



**September 11, 2015**

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# 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.

## **Former Harden Properties in Redfield and Williamstown Acquired by DEC**

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has acquired 435 acres in Oswego County from The Conservation Fund with a goal of increasing recreation opportunities for the public and helping protect wetlands and wildlife habitat, while providing the state with revenue through responsible timber management. The parcels were formerly owned by Harden Furniture Company out of McConnellsburg.

DEC acquired a 337 acre parcel in the town of Redfield for \$304,000 that will be added to O'Hara State Forest. In addition, DEC acquired 98 acres in the town of Williamstown for \$73,350 that will be added to Kasoag State Forest. The parcel in Redfield was known as the Sage Tract and the parcel in Williamstown was known as the Cotton-Hanlon Tract. DEC purchased both parcels of land using funds from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

The Conservation Fund, headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, focuses on conservation and community, with the belief that environmental protection and economic vitality are inseparable. Working cooperatively with DEC, the Tug Hill Commission, and with communication to the towns of Redfield and Williamstown, the Conservation Fund facilitated the acquisition of these lands that had been purchased by Marcy Timberlands, LLC from Harden.

These lands, for which the State will continue to pay town and school taxes in both communities, as well as county taxes in Redfield, will be administered and operated by DEC through the unit management plans for O'Hara and Kasoag State Forests. O'Hara State Forest is part of the Upper Salmon River Unit Management Plan which was finalized last year, and Kasoag State Forest will be part of the Fish Creek Unit Management Plan which is currently being drafted and is expected to be released for public review and comment this winter. Additional information on O'Hara State Forest and Kasoag State Forest is available on DEC's website at [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/63323.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/63323.html) and [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/63170.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/63170.html).

## **Salmon River Fish Hatchery Open House September 26**

The 20th NYSDEC Salmon River Fish Hatchery open house will be held on September 26 at 2133 County Route 22, Altmar from 9 am to 4 pm rain or shine. The day will include fishing and hunting demonstrations; environmental education programs and displays; fly-tying, fly-casting, and stream ecology for kids; and a fish petting zoo. Admission is free. Tours of the hatchery will take place every 30 minutes starting at 10:30 am. Guests can also visit the nearby Salmon River Falls, a DEC Unique Area located 4 miles from the Hatchery on Route 22. The 110 foot waterfall offers trails and viewing areas with spectacular scenery. For more information call 315-298-7605.

## **Willow Biomass Planting Acres Needed**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency is investing funds to encourage the growth of shrub willow as a renewable energy source in Central and Northern New York. Critical to the project is a collaboration between ReEnergy and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) in Syracuse. USDA, ESF and ReEnergy are conducting an outreach program to educate local government officials, agricultural leaders, farmers and landowners about the opportunity to grow willow and providing other support to growers. The willow biomass crops can be grown on underutilized, marginal or otherwise available farmland and used as fuel for biomass-to-energy facilities that are operated by ReEnergy Holdings.

The funds will be made available from the USDA's Farm Service Agency, which helps renewable energy companies and farmers manage the risk of developing new crops like willow for power, heat and fuel. The USDA's Farm Service Agency will provide up to 50 percent reimbursement of willow establishment costs, annual rental payments, and a biomass purchasing contract with ReEnergy for the program term of 11 years. The sign-up deadline is September 25, 2015. If interested, contact: Virginia Green (315) 477-6354 - [virginia.green@ny.usda.gov](mailto:virginia.green@ny.usda.gov); Justin Heavey (315) 470-6775 - [jpheavey@syr.edu](mailto:jpheavey@syr.edu).

To assist landowners with more information on willow and the opportunities of the BCAP program, SUNY-ESF, ReEnergy, and USDA FSA will be hosting events in the project region. Events will provide an overview of willow biomass crops, the logistics and economics of production, contracting with ReEnergy to sell the willow biomass for renewable biopower, and enrolling acreage in the program through your local USDA FSA office. Meetings will be held at indoor locations with slideshow presentations and Q&A sessions, and at willow production sites for interactive discussions in the field. Events will be held at various locations in Jefferson, Lewis and Oneida Counties on **September 14th**. Please join us for one more of these events! SUNY-ESF can also provide one-on-one consultations with interested landowners.

**12:00 - 1:30 pm** Boonville Municipal Building Conference Room, 13149 NYS Route 12, Boonville, NY 13309

**2:00 - 3:00 pm** Willow Field Location #3

Approximate street address: 7393 E. Ava Rd Boonville, NY 13309 (then follow signs for bioenergy event)

**5:00 - 6:00 pm** Willow Field Location #4 (northeast corner of Bellville Henderson Central School lot)

**6:30 - 8:00 pm** Approximate street address: 7943-8773 NYS Route 289, Adams, NY 13605

USDA Farm Service Agency, 21168 NY-232 Watertown, NY 13601

Contacts: Justin Heavey (315) 399-8879 [jpheavey@syr.edu](mailto:jpheavey@syr.edu) or Tim Volk (315) 247-3967 [tavolk@esf.edu](mailto:tavolk@esf.edu) .

