

July 5, 2019



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Constable Hall 200th Anniversary Celebration July 14

Constable Hall will celebrate 200 years on Sunday, July 14 from 12:00 to 5:00 pm. Events include a reopening with ribbon cutting, historical lectures, special behind the scene look at artifacts not generally on display, an in-costume reading of "A Visit From St. Nick," period related music and dance performances, a Time Capsule, Bridges of Constable Hall Presentation, activities for child and food available. For more information, go to <http://constablehall.org/200th/>

Minimum Maintenance Road Legislation 2019 Session Update

The 2019 NYS Legislative Session has ended, and while the long-standing minimum maintenance road legislation continued to be active, it was not passed by both houses.

The Senate bill, S2910 sponsored by Senator Griffo, was approved out of the Senate Transportation Committee with new chairman Senator Kennedy from Buffalo, and passed the Senate on June 13. The companion Assembly bill, A3724 sponsored by Assemblywoman Gunther, was referred to the Assembly Transportation Committee with new chairman Assemblyman Magnarelli from Syracuse. Although not reported out of committee, many meetings and discussions were held that improved communication and laid groundwork for next year's legislative session.

During the break between sessions, commission staff will continue discussions with partners and look for opportunities to explore forward movement on the issue.

Free Municipal Ethics Training Seminar July 9

The NYS Association of Towns is holding a free training seminar titled Municipal Ethics on Tuesday, July 9 at the Milton Community Center, 310 Northline Road, Ballston Spa from 6:30 -8:00pm.

Information on nepotism, gifts, dual officeholding and more will be shared. No registration is required, and all municipal officials and employees are invited to attend. The course is eligible for one Certified Town Official Credit in the attorney/legal issues area. Call the Association of Towns with questions, (518) 465-7933.

State Forest Action Plan Update Underway

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is working on update of the state's forest plan. Last completed in 2010, the plan is a strategic plan for New York's forestry community. The purpose of the plan is to provide long term, comprehensive, coordinated strategies to help the forestry community refine how it invests state, federal and leveraged partner resources in major management and landscape priorities.

Under the federal Farm Bill, every 10 years each state must submit a plan to the US Forest Service. The plan must be approved by the state's chief forester, who in New York is the director of DEC's Division of Lands and Forests. The next update of the Plan is due **June 2020**.

Commission executive director Katie Malinowski is serving on the New York Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee, which is providing input to the plan. Feel free to contact her with any thoughts or ideas relevant to the plan update. More information is also available on DEC's website, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/60829.html>



SLELO PRISM Holds Invasive Species Symposium

SLELO PRISM (the St. Lawrence – Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) recently conducted its invasive species symposium at the Tailwater Lodge in Altmar, New York. Symposium topics included managing invasive species in restoration projects, implications of climate change on invasive species, preparing your woods for the challenges of climate

change and invasive species, increasing resilience against invasives, a program to preserve native species' seeds for restoration efforts, and moving forward in resiliency and restoration in our work.

Ambassador Doug Barclay spoke about his efforts to preserve lands in the area in the face of invasives and land uses potentially detrimental to the area. Following the symposium, two field sessions were conducted on methods of seed collection, and identification and reporting of invasive species through the iMapInvasives program and web site (www.nyimainvasives.org.)

SLELO PRISM may be found on the Internet at www.sleloinvasives.org .

Amish and Codes Training Well Attended

A recent session hosted by the Local Government Education Committee in the town of Trenton relating to codes compliance and the Amish community was well attended. Representatives from the NYS Department of State Division of Local Government Services provided an overview of the Uniform Building Code, how communities can utilize zoning and comprehensive planning to protect farmland, and laws regarding farms and barn uses. Code issues identified as universally difficult to enforce included window sizes, CO and smoke detectors, workers compensation, and waste disposal. The session concluded with questions such as regulation of puppy mills, saw mills, and schools. The ultimate conclusion was that the Amish are technically subject to the same laws and enforcement as the rest of the population. For further information, which will be available soon, contact Jennifer at jarmstrong@tughill.org.

New Slow-Moving Vehicle Rules

Effective June 26, 2019, farm machinery, implements of husbandry, agricultural tractors, and other machinery with a top speed greater than 25 mph and less than 40 mph must display a speed identification symbol reflecting its maximum speed, in addition to displaying the slow-moving vehicle emblem.

An informational brochure, developed jointly by the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, NYS Department of Motor Vehicles, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, NYS Department of Transportation, New York State Police, and the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health, is available at https://nyfb.informz.net/NYFB/data/images/updatedSMV-broc_6_19.pdf

Slow-Moving Vehicles

Slow-Moving Vehicles (SMVs) are all vehicles that operate at 40 mph or less, including:

- ▲ Tractors
- ▲ Self-propelled farm equipment
- ▲ Road construction and maintenance machinery
- ▲ Animal-powered vehicles



Slow-Moving Vehicle Season

Motorists will encounter more agricultural slow-moving vehicles from late April through mid-October, when farmers are more apt to be planting and harvesting crops. Please be aware of these vehicles and use caution when sharing the road with them.



