

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.

February 15, 2013

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Rural Issues Community Leadership Conference
- Invasive Species Org. Newsletter
- Training for Zoning & Planning Boards
- Black River Trail & Maple Traditions Scenic Byway Legislation Introduced
- Community Meetings on Watertown Urbanized Area
- Path Through History
- Special Area Mapping Meeting in Rodman
- NOCCOG Meetings

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4th Rural Issues Community Leadership Conference March 20 in Herkimer

The theme for this year's Community Leadership conference is **Agriculture Production & Processing - Help Make It Happen!** The conference is a special one day educational opportunity for municipal officials, farmers, planners, and economic developers. The conference will be held on March 20, 2013 at Herkimer County Community College, Herkimer, NY from 9 am to 3:45 pm. The keynote speaker will be *David Cole* - "The Explosion of the Dairy Value Added Products Industry - Impacts and Opportunities." Mr. Cole is the author of *"The Rise of the Greek Yogurt Industry in Central New York"* September 2012. For information and registration visit: Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE) www.cadefarms.org.

Invasive Species Organization Newsletter Available Online

The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) has just published its first quarterly newsletter. Available on the organization's website at <http://www.sleloinvasives.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/winter-2013-PDF-Revised1.pdf>. It gives a general overview of the PRISM, what an invasive species is, and 2012 accomplishments.

Commission staff regularly attends meetings of the PRISM. If your community has an invasive species question or concern, feel free to contact Katie or Jennifer at the office.

Congratulations!!!

RICH LECLERC

Winner of a **FREE** registration to the 2013 Local Government Conference. Please call our office for your registration.

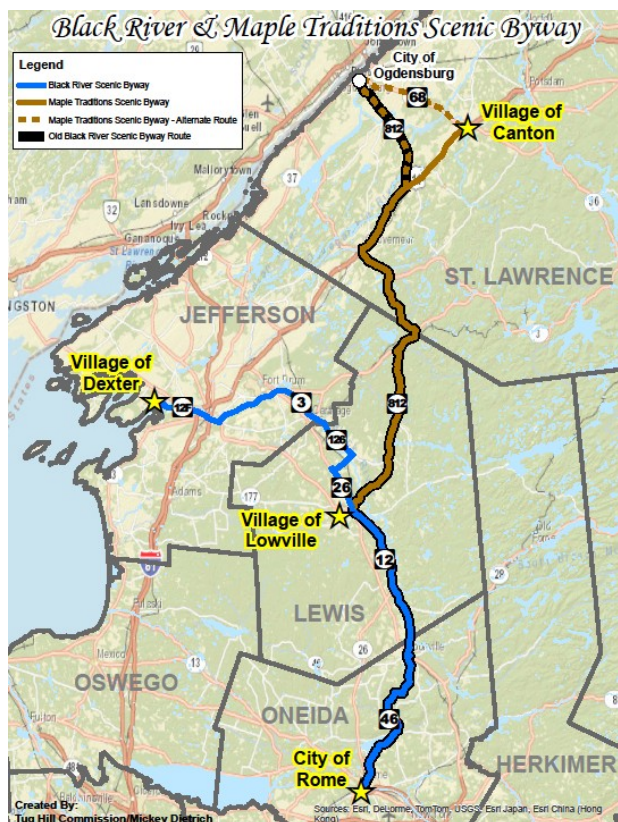
Check out Tug Hill Trivia on the back page and you could be the next winner!

Training for Zoning Boards & Planning Boards

Phil Street, the director of planning for the Tug Hill Commission, will be doing a training at the Boonville Town and Village Office Building, 13149 State Route 12, Boonville on **Thursday, March 7th @ 7pm**. The training will include:

- the difference between an area variance and a use variance
- role of the zoning board of appeals
- procedures to follow during the review of a case and the ZBA hearing

The training is open to any planning board or ZBA member in the area that would like to attend. Please register by contacting Gerry Ritter by phone at 392-2260 or by email gritter01@aol.com. Certificates of attendance for two credit hours of training will be available for attendees.



Black River Trail and Maple Traditions Scenic Byways Legislation Introduced



After many years of work on corridor management plans and the approval of those plans by the NYS Scenic Byways Advisory Committee, legislation redefining the Black River Trail and Maple Traditions Scenic Byways is now introduced in both houses:

- ◆ A. 4637 – Brindisi, Russell, Butler and Blankenbush
- ◆ S. 3494 – Griffo and Ritchie

Communities along these byways have an opportunity to show their support for this legislation to the sponsors of the legislation and their own state representatives.

If you would like to show your support go to this link: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/> to contact your state representative.



Community Meetings on Watertown Urbanized Area

Over the past two weeks there were two community meetings regarding the U.S. Census designation of Watertown as an Urbanized Area. The Watertown Urbanized Area includes the City of Watertown; Villages of Black River, Carthage, Deferiet, Dexter, Herrings and West Carthage; and portions of the Towns of Brownville, Champion, Henderson, Hounsfield, LeRay, Pamela, Rutland, Watertown and Wilna. The designation has three general areas of impacts regarding transportation, stormwater regulation and federal funding eligibility. On February 7th in West Carthage representatives of NYS DOT Region 7, NYS DEC Region 6 and USDA Rural Development met with community leaders to discuss these implications.

