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**25th Annual Local
Government Conference
Early Registration Ends
March 5, 2014**

March 9, 2014



**Shift your clock
ahead 1 hour!**

**Daylight Savings
Time**

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.

Sustainability/Energy Projects –Thinking head

Last year, as part of the CFA process, the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) was able to bundle several energy related projects and was successful in applying for “Cleaner Greener” NYSERDA funding to implement them. These projects included renewable energy systems such as solar thermal, small scale hydro, a municipal biomass conversion from an oil-based heating system, residential conversions to high efficiency wood pellet systems, food composting, anaerobic biogas digestion, and bicycle and pedestrian amenities. The same type of bundling may occur this year, and we are helping ANCA identify potential projects ahead of time.

If you think your community may have a project, contact Katie or Jennifer at the Tug Hill Commission at 785-2380. Please have ready the following information:

- Does this project have an organization which can/will be ready to apply for funding for implementation?
- Is the project “Shovel-ready”? *Projects are more likely to be funded and implemented if they are well conceived and ready to go. If known, please provide additional details about the phase of the project (i.e. conceptual, ready to build, in development), what does it need to pull it off (i.e. a champion, and other resources), and timing (i.e. planning and preparation).*
- If known, what is the anticipated total cost of this project?
- How much *funding* would be requested for support through NYS to implement this project?

Remsen Plan Nearing Completion

The Town of Remsen planning board is wrapping up work on a new master plan. Members have been meeting monthly over the past year analyzing community indicators and brainstorming on opportunities to improve the town. Work on the plan began with a 2012 survey of town residents. A public hearing on the first draft will be held this Spring.

Habitat for Humanity, Affordable Housing

At the regular Village of Carthage Planning Board meeting on February 6th, members agreed to serve as lead agency in the State Environmental Quality Review process to subdivide 3.75 acres into 6-parcels for the construction of affordable housing through the Habitat for Humanity Program. Owned by the Carthage Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC) and the affiliated Braman Development LLC, Aubertine and Currier Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors PLLC, from Watertown designed a plan that will guide next steps. To facilitate development of the site, the Village of Carthage has agreed to construct an access road as well as install water/sewer hookups, light poles, gas & electric lines for each parcel.

Transportation Alternatives Program Guidebook Available

Due June 11, the NYS DOT Transportation Alternatives Program grants guidebook is now available at <https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/operating/opdm/local-programs-bureau/tap/guidance>

To be eligible for funds in this TAP application round the proposed project must:

- A. Fit into one or more of the TAP eligibility categories
- B. Relate to surface transportation
- C. Benefit the public interest through the provision of public access and use
- D. Have an eligible sponsor
- E. Have community support
- F. Have a 20% local match
- G. Have been submitted as a complete application by the application deadline
- H. Progress to completion within five years of award

The following is a list of the established eligible TAP categories and sub-categories for which NYSDOT will accept proposals in the current application round.

Categories

- 1. Construction, Planning and Design of On-road and Off-road Facilities for Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Other Non-motorized Forms of Transportation;
- 2. Construction, Planning and Design of Infrastructure-Related Projects to Provide Safe Routes for Non-drivers to Access Daily Needs;
- 3. Conversion and Use of Abandoned Railroad Corridors for Trails for Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Other Non-motorized Transportation Users;
- 4. Construction of Turnouts, Overlooks and Viewing Areas;
- 5. Safe Routes to School;
- 6. Construction, Planning and Design of Boulevards; and

Sub-Categories

- A. Community Improvement Activities (including Landscaping and Streetscape Improvements), when integrated with work in another category;
- B. Environmental Storm Water Management Activities, when integrated with work in another category

Attendance at a TAP workshop and a Federal Aid 101 workshop are required to apply. Locally, on-site viewing of the TAP and Federal Aid 101 Webinar would be held:

Tuesday, Marcy 18, 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm, Watertown State Office Building, 317 Washington St., Watertown.

Wednesday, March 19, 10:30 am – 1:15 pm, Utica State Office Building, 207 Genesee St., Utica.

New York State Archives GIS Grant (Video)

If you missed the webinar “Applying for GIS Grant from NYS Archives,” then you can view it on the NYS GIS Association YouTube channel. Here is the link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8v0z8Va1cE>

Geof Huth, Director of Government Records Services gave the presentation. He said that NYS Archives are there also to help local governments with writing RFPs and RFQs if they need help for these grants. His contact information is posted in the video. It will allow you to start thinking and preparing for next year.

The Tug Hill Commission, can assist with these grants if needed. It is recommended to start early in preparing for the next round of grants.

Tug Hill ISPZ Signs: Coming Soon to a Trailhead Near You!

