

JUNE 16, 2017



Meet Our Summer Intern

The commission has hired Robbie Fredericks as a summer intern. Robbie is from Manlius, NY (with family on Tug Hill) and is a recent graduate of the State University of New York at Cortland, where he majored in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). His primary focus will be to update and improve the Cooperative Tug Hill Council's 2006 Resource Management Plan. Robbie will also be providing backup to the commission's GIS program. This position is being funded and administered by a unique partnership between the Tug Hill Commission, the Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC), and the Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University.

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Barneveld Votes to Dissolve

Residents in the village of Barneveld have voted to dissolve following the submission of a petition earlier this year. The vote on June 6th indicated support of dissolution with 54 in favor and 12 opposed. The board of trustees will have 180 days to develop a plan for that dissolution which will likely include the creation of a lighting district and determination of what will happen with sidewalks. A committee will be appointed by the village board to develop the plan with assistance from outside agencies.

Funding from the NYS Local Government Efficiency Program will help to offset costs associated with the dissolution. The town would also be eligible for Citizens Empowerment Tax Credit funds once the dissolution is complete. 70% of that funding must be used for local property tax relief. Staff from the Tug Hill Commission and NOCCOG are assisting with the process.

The dissolution will be the fourth in the Tug Hill region and second in the town of Trenton. The villages of Altmar and Herrings to the north dissolved in 2013 and 2017 respectively, and the village of Prospect, also in Trenton, dissolved in 2015.

Black River Watershed Conference Held

The 2017 Black River Watershed Conference took place on June 14th at the View Arts Center in Old Forge, New York. Conference goers heard presentations about terrestrial invasive species, the impacts of road salt on our streams, the town of Webb's dye testing program and the many projects underway by the soil and water conservation districts in the watershed. In addition, 46 of the 63 people at the conference participated in a cruise up the Fulton Chain of Lakes. This afternoon tour was sponsored by the Black River Advisory Council. During the boat ride, participants learned about the colorful history of the central Adirondacks and about the natural history, geology and ecology of the lakes. This was the seventh annual conference and the first time it was held in the Adirondack portion of the watershed. The presentations from the conference are available at <http://www.tughill.org/2017/05/05/presentations-from-the-seventh-annual-black-river-watershed-conference/>.



Reflection



Presentations



Boat Tour

Forest Economy Analysis Complete

In 2015, amidst increased demand for forest products and limited supply infrastructure in northern New York, the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), along with partners Empire State Forest Products Association, the Workforce Development Institute, Adirondack Landowners Institute, and the Tug Hill Commission, undertook an analysis of the forest products industry in the 14-county ANCA region (which includes all four Tug Hill counties). The study assessed the challenges for maintaining a viable northern forest timber economy and identified options for addressing industry challenges. The recently completed executive summary and full report can be found on ANCA's website at <https://adirondack.org/publications>.

Findings from the study included:

- Of over 8.8 million acres of forestland in the region, there are approximately 3.6 million acres of accessible timberland – land not restricted from timber harvesting. Of this, 91% is privately owned;
- This timberland base has grown significantly over the last 100 years and in recent years is relatively stable. The most significant change recently was nearly 104,000 acres added to the Adirondack Forest Preserve since 1993 (state ownership) and, as such, have been permanently removed from the timber base;
- Model runs using the Northern Forest Biomass Project Evaluator show that, due to current timber harvest levels that are significantly below annual growth in the 14-county region, by 2036 as much as 3.2 million additional tons of timber will be available to the timber economy than is available today.
- The region contains or is adjacent to the full suite of forest products markets such that any tree harvested in the region has either a low-value or higher-value market and, compared to many other areas in the U.S., has abundant markets for forest products;
- The supply chain infrastructure to move timber to market that includes harvesting and trucking is in place in the region with dozens of individual companies and hundreds of individuals working in those sectors;
- The harvesting and trucking infrastructure is adequate to supply the existing forest products markets at their current demand level, for increased demand, it may need improvements:

Recommendations from the study are:

- Sustain and grow the forest products markets that exist today
- Encourage forest products markets to positively influence the logging and trucking infrastructure
- Sustain and grow appropriate state investment in the forest products industry
- Sustain and expand NY's involvement in logger training programs.



14-COUNTY NORTHERN NEW YORK STUDY AREA

Community Challenge Grants Available from AARP

AARP is now accepting applications for Community Challenge grants to fund projects that will make our communities great places to live for people of all ages. The grant program is part of AARP's nationwide Livable Communities initiative.

The program is open to 501(C) (3) and 501(C) (4) non-profits and government entities. Projects might range from a small, short-term activity that costs hundreds to a more sizable project requiring thousands of dollars. Submissions should aim to change the community to make it more Age Friendly, walkable and engaging.

The application deadline is June 30, 2017, and all projects must be completed by November 1, 2017. For more information visit www.aarp.org/ny.

Contact Us

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If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to gwen@tughill.org or call 1-888-785-2380.

Electronic versions appear in full color!

Save the Date! 80th Annual NYPF Conference at The Sagamore in Lake George!

The New York Planning Federation's annual *Planning and Zoning Conference* will be held on Sunday, April 22 - Tuesday, April 24, 2018 and NYPF staff has already begun to look at sessions that will be current for planning / ZBA members as well as professional planners, land use attorneys and code enforcement officers. If you are interested in presenting a session or have a session that you like to hear at the conference, please feel free to contact NYPF with any suggestions at nypf@nypf.org.

Forest Habitat Management Workshop

Wednesday, June 21, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Boonville Municipal Building, Town Conference Room
13149 State Route 12, Boonville, NY 13309

The Tug Hill and Adirondack Regions provide extensive forested habitats essential to the survival of at-risk bird species such as American Woodcock, Canada Warbler, Brown Thrasher, and many others. Audubon New York encourages Tug Hill and Adirondack forest landowners to register for an upcoming free workshop to learn how to successfully manage their properties to maximize benefits for birds and other wildlife, especially the American Woodcock, which is a species of greatest conservation need in New York State.

The workshop brings landowners together with experts on birds and other wildlife, and forest habitat management. Participating landowners will hear from a series of presenters about birds and other wildlife they can attract through proper habitat management, and where they can find the resources, tools, and potential partners to help them plan for managing habitat to benefit wildlife on their property.

Event is free but registration is required by Monday, June 19. RSVP by June 19th to Andy Hinickle at ahinickle@audubon.org or (607) 254-2487. Presentations by: Audubon New York and NYS DEC.