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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 Designates Three New "Sages" and Recognizes Original Commissioner



L-R seated: George Bibbins Sr., A. Milian Smith, Bonnie Colton, Warren Mathis.  
L-R standing: George Capron, Ben Coe, Robert Sauer, Robert McNamara.

The Tug Hill Commission honored three new Tug Hill Sages and recognized A. Milain Smith, one of the original Commission members appointed by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller in 1972, for his service to the Tug Hill Commission and the region at its Annual Meeting/Dinner on May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Adams Country Club.

**George Capron** from Boonville has been the voice of the Black River Valley for over 50 years. He started working at WBRV in Boonville at the age of 19 and is still serving the area with his daily radio program. George is a recent cancer survivor and had to take a break in 2014 from his broadcasting duties and his job as a proof reader and contributor to the Boonville Herald. Everyone in the area listens to George's early morning radio show. His easy going manner and calmness covering local stories and the ever changing weather has earned him the title of the most respected man in the Black River Valley. George is also an avid snowmobiler and is a long standing member of the Lost Trails Club.

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**George Getman** grew up in Turin, NY. A man of the woods his whole life, George began George Getman Logging with his wife Lucille back in the 1950's. For years, George hauled pulp for Gould Paper Company, which later became Georgia Pacific and Lyons Falls Pulp & Paper. He also spent many years working in the woods for the Northern Lumber Company, International Paper Company and Adirondack League Club. In 1985 the Commissioner of NYS DEC named him New York's Timber Harvester of the year. Upon George's retirement in 1997, George continued to do road work on Tug Hill and today he works in his sawmill and woodworking shop where he builds beautiful furniture for his family. George was unable to attend the dinner on Thursday night.

**Robert McNamara** of Cleveland is an artist, photographer, and writer who shares a piece of the Tug Hill second generation wilderness with many of the species that inspire his work. His formal education was at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY. His first career in Landscape Architecture evolved into a consulting business in Environmental Interpretation and Fine Arts. His work has appeared many times in *Wildlife Art* magazine, and he was a contributing artist and writer for a book titled *The Best of Wildlife Art*, published by North Light Books and the book titled *Tug Hill, A Four Season Guide to the Natural Side*, published by North Country Books. His writings have appeared in *Adirondack Life*, *The Conservationist*, and *Ranger Rick*. Bob has been involved with TH Tomorrow Land Trust for many years and leads hiking adventures on TH on a regular basis.

"Tug Hill Sages" were first designated by the Commission in 1983. Sages are people who have lived a life close to Tug Hill and its traditions. Most Sages have been loggers, sawyers, fiddlers, conservationists, maple syrup producers, or have other similar ties to things Tug Hill. Tug Hill is a 2,100-square mile, 1.2 million acre region of New York State located between the Adirondacks and Lake Ontario. Larger than Delaware or Rhode Island, it is one of the most rural and remote sections of the State and the Northeast.

## **Village of Carthage Board Makes Decision on Installation of Solar Panels**

Based upon information presented by Bernier Carr & Associates to members of the Village of Carthage Board on May 18<sup>th</sup>, action was taken not to proceed with the installation of solar panels at the Carthage Park and shared service sites to reduce energy consumption. According to Jared Thisse, civil engineer, recent changes made by the NYS Public Service Commission regulating solar power combined with lower rates for solar energy currently restrict any shared service benefits to significantly reduce the cost of energy to publicly owned facilities.

The villages of Carthage and West Carthage contracted with BC&A to explore options and opportunities for shared service cost savings using Solar Power through ERE Energy Group. Using federal tax credits to reduce project cost, the 7-9 month application process, December deadline and contract negotiations with ERE Energy Group for Solar Power the board decided not to participate. Considering the information presented, Wayne McIlroy, Village President, said "Maybe if we had more time, but we don't see how we can do it."

## **Training for Planning Board and ZBA Members, June 18<sup>th</sup>**

The Town of Osceola is hosting training for Planning Board and ZBA members. The training session will be held on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 pm at the Osceola Community Center, 1426 Osceola Rd., Osceola. Phil Street, Director of Planning for the Tug Hill Commission will be conducting the training on the roles and responsibilities of planning and zoning boards, holding public hearings and other matters of general interest. Contact CTHC Circuit Rider Angie Kimball at [angela@tughill.org](mailto:angela@tughill.org) or 599-8825(home) or 480-6857(cell) with any questions or to register for the class. If approved by your Town Board, this class would provide two hours of training towards your annual training requirements.

