



February 17, 2012

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.



Tug Hill Commission Seeking Sage Nominations

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TO CONTACT THE TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Phone toll free within
the region:
1-888-785-2380
or e-mail:
tughill@tughill.org

Please visit our
website:
www.tughill.org



The Commission is once again seeking nominations for Tug Hill Sages. A "Sage" is an individual who has been a part of Tug Hill life and traditions for all or most of his/her life, who has deep knowledge of Tug Hill's heritage and environment, and who has had life-long involvement with the Tug Hill Region. This distinguished title has gone to 26 individuals over the life of the commission. Recipients of the award include: John Constable, Truman Greene, Hunt Rowe, Elwin Rowell, Livingston Lansing, George Bibbins, Alice Clemens, Harold Petrie, Courtney Winn, Elva Maciejko, Neil Wright, Harry Capron, Dr. Edwin Russell, John Hughes, Randy Kerr, Bernard Macklen, Warren Mathis, Robert Sauer, Ray Cheresnoski, Charlie Gallo, Beverly Harden, Neil Harden, Louis Hodgkinson, John Mahaffy, Irving Kraeger, and Bernie Mettot.

Help the Commission celebrate another round of Sages to be announced at our annual meeting on May 31, 2012 by nominating an individual you feel has made a major contribution to the region. **A nomination form and nomination guidelines are available in this Tug Hill Times issue on pages 4 and 5. Complete the nomination form and return it to the Tug Hill Commission no later than April 10, 2012.** Please review the nomination guidelines for eligibility as a Sage. They are also available on the Commission's website at www.tughill.org along with a complete listing of all 26 Tug Hill Sages.

SAVE THE DATE for the SECOND ANNUAL BLACK RIVER WATERSHED CONFERENCE JUNE 6, 2012

The Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District, Tug Hill Commission and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation are pleased to bring you another Black River Watershed Conference this year at the Carthage Elks Club.

This will be a one day conference similar to last year.

Agenda planning is underway. If you have ideas for topics, please contact Jennifer Harvill at 315-785-2392 or jennifer@tughill.org.

Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute for One Day

This summer, the Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute (CMCI) will open its doors for one day, **July 11**, to elected officials, and also to clerks who are interested in experiencing the Institute but are unable to attend for the entire four days. This is an opportunity for elected officials to participate in classes and understand the relevance of CMCI to local and county government leadership and the caliber of the training that clerks receive during their week at Cornell. Likewise, clerks who have not yet experienced the Institute but who are curious will fully participate for one day, gaining credit for classes taken towards their CMC or MMC certification through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). Visit the CMCI at <http://devsoc.cals.cornell.edu/cals/devsoc/outreach/cardi/training/cmci/index.cfm>.



Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust Photo Contest Begins!

The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (THTLT) wants your Tug Hill photos! Yes, that's right - **already**. They are getting a jump-start on the 2013 Tug Hill Calendar, and are looking for your best outdoor Tug Hill photos! Please email your photos to Fawn Heins at tughilladmin@nnymail.com. Photos must be in high resolution, at least 300 dpi at 8.5" x 11". A maximum of 15 photos per photographer will be accepted for the 2013 Tug Hill Calendar Photo Contest. If you have any questions, contact Fawn at (315) 779-8240 or email her at the address listed above. THTLT can't wait to see your photos!



Hydrofracking Debate Continues in Oneida County - Meeting Rescheduled!

Hydrofracking continues to be a hot topic in Oneida County. On **Thursday evening February 23 at 7:00 pm at the Trenton Municipal Center** (8520 Old Poland Road, Barneveld, NY), an informational forum will be held on the drilling of gas wells to harvest natural gas in Trenton and neighboring towns. The focus of the forum will be to answer two questions:

- 1) Why should this area be concerned?
- 2) How can townships do due diligence in protecting their community?

This forum is being presented by STRR (see www.strr-towns.org), a community group in the area opposing the drilling for natural gas using hydrofracking. Natural gas drilling by means of hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" would not be allowed on land owned by Oneida County under a measure proposed by two Oneida County legislators. The Marcellus Shale formation that extends under southern Oneida County may attract natural gas drillers if the State gives the go-ahead for hydrofracking. The legislators maintain there is a need to identify, study and evaluate the environmental, cumulative, financial and public health impacts that hydrofracking will have in Central New York.

