



May 24, 2013

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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.

DEC Holding Public Meeting Regarding Public ATV Connector Trail

In January 2013, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) received a formal request for an ATV connector link crossing a State Forest for an ATV trail. As part of the evaluation process, the DEC is seeking public comments to the requested connector trail proposal. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at DEC's Salmon River Fish Hatchery, 2133 County Route 22, Altmar NY 13302.

The Oswego County ATV Club Inc. has requested to utilize segments of an existing snowmobile trail and abandoned road located on the southern portion of Chateaugay State Forest as part of their club trail system. This trail would provide a connection from Stone Quarry Drive to Dam Road--both roads are open to ATV use by the Town of Orwell. The requested trail sections are located on and near the southern boundary of Chateaugay State Forest in the Town of Orwell, Oswego County. The total length of the requested portion of trail on state land is approximately one mile. Seven-tenths of this is found on the old abandoned Stone Quarry Road and the remaining three-tenths go on and off of state land following the existing snowmobile trail.

Turin Celebrating Grand Opening of Boat Launch at Burdick's Crossing

The Town of Turin has planned a ribbon cutting at Burdick's Crossing to commemorate the completion of the newly enhanced boat launch and picnic area on Thursday, May 30th at 1:00 p.m. The public is invited.

Last year, Turin was awarded \$9,910 from the Iroquois Pipeline Community fund to improve access to the Black River at the Burdick's Crossing, a DEC fishing access site. The Town has a concurrent use agreement with DEC to maintain the property for public use. However, the earthen launch had become filled in with debris and become a carry-in-only site that was difficult to safely access. Improvements include the relocation of the launch 150' upriver for better drainage of seasonal flooding and to help stabilize the bank. The new concrete slab launch accommodates small motorized boats as well as kayaks and canoes. The gravel parking area was also expanded.

This project is a collaborative effort between the Town of Turin, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Tug Hill Commission, Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Town of Martinsburg. DEC provided engineering and technical assistance while Turin provided most of the equipment and labor. Additional equipment was provided by the Town of Martinsburg. Lewis County SWCD helped with site preparation and hydroseeding. Gravel was donated for the parking area. The Commission assisted with project development and grant writing.

Please contact the Commission for more information on this project or for assistance with your own project at (888) 785-2380 or via email at carla@tughill.org.

May 27, 2013



DEC Begins Two More Unit Management Plans on Tug Hill

Over the past two weeks the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has announced that they are beginning Unit Management Plans (UMP) for two new units: Vienna Woods and Eastern Lake Ontario. The goal of UMPs is to outline the future management of areas in regards to recreation, timber management, maintenance of roads and boundary lines and the protection and enhancement of the natural and cultural resources found on the state properties.

The Vienna Woods unit is located in the Oneida County towns of Annsville, Camden, and Vienna. The two state forests included are Stone Barn and Fish Creek, which total 1299 acres. Also included in the UMP are 11 parcels of Detached Forest Preserve, totaling 888 acres.

The Eastern Lake Ontario unit is located in the Oswego County towns of Albion, Boylston, Orwell, Richland and Sandy Creek. The Unit is comprised of Altmar, Chateaugay, Sandy Creek Hill, and Trout Brook State Forests, about 5600 acres. It also includes conservation easement lands along the Salmon River (about 244 acres) and a pending acquisition (about 430 acres, including a large portion of the Conservation Easement lands) from National Grid Power Company which will join the Chateaugay State Forest and the Salmon River Falls Unique Area. More information can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/90727.html>.

DEC is soliciting input from the public for ideas and comments on how these lands are managed into the future. For the Vienna Woods unit, comments should be submitted by July 1, 2013 to:

Senior Forester Mary Kay Allen, NYSDEC
225 North Main Street
Herkimer, NY 13350
r6ump@gw.dec.state.ny.us

For the Eastern Lake Ontario unit, there will be three open house sessions on June 5, 2013 at the Salmon River Fish Hatchery, 2133 County Route 22, Altmar NY, through the course of the day to gather public input to help draft the Eastern Lake Ontario Unit Management Plan. These open house sessions will be from 10:00 AM to noon, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The open house sessions will allow the public to interact with DEC staff and view displays in an informal setting. Public comments will be accepted through July 8, 2013 and can be sent to:

Dan Sawchuck, NYSDEC
Salmon River Fish Hatchery
2133 County Rte 22,
Altmar, NY 13302
djsawchu@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

Other pending UMPs on Tug Hill include Winona Forest, Oneida Hills, and Tug Hill North. Completed UMPs on Tug Hill include 46 Corners and Salmon River Falls Unique Area.

