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October 31



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.

New Tree Grant Announced by DEC; Deadline 12/5; Information Session 10/25

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has announced its Urban Forestry Program Round 12 Grant Program. Tug Hill communities can apply under two categories: Community Grants up to \$25,000 and Quick Start Arbor Day Grants at the \$1,000 level. Municipalities and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Many Tug Hill towns and villages have been successful in applying to this grant program. All of the grant documents can be found on DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5285.html>.

Eligible activities under the **Community Grants** category include: tree inventories, tree management plans, tree planting, tree maintenance, and invasive insect detection surveys. No match is required for tree inventory and tree management plan projects. Other projects require a 50% match. Statewide, \$240,000 is being made available for this category.

Quick Start Arbor Day Grants do not require a match. Statewide, \$10,000 is being made available for this category.

Non-profit organizations must be pre-qualified through the NYS Division of the Budget Grants Reform Team in order to receive a grant. More information is available on the Grants Gateway website (https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/IntelliGrants_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportal.aspx).

DEC encourages interested applicants to contact your regional Urban Forestry staff for technical assistance to ensure quality applications and to maximize scoring potential. Applications are required to be post marked or hand delivered to DEC at Central Office Headquarters, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233 by 4:00 p.m. on **December 5, 2013**.

There will be an informational session with copies of the request for applications; contract pages; step by step instructions and examples of successful grant projects will be available. The informational session will be held **Friday, October 25th from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at the Dewitt Town Hall, Room B (Upstairs), 5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse, NY 13057-8509**. Refreshments will be available and RSVPs would be appreciated. Please contact Mary Kramarchyk to RSVP at 518-402-9425 or mckramar@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

NOCCOG Annual Dinner Reminder

NOCCOG will be holding its annual meeting and dinner on **Thursday, October 24, 2013**, at the Delta Lake Inn, 8524 Fish Hatchery Road, Rome, NY 13440. Social hour begins at 6:00 pm followed by a buffet dinner at 7:00 pm. The business meeting will include a revision of the bylaws, election of the NOCCOG Executive Board for 2014 and approval of the 2014 NOCCOG budget. Cost for the dinner is \$20.00. Contact Gerry Ritter at gjritter01@aol.com or phone 392-2260.

Free State Cyber Security Webinar

The New York State Office of Information Technology Services, Enterprise Information Security Office and the NYS Cyber Security Local Government Committee invite you to participate in a webinar on: **"Cyber Security 101: Why It Matters."**

Thursday, October 24, 2013 (1:00pm - 2:30pm)

Presenter: Deborah Snyder, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer, NYS Office of Information Technology Services Enterprise Information Security Office

This Webinar is FREE!

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To register, please visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Cyber101_webinar

Registration deadline is October 22, 2013.



Why this Session is Important to You:

This session is a cyber security primer, a non-technical talk about what attacks are happening to place your government data at risk, how attacks threaten your fiscal and fiduciary responsibilities and what you as an official can do to mitigate the risks. A certificate of participation will be issued after the webinar. Awareness materials will also be provided.

Who Should Attend:

Anyone in government who uses a computer, a mobile device and or is in a decision-maker role (e.g., mayors, supervisors, administrators, treasurers/finance officers, clerks, counsel, board members, city council, trustees, and managers).

If you have any questions, please contact 518-242-5200 or email to: cyber.outreach@its.ny.gov

Digital Towpath Annual Meeting & Training

The Digital Towpath Annual Meeting and Training will be Friday, October 25, 2013 from 8:30am-4:00pm. This is your opportunity to meet other local government officials who are part of Digital Towpath.

You will have the opportunity to see and use Digital Towpath's new Electronic Records Management System (ERMS) and to learn about the Email Archiving System (EAS) extension to it, which will be available to all Digital Towpath members in 2014.

Together these tools will give you the ability to centralize records in electronic format and store them safely within the Digital Towpath Local Government Cloud, guaranteeing their authenticity while providing easy access to them through a permissions system like the one you use to control access to the administration of your Digital Towpath website and email system.

For the full agenda and to register go to www.digitaltowpath.org and click on 2013 Annual Meeting & Training.

