

## Boonville and Floyd Complete Projects

November 2, 2018

The town of Boonville recently celebrated the completion of its new salt storage facility, thanks to funding received through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Water Quality Improvement Program.

NOCCOG and Tug Hill Commission staff aided in the grant submission for a 160 foot by 72 foot salt storage facility, to provide protection for the nearby municipal water supply and Black River Canal. The town was able to utilize in-kind services of the highway department for much of the site prep, while being eligible for about \$360,000 in grant dollars for the structure and related work. The massive building, located on Route 12, will also be used by the Village of Boonville.



Boonville's dump truck inside the new salt storage facility.

While Boonville was able to complete their salt storage just in time for winter, the town of Floyd continued efforts to complete improvements at the town park including tree planting through round 13 of DEC's Urban and Community tree planting program. Along with the town's match, about \$30,000 in grant funding allowed for the purchase of 128 trees and associated supplies for its town park. The town is building a walking trail at the park in a relatively open field and it wished to plant 118 shade trees along the path to increase user safety, improve and enhance wildlife habitat and improve soil and air quality. Ten trees will be planted at areas in the already developed parts of the park.



Tree planting at Floyd's town park.

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## Save the Date!

## Two Complete Streets Workshops Planned

**December 4, 2018 – Village of West Carthage Community Room**, 61 High Street, Carthage, NY, 9:00 a.m. to Noon

**December 5, 2018 – Lowville Village Fire Hall**, 7640 NY-26, Lowville, NY, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

### Featuring



**Mark Fenton**

Engineering physical activity back into American communities and lives

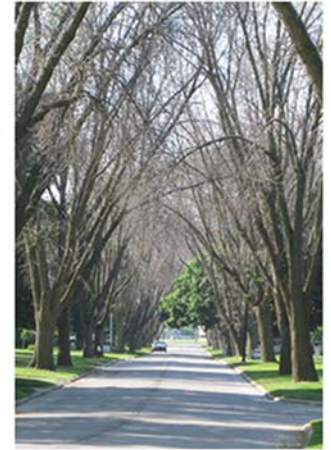
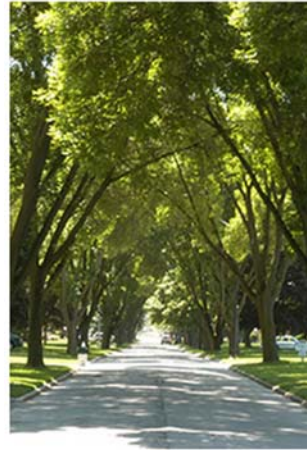
Building communities that support a healthier, more physically active population, and more sustainable and enjoyable lifestyles is the goal. The pathway there, however, is challenging. Mark Fenton is a public health, planning, and transportation consultant who will present ways to make more active and livable towns, villages, and neighborhoods. He will discuss how to build environments, policies, and programs that help create places where more people walk, bicycle, and take transit more of the time. Done well, active community designs lead to economically, environmentally, and socially thriving towns, villages and rural settings where people of all ages, abilities, and incomes lead long, vibrant lives.

**More information about these sessions will be available soon!**

# Preparing Your Community for the EAB

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is found all over New York State, including St. Lawrence, Oneida and Oswego Counties. EAB is an invasive species of wood-boring beetles that destroys all species of ash trees. According to Cornell Cooperative Extension's "New York State Emerald Ash Borer Community Preparedness Plan Development Workbook" (September 2010):

- NYS has over **900 million ash trees**, comprising 7% of all our trees in the state. **Many are located on your streets, in your parks and yards, and in your forests.** **All** of them are vulnerable to the Emerald Ash Borer.
- Once ash trees die, **they quickly rot and break apart.** Trees will have to be removed as they become public safety issues. This can be a significant expense depending on the number and size of hazardous ash trees in your community.
- Streets, parks, yards and wooded areas will be **devoid of the shade trees** they once had.
- Ash trees comprise a substantial percentage of New York's urban and rural forests, and their elimination can have a **profound effect on local economies including:**
  - The cost to treat or remove ash trees in public areas.
  - The cost to replant.
  - The devaluing of homes with ash shade trees.
  - The loss of ash trees in the wood product supply.



