

*The NYS Tug Hill Commission's*

## 32ND ANNUAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

*Turning Stone Conference Center - Verona, New York*



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The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Tug Hill Local Government Conference was successfully held this week, with close to 600 exhibitors, speakers, and attendees spending a day and a half learning and networking at the Turning Stone Conference Center. This year's conference featured a half-day focused session on drones, followed by a full day of local-government specific topics for local governing boards, clerks, highway departments, planning and zoning board members, and assessors.

Most of the PowerPoint presentations from the day are available on the commission's [website](http://www.tughill.org).

Thank you to all who attended, spoke, sponsored or tabled at the event!



# CANALCLEANSWEEP

New York's Largest Annual  
Earth Day Celebration

## COME CLEAN UP THE CANALWAY TRAIL



April 21-23, 2023

100+ Events Along the Canalway Trail System

Find and register for a clean up  
near you at [ptny.org/cleansweep](https://ptny.org/cleansweep)  
or by scanning the QR code



**nationalgrid**



**Canal  
Corporation**



# Jefferson County Agriculture Development Conference Focus on Workforce

On March 31, the Jefferson County Agricultural Development Conference was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Watertown. Last year's conference focused on the local economic impact of the North Country's \$1.7 billion agricultural industry and its readiness to face future challenges. This year, "Preparing for the Future: Building and Sustaining our Agricultural Workforce" followed up on those topics in respect to the workforce: What are the demographics of our regional workforce? How do we grow the labor pool? How do we attract, retain, and empower talent in the agricultural sector? What are potential challenges faced in this field and what are some potential solutions to those issues?



The day's program included presentations from three panelists: Cheryl Mayforth, the executive director of the Jefferson-Lewis Workforce Investment Board; Martha Leyburn, vice president operations for Fluid, Ice Cream, DSD and Culture Division for HP Hood; and David Freund, chief leadership officer for the Manufacturers Association of Central New York (MACNY) and a Maxwell Leadership Certified coach, trainer, and speaker. These presentations were followed by an interactive discussion among attendees and the opportunity for a Q&A with the gathered panelists.

The Jefferson County Agricultural Development Conference is hosted by Jefferson County Economic Development. This year's program was sponsored by Midway International Logistics, which also provided the equipment and technical expertise to support a livestream for attendees who could not attend the event in-person. A recording of the presentations as well as

## April 22 Earth Day Celebration at Zoo New York at Thompson Park

Come celebrate the arrival of spring and flush of new life that will soon pervade the Tug Hill region at Zoo New York's Earth Day celebration on Saturday April 22! The theme of this year's event is "Invest in our Planet." The event will feature crafts, activities, booths, learning opportunities, and family fun for all ages! The event will run 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the zoo grounds are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Exhibitors will include NY State Parks, WPBS, 4-H, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Tug Hill Commission, South Jefferson Future Farmers of America, and more! The event will highlight ways that individuals can be environmental stewards and practice a more sustainable lifestyle. The zoo offers excellent opportunities to learn about native NY species including black bears, Canada lynx, gray wolves, mountain lions, and more! To learn more about Earth Day at Zoo New York, visit the [Zoo New York website](#).

**EARTH DAY** APRIL 22, 2023  
10AM-3PM, ZOO OPEN TILL 5PM

**INVEST IN OUR PLANET**  
AND SAVE MONEY

**CRAFTS, ACTIVITIES, BOOTHS, LEARNING, FAMILY FUN**

**THINGS WE CAN DO TO HELP**

- Use a reusable cup or waterbottle
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Repurpose
- Make a Meal Plan and Compost
- Pick Up Trash
- Shop at Thrift Stores

**FREE WITH ADMISSION**



Environmental  
Finance  
Center  
*Syracuse University*

***Panel on Wastewater for Local and Elected Officials  
Wednesday, April 19, 2023– Philadelphia, NY***

An invitation to Village Mayors, Town Supervisors, Administrators, Clerks, Treasurers, and Sewer and or Board Members who want to learn more about effective wastewater management and wastewater treatment plant funding opportunities.

