

JULY 29, 2016

## Constable Hall Annual Buffet and Concert August 4<sup>th</sup>

Constable Hall will hold their annual Candlelight Buffet and Concert on Thursday, August 4. The Hall will be open for tours at 5pm with the buffet served at 5:30 pm and the concert at 6:3 pm. This year's concert will be performed by the Clef Dwellers based in Whiteboro. Tickets are \$25 per person and include both the buffet and concert. Please call Constable Hall at 397-2323 to reserve tickets.



During the Aug 4th event there will also be a display of the "Venerable Folks of the Tug Hill" portraits by Loretta Lepkowski, artist from Glenfield. This is a collaborative project with the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, the Tug Hill Commission and the Traditional Arts of Upstate NY (TAUNY) that is a traveling exhibit that features some of resourceful people of the Tug Hill Region. This is a work in progress that will culminate in a multi-media exhibit in the fall. It is an effort to recognize salt-of-the-earth Tug Hill people, including many Tug Hill Sage, with the goal of capturing the rich lives and stories of people of the Tug Hill.

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## Emerald Ash Borer Workshop August 17<sup>th</sup>



Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been confirmed for the first time in Oneida County by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service. **An informational meeting for forest owners will be held on August 17th from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Town of Lee Municipal Building (5808 Stokes Lee Center Road, Lee Center, NY 13363). Officials from DEC will be on hand to present information on EAB and to answer questions.** For additional information on the meeting or to RSVP, please contact Jennifer Harvill, (315) 785-2380 or [jennifer@tughill.org](mailto:jennifer@tughill.org).

The EAB is a small but destructive beetle that infests and kills North American ash tree species, including green, white and black ash. Damage from EAB is caused by the larvae, which feed just below the ash tree's bark. The tunnels they create disrupt water and nutrient transport, causing branches, and eventually the entire tree, to die. Adult beetles leave distinctive D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark of the branches and the trunk. Other signs of infestation include tree canopy dieback, splits in the bark, and extensive sprouting from the roots and trunk. Infested trees may also exhibit woodpecker damage from larvae extraction.

Forest landowners can request a DEC Forester visit their woodlot and develop a free Forest Stewardship Plan. This plan would address the landowner's objectives and discuss how the arrival (or proximity) of EAB could impact the owner's forest resources. Forest owners can schedule a site visit by contacting their local DEC Forestry office. To learn more about EAB, as well as efforts to reduce its negative impact and save trees, visit DEC's website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html>.

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# DEC to Host Public Information Session on Habitat Management Plan for Tug Hill Wildlife Management

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will host a public information session to answer questions from the public and provide information on a recently finalized Habitat Management Plan for Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area (WMA) located in DEC Region 6, Town of Montague, Lewis County. Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area is 5,110 acres and a popular location for hunting, trapping and fishing. "Hunters and trappers seeking wilderness like experiences have made Tug Hill WMA a popular destination. In fact, trappers come from all over the state to pursue otter, fisher and bobcat," said Judy Drabicki, Region 6 Director.

## Habitat Management Plan Goals:

Manage approximately 76% as intermediate/mature forest to provide habitat for mammals, forest birds/raptors, and wilderness experiences.

Maintain approximately 14% as wetlands for breeding and migratory stopover habitat for waterfowl and for furbearers.

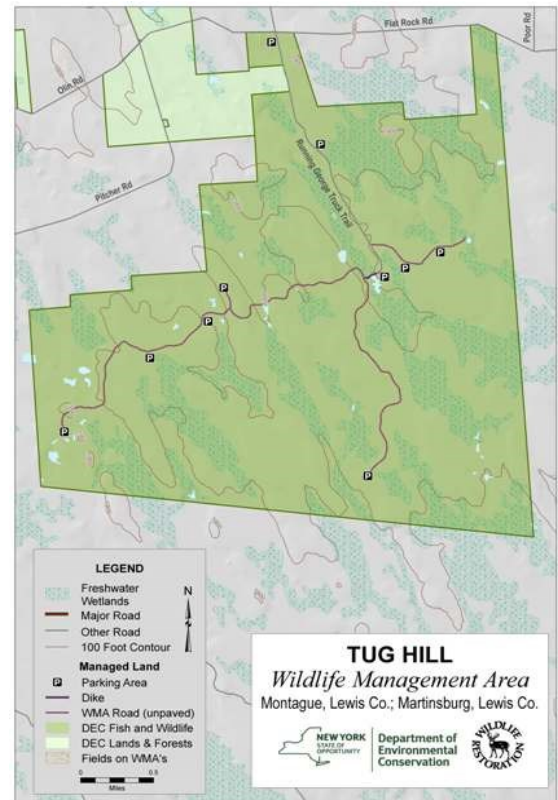
Manage approximately 9% of the WMA as young forest (10% of forested area) to promote American woodcock, ruffed grouse, and snowshoe hare.

Manage approximately 1% as open forest habitat.

DEC will host a public information session **on August 9, 2016 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm** at the following location:

Lowville Sub-Office  
DEC Training Room  
7327 State Route 812  
Lowville, NY 13367-3623  
(315) 376-3521

Visit DEC's website to learn more about WMA's and to see the [HMP for Tug Hill WMA](#).



