

June 7, 2019

Ninth Annual Black River Watershed Conference A Success!

The Tug Hill Commission partners annually with the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District to host the Black River Watershed Conference. Held at Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center, this year's conference was the largest yet, with over 100 speakers, participants and exhibitors registered. If you would like to see the presentations, go to <https://www.tughill.org/projects/black-river-projects/black-river-watershed-conference/>.



A few items of note:

- Keynote speaker Peter Annin discussed the Great Lakes Compact and how it has worked since adopted in 2008. More information about the compact is available here: <http://gsgp.org/>.
- John Wiley from the US Fish & Wildlife Service's presentation highlighted the fact that the Black River basin is the third-most heavily developed watershed in the U.S., related to hydroelectric dams.
- The recent work done by the Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition and Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District with the U.S. Forest Service, planting trees and raingardens, will be highlighted in an upcoming national publication.

Next year's conference will be the 10th annual. Look for a save the date later this year!

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Second Year Intern John King

We are happy to welcome back John King for a second summer interning at the commission's office in Watertown. John just graduated from Jefferson Community College and is attending SUNY Buffalo in the fall. This summer his main project is analyzing water quality data collected by JCC professors for the past 25 years, much of it sampled from Tug Hill streams. John will use his statistical and GIS skills to look for trends and graphically display the results.



The next meeting of the Tug Hill Commission will be Monday, June 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Center for Business (formerly Climax Manufacturing) 7840 State Route 26, Lowville, NY 13367. Prior to the meeting, at 9:15 a.m. the commission will be doing a brief tour of the Lewis County Education Center (JCC Extension site) 7395 East Road, Lowville, NY 13367.

The public is welcome to attend.

Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary Progresses

Based on an application submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 2017 by the state of New York, city of Oswego, and four counties (Oswego, Jefferson, Wayne and Cayuga), NOAA has opened a public comment period on the possibility of designating a national marine sanctuary in eastern Lake Ontario. The proposed 1,700-square-mile sanctuary would protect historically significant shipwrecks and related maritime heritage resources.

Public scoping meetings are being held over the next month, and public comments accepted until July 31. For more information, see <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/lake-ontario/>.

The closest public meetings to Tug Hill are:

Oswego, New York (Oswego County)

Date: June 12, 2019

Location: Lake Ontario Conference Center

Address: 26 East 1st Street, Oswego, NY

Time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

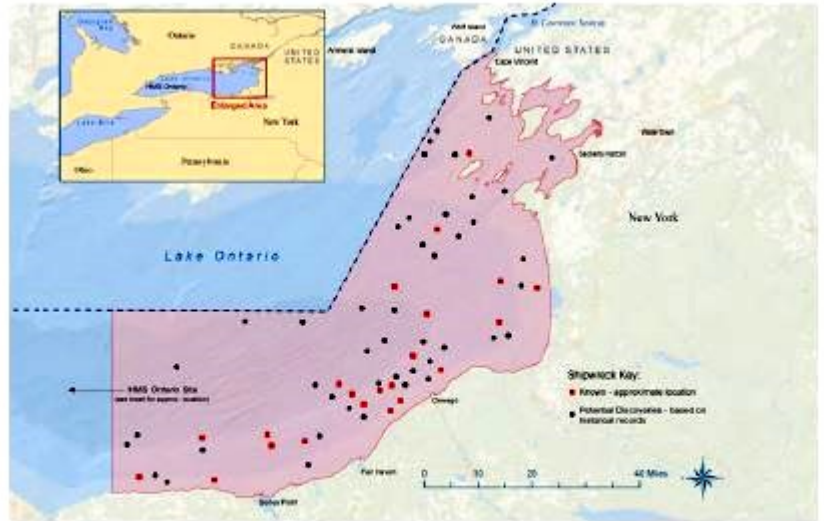
Watertown, New York (Jefferson County)

Date: June 13, 2019

Location: Jefferson Community College

Address: 1220 Coffeen Street, Jules Center, Room 6-002, Watertown, NY 13601

Time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.



This map shows the proposed national marine sanctuary boundary and approximate locations of shipwrecks.

North Country REDC Co-Chair Forums

The North Country Regional Economic Development Council is holding co-chair forums in June. The Lewis County forum will be on Thursday, June 13 from 9:30 to 10:30 am at the Rocky Fawcett Conference Room, 7840 State Route 26, Lowville. The Jefferson County forum will be on Thursday, June 13 from 1 to 2 pm at Jefferson Community College, 1220 Coffeen Street, Watertown, Room 6-002.

To RSVP, please use this link: <https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/north-country/resources>.



NOCCOG Annual Dinner

The 2019 NOCCOG Fall Annual Dinner and Business Meeting will be Thursday, September 26, at Delta Lake Inn at 6pm, with buffet dinner at 7pm and meeting to follow. More details will be released at a later date.