**No Cost Attendance limited to 25 people – Register early online!**

- 4:00 pm      Registration
- 4:15-4:45 pm      Welcome & Introductions Overview  
Patricia Cerro-Reehil, Executive Director of NYWEA will welcome participants to the roundtable, provide a brief overview of the evening program.
- 4:45 pm      How to Keep Your Ratepayers Engaged, and “In the Loop”  
Khris Dodson, NYWEA Executive Director Designee - An informed community will support the infrastructure that supports quality of life, economic development and water quality. Keeping folks “in the loop” isn’t about hearings and finger wagging, it’s about simple actions and steps to truly make engagement a positive experience.
- 5:15 pm      Protecting and Maintaining your Water Resource Recovery Utility  
Angel French, City of Watertown WRRF  
This presentation will discuss the importance of protecting and maintaining the large capital investment made in wastewater plants and emphasize the financial and administrative responsibilities of elected officials and board members.
- 5:30 pm      Finances Associated with Wastewater  
Karen Rusin, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC)  
NYSEFC will provide an overview of technical assistance and funding opportunities.
- 5:45 pm      How do you Know if Your System is Compliant?  
Representative from NYSDEC Region 6 - Matt Duffany and Jacqueline Smith-Gagnon  
Discussion of various legal and administrative responsibilities, enforcement and compliance, and tips on how to stay off the non-compliance listing.
- 6:00 pm      Roundtable Discussion and Light Dinner  
Participants will be able to ask questions and share their experiences.
- 7:00 pm      Program Conclusion

***For registration or additional information, contact Patricia Cerro-Reehil at [pcr@nywea.org](mailto:pcr@nywea.org)***

# Sawyer Community Fund Accepting 2023 Grant Proposals



The Kenneth V. and Jeannette Remp Sawyer Community Fund, at the Northern New York Community Foundation, is accepting grant proposals from nonprofit organizations that serve Boonville, Constableville, and Westernville residents.

The fund was established in 2018 to support programs, projects and initiatives that broadly impact the quality of life in the three communities. The Northern New York Community Foundation administers this permanent, charitable legacy fund that makes annual grant awards. In 2022, 15 projects and organizations were awarded grant funding totaling more than \$52,000. This year, up to \$60,000 in grant funding is available.

To be eligible for Community Foundation grants, nonprofits must be classified as 501(c)(3) organizations by the IRS. Other entities may be eligible depending on the request. The deadline to submit a proposal for consideration is 5 p.m. Friday, April 21, 2023. Grant awards will be announced following the Community Foundation's quarterly board meeting in June.

It is best to apply through the Community Foundation's online Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM) system at [bit.ly/grant-portal](https://bit.ly/grant-portal). For grant guidelines, or to learn more about this funding opportunity, contact Max DelSignore, Community Foundation Assistant Director, [max@nnycf.org](mailto:max@nnycf.org) or 315-782-7110.

## Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust Events

The **3rd Annual Tug Hill Soggy Sneaker 5k** will be held Saturday, April 29, at the Joseph A. Blake Wildlife Sanctuary. The race will begin at 9:00 a.m., and virtual participation is welcome and available to anyone having to miss the in-person race. As the race is a fundraiser, no refunds will be issued. The first 150 registrants, including both in-person and virtual, will receive a race day medal and swag package. [Pre-registration](#) is required no later than April 28.

The land trust's **annual calendar contest** is designed for all of the talented photographers who like to capture the beauty and uniqueness of Tug Hill, from landscapes to wildlife to people representative of the region's cultural heritage. The deadline to submit photos for the 2024 Calendar is May 1. Each photographer may submit up to 10 photos in total for consideration. All photos must be taken in the Tug Hill region, and all seasons are needed. When submitting photos, use the following naming format: LastName\_FirstName\_Location\_Description\_MonthTaken, and email them to Communications & Marketing Director Emily Males at [emales@tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org](mailto:emales@tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org).

## Town Finance Schools, May 8-9 and May 15-16

The 23rd Annual Town Finance School, co-sponsored by the Association of Towns of the State of New York and the Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Local Government and School Accountability, will be held May 8&9 in Geneva, and May 15&16 in Albany.

Including an open forum on Monday, other topics to be discussed are: Developing a Town Budget in Uncertain Times, Town Audits, Establishing and Accounting for Reserves, NYSLRS - Reporting Elected and Appointed Officials, Fraud Prevention and Detection, and Common Pitfalls in Budgeting. You can view the agenda [here](#).

Registration for either school can be completed online at [www.nytowns.org](https://www.nytowns.org). Click [here](#) for a copy of the registration form.

For questions, contact Executive Meeting Coordinator Patty Kebea at 518-465-7933 or e-mail at [pkebea@nytowns.org](mailto:pkebea@nytowns.org).



### Contact Us

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

**Instagram:** [Instagram](#)

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](#).