



# 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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### NEW REGULATIONS FOR DAM SAFETY PLANNING

All owners of dams in New York with either a Class B (intermediate hazard) or Class C (high hazard) were required to file updated emergency action plans with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) by August 19, 2010. An important piece of the emergency action plan (EAP) is a notification flow chart and information forms that outline who is called and in what order in case of an emergency situation involving a dam. A local government official for the affected municipality should be on that chart. In addition, DEC recommends that local emergency plans have appendices that address any Class B or C dams that could impact their municipality. More information about dam safety is available at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4991.html>.

There are several Class B and C dams in the Tug Hill region. Those dams can be viewed using Google Earth – click on <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/42978.html> and scroll down to the second table that describes their Environmental Maps - you will find a link to the NYS Dams Inventory in the second to last row. Clicking on the earth symbol will automatically open up Google Earth (which you need to have installed on the computer beforehand) and zoom into New York and show green, red, and blue squares signifying all the dams in the state. If you click on a square, it will bring up a separate window that gives information about the dam you clicked on.

### EMERALD ASH BORER IDENTIFIED IN LIVINGSTON AND MONROE COUNTIES

Shortly after the last issue of Tug Hill Times was released, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetles were found in Livingston and Monroe counties. These two infestations seem to be in the beginning stages, unlike in Ulster County, where officials believe the beetles have been feasting on trees there for a few years. Identifying and limiting the beetle's range early on is key to slowing the spread of the pest and buying time for developing management strategies, without which it is anticipated that the Emerald Ash Borer could wipe out virtually all ash trees in New York in the coming years.

Municipalities would do well to inventory their street trees in order to monitor them for the borers and evidence of leaf dieback, and to manage trees for potential limb loss to remove safety hazards. It is not necessary to immediately remove ash trees, but monitoring should be regular. It is also recommended that diverse types of trees be used in new street and park plantings, and that ash not be used in new plantings, including in riparian restoration projects, order to avoid potential problems in the future. In certain areas of Tug Hill, ash trees compose approximately 15-30% of the forest.

The EAB is a small but destructive beetle that infests and kills North American ash tree species, including green, white, black, and blue ash. Identification of the beetle requires laboratory examination, as several other non-destructive beetles resemble the invasive.

**To contact the  
Commission:**

**Phone toll free  
within the region:  
1-888-785-2380  
or e-mail:  
[tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org)**

**Our website:  
[www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)**

New York adopted regulations in 2008 that ban untreated firewood from entering the state and restricts intrastate movement of untreated firewood to no more than a 50-mile radius from its source (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/28722.html>). DEC is increasing its enforcement efforts to prevent the movement of untreated firewood into and around New York. There are no known significant native predator species to control EAB populations, and winter cold does not kill the larva or pupa growing inside the bark.

The Emerald Ash Borer has now been detected in New York in Cattaraugus, Ulster, Greene, Livingston and Monroe counties: (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/56774.html>).

State and federal officials have implemented an extensive monitoring effort that includes the distribution of approximately 7,500 EAB purple traps in ash trees in high risk locations, including major transportation corridors. The purple or green sticky traps are mostly found along roadways, on both public and private land, most notably in the Winona State Forest.

To find out more about EAB, contact your Cornell Cooperative Extension office, or visit the following web sites:

New York State Invasive Species Clearinghouse: [www.nyis.info](http://www.nyis.info)

NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets color identification poster (need Adobe; pdf file): [www.agmkt.state.ny.us/CAPS/pdf/Emerald Ash Borer Poster.pdf](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/CAPS/pdf/Emerald_Ash_Borer_Poster.pdf)

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/emerald\\_ash\\_b/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/index.shtml)

NYSDEC's Nuisance and Invasive Species page: [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/265.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/265.html).

### **THOUSAND CANKERS DISEASE AFFECTS WALNUT TREE**

Thousand cankers disease (TCD) that affects walnut trees has been confirmed in Tennessee. This is the

first report of the presence of the disease within the native range of Black Walnut. Currently there is no federal quarantine for the fungus or its insect carrier, the walnut twig beetle. Officials have been advised to include thousand cankers disease in their survey and monitoring activities immediately. Visually inspecting walnut trees for dieback is currently the best survey tool for the Eastern United States.

