



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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TUG HILL LOCAL LEADERS INSTITUTE SEEKS PARTICIPANTS

The New York State Tug Hill Commission will be hosting its 8th annual Local Leaders Institute beginning this fall. Those interested may obtain an application by calling the Commission office at 1-888-785-2380 or by visiting the Commission's website at:

www.tughill.org. **Participation is limited to the first ten people to register.** Registration is due by Friday, **September 17, 2010.**

The Tug Hill Local Leaders Institute is based on the belief that a better understanding of regional issues and trends will help leaders in the region to be more effective at the local level. Its purpose is to enhance leadership skills by improving participants' abilities to think strategically; build partnerships; and to better balance economic and environmental issues. Sessions are scheduled as follows:

- *Wed., Sept. 29*, 6-9 p.m.: Regional Overview and the Commission's History
- *Sat., Oct. 2*, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.: Full-day Tour of the Tug Hill Region
- *Wed., Nov. 3*, 6-9 p.m.: Leadership Styles and Challenges
- *Wed., Nov. 17*, 6-9 p.m.: Rural Economic Trends and Challenges
- *Wed., Jan. 26*, 6-9 p.m.: The Region's Environment and Rural Character
- *Wed., Feb. 23*, 6-9 p.m.: Open Meetings Law and Engaging the Public
- *Wed., Mar. 23*, 6-9 p.m.: Tourism on Tug Hill
- *Wed., Mar. 30*, 4-7 p.m.: Graduation Ceremony and Commission Dinner

Leaders institute workshops are held at various locations in order to expose participants to different settings around the region. Each session features a professional or two in that particular topic area and is conducted in a roundtable format, allowing plenty of opportunity for interactive discussion.

Participants or their sponsoring municipality will pay a \$75 fee to help offset costs and to encourage commitment to completing the program. Scholarship assistance would be available to those individuals for whom the cost is prohibitive. For more information, contact Emily McKenna at 1-888-785-2380 or email emily@tughill.org.

TUG HILL SAGE NAMED HONORARY GRAND PARADE MARSHAL FOR WOODSMEN'S 2010

Warren Mathis of West Leyden has been chosen as this year's grand parade marshal for the Woodsmen's Field Days in Boonville on **August 21st**. A logger most of his life, Warren and his two brothers Jon and Rod took over the family logging business in 1972 and continue to manage 1,000 acres of woodland in Lewis County. Warren and his wife Eleanor have sold Stihl chainsaws for over 35 years and have been exhibitors at the Woodsmen's Field Days for almost as many years. Warren has been an active community member serving on several boards, as well as an accomplished hunter, fisherman and trapper. Among his many endeavors he was also named a Tug Hill Sage in 2003.

HOCCPP 2010 LAND USE TRAINING CONFERENCE

The Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program (HOCCPP) will be hosting its third annual Land Use Training Conference at Mohawk Valley Community College, Information Technology Building, Utica, on **Saturday, October 2, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

To contact the Commission:

Phone toll free within the region:
1-888-785-2380
or e-mail:
tughill@tughill.org

Our website:
www.tughill.org

The conference provides an opportunity for local planning and zoning board members to receive training on a variety of land use topics, both basic and intermediate in scope. The conference will allow planning and zoning board member the opportunity to complete their yearly training requirement. *Attendees for the conference will be able to receive 5 hours of required training in one day.*

Topics to be covered include:

- The Do's and Don'ts of Site Plan Review
- Green Infrastructure & the Site Plan Approval Process
- Agricultural Trends as they Relate to Local Governments
- Farm-Friendly Zoning
- Complete Streets
- Revising Zoning Regulations
- Subdivision Review
- The Reality of Comprehensive Planning

The cost for the all-day conference is \$30.00 for early registration by September 8th or final registration \$35 by September 22nd. Lunch is included in your conference registration fee. Interested individuals can contact HOCCPP by phone at (315) 798-5710 or e-mail at: landuseconference@ocgov.net for additional information and registration forms.

