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# 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.

## Changes Underway in NOCCOG Region

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments will be undergoing some changes in the upcoming months with the unfortunate passing of two local officials in early January.

In the Town of Steuben, Supervisor Harry Landman passed away. Landman had also served on the Town Board for several years and took over as Supervisor after the passing of Dan Carpenter.

Long time Remsen Town Clerk Bob Walter has also sadly passed away. He was in office more than 36 years. The public service of both these men is certainly appreciated and the NOCCOG staff and Executive Board wish to extend their sincere condolences to the families and communities impacted. Assistance is being made available to both municipalities as arrangements are made to fulfill both positions.

Meanwhile NOCCOG itself is undergoing a transition period with the recent hiring of a new full time Circuit Rider. Jennifer Armstrong, a native of Taberg, has been selected to succeed Gerry Ritter as a Municipal Management Consultant and will be working closely with Tug Hill Commission staff, NOCCOG Board and staff, and all of the NOCCOG communities in the upcoming months familiarizing herself with local officials and specific projects.

**Win a FREE registration!  
To our Local Government Conference  
March 26, 2015  
Watch for a trivia question in our next edition!**

## Tug Hill Commission Will Meet January 20th

The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Tuesday, January 20 from 10:00 a.m.— Noon at the Village of Cleveland offices located at 2 Clay Street, Cleveland, NY. Highlights of the meeting will include routine business of the Commission, latest updates of the Regional Economic Development Councils and review of major projects and activities in the region. In addition, the Commission members will adopt the 2015-2019 Commission's Strategic Plan which sets priorities for Commission programs and services for the next 5 years. Commission members will also discuss one recommendation in the plan which calls for looking at recreation and public access along the North Shore of Oneida Lake. The public is welcome to attend and there will be a public comment period at the end of the meeting.

# SLELO PRISM 2014 Annual Report Online

The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) is one of eight partnerships in New York State that work on invasive species issues. It encompasses St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Oneida, Lewis and Oswego counties outside of the Adirondack Park. The group's mission is to protect native habitats, biodiversity, natural areas, parks and refuges, freshwater resources and open space using a collaborative and integrated approach to invasive species management. The emphases of these activities are prevention, early detection, rapid response and education.

## Highlights of 2014

- *Continued efforts to restore the Salmon River and Estuary by suppressing 86% of Japanese knotweed populations and planting native grasses within the disturbed areas along the river corridor.*
- *Significantly reduced human health threats posed by giant hogweed. 61 sites were treated of which 14 are now considered eradicated.*
- *Continued to restore 50 acres of globally rare alvar communities along the Eastern Lake Ontario coastline by suppressing 70 acres of pale Swallow-wort and promoting native plant succession in the areas treated.*
- *Supported hands-on citizen science based control efforts, pathway mitigation and environmental DNA sampling. This included hand-harvesting 85.5 cubic yards of water chestnut plants and treating an additional 215 acres on the Oswego River.*
- *Encouraged the development of biological controls for water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) and pale swallow-wort (*Cynanchum rossicum*) and assisted with the release of a biological control (*Galarucella* spp.) to suppress purple loosestrife and maintain the native plant composition of the Lakeview Wetland complex.*
- *Completed early detection surveillance on ten priority conservation areas along with one rapid response to pale swallow-wort on the Limerick Cedars preserve.*
- *Reached over 550 individuals through a combination of educational and outreach initiatives designed to increase awareness of invasive species that affect the region's forests, lands and waters.*

The full annual report is available online at [www.sleloinvasives.org](http://www.sleloinvasives.org).

## Planning Board Overview Training Webinar

The Department of State Local Government Training is offering a Planning Board Overview Training webinar on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. EST. The course addresses the powers and duties of town, village, and city planning boards and commissions. The administrative and regulatory roles of the planning board, including its review of site plans, special use permits, and subdivision plats are discussed, along with the planning board's role in the municipal comprehensive plan. The importance of board procedures, referral to the county planning agency, and making findings are also covered.

If you are interested in participating, please re-register:

Go to <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=tbdc00d133d1606297fd68892696e21e1> and provide your name, email address, local official title, municipality, and phone number.

Once you are approved by the host, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the session, which includes a **new hyperlink**. That link hosts the "session information" page which has the course materials embedded within. You may wish to download (save or print out) the materials as a reference guide or to use for note taking during the webinar. You will also need this link to connect to the webinar on the newly scheduled date. You may login 30 minutes prior to the start time of 6:00 p.m. An early connection is suggested in case of any connection or audio issues.

# "Solarize" the North Country

The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) is seeking municipalities interested in participating in a collective Solarize Campaign. If you are unfamiliar with Solarize, you can watch the NY-Sun webinar [at https://nyserda-events.webex.com/mw0401sp11/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=nyserda-events](https://nyserda-events.webex.com/mw0401sp11/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=nyserda-events) or read more about the Community Solar program at <http://ny-sun.ny.gov/Get-Solar/Community-Solar>.

Here's how it works: Communities participating in a Solarize Campaign issue an RFP to solar installers. Once an installer (or group of installers) is selected, a community works with them to conduct an outreach and education campaign inviting residential, commercial or municipal customers to the table. Individuals or organizations interested in participating receive a discounted rate on solar installations based on the volume of systems sold. This discount is in addition to federal and state rebates and incentives. The campaign typically lasts between 6-9 months.