Tug Hill Aquifer Meeting Reminder



The Tug Hill Commission is organizing a meeting on **Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Sandy Creek Town Hall** for an update on the Tug Hill Aquifer. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Since 2007, the Commission has worked with the US Geological Survey (USGS) and other partners to understand the Tug Hill Aquifer more thoroughly and give policy makers, local leaders, and resource managers the information to make good decisions regarding its use. Topics for discussion include: 1) Background and Introductions - 80's work, Nestle interest, Town of Richland taking over Schoeller Paper Co. well field, flooded basements in Richland, declining well yields at the fish hatchery; 2) USGS Progress report 2007--present; 3) Plans for 2012-13 work; 4) Where will that leave us and what are the next priorities?; 5) New things to consider - new DEC water withdrawal reporting, hydrofracking, etc.; 6) Q/A

The Sandy Creek Town Hall is located at 1992 Hardwood Drive, Sandy Creek, <http://sandycreekny.us/Location.htm>. Please **RSVP by Friday, February 24** to Katie Malinowski (katie@tughill.org or toll free (888) 785-2380). Feel free to forward an invitation to anyone you think would be interested.

Tug Hill Commission Organizes Interagency Roundtable Meeting

Over 20 people from various agencies including the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the NYS Department of Transportation, the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development and the New York State Department of State (DOS), met to discuss ways to advance Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) projects being undertaken by the Village of Lyons Falls, Town and Village of Canton and City of Ogdensburg. The Commission, which actively participates with the Village of Lyons Falls' BOA project steering committee, was asked by the DOS to facilitate this meeting. The DOS administers funding for these projects through their BOA Program (http://nyswaterfronts.com/grantopps_BOA.asp).

At the meeting, representatives from Lyons Falls, Ogdensburg and Canton made presentations about their projects. The discussion following each presentation provided valuable feedback to the communities about funding opportunities and technical assistance available through various agency programs.

If you would like more information about the community projects, see the websites below.

Canton: www.cantonnewyork.us/brownfield-opportunity-area/
 Lyons Falls: www.lyonsfallsboa.wordpress.com
 Ogdensburg: ogdensburg.wikispot.org/

If you would like to be included in future correspondence about upcoming meetings, please contact Jennifer Harvill at 315-785-2392 or jennifer@tughill.org.

Altmar Considers Elementary School Future

At a meeting held Monday, February 6 at the Altmar Elementary School, citizens and town and village officials gathered to look at the future use of the school after its projected end of service to the district in September of this year. Commission staff presented information about the school, and reviewed information developed as fellow APW communities Parish and Williamstown go through this same process. Potential sites uses identified by attendees for Altmar Elementary include use as a New York State Fire Academy training site, as a site for the

(See Altmar Continued on page 6)

Tug Hill Sage Nomination Guidelines

Revised March 2010

Tug Hill Sages were first designated by the Commission in 1983. The distinction is bestowed upon those individuals who have vast knowledge of Tug Hill's heritage and its environment and have shown a life-long involvement in the region. The Commissioners have honored a number of worthy candidates, each with their own special contribution that they have brought to the region.

The individuals chosen as Sages have distinguished themselves by their strong historical knowledge of the region and by their actions that have contributed significantly to the quality of life on the Hill and most closely match the original intent of the title of "Tug Hill Sage."

Recognizing the distinction of a Tug Hill to the region, the Commissioners will recognize only a few (i.e. 1-3) Sages at each call for nominations. Should nominated Sages not be selected in a given year they may be submitted in a subsequent call for nominations.

In nominating an individual to become a Tug Hill Sage, the following guidelines have been established. Please provide information on as many of these guidelines as possible in completing the nomination form.

1. A resident of the Tug Hill region for a good portion of their life but in no case fewer than 10 years.
2. Contributed significantly to the region or it's communities – served as a local elected or appointed civic official; served or is serving as a volunteer in their community in a capacity that contributes to the heritage, environment, or quality of life of the region; a local business owner/entrepreneur that has contributed to the region's economic viability; contributed to the stewardship of the region's environment and resources; other (please elaborate further). In this contribution the individual was a leader whose influence enabled noteworthy improvement in the lives of individuals or organizations significant to the region.
3. Deeply acquainted and familiar with the region's culture, history and development, having knowledge of the area's rich resources, traditions or heritage.
4. Nominees may not be current Commission board members or employees or Board members or employees for which at least 10 years have passed since they left the Commission.
5. Cannot be currently engaged or elected to a political partisan office or appointed to a high profile government positions.
6. The Commission will recognize posthumous honorees however we ask that such nominations are for individuals who have deceased within the last 25 years.

