

## Commission Staff Tour Number Three Wind Farm and Fort Drum Museum

Tug Hill Commission staff took a bus tour this week of the recently completed [Number Three Wind Farm](#) in the towns of Harrisburg and Lowville, Lewis County. The 103.9 MW wind project consists of 22 Vestas 4.2 MW turbines and 5 GE 2.3 turbines. Some interesting facts:

- The shorter GE turbines were used on the higher elevation turbines sites to prevent impact to the NWS Doppler radar and Fort Drum aviation radar.
- These newer, longer turbine blades have design modifications with serrations on a portion of the blade to lessen noise as well as vortex generators on portions of the blade to increase output.
- Six full-time technicians will be employed post construction, with a maintenance facility on Number 3 Road.
- Total project cost was ~\$220 million, half for turbine costs and half for installation.

After the wind farm tour, staff then toured the [10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and Fort Drum Museum](#) located just outside the gate near Great Bend. The museum starts with the native peoples, covers the arrival of the U.S. Army into the North Country, and demonstrates the development of the installation through the present era. It also tells the history of the famed 10th Mountain Division from its inception in the mountains of Colorado and wartime baptism in the mountains of Italy. The exhibit ends with the modern history of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, where it becomes the most deployed division in the Army, including numerous wartime tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.



*From left: Emily Fell, Kristle Hinola, Paul Baxter, Matthew Smith, Matt Johnson, Katie Malinowski, Mickey Dietrich, Gabriel Yerdon, John Healt, Gwen Decker, Felicia Passino, and Angie Kimball.*

**The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Monday, May 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the town of Constantia, 14 Frederick St., Constantia, NY 13044. The public is welcome to attend.**

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## 2023 Local Leaders Survey Please Return Today!

Thank you to everyone who has returned their survey, so far we have received 144 responses, for a response rate of 37%. If you haven't sent it back, it is not too late! A second survey will be sent to non-respondents on Monday, May 8 to be returned as soon as possible. Draft results will be reviewed at the commission meeting being held in Constantia on May 15.

Remember that all survey responses are kept confidential. The responses will be combined into a white paper delivered to Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature later this year. Thank you for your honest and timely feedback.

# Great Attendance for CTHC Spring Meeting

On Thursday April 27 the Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) held their annual spring meeting at the Steak and Brew Restaurant in Turin. Seventeen of the 22 CTHC municipalities were present, along with four Tug Hill Commissioners, three Tug Hill staff members, the four CTHC circuit riders and several other guests. Fifty-one people attended and enjoyed dinner, with an additional two people joining the meeting which followed.

Following approval of the previous meeting's minutes and the current financial report, the 2023 election of officers was conducted. With no nominations from the floor, the current slate of officers was re-elected: Roger Tibbetts, chairman; Doug Dietrich, vice chairman; Carla Bauer, secretary and Ian Klingbail, Steve Bernat, Paulette Walker, and Fran Yerdon returning as directors. Proposed work goals for 2023 were reviewed and approved, and new associate circuit riders Christine Healt and Heidi Kelley were introduced and welcomed to the CTHC fold.

The evening's speaker was Kathy Saville, from the New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (NY CLASS). Ms. Saville explained what NY CLASS is, the background of the cooperative, their board makeup and how the program operates. She discussed the ease of use of the system and the safety of the funds the municipalities invest with them. Several CTHC municipalities already utilize their services and many more seemed interested following the presentation.

Katie Malinowski, the commission's executive director gave updates on subjects CTHC is involved in such as minimum maintenance roads legislation. The meeting, as always, closed with supervisor and mayor's topics, including a report by Fran Yerdon on increasing municipal tax impacts from the Real Property Tax Law 480-a program and asking that CTHC and the Tug Hill Commission advocate to get this program amended.



*Chairman Roger Tibbetts opened the CTHC spring meeting.*



*The meeting was well-attended, with 17 of 22 municipalities represented.*



## Carthage Park Boardwalk Installed

On April 28, the village of Carthage completed installing most of the boardwalks built by the Jefferson Lewis BOCES carpentry class last year. The village teamed up with Home Depot and the Home Depot Foundation to get the necessary materials and equipment to finish the installation. The village of Carthage was assisted by volunteers from Home Depot and the Tug Hill Commission. The boardwalk will make the trails accessible to more people.



