

August 17, 2012

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.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- EPA Community Involvement Plans
- Forest Landowner Workshop
- Justice Court Grants
- Parish, Pilots and Potential Buyer
- 2012 Black River Trash Bash Seeks Volunteers
- NYCOM Fall Training

TO CONTACT THE TUG HILL COMMISSION:

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Budget and Tax Cap Training

The Office of the State Comptroller's (OSC) Regional Office has scheduled three Town Budget workshops in and near the Tug Hill Region:

Wednesday, September 12th 7:00- 9:00 p.m.
Pompey Town Hall
8354 U.S. Route 20
Manlius, NY 13104

Thursday, September 13th 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
St. Lawrence County Board Room
48 Court St.
Canton, NY 13617

To register for the above two sessions, please contact OSC at (315) 428-4192 or muni-syracuse@osc.state.ny.us. Registration is requested at least three days prior to the workshop.

Tuesday, September 18th 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Lewis County Cooperative Extension
5274 Outer Stowe St.
Lowville, NY 13367

To register for the **Lowville** session, please contact the Tug Hill Commission toll free at (888)-785-2380 or tughill@tughill.org. Registration is requested at least three days prior to the workshop.

Open Meetings Law Q & A

The NYS Department of State's Committee on Open Government has a web page full of questions and answers regarding Open Meetings Law. <http://www.dos.ny.gov/coog/QA-2-12.html>. When a record is scheduled to be the subject of discussion by a public body during an open meeting, the legislation requires the public body, with reasonable limitations, to make the record available to the public prior to the meeting. Optimally, the record will be made available online; if that cannot be done, the record can be made available in paper form in response to a request.

Community Involvement Plan for Herrings and Carthage

Page 2

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its contractor Ecology and Environment, Inc. are creating a Community Involvement Plan (CIP) for the sites listed on the EPA's National Priorities List in the Villages of Herrings (known as Crown Cleaners) and Carthage (named by EPA as Black River PCBs). The CIP for each site will provide EPA with a framework for how the community would like to be informed on site activities and provide input throughout the site remediation process. The CIP will also describe the site history, scheduled activities, and how to contact EPA representatives. EPA will also establish a local information repository where the plan and project-related public documents will be made available for review. The CIP is meant to be a "living document," meaning that it will be modified as new information and issues develop while site cleanup activities are ongoing.

EPA usually has the Community Involvement Plan done before the project proposal is completed, but in the case of Crown Cleaners in Herrings, the CIP has not yet been finished. Remedial investigation work in Carthage is just beginning.

More information on the Black River PCBs site can be found here:

<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/blackriver/index.html>

More information on the Crown Cleaners site can be found here:

<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/crowncleaners/index.html>

Forest Landowner Workshop and Woods Walk



If you own wooded land in the Tug Hill Region and would you like to learn how to maintain or encourage birds and other wildlife on your property and what you can do to take care of your land for future generations, please join us for this free event. The workshop will take place **Saturday, September 22nd** at the NYSDEC Lowville office, 7327 St Route 812, Lowville, NY 13367. Please arrive at 8:30 am for registration and refreshments. The workshop is from 9:00 am to 11:30 am, followed by a woods walk from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Feel free to attend one or both!

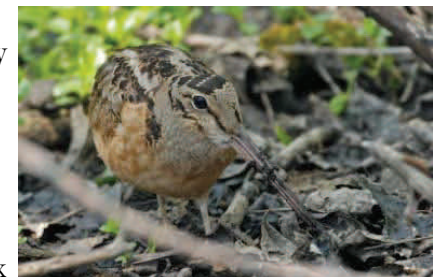
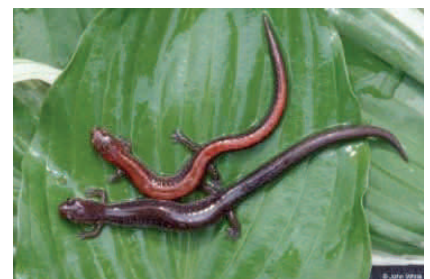
Participants will learn about:

- The wildlife commonly found in forests of the Tug Hill region
- How different types of forests attract different kinds of wildlife
- Resources, tools and potential partners available to help you meet your goals
- Visit properties to see examples of habitat management

Presentations will include:

- Managing Your Forest for Wildlife
- Forestry 101
- Woodlot Management for Wildlife that Need Young Forests
- Good forestry makes good bird habitat: how to balance the needs of many species of birds on your lands and the surrounding landscape
- What Forest Stewardship Plans Can Do for You
- Conservation 101: Fact vs. Fiction
- Resources and Programs for Woodland Owners