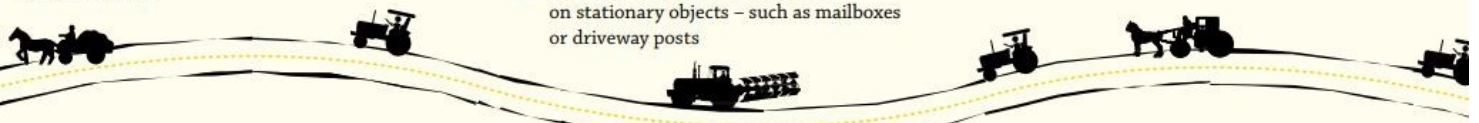
Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem

- ▲ Effective June 26, 2019, farm machinery, implements of husbandry, agricultural tractors, and other machinery with a top speed greater than 25 mph and less than 40 mph must display a speed identification symbol reflecting its maximum speed, in addition to displaying the slow-moving vehicle emblem.
- ▲ NYS law requires vehicles that travel at 40 mph or less to have a Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem:
 - Placed in the middle of the back end
 - Located two to six feet above the road
 - Kept clean and replace when faded
- ▲ Each piece of agricultural equipment, whether self-propelled or used in combination, shall separately display a slow-moving vehicle emblem
- ▲ It is illegal to put SMV emblems on stationary objects – such as mailboxes or driveway posts

Sharing the Road with Slow-Moving Vehicles

When motorists encounter a slow-moving vehicle on the roadway they should:

- ▲ Slow down immediately when you see a vehicle or equipment with a SMV emblem in the road
- ▲ Increase following distance to create a safety cushion
- ▲ Be alert and watch for turns into fields
- ▲ Drive courteously
- ▲ Pass with care only when it is safe and legal to do so
- ▲ Be aware that animal-powered vehicles may make unanticipated movements
- ▲ Remember SMV operators may have poor visibility due to loads and equipment in tow
- ▲ Be aware that equipment in tow may sway on the road



CTHC Executive Committee Meets

The Executive Committee of the Cooperative Tug Hill Council met on Tuesday June 25th at the Martinsburg Library. Following reading and approval of the minutes and the financial reports, the Committee heard from Phil Street from the Tug Hill Commission about several topics and projects that the Council and Commission are working on. The Committee also discussed the upcoming retirement of Associate Circuit Rider Kay Chapman and discussed advertising strategies for finding a new contractor to take Kay's position. More information on Kay's position is available on the CTHC website at www.tughillcouncil.com. The Committee set a tentative date of September 19th for the 2019 fall meeting. Information on the fall meeting will be going out as soon as the location and other details have been firmed up. The Committee members also discussed possible candidates to fill the vacant Director position on the Executive Committee before adjourning.

Invasive Species Awareness Week Events

Tuesday, July 9th

- **9am-2pm** Lakeview Water Chestnut Pull. Meet at the South Sandy Creek Canoe/kayak launch located on NYS Route 3. [View area map \(PDF\)](#). Group will paddle into Lakeview Marsh WMA. [REGISTER](#)

Wednesday, July 10th

- **10am-12pm** Rusty Round-up Westerville, NY. Come help search for & remove invasive rusty crayfish. Meet at the [parking area](#) by the bridge crossing over the Mohawk River on county route 53/ Stokes-Westernville Road. [REGISTER](#)
- **9am-12pm** Riverkeeper Volunteer Training at the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center located at [44927 Cross Island Rd, Fineview, NY 13640](#). \$10 program fee, \$7 park entrance fee. Learn about aquatic invasive species of interest, in addition to kayak safety and Save the River's Riverkeeper Volunteer Program. [REGISTER](#)
- **10am-2pm** Battle Island State Park Water Chestnut Pull. Come paddle the Oswego River and help the OPRHP Invasive Species Strike Team's remove water chestnut! Please bring your own canoe/kayak, life jackets, gloves, snacks and water. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a guardian. [REGISTER](#)

Thursday July 11th

- **10am-12pm** Water Chestnut Pull meet at the [Pine Grove Boat Launch](#) located at Selkirk Shores State Park on Pine Grove Road off Rt. 3 in Pulaski, NY. [REGISTER](#)

Friday, July 12th

- **9am-12pm** Oneida Lake Water Chestnut Pull @ Southshore Marina Oneida Lake. Contact Carol Ford <cford113@yahoo.com> for meet up details. [REGISTER](#)
- **5pm and 6pm** Invasive Species Documentary Show Times at the Depaulville Free Library [located 32333 County Route 179 Depauville, NY 13632](#). [REGISTER](#)
- **5pm-6pm** Guided Invasive Species Walk & Talk at the Lowville Forestry Demonstration Area [7327 NY-812, Lowville, NY 13367](#). Meet at the Lowville, DEC office parking lot. [REGISTER](#)
- **6pm-8pm** Invasives on Tap with the Green Drinks Watertown Club at Boots Brewery located at [89 Public Square, Watertown, NY 13601](#). Learn about invasive species over a crafted brew, connect with the [Green Drinks Watertown Club](#). [REGISTER](#)

Saturday, July 13th

- **10am-12pm** Family Friendly Invasive Species Paddle at the Higley Flow State Park Reservoir. Bring your own kayak/canoe/ life jacket/snacks/drinks. Under 18 must be accompanied by a guardian. Learn about invasive plants and about an invasive species observation mobile app called iMapInvasives.org. [REGISTER](#)

For more information: Megan.pistolese@tnc.org or (315) 387-3600 Ext. 7724 or <https://stoptheinvasionny.com/>.

Contact Us

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Electronic versions appear in full color!