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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.

Tug Hill Commission Seeking "Sage" Nominations

The commission is once again seeking nominations for Tug Hill Sages. A "Sage" is an individual who has been a part of Tug Hill life and traditions for all or most of his/her life, who has deep knowledge of Tug Hill's heritage and environment, and who has had life-long involvement with the Tug Hill region. This distinguished title has gone to 33 individuals over the life of the commission. Recipients of the award include: John Constable, Truman Greene, Hunt Rowe, Elwin Rowell, Livingston Lansing, George Bibbins, Alice Clemens, Harold Petrie, Courtney Winn, Elva Maciejko, Neil Wright, Harry Capron, Dr. Edwin Russell, John Hughes, Randy Kerr, Bernard Macklen, Warren Mathis, Robert Sauer, Ray Chereshnoski, Charlie Gallo, Beverly Harden, Neil Harden, Louis Hodgkinson, John Mahaffy, Irving Kraeger, and Bernie Mettot, Irvine Buchal, Bonnie and Don Colton, Chet Kwasniewski, Arlene Moore, Francis Yerdon and Benjamin Coe.

The commission will be announcing a new round of Tug Hill Sages at its Annual Meeting in May of this year and is looking for nominations by April 3, 2015. A nomination form, nomination guidelines for eligibility as a Sage, and pictures of all 33 sages with their backgrounds is included with this Tug Hill Times and can be found on the commission's website at www.tughill.org.

Tug Hill Commission Meets in Cleveland

The Tug Hill Commission met on Tuesday, January 19th in the Village of Cleveland. At the meeting the Tug Hill Commissioners approved the Commission's 2015-2019 Strategic Plan which outlines program priorities for the Commission over the next 5 years. Commissioners thanked all the Tug Hill communities for their input in the plan over the past year including results of the 2013 Local Leaders Survey; the September meeting of local officials in Redfield where over 75 officials attended a regional strategic planning session; and, input from all 5 of the commissions Councils of Government. While the plan sets certain priorities the Commission members stressed that it is a fluid document and the Commission staff will always respond to changing circumstances when they arise. Commission members also had a long discussion with representatives of Northern Oneida Lake Communities regarding a proposal to develop a North Shore recreation and access strategy for advancing key waterfront access projects along the lake. Local leaders expressed strong support for such a strategy and encouraged the effort to build off recently developed projects and plans that are covering parts of the lake. The goal would be to develop something that more communities could endorse and support as projects develop. Commission staff will be developing ideas for the strategy over the next few weeks and start meetings with local communities and stakeholders to decide on a strategy can best serve the north shore communities without reinventing the wheel.

Celebrating Family Farms of the Tug Hill Region Exhibit In Boonville During February



"The Christmas Tree Farmer" original acrylic painting by Loretta Lepkowski of Bruce Wilbert trimming his Christmas trees

The Dodge Pratt Northam Art and Community Center at 106 Schuyler St., Boonville, NY (next to the Public Library) invites the public to view the traveling art show of "Celebrating Family Farms of the Tug Hill Region" during the month of February 2015. The opening reception will be Thursday, February 5th from 7-9 pm where approximately 30 paintings with family farm summaries will be on exhibit throughout the galleries at this beautiful historical Victorian House. Refreshments will be served and it is free



"Ella" original watercolor by Loretta Lepkowski

and open to the public. Cards will be available for sale. The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust worked with artist Loretta Lepkowski on this project with partial funding from the NYS Council of the Arts administered by the St. Lawrence Arts Council back in 2010. This project was intended to raise awareness and appreciation of the variety of family farms in the Tug Hill Region. It has surpassed initial expectation with positive responses from the public where the art show has now travelled to over 30 different locations (and grown from 16-32 paintings) in 7 different counties. Our local "Christmas Tree Farmer" Bruce Wilbert happened to be one of the initial paintings in the beginning of this show's travels. Recently, we learned that a Christmas Tree from his Balsam Acres Christmas Tree Farm near West Leyden graced Lincoln Square in NYC for their "Winter's Eve" celebration. Come see the original impressionistic style painting of "The Christmas Tree Farmer" at the DPN Art and Community Center this February. Depicted in the painting of "Ella" of the Sherman Family's "Head Waters Registered Holstein" dairy farm, Turin, NY also invites the public to this art show. Ella is now a Lewis County Dairy Princess Ambassador.

