



January 18, 2013

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January 21, 2013



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.

Commission Meets in Boonville

Tug Hill Commission Members had their annual organizational meeting in Boonville, Wednesday January 16th. This was the first meeting led by Commission Chair Jan Bogdanowicz along with newly elected Vice Chair Michael Yerdon and Secretary Thomas Boxberger. While much of the agenda was organizational for the 2013-14 terms, the Commission Members did have a thorough briefing on economic development efforts in the Village and Town of Boonville. Boonville Mayor Michael Kramer discussed the efforts of the Boonville Economic Development Committee on encouraging dialogue over the past year on various downtown projects as well as the recent acquisition of the Ethan Allen plant by Bowers Lumber. The former plant will house a hardwood processing mill operated by Bowers Lumber and has also allowed for some leasing opportunities on the site such as that for Climax shipping and storage. According to Mayor Kramer "It is extremely encouraging to see these locally based industries take on a site that has been abandoned for several years." Mayor Kramer also credited Ethan Allen for working with the Village and these private sector investors. While it is always difficult to lose 100's of jobs from a manufacturer like Ethan Allen, the Mayor credited the company for being very cooperative in helping to see the site reused for other activities.

Tug Hill Commission Members also heard updates regarding several projects in the region including a Phase 2 of the Joint Infrastructure Management Initiative which will focus in large measure on Oneida County; the Regional Economic Development Council and recent funding announcements and priorities for 2013; and, several grant awards throughout the Tug Hill Region. The next meeting of the Commission will be on March 27th in Watertown, the evening before the Commission's 2013 Local Government Conference at Jefferson Community College.

Local Government Efficiency Program Announces Next Funding Round

Chief elected officials were recently sent letters from the Department of State to announce the next competitive round of Local Government Efficiency (LGE) grants. This year local governments can apply for assistance to:

- Consolidate and reorganize local government structures, consolidate services between local governments, revise city or county charters to include functional consolidations, implement shared or cooperative services between local governments, and regionalize the delivery of services.
- Implement the internal reorganization of service delivery for local governments that have had an operating deficit in each of the last three years or that have been unable to limit growth in the property tax levy to fewer than two-percent in each of the last three years.

This year, the LGE program is funded with \$4 million and municipalities may receive a maximum of \$200,000 per project. Each application must demonstrate the financial savings that will accrue to the local government and its taxpayers from the project, provide a positive return on public investment, and demonstrate progressive and measureable management improvements that will result from project implementation. The submission deadline is 4:00 p.m. on March 13, 2013.

Applications are available on the Department of State website at:

<http://www.dos.ny.gov/funding/> or by calling 1-800-367-8488. You may also contact the Commission for project or application assistance by calling 1-888-785-2380 or via email at tughill@tughill.org.

TREE PRUNING WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 26, 2013

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Adams Municipal Building

Speakers:

Glen Roberts, NYS DEC Forester

Sue Gwise, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County



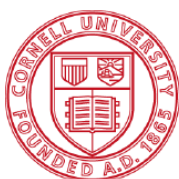
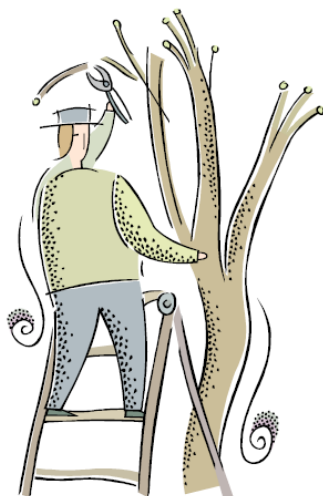
Pruning Basics:

- Why, when, and how to prune small trees.
- Outdoor, hands-on pruning session; dress accordingly.
- Bring hand pruners and small saws.

For more information contact:

Liz Walker, Chair, Village of Adams Tree Committee

(315) 232-4359 or walker@twcny.ny.us



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USGS Shares Information with Town of Adams

To assist the Town of Adams with recent efforts to find a new municipal water source for its Adams Center water district, the Commission organized a meeting of the town, its engineers, and experts from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) this past Wednesday. For the past several years the Commission and USGS have worked to advance knowledge of how the Tug Hill Aquifer system functions. Much of the field work to date has been done in the northern part of the aquifer in the Adams area. It is hoped that the discussion and data provided to the town will help inform their work to find a productive groundwater source. Water supply has been an issue in the Adams area for the past few years, as low winter snowpack has decreased the amount of recharge going into the aquifer during the spring, resulting in low water tables and emergency conservation measures in the summer.

