



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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OFFICE OF STATE COMPTROLLER WORKSHOP – FISCAL OVERSIGHT/RED FLAGS FOR FRAUD

The Local Government Education Committee from Oneida and Herkimer Counties is offering this training session by the NYS Comptroller's Office from Syracuse at Kunsela Hall, SUNYIT, and Utica on Wednesday, **September 29, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** Municipal officials often struggle with what they are required to do audit the financial records of other municipal officers. This training program is designed to assist village and town officials in carrying out their legal fiscal oversight responsibility. Topics to be covered include:

What are the board's fiscal oversight duties?

What is the purpose of an audit and who is responsible?

An overview of the records of the chief fiscal officer (Supervisor or Treasurer)

An overview of the fiscal responsibilities of the justice and clerk.

Important audit concerns and key records to look at (a checklist approach).

What do you do if questions are raised during the audit process?

What are the major red flags for Fraud you should watch for?

What do you do if suspect fraud?

The registration fee is \$15. Payments should be made payable to the College Association and mailed to the Office of Continuing Professional Education, SUNYIT, PO Box 3050, Utica, NY 13504-3050. Registration forms and additional information can be found at the LGEC website at <http://lgec.org/content> and click on the workshop section. You can also contact NOCCOG circuit rider Gerry Ritter at 392-2260 or Gjritter01@aol.com for more information.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT RELEASED BY DEC – PUBLIC COMMENTS INVITED

On September 7th, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Commissioner Pete Grannis announced the release of a draft "Strategic Plan for State Forest Management." The plan will guide management of New York's 786,000-acre State Forest holdings and is available for public review and comment through Oct. 29, 2010. Electronic copies of the draft plan are available online at: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html. To request a CD, send an e-mail to stateforestplan@gw.dec.state.ny.us, or mail a request to Strategic Plan for State Forest Management, NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4255.

This is the first time DEC has produced a strategic plan for all the state's forest holdings. In addition to outlining a vision for sustainable management, the plan provides a template for state foresters to develop individual unit management plans for dozens of forest units over the next decade.

**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**

Key goals of the draft plan focus on eco-system health and diversity, economic benefits, forest conservation, recreation and sustainable management. The plan builds on the momentum of the state forests being 'green certified' two years ago – a designation awarded to only 10 percent of the world's forests. Comments can be e-mailed to stateforestplan@gw.dec.state.ny.us or mailed to Strategic Plan for State Forest Management, NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4255. Nine hearing have been scheduled (see below).

Managed by professional foresters, state forests play a major role in New York's landscape by allowing for the sustainable use of natural resources, providing watershed protection, serving as a valuable source for the state's forest products industry, and providing hundreds of thousands of annual visitors with access to lands for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, boating, snowmobiling and other activities.

State Forest Strategic Management Plan Public Hearing Schedule: Each meeting will consist of an informal information session from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and a public hearing from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Meetings near the Tug Hill region are as follows:

Sept. 14: State Fair Grounds, Martha Eddy Room
581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse

Sept. 22: Lowville Fire Department
5600 Hillside Dr., Lowville

NYS GIS CONFERENCE 2010 IN SARATOGA

The 26th Annual New York State GIS Conference will be held at the Saratoga Hilton from October 24th through the 26th. This is an opportunity to gain knowledge about GIS and GPS, whether you are a beginner or a professional - there is something for everyone.

There will be workshops on Sunday and a reception at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame that you can attend. On Monday evening, Jack Knowlton will be the banquet speaker. His topic will be about Funny Cide, the only New York bred racing horse to have won the Kentucky Derby. **Early**

registration ends on October 6th. For more information please visit:

<http://www.esf.edu/nysgisconf>

NYS ARCHIVES SARA WORKSHOPS

The following are NYS Archives workshops that are scheduled for this fall in the central NY area:

Using State Archives Retention Schedules

Thursday, September 9th
Schroepel Town Hall, Oswego County
(near the town of Clay)

Introduction to Historical Records

Wednesday, September 29th
Rome City Hall, Oneida County

Files Management

Thursday, October 21st
Manlius Town Hall, Onondaga County (10 minutes south of Syracuse)

Managing Maps and Plans

Thursday, October 28th
Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES (near Sangertown Mall)

The sessions generally run from 9:00a.m. to about 12:00. Register by calling the Utica office at 793-2780 or register on online at:

<http://iarchives.nysed.gov/WorkShops/workshopsServlet?owner=REG&cat=1>

RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 5, 2010 DEADLINE

The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has announced that another round of the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) that they administer on behalf of the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) is open, with grant **applications due November 5, 2010**. The goal of the program is to provide funding to provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use. Proposed projects must be identified in or further one or more specific goals of the Statewide Comprehensive

Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the Statewide Trails Plan, or a local trails plan.