Sage nominees will be reviewed and selected based on the information provided in the nomination form (see next page) so please provide enough information so that the Commissioners can make an informed assessment of the candid. Use additional pages if necessary.

2012 TUG HILL SAGE NOMINATION FORM

A Tug Hill “Sage” is an individual who has been a part of Tug Hill life and traditions for all or most of his/her life, who has deep knowledge of Tug Hill’s heritage and environment, and who has life-long involvement in Tug Hill. This distinguished title has gone to 26 individuals over the life of the Commission. Recipients of the award include: John Constable, Truman Greene, Hunt Rowe, Elwin Rowell, Livingston Lansing, George Bibbins, Alice Clemens, Harold Petrie, Courtney Winn, Elva Maciejko, Neil Wright, Harry Capron, Dr. Edwin Russell, John Hughes, Randy Kerr, Bernard Macklen, Warren Mathis, Robert Sauer Ray Cheresnoski, Charlie Gallo, Beverly Harden, Neil Harden, Louis Hodgkinson, John Mahaffy, Irving Kraeger, and Bernie Mettot.

Help the Tug Hill Commission celebrate another round of “Sages” to be announced at our Annual Meeting in May 2012 by nominating individuals you feel have made a major contribution to the region. Please complete the information below and return your nomination to the Tug Hill Commission, Dulles State Office Building, 317 Washington St., Watertown, NY, 13601 **NO LATER THAN April 10, 2012**. Thank you.

Nominee Name: _____

Nominee’s address: _____

Nominee’s phone number: _____

Nominee’s e-mail address: _____

Brief explanation of why you think this nominee should be designated a Tug Hill Sage:

Please provide your name, address and telephone number (or e-mail address) so that we may be able to contact you if we have questions about your nomination. We can not accept anonymous nominations. Thank you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

If you would like to make more nominations, please use additional copies of this form.

Any questions please contact John Bartow at (315) 785-2380 or by e-mail at john@tughill.org.

NYS Tug Hill Commission

Mailing address:
317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

We are located on the 6th
Floor of the
Dulles State Office Building.

Phone: 315-785-2380

Fax: 315-785-2574

E-mail: tughill@tughill.org

Web: www.tughill.org

Assisting communities and
citizens for over 38 years.



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in paper format, please consider
helping us reduce our costs by opt-
ing to receive your copy electroni-
cally through your email.
(Electronic versions appear in full
color!) Please contact the
Commission for assistance.
Thank you!

Local Government Conference
Thursday March 29, 2012 at
Jefferson Community College
Visit our Website at [http://
www.tughill.org/proj/annual-lgc-
2012/](http://www.tughill.org/proj/annual-lgc-2012/)

to download a registration form or
call us and we'll send you one!

Playground Construction Grants Available



The mission of KaBOOM! is to create great playspaces throughout the United States through the participation and leadership of communities. Their construction grant program can provide up to \$15,000 grants to be used toward the purchase of playground equipment that will be built using the KaBOOM! community-build model. Eligible applicants include municipalities, neighborhood associations, schools, day care centers, and nonprofit organizations without a playground or with existing equipment that is unsafe for children to use. **Deadline is March 16, 2012.**

For more information see their website, [http://
kaboom.org/about_kaboom/programs/grants/](http://kaboom.org/about_kaboom/programs/grants/).



Go Snowshoeing on Tug Hill This Weekend!



You're invited to join the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust this Saturday, February 18th at the Osceola/Tug Hill X-Country Ski Center (www.uxcski.com), for their most adventurous snowshoe of the year! This weekend's trek will be led by well-known naturalist and Tug Hill Tomorrow board member, Bob McNamara. The event will take place from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. For more information, visit [http://
tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/post_get.php?article_id=74](http://tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/post_get.php?article_id=74) or contact Janelle Castro at (315) 779-2239 or tughilloutreach@nnymail.com.

(Altmar Continued from page 3)

arts and cultural resources, as fishing and tourism-related lodging, as senior citizen housing, and use for other educational purposes.

Williamstown Elementary School closed in 2008 and since then, Altmar and Parish have been looking ahead to prepare for their respective school closures. The Tug Hill Commission, working with the Salmon River Council of Governments (SRCG), has located resources to help with that process, including assisting in conducting community meetings to help shape the closure process toward priorities preferred by each community. The Village of Parish, acting as fiscal agent for the SRCG, has received funds and administered grants to pay for a consultant to evaluate each school's re-use potential and marketability. Another meeting will be scheduled after the consultants, the DiMarco Group and Fairweather Associates, conduct their site evaluation and market analysis.