

LGC Registration Still Open; Assessors Topics Confirmed

MARCH 9, 2018

Registrations postmarked between March 9 and March 19 for the March 29, 2018 Local Government Conference are available at \$100. Additionally, the speaker and detailed course descriptions for the assessor's training have now been confirmed, please see details below. Hope to see you there!

Presenter: Anne Sapienza, IAO, Assessor, Town of Stafford, Genesee County, NY, 8903 Route 237, P.O. Box 737, Stafford, NY 14143, (716)474-0029, Asapienza@rochester.rr.com, www.townofstafford.org

Six hours of certified training will be offered on the following topics:

8:30 a.m. – Noon Valuation of Land: Provides an introduction to the generally accepted principles of real estate appraisal as they relate to land valuation. It will assist assessors in the development of values for various types of land (residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial).

1:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Agricultural Exemptions: Reviews all aspect of agricultural exemptions to include the NYS established agricultural assessment values, exemption requirements, definition of terms, property use requirements, and conversion to non-agricultural use.

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Commission Meeting March 28, Watertown

The next meeting of the Tug Hill Commission board will be held Wednesday, March 28 at 4:00 p.m. in the Dulles State Office Building, 317 Washington Street, Watertown.

DOS Consultation Center Available at LGC

The Department of State's Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) will have staff at the Local Government Conference on March 29 to conduct individual consultations with local government leaders wishing to discuss specific areas of concern: County Wide Shared Services plans, local government efficiency grants, land use, planning or zoning issues, and technical resources available to Tug Hill communities.

Conference attendees should pre-register to speak with a DOS representative by calling 518-473-3355, though DLGS staff will try to accommodate individuals on the day of the event as well. This is an exciting opportunity that shouldn't be missed!

NY Broadband Round III Awards Announced

Governor Cuomo recently announced Round III awards for projects that will provide high speed broadband to homes, businesses and institutions in unserved or underserved areas across the state. The awarded projects support extension or improvement of broadband to residential, businesses and community anchor institutions, such as healthcare facilities and institutions of higher education. Providers serving the following Tug Hill towns were awarded in excess of \$5.4 million:

| Town | Award | Total Investment | Number of Units |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Osceola | \$369,410 | \$940,840 | 329 |
| Lewis | \$40,343 | \$104,914 | 127 |
| Pinckney | \$39,375 | \$98,093 | 125 |
| Redfield | \$1,950,111 | \$5,515,647 | 590 |
| Constantia | \$19,863 | \$99,645 | 29 |
| Williamstown | \$11,503 | \$41,017 | 39 |
| Boylston | \$10,868 | \$16,440 | 67 |
| Florence | \$1,632,404 | \$4,546,724 | 465 |
| Annsville | \$1,041,597 | \$3,117,899 | 302 |
| Lee | \$167,744 | \$448,394 | 168 |
| Camden | \$131,647 | \$433,231 | 99 |

The NY Broadband Program is administered by the New York State Broadband Program Office, a division of Empire State Development. The grants were awarded as part of the third and final round of the program. Information about the Broadband Program and awards can be found here: <https://nysbroadband.ny.gov/>

Winona Forest Recreation Association Secures Parks and Trails NY Grant

The Winona Forest Recreation Association (WFRA) will receive \$19,000 from Parks and Trails NY to rehabilitate multi-use trails in the Winona State Forest, located in the towns of Boylston and Lorraine, Oswego and Jefferson Counties. WFRA is a non-profit organization that works collaboratively with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to provide a large, well-maintained network of trails for year round public use.

The grant award will be used to fund elements of a 17-mile trail rehabilitation project, designed to increase public access and significantly enhanced users' experience within the forest. The overall projects includes kiosks at parking areas, bridge construction, trail head posts and signs, and a picnic area with pavilion and picnic tables.

The Parks and Trail Partnership Program is funded by the Environmental Protection Fund. For more information, see www.ptny.org.

For more information on WFRA, see their website at <http://www.winonaforest.com/> or follow them on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/winonaforest/>.



Fat bike race in Winona Forest on March 4, 2018.

Ag Development Conference March 23, Watertown

Jefferson County Economic Development is holding an Agricultural Development Conference Friday, March 23, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Watertown. The program is free to attend, including lunch, but one must register by March 16. Register here <http://www.comefarmwithus.com/conference/jefferson-county-agricultural-development-conference-march-23-2018/> or by calling 315-782-5865.

