

## Commission Enjoys Annual Retreat

August 27, 2021

The Tug Hill Commission's board, staff and associates enjoyed several sites in Northern Oneida County on August 16. Starting at the [Steuben Memorial](#), the only state designated historic site in the Tug Hill region, the group then traveled to [Delta Lake State Park](#) for a cookout and conversation around regional items, including LGC 2022 and minimum maintenance roads. The day ended at the [Adirondack Barrel Cooperage](#) in Remsen, where owners Joe and Kelly Blazosky provided a tour of their [barrel making facility](#). Since 2015, their barrels have been used for several award-winning brown spirits and are in high demand. Plans to triple the capacity of the cooperage are in the works.

### In This Issue

- Commission Annual Retreat
- Commission Annual Dinner
- Town Budget Process Guide
- COVID Information Resources
- Zoo New York River Day
- Gould's Logging Webinar
- Agriculture and Lewis County Experience Webinar
- Town of Worth Zoning
- Technical Assistance Grants
- Lewis County Cuisine Trail
- Solar/Wind Assessment Webinar



Board members and staff enjoy Delta Lake State Park.



Joe Blazosky explains how the cooperage's white oak is sourced from a specific area of Missouri to maximize the quality of the barrels.



Matt Blazosky demonstrates how to make a barrel.





**You Are Invited!**

**NYS Tug Hill Commission Annual Dinner**  
**Thursday, October 14, 2021**

**Tailwater Lodge, 52 Pulaski Street, Altmar, NY 13302**

**Cost: \$45/per person with cash bar.**

**Please return RSVP with check made payable to  
 NYS Tug Hill Commission by Monday, October 4.**

**Please call 315-785-2380 with any questions.**

**Hope to see you there!**

Picture taken from top  
 of Salmon River Falls.

**Invitations to the October 14 annual dinner are in the mail! If you did not receive one and would like to attend, call our office. The first Tug Hill Community Recognition awards will be announced during the event.**

**We will be following whatever COVID protocols Oswego County and/or New York State has in place at the time.**

## New Guide to Town Budget Process Available

As summer draws to a close, towns begin to turn their attention to work on next year's budget. The New York State Comptroller has already announced the tax levy limit that towns will be able to use in setting their 2022 expenditures, and they have a half a year of experience in with their current fiscal year budget, to evaluate how well it's working.

There are a lot of small details that go into creating a town's annual budget, and they come from a number of sources in state law and guidance from the state comptroller. The Tug Hill Commission has created a new reference paper that pulls together numerous references and reminders spanning all those sources into one convenient reference that a town can use for reference during the budget process. It is available now on the Tug Hill Commission web site [tughill.org/publications/technical-issue-papers/](http://tughill.org/publications/technical-issue-papers/).

## COVID Information Resources Compiled by Association of Towns

The Association of Towns of the State of New York recently provided an updated list of information sources related to COVID. It can be accessed at [www.nytowns.org/images/Documents/Announcement/August%202021%20COVID%20VAX%20and%](http://www.nytowns.org/images/Documents/Announcement/August%202021%20COVID%20VAX%20and%20)

## Commission Education at Zoo New York's River Day

The commission hosted an interactive display at Zoo New York's River Day on Saturday August 21. Every year, River Day at the zoo provides an opportunity for local organizations to interact with the public about one of the North Country's greatest natural resources: its waterways! With the NYSDEC's Enviroscape watershed model on loan from Emily Sheridan, we were able to demonstrate how stormwater runoff carries pollutants within a watershed from the landscape and roadways downhill to streams, rivers, lakes and ultimately to the ocean. Visitors enjoyed the hands-on demonstration and were provided water bottles and educational materials from the Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition, provided via partners at the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District.





A vintage green logging truck is parked on a dirt road. A man wearing a red cap, sunglasses, and a plaid shirt stands next to the truck. The truck has a sign that says "WORK MOBIL" and "REV".