# Post-Flood Emergency Stream Intervention Training June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Ogdensburg

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Department of Transportation and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition will be conducting a free (6) six-hour Post-Flood Emergency Stream Intervention training session on June 23, 2015 from 9 am to 3 pm for NYSDOT, Department of Public Works, equipment operators/contractors, environmental consultants, and other interested entities. This training protocol was developed to provide the knowledge and tools necessary to properly respond to immediate post-flood corrective action or “triage” by local municipalities or other individuals, and to work with the stream’s natural tendencies while protecting aquatic habitat. This includes in-stream debris jams, compromised stream channel capacity due to deposition, and other corrective measures. Two (2) Professional Development hour credits will be provided for course completion.

To register for this training visit: <https://eventbrite.com/event/17005544040/> Seats are limited, and the deadline to register is June 17. The training will be held at the Quality of Work Life Building, 642 County Route 28A, Ogdensburg, NY 13669. \* *Note – This training includes a site visit to a stream and will be conducted rain or shine. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear.*

## Training Course Description:

- Post-flood responsiveness to save valuable time, energy and resources;
- Where to and where not to work;
- Stream work prioritization;
- How to determine proper stream channel dimensions for restoring channels using locally and regionally-developed Hydraulic Relationship Curves;
- Identification/duplication of stable stream reaches;
- How to recognize stream channels with reduced flow capacity;
- Use of USGS New York StreamStats Web Tool to calculate watershed areas;
- Determine proper stream profile and geometric pattern; and
- Reconnect stream to their natural floodplain

For more information about this training or for a copy of the training manual visit the DEC website: [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/86450/html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/86450/html).

## **Tug Hill Commission to Meet in Camden**

Monday, June 22nd, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
Village of Camden Offices, 57 Main Street, Camden

## **Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition Meets in Black River**

The Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition (JCSC) held its annual meeting on May 20th at the Village of Black River to review key agenda items and discuss next step strategies. Due on June 1st, the Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District (JCSWCD) provided members with an overview of the Annual Stormwater Report and highlighted key points required to implement the plan.

JCSWCD reported coordinated efforts and activities to provide public information about the MS4 at the Black River Watershed Conference on June 3rd, 4-hour sediment and erosion control workshop on March 24th at the Italian American Civic Association in Watertown and information session at the March 26th at the Local Government Conference.

Members of the group approved a monthly work session involving program coordinators from each municipality to work on implementing the MS4 work plan, compile monthly reports and submit year-end reporting documents. In addition, JCSWCD plans to coordinate with NYS Tug Hill Commission, Jefferson County Planning Department and local planning boards to begin the process of amending local zoning laws to reflect MS4 requirements.



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## Black River Watershed Conference Held



The Fifth Annual Black River Watershed Conference was a great success. Held this year at the Hayloft at Moonshine Farm in Port Leyden, the conference focused on a range of topics including tracking invasive species and preventing their spread via boat stewards, an update from the Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition, green infrastructure and nutrient management. The participants were treated to an afternoon in the field, where they visited the Black River Canal Museum in Boonville, the ReEnergy Plant in Lyonsdale and the Conway Farm. The group also stopped in the Village of Port Leyden, where Mayor Sandy Sexton recounted her village's flooding disaster just last year. Mayor Sexton shared valuable lessons learned with the group about response and recover from the elected official's perspective. In May of last year, the Village received an unprecedented 7 inches of rain in just over three hours and suffered extensive infrastructure damage. Thankfully, there were no serious injuries or fatalities.

The conference organizers, the Commission, Jefferson and Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the NYS DEC Region 6 would like to thank the sponsors of the event. They include the Beaver River Advisory Council, which provided the afternoon coach tour, and the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance counties (Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Herkimer and Hamilton) that comprise the Black River Watershed. They also wish to thank the speakers that traveled from out of town to be at the conference: Dr. Eric Holmlund, Watershed Stewardship Program at the ADK Watershed Institute of Paul Smith's College; Tana Bigelow, Green Infrastructure Coordinator, Environmental Facilities Corporation; and Karl Czymmek, Nutrient/CAFO/Environmental Management, Cornell University. Thanks also to Frank Pace, Mike Lumbis, Nichelle Billhardt, Tom Voss, Emily Sheridan, Christine Watkins and Katie Malinowski for updating the group on a wide range of projects taking place in the Watershed and for their contributions to this year's conference.



The planners are already looking forward to next year's conference. If you have any ideas, please contact Jennifer Harvill at 785-2392 or [jennifer@tughill.org](mailto:jennifer@tughill.org).