Tug Hill is the third largest intact forest in New York State, and the Tug Hill Invasive Species Prevention Zone (ISPZ) was the first ISPZ identified by the SLELO PRISM. This spring, residents of and visitors to Tug Hill will begin to see interpretive signs at 18 trailheads and fishing access sites around the region. Two designs, one for terrestrial sites



What is Tug Hill?

Tug Hill is the third largest intact forest in New York State. It is a region of northern hardwood forests and pristine wetlands that drain to Lake Ontario and the Mohawk River through a network of coldwater streams and rivers.

The forest on Tug Hill is a mix of public and private lands that provide recreation and economic benefits, as well as valuable habitat for wildlife.

Invasive Species Threaten Tug Hill

Invasive species are non-native species that have the potential to cause harm to the economy, environment or to human health. Once invasive species become established they often out-compete native species for resources like habitat and sunlight.

Prevent the Spread

Luckily Tug Hill is still relatively free of invasive species. The goal of invasive species prevention is to contain infestations where they are, and keep pristine habitats free of invasive species. Prevention methods can minimize and possibly stop the significantly negative impacts of invasive species.

Prevention practices are quick, easy and inexpensive. Once an invasive becomes well established, eradication is often not possible.

An Invasive Species Prevention Zone (ISPZ) was established in 2012 to monitor and prevent the spread of invasive species within the Tug Hill core forest.

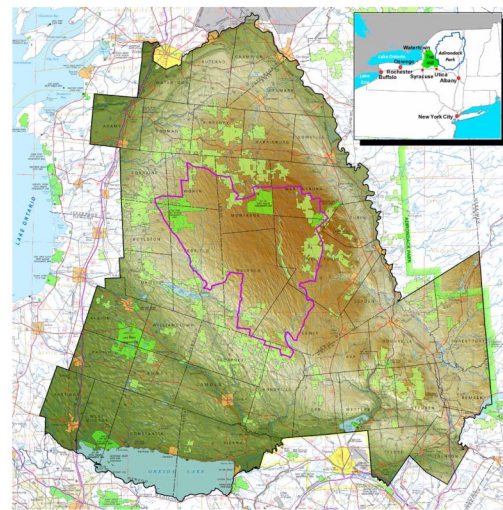
Ways to Keep Tug Hill a Place For All Seasons

Because invasive species can be spread a number of ways, everyone can help prevent their spread. Invasive species can hitchhike to new areas by attaching to any surfaces they come in contact with, such as animals, footwear and clothing, firewood, kayaks, canoes and boats, ATVs, trucks, logging and road building equipment.

Public awareness and the use of prevention practices are important lines of defense in the fight against invasive species. Implementing simple and inexpensive prevention tips will help you be an active part of the solution.

- Learn more about invasive species in your community.
- Remove plant pieces and seeds from clothing and boots.
- Don't transport firewood. Buy it where you burn it.
- Clean, drain and dry your boat and anything that comes in contact with the water.
- Use native plants in landscaping.
- Learn how to properly identify and report invasives.
- Be persistent! Preventing the further spread of invasive species on Tug Hill and other areas is a long-term commitment.

For more information on invasive species and prevention practices please visit the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management website at: WWW.SLELOINVASIVES.ORG.



The Tug Hill Invasive Species Prevention Zone (ISPZ) is the purple line located northeast of the Hamlet of Redfield, NY on the Tug Hill Plateau.

TUG HILL FOREST SPECIES MOST UNWANTED

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Japanese knotweed is a herbaceous perennial plant with bamboo-like stems. It typically grows in thickets three to six feet tall, but can reach fifteen feet. It spreads via plant fragments. Even small fragments can result in a new plant.

IMPACTS
Japanese knotweed can spread rapidly, resulting in thick monoculture and diminishing an area's value to wildlife. These thickets-like stands can prevent wildlife movement and limit recreational access to streams. When located along streams, it can cause soil erosion and increased siltation.

WHAT WE CAN DO
Mechanical controls such as cutting and pulling can be effective over the long term where herbicides cannot be used. Each small plant fragment must be collected and properly disposed of. In areas where there are large populations of Japanese knotweed, combinations of cutting and approved chemicals are required.



Photo: Ansel Gato

BLACK AND PALE SWALLOW-WORT

Black and pale swallow-worts are also known as "dog strangling vines." These perennial, twining vines can grow from two to six feet in length. They establish quickly and can completely smother native vegetation.

IMPACTS
Swallow-wort vines aggressively choke out desirable species in Christmas tree plantations, as well as perennial crops, pastures, roadsides, disturbed and natural areas. Swallow-worts offer no food value for wildlife and interfere with forest regeneration. They are toxic to livestock, deer, and other grazers.

Because Swallow-wort is in the milkweed family, Monarch butterflies will use Swallow-worts to lay their eggs, but the plant is toxic to its larvae.