State Archives Records Management Grant Application Deadline Approaches

NYS Archives recently held workshops in and around the region providing guidance for the 2015-16 LGRMIF (Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund) Grant Application, tentative deadline of March 2. Please visit State Archives website for their full workshop schedule at: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/workshops/index.shtml>.

It is important to note that grants are submitted electronically and new eGrant user accounts must be submitted approximately one week prior in advance of the deadline. The date for this and the submission deadline has not been officially announced. When released, the 2015-16 grant deadlines will be posted here: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/grants/>. In the interim, guidance can be provided by contacting the State Archives Regional Advisory Officer, Kent Stuetz, at (315) 542-5909 or via e-mail at: Kent.Stuetz@nysed.gov. The Commission can also provide assistance in preparing your project and grant by contacting our office at (888) 785-2380.

NOCCOG Communities Prepare to Host Cycle Adirondacks

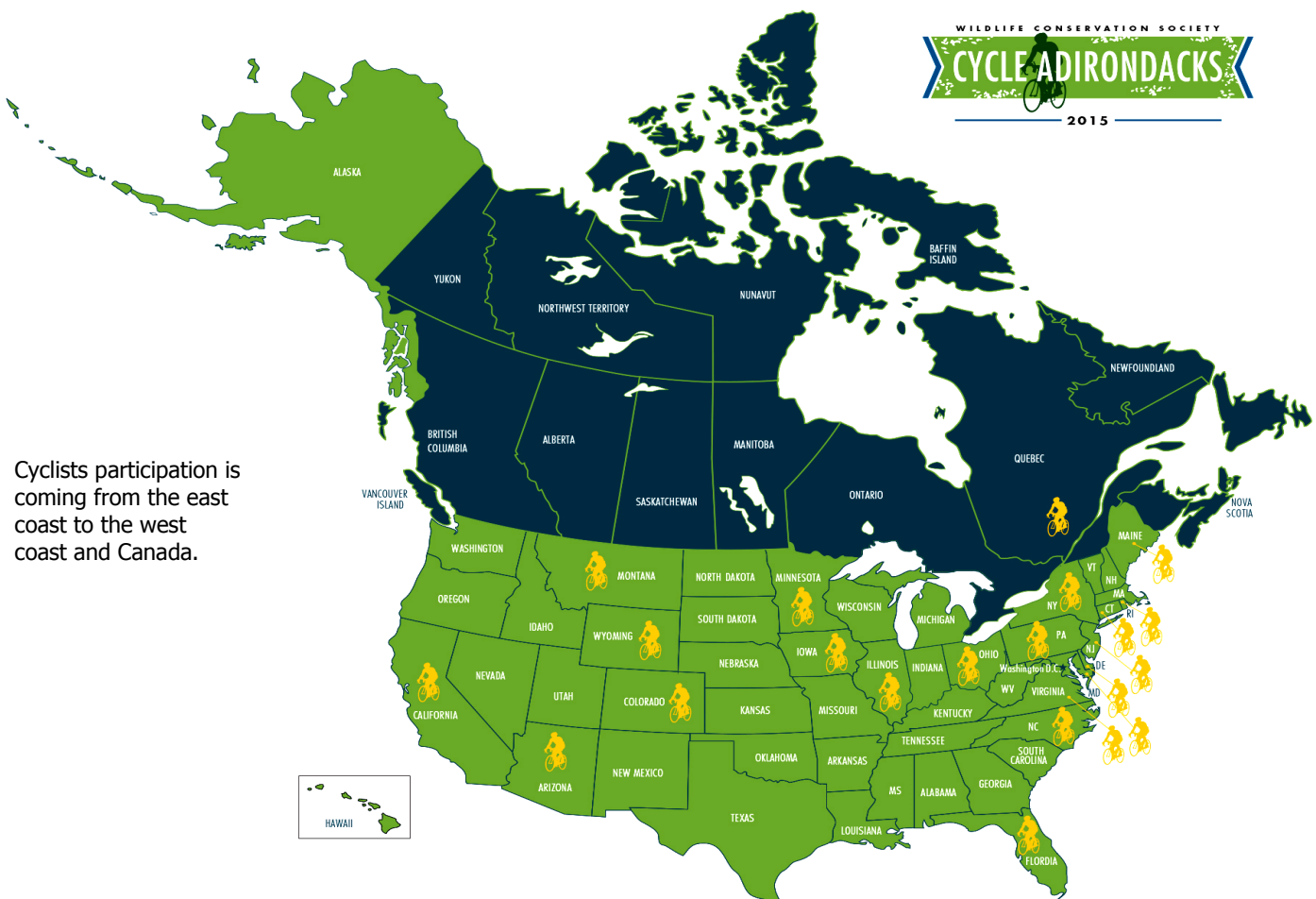
The communities of Boonville and Camden are preparing to host an estimated six hundred bicycle riders and hundreds more guests later this summer during the Cycle Adirondacks tour, a seven day road tour planned for August 23rd through 29th. Hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Society, the 470 mile tour will begin in Saranac Lake and follow a week long route through Star Lake, Boonville, Camden, Old Forge, and Long Lake before circling back to Saranac Lake.

