terms of marketing and promotions were:

1. Implementing a social media presence in the community while at the same time developing a cohesive and centralized media source for distribution to individuals and groups outside of the area.
2. Finding a way to integrate the youth/students of the community into events and projects that are a footprint for success going forward.
3. Improving the appearance of the downtown area in the village to encourage people to want to eat, shop visit, and return to Boonville.
4. Encouraging a stronger sense of community by sharing existing media resources and instead of "stumbling" upon each other, working together toward goals which in many cases are common.

"Hopefully this will give us some great ideas going forward and ways in which to expand our marketing and promotional plans for our community," BEIDC member Jen Shoemaker said. The meeting also provided an opportunity to touch base on the next stages of BEIDC going into 2013, as well as a time to discuss some of the positive things happening in the community already.

Regional Economic Development Council Awards

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo this week announced that \$738 million has been awarded through Round Two of the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) initiative including: **CENTRAL NEW YORK** Top Performer Award and \$93.8 Million for 73 Projects; **NORTH COUNTRY** Top Performer Award and \$90.2 million for 82 projects; and, **MOHAWK VALLEY** \$59.7 Million for 70 Projects. There were several projects funded within and around the Tug Hill region including:

- Oswego County (CNY REDC) – Central Square Central New York Raceway Park (\$2,000,000); Town of Constantia Sewer District Engineering Study (\$30,000); and two SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry projects related to Biotechnology and willow biomass (\$897,831).
- Jefferson County (NC REDC) – Carthage Downtown Revitalization Program (\$200,000); Carthage Apartments (\$2,000,000); Creekwood Apartments Phase 2 (\$3,000,000); Town of Champion sewer line replacement engineering study (\$30,000); Village of Carthage Wastewater Engineering Study (\$30,000); and Celtic Energy Farm green energy willow project (\$470,000).
- Lewis County (NC REDC) – Croghan Dam restoration (\$375,000); Lyons Falls Mill site redevelopment (1,000,000); Lewis County General Hospital Dialysis Center (\$300,000); Snow Belt Housing Gateway Project in Lowville (\$200,000); Town and Village of Turin wastewater engineering study (\$24,000); Village of Lyons Falls wastewater engineering study (\$30,000).
- Oneida County (MV REDC) – Harden Furniture lean manufacturing project (\$600,000); Town of Forestport wastewater engineering study (\$30,000).

In addition, the North Country REDC had a number of regional projects funded including the Community Tourism Transformational Fund (\$2,000,000); I-81 Corridor Marketing (\$84,000); Thousand Islands Tourism Development Corporation I Love NY Fishing (\$60,000); Adirondack North Country Association “Invisible Factory” program (\$50,000); Infrastructure Fund (\$2,500,000); and, the Community Renewal Fund (\$1,000,000).

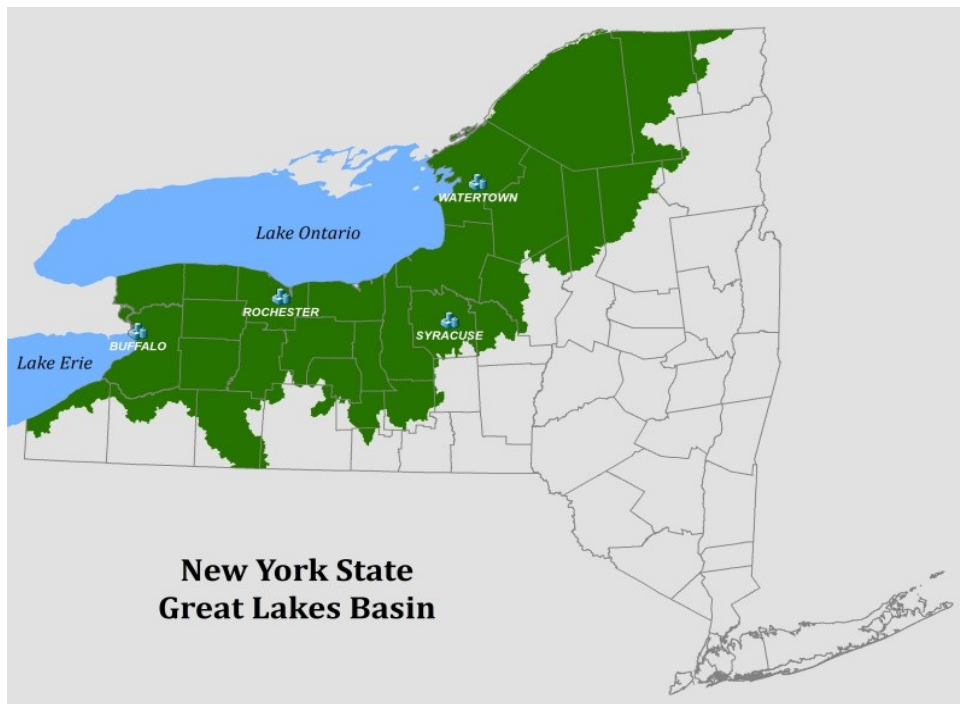
Congratulations to all the awardees and partners that helped make all these projects become funded!

Sustain Our Great Lakes Funding Available Early in New Year

The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) will post a new Request for Proposals on their website www.sustainourgreatlakes.org on January 3rd. In 2013, grant funding for work in the Great Lakes basin will be awarded in three categories: 1) habitat restoration; 2) delisting of habitat-related beneficial use impairments; and 3) private landowner technical assistance. Pre-proposals will be due on February 14, 2013.

NFWF is holding a webinar on January 15, 2013 at 11 am to learn more about the funding opportunity and the application process, see examples of

past projects, receive tips for submitting competitive proposals, and have the opportunity to ask questions. For more information and to sign up for the webinar go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/517587032>.



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Assisting communities and citizens for over 39 years.



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paper format, please consider helping us
reduce our costs by
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electronically through your email.
(Electronic versions appear in full color!)

Please contact the
Commission for assistance.
Thank you!

Watch Your Mail!!!!

Registrations forms will be
mailed out after the 1st
of the year!!

The Tug Hill Commission's
24th Annual Local Govern-
ment Conference will be held
March 28, 2013 at Jefferson
Community College. If you
have ideas for presentation
topics or presenters, please let
us know!

Highway School Presentations Available Online

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The Cornell Local Roads Program offers Highway School for Highway Superintendents yearly during the month of June. Over 700 participants attend the Highway School each year. The school offers a variety of sessions and workshops. For more information or to download presentations from years 2006-2012 visit this link:

www.clrp.cornell.edu/trainingevents/highwayschool.htm.

Mark Your Calendar

Community Facilities Program
Thursday, January 10, 2013 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
At Jefferson Community College, Watertown, NY
In the Jules Center Amphitheater Room 6-002

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development will be holding an informational meeting to explain the Community Facilities program. Public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts should attend. Community Facilities program can make loans and/or grants to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Projects can include but are not limited to municipal buildings, emergency service facilities and equipment, libraries, and food pantries. For additional information about the Community Facilities Program, go to www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html.

Association of Towns Annual
Conference
February 17th – 20th, 2013 in
New York City
For more conference information
go to:
www.nytowns.org or contact AOT
at (518)465-7933

NY Planning Federation Annual Conference
April 21st – 23rd, 2013 at the Gideon Putnam
Resort & Hotel
24 Gideon Putnam Road,
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

For more conference information go to:
www.nypf.org or contact NYPF at
(518)512-5270