

April 8, 2011

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.

THANK YOU!

As Chairman of the Tug Hill Commission, I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the elected and appointed officials and hundreds of business leaders and residents who expressed their support for the Tug Hill region and Tug Hill Commission in the recent 2011-12 New York State budget process. If it was not for the incredible outpouring of support and leadership of many individuals the outcome would have been very different for the region and the Commission.

Right from February 1 our State Legislative leaders were on top of the situation, starting with a letter initiated by State Senator Patty Ritchie and signed by all the Tug Hill Senate and Assembly members calling for fair and equitable treatment of the Commission, and ending with very last minute negotiations from key representatives. The region's local officials responded resoundingly with letters and resolutions from all four county legislative bodies (Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and Oswego); resolutions from all five of the region's Councils of Governments (Cooperative Tug Hill Council, River Area, Salmon River, North Shore and Northern Oneida County Councils of Governments); 58 town and village board resolutions; and over 100 letters to the Governor and State Legislators signed by more than 300 individuals.

State Senators Ritchie and Joe Griffo worked with their conferences and leaders and restored funding for the Commission at 10% less than last year and had the restorations included in the Senate Budget Resolution. Assembly Member RoAnn Destito sponsored local hearings with Assembly Member and Ways and Means Chairman Dennis Farrell in Rome where Commissioner Bogdanowicz and Bob Keller of Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust were able to testify on budget matters. Following that our entire delegation in the Assembly worked with their leaders in preparation for the Joint Budget Conference Committees. Assembly Member Destito, together with Assembly Members Will Barclay, Ken Blankenbush, and Claudia Tenney worked with us in preparing for the Budget Conference Committee on General Government and Local Assistance. Our Senators did the same with their representatives on the Budget Conference Committees.

We also had tremendous support from outside the region legislators, including Assembly Members Addie Russell and William Magnarelli and State Senator Hugh Farley to ensure that our message was heard in the conference committee.

Through this budget process we were able to succeed in convincing the leaders of both the Senate and Assembly and Governor Andrew Cuomo that the right thing to do was to treat the Commission fairly and the same as other independent agencies, commissions and authorities and cut our budget 10% and subject us to the review of the State Agency and Government Efficiency (SAGE) Commission. At the end of the day the right thing prevailed, and we are grateful to our communities, Councils of Governments, legislative leaders and the Governor for all their efforts.

Along the way, we always felt that if the Tug Hill region and Commission was treated fairly and equitably that both would be able to prove their worth. On behalf of my fellow Tug Hill Commission members, staff and the residents and individuals of the Tug Hill region, we want to thank you for this fair treatment and opportunity. We continue to believe that through deliberative and transparent review that the Tug Hill region and Commission will remain a valued region and asset of New York State.

Sincerely
Michael G. Yerdon, Sr., Chairman

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

**Assisting communities
and citizens for over
38 years.**

22nd Annual Local Government Conference

The 22nd Annual Local Government Conference on March 31, 2011 was attended by over 600 people from the Tug Hill Region and all over the state. Hosted again at Jefferson Community College, participants were able to hear talks about zoning, street tree planting, roadway drainage, invasive species and a host of other topics. This year's keynote speaker was Jay Rifenybar, president of Rifenybar Training and Development. His talk, "No Excuse! An Ethical Approach Toward Public Service," was enthusiastically received with frequent applause and laughter, as Mr. Rifenybar talked about the importance of establishing a foundation of core values that appropriately reflects the nature of public service. He frequently talked about his own experiences as an Army Airborne Ranger and as a father and husband. The Commission wishes to thank the sponsors and exhibitors, the Savory Café for their amazing lunch and refreshments, Mr. Rifenybar, Jefferson Community College and the staff assigned to assist with the conference, the Commissioners, Circuit Riders and Staff of the Tug Hill Commission. We are looking forward to another LGC next year, so watch for "save the date" announcements in the near future for the 2012 Local Government Conference!



Lyons Falls Visioning Workshop - April 13th

The Village of Lyons Falls has scheduled a public visioning workshop for Wednesday, April 13th, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Forest Presbyterian Church on Center Street. All property owners, business owners and interested residents are encouraged to attend.