**CONSERVATION FUND ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING 8/19 IN LOWVILLE**

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is holding their day-long summer field meeting of the Conservation Fund Advisory Board on **Thursday, August 19**, at their Lowville Field Office on State Route 812 from 9 a.m. to noon. The public is invited to attend, particularly hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreationists who would like to learn about the Advisory Board and how sporting license fee money is used throughout NYS.

Special presentations by DEC staff will include a status of the Lake Ontario fisheries current research and potential for deep water Cisco reintroduction; Lake Sturgeon restoration on the St. Lawrence River; fish and wildlife management and sportsman access programs on Fort Drum; public outreach by lands and forest staff; an update on Chronic Wasting Disease and deer management issues in DEC Region 6, and an update on Region 6 wind power projects.

The Conservation Fund Advisory Board was created by NYS law to make recommendations to appropriate state agencies on plans, policies and programs affecting fish

and wildlife. The board submits an annual report to the DEC Commissioner and a fiscal report to sportsmen and women and the public. All CFAB members are volunteers who have a longstanding interest, knowledge and experience in fish and wildlife management, including hunting, fishing, trapping and related conservation activities. Additional information about the CFAB and the Conservation Fund can be found on DEC's website: www.dec.ny.gov/about/566.html. For more information on the summer field meeting, call DEC's Fish and Wildlife office at (315) 785-2263.

**TOURISM CONFERENCE SCHEDULED
IN SYLVAN BEACH**

The international visitor spends approximately four times as much as the domestic visitor. Many international visitors are looking for small communities and non-traditional experiences with a significant percentage of the international visitors to New York seeking cultural history, nature, and connecting with people. It is no secret that New York City is by far, the #1 destination in the nation for the international visitor. New York State destinations therefore stand to benefit from this market, if they are interested and prepared.

A tourism readiness workshop, *Preparing for the International Market*, will be held on **Tuesday, August 31, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Yesterday's Royal, 13 Canal Street, Sylvan Beach.**

This workshop is aimed at enabling small and large businesses, local governments, attractions, accommodations, and organizations to participate in this promotion regardless of previous involvement in international tourism or canal related activities. Each attendee of the basic "How To" workshop will leave with clear next steps.

Presenters for the conference will include:

Lori Solomon-Duell, Dir. of Tourism Development and Marketing for the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Lori will present **How to Benefit from Collaborating with Others in Presenting and Marketing to Visitors.**

Chris Guidone, a consultant for NYS Division of Tourism. He will present on **How International Tourism Works and How to Get Involved.**

Markly Wilson, Dir. of International Marketing for NYS Division of Tourism. He will co-present with Chris Guidone on **How to Join I Love New York in Promoting to the International Visitor.**

Avi Kaptzan, CEO of Kay New Century Tours Ltd., Tel Aviv, Israel. He will present on **How Upstate New York is Meeting the Growing Needs of the International Visitor** as well as **How to Become Visible on the Kay Tours New York State Web Portal**.

Registration is \$20.00 and includes lunch. Registration is required. Registration forms are available online at: www.eriecanalway.gov/get-involved_workshops-training.htm

DEC RELEASES DRAFT ENDANGERED SPECIES REGULATIONS

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced on August 5th its release of draft updated endangered species regulations. Practices that have been in place for several years resulting from a past decade of multiple court decisions would be codified in these regulations. Landowners, local governments, developers, planners and others would benefit from the new regulations, which provide for clear guidance and predictability in planning and designing projects. The proposals are intended to strengthen protections for endangered and threatened species, and provide developers, local officials and others with a clear regulatory framework.

The proposed regulations contain an incidental permit process for projects that might impact an endangered and threatened species. For the first time, the proposals establish criteria for the listing and de-listing of species, and requirements for DEC restoration and recovery plans. They also establish time lines, procedures and standards for reviewing applications for construction and/or other projects that might impact endangered and threatened species. The proposals would define the “taking” of a protected species to include the adverse modification of habitat conforming to New York court decisions interpreting the term. The regulations also call for applicants to develop a mitigation plan that results in a net conservation benefit to the listed species. To access the proposal, the text of the regulation and related links, go to:

www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/34113.html#part182. Public comments will be accepted through September 20, 2010.

To comment, write to Dan Rosenblatt, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4750 or e-mail to: wildliferegs@gw.dec.state.ny.us.