

JULY 28, 2017

Commission Welcomes New Member

Geraldine Ritter of Forestport, Oneida County was appointed as the newest Tug Hill Commissioner by Speaker Heastie earlier this month. Gerry has over 30 years of experience working with local government, including eight years as the commission's full time circuit rider covering the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG). Gerry retired from the commission in 2014, at which time she was recognized by the Genesis Group of the Mohawk Valley as a community leader and received the Joseph Carucci Legacy Award. She has continued in her retirement to service on the Local Government Education Committee of Oneida and Herkimer Counties, and is a member of the town of Forestport Planning Board and currently serving as co-chair.



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Leona Chereshnoski of Lorraine, Jefferson County, who has served on the Tug Hill Commission board since November 1983, was reappointed by Speaker Heastie earlier this month for another five year term. Leona has served as the commission's vice chairman several times during her tenure, and is very active with the New York State Old Tyme Fiddlers Association and the Osceola Public Library.

Red Flags for Fraud & Fiscal Oversight August 29

This workshop will be held Tuesday, August 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the town of Schuyler town hall located at 2090 State Rt. 5, Utica. Laird Petrie, an examiner with the Division of Local Governments & School Accountability from the Office of the State Comptroller will provide information to assist municipal officials with instituting and maintaining sound fiscal practices for monitoring municipal finances and transactions.

Who should attend:

- supervisors & mayors
- council members & trustees
- clerks & treasurers

Also those who:

- act in a fiscal oversight capacity
- maintain financial records
- take or receive payments
- authorize bills, payments & vouchers
- make purchases

There is no fee for the workshop. Please pre-register by Friday, August 24. Registration forms and more information is available at <http://lgec.org/content/Generic/View/22>.

DEC Seeks Public Input on Management of Protected Lands in Salmon River Corridor

Public Meetings August 1 and August 3 in Pulaski, Oswego County

As announced by Governor Cuomo on May 24, 2017, DEC recently acquired 2,825 acres of land along the Salmon River, an internationally acclaimed fishing destination, as a result of a settlement agreement with National Grid. Approximately 1,700 acres of the acquisition are located adjacent to the lower Salmon River and have been designated as the Lower Salmon River State Forest. This acquisition assures public access to the world-renowned fisheries for Lake Ontario-spawning run trout and salmon, serves as an economic engine for the local area, and provides opportunity for river restoration projects and fishing infrastructure creation and enhancement.

Two public meetings have been scheduled to accept input on the management of state lands in the Salmon River corridor. Meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 1, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., and Thursday, August 3, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., at the Pulaski High School Auditorium. The high school is located at 4624 Salina Street, Pulaski, New York.

Everyone with an interest in the Salmon River Corridor is invited to attend one of the meetings to express their ideas and opinions about the plans. Formal presentations about the Lower Salmon River Restoration and Recreation Enhancement Plan currently under development for the newly created Salmon River State Forest and the Draft Eastern Lake Ontario Unit Management Plan will be given followed by an opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

A copy of the Draft Eastern Lake Ontario Unit Management Plan can be found here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/90727.html>. For additional information about the meeting contact Erin Jennings at (315) 298-7467 or email: r7forest-ry@dec.ny.gov.

Barneveld Dissolution Study Committee Work Underway

The village of Barneveld has formed a seven-member Dissolution Study Committee, made up of village board members, the village clerk, village residents and a town board member, to develop a dissolution plan for the village board to consider this fall. The committee has met twice so far, and is working with staff from the Tug Hill Commission, Northern Oneida County Council of Governments, and the NYS Department of State to compile and analyze all the necessary information to develop the plan.

As part of the dissolution study work, commission staff, with assistance from an intern from the Environmental Finance Center, mapped out the village's sidewalks and street lights this week. Ian Adam with the village's Water Department assisted in the effort. The data was collected by using the commission's EOS Bluetooth GPS receiver and Samsung Tablet. The data was then stored in the commission's online database for viewing with their GIS Cloud map portal and utilization in a dissolution study map produced with QGIS.