Sessions include: Creating the Food Hub Vision for Northern NY; Bringing Farms to School across the North Country, the Drive for 25 program; Development the International Agribusiness Park of the Thousand Islands and a report on the USDA Meat Processing Facility Feasibility Study; Perspectives on the Future of Agriculture; Pathways for Agricultural Workforce Development in Northern NY. The keynote presentation is entitled "Opportunities and Challenges to Growth in Agriculture for 2018 and Beyond" and will be delivered by Moe Russell, Russell Consulting Group.

Harmful Algae Bloom Summit held in Central New York

Over 100 people gathered at the new SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry's new gateway building to hear from experts from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), New York State Department of Health, New York State Department of Agriculture, and world renowned researchers to learn about the causes of and solutions to increasing harmful algae blooms

Harmful algae blooms (HABs) are a natural phenomenon where naturally occurring algae, under the right conditions, will produce toxins and bloom excessively. These blooms threaten valuable recreation and drinking water resources, human health, and the food web dynamics.

Experts urge New Yorkers to know what to look for in the water, which is dense algae mats with a blue green color on surface waters that resemble pea soup, to avoid any skin contact with the bloom as it could cause nausea, vomiting, or skin rash, and to report the bloom to NYSDEC or local health departments. Experts also advise that partnerships and diligence are essential in developing and implementing actions that will reduce nutrient loading that causes these blooms.

Each lake is different, and land use is a primary driver of nutrient loading. Identifying where stormwater management, wastewater treatment, and residential and agricultural best management practices are needed, and working with local citizens and organizations to implement these actions, and monitor their effectiveness will be necessary to protect, mitigate, and prevent these future blooms under changing climate conditions.

At the summit's conclusion, the panelists were asked for recommendations that they'd like to have included in the action plans currently being developed. Suggestions included increased monitoring, plans that span the watershed as well as the lake, recognition that HABs affect everyone and everyone has a role in their reduction, and to work together and sustain our important freshwater resources.

Four summits have been planned. The SUNY ESF summit was the second to be held, following the Hudson Valley summit in New Paltz; two more summits are planned for the North Country in Ticonderoga, NY on Tuesday, March 20, and for Western New York in Rochester on Monday, March 26.

More information about the summits can be found at:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-kicks-first-harmful-algal-blooms-summit-hudson-valley>

The New York State DEC web page about harmful algal blooms can be found at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html>

The New York State Department of Health web page about harmful algal blooms can be found at:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/bluegreenalgae/>

The HAB summits can be viewed at:

<https://livestream.com/hvccstreaming/HABsSummits>



Harmful algae blooms caused beach closures on Oneida Lake in 2017.

DEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant Information Sessions

The NYS Urban and Community Forestry program will present information sessions in April, in preparation for Round 14 funding. Funding will be available from the Environmental Protection Fund for projects in large and small communities. The application for funding up to \$2.3 million will be available on the Grants Gateway (<https://grantsreform.ny.gov>) in Spring 2018. Project categories will include grants for planting, maintenance, education programs, tree inventories and forestry management plans.

Information sessions (same materials at all sessions) have been scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 10 am to 12 pm, Dewitt Town Hall
- Thursday April 19, 2018 1 pm to 3 pm, Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve
- Friday, April 20, 2018 from 10 am to 12 pm, Avon, DEC Region 8 Office

For information, call Mary Kramarchyk at DEC 518-402-9428. To reserve a seat, call Mary or email her at mary.kramarchyk@dec.ny.gov. Space is limited.



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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!

Great Lakes Basin Project Funding Available

NY Sea Grant and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation recently announced \$200,000 available for Great Lakes ecosystem-based management projects through the NY Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program. Up to \$25,000 is available for each project.

Proposed projects must use a complete ecosystem-based approach rather than a single issue or single species focus, incorporate stakeholder participation, and address key priorities in the New York Great Lakes Action Agenda. Those priorities include enhancing community resiliency and ecosystem integrity through restoration, protection, and improved resource management; and enhancing recreation and tourism opportunities that capitalize on the rivers and lakes, scenic beauty, and natural and cultural resources.

Eligible projects may include planning, design, implementation, information management tool development, demonstration projects, and targeted educational outreach. Not-for-profit organizations, county and local government or public agencies, municipalities, regional planning and environmental commissions, and educational institutions are eligible to apply.

Application instructions are online at www.nyseagrant.org. Proposals must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on May 1, 2018. A webinar to help applicants will be held March 19 at 10 a.m. For more information, contact New York Sea Grant at 315-312-3042.