



**April 4, 2014**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Tug Hill Commission Hold Local Government Conference
- New Workshop - Legal Aspects of Records Management - CNY State Archives
- Workshop on Workman's Compensation
- Two Local Men Selected for NYS Outdoorsman Hall of Fame
- Land Use Planning Workshop Notice - Solar Energy 101
- NOCCOG Circuit Rider Retiring
- Free Reptile & Amphibian Workshop May 1
- Don't Forget to Vote for Local Clerk

**If you're running low on snow Montague's the place to go!**



**Nearing 400" March 23  
Spring is here on the hill!**

# 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.

## **NYS Tug Hill Commission Holds 25th Annual Local Government Conference**



The Tug Hill Commission held its 25th Annual Local Government Conference on Thursday, March 27th at Jefferson Community College, Watertown. The Local Government Conference drew 586 elected and appointed local government officials from the four-county Tug Hill Region (Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and Oswego) and surrounding communities.

"In 1989 the Tug Hill Commission held its first Local Government Conference at JCC drawing 130 local officials, today this is the single largest local government event in Upstate New York," according to Executive Director John K. Bartow, Jr. The one day conference features 4 concurrent tracks encompassing 30 individual training classes aimed at meeting the needs of local officials ranging from economic development and zoning, to shared services and consolidation. Local officials include town and village board members, planning and zoning board members, clerks, highway superintendents, code enforcement officers and real property assessors.

"While each year some of the topics change, the real draw is meeting the in-service training needs of these largely volunteer elected and appointed local officials," said Bartow. The day is also an opportunity for local officials throughout the area to network with a variety of nonprofit organizations, state agencies, and vendors that provide services to municipal governments. In addition to registrations there were over 100 vendors and speakers at the conference.

We thank everyone who attended, and hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did!

# Legal Aspects of Records Management–CNY State Archives

The law has a great impact on records. It influences how we manage them, access them, secure them, and how long we keep them. This brand new course will explore how statutory laws and court decisions affect records management programs and the importance of a good records management program in protecting your organization during law suits.

This workshop will: Explain the legal requirements of a records management program; review federal and state laws that greatly impact records management; review court cases that affect records management; explain how the legal discovery process works; explain the consequences of not preserving records; provide practical steps for going forward.

The workshop objective will be to assist all participants to understand and comply with all records management laws. To this end, this workshop will be presented three times over the next three months in three different locations throughout CNY. Locations and dates are listed below, and each presentation begins at 9 a.m. and ends by noon.

If you or other members of your local government would like to attend any of these sessions, which are free to all, please follow the link below to our fabulous NYS Archives workshop registration webpage. Scroll down the page to find the workshop, date and location you desire and complete the registration process. This process must be completed for each person who wishes to attend this workshop. Additional workshops are listed on this webpage that are available throughout New York State. If you have any questions, please contact Kent Stuetz, NYS Archives, CNY Regional Office, (315)542-5909.

<http://iarchives.nysed.gov/WorkShops/workshopsServlet?owner=REG&cat=1>

Legal Aspects of Record Management Workshop, Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
Westmoreland Town Hall, Oneida County (right off NYS Thruway exit 32 near Utica)

Legal Aspects of Record Management Workshop, Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>  
Cayuga County Office Building (downtown Auburn)

Legal Aspects of Record Management Workshop, Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Lewis County Office Building (downtown Lowville)

---

## Workshop on Workman's Compensation

The workshop **“What Municipal Officials Should Know About Workman’s Compensation Insurance”** will be held Monday, April 28 at Kunsela Hall at SUNYIT, Utica 6:30- 8:30 p.m.. Sign in will start at 6:00 p.m. The presentation will be by Kenneth Goldman, Esq. from the law firm of Wolff, Goodrich & Goldman, LLP, Syracuse, NY. Mr. Goodman and his colleagues provide advice and services to insurance carriers, and employers on all matters involving employee injuries. They routinely appear at the administrative law judge hearing level in Syracuse, Oswego, Utica, Watertown, and Canton; before the Workers' Compensation Board in Syracuse; and in the Appellate Court.

**Topics to be presented:** Overview of worker’s comp  
Process for filing a claim  
Existing laws and guidelines  
NYS regulations for municipalities

The session is sponsored by the Local Government Education Committee of Oneida and Herkimer Counties. The registration fee is \$15.00. Payments should be made payable to the College Association and mailed to the Office of Continuing Professional Education, SUNYIT, 100 Seymour Road, Utica, NY 13504. Visit the [www.LGEC.org](http://www.LGEC.org) website for more information and to download a registration form.

Also there will be a second session held in May on a date to be determined with a presentation by Michael Kenneally, Executive Director of COMP Alliance, NYS’s Municipal Worker’s Compensation Alliance. This session will be providing additional information that will be helpful for municipal officials in choosing their workman’s compensation carrier.