The principal agents involved in this disease area newly identified fungus and the walnut twig beetle. The new fungus strain seems to be more virulent than related species. Both the fungus and the beetle only occur on walnut species. An infested tree usually dies within 3 years of initial symptoms. The earliest symptom is yellowing foliage that progresses rapidly to brown wilted foliage, then branch death. The fungus causes distinctive circular to oblong cankers in the layer under the bark. The bark surface may have no symptoms, or a dark amber stain or cracking of the bark may occur directly above a canker. Numerous tiny beetle entrance and exit holes are visible on dead and dying branches, and bark beetle galleries are often found within the cankers. Adult beetles are very small and reddish brown in color with 4 to 6 concentric ridges on the upper surface of the shield like cover behind and over the head.

The walnut twig beetle is native to Arizona, California, and New Mexico. It has invaded Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington where walnuts have been widely planted. If thousand cankers disease is suspected, a branch 2 to 4 inches in diameter and 6 to 12 inches long that has visible symptoms will need to be submitted to New York's plant diagnostic clinic. For more information, contact the State Forester or Cooperative Extension office nearest you, and/or visit: <http://www.thousandcankerdisease.com/>.

### **ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS FOR GALOO ISLAND WIND FARM BEING ASSESSED**

Upstate Power is currently assessing alternative locations for the Galloo Island wind farm transmission line route. Four potential alternative routes can be viewed on the "Transmission Line Route Alternates Map," dated June 2010 available at [www.upstatenypower.com](http://www.upstatenypower.com). Upstate Power is currently attending town board meetings to provide

the public with the four viable alternative routes. If the community was potentially affected by the first proposed route, it is not being included in this series of public information meetings.

Between now and September 20<sup>th</sup>, Upstate Power will attend six additional meetings in and around the Tug Hill region in communities potentially affected by the proposed alternative routes:

#### **Town of Scriba**

Wednesday, September 8th at 6:30 p.m.  
42 Creamery Road, Oswego, NY 13126

#### **Town of Watertown**

Thursday, September 9th at 7:00 p.m.  
22867 County Route 67, Watertown, NY 13601

#### **Village of Black River**

Monday, September 13th at 6:30 p.m.  
107 Jefferson Place, Black River, NY 13612

#### **Town of Orwell**

Tuesday, September 14th at 7:00 p.m.  
1999 County Route 2, Orwell, NY 13426

#### **Town of Parish**

Thursday, September 16th at 7:00 p.m.  
2938 East Main Street, Parish, NY 13131

#### **Town of New Haven**

Monday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m.  
4279 State Rt. 104, New Haven, NY 13121

To continue to receive updates as the project develops, potentially impacted communities and interested parties can request “active party status” by sending a letter to the Public Service Commission at the address below:

Hon. Jaclyn A. Brillling  
Secretary to the Commission  
New York State Public Service Commission  
Agency Building 3  
Albany, NY 12223-1350

**RE: Case 09-T-0049.** Application of Upstate New York Power Corporation for certificate pursuant to Article VII Public Service Law

For more information about the meetings and Upstate Power, go to <http://upstatenypower.com/index.html>

and click on “public meetings.” Once you are at the public meetings section, click on “ >> [Click here to view/download the public meeting packet](#)” for a packet of information about the proposed power line route options that will connect the proposed wind farm on Galloo Island to the inland grid.

Additionally, the Public Service Commission website has a complete listing of all the filings with their agency on the Galloo Island Wind Farm project available at:

<http://documents.dps.state.ny.us/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterSeq=29244>

### **PARKS AND TRAILS NY OFFERS TRAIL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE**

Five communities will be selected by Parks & Trails NY to receive help with technical issues, planning, public outreach, grant writing, fundraising, programming, organizational development and other activities critical to the long-term success of trail projects. Selection will be based on level of community support and commitment to the project, number and nature of partnerships, clarity of project goals and nature of assistance requested, opportunities to increase physical activity levels within the community, and level of need. Preference will be given to communities with a high percentage of low income households.

Applications and more information can be found on the Parks & Trails New York website at: <http://www.ptny.org/greenways/hthp/index.shtml> or calling Parks & Trails New York at 518-434-1583. Applications are being accepted until **October 12, 2010**. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact Parks & Trails New York to discuss their projects before the submission deadline. *Healthy Trails, Healthy People* is supported in part by a grant from the Health Heart Program of the New York State Department of Health. Tug Hill staff are available to assist communities in preparing applications. Please contact Katie Malinowski at the Commission, toll free within the region at 1-888-785-2380 or directly at 315-785-2385 or e-mail her at: [katie@tughill.org](mailto:katie@tughill.org).