## New York State Comptroller Announces 2017 Town Tax Levy Cap

With the 2017 town budget season nearly upon us, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli has announced that the tax levy limit for towns for 2017 will be 0.68 percent, a decrease over the 2016 number of 0.73 percent. The state tax levy cap is established at either two percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. The 0.68 percent number applies to local governments operating on a calendar-based fiscal year. This number is lower than last year, but higher than the 0.12 percent number applied to school districts for the 2016 – 17 fiscal year.

The complete guide to tax levy growth factors from 2013 through 2017 can be found at: [www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/pdf/inflation\\_allowablegrowthfactors.pdf](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/pdf/inflation_allowablegrowthfactors.pdf)

More information on the state real property tax cap can be found on the Comptroller's web site at: [www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/)

# BRIDGE NY Funding Applications Due September 9

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is soliciting candidate projects for funding under the new BRIDGE NY program. The BRIDGE NY program provides enhanced assistance for local governments to rehabilitate and replace bridges and culverts. Particular emphasis will be provided for projects that address poor structural conditions; mitigate weight restrictions or detours; facilitate economic development or increase competitiveness; and/or reduce the risk of flooding.

Eligible applicants are any city, county, town, village or other political subdivision authorized to receive and administer State and federal transportation funding. Bridge projects must be on a public roadway; eligible for federal aid; and shall follow the federal aid process. Culvert projects must be on a public highway and shall follow the State-aid process.

NYSDOT is soliciting projects for the first two years of the new BRIDGE NY program (State Fiscal Years 2016-17 and 2017-18). A total of \$200 million - \$100 million in each fiscal year - in enhanced funding under BRIDGE NY will be awarded. Project sponsors will be required to submit a one-page summary for candidate bridge and culvert projects detailing the scope, schedule and costs of the proposal. NYSDOT is committed to working with municipal sponsors to expedite this award process to ensure that the benefits of this investment accrue to the public as soon as possible.

- For bridge projects, the maximum project award is \$5.0 million for any single project and may include design/engineering, right-of-way, construction and construction inspection costs. Any costs beyond an authorized project award shall be the sole responsibility of the project sponsor. NYSDOT will provide up to 95 percent of the project costs, not to exceed \$5.0 million.
- For culvert projects, project awards will be between \$100,000 and \$1.0 million for any single project and may include design/engineering, right-of-way, construction and construction inspection costs. In addition to rehabilitation and replacement, culvert relining projects may also be eligible. Any costs beyond an authorized project award shall be the sole responsibility of the project sponsor. NYSDOT will provide 100 percent of the project costs, not to exceed \$1.0 million.

Projects selected for funding under the BRIDGE NY Initiative will be evaluated based on the resiliency of the structure, including such factors as hydraulic vulnerability and structural resiliency; the significance and importance of the bridge including traffic volumes, detour considerations, number and types of businesses served and impacts on commerce; and the current bridge and culvert structural conditions.

More details, including submission documents and regional contact information, is available at <https://www.dot.ny.gov/bridgeny>.

## Municipal Tree Care Webinar September 29

Dr. Rich Hauer will present a webinar on "Municipal Tree Care and Management in the U.S.: A 2014 Urban and Community Forestry Census of Tree Activities" on September 29 from 1 pm to 2 pm. This is the fifth report in over 40 years that addresses the many approaches communities take to manage public trees, and is the first update of the report in over 20 years. It compiles data from over 650 communities across the country.

To register for the webinar, go to: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7834988294095750148>

# Tug Hill Tomorrow Paddle Field Trip August 20

Cool off outside and paddle with Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (THTLT) to explore the West Branch of Fish Creek on **Saturday, August 20** from **10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

The trip will be led by THTLT board member Janet Thompson, and will include a 2-3 mile novice kayak trip along the West Branch of Fish Creek to Gifford Lake, a lunch break, and return paddle to the beginning. Attendees will need to bring their own boat, life vest, sunscreen, water and lunch.



Plan to meet at the DEC public fishing parking area in Westdale rain or shine. The put in location is located in a tiny hamlet about 5 miles northwest of Camden on route 13 and about 5 miles southeast of Williamstown. When you reach Westdale, turn north onto Cemetery Road and look for the DEC public fishing parking area on your right. Please RSVP to Community Programs Manager, Lianna Lee at [tughilloutreach@nnyemail.com](mailto:tughilloutreach@nnyemail.com) or call 315-779-8240.

## Contact Us

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If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or call 1-888-785-2380.

Electronic versions appear in full color!

# NY Conference of Mayors Fall Training School for City & Village Officials

September 12-16, 2016 • Hilton, Saratoga Springs

Go to NYCOM website at [www.nycom.org/meetings-training/conferences.html](http://www.nycom.org/meetings-training/conferences.html) to register. NYCOM and the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) collaborate each year to create an exciting program designed primarily for clerks, finance officers, managers, administrators, attorneys, mayors, trustees and council members with more than 60 separate sessions on various aspects of municipal law, government operations, local finance and professional development. The Fall Training School also hosts the annual business meetings for the NYS Association of City and Village Clerks and the NYS Society of Municipal Finance Officers.

Certifications available: CPE, RMC, CMFO, CLE