

DECEMBER 30, 2016

Register for the Local Government Conference

Registration is now open for the 2017 Tug Hill Commission Local Government Conference, to be held on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at Jefferson Community College. Course descriptions and registration information were mailed last week.

Please see our website for additional information, including a printable registration form for mailed in registrations, as well as a link to our online registration website:

www.tughill.org/LGC2017 or <https://lgc2017.eventbrite.com>

Early registration costs \$50 and ends March 15, 2017. Between March 16th and 26th, registration will cost \$100.

Please contact your circuit rider or call the office toll-free at (888)785-2380 with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Upcoming: Grant Writing Workshops Offered at Madison-Oneida BOCES

Madison-Oneida BOCES Adult and Continuing Education is offering two grant writing sessions in the spring. Grant Writing I is meant as an introduction to finding grant sources and learning the basics of writing a grant proposal. Grant Writing II will assist those working on a specific grant application and is ideal for non-profit organizations, schools or local governments. Grant Writing I is a prerequisite.

Grant Writing I
March 15-April 5, 2017

Grant Writing II
April 26-May 17, 2017

Workshops are held Wednesday from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.. Registration is \$75.

For a comprehensive list of Adult and Continuing Education courses, please visit <https://registration.xenegrade.com/moboces/searchResults.cfm>.

2016 Black River Newsletter Available

The annual newsletter highlighting all things "Black River" can be found on the commission's website at <http://www.tughill.org/projects/black-river-projects/>. Articles include information on:

- The recently completed Black River Watershed 9-Element Plan
- Great Lakes Northeastern Sub-basin Workgroup meetings
- The Black River Trash Bash
- Kelsey Creek Remediation
- Lyons Falls Mill Demolition
- And much more!

Special thanks to Emily Sheridan, Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator, for putting this information-packed newsletter together.

Wildlife Connectivity Improved Between Adirondacks, Tug Hill in the Black River Watershed

The Nature Conservancy's Adirondack Chapter recently announced that it purchased 753 acres of forest with two miles of wild riverfront on the Main Branch of the Moose River in the town of Lyonsdale, in the southwest corner of the Adirondack Park.

Several years ago, the sellers reached out to the Conservancy to explore options to protect the land, which they had been using primarily for recreation. The conservation values of the property include:

Prior to the purchase, the Conservancy evaluated the parcel from multiple perspectives to assess its conservation values, which include:

- Securing two miles of undeveloped, forested shoreline on the Moose River, a main tributary to the Black River.
- Providing habitat for 17 different natural community types, ranging from northern hardwood forest to emergent wetland.
- Buffering a major corridor for wildlife between the Adirondack Park and Tug Hill Plateau, helping to keep pathways open for wide-ranging animals such as moose and bobcat.

The Moose River also supports the regional tourism economy, as a location for seasonal whitewater rafting adventures offered by professional guides.

The Nature Conservancy paid \$880,000, and will hold the land until it can find a conservation owner to manage the property under a perpetual conservation plan that protects ecological values.



The Moose River cascades as the Adirondack uplands drop into the Black River Valley. The river here also features riffles, braided side channels, gravel bars and floodplain wetlands. *Photo by Carl Heilman II*

2016 Urban and Community Forest Grant Program Available

The NYS DEC's Urban and Community Forest Grant program is accepting applications for qualifying governmental entities or not-for-profit organizations to implement successful tree inventory, community forest management planning, tree planting, or tree maintenance projects. Projects must be implemented on non-state-owned properties in a location where they provide a public benefit. Project locations on private property (beyond the right of way) are contingent upon existing local authority. Approximately \$2,300,000 is available in funding for "Large Community Grants" (population size of over 65,000 residents) and "Community Grants" (population size of less than 65,000 residents). Minimum and maximum grant amounts range between \$11,000 to \$75,000 for Large Community Grants, and \$11,000 to \$50,000 for Community Grants. Applications must be submitted in the NYS Grants Gateway by 2:00 P.M. March 1, 2017. More information is available at: https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/intelligrants_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportal.aspx?NavItem1=4&ngolD=5000712

An upcoming webinar will provide more information about the application process:

Thursday, January 5, 2017, 2:00 p.m.
Time: 2:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time

To register for this webinar: Go to <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?RGID=rb01dbcfb520aee2a273dd76ab2f8c20d>

DEC Announces Second Chance for \$3 Million in E-Waste Recycling Grants

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced a second round of grant funding from the Environmental Protection Fund is being made available to help municipalities across the state address costs associated with the collection and recycling of eligible electronic wastes (e-waste). The recently completed application period in October generated \$1.2 million in grant requests, leaving almost \$1.8 million available for a second chance opportunity that will be held in January 2017 for municipalities that missed the initial application period. DEC will accept applications for second chance opportunity funding from January 2 through January 31, 2017.

As of April 1, 2011, manufacturers are required to implement programs for consumers to recycle e-waste, such as computers, keyboards, televisions, and other small electronic equipment, in an environmentally responsible manner. Beginning in 2015, all consumers were prohibited from disposing of e-waste.

These grants will help mitigate unanticipated costs municipalities may face in receiving and managing electronic wastes. DEC's Household Hazardous Waste State Assistance Program will continue to administer the grant application process. Municipalities may receive reimbursement of up to 50 percent of eligible expenses incurred for recycling of e-waste between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017. Application materials and guidance documents are available on DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/107384.html>.

For questions about E-Waste Assistance Grants, email RecyclingGrants@dec.ny.gov or contact DEC at 518-402-8678.

Winter Outings with Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust

Saturday, January 14, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Development Authority of the North Country, Route 177, Rodman, NY

Participants will visit a gulf and look for 150 year old hemlock trees on privately owned land, as well as explore the DANC nature trails. Bring cross-country skis or snowshoes. Warm up inside with hot cocoa and treats at the end of the hike.

Saturday, February 11, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Fassler Easement, Williamstown, NY

A rare opportunity to snowshoe and hike on protected land that is privately owned.

Please RSVP to Lianna Lee, Community Programs Manager at tughilloutreach@nynmail.com, (315) 779-2239, for these free programs.

Contact Us

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If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to gwen@tughill.org or call 1-888-785-2380.

Electronic versions appear in full color!

Free Webinars

The Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (SU-EFC) facilitates the development of sustainable and resilient communities throughout US EPA Region 2, which includes New York. Free webinars being offered early in 2017 are listed below. For details and to register, see the SU-EFC webpage at <http://efc.syr.edu/upcoming-events/>.

Webinar 1: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and its Utility

Thursday, January 26, 2017, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

This webinar will introduce the fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems and how it can benefit rural municipalities. Participants will gain a basic understanding of the functions of GIS as well as its application in asset management, road mapping, land use and zoning, and how they can get started with GIS without a large out of pocket cost.

Webinar 2: Communicating with the Public About Water Infrastructure

Thursday, February 9, 2017, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

This webinar will address how best to communicate with the public in a way that will garner support and encourage public engagement. Participants will learn tools for communicating with their customers directly and through media outlets, as well as effective messaging for maximum impact.

Webinar 3: Financing for the Future

Thursday, February 16, 2017, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

This webinar will introduce methods that can be used for budgeting for the future. Topics will include projecting for future scenarios, tracking and benchmarking financial performance, and creating financial plans that will extend beyond those that are currently being used. Participants will gain an understanding of how they can project for future changes and risks, and create a financial plan that will ensure there is money to address these events as they occur.