

NOVEMBER 17, 2017



EAST BRANCH FISH CREEK LANDS

Experience a wealth of outdoor recreation on more than 45,000 acres of conservation easement lands and state lands within the Tug Hill Plateau. Hunting and fishing opportunities abound. Tug Hill snowfall amounts average 200 inches annually, making all types of winter activities particularly spectacular.



New East Branch of Fish Creek Brochure

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation just completed a new brochure and map for the East Branch of Fish Creek lands in Lewis County. The new version reflects the recent conservation easement provisions that went into effect this year.

Copies of the brochure are available from the DEC's Lowville office, as well as the Tug Hill Commission office in Watertown. More information on the project is also available at DEC's website, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7993.html>.

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Focus On The COG - Special Insert

This edition features the North Shore Council of Governments, the work they are doing and the major things happening in their part of Tug Hill.

Commission Presents at DOS Local Government Innovation Conference

Tug Hill Commission staffer and Cooperative Tug Hill Council circuit rider Angie Kimball participated in a panel discussing consolidated and regional justice courts at DOS's third Local Government Innovation Conference. Angie shared information about the Harrisburg/Montague/Pinckney consolidated court, as well as justice residency requirement changes in Lewis/Osceola and Boylston. The panel also included Montgomery County Executive Matthew Ossont, who is working on a county wide regional court facility.

Other presentations during the day included county coordinated emergency services, health insurance consortiums, and initiatives related to data and government innovation.



Distressed and Abandoned Properties Workshop

November 29

Wednesday, November 29th from 8:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. hosted by the City of Utica and presented by Wade Beltramo, NY-COM General Counsel to be held at SUNY Poly Campus, Kunsela Hall, 100 Seymour Road, Utica, NY 13502.

Topics of Discussion will Include:

- Using New York's Zombie Property Law
- Effective Code Enforcement Practices
- Methods of Financing Redevelopment
- Partnering with Land Banks for Long-Term Success

To register contact Ashley Bizzari at 315- 792-0100 ext. 3 or mayor@cityofutica.com. More information on NYCOM workshops and webinars is available at <https://nycom.org/meetings-training/workshops-webinars.html>.

DEC Municipal Recycling Grants

The Department of Environmental Conservation administers funding from the Environmental Protection Fund for grants to assist municipalities in New York State with costs of recycling equipment, facilities, education or coordination. State funding will reimburse up to 50 percent of the costs of eligible municipal recycling expenses up to \$2 million per grant.

Municipalities that wish to apply must be registered in the State's Grants Gateway. To begin the application process, go to the Grant Opportunity Portal.

Applications for recycling grants are accepted from municipalities on an ongoing basis and placed on a waiting list based on the date the application is received. More information on this program can be found on DEC's website.

DEC Announces \$150,000 Improvements to Salmon River Fish Hatchery

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced last week the completion of \$150,000 in improvements to the Salmon River Fish Hatchery in Altmar. The first phase of improvements include new live fish displays, revitalized public areas, signage, and interpretive displays in the visitor center. Each year, tens of thousands of people, anglers and non-anglers alike, visit DEC's flagship hatchery to learn about the State's Great Lakes Fisheries resources and see the fish culture work that supports these premier fisheries.

The Salmon River Fish Hatchery specializes in raising steelhead, chinook salmon, coho salmon, and brown trout. Originally constructed to revive and enhance the fishery of the Great Lakes, this facility produces more than 2 million fingerlings (young fish 3-5 inches long) and 1 million yearlings (fish one-year-old or over) for stockings in Lake Ontario. The Salmon River fishery generates more than \$27 million in annual angler expenditures, and an additional \$85.9 million is generated by anglers fishing the open waters of Lake Ontario and other New York tributaries to Lake Ontario each year. The trout and salmon raised and stocked by the hatchery are economic drivers behind this fishery-every dollar spent at the hatchery yields \$125 in angler expenditures.

Improvements slated for 2018 and beyond include:

- A comprehensive engineering study to maximize energy efficiency and reduce water use and enhance fish production;
- Infrastructure upgrades including new windows and doors, a new heating system, backup power, cellular phone service, and a new fish ladder; and
- A reimagining of all interpretive and visitor areas for a seamless and enhanced visitor experience.