Shared Services Works

In a recent study conducted by Binghamton and Cornell Universities, researchers concluded that municipal shared services works, something that in the Tug Hill Region has been known and proven for decades. According to the report: "Municipal leaders in New York are keen to save costs while improving service quality and cross-jurisdictional service coordination. While there is pressure to consider consolidation, little has occurred to date and research does not support claims of cost savings. In contrast, service sharing is widespread and does lead to cost savings and service quality improvements. Municipalities across New York are engaging in this quiet reform primarily through informal agreements and MOUs, to ensure their citizens receive quality services at lower costs. Shared services is the reform that works."

See: <http://www.nytowns.org/sites/default/files/articles/Cornell%20University%20Survey%20on%20Shared%20Services%20in%20New%20York%202013%20Final.pdf>



Teaching and Empowering Local Communities: Learn How to Comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act

Town Hall Training is a FREE, innovative training program for municipalities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodation, communications, and governmental activities. The U.S. Department of Justice has forced a host of municipalities across the nation into settlements or Consent Agreements for failing to comply with the ADA – towns ranging in size from only 1,200 to those of more than 800,000. Complying with the ADA is important for constituents; avoiding a Department of Justice finding is important for officials.

Niagara University, First Responders Disability Awareness Training (FR-DAT) and the Association of Towns have collaborated to offer a Town Hall Training program. This customized curriculum is designed to train and educate municipal employees on how to properly respond to and work with the disability community, while providing the necessary tools for both inclusion and compliance.

Dave Whalen is currently the Statewide Project Coordinator for Niagara's FR-DAT and the Chair for the Town of Amherst's Committee on Disabilities. He will provide attendees with information, strategies, resources and techniques that will address the following:

- Town Committee on Disabilities structure and development
- Disability Awareness Training
- ADA Coordinator role within a municipality
- Effecting change to address needs
- Accessibility / Inclusivity in a municipality
- Specific department roles and responsibilities
- First Responders and Emergency Management

As seating is limited, attendees will be selected through an application process.

Training will be held **on Wednesday, November 6, 2013**
9 A.M. – 4 P.M. Syracuse NY (518 James St, Syracuse NY 13203)

Pre-registration is required. Lunch is provided.

An application to attend Town Hall Training is on the reverse.



Town Hall Training is a program funded by the Dan D'Andrea Charitable Trust.

Contact us at:**NYS Tug Hill
Commission**

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We are located on the
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Salmon River Japanese Knotweed Control Project Completes Year One

The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario PRISM began a three year project on the Salmon River to suppress Japanese knotweed along its banks. Dense stands along the upstream portion of the Salmon River interfere with angler access, making some areas of the river less attractive to anglers. Additionally, large-scale alteration of the plant structure within the estuary could have direct impacts on shorebirds and other organisms that rely on the unique composition of emergent and riparian plant communities for shelter, nesting materials and food.

During the year one effort, 5.49 acres of Japanese knotweed were treated with both foliar (leaf) and stem injected herbicides. This represents 86% of the 6.37 acre knotweed estimate reported in the original project feasibility study. The full Year One report is available on the SLELO website at <http://www.sleloinvasives.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Salmon-River-Initiative-Year-1-Field-Report-2013-PDF.pdf>.

Looking Ahead

Association of Towns 2014 Training School & Annual Meeting

February 16-19, 2014 – New York City
Registration fees: \$100 (members)/\$125 (non-members)
per person prior to January 27, 2014.

For more information and to register for the conference, go to the website at www.nytowns.org or call (518) 465-7933.

Newly Elected Officials 2014 Training School

January 8-10, 2014 in Rochester, NY
January 15-17, 2014 in Albany, NY

Attendance at this training school is permitted by section 77-b of the General Municipal Law. Subdivision 3 of the section permits the town board to authorize attendance by "any of its members or any officer or employee...or other person who has been elected pursuant to law to the public office of a municipality for which the term of office has not commenced..." You are entitled to be reimbursed for all reasonable costs incurred while attending this program.

For more information and to register for the conference, go to the website at www.nytowns.org, or call (518) 465-7933