The Village, working with Lewis County, secured \$148,637 in Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) grant funding from the Department of State. As part of their BOA project, the Village has hired Elan Planning, Design & Landscape Ar-

chitecture (Saratoga Springs) to conduct a redevelopment study of some of the Village's underused properties. Properties included in the study are the old paper mill, the school building, and the old Agway. This will be the first of three public workshops during the project, which is expected to be completed in spring 2012.

If you have questions about the project, or for more information, contact the Village at (315) 348-5081 or visit the project website at www.lyonsfallsboa.wordpress.com.

The Village of Lyons Falls has received a grant through the Brownfield Opportunity Area Program (BOA) to prepare a Nomination Study. The purpose of the Study is to examine the reuse of underutilized and vacant properties within the Village.

Forestport Plans River Park Improvements

The Town of Forestport plans to enhance public river access by improving boat launch sites at two locations on the Black River and Forestport Reservoir. The first site is off Woodhull Road in the hamlet. This location will become a universally accessible boat launch and fishing area and further develop an existing parking area. The second site, which is off River Street, will enhance a launch site for roof top boat access and improve a fishing and picnic area.

A grant was received under the Black River Blueway Trail program to help fund the design work related to both

(Continued on page 6)

The Staff, Circuit Riders and Commissioners would like to extend a sincere and heart-felt congratulations to Paulette Collins on her recent retirement from the Commission. It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to Paulette after 30 years of exemplary service to the people of the Tug Hill Region.



Commission Staff will especially miss Paulette's easy-going sense of humor, her dedication to the job and her knowledge, which could have only been gained through so many years on the job. Fittingly, Paulette's last day was her busiest on the day of our Local Government Conference. Good luck to Paulette and her husband, Ron, as they embark on the next chapter in their lives.

The Staff, Circuit Riders and Commissioners would also like to wish a warm congratulations and best wishes to Emily McKenna on her recent appointment

as Senior Economic Development Specialist with Camoin Associates in Malta, NY. Emily has been with the Commission for five years as a Community Development Specialist. Emily's passion for her communities and her smiling personality will be sorely missed. Some of her most notable achievements include securing grant funds for the Carthage Long Falls Park Project, the JIMI project, West Carthage Boat Launch, Altmar Dissolution Study and SARA projects,



completion of the Black River Trail Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan, assisting with planning and execution of the first ever Lewis County Economic Development Conference with over 70 attendees and coordinating the Local Leaders Institute.

Emily's last day with the Commission is April 15th. Good luck to Emily, Zack and their children as they move east!

Congrats to the Graduates of the 2010-2011 Local Leaders Institute

At the March 30th Tug Hill Commission meeting, Commissioners recognized participants in the 2010-2011 Tug Hill Local Leaders Institute. The four graduates began the institute back in September. In addition to a full-day tour of the region, participants attended five, three-hour sessions over the course of the next several months. Session topics included an overview of the region's history and current issues; rural economic trends and opportunities; the region's environment and natural resources; tourism on Tug Hill; and Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Law.

The four participants in this year's institute were Beth LaGraff (Town of Wilna), Principal/Head Teacher at the Christian Heritage School in Great Bend, a docent with the Watertown Zoo and with local history groups, and a member of the Carthage Library Board; Arnold Loucks (Village of Castorland), a Trustee for the Village of Castorland, a NYS

Licensed Real Estate Associate, a member of the Lowville Rural Cemetery Association, a Member of the Karcher Country Estates governing board, and an Executive Committee member of the Lewis County Republican Committee; Donna Loucks (Village of Castorland), Clerk/Treasurer for the Village of Trenton, owner of her own real estate company, and financial secretary for the Lowville United Methodist Church; and Brenda Van Nest (Village of Lowville), an Account Executive with Benefit Specialists of NY, a member of the North Country Human Resources Association, an account representative for the United Way of Northern New York, and a volunteer with the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations to all the participants. If you are interested in participating in next year's class, please contact the Commission.

If you are receiving this publication in paper format, please consider helping us reduce our costs by opting to receive your copy electronically through your email. Please contact the Commission for assistance.

