



# 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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### NORTHERN FOREST CONVERSATIONS

The NYS Tug Hill Commission is pleased to host a series of conversations regarding initiatives within the Northern Forest region of Northern and Central New York. For several years a number of organizations in Northern and Central New York have engaged with the Northern Forest regions of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine regarding economic development, sustainable forestry, working landscapes and economically viable communities.

On October 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a series of conversations with key players in the region so local officials, business leaders and community based organizations can learn about these initiatives and help shape how they may help Northern and Central New York communities. This meeting will be held on:

**Monday, October 25**

**1:30 to 4:00 p.m.**

**Dulles State Office Building  
317 Washington St., Watertown  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room**

Joining in these conversations will be:

**Sandford "Sandy" Blitz – Federal Co-chair of the Northern Border Regional Commission.** Mr. Blitz will present on the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) and its legislative mandate for economic development in the Northern Border Region of the four states, the recent round of NBRC grants for community and economic development, and the formal formation of the Commission as chaired by

Mr. Blitz, the Governors of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. The Northern Border Regional Commission does not yet have a website, but a basic overview is available at:

<http://www.nado.org/legaffair/nbfact.pdf>.

**Joe Short – Program and Policy Director of the Northern Forest Center.** Mr. Short will discuss the mission of the Northern Forest center and their role in developing a "Sustainable Economy Initiative" for the Northern Forest. Mr. Short will also discuss the Centers new Northern Forest Investment Zone.

The Investment Zone is particularly geared at opportunities for small forest landowners to earn additional income, and in turn sustain both economic and ecological values of the Northern Forest. Mr. Short will also talk about emerging federal legislative initiatives that Northern Forest residents and landowners may be interested in. For more information on the Northern Forest Center and the Northern Forest investment zone go to: <http://www.northernforest.org>.

**Steve Erman and Kate Fish – Presidents and Executive Director of the Adirondack North Country Association** – Mr. Erman and Ms. Fish will present an overview of the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) and their involvement in Northern Forest initiatives. They will also talk to the group about recent developments and ideas about an Adirondack North Country Sustainable Communities Initiative that ANCA has been coordinating. For more information about ANCA please go to: <http://www.adirondack.org>.

This will be an opportunity for Northern and Central New Yorkers to learn more about Northern Forest initiatives, their affect on Northern and Central New York and to engage in a conversation that will shape these new and emerging opportunities.

**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)

While reservations for the meeting are not required we would appreciate hearing from you in advance. If you would like additional materials or information about these meetings please call the Tug Hill Commission at 1-888-785-2380 or e-mail us at [collins@tughill.org](mailto:collins@tughill.org).

### **BIOMASS BOOTCAMP IN JEFFERSON COUNTY ON DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

The Drum Country Biomass Working Group and Black River-St. Lawrence County Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) are sponsoring 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 Boot Camp,' the session will be held on Wednesday December 1, 2010 at the Commons at Dillenbeck Corners, Building P-4350, Euphrates River Valley Road, Fort Drum, NY.

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 Boot Camp Primer, a resource not available anywhere else but at the boot camp.

For more information about the Biomass Boot Camp on Fort Drum, or to register, contact Rick Handley and Associates at [www.rickhandleyassociates.com](http://www.rickhandleyassociates.com) or (518) 466-6934.

### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY ALTERNATIVES WORKSHOP RESCHEDULED**

The NYS Tug Hill Commission is offering a workshop focusing on improving energy efficiency and supplying or supplementing heat and electricity with alternative energy sources for residential, municipal, commercial and industrial buildings. Topics covered will include energy efficiency audits and upgrade options, biomass, wind, solar, and geothermal energy sources. Originally scheduled for October, the workshop will now be **held on Friday, November 12, 2010 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Parish Village Meeting Room, Route 26, Parish, NY.** The workshop is free of charge and open to the public. Pre-registration is required.

This presentation will focus on ways that commercial, institutional, and municipal facilities can save money and energy, and take advantage of special financing programs to make facility improvements to do so. A series of experts in their fields will provide information about energy efficiency upgrade savings and a variety of alternative, renewable energy sources. The workshop will have an emphasis on commercial, industrial and municipal facilities, however information could be applied to residential buildings as well.

For more information about the workshop, please contact Linda Gibbs, NYS Tug Hill Commission, by phone at 315-785-2380 or toll free at 1-888-785-2380 in region, or by email at [gibbs@tughill.org](mailto:gibbs@tughill.org).

