



February 3, 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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1-888-785-2380
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Please visit our website:
www.tughill.org



Tour the South Lewis School Wood Chip Fired Boiler System



On behalf of all the members of the “Drum Country Biomass Working Group,” the Tug Hill Commission welcomes you to join us on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at the South Lewis High School for an informational meeting and tour of their brand new wood chip fired boiler system.

The event will kick-off at 1:00 pm in the high school auditorium with a brief presentation about the system and the design and construction process. Joining us will be: Barry Yette, South Lewis Business Administrator; Steven Klempa, Principal Architect, SEI Design; Aaron McConnell, Principal Engineer, M/E Engineering

Following the presentation will be tours of the biomass building, which will allow participants to view the storage area, feeding system, boiler and control system. There will be ample time for questions and answers with the presenters, as well as networking and sampling of light refreshments.



To help plan for the event, we ask that you **RSVP** to the Tug Hill Commission by **Friday, February 17, 2012**, toll-free at (888) 785-2380 or to katie@tughill.org.

Directions to the South Lewis High School (4264 East Road/County Route 43, Turin, NY) can be found here: http://www.southlewis.org/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=445&&&cms_mode=view. Please park in the main parking lot near the bus garage, and enter through the main entrance at the double doors near the cafeteria. There will be signs.

Members of the Drum Country Biomass Working Group include: CCE of Jefferson and Lewis County, St. Lawrence County Planning Office, Lewis County Economic Development Office, Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency, Development Authority of the North Country, Black River/St. Lawrence River RC&D Council, Fort Drum, and private organizations and individuals interested in biomass energy.



NYS Bobcat Management Plan Available for Review & Comment

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation recently released the "Management Plan for Bobcat in NYS, 2012-2017" on their website (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9360.html>), and it is available for public review and comment until **February 16**.



Photo courtesy of the NYS DEC Website

The draft plan describes three primary goals for bobcat management:

- Maintain viable population levels and monitor trends in bobcat distribution and relative abundance;
- Provide for sustainable use and enjoyment of bobcat by the public; and
- Minimize negative bobcat-human interactions.

DEC staff worked closely with trappers and small game hunters to gain preliminary input regarding the future management of the bobcat resource. Input obtained from these groups was used by DEC biologists and managers to develop the recommendations and management actions contained in the draft plan.

While hunters and trappers are the most common users of the bobcat resource, wildlife enthusiasts, nature photographers, and others also benefit from a healthy bobcat population. As evidenced by the number of observation reports fielded by Department staff, the public is very interested in bobcats and can play a role in their management by facilitating the collection of data on the species.

Comments may be submitted in writing through **February 16, 2012** to NYSDEC, Bobcat Management Plan, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754 or to fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us.



Hydrofracking Debate Continues in Oneida County

Hydrofracking continues to be a hot topic in Oneida County. On **Thursday evening February 9 at 7:00 pm at the Trenton Municipal Center** (8520 Old Poland Road, Barneveld, NY), an informational forum will be held on the drilling of gas wells to harvest natural gas in Trenton and neighboring towns.

The focus of the forum will be to answer two questions:

- 1) Why should this area be concerned?
- 2) How can townships do due diligence in protecting their community?

This forum is being presented by STRR (see www.strr-towns.org), a community group in the area opposing the drilling for natural gas using hydrofracking. Natural gas drilling by means of hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" would not be allowed on land owned by Oneida County under a measure proposed by two Oneida County legislators. The Marcellus Shale formation that extends under southern Oneida County may attract natural gas drillers if the State gives the go-ahead for hydrofracking. The legislators maintain there's a need to identify, study and evaluate the environmental, cumulative, financial and public health impacts that hydrofracking will have in Central New York. Their resolution could be considered by the Oneida County Legislature Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday, February 8th.

Additionally, a program featuring the drillers' side of the controversial issue will be presented at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, February 16th in Lee Town Hall, 5808 Stokes-Lee Center Road, Lee Center.

Tug Hill Aquifer Meeting Planned



The Tug Hill Commission is organizing a meeting on **Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Sandy Creek Town Hall** for an update on the Tug Hill Aquifer. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Since 2007, the Commission has worked with the US Geological Survey (USGS) and other partners to understand the Tug Hill Aquifer more thoroughly and give policy makers, local leaders, and resource managers the information to make good decisions regarding its use. Topics for discussion include: 1) Background and Introductions - 80's work, Nestle interest, Town of Richland taking over Schoeller Paper Co. well field, flooded basements in Richland, declining well yields at the fish hatchery; 2) USGS Progress report 2007--present; 3) Plans for 2012-13 work; 4) Where will that leave us and what are the next priorities?; 5) New things to consider - new DEC water withdrawal reporting, hydrofracking, etc.; 6) Q/A

The Sandy Creek Town Hall is located at 1992 Hardwood Drive, Sandy Creek, <http://sandycreekny.us/Location.htm>. Please **RSVP by Friday, February 24** to Katie Malinowski (katie@tughill.org or toll free (888) 785-2380). Feel free to forward an invitation anyone you think would be interested.