## **NOCCOG Salary Survey Released**

The bi-annual salary survey conducted by the Northern Oneida County Council of Government has been completed for 2015 and provided to participating municipalities just in time for budget workshops.

Town and village clerks make the survey possible by providing budget data including salaries for numerous appointed and elected officials and employees; including supervisors and board members, clerks, planning board and ZBA members, as well as Highway employees. Although NOCCOG communities vary greatly in population and geographic character, the survey is helpful in providing boards a snapshot of salaries in neighboring municipalities during the budget process. The survey does not account for variables such as longevity and experience, but does provide a basis for discussion.

## **Tug Hill Commission to Meet in Amboy**

**Monday, September 21, 4:00-5:30 pm**  
Amboy Town Hall, 822 NYS Route 69, Amboy

# TOWN BOARD BUDGET PROCESS



**Presented by:**  
**Laird Petrie, Assoc. Examiner**  
**The Office of the State Comptroller**  
**Syracuse Regional Office**

Date	Location	Time	Please Register By:
Monday September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Boonville Town & Village Offices 13149 State Route 12	7:00 p.m.	September 17 <sup>th</sup>
Thursday September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Adams Shared Municipal Office Building 3 South Main Street	7:00 p.m.	September 22 <sup>nd</sup>

**Sponsored by:**

**NYS Tug Hill Commission, Cooperative Tug Hill Council, Northern Oneida County Council of Governments, River Area Council of Governments, North Shore Council of Governments and Salmon River Council of Governments**

This training program is designed to assist town officials in preparing their annual budgets. Topics to be covered include:

- An overview of the budgetary responsibilities of town officials
- How to develop a structurally balanced budget
- Key elements of the annual budget
- Tools available for assisting town officials in the budget process
- Monitoring and amending the annual budget
- Question and answer period

**To Register for this Training Program – Contact:**

**Tug Hill Commission**  
1-888-785-2380 or [tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org)

**THERE IS NO FEE FOR THIS TRAINING PROGRAM**

Contact us at:

**NYS Tug Hill  
Commission**

317 Washington St.  
Watertown, NY 13601

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

Phone: 315-785-2380  
Toll Free within the  
region:  
1-888-785-2380

Email:  
[tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org)  
Website:  
[www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)

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or call  
**1-888-785-2380.**  
Electronic versions  
appear in full color!

## 2015 NYGeoCon

The 2015 NYGeoCon will be held at the Albany Hilton on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> through Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The conference will include the following.

- Esri on “location-enabling an increasing mobile workforce”
- Python and JavaScript programming concepts for GIS
- The latest on hot topics such as open source, open data, and UAV’s
- “State of the State” – learn the direction GIS professionals are taking
- Thought Provoking Keynote – **Mike Byrne** – nationally known as the former GIO of CA; GIO of FCC, where he created the widely successful National Broadband Map and currently the project director in the Technology and Innovation Division at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- Awards for GIS professionals from around the state
- **Dan Nainan** will provide instruction on public speaking. Dan is a former senior engineer with Intel turned comedian whose clients include: Pfizer, Sony, Time Warner, Sodexho, Royal Caribbean, Intel, FBI, EBay, and Cisco. (All workshop attendees will also receive a copy of Dan’s latest book.)

The 2015 NYGeoCon is the only statewide GIS conference in New York this year. It continues to grow in attendance. The last NYGeoCon sold out. Over 375 professionals are expected to attend. To register for the event: [www.nysgis.net/nygeocon2015/registration/](http://www.nysgis.net/nygeocon2015/registration/).

For conference details, visit our website at: [www.nysgis.net/nygeocon2015/](http://www.nysgis.net/nygeocon2015/).

## FREE Webinar Training Opportunities

One hour training opportunities are available from CNY State Archives. Visit the new workshop schedule and registration webpage at: [www.archives.nysesd.gov/workshops/schedule](http://www.archives.nysesd.gov/workshops/schedule). You will find a list of webinars and workshops arranged by date of presentation. The new registration process is much improved.

## Clean Up Continues at Crown Cleaners

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Wilna received court approval through the eminent domain process to assume possession of private property on a segment of the Crown Cleaners of Watertown, Inc. Superfund site. Now it is up to the town to contact the appropriate utility companies to safely disconnect service from the 40-year old trailer before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can complete efforts to cleanup & remediate soil and ground water contaminates from the site.

According to EPA on-site project manager, Jeff Bechtel, “We found no surprises in the basements. The contaminated soil will be removed and on-site rock will be crushed for use as backfill.” Contingent upon the good weather holding, EPA expects to complete cleanup efforts in the spring of 2016.

The town assumed ownership of the 9 + acre site in June 2012 to guide development of the site as a waterfront park. Located along State Route 3, Black River & Olympic Scenic Trails and Blueway Trail Corridor, the town is working with EPA, DEC, attorneys, Tug Hill Commission and legislative representatives to implement recommendations outlined in the 2012 site cleanup plan.