

March 11, 2022

Bluesource Purchases ~30,000 Acres in East Branch of Fish Creek Watershed

The former Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper lands south of G&W Road, previously owned by Corrigan TLP, LLC and managed by Molpus Woodlands Group in southern Lewis County, were recently purchased by [Bluesource](#). The conservation easement held by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation remains with the property. Representatives from Bluesource and LandVest will be at the next East Branch of Fish Creek Working Group meeting, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2022.

For more information ,see:

[East Branch of Fish Creek North Conservation Easement](#)

[East Branch of Fish Creek South Conservation Easement](#)

[East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest](#)

[East Branch of Fish Creek Recreation Management Plan](#)

[East Branch of Fish Creek Working Group](#)



In This Issue

- Bluesource Purchases Land
- Commission to Meet
- LGC Registration
- Tug Hill's Camp Life
- Local Federal Aid 101 Webinar
- Internship Program
- Clean Watersheds Survey
- Issue and Technical Papers
- Burn Ban
- Northern Border Regional Commission Grant
- Records Management Improvement Fund
- Preserve NY Grants

The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cleveland Village Hall, 2 Clay Street, Cleveland, NY 13042, or at us02web.zoom.us/j/84600743849, call in (929)205-6099, meeting ID 84600743849. The public is welcome to attend.

LGC Regular Registration Deadline March 18

Registration and session information for the April 19, 2022 Tug Hill Local Government Conference at Turning Stone Event Center is available at www.tughill.org/lgc2022. The regular registration fee is \$75 if postmarked by March 18, 2022, and can be paid on-line via credit card or mailed in with a check. There will be ample opportunity to visit vendors, network with colleagues, and learn from speakers with varying areas of expertise. A training certificate will be provided to all attendees as well. Hope to see you there!



Laird Petrie at the 2018 LGC. He will present on April 19, 2022.

Reflecting on Tug Hill's Camp Life with Jack Thoden

Over 30 people joined the commission's first historical webinar to hear the reflections of Jack Thoden, an over 50-year member of the Brandy Brook Sports Club along the G&W Road in West Turin. The full video can be watched on the commission's [YouTube channel](#).

One of the webinar participants and another long-time hunt club member, John Gymburch, shared some stories after the webinar, one included here:

"It's probably hard for the average person today to understand how important "camp life" was to the guys who were members of those clubs. Most of the members worked hard all week at their jobs and when Friday night came around, going to camp is something that they all really looked forward to doing. Camp was the place to forget about work and everything else that was going on "outside of the gates" on Tug Hill. In 1967 my dad joined a hunting club on Tug Hill called the Salmon River Club. On rainy days when everyone would come back to camp, the older members would be huddled around the wood stoves and the younger guys would be out towards the walls. As the older guys passed away and the younger guys "earned their stripes" they gradually made their way from the "outer reaches" of the camp and towards the stove. One day in the fall of 2008, my dad looked over at me with a grin and said "Hey John, how's it feel to be sitting in the front row?" When I looked around the camp, it suddenly dawned on me that I was indeed "sitting in the front row" and where had the last 41 years gone."



March 16 Webinar: Local Federal Aid 101: An Overview of the Process

Presented by David P. Orr, PE, NYS LTAP Center - Cornell Local Roads Program, 9:30-3:00 p.m. (four one-hour blocks with 15-minute breaks and one hour for lunch)

Getting federal aid is only the first step in the process to complete a local project. To make a project successful, the local agency needs to understand the steps and the federal and state requirements. During this four-hour online workshop, David will walk through a federal aid project from start to finish, discuss the steps to a successful project, and review issues that have led to problems in the past. Attendees will learn the roles and responsibilities of the various parties involved and ways to reduce stress for themselves and the agencies overseeing the work.

The webinar is free but PDH credit is available for an additional \$20.00 Fee.

Register at cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-DmpUYtVQXSUQvKNvoq_vQ.

Internship Program Links Soldiers to Oneida County Sheriff's Office

Oneida County has established a program to provide U.S. Army soldiers with internships that can lead to full-time jobs with the Sheriff's Office. The U.S. Department of Defense's (DOD) SkillBridge program allows soldiers who are nearing the end of their active-duty service to intern in a career of their choice as they transition back into civilian life. The internships typically begin 60-90 days before their active duty is over, so they receive full pay from the U.S. Army while they learn about a potential new career.

Oneida County's program will offer internships in the Sheriff's Office to soldiers stationed at Fort Drum in Watertown. Participants will work 40 hours a week learning job responsibilities, skills, rules and regulations and practices. While interning, they will be given the opportunity to apply for upcoming civil service exams and vacant positions within the Sheriff's Office. The soldiers can also have their background process completed during the internship, so that they can seamlessly transition from serving in the U.S. Army to serving with the Oneida County Sheriff's Office.