## Two Local Outdoorsman Selected for NYS Outdoorsman Hall of Fame

Paul Miller from Vienna, one of the founders and key members of the Fish Creek Atlantic Salmon Club, and Fran Verdoliva, Salmon River Coordinator for NYSDEC, are two of the nine new members of the NYS Outdoorsman Hall of Fame. Miller has been involved with the salmon club since it was founded in 1997. The club's goal is to restore salmon to its former level of abundance in Oneida Lake and its tributaries. Miller has served as an officer in the club, participated in the construction of hatcheries at Point Rock and Mc Connellsville, organized stocking crews and directed a guest speaker program that informs the public about the restoration program. He also helped develop the Trout in the Classroom program in Camden Central School where students raised both brook trout and Atlantic salmon. He also serves on the board of the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust. He formerly served as an associate circuit rider for NOCCOG and a member of the NOCCOG Executive Board.

Verdoliva has been an advocate for ethical fishing standards and increased opportunity for salmon and steel head fishermen for decades. He has done extensive education of tens of thousands of anglers in angling techniques and respect for the fish and the fishery. He has spearheaded the annual Salmon River Fish Hatchery Open House that opens the hatchery to the public and provides even more opportunities for education and involvement.

The NYS Outdoorsman Hall of Fame is dedicated to honoring sportsmen who have made a significant achievement in outdoor related fields. The Hall of Fame will hold its induction ceremonies on April 26 at the Rusty Rail in Canastota. The banquet is open to the public. Information and reservations are available by calling 363-3896 or 829-3588 by April 19.

Congratulations to this active and dedicated conservationist.

## Land Use Planning Workshop Notice Solar Energy 101

WEDNESDAY, April 23, 2014, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Jules Center Amphitheater, Room 6-002

Jefferson Community College, 1220 Coffeen Street, Watertown, NY

Solar energy is a growing form of alternative energy. Even in the northeastern United States, where sunlight is variable, solar energy can make a significant contribution to meeting demand for electricity and hot water.

Jefferson Community College, the Jefferson County Department of Planning and the Tug Hill Commission are co-sponsoring an overview on solar energy systems. This training session will include three representatives of the solar industry and a moderated discussion. The moderator will be Steve Porter, who is the Energy Program Director for Community College.

As sustainable energy becomes an increasingly important priority within communities, solar panels that create electricity from sunlight are being placed on residential roof-tops, accessory buildings, and installed as free-standing, ground-mounted structures.

This session is designed to provide a basic understanding of solar technologies and equipment. This can help communities facilitate renewable energy usage in a way that is reflective of community values and planning.

RSVPs are **strongly encouraged by Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**. Please call Jefferson County Planning Department at (315) 785-3144 or email [planning@co.jefferson.ny.us](mailto:planning@co.jefferson.ny.us)

If approved by your municipality, this workshop can provide two hours of training to meet the NYS Municipal Training requirement.

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  
Website:  
www.tughill.org

**Assisting Communities  
and citizens for  
over 40 years.**

Please help us  
reduce our costs  
and let us send you  
this newsletter  
electronically. Send  
an email request to  
gwen@tughill.org  
or call  
1-888-785-2380.  
Electronic versions  
appear in full color!

## NOCCOG Circuit Retiring

Gerry Ritter has announced that she will be retiring from the Tug Hill Commission at the end of June after more than 15 years as either the full-time or part-time circuit rider for NOCCOG. Gerry has done great work for her communities and will truly be missed. A process for hiring her replacement has begun, with advertisements for the position appearing soon in the Rome Daily Sentinel, Camden Queen Central News, Boonville Herald, Rural Star and on the NOCCOG website. Letters of interest and resumes are due to Katie Malinowski at the Tug Hill Commission by April 24.

## Free Reptile & Amphibian Workshop May 1

Anyone interested in learning more about amphibians and reptiles is encouraged to attend this free event at the Steuben Town Hall on May 1 from 6:30 to 8 pm. Attendees of the presentation will receive training in how to identify frogs and salamanders, learn about how they grow and move around in the spring. Interested volunteers may learn how to sign up to perform nighttime driving surveys on rainy spring nights to look for frogs and salamanders crossing roads as part of the Wild Paths Citizen Science Program. Presentation attendees will learn more about WildPaths and have the opportunity to sign up to help with surveys, but there is no commitment required for attending the presentation.

The event is being hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Society in partnership with the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Tug Hill Commission, and The Nature Conservancy. Together, through the Staying Connected Initiative, these groups are working to maintain and enhance ecological connectivity between the Adirondacks and the Tug Hill.

Get more information and RSVP by calling (518) 891-8872 or emailing [cpershyn@wcs.org](mailto:cpershyn@wcs.org).

## Don't Forget to Vote For Local Clerk

Local Heroes all across the United States and Canada have been sharing their stories about how they or someone they know have overcome the challenges of living with a disability. Pam Desormo has been nominated as a Local Hero because her friends think she deserves to win a custom Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle. Now she needs your vote to win!



She already has almost 5,500 votes! Go to the website at [www.mobilityawarenessmonth.com](http://www.mobilityawarenessmonth.com), login and vote for Pam. You can vote once every 24 hours. Voting is open through May 9, 2014.