

**March, 2, 2012**

# 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.

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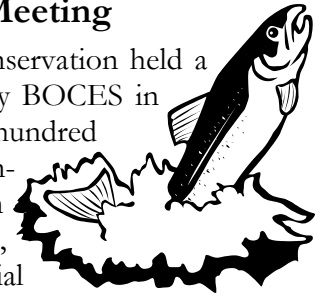
Please visit our website:  
[www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)



**Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday March 11 at 2:00 am. Spring ahead!!**

## NYSDEC Holds State of Lake Ontario 2012 Meeting

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation held a meeting on the state of Lake Ontario at Oswego County BOCES in Mexico, New York on Wednesday, February 22. Several hundred local citizens, sportsmen and officials attended the presentation, which covered the state of fish and fish stocking in Lake Ontario, proposed changes in angling regulations, and ongoing research on fish migration patterns. Of special note was representation from the Department's Canadian counterpart, reporting on hatcheries, stocking efforts and research on "the other side of the lake".



The Salmon River accounted for 68% of the angler hours on Lake Ontario tributaries in 2011. On the open lake, trout and salmon fishing success was the highest in the 27 year data series. The Atlantic Salmon catch rate in 2011 was the second highest in the 27 year data series, and the third consecutive year of an increase in catch rate. Improvements continue to be made and planned at the hatchery in Altmar. Complete highlights from the State of Lake Ontario meeting can be found at [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\\_marine\\_pdf/lou2011highlights.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/lou2011highlights.pdf).

The "Early Bird" Registration Deadline for the Local Government Conference is **March 7th**. Please call the Commission for a registration form or visit our website at [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org) to download a copy. Prices are \$50 by March 7 • \$75 by March 14 • \$100 after March 14

## Smart Management for Small Communities: Practical Resources for Governance



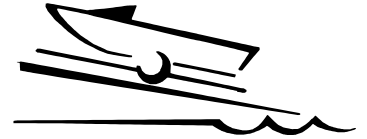
The Environmental Finance Center (EFC) invites you to attend this conference **April 10, 11 and 12** at the Minnowbrook Conference Center in Blue Mountain Lake, NY. The conference will focus on the needs of municipal leaders and provide technical assistance, funding updates and practical skill-building sessions. Speakers will address pressing environmental topics, equipping attendees with the

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tools needed to address environmental challenges in our communities. Supervisors, Mayors, Council/Board Members, Clerks, County Leaders, and Other Interested Community Leaders should attend. For more information, go to <http://efc.syracusecoe.org/efc/events.html?skuvar=35>.

Agenda topics include: Public Outreach and Community Engagement, Tools for Public Outreach and Engagement, Funding Updates from various programs, Land Use Planning and Natural Resource Management, Rural Smart Growth, Community Level Agriculture Planning and Watershed Management, Asset Management



## South Main Street Boat Launch in West Carthage

Members of the Village of West Carthage Board is contracting for professional services through GYMO Architecture, Engineering & Land Surveying of Watertown to construct the South Main Street Trailhead Project. Targeted for completion by December 2012, the phased project will feature a concrete boat launch ramp, picnic shelter, parking lot and walkways, as well as tree plantings, interpretive panels and benches.

Located along the Black River, the Village of West Carthage is implementing recommendations outlined in the "Destination Blueway: A Waterfront Plan for the Villages of Carthage and West Carthage." A regional recreation planning initiative designed to guide future development of wetland and open space areas to improve the quality of life for residents while enhancing opportunities to stimulate the local economy, local officials leveraged limited local resources through the 2009 Recreational Trail SAFE-TEA Grants Program under NYS DOT to construct the \$145,000 project.

## Mark Your Calendar Now to Attend the June 2012 NYS Cyber Security Conference!



June 2012 marks the 15th Annual New York State Cyber Security Conference and you are encouraged to register now at <http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ocs/awareness-training-events/conference/2012/index.cfm>. The goals of the conference are to educate the community about protecting information, to increase awareness about cyber security threats and risks, to sharpen staff technical skills, to present cutting edge information to broaden cyber security professionals' knowledge, to present useful sessions that examine an issue, problem, or threat and offer solutions, best practices and lessons learned, and to ensure that participants leave the event with practical information that can be applied to their cyber security environment. **The cost to attend the conference is FREE** to government and public sector employees including K-higher education, \$200 for private sector employees and \$50 for not-for-profit employees. **Contact the NYS Office of Cyber Security at [cyber.outreach@dhSES.ny.gov](mailto:cyber.outreach@dhSES.ny.gov) if you have any questions.**

## Electronic "Fruit" for Thought in the Villages of Carthage and West Carthage

Based upon information provided by Debi Pierce, Clerk for the Village of West Carthage, local officials from the Village of Carthage approved the purchase of six iPads at the February 6th meeting to provide more cost effective and efficient flows of communication. According to Debi, the Village of West Carthage purchased six iPads over two years ago, for the Clerk, Mayor and Trustees, to provide them electronic access to information, documents and correspondence for review and consideration at local board meetings. Using Dropbox, a Web-based file hosting service that stores and accesses information, trustees no longer need to travel to the office to attain information packets. Additionally, local officials are able to attend meetings via video conference if they are unable to be physically present.