Oneida County's SkillBridge program will be the only one in the nation other than California to provide internships in the field of law enforcement. There are currently three U.S. Army soldiers approved to intern at the Sheriff's Office.

Soldiers at Fort Drum can apply for Oneida County's SkillBridge program through their chain of command. Once authorization is granted, Fort Drum officials then contact the Sheriff's Office to schedule an interview for the candidate, and upon approval, an internship is granted. There is zero cost to the county.

Participation Needed in Clean Watersheds Needs Survey

Help NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) fund as many water quality projects as possible.

Does your community have water quality infrastructure that is outdated or in need of repair? EFC is asking communities for information to ensure funding for as many water quality infrastructure projects as possible in upcoming years. EFC is requesting that local governments and other eligible recipients participate in the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS).

Interested communities will need to share specific documentation about community water quality infrastructure needs. This may include a combination of fillable forms and documents that towns and villages may already have available. Please submit information as soon as possible, as cost documentation received after September 2, 2022 may not be counted.

Resources & Next Steps

- Ready to participate? [Download fillable forms and see documentation requirements.](#)
- Want to learn more? [Register for a webinar scheduled](#) March 29 at 11:00 a.m.
- Not comfortable with digital resources? [Request paper forms.](#)
- Ready to submit? [Use the online submission form.](#)

Thank you for your assistance with this important initiative. If you have any questions, please contact EFC at 518-402-6924 or nyscwns@efc.ny.gov.

Three Tug Hill Issue and Technical Papers Updated

When topics arise that are of concern to many Tug Hill municipalities, commission staff develop issue or technical papers to provide information and background in a concise, organized manner. Issue papers explore more complicated topics important to the region, where technical papers describe how to do something or provide data-driven information.

Conservation Easements, *Town Roads and Tug Hill's Working Landscape*, and *How to Appropriately Unanticipated Revenues* have all recently been updated, available at tughill.org/publications/technical-issue-papers/.

New York State Annual Burn Ban Starts

The annual state ban on outdoor burning begins on March 16 and extends through May 14. While things are still presently snow covered over most of the north country, once spring arrives conditions quickly arise which are conducive to wildfires. The burning of outdoor brush and debris is historically the single largest cause of wildfires in the state according to the DEC.

Each year, DEC Forest Rangers extinguish dozens of wildfires that burn hundreds of acres. In addition, local volunteer fire departments, all too often must respond to wildfires caused by illegal debris fires. So, while it is tempting to get a jump on yard work by burning yard debris, please obey the law and refrain from burning until the expiration of the burn ban.

DEC posts a daily fire danger rating map on their website at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/68329.html as soon as there is a moderate risk anywhere in NY State. Violators of the state's open burning regulations are subject to both criminal and civil enforcement actions, with a minimum fine of \$500 for the first offense.

For more information about the burn ban and information about the open burning regulations in general see the commission's white paper at www.tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Open-Burning-Regulations-2018-Update.pdf or check out the DEC's "FIREWISE New York" page.

Contact Us

NYS Tug Hill Commission
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the region:
1-888-785-2380
Email: tughill@tughill.org

Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission

To request our newsletter electronically please email gwen@tughill.org or call

1-888-785-2380.

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

2022 Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Guidelines Available March 14

Details on this year's grant round will be available on March 14 on the NBRC's website, www.nbrc.gov/content/EID. Virtual information sessions will be held in March and April, with required letters of interest, 75% waiver requests for prior SEID recipients, and significant benefit waiver requests due on April 22, 2022. Invitations for full applications will be made by May 1, with full applications due June 3, 2022. More information will be shared in the next Tug Hill Times.

Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund Applications Due March 21

The Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund provides grants to local governments. These grants assist local governments to establish records management programs or develop new program components. It is a competitive program, awarding grants based on the merits of applications. More information at www.archives.nysed.gov/grants/lgrmif-grants.

Preserve NY Grants Due April 15

The 2022 round of Preserve NY grants is now open. Launched in 1993, Preserve New York (PNY) is a partnership of the New York State Council on the Arts and the Preservation League, with additional support from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. PNY makes grants for historic structure reports, building condition reports, cultural landscape reports, and cultural resource surveys.

The program provides support for up to 80% of the project cost. Applicants must provide 20% of the total project cost as a cash match. Grants are likely to range between \$5,000 and \$14,000. More information at www.preservenys.org/preserve-new-york.