*Untreated ash trees in 2006 and 2009, Toledo Ohio. Photo by Daniel Herms*

It's only a matter of time before EAB spreads to every community and forest, but there are things you can do NOW to prepare and minimize potential costs and damages caused by diseased and dying trees. Do you know how many trees you have? Do you have the staff to manage what you have?

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York ReLeaf are partnering with other organizations to hold a public discussion about the EAB on **Wednesday, November 14 from 8:30 am - noon at the Adams Municipal Building** (3 South Main Street, Adams, NY). The goal of the meeting is to assist communities with preparing for the anticipated loss of ash trees. **It is free and open to everyone.** Please pre-register by emailing or calling Mike Giocondo, [michael.giocondo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:michael.giocondo@dec.ny.gov) or (315) 376-3521. **Light refreshments will be offered.**

Meeting topics will include preparing contracts for tree removal and National Grid's proactive plan, as well as a discussion on grants and other resources available to communities to reduce the impacts of EAB.

The Tug Hill Commission will meet Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Grape & Grog, 85 Taberg Street, Camden, NY 13316, to nominate officers for 2019-2020. The public is welcome to attend and there will be a public comment period at the end of the meeting. The annual dinner will be held following the meeting, with social hour at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. The cost of dinner is \$25 per person.

## Asset Management Training Week of November 12

The Jefferson County Highway Department will hold a Cartegraph training the week of November 12, exact time and date to be determined soon.

Cartegraph is an all-in-one program that allows users to track labor, equipment, pavement, and other assets like signs, water, and sewer. Jefferson County Highway will show participants how they have tracked their sign inventories. It can also be a useful tool to help in calculating yearly budget needs, based on the current condition of existing infrastructure. It contains reporting capabilities, such as a report that can be submitted to FEMA for reimbursement of expenses.



If interested, please contact Mickey Dietrich at the Tug Hill Commission, (315)785-2380 or [mickey@tughill.org](mailto:mickey@tughill.org).

# New NYS Sexual Harassment Policy and Training Requirements

New York State's sexual harassment laws were updated earlier this year, and now require ALL employers in NYS to adopt a sexual harassment policy, and requires all employees to undergo annual training on the adopted policy.

The required sexual harassment policy must meet or exceed minimum standards put forth in the law. NYS has offered guidance documents for creating these new policies, and a model policy can be found online at <https://www.ny.gov/combatting-sexual-harassment-workplace/employers>. The website also includes a complaint form and a toolkit for employers with an overview of the steps necessary to complete the process. These sexual harassment prevention policies should have been adopted by 10/8/18.

The training component of the new requirements is that all employees need to undergo annual training on the adopted sexual harassment prevention policy. There are additional training requirements for those in supervisory positions. This training must be interactive so that questions can be asked and include examples of unlawful conduct, remedies available and employees rights of redress and forums for adjudicating complaints. Models for training are available at the above website in pdf and Word format, as well as the NYS-approved training in pdf, Powerpoint and video formats if you have adopted the State's model policy. Training may begin starting 10/9/18, be completed by 10/9/19 for all employees, and completed annually thereafter.

## NYS Departments of Agriculture and Markets and Environmental Conservation Hold First Forestry Summit

On Thursday, October 25, members of the Wood Products Development Council, academia, local government and the industry met with state officials in Binghamton to identify growth challenges and explore new opportunities for New York's forest and wood products businesses. During the summit, several initiatives were announced to help strengthen the sector, including funding to support the growth of the maple industry, increased promotion and marketing efforts, and expanded research on key issues.