For more information concerning the Salmon River Hatchery visit DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/21663.html>.

What Local Governments Need to Know about the 2020 Census

An accurate decennial census is important for state and local governments. Some of the most important reasons why include:

- Representation in State and Federal legislative chambers.
- Funding based on population counts and characteristics. An accurate count helps the federal government allocate more than \$400 billion in federal funds annually for infrastructure, programs, and services.
- Characteristics of the residents' data directly impact the quality of life in your community. Accurate data help local governments and economic development practitioners identify community needs and make decisions about spending of local resources.

During the decennial census, the Census Bureau uses address lists and maps to count people where they live. The Census Bureau needs accurate address data to ensure an accurate 2020 Census count. The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) is a voluntary program that invites local, state, and tribal officials to review, update, and correct the Census Bureau's address lists and maps before the 2020 Census. The Operation is a once-a-decade opportunity for local designated representatives to review the addresses that will be used to conduct the Decennial Census.

How to prepare for LUCA

- **First step: Submit Contact Information Update Form – Due December 1, 2017**
- Develop a strategy for your address review
- Access the Census Bureau's count of residential addresses by census block for your government
- Ensure that your address list contains individual multiunit structure identifiers (Apt 1, Apt 2)
- Identify local address sources such as building permits, E-911 address files, local utility records, annexation records, and assessment or taxation files
- **Plan to attend a LUCA Promotional Workshop – there are webinars available on 11/30, 12/7, 12/12, 12/13, see: https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/partnerships/luca/LUCA_Promo_Workshops.pdf.**

More resources are also available on the below websites, or by contacting the NYS Department of State's Division of Local Governments Services at localgov@dos.ny.gov, (518) 473-3355 or (800) 367-8488.

<https://pad.human.cornell.edu/census2020/luca.cfm>

<https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/luca.html>

<https://labor.ny.gov/nys-data-center/luca-frequently-asked-questions.shtm>

Great Lakes Workgroup Meetings Scheduled for December 6 & 7

The Northeast Great Lakes Sub basin (St. Lawrence, Black River watersheds) will meet on **December 6th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the new Community Center in Gouverneur.**

The Southeast Great Lakes Sub basin work group (Oneida Lake, Salmon River watersheds) will meet on **December 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Huron Town Hall.**

The objectives of the latest round of sub basin work group meetings hosted by [NYSDEC's Great Lakes Program](#) include sharing Great Lakes state and federal updates, reporting on progress of implementing the sub-basin work plans, discussing Ecosystem Based Management demonstration projects and identifying near-term funding and partnership opportunities to advance work plan goals.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Emily Sheridan at (315) 785-2382 or emily.sheridan@dec.ny.gov.

Black River Trash Bash Cleans Up 500 Pounds of Trash

In the eighth year of the Black River Trash Bash, a record 74 participants from seven locations collected 500 pounds of trash and recyclables from the shore of the Black River. The seven groups across three counties were Lyons Falls Alive, the Adirondack Communities Advisory League, the Lewis County and Jefferson County Water Quality Coordinating Committees, the American Society of Civil Engineers Student Club (SUNY Poly), Jefferson Community College and the Haderondah 4H Club (Old Forge). In addition, two people from the Ocean Conservancy participated with the Haderondah 4H Club and several students from South Lewis School participated with the Lyons Falls Alive event.

There were a few notable items of local concern reported this year. The Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committee reported a meth lab to the authorities during their event. The Haderondah 4H Club was very concerned about the number of balloons they found at Arrowhead Park; over 150 balloons were removed from the shores of Fourth Lake. The data collected over the last month has been compiled and sent to the American Littoral Society (ALS), who collects data from all over New York State to be included in the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup (<http://www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/international-coastal-cleanup/>).

This event was sponsored in part by the ALS and organized locally by the Lewis and Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Tug Hill Commission. Thank you to the Development Authority of the North Country and the City of Watertown for providing trash hauling services from the Jefferson and Lewis County locations and Waterworks Park. Thank you also to White's Lumber for their generous donation of work gloves for event participants, and to the Jefferson and Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committees and the Black River Advisory Council for their cost-shared purchase of reusable water bottles, which were given to each participant, and of garbage grabbers, which are now available on loan for groups to use during their events. Last, but certainly not least, thanks to the beach captains of the cleanup sites for their time and dedication and for organizing their groups, coordinating the data collection and for making this event so successful. If you or your community group are interested in participating in next year's event, please contact Jennifer Harvill at jennifer@tughill.org or toll-free at (888)785-2380.

