



August 30, 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.

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Biogas Facility Tour

Twenty local officials and interested persons from Lewis County along with two Tug Hill Commission staff and one commissioner, toured the Synergy Biogas facility in Covington, New York Tuesday, August 28th. The facility, operated by CH4 Biogas, is the largest energy producing mixed waste anaerobic digester in the state of New York. Located on a 2,000 cow dairy farm in Wyoming County, the Synergy digester turns cow manure and food waste from local producers into methane gas, which is converted to electricity (enough to power more than 1,000 homes) and sold back into the power grid. Environmental benefits of these facilities, which were developed primarily in Denmark, include: reduced odors, improved water quality, and reduced CO2 emissions. A similar anaerobic digestion facility has been proposed in the Town of Lowville.



Forest Landowner Workshop and Woods Walk

If you own wooded land in the Tug Hill Region and would 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 NYS 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!

Champion Passes Local Law

Following a public hearing at the August 6th board meeting, the Town of Champion passed a local law to regulate the construction of electrical and gas transmission lines. While the planning board will continue their review of applications for a special-use permit, board approvals will be based upon the redefinition of the term "essential facilities" as the "operation and maintenance by municipal agencies or public utilities of electrical or gas substations; electrical or gas transmission lines; water treatment, storage and transmission facilities; pumping stations and similar facilities."

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. The two below are just outside 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.

2012 Black River Trash Bash

The Black River, winding from Forestport to Dexter, is one of the North Country's most important natural resources. The Black River Trash Bash is a watershed-wide event to clean up along the river and document what litters our shores. Data will be compiled and sent to the American Littoral Society (ALS), which will use the data to devise strategies to combat pollution. We also hope to increase public participation in solving the problem of litter and pollution and to increase public awareness and appreciation of the River.

This event is being sponsored in part by the ALS, which conducts an annual world-wide beach cleanup day. The event is being organized locally by the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Tug Hill Commission. Many thanks go out to the captains of the cleanup sites. Please contact one of them to find out how you or your community group can help!

Cleanup Site	Organization and Captain	Phone	Cleanup Date	Meeting Place
Lyons Falls and Port Leyden	Lyons Falls Alive (Rocky Fawcett)	348-9991	September 15, 10:00 am	Upper boat launch in Lyons Falls
Boonville	Adirondack Community Advisory League (Ian Klingbail)	942-2610	October 6, 8:00 am	Erwin Park
Watertown	Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (Kalie Brady)	779-2239	September 29, 10:00 am	TBD
Carthage	Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce (Lori Borland)	493-3590	September 15, 10:00 am	West Carthage Boat Launch
Greig	Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District (Nichelle Billhardt)	376-6122	September 15, 9:00 am	Glenfield Boat Launch



A celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Delta Dam was held on Sunday, August 27th. The event was meant "for those who didn't have an awareness" of the dam and its impact on the local history, stated event committee chair Ed Davis, from the Town of Lee.

Visitors parked at the Rome Fish Hatchery and walked along the old Black River canal towpath from the hatchery to the dam. For those who chose not to walk between the sites, rides were provided by Roger MacLaughlin of Steuben on a horse-drawn wagon and by Tim Schoff of Schoff Polaris on Elmer Hill Road, Rome, in utility vehicles.

The dam impounds the Mohawk River's waters and provides flood protection for parts of the City of Rome. When the dam was built it called for the impounding dam, four new locks and relocation of parts of the Black River Canal, a cement aqueduct, cutting of all trees, and the dismantling of the Village of Delta.

Pictures and information about the dam and the area lined the walking route. The operator of the dam gates, Wes Wright and local historian and Western Town Clerk provided a vast display of pictures of the building of the dam and the former Village of Delta and answered questions about the dam's construction, mission and operation. The Tug Hill Commission, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and NYS DEC were among the attendees that hosted displays and provided information.

The highlight of the celebration was the presentation of the 100th anniversary plaque that was mounted on a stone monument donated by the Town of Western and installed by the Town of Western Highway Department. The plaque was made possible by donations made from the City of Rome, Towns of Lee and Western. Present for the ceremony were officials from Rome, Lee, Western and Oneida County as well as NYS Canal Commissioner Brian Stratton. Organizers are considering making it an annual event to highlight the area.

Below is Tom Stevens (Western Highway Superintendent), Mary Centro (Western Town Clerk), MC of the event, NYS Canals Commissioner Brian Stratton, John Urtz (Lee Supervisor) and Joseph Fusco (Rome Mayor).



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Amended Effective Date for Model EAFs

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The effective date for the revised model short and full Environmental Assessment Forms has been changed from October 1, 2012 to April 1, 2013. An amended notice of adoption will appear in the September 5, 2012 issue of the State Register and the Environmental Notice Bulletin announcing the change in the effective date. Additional time is required to prepare the EAF workbooks and to develop the GIS-based platform that will provide project sponsors and agencies with the tools necessary to begin using the revised forms. This information was provided by the NYS DEC's Division of Environmental Permits in Albany.

NYCOM's Fall Training School

New York Conference of Mayors and the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) collaborate each year to create an exciting program known as the Fall Training School. 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. This year's training school will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid on September 10 -14.

The Fall Training School also hosts the annual business meetings of the NYS Association of City and Village Clerks and the NYS Society of Municipal Finance Officers. These business meetings also serve as their installation banquet for new officers.

The meeting registration fee is waived for guest of paid attendees, but meals are not included. Registration information can be found by going to the following website: <http://events.nycom.org/fall-training-school/about-fts>.

Governor's Path Through History Initiative

THC Staff member Jean Waterbury, along with more than 200 historians, museum directors, tourism officials and other interested parties spent Tuesday at the state Capitol for the first "Path Through History" conference, convened by Governor Andrew Cuomo. Appearing before the attendees in the afternoon, Governor Cuomo said the State seemed at times to have lost its grand narrative as America's longtime progressive capital — in the realms of social change, engineering, the arts and more. "It was clear to me growing up that New York was a special place; we don't tell that story as much or as often," he said.

State Director of Operations Howard Glaser unveiled the full Path Through History initiative, including a soon-to-be-completed interactive website and smart phone app that allows tourists to custom-tailor a trip based on specific topic areas, plus new standardized road signs that will be installed throughout the state at historic sites.