



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.

In this issue

November 18, 2010

Boot Camp on Biomass
Rec. Trail Grant Apps
Local Leaders Institute

BOOT CAMP TO ADDRESS PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF RENEWABLE BIOMASS FOR HEAT

The region's abundance of biomass as a renewable fuel source could help businesses, school districts, non-profit institutions, and municipalities to reduce and stabilize their heating costs. The Drum Country Biomass Working Group and the Black River-St. Lawrence County Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) are sponsoring a one-day, focused orientation program to enable participants to make more informed decisions as to whether biomass may be a viable option for their school, business, government building, or other facility. 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.

Expert panelists will address a broad range of topics, including: types of biomass fuels, sustainability, the economics of converting to biomass, carbon emissions, financing, and the all-important question, "Why biomass?" Participants will have the opportunity to view various technologies and fuel sources. Exhibitors will include Curran Renewable Energy, ACT Bioenergy, Thayer Corporation, USDA Rural Development, the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC), the Biomass energy Resource Center, Honeywell, AFS Energy Systems, and several engineering and support service companies dedicated to renewable heating solutions.

The registration fee for the Biomass Boot Camp is \$75 and includes a catered lunch and a biomass resource manual. The manual will include case studies, links to online resources, and a biomass primer detailing the topics discussed during the Boot Camp. Advance registration is required. Sponsorship to make the conference possible is provided by the Development Authority of the North Country, St. Lawrence Resource Conservation and Development Council, and the Biomass Energy Resource Council.

For a detailed agenda and registration information, visit:

<http://www.rickhandleyassociates.com>.

Directions to Fort Drum are included on the registration website. Easy public access to Fort Drum only requires a current driver's license or other valid identification.

RECREATIONAL TRAIL GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

Tug Hill Commission staff provided assistance in the preparation and submission of several grant applications to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for funding under the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Four grant applications were submitted, including three for trail maintenance equipment for three area snowmobile clubs and a trail underpass project in the Town of Trenton.

In order to provide safe, groomed trails for the many snowmobilers in the Tug Hill Region, three area clubs requested funding from the RTP for the purchase of a new trail groomer. The Missing Link Snowmobile Club, which maintains trails in the Carthage area, requested \$155,800 in grant funds. Plateau Riders Snowmobile Club, with trails centered around the Towns of Martinsburg,

**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**

Turin and West Turin, requested \$153,920 in grant funds. Valley Travelers Snowmobile Club, which maintains trails in the Towns of Harrisburg, Montague, Martinsburg and Lowville, requested \$156,000 in grant funds towards the purchase of their new trail maintenance equipment.

The Town of Trenton requested \$200,000 from the RTP to build a recreational underpass culvert (RTU) in conjunction with the New York State Department of Transportation's (DOT) scheduled project entailing replacement of their bridge on New York State Route 12 near the intersection of NYS Route 12 and Old Poland Road. The underpass is a Diverse Use project, providing access for both motorized and non-motorized recreation. The underpass would provide a safe crossing for bicyclists, pedestrians, and snowmobilers, and would link current and planned trail systems in the Town of Trenton that are now separated by busy four lane NYS Route 12.

The Recreational Trails Program grant applications were submitted on November 5, 2010. Award announcements are expected in the spring.

TUG HILL LOCAL LEADERS INSTITUTE CLASS OF 2010-2011 UNDERWAY

The 8th annual Tug Hill Local Leaders Institute Class is underway. This year there are four participants from the villages of Castorland and Lowville and the town of Wilna.

The Local Leaders Institute is designed to provide local leaders with a better understanding of the regional issues and trends to help them be more effective. To that end, participants met with Commission Executive Director John Bartow, on September 29th to hear about the history of Tug Hill and the Commission and to learn more about the region in general.

Class members also participated in a tour of Tug Hill on October 2nd. In addition to traveling through all four counties in the region, this full-day tour included stops at the village of Black River waterfront, Salmon

River Falls, the Salmon River Fish Hatchery, the Redfield Reservoir, the Lee Town Hall, Pixley Falls, and Whetstone Gulf.

Participants also met at Café Mira in the village of Adams for a discussion on the region's economy on November 17th. Eric Virkler, director of Lewis

County's Office of Economic Development and Planning, and Michelle Capone, senior project development specialist, presented the group with information about economic trends and challenges in the Tug Hill Region.

The next session of the Local Leaders Institute will be held on December 1st at the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension offices. Participants will meet with Dick Halpin, executive director for Jefferson County CCE, to discuss leadership styles and challenges.

Check your mail . . .

Early bird postcards announcing the Commission's 22nd Annual Local Government Conference set for March 31, 2011, are now in the mail.