# River Area Economic Visioning Summit

On April 27, the River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) hosted its free annual summit for the second year in a row. Nearly 40 attendees gathered at the Jefferson-Lewis BOCES Howard G. Sackett Technical Center in Glenfield.

In continuance with last year's theme, the 2023 River Area Economic Visioning Summit emphasized the strengths of the river area, and both the significance of and need for local partnerships. The presentations emphasized local cooperation, community empowerment, professional training, and avenues of economic development through local examples and case studies (e.g. Tug Hill Artisan Roasters, Maple Ridge Center, the Deferiet Build Ready project and Brownfield Opportunity Area, and BOCES).

Speakers for the day's events included Mickey Dietrich and Katie Malinowski from the NYS Tug Hill Commission; cybersecurity specialist Jason Wendt, CREG Systems; Cassandra Buell, Lewis County Planning and Scott Gilbert, Tug Hill Artisan Roasters; Scott Burto, the village of West Carthage and a representative from the MRB Group; Erin Holmes, Maple Ridge Center; Tracy Darouger, NYSERDA and Sarah Bullock, Town of Wilna; and Mallory Douglass, Jefferson-Lewis BOCES. Following the morning's presentations, attendees participated in a game of Team Jeopardy designed by NYS Tug Hill Commission interns from Fort Drum, Chris Barboza and Kristle Hinola.

Lunch was prepared by the Jefferson-Lewis BOCES culinary class.



*Left to right: Chris Barboza, Mickey Dietrich, and Kristle Hinola in front of the RACOG banner, designed by a Jefferson-Lewis BOCES student.*



*Attendees at the RACOG Economic Visioning Summit.*

## NOCCOG GPS Mapping Season Underway

The GPS mapping program sponsored by the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) has gotten off to an early start this year with mapping work already being done in the town of Western. Outfitted with a new iPad and a new mapping program, contracted mapper Mike Thompson has been collecting data points such as culvert locations, road signs, and bridges throughout Western these last few weeks.

The program is geared to assist municipalities by offering a live, cloud based map that shows the locations of set data points. Once mapped, this offers the ability to assist in inventory management, budgeting, and the transfer of knowledge after personnel changes. Installation date, age, maintenance, and replacement schedules can also be recorded. The program offers municipalities the ability to integrate this information, making their record keeping accurate and up to date.

The GPS program is offered at no charge to the NOCCOG membership. NOCCOG contractors will work with department heads or representatives to determine what data is to be collected and mapped. Collected information will then be provided digitally and can be updated at any time.

For more information on the benefits of GPS mapping in NOCCOG municipalities, please contact John Healt, 315-941-2818, or [jhealt@tughill.org](mailto:jhealt@tughill.org).



# Lewis County Cemetery Workshop

May 19 & 20, 2023 Lowville, NY



The Lewis County Historical Society, in conjunction with the Tug Hill Commission, the NYS Division of Cemeteries and the Lowville Rural Cemetery Association, is proud to present a unique two-day cemetery workshop.



With an exceptional group of speakers, this workshop is intended to address the concerns and questions of a wide audience: municipal officials; local cemetery trustees; cemetery caretakers; and those interested in historic cemetery conservation and restoration generally.

Designed to provide practical advice and information, with plenty of time available for questions, **the workshop is free and open to anyone!**

**Friday's program** will be a hybrid event – with a live presentation taking place at the Historical Society's offices, and a virtual presentation via Zoom. The program will start at 9:30 am on Friday, May 19 and will wrap up mid-afternoon. A lunch will be available for those who choose that during registration. Friday's program will be available for later viewing on the Tug Hill Commission's YouTube channel and the Historical Society website, [HistoricallyLewis.org](http://HistoricallyLewis.org). We strongly encourage in-person attendance, particularly for local people.

**Saturday's program** will take place at the Lowville Rural Cemetery and will focus on preservation techniques and training. Joe Ferrannini will provide guidance on historic cemetery preservation, and will lead hands-on demonstrations of basic preservation practices featuring non-invasive techniques, such as cleaning, repairing and straightening stones.