With 18.9 million acres of forested land, New York's wood products businesses account for a statewide economic impact of nearly \$23 billion. Earlier last week, the NYS Wood Products Development Council released its 2017 report <https://woodproducts.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2018/10/woodproductsannualreportprintready.pdf> detailing the industry's economic indicators. Including lumber and paper mills, wood products manufacturers and furniture makers, the forest and wood products industry supports more than 41,000 direct jobs and \$2.5 billion in direct labor income statewide. It also ranks in the top 10 in the nation in hardwood lumber production.

Actions announced at the summit that may be of particularly interest to those on Tug Hill were:

- Support the development of a local market for overstocked plantation-grown softwood timber on New York State Forest Management Lands by broadening available avenues for offering and selling standing timber on State forests.
- Double the number of active contracts with maple producers on New York State lands statewide within the next year.
- Continue to pursue a biorefinery project in the state, working closely with SUNY, the Research Foundation, and other partners.
- Convene a meeting between stakeholders to consider ways to improve the Renewable Heat NY Program's application, including the potential inclusion of wood chip fueled boilers, to support markets for byproducts from forest management and the manufacture of wood.
- Revise Forest Tax Law 480-A regulation aimed at improving the efficiency and administration of the program for consulting foresters and program participants.
- Propose the "Regenerate NY" program to assist forest landowners in addressing the extreme difficulty in growing NY's next forest partly caused by heavy deer forage pressure and competing vegetation. Propose Working Lands Easement Program for land trust organizations to administer.

The full press release with additional details is available at <https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AD/release.asp?ReleaseID=3833>.

# Black River Trash Bash Cleans Up Over 600 Pounds of Trash



In the ninth year of the Black River Trash Bash, 53 event participants (many participants attended more than one event) collected over 600 pounds of trash and recyclables from six locations along the waterways and shoreline of the Black River Watershed. The five groups across three counties were Lyons Falls Alive, the Lewis County and Jefferson County Water Quality Coordinating Committees, Jefferson Community College and the Haderondah 4H Club (Old Forge). A dozen of the participants were school-

aged kids and seven were college students.

The groups picked up a combined 24 used diapers, over 200 plastic bags and over 650 cigarette butts (which contain plastic fibers). The Haderondah 4H Club was very concerned about the number of firework remnants they found at Arrowhead Park; they removed over 80 firework remnants from the shores of Fourth Lake. The data collected over the last month has been compiled and sent to the American Littoral Society (ALS), who collects data from all over New York State to be included in the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup (<http://www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/international-coastal-cleanup/>). Results from the international event will be published later in the year.

## Contact Us

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Electronic versions appear in full color!



Cigarette Butts	666
Food Wrappers	403
Plastic Pieces	246
Plastic Beverage Bottles	196
Rope/Fishing Line	163
Beverage Cans	154
Foam Pieces	148
Other plastic/foam packaging	140
Plastic Grocery Bags	126
Plastic Lids	104

Every year, the Ocean Conservancy releases the report referenced above of all the data compiled from all over the world, which includes our data from the Black River Trash Bash. In addition, the Ocean Conservancy compiles a top 10 list of the trash collected from all over the world. The Ocean Conservancy's top ten list from 2017 is on the left, while the Black River Trash Bash 2018 top 10 list is on the right:

There is overlap on five items: Cigarette Butts, Plastic Beverage Bottles, Food Wrappers, Plastic Grocery Bags and Plastic Lids.

This event was sponsored in part by the ALS and organized locally by the Lewis and Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Tug Hill Commission. Thank you to the Development Authority of the North Country for providing trash hauling services from Lyons Falls. Thank you also to White's Lumber for their generous donation of work gloves for event participants. Last, but certainly not least, thanks to the beach captains of the cleanup sites for their time and dedication and for organizing their groups, coordinating the data collection and for making this event so successful. If you or your community group are interested in participating in next year's event, please contact Jennifer Harvill at [jennifer@tughill.org](mailto:jennifer@tughill.org) or toll-free at (888)785-2380.