Webinar: Designing Solar Land Use Laws that Protect Productive Farmland

Join speakers from American Farmland Trust, Cornell CaRDI, and the St. Lawrence County Planning Department for a lunchtime webinar to learn how to design solar land use laws that permit solar development while protecting productive farmland in your community. Examples of Smart Solar Siting laws from other municipalities in New York as well as tools your municipality can use to support farm operations and keep land in farming in your community will be shared. Monday, June 17, 2019 from 12pm to 1pm. To register and ensure proper system compatibility, visit <http://smartgrowth.org/organizer/american-farmland-trust/>

Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Applications Due June 28

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is accepting applications for federally funded Volunteer Fire Assistance grants. The Volunteer Fire Assistance grant program is funded by the U.S. Forest Service and administered by DEC Forest Rangers. If awarded, fire departments will receive 50/50 matching funds up to the amount of \$1,500. Last year, the program provided \$1,500 grants to 357 fire departments. For 2019, DEC received a federal appropriation of \$541,923.

Expenses directly related to fire suppression efforts are eligible for funding, including the purchase of portable pumps, portable backpack pumps, hand tools, hoses, light-weight fireproof clothing (Nomex), hard hats, turnout gear, portable radios, generators, and dry hydrants. Expenditures not directly related to firefighting, such as search and rescue equipment, acquisition of land, construction of buildings and facilities, major apparatus purchases, and maintenance items are not eligible for funding.

Eligible fire departments include those that serve a single town with a population under 10,000; those that serve multiple communities, one of which is a rural town of less than 10,000 residents; and fire departments in towns with a population of 10,000 or more that meet the requirements listed on the application. Fire departments that receive a grant award must complete all required grant paperwork by Oct. 31, 2019.

For more information, see <https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2364.html> or contact DEC at (518) 402-8839.

Consolidated Funding Application Resources

It's grant writing time! If you are considering submitting a CFA, please check out the following website: <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/help.cfm?section=programquestions>. It includes a list of open programs, the questions associated with each program's grant application and a webinar specific to the program to which you are applying. This information, along with other valuable information is all included at <https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/cfa/process-guide>. Also, there's a list of FAQ at <https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/cfa/faqs>.

Remember, applications must be submitted electronically no later than 4:00 pm on July 26, 2019. If you need assistance, please contact us as soon as possible.

Program Questions

Below is a list of open programs. Click the program name to view the questions.

To view the webinars for the programs below please visit: <http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov/webinars>

• 2019 Climate Smart Communities Grants	Questions	Webinar(s)
• Brownfield Opportunity Areas	Questions	Webinar(s)
• Commercial & Industrial Carbon Challenge	Questions	Webinar(s)
• Council on the Arts - Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement Program (Round 9) - Mid-Size Capital Project Fund	Questions	Webinar(s)
• Council on the Arts - NY State Arts Impact Awards (Round 9)	Questions	Webinar(s)
• Council on the Arts - Workforce Fellowship Program (Round 9)	Questions	Webinar(s)
• Council on the Arts - Workforce Investment (Round 9)	Questions	Webinar(s)
• Empire State Development Grant Funds	Questions	Webinar(s)
• Engineering Planning Grant Program	Questions	Webinar(s)
• Environmental Protection Fund: Parks, Preservation and Heritage Grants	Questions	Webinar(s)

Constable Hall Awarded Strategic Planning Assistance through State Archives Documentary Heritage Program

Through strategic planning, organizations create a roadmap for effective decision making. Working with an outside facilitator, Constable Hall's board and staff members will conduct an assessment of the organization's current status—its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats—and then unify around a set of common goals. The final document will establish a common vision, an outline of strategic goals and objectives, recommendations for the effective allocation of resources, and an organizational structure that will support the work of implementation.

Documentary Heritage Program of the State of New York (DHPSNY) has worked closely with the [New York Council of Nonprofits \(NYCON\)](#) to develop a curriculum geared specifically toward assisting small-to medium-sized institutions in strategic planning in a thoughtful way. This curriculum consists of two webinars administered approximately four months apart, with assignments and a retreat occurring between the two webinars.

[Learn more about DHPSNY's Strategic Planning Assistance curriculum](#)

At the end of the process, your organization will have completed a three-year strategic plan. The resulting strategic planning document will be unique to your institution, identifying key goals to support and strengthen your organization with milestones to gauge your success along the way.

DHPSNY estimates the value of this service at \$7,000 - \$10,000 and only a handful are awarded each year.

Eligible institutions are those that are nonprofit, non-government institutions in New York State that:

- Hold [historical records](#) and/or library research materials, and
- Operate programs to preserve such records and make them publicly accessible

If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact DHPSNY. Application materials for DHPSNY's Planning & Assessment Services are accepted year-round and reviewed three times a year. **The Summer 2019 application review deadline is Friday, July 12, 2019.**

Applications are reviewed by an advisory committee of library, archives, and conservation professionals.

[Click here to learn more about DHPSNY's application review process.](#)

Tug Hill Tomorrow Upcoming Field Trips

Mark your calendars and join Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust for an upcoming field trip! For more information about each of these events, and to register, see <https://tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/events/>.

Trees and Ferns and Birds, Oh My!

June 22, 2019, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Joseph A. Blake Wildlife Sanctuary, Rutland
Community Programs Director, Lin Gibbs, will lead this family-friendly, informal guided hike in the woods, with activities designed to engage the senses and inspire discovery.

Natural Wonders Woods Walk in Stone Barn State Forest

June 29, 2019, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Stone Barn State Forest, Williamstown

Experienced birder, naturalist, and artist Robert McNamara will lead this cost-free guided walk in the woods of Stone Barn State Forest. Please note that this walk will be off-trail, with varied terrain throughout, and is best for older kids and adults.

Contact Us

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