## Speakers on May 19th, 9:30am - 2:30pm

- **Jonathan Miller**, President of the Lewis County Historical Society
  - Brief welcome, overview and introduction of speakers
- **Peter Hayes**, Trustee of the Constableville Cemetery
  - Typical questions and issues faced by trustees of regulated non-profit cemeteries
- **David Fleming, Jr.**, Featherstonhaugh, Wiley & Clyne, LLC
  - Abandoned cemeteries and municipal responsibilities
  - David's presentation via Zoom will start promptly at 10 am
- **Cynthia Craig**, NYS Division of Cemeteries
  - Cemetery basics for regulated cemeteries and hazardous monument applications
- **Joe Ferrannini**, Grave Stone Matters cemetery conservator
  - Historic cemetery preservation issues and techniques

## Registration Options

**Register online:** [HERE](#) or  
**Call** the Historical Society: 315-376-8957

## Locations

### **FRIDAY, MAY 19**

Lewis County Historical Society  
7552 S. State Street  
Lowville, NY

### **SATURDAY, MAY 20**

Lowville Rural Cemetery  
5093 Cemetery Road  
Lowville, NY

# NYSDEC Arbor Day Grants Available

Competitive grant funding is now available for municipalities, Indian Nations, and not-for-profit organizations for urban and community forestry projects. The goal of this funding is to increase the health of community forests and strengthen local community forestry programs.

Applicants in smaller communities (less than 65,000) may apply for up to \$75,000. To access these grant opportunities, visit the Grants Gateway site at [grantsmanagement.ny.gov/](https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/) and search for "tree."

- **DEC01-UCF1-2023** is the opportunity for tree inventory and community forest management plan projects and has a grant application deadline of **June 21, 2023**.
- **DEC01-UCF2-2023** is the opportunity for tree planting and tree maintenance projects and has a grant application deadline of **August 16, 2023**.

To learn more about the State's Urban and Community Forestry Program, see [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5285.html](https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5285.html).

A free web-based information session about this grant was held on **Thursday, May 4, at 10:00 a.m.** A recording will be posted on the Urban and Community Forestry grants webpage at [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5285.html](https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5285.html). For more information about these grants, your DEC Urban and Community Foresters are a great resource:

- **Oneida County:** contact Dan Welc at (315) 866-6330 Ext. 125 or [dan.welc@dec.ny.gov](mailto:dan.welc@dec.ny.gov).
- **Lewis and Jefferson Counties:** contact Mike Giocondo at (315) 376-3521 Ext. 203 or [michael.giocondo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:michael.giocondo@dec.ny.gov).
- **Oswego County:** contact Dan Sawchuck at (315) 298-7467 or [dan.sawchuck@dec.ny.gov](mailto:dan.sawchuck@dec.ny.gov).

## Zoo New York and Partners Celebrate Ways to “Invest in Our Planet”

On Saturday, April 22, NYS Tug Hill Commission staff joined Zoo New York in their Earth Day celebration at Thompson Park in Watertown, New York. The day's events were largely inspired by EARTHDAY.ORG's "Invest in Your Planet" theme. In addition to Zoo New York's ongoing mission to provide education and care for native New York animal species and landscapes, the day's events featured special crafts, activities, vendor education and outreach on ways people can get involved in their communities and give back to their natural surroundings. Vendors included several familiar community partners and other state organizations, including the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (THTLT), Development Authority of the North Country (DANC), Sandy Island Beach State Park, and NYS Parks.

The Tug Hill Commission's display featured an Enviroscope Watershed Model, an interactive way for people to identify various ways in which human activities can negatively impact waterways. Innocuous ingredients like coffee grounds, food dye, oatmeal, and water demonstrate to great visual effect how pollutants can enter their waterways from throughout the watershed (and to create a bit of a mess, too!). From there, staff focused on discussing ways for Tug Hill citizens to get involved in their communities, including volunteerism. Several local examples included participation in the annual Black River Trash Bash and tips for recreating and traveling sustainably throughout the region year-round.

Zoo staff indicate a total of 429 people attended this event.



*Gabriel Yerdon, Tug Hill Commission staff provides a demonstration.*



# Soggy Sneakers 5K a Success

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust held its “Soggy Sneakers” 5k run/walk event this past Saturday. Even with the unfavorable weather bringing windy and rainy conditions, the event brought out about 30 participants including two members of the Tug Hill Commission staff. The course, located at the Joseph A. Blake