Host communities are already busily preparing for their role providing areas for all inclusive camps; Camden at Manley Field and Boonville at Erwin Park; featuring food, lodging, and entertainment for guests as well as information for cyclists to explore all that these communities have to offer. Detailed community commitments have been signed and outline the anticipated roles of both communities.

Boonville Area Chamber of Commerce President Melinda Littler said although planning is in the early stages, the next step is to build excitement among the Chambers members, businesses, and throughout the local community. "This is big not only for us but for Oneida County," Littler said, adding that in the months to come, the Chamber will be rallying various groups and organizations to prepare for their roles in the event.

The Imagine Greater Camden Group is acting as liaison for Camden, and will now begin reaching out to various service organizations in the community for volunteers for various committee assignments. "We will need quite a few volunteers but we are confident it will all come together," said IGC President Jim Plumley, "This is an exciting opportunity for everyone involved."

Cycle Adirondacks organizers say the purpose of the event is to showcase the scenery and towns of the Adirondacks, and bring a greater appreciation of the region to everyone who participates in the event. Additional information on the event is available at www.cycleadirondeacks.com, Facebook.com/cycleadirondeacks, Twitter.com/cycleadk, or Instagram.com/cycleadk.



Contact us at:

**NYS Tug Hill
Commission**

317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

We are located on the
6th Floor of the Dulles
State Office Building.

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the
region:
1-888-785-2380

Email:
tughill@tughill.org
Website:
www.tughill.org

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Tug Hill Trivia???

What are the 5 major wa-
tersheds that cover the
Tug Hill?

The **FIRST** person to
email the correct answer
will receive a

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2015 Local Government
Conference on March 26!!

Send your answer to
gwen@tughill.org

If you have already regis-
tered and are the winner,
your registration will be
reimbursed.

Property Tax Freeze-What You Need to Know-WEBINAR

WEDNESDAY, February 4, 2015

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Speaker: Barbara VanEpps, NYCOM Deputy Director

NYCOM is presenting a one-hour webinar on New York's new Property Tax Freeze. This webinar will focus on what the Tax Freeze is, how it is supposed to work and what local governments need to do to comply.

Workshop Agenda

Specific topics to be covered:

- Taxpayer Eligibility
- Local Government Compliance in Years One and Two
- Government Efficiency Plans and What is Considered an "Eligibly Activity"
- Required Local Government Certifications
- Calculating the Credit
- Payment of the Credit

The cost of the one-hour Property Tax Freeze Webinar is \$15 per person (\$25 for non-members).

- To register for the Property Tax Freeze Webinar - Feb 4th (1:30-2:30 p.m.) go to <http://www.nycom.org/meetings-training/workshops/15-events-and-workshops/708-nycom-webinar-on-the-property-tax-freeze-what-you-need-to-know.html>

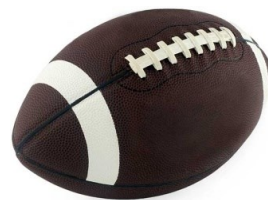
SAVE THE DATE!

Black River Watershed Conference - June 3, 2015

This event is being organized by the Tug Hill Commission, Lewis and Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and NYS DEC Region 6. If you have ideas for speakers or topics contact Jennifer Harvill at 785-2380.

Super Bowl Time How They Track Player Performance?

After the Super Bowl is done, be watching the NYS GIS Association website page and/or the Tug Hill Commission website. There will be a webinar by Zebra Technologies on how the NFL is using RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) to measure players speed, acceleration, and distance covered in just about real-time. This allows coaches to analyze their players performance, but the NFL's focus is on providing a better fan experience at the stadiums. For instance, it was used to show how one defensive lineman accelerated to 20 mph to race in for a touchdown. It allow for accurate tracking of players locations on the field, which brings us to the geospatial significance of a system like this.



This will be put on by the NYS GIS Association Professional Development Committee. Stay tuned and be on the lookout for this upcoming webinar once the Super Bowl is done.