Proposed projects are rated on several criteria, including: innovative sharing for motorized and/or non-motorized use; provides development of urban trail linkages; citizen involvement; volunteer labor, non-traditional labor, and other donations will help accomplish the project; utilize existing corridors; improve the continuity of a trail system.

Not-for-profit organizations, municipal, state and federal agencies, Indian tribal governments and other public agencies and authorities may apply. The minimum grant award is \$5,000 and the maximum grant award is \$200,000. RTP is a matching grant, requiring at least 20% match.

The complete announcement and application are available on the OPRHP website at: <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/grants/recreational-rails/default.aspx>. Dates and locations for pre-application workshops have not been announced yet. If your municipality or organization is interested in assistance from the Commission with an application, please contact Katie Malinowski toll-free at (888) 785-2380 or katie@tughill.org.

WATERSHED CONFERENCE TO BE HELD OCTOBER 22, 2010

A conference titled "Lake, Stream and Watershed Issues - It All Flows Downhill" will be held at Hamilton College on Friday, **October 22, 2010**. The daylong event is co-sponsored by the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board, the Herkimer Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program, and Hamilton College. The cost for attendance is \$25 per person. For more information and to request a registration sheet, please contact Anne Saltman, CNY RPDB at 315-422-8276 ext. 206, asaltman@cnyrpdb.org, or go to their website http://www.cnyrpdb.org/docs/environmental/2010-10-22_WatershedConfReg.pdf.

The day's sessions include talks on climate impacts on lake level changes, the impacts of Shale-gas production, invasive species challenges, the influence of surface water on municipal groundwater supply

systems, green infrastructure for stormwater management and local options for funding lake, stream and watershed projects.

TRAINING CREDIT FOR MUNICIPAL PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIALS

Planning board and zoning board of appeals members are required to complete at least four hours of training each year. The governing board of each municipality determines, by resolution, what training is eligible to meet the requirements of this state law. Credit may be authorized but a final decision should be determined by the recommendations of your governing board. Please check with your governing board or, for additional information, refer to "Annual Training for Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals Members" at the NYS DOS website at:

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/training.htm>.

SEPTEMBER BIOMASS BOOTCAMP IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

The St. Lawrence Grass Energy Working Group and the Black River-St. Lawrence County Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) are offering a one-day, focused orientation program for those interested in learning more about using renewable biomass for heating and/or combined heating and power applications. Called a 'biomass bootcamp,' the session will be held on Friday, **September 17, 2010** at the Richard W. Miller Campus Center at SUNY Canton.

This workshop is particularly applicable for businesses, schools, hospitals, and government buildings for which more than \$50,000 is spent annually on energy and that plan on expanding their operations or that need to replace their heating system(s). The workshop will cover options for lowering and stabilizing energy costs by using locally available renewable biomass fuels.

Attendees will be able to learn from and question a variety of experts in order to determine if biomass heating, or combined heat and power, warrants further consideration for their facility. Companies that supply biomass fuels, make biomass heating

equipment, and build and finance projects will be available at exhibit booths. A take-away package for attendees will contain links to online resources, case histories of successful biomass projects, and the Biomass Bootcamp Primer, a resource not available anywhere else but at the bootcamp.

For more information about the Biomass Bootcamp in Canton, or to register, go to: http://www.rickhandleyassociates.com/bootcamp/calendar_CantonNY.html or contact Rick Handley and Associates at www.rickhandleyassociates.com or (518) 466-6934.



Save the Date!

Energy Alternatives for Your Community Workshop

Thursday, October 7, 2010
Parish Village Hall
1- 5 p.m.

Energy Efficiency, Solar, Wind,
Geothermal, Wood,
Grass, and more!

NOTE:

Next board meeting of the Tug Hill
Commission will be on Wednesday,
September 22nd in West Carthage.