DOT Region 7 Director Mark Frechette discussed the transportation planning elements of the designation as it relates to the establishment of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). DOT and Jefferson County are working on the logistics of establishing an MPO and final recommendations will be presented in March 2013.

NYS DEC Regional Water Engineer Steve Botsford discussed the implications of the Urbanized Area as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and new MS4 regulations regarding stormwater programs and construction standards for affected municipalities and development. MS4 regulations and programs for affected municipalities will be developed over the next several months.

USDA Area Director Brian Murray discussed the potential impacts on funding eligibility on Rural Development programs in the area.

On February 12th, DEC held a more detailed meeting and Webinar regarding the MS4 program and requirements at the offices of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County. Over the next several months NYS DEC and the Tug Hill Commission will be providing training opportunities for affected municipalities on implementing the new MS4 requirements. For more details on MS4 requirements please contact Katie Malinowski at the Commission at katie@tughill.org or 1-888-785-2380.



**NORTH COUNTRY REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
TO MEET THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013
"PATH THROUGH HISTORY" WORKING GROUP TO MEET SAME DAY**

WHAT: The North Country Regional Economic Development Council will meet Thursday, February 21st at SUNY Potsdam. The public meeting will be held from 1 – 2 p.m.

The North Country Path Through History Work Group will also hold a public meeting to gain input for the development of its \$100,000 marketing plan to encourage tourism, local economic development and serve as an educational tool as part of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Path Through History initiative. This public meeting will be held from 2:15 - 4pm.

WHO: All members of the public, including businesses, labor, education, and nonprofit organizations, and heritage and tourism agency representatives from the North Country are welcome and encouraged to attend both meetings.

WHERE: **SUNY Potsdam**
Barrington Student Union
44 Pierpont Avenue
Potsdam, NY13676

WHEN: **Thursday, February 21**
Regional Council Public Meeting: 1 – 2 p.m.
Path Through History Meeting: 2:15 – 4 p.m.



Registration: Please visit www.northcountryopenforbusiness.com to register for the meetings.

Special Area Map Meeting in Rodman

Tug Hill Staff met with the town board members of the Town of Rodman before their scheduled board meeting on February 13th to discuss updating their Special Areas Map. The Town is eager to review their new map and will be moving forward with a date and time to do so.

Special areas are adopted as part of the town's reserve plan. This means, when public agencies proposing development or reviewing development that could 1) directly affect a special area designated in a local reserve plan, and 2) change the nature of the town in which the development takes place, must consult with the affected towns regarding the development's consistency with the local reserve plan.

New mapping techniques using GIS and known datasets are now being used to update Special Areas mapping. Commission staff are urging CTHC towns to set up committees to review their updates with the goal of adopting a new map. West Turin went through this process and adopted their new map earlier this year.

Upcoming Special Area Mapping Meetings are scheduled in the following towns:

Date	Time	Town
February 26	6pm	Montague
March 6	6:30pm	Lorraine
March 12	5:30pm	Pinckney

Contact us at:

NYS Tug Hill Commission

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1-888-785-2380

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On February 14th the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) held its winter meeting at the Town of Steuben. The meeting included a presentation regarding a potential phase 2 Joint Infrastructure Management (JIMI) project involving Oneida County municipalities. The phase 2 JIMI project follows the phase 1 project involving Jefferson and Lewis County municipalities. The projects are aimed at asset management practices involving GIS and software applications for highway corridor, sewer, water and stormwater infrastructure. Tug Hill GIS Specialist Mickey Dietrich gave an overview of the potential project to Oneida County and local highway superintendents and elected officials. Overall there was support for moving forward on a possible grant application for the project. For more information on the potential phase 2 JIMI project contact Mickey Dietrich at mickey@tughill.org or 1-888-785-2380.

Following the JIMI project meeting the NOCCOG Executive Board met. NOCCOG Circuit Rider Gerry Ritter presented the Executive Committee with their 2013 budget and an update on key regional projects. This year's NOCCOG budget includes a \$5,000 contribution from Oneida County as well as another grant of \$5,000 from the Wildlife Connectivity project in the NOCCOG region. Key regional projects highlighted also included the March 4, 2013 Natural Gas meeting in Sylvan Beach regarding possible natural gas extension through Sylvan Beach, McConnellsville to Camden; work with the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council and the Regional Sustainability Plan; Mohawk Valley Keep America Beautiful Campaign and 2013 training and workshop opportunities.



Reminder
Early bird registration deadline
is March 6, 2013 for the Local
Government Conference.

Tug Hill Trivia???

This is a 3 part question.

What Tug Hill towns have the same name as NYS Counties?

What Tug Hill town is home to the "Case Wall"?

What Tug Hill towns have another NYS town with the same name?

The **FIRST** person to email the correct answer will receive a **FREE** registration to the 2013 Local Government Conference on March 28!!

Send your answer to gwen@tughill.org

If you have already registered and are the winner, your registration will be reimbursed.

*** Not eligible to participate if you have already won.**

Tug Hill Trivia ? & Winners

How many downhill ski areas are there in the Tug Hill region and what are their names?

Answer:

Snow Ridge – Turin, NY
Dry Hill – Watertown, NY
Woods Valley – Rome, NY

Winner: Renee Beyer

How many inches of snow did Highmarket get in 2011-2012?

Answer:

129.2 inches

Winner: Rich LeClerc