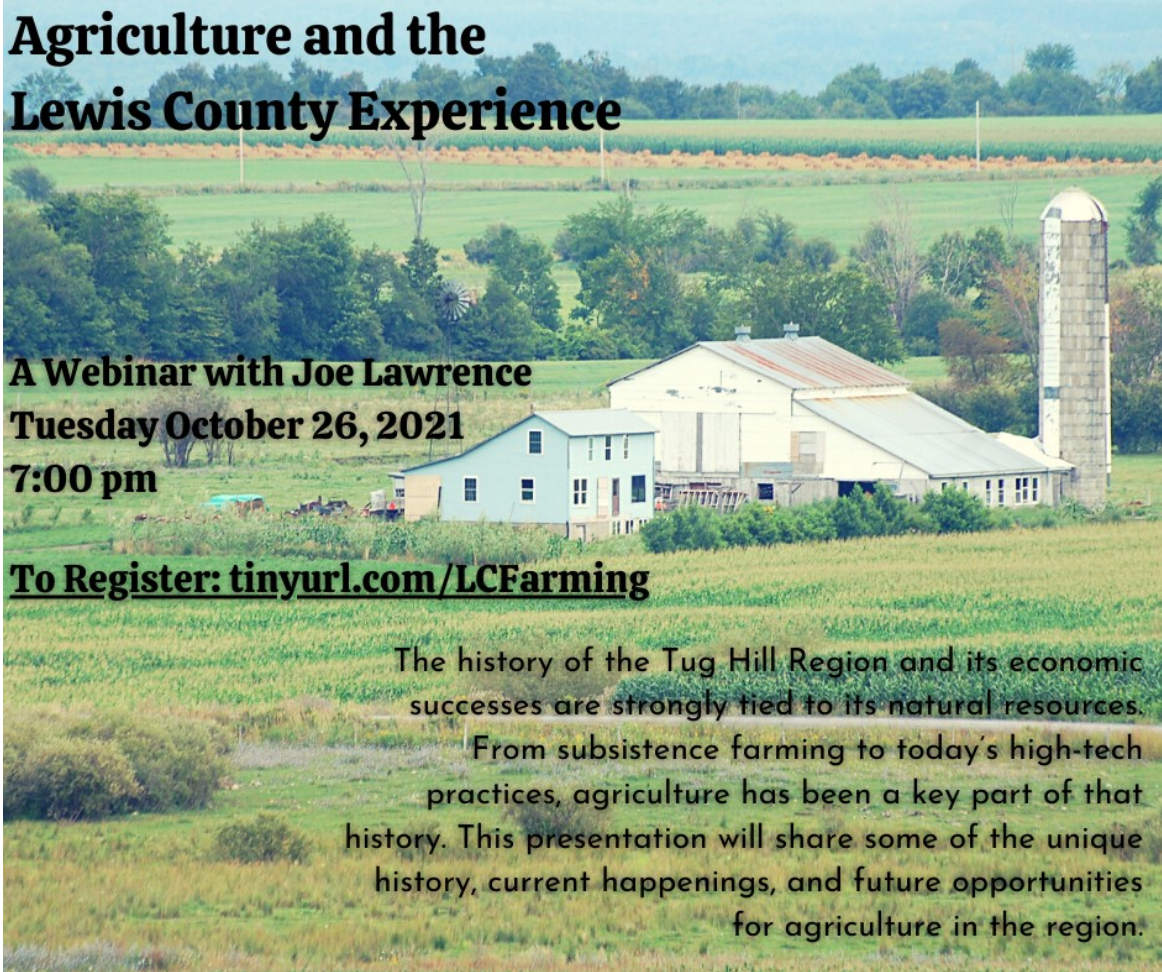
THE TUG HILL COMMISSION  
PRESENTS A ZOOM WEBINAR

## Gould's Logging on Moose River Plains in the Early 1900's

Tuesday September 21  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

To Register:  
[tinyurl.com/portnerlogging](https://tinyurl.com/portnerlogging)

NARRATED BY: LEIGH PORTNER

A farm scene with a large white barn and a tall silo. The barn has a blue roof and a blue door. The silo is white with a metal band. The farm is surrounded by green fields and trees.

## Agriculture and the Lewis County Experience

A Webinar with Joe Lawrence  
Tuesday October 26, 2021  
7:00 pm

To Register: [tinyurl.com/LCFarming](https://tinyurl.com/LCFarming)

The history of the Tug Hill Region and its economic successes are strongly tied to its natural resources. From subsistence farming to today's high-tech practices, agriculture has been a key part of that history. This presentation will share some of the unique history, current happenings, and future opportunities for agriculture in the region.

# Town of Worth Zoning Committee Makes Strides to Create a Zoning and Subdivision Law

The town of Worth has created a committee to tackle the creation of a zoning and subdivision law. The committee meets frequently, weekly and biweekly depending on schedules, and has asked the commission to assist them in the process. To date, we have reviewed the topics that the committee would like to include in the law, delineated potential zoning districts, and begun thinking about what regulations and standards should be required for different land uses.