This workshop is free, but registration is required by contacting Graham Cox at glcox@audubon.org or (518) 729-6869 or 518-869-9731. **The registration deadline is Tuesday, September 18.**



The Town and Village Courts play a vital role in the New York State Unified Court System. These courts have broad jurisdiction and they hear both civil and criminal matters. The Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) recently contacted town and village justices inviting them to apply for a 2012-13 JCAP Grant. The maximum JCAP grant is \$30,000 per court. The money can be used for a variety of purposes including office and security equipment, furniture, courtroom and court faculty improvements and renovations. Applications for JCAP grants may be submitted by the Justice Courts or by Towns and Villages on behalf of the court. Applications and accompanying paperwork should be submitted by **October 1, 2012**. The application itself must be submitted online, however, the following items must be submitted by mail as hard copies:

- Estimates
- Board resolutions
- Court's Annual Budget
- Signature Page

Click the following link for a quick link to the application: https://www.nycourtsystem.com/fmi/iwp/res/iwp_auth.html. When you click on the online grant application, you must enter an Account Name – which is “court” and a Password – which is “jcap” (all lower case letters) to start the application. If you are interested or need assistance in applying for a JCAP grant, please let your circuit rider know ASAP. If you have any questions about JCAP, please contact the Office of Justice Court Support at 1-800-232-0630.

Parish Village Hears Presentations on PILOTs, Potential Buyer

Nearly 60 residents attended a special presentation at the Village of Parish board meeting last night, to learn about developments in the efforts to find an appropriate use for the vacant elementary school in the Village. Mayor Heagle opened the meeting, with the Village's consultant Peter Fairweather then reviewing the planning that has been done so far to keep this important community resource in use, add energy and vitality to the Village and Town, and to enhance the Town and Village tax base. Oswego County Industrial Development Agency head Michael Treadwell then explained their role and the potential use of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement to help locate a manufacturing use at the site. Lastly, Mike Bovalino from Biospherix spoke to the group about the company's potential plans.

Mr. Bovalino explained that Biospherix is a locally owned company started in the early 80's in Redfield. It currently operates out of the former Blount Lumber building in Lacona. The company has grown in recent years to 52 employees and expects to continue to expand over the next few years. They have been looking at property in Oswego County to relocate into, as all of their employees are from either Oswego or Onondaga County. Biospherix makes clean rooms for research and hospital applications, and sells them worldwide.

Attendees asked many questions regarding property tax payments, sewer use rates, potential noise and traffic impacts from an industrial use on the site, etc. At the end of the meeting most people seemed to feel that this was a good opportunity for the Village and surrounding area, and should be pursued.

NYS Tug Hill Commission

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citizens for over 39 years.**



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Commission for assistance.
Thank you!



Third Annual Black River Trash Bash Plans Underway

Page 4

The Tug Hill Commission, together with the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District, would like to draw your attention, once again, to the Black River and its important ecological and economical status in our region. Since the completion of the Black River Watershed Plan, our agencies have organized this cleanup event and is, again, asking for support from your community group to participate. The event raises the public's awareness of the state of our shorelines and generates important data that show trends in pollution.

The 2012 International Coastal Cleanup Day is September 15, however, you may hold your local Black River Trash Bash event in either the month of September or October. The Tug Hill Commission will assist you with your data reporting. Remember, you must be able to properly dispose of your trash bags and be willing to weigh your trash. **If you would like to host an event, please contact Jennifer Harvill at the Tug Hill Commission at 315-785-2392 or jennifer@tughill.org.** Responses would be appreciated by August 24th.

Since 1986, the Northeast Chapter of the American Littoral Society (ALS) has coordinated New York's participation in the annual September International Coastal Cleanup (ICC). This effort has the overarching sponsorship of the Ocean Conservancy in Washington, DC. The Cleanup is a worldwide event in which over 100 countries and almost all of our states participate. **Last year, worldwide, 6,368 volunteers removed 186,582 pounds of debris from 262 miles of shoreline.**

A thought to consider: Litter travels from hundreds of miles inland. A plastic sandwich bag blowing off a picnic table far inland washes down a storm drain, river, lake or stream, and winds up being eaten by a sea turtle. The problem is increasing with significant implications for wildlife, fishing, human health, tourism, water quality and marine ecosystems.

NYCOM's Fall Training School for City & Village Officials

September 10-14, 2012 • Crowne Plaza, Lake Placid

NY Conference of Mayors and the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) announce their Fall Training School. Approximately 400 municipal officials from across the state -- primarily Mayors, Clerks, Finance Officers, Attorneys, Trustees, and Council Members -- gather together to attend a variety of innovative training sessions specializing in municipal law, government operations, and local finance issues.

Attendees :: Click <http://events.nycom.org/fall-training-school/about-fts> to register online or for further details.