Free Invasive Insect Workshop

A free workshop on identifying and surveying for the invasive emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday April 12 at the 4-H Environmental Education Center, Amboy, Oswego County, New York.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and the Black River-St. Lawrence River Resource Conservation & Development Council are working with the state Department of Agriculture & Markets Division of Plant Industry's Northeast Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Project to hold this free workshop.

The morning session will be classroom presentations and in the afternoon, trained invasive pest surveyors will take groups outside to learn how to conduct field surveys. Lunch will be provided.

To register, call Linda Garrett at the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust at 779-8240.



Female Asian Long-horned beetle



Male Asian Long-horned beetle



Emerald Ash Borer

New ZBA Bylaws Available

Zoning boards of appeals (ZBAs) need up-to-date bylaws outlining their internal organization and procedures. With many changes to the NY statutes affecting the operations of ZBAs in past years, many local bylaws are badly out of date. The Commission has produced new model bylaws that can be used by both towns and villages. Anyone wishing copies and/or needing help with reviewing their bylaw may contact the Commission by phone or email.

SuperCOG Meeting Set for May 5th in Camden, NY

The Tug Hill Commission invites you to attend the annual "SuperCOG meeting" on Thursday May 5th at Katie and Karl's restaurant, 9501 Harden Blvd., Camden, NY. The group will gather socially at 6:00 pm with dinner to follow at 6:30 pm. The buffet dinner will include, chicken picatta, roast beef, potatoes, vegetable, dessert and coffee. Dinners for municipal official and COG representatives will be paid for by the Commission. If you bring a guest, the cost is \$15 per person. Please contact the Commission by April 28th to confirm your attendance.

Pre-Registration is Required!!

Workshop: The Benefits of Sustainable Community Planning & Design

On April 20, 2011 at Jefferson Community College from 6:30-8:30 pm, the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization, Jefferson County Department of Planning, NYS Tug Hill Commission, and The Center for Community Studies at JCC are co-sponsoring a training session-panel discussion titled *The Benefits of Sustainable Community Planning & Design*. The agenda includes a panel discussion by Jo Anne C. Gagliano RLA President of edr Companies, John Hecklau, Executive Vice President of edr Companies and Jane E. Rice, JD, AICP. This presentation will answer the following questions and more: What is sustainable community planning and design? Why is it important to my community? What tools do we need to protect our community assets? How do we get started? Ample time will be reserved for questions and answers.

RSVPs are strongly encouraged by April 18th. Please call The Center for Community Studies at (315) 786-2333 or email hbarben@sunyjefferson.edu. A satellite location for this training session will be held at the Lewis County Cooperative Extension Conference Room, 5274 Outer Stowe Street, Lowville, NY 13367. To RSVP for the Lowville Satellite location, please call 315-376-5422 or email syoung@lewiscountyny.org - again, this RSVP information is for the Lowville location only.

With spring in the air, what a great time to take a break from your office and take that short drive to a NYS Archives workshop. The Managing Electronic Records workshop will help record management officers work with one of the biggest challenges facing records and office managers today - the complexity of issues surrounding the management of electronic records. The workshop will focus on:

- How to design and manage electronic recordkeeping systems of all sizes and types
- How to differentiate electronic records from non-record electronic information
- How to file and maintain access to electronic records

- How to control the retention of electronic records
- How to develop security and other management controls over electronic records

Date: 04/13/2011
Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Location: Boonville Town Hall
13149 State Route 12
Boonville, NY 13309

You can pre-register by going to the NYS Archives web site at <http://iarchives.nysed.gov/WorkShops/workshopsDetailServlet?id=1556&cat=2>

Wind Energy and Wildlife Conference

The American Wildlife Conservation Foundation is hosting a seminar on wind energy and how it effects wildlife, 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Wednesday, April 27 at the Appley Center at White Eagle Conference Center, Hamilton, NY. Topics will include an industry overview of the distribution and numbers of wind energy facilities at state, regional and national levels, impacts of wind turbines on bats and birds, mitigation measures that can lower wildlife mortality caused by wind turbines, local windmill regulations designed to protect people, landscapes and wildlife, and alternative energy sources. There will also be time for the attendees to ask the speakers questions at the end of the morning session.