In appreciation of a short time frame, ANCA is offering to facilitate a Solarize campaign for multiple communities in the North Country. NYSEDA currently is offering a \$5,000 per community grant available through a competitive application (**deadline January 30th**). ANCA will submit applications on behalf of each participating community, with an MOU for cost share once the grant is awarded. If you are not interested in joining the collective but want to do a Solarize Campaign just for your community, NYSEDA outreach contractors are available to assist with the application process.

If you are interested in participating, please respond to Jennifer Perry at ANCA as soon as possible! She can be reached by land line at (518) 891-6200, mobile phone at (518) 588-2965, or email [jperry@adirondack.org](mailto:jperry@adirondack.org). You can also contact the Commission and we can help get you in touch with ANCA.

**IMPORTANT: The application deadline is January 30th, so a quick turn around on all requests will be critical.**

**26th Annual Local Government Conference**

**Jefferson Community College**

**March 26, 2015**

**Download registration forms at**

<http://www.tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/2015THC-LGCRegistrationBrochure.pdf>

## NY Energy Tour

Commission staff attended a meeting in Potsdam this week to hear more about NY Prize, which is a competition meant to involve communities in plans for local power infrastructure designed to promote clean energy reliability, resiliency, and affordability. Upcoming tours near the Tug Hill Region include January 29 at ESF in Syracuse and February 4 at SUNY IT in Utica. To register or look at dates for other tours, visit here: <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/NY-Prize/NY-Winter-Statewide-Energy-Tour>.

Each session features the New York energy leadership team, led by Richard Kauffman, Chairman of Energy and Finance for Governor Cuomo, community leaders, municipal representatives, critical care facility managers, business leaders, innovators, investors, technology representatives, and others interested, to:

- Hear about initiatives driving New York State's energy future
- Consider your regional microgrid opportunity - Microgrids are local energy networks that are able to separate from the larger electrical grid during extreme weather events or emergencies, providing power to individual customers and crucial public services such as hospitals, first responders, and water treatment facilities.
- Share ideas and network
- Learn how to take the first step to participate in the NY Prize competition

For more information on NY Prize, go to <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/NY-Prize>.

For more on microgrids visit <http://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/>.

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1-888-785-2380.  
Electronic versions  
appear in full color!**

## Sylvan Beach Finalizing Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan

The Village of Sylvan Beach is wrapping up work on a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan intended to protect and improve the village's many water related assets. Goals of the village include stabilizing and replenishing the beach, constructing a new visitors center/lifeguard station/restroom facility, improving dockage for transient boaters, and improving the water quality of Fish Creek, the NYS Barge Canal, and Oneida Lake. The LWRP will dovetail with a comprehensive plan update to begin later this year.

## Tug Hill GIS Website Updates

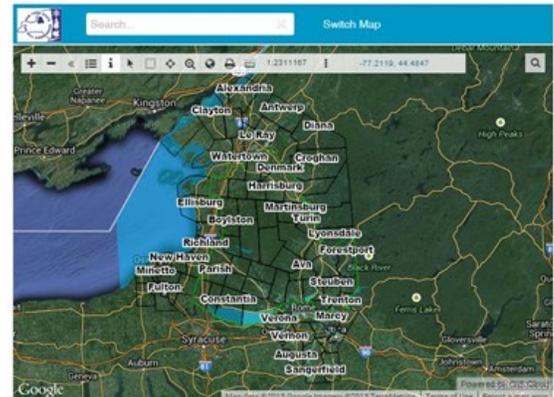
The Tug Hill Commission has updated its "GIS Services" website page. To go there, you can go to "Assistance" and you will see a dropdown for "GIS Services". We have added a "Regional Map Viewer" page that will take you to our GIS portal site for web map viewing. Also, we have a "Maps" page where you can see some dynamic maps for the region, as well as, static maps in PDF format. For helpful resources, there are two pages "Links" and "Videos", that provide links to helpful websites and documents, as well as, useful webinar videos that the NYSGISA Professional Committee has put together in the past.

### Regional Map Viewer

#### Disclaimer

The Tug Hill Commission neither expresses or implies any warranty with respect to accuracy, currency, completeness, content, or any other implication on any information or data provided in our map viewer. In most cases the Tug Hill Commission is not the original source of the data displayed. We are also not a repository for data. We recommend that all users contact the original source of the data if you are looking at any one of the objectives above, like completeness, accuracy, etc.

By using our map viewers, you are agreeing to this disclaimer.



[Click Here For Full Screen View](#)

## Annual SWCD Tree Sales

The Soil & Water Conservation Districts in all four Tug Hill counties (Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and Oswego) will soon be holding their annual tree sales. Check their websites for more information.

Jefferson County: [www.jeffersoncountyswcd.org](http://www.jeffersoncountyswcd.org) *Online sales available.*

Lewis County: [www.lewiscountysoilandwater.com](http://www.lewiscountysoilandwater.com)

Oneida County: [www.oneidaswcd.org](http://www.oneidaswcd.org)

Oswego County: [www.oswegosoilandwater.com](http://www.oswegosoilandwater.com)