Register now for the spring New York Planning Federation conference, which will be held April 15th - 17th at the Saratoga Hilton in Saratoga Springs, NY. For more information: <http://www.nypf.org/editable/conference.html>. Hotel reservations can be made at the Saratoga Hilton at (518) 584-4000.

This year's conference offers several programs related to urban and/or downtown issues, each focusing on a different concern for municipal boards and professional planners. These include: Designing Urban Bikeways, Multi-Generational Design in Community Planning, Context Sensitive Design, Developing a Viable Downtown and Public Health Considerations in Community Design.

New this year is an entire track of introductory courses aimed at first-time planning board and/or ZBA members, or for those wanting to brush up on

their basic knowledge. These sessions will include: Area and Use Variances, Introduction to SEQR, Site Plan Review, Special Use Permits, Non-Conforming Uses and Rights and Responsibilities of Board Members. The advanced SEQR class will focus on the sometimes-confusing process of filling out the long form EIS.

Monday morning, April 16th, starts with an 8:30 am plenary session by Robert Freeman, Committee on Open Government, titled *Reflections on Transparency*, followed by two days of nearly two dozen classes for all levels.

The conference schedule can be found at <http://www.nypf.org/pdf/2012%20preliminary%20schedule%20revised%202-16.pdf> and the final schedule will be announced shortly.

## Oswego County Holds Oneida Lake Access Meeting

The Oswego County Department of Community Development, Tourism and Planning recently held a meeting at the Hastings Municipal Building regarding public waterfront access on the Oneida Lake shoreline within Oswego County, the Oneida River and the Oswego River south of the Minetto Bridge. The meeting, to review the draft report on public waterfront access, was a follow-up to a meeting held in the fall of 2012, which introduced the project. It is anticipated that this inventory of waterfront access may be useful to municipalities in support of fundraising and grant applications for improvements to public waterfront access, and was funded through the New York State Department of State Division of Coastal Resources, using a grant from the Environmental Protection Fund. The draft study can be found at the Oswego County web page at [www.oswegocounty.com/planning.shtml](http://www.oswegocounty.com/planning.shtml).



## Wood Biomass Boiler Tour Well Attended; Engineering Grant Funding Available

Over 60 people met on February 22nd at the South Lewis School District to learn more about their newly installed wood chip boiler system. District officials have been very pleased with the system's performance so far, and anticipate saving over \$100,000 in fuel costs this year alone. The wood-chip boiler system, which heats the middle-high school and bus garage, went on line in November.

Coincidentally, there is currently grant opportunity through the U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Technology Marketing Unit, located at the Forest Products Laboratory, for engineering services necessary for final design and cost analysis related to wood energy projects. Eligible applicants include: state, county, city, town, and special district governments; school districts, public housing authorities, 501(c)3 organizations, and small and large businesses.

Examples of projects might include engineering design of a 1) woody biomass boiler for steam at a sawmill, hospital or school, 2) non-pressurized hot water system for various applications, and 3) biomass power generation facility. For more information, see <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=130235>. The deadline has been extended to April 2, 2012.

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Local Government Conference  
Thursday March 29, 2012 at  
Jefferson Community College

Visit our Website at <http://www.tughill.org/proj/annual-lgc-2012/>

to download a registration form or  
call us and we'll send you one!

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: MARCH 7

## NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's 2011 Deer Harvest Report Released

For the full press release, please go to <http://readme.readmedia.com/DEC-Record-Bear-Harvest-and-Steady-Deer-Take-in-2011/3712321>. The press release contains links to both the Bear and Deer Harvest Reports at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/42232.html>. Below is a table summarizing the 2011 Deer Take in the four Tug Hill Counties.

Geographic Area	Adult (1.5 plus years) Buck Take	Total Deer Take
Jefferson County	2,877	6,313
Lewis County	2,169	3,511
Oneida County	2,400	4,436
Oswego County	2,360	4,281
Statewide	110,002	228,359

## Article X Energy Law Forum

On **Thursday, March 8, 2012**, the Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College will host a forum on the 2011 Article X Energy Law, which re-established a state siting process for electrical generation facilities over 25 megawatts and provides for an override of municipal zoning regulations. The forum will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Jules Center Amphitheater, Room 6-002, at JCC. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. The Article X Forum is the first in a series of presentations on Civic Engagement sponsored by the Center for Community Studies. For additional information, please contact Dr. Raymond Petersen, Center for Community Studies at 315-786-2488.

## USDA "Compass"

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently launched a Know Your Farmer/Know Your Food website, referred to as a "compass," where people can see USDA-supported food projects and programs from 2009-2011 that pertain to local food and related initiatives. Learn more about local and regional food systems, who participates in them, and their role in economic and community development in this section of the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Compass. Then see USDA-supported local and regional food projects across the country by visiting the interactive map at [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF\\_COMPASS](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF_COMPASS). For more information, contact Michal Mannigan at USDA Rural Development, 315-782-7289, extension 122.