After a buffet lunch, a bus field trip will be made to the wind farm in the Town of Fenner at 2:00 pm and return to White Eagle Conference Center at 3:30 pm.

A presentation at the wind farm will be made by Russ Carey, Town Supervisor, Town of Fenner, on the town's experiences with wind turbines.

The \$25 attendance fee will include lunch. Planning and Zoning Credits: Affidavits will be available for submission to Town Boards for evaluation of training credits.

To register, email eah29@cornell.edu for your choice of either an electronic or a paper registration form. Registration forms should be received by April 22, 2011. Every attempt will be made to accommodate registrations received after April 22, but acceptance cannot be guaranteed. White Eagle Conference Center is located in Madison County on County Route 83 between Madison on Route 20 and Hamilton on Route 12B.

Introduction to Governmental Accounting

A 2½ day course designed to familiarize participants with the basic concepts of governmental accounting and give them a working knowledge of basic bookkeeping procedures is being offered 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., April 13-15 at the Town of Marcy municipal building. The course is for individuals who possess some accounting experience, but are newcomers to governmental accounting in New York. It will benefit Chief Executive Officers, Chief Fiscal Officers, Comptrollers, Treasurers, Clerks, Accounting Personnel, Board Members and Department Heads.

Some of the topics being covered include: Understanding the basic accounting concepts and the fund accounting process for governmental operations, review of the "how and why" of debits and credits and double-entry bookkeeping concepts, understanding the annual budget process and recording budgetary information and year-end

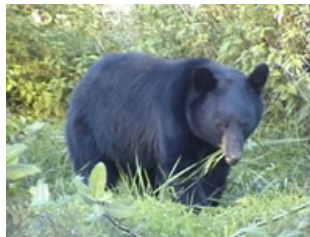
(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 2, Forestport Plans River Park Improvements)

parks. The town will request proposals from qualified consultants to assist with the project later this month. The town will then hold a public informational forum to collect ideas from the community about how best to design the sites and ascertain what amenities residents would like to see there. Design work and site improvements are expected to be completed by fall.

The Town of Forestport is the recipient of funds through the Black River Blueway Trail project as an important destination along the Blueway. Blueway Trail funding is administered by the NYS Department of State's Division of Coastal Resources Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) through Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund. For more information about the Black River Blueway Trail please visit www.blackriverny.com or contact Carla Malmgren at the Commission at 888-785-2380 or Carla@tughill.org.

2010 Bear Harvest Results



In 2010, bear hunters took more than 1,065 black bears in New York State. This number, according to the DEC, is a strong number and indicates that black bears are thriving in the state. It is similar to numbers collected in 2005-2007.

In the Adirondack bear hunting area, the take of 521 bears was down approximately 35% from 2009, but is consistent with the long-term average for that area.

A complete summary of the 2010 bear harvest with breakdown by county, town, and Wildlife Management Unit is available at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/42232.html on the DEC website. 140 black bears were taken in Jefferson, Lewis and Oneida Counties. (Interesting note: St. Lawrence county reported 97 black bears harvested in 2010.) To the right are numbers of bear harvested by Town in Tug Hill Counties. (Oswego County reported 0 black bears harvested.)

| County and Town | Number Harvested |
|------------------|------------------|
| Jefferson County | |
| Antwerp | 7 |
| Wilna | 20 |
| Oneida County | |
| Ava | 2 |
| Boonville | 2 |
| Forestport | 5 |
| Remsen | 9 |
| Trenton | 2 |
| Western | 3 |
| Lewis County | |
| Croghan | 28 |
| Denmark | 1 |
| Diana | 19 |
| Greig | 8 |
| Leyden | 1 |
| Lyonsdale | 10 |
| Martinsburg | 2 |
| New Bremen | 8 |
| Turin | 1 |
| Watson | 6 |

(Continued from page 5, Introduction to Governmental Accounting)
closing process and completing your annual financial report

Pre-registration is mandatory. Registration is still open and registration information and forms can be found at <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/training/basicreg.pdf>. There is an \$85 charges for the course which includes the cost of the training textbook.

SAVE THE DATE!!! JUNE 8, 2011 at the CROGHAN FIRE HALL

First Annual Black River Watershed Conference

Details to Follow