For more information about the Tug Hill Aquifer, a short summary and interactive map are available on the Commission's website at <http://www.tughill.org/services/natural-resource-management/> or call Katie at the Commission offices.

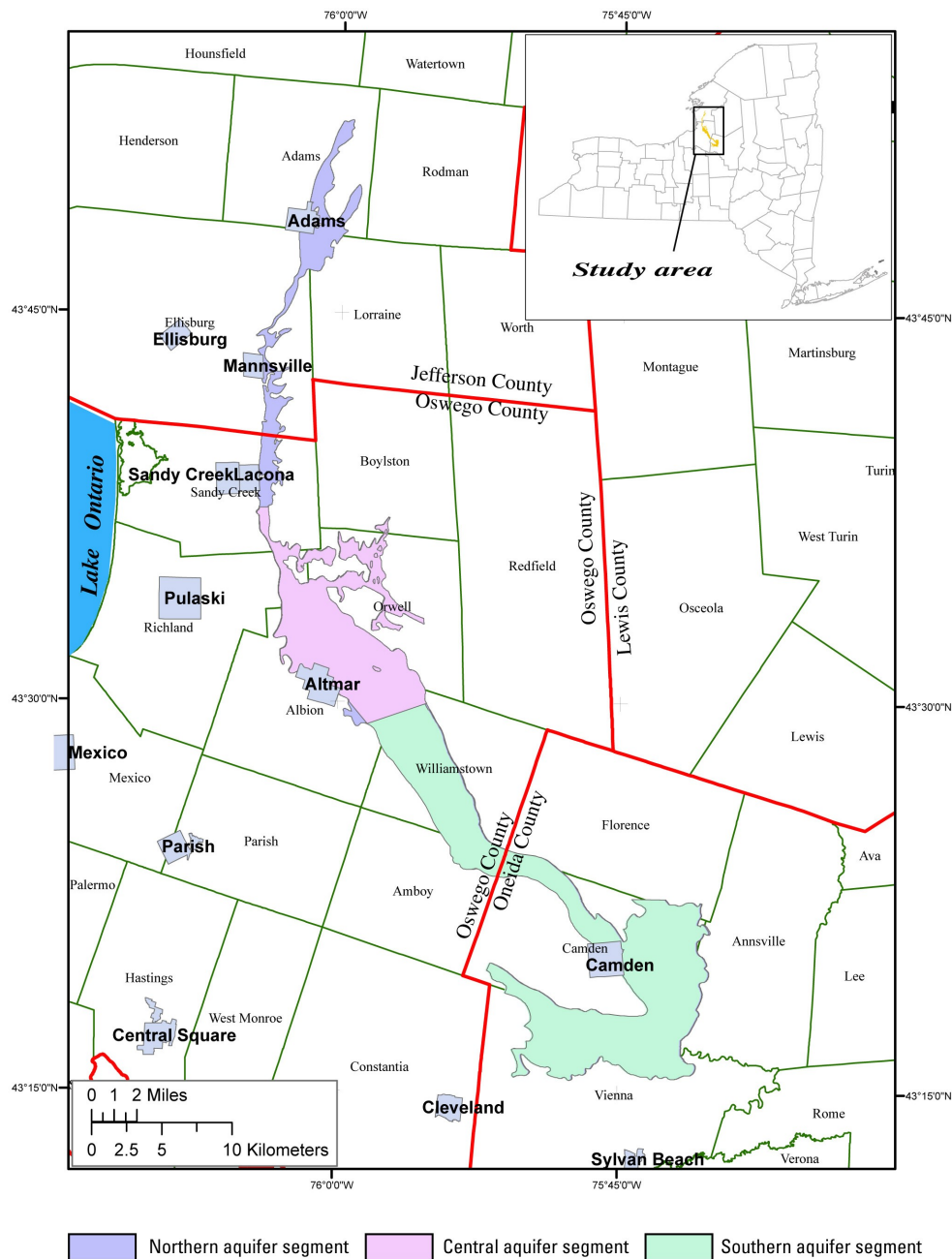


Figure 1. Location of the Tug Hill glacial aquifer proposed study area, and northern, central and southern, aquifer segments.