The village was petitioned in the spring of 2017 to dissolve, and a referendum was held on June 6, 2017 which supported the potential dissolution.



Attention Woodland Owners

Now that the EAB has been discovered around Central New York, we would like to help you understand what to expect and to discuss management options. There are two [identical] informational sessions being held in August. Officials from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets will be on hand to present information on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and to answer questions you might have about your property.



Emerald Ash Borer. Photograph by:
David Cappaert. <http://www.forestryimages.org/>

Light Refreshments Will Be Served.

Please check our website <http://www.tughill.org> for a complete agenda as we get closer to the dates.

RSVP BY FRIDAY AUGUST 11, 2017

Date: Wednesday August 16, 2017

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Place: West Monroe Town Hall

46 County Route 11, West Monroe NY 13167

Date: Thursday August 17, 2017

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Place: Boonville Town and Village Office

13149 State Route 12, Boonville, NY 13309

Contact: To RSVP, for additional information about the meeting, or if you are unable to attend the meeting and are interested in management options, please contact Glen Roberts: [315] 376-3521 or email glen.roberts@dec.ny.gov.

This meeting is being organized by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and the NYS Tug Hill Commission.

Making Plans for the 2017 Black River Trash Bash: *Clean Water Starts With You*

The eight annual Black River Trash Bash is right around the corner, and this year's volunteers will be receiving a special gift for their hard work! The 2017 Trash Bash will be taking place on a date you pick in September or October this year. As you meet with your organizations this summer, please take a look at your calendars and let me know when you'd like to hold your event. It can be anywhere in the Black River watershed during the months of September and October. If you can think of another organization that might want to participate or for more information, contact Jennifer Harvill at 315-785-2380 or jennifer@tughill.org.

Last year, 57 Black River Trash Bash participants from Lyons Falls Alive, South Lewis Central School, Adirondack Communities Advisory League, Lewis County and Jefferson County Water Quality Coordinating Committees, American Society of Civil Engineers Student Club at SUNY Poly in Utica, and Haderondah 4H Club in Old Forge collected 400 pounds of trash and recyclables from the Black River shoreline. To illustrate the type and quantity of trash items collected, here are just a few examples from the data cards turned in by last year's volunteers: 1,600 cigarette butts, 422 food wrappers, 72 pieces of construction materials, 72 tobacco wrappers, 177 beverage cans and bottles, and 32 diapers. Of the 405 pounds of trash removed from 6 miles of shoreline, 24 pounds were recycled and diverted from the landfill for recycling.

Last year's Black River Trash Bash contributed to the following statewide: In 2016, 6,645 volunteers, coordinated by the American Littoral Society, cleaned and documented 66,830 pounds of debris along more than 230 miles of New York State's shoreline.

August 8 Black River Trail Cleanup

In coordination with New York State's Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Tug Hill Commission and other local organizations are promoting a cleanup event at the most recent extension of the Black River Trail on **Tuesday, August 8th from 10:00 am -12:00 p.m.** The recent extension of the trail from Ridge Road to Walker Ave was completed in May of 2017, creating a total of 4.5 miles of paved, accessible trails for pedestrians and bicyclers.

State Parks and the city of Watertown have been partnering to develop a trail from the village of Black River through the city of Watertown. When completed, the trail will continue through Waterworks Park on Huntington Street by going under the Route 3 bridge, and connecting with newly constructed sidewalks on Factory Street which connects to the Riverwalk. These extensions have been supported with funding from the NYS Department of Transportation through a "rails to trails" grant program that converts old railroad tracks to paved trail systems, as well as through the city of Watertown's Community Development Block Grant funding.

This beautiful, scenic new recreational amenity is an asset to Watertown, meandering through wooded wetlands, with several openings that provide opportunities to view scenic marshes. Keeping the trail clean and free of trash and debris will help protect these wetlands and improve aesthetics and safety for those seeking to enjoy use of the trail. To get involved, please contact Emily Sheridan at (315)785-2382.

Contact Us

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