NYS GIS Conference - The New York State Geospatial Conference!

The conference will take place in Syracuse at the OnCenter May 15 to May 16, 2012. There will be four workshops to choose from on the first day. Information on these workshops will be posted on the NYS GIS Conference website soon.

On the second day, attendees will have the chance to visit the "App Garden" where they can play around with some of the smartphone and web-based applications that are available to the geospatial community. Also, don't forget to stop by the "Technology Petting Zoo" where you can get your hands on different devices to try them out. There will also be four selected spatial spotlight sessions: Crisis Response, Lidar, What's the Point?, Get Your Head in the Clouds, and Think Spatially Act Locally. The keynote for the conference this year is Jeff Howe. Mr. Howe helped coin the phrase "crowdsourcing," about which he has written a book called "Crowdsourcing: Why the Power of the Crowd Is Driving the Future of Business."

For more information or to register for the event please go to <http://www.esf.edu/nysgisconf>. If you should have any questions you can contact Mickey Dietrich at the NYS Tug Hill Commission at (315) 785-2380 or email mickey@tughill.org.

NYS Signs Agreement with ESRI to Provide GIS Licenses for K-12



The New York State GIS Association is currently working through final details for an agreement which will allow K-12 public and non-public schools to obtain free ESRI licenses. This will include, but not be limited to, home schools and nationally recognized youth programs like 4-H and Scouts. The agreement will run until July 31, 2014.

There will be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will need to be signed to ensure that individuals get the training they need to utilize the software. Currently, the New York Institute of Technology is working out the details of that MOU. If you are a teacher or administrator who is interested in participating, please note your interest at the following link <http://bit.ly/NYEsriK12>.

If you have any questions you can contact Mickey Dietrich at the NYS Tug Hill Commission. Mickey is the Regional Coordinator for the NYS GIS Association. You can reach him by phone at (315) 785-2380 or email mickey@tughill.org.

Forestry Program at the NYS Farm Show

NYS Tug Hill Commission

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Thank you!

Local Government Conference
Thursday March 29, 2012 at
Jefferson Community College
Visit our Website at [http://
www.tughill.org/proj/annual-lgc-
2012/](http://www.tughill.org/proj/annual-lgc-2012/)

to download a registration form or
call us and we'll send you one!

A series of **free forestry programs** will be presented at the **NYS Farm Show at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse, Thursday - Saturday, February 23-25, 2012**. Landowners who own woodland as part of their property can get information on many subjects that will help them enhance the value of their woodlots for timber, wild-life and recreation. The show will also feature numerous exhibits with information on equipment and items of interest to landowners as well as farmers. It is sponsored by the NY Forest Owners Association, NYS DEC, Cornell Cooperative Extension and SUNY College of Forestry.

Also scheduled are eight seminars during the three day forestry expo. The seminar topics will include: Wildlife Concerns, Leasing your Woodlands, Deer Management Plan for NYS, Best Practices for Improving Timber Value, Woodlot Firewood, Selling Timber, Information Availability, Timber Value Market Present and Future and Natural Gas Drilling Update. All of the seminars are free and will be held in the Arts and Home Center Building.

For further information contact: Jamie Christensen 315-472-5323 kchriste@twcny.rr.com or Rich Taber rbt44@cornell.edu.

Erosion & Sediment Control Workshop February 14th

A workshop on erosion and sediment control is being sponsored by the **Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District** at its facility at 121 Second Street, Oriskany at the County Farm and Home Center. The session will be held on February 14 and will start with registration at 8:00 am. The course will begin at 8:30 am and end at 12:30 pm. There is a \$75 fee for the workshop and pre-registration is requested by contacting Jo-Anne Humphreys at (315) 736-3334 or via email jo-anne-humphreys@oneidaswcd.org by **February 10th**.

This workshop provides the required training for contractors and site inspectors to comply with the SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (GP-0-10-001). All those responsible for the installation, construction, repair, maintenance or the inspection of erosion and sediment control measures or the construction of post-construction stormwater management practices at SPDES-permitted construction sites in New York State are required to attend a DEC-endorsed 4-hour training course every three years. Credits are being offered for Codes Officers who take this course. This is a good opportunity to learn about how to inspect construction sites, earn yearly credits and be able to report training on your annual report.

Photo ID is required by the DEC to sign into the session so please bring it with you.