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!

Summaries for 2017

Organization	Beach Captain	Number of Participants	Weight of Trash Collected (pounds)	Distance of shoreline cleaned (miles)	Number of trash bags filled
Adirondack Communities Advisory League (Boonville)	Ian Klingbail	5	40	2	4
Lyons Falls Alive	Christine Chaufy	13	195	2.25	14
Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committee	Nichelle Billhardt	7	46	0.5	4
Jefferson County Water Quality Coordinating Committee	Christine Watkins	5	15	0.1	4
Haderondah 4H Club (Old Forge)	Jennifer Hartsig	11	25	0.5	3
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Student Club (SUNY Poly)	Lisa Del Bianco	13	40	1	6
Jefferson Community College	Christina Ebey	20	139	0.5	10
TOTALS		74	500	6.85	45



Pictured above: First time trash bashers, JCC students and staff with their trash collection. We hope to see them again next year!

Focus On The COG

North Shore Council of Governments

The North Shore Council of Governments (NorCOG) is the third most senior of the five Tug Hill councils of governments, following the Cooperative Tug Hill Council and the Salmon Rivers Council of Governments. It was formed in 1977 as the North Shore Cooperative Planning Board, and later restructured as a council of governments, representing the broader scope of issues the participating towns and villages were called on to address. NorCOG currently includes the towns of Constantia and West Monroe and the villages of Central Square and Cleveland. In its earliest times, it also included the town of Hastings, which is currently an unaffiliated community, and the town of Vienna, which now belongs to the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments. In addition to concerns common to towns and villages in the Tug Hill region, NorCOG has traditionally had a special interest in Oneida Lake issues, including water quality, water level management, waterfront access, and economic development potential related to being waterfront communities.

NorCOG is oriented along the north shore of Oneida Lake, north of Syracuse, New York. The population of NorCOG communities is 10,871, and the area is 140 square miles, 47.6 square miles of which is water. Central Square is wholly contained within the borders of the town of Hastings; the town borders of Constantia and



Cleveland boat dock, on Oneida Lake.

West Monroe extend south to the south shore of Oneida Lake. Major highways include U.S. Route 11, Interstate Route 81, and New York State Route 49.

NorCOG consists of the chief elected official of the member town or village, plus an additional representative as designated by that member government. They meet at least twice a year with additional meetings as needed. They annually elect a chairman, vice chairman, and fiscal agent.

Meet the North Shore Circuit Rider

Paul Baxter is the circuit rider for NorCOG, with a tenure dating back to the early days of the predecessor North Shore Cooperative Planning Board. Paul lives in the North Shore area and also serves his community as a long-time member of the West Monroe Fire Department. NorCOG does not currently have associate circuit riders, although it has been exploring the possibility. Paul serves the Salmon Rivers Council of Governments as well as North Shore.



Paul is frequently the 'eyes and ears' of NorCOG member municipalities, attending meetings that local officials cannot due to their work schedules, and reporting back to the towns and villages. Paul also annually compiles and distributes a comparison between Oswego County towns of salaries and spending categories on services such as fire protection and ambulance service, which the towns use as a point of reference in examining their own budget development. This comparison has been shaped over time with suggestions by NorCOG towns on how to be a more useful tool.

North Shore Projects

The town of Constantia is currently working on expanding availability of public water in the eastern part of the town. The town of West Monroe is currently doing extensive work on public sewer services, including improvement of existing facilities nearing the end of their service life and expanding availability into areas not currently served but much in need due to physical limitations on conventional sewer systems. The town of West Monroe also recently completed a comprehensive update of their town zoning. The village of Cleveland is moving toward improvements of their water system, and has achieved cost savings for their citizens by bidding out for village-wide trash disposal services. Cleveland has also been working to try to stabilize and improve the docks at the state-owned canal terminal in the village. The village of Central Square has been evaluating the potential impact of growth taking place in the area, including the Central New York Raceway proposal intended for a nearby location in the town of Hastings, and examining its comprehensive plan and zoning.

Tug Hill COG Map