WHAT WE CAN DO
Early identification of new populations allows easy control and removal. Small plants may be dug out by the full root system. Mowing or cutting — as well as pod removal before seeding — can prevent dispersal (early July). Approved herbicides should be applied when the plants begin to flower.



Photo: Todd Inoué

GIANT HOGWEED

Giant hogweed is a tall (up to 15 to 20 feet) herbaceous, biennial plant, often found in open fields and roadsides, and along streams in natural areas.

IMPACTS
Direct skin contact with Giant hogweed can lead to severe skin burns that are slow to heal and result in permanent scarring. Toxic in the plant's clear, watery sap react with sunlight to cause the painful blisters. It may also cause blindness upon contact with the eyes. Giant hogweed suppresses growth of native plants. **DO NOT** touch this plant.

WHAT WE CAN DO
The plant can be dug out by its roots. Repeated mowing may weaken the plant if done persistently enough to starve the roots. Flower heads should be carefully removed to prevent seeds from spreading.

Approved chemical treatments have been effective, especially when applied to young plants.



Photo: Invasive Woods Agency

EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)

Emerald ash borer (EAB) was first discovered in the U.S. in 2002 in southeastern Michigan and in Ontario. This Asian beetle infests and kills North American ash species. All native ash trees are susceptible.

Adult beetles are roughly 3/8 to 5/8 inches long, with metallic green wings and a coppery red or purple abdomen. They leave distinctive D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark of tree branches and trunk. Signs of infestation include tree canopy dieback, yellowing and browning of leaves, and woodpecker activity.

IMPACTS
The Emerald ash borer is responsible for the destruction of over 70 million ash trees in the U.S. since its discovery. Most ash trees die within 2 to 4 years of becoming infested.

WHAT WE CAN DO
If you have ash trees, be informed about EAB removal, regulations such as firewood transport limits, and quarantines. Uninformed actions can cause the unnecessary loss of treasured shade trees or loss of substantial woodlot income.



Photo: David Cooper

like the one pictured here, and another for aquatic sites, will be installed at the appropriate sites. Funded by a SLELO project grant, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and the Tug Hill Commission partnered with CCE of Jefferson County, NYS DEC, and NY Sea Grant to identify locations and develop the content. Additionally, town highway superintendents in core Tug Hill towns will be asked if they would be interested in installing smaller metal road signs around the perimeter of the ISPZ.

Contact us at:

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Commission**
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Tree Care Professional and Contractor Emerald Ash Borer Education

On Friday, March 7 from 9am – 3pm, the Onondaga County Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Task Force and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County will host an educational day focused on emerald ash borer and ash tree management at the Martha Eddy Room at the NYS Fairgrounds. This event is targeted for tree care professionals, contractors and any municipality or organization considering hiring a tree care professional to manage ash trees infested with EAB. An emphasis will be placed on compliance, hazard tree management and safety, agency coordination and communication, labor laws, and pesticides. Session topics and speakers are as follows:

Session 1: *What You Need to Know to About Quarantine, Compliance, and Regulations to Manage and Move Wood* – William Ellsworth & Dorothea Duell, NYS Agriculture & Markets and the NYS DEC.

Session 2: *Tree Removal Safety* – Brian Skinner and Jim Maloney of National Grid.

Lunch: *The Indiana Bat & Northern Long-eared Bat* – Robyn Niver, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Session 3: *Communicating and Coordinating with the NYS DOT and NYS DOL* – Tim Baker, NYS Department of Transportation and Brian Steen, NYS Department of Labor.

Session 4: *Emerald Ash Borer Pesticide Treatment Options and Regulations* – Jessi Lyons, CCE Onondaga and Don Nelson, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

\$10 per person registration includes lunch. Registration and prepayment is required before **March 4, 2014**.

For more information and to register, please visit www.extendonondaga.org.

FDNY & Super Bowl XLVII GIS Training (Video)

On February 26th, 2014, a training session on how the Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) developed and utilized geospatial capabilities during the most recent Super Bowl was held. This training session was led by Captain Steven Pollackov.

The week leading up to Super Bowl XLVIII brought dozens of venues and hundreds of scheduled events/activities to the New York City area, transforming Midtown Manhattan into Super Bowl Blvd for millions of attendees. The FDNY Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Unit worked with PenBay Solutions to create a new Event Web/Mobile Map Management Solution to visualize the events, locate special event resources and provide necessary information to FDNY resources.

These events/activities provided challenges for the FDNY, some of which were discussed in the training session. In addition, the FDNY had to coordinate with various Local, State, Bi-State (New York/New Jersey) and Federal agencies for planning purposes. To aid other agencies, the FDNY GIS Unit was able to share the Event Web/Mobile Map Management Solution with these agencies - providing further evidence of the collaborative capabilities of GIS.

Here is the video link to this training session: <http://napsgfoundation.org/resources/>