The purpose of the zoning and subdivision law, which is derived from Worth's adopted mini comprehensive plan, is to prepare for the future growth and development of the town while making sure that there are adequate facilities for housing, transportation, distribution, comfort, convenience, safety, health, and welfare of Worth residents. The objectives of the law are to:

- To promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the community.
- To protect existing natural resources, retain the quality of our area's surface and groundwater, and retain the area's most important wildlife habitat and unique areas to conserve hunting, fishing, and recreational opportunities, and to help retain the character and biological richness of the area.
- To encourage residential development and affordable housing opportunities.
- To enhance retail development and employment opportunities.
- To protect and enhance community appearance and community character and help keep the town a good place to live.
- To retain major forested areas most important to forest industry, hunting, fishing, and other types of recreation as well as retain private and public hunting and fishing opportunities.
- To retain the area's existing farms and best farm soils for farm production.
- To retain historic sites and structures that are important to the character of the area.
- To enhance public services and control the costs of public road maintenance.
- To take advantage of a safe, abundant, renewable, and non-polluting energy resource.
- To decrease the cost of energy to the owners of commercial and residential properties, including single-family homes.
- To increase employment and business development in the region by furthering the installation of solar energy systems.

A comprehensive plan or a mini comprehensive plan like Worth's is a great start for communities who are considering adopting zoning laws as it outlines a community's vision and goals for the future. The committee and the commission are looking forward to making progress and would invite residents of Worth to contact the town with any comments or feedback.

## Technical Assistance Grants from the Preservation League of NYS

Pre-Applications are now open for 2021 Technical Assistance Grants. Interested applicants must submit a pre-application to determine their eligibility. Pre-applications are due October 11 and applications are due October 15. [Visit the Preservation League's website to updated grant guidelines and to submit your pre-application.](#)

The Technical Assistance Grant program provides support for consulting projects that preserve New York State's cultural and historic resources. Grants of up to \$4,000, with a required 20% project cost match from each applicant, are available to nonprofits and municipalities that own or have a long-term lease on buildings that house historic sites, museums, arts facilities, and other important institutions that serve an arts or cultural purpose and are open to the public. The grants support professional services of architects, engineers, and other design and preservation professionals.

If you have questions about the TAG program or your own application, the following webinars are being offered:

- Monday, August 30 at 12:00 p.m. [Click here to register](#) (live webinar)
- Thursday, September 9 at 5:30 p.m. [Click here to register](#) (live webinar)
- *Webinars will be recorded and uploaded to the Preservation League's [YouTube Channel](#) if you can't tune in live.*



# Lewis County Cuisine Trail

Lewis County IDA and its partners are promoting a Lewis County Cuisine Trail. This Cuisine Trail meanders through the backroads on Tug Hill and the surrounding areas, including the villages of Lowville, Croghan, and Copenhagen. The trail showcases locally sourced products such as those made from goats, cows, and maple sugarbushes, which are unique to this region.

You can learn more about the trail and find the Cuisine Trail map on [Lewis County Cuisine Trail - Home](#). And, watch the Cuisine Trail's new promotional video on the Naturally Lewis [Instagram page \(@naturallylewis\)](#). Enjoy the cuisine that makes this region so special and support Naturally Lewis and its partners!



## Contact Us

### NYS Tug Hill Commission

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Visit us at:

Web: [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/  
TugHillCommission](https://www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission)

To request our newsletter electronically please email [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or call

1-888-785-2380.

For upcoming trainings, grant deadlines, and meetings, view our [calendar](#).

## Solar/Wind Assessment Webinar August 31

On Tuesday, August 31, at 2:00 p.m., the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services will host a webinar for the assessment community on the new [appraisal methodology for solar and wind energy projects](#). Here are some of the topics that will be discussed:

- What the new appraisal methodology will mean for assessors and assessments
- Step-by-step how to use the new appraisal model
- How you can comment on the preliminary model and discount rates
- How we developed the model in consultation with the New York State Assessors Association, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and the renewable energy industry

There will be time for questions and answers. No need to register in advance. A few minutes before 2:00 p.m. just follow these instructions:

To join the webinar, [click here](#). Event number: 161 288 2154, Password (if needed): Solar2021

For the audio portion of the meeting, you will be prompted to call in or receive a call back.

If you will not have access to a computer, smartphone, or tablet at the time of the webinar, you can still listen in, just call: 1-518-549-0500, access code: 161 288 2154.