More information about all UMPs in NYS can be found on DEC's webpage: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4979.html>

Workshop Requirements for TEP Funding!

Municipalities interested in pursuing NYS Department of Transportation TEP funding should be aware of two workshop requirements. In addition to the TEP workshop highlighted in the last Tug Hill Times, all potential applicants are also required to attend a Federal Aid 101 workshop. The only remaining scheduled Federal Aid 101 workshop in the area is in Syracuse on **Wednesday, June 5, 2013, from 9:30am-4:15pm at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, One Conservation Place, Syracuse, NY 13204. This workshop is actually a combined Federal Aid 101/TEP workshop.**

Please contact Commission staff if you have any questions.



You are cordially invited to attend

"Leading the Way: Changing Course to Avoid Your Own Fiscal Cliff"

Opening Keynote by:
New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli

Date:
Wednesday, June 12, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location:
Best Western, Watertown, NY

The Local Government Leadership Institute is a free event and will feature a panel discussion on:

- Comptroller DiNapoli's Fiscal Stress Initiative
- Keynote Address by: Joanie M. Mahoney, Onondaga County Executive
- "Strategies for Coping with Fiscal Stress"

For registration information and program agenda please go to this link:

<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/lqli/index.htm>

Seating is limited, please register early!

If you have any questions, please email LocalTraining@osc.state.ny.us or call (518) 473-0005.

NYS's Urban Forestry Council's Annual ReLeaf Conference

The Twenty-First Annual New York ReLeaf State Conference 2013 "Rust to Green" will be held **July 18-20, 2013 at SUNY IT, Marcy, New York**. The height of community forestry education statewide, this annual event draws industry professionals, municipal representatives, tree board members and others with an interest in the topic from across the state and even a few from other states and Canada. Invited keynote speakers include Kevin Caravati and Matthew Driscoll.

The Herkimer-Oneida Comprehensive Planning Program is partnering with the NYS Urban Forestry Council to offer training for local planning board and ZBA members. The session geared specifically for planning board and ZBA members is scheduled for **Saturday, July 20, 9:00-1:30 p.m.** Topics to be presented are still being finalized and will be announced shortly. The training will also be held at SUNYIT. This is a great opportunity for local planning and zoning board members to receive training on a variety of land use and green infrastructure topics to complete their yearly training requirement. Those who participate in the conference will be able to receive at least 4 hours of required training!

For more information called HOCCPP at 315-798-5710 or email landuseconference@ocgov.net.

Contact us at:

NYS Tug Hill Commission

317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

We are located on the 6th Floor of the
Dulles State Office Building.

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Trout Power Weekend

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Trout Power began as an idea to generate awareness about the West Canada Creek to ensure its long-term vitality for fishing and outdoor enthusiasts. Launched around education and awareness for the West Canada Creek in the Mohawk Valley in Upstate NY, Trout Power is a year-round initiative which is celebrated each year the first full weekend of June. Trout Power attracts over 2,000 people from across the country on Trout Power weekend.

Trout Power Weekend begins on June 7th and runs through the 9th. The weekend is filled with activities like fishing, a 5k run and a 28 mile garage sale in order to promote the well being of the creek. The weekend also helps local businesses prosper from this event. The weekend includes education and science based activities. Teams will be traveling across country to fish in a tournament and do a creel study. The study includes a data collection process where the challenge is to catch the smallest fish since there is no documentation that these wild fish are reproducing.

Towns from Oneida County to Herkimer County can prosper from people enjoying this 28 mile creek. Kayaking, bird watching and hiking are just a few other things to do besides fish around this body of water. Trout Power movement is not just a weekend event, but awareness throughout the year. Catch the Power at www.troutpower.com.



More on the New NYS Grants Gateway

NYS's new Grants Gateway went "live" on May 15 at <https://grantsgateway.ny.gov>. In addition to requirements for municipalities discussed in the last Tug Hill Times article, the new system will also apply to nonprofits who apply for and receive grants from any NYS agency. Non-profits are being asked to prequalify with NY *before* they compete for State contracts, enabling them to make adjustments and answer concerns prior to entering a competitive bid process. Once they are registered with the Gateway, not-for-profits can fill out an online Prequalification Questionnaire. The questionnaire requests an upload of basic organizational documents and asks straightforward questions about a not-for-profit's capacity and integrity. Not-for-profits can secure their application materials in the Document Vault where they will be accessible to all State agencies, thereby reducing redundancy and conserving resources. Most importantly, not-for-profits will only have to pre-qualify once every three years, with responsibility to keep their information current throughout the three year period.

More information is also available at:
<http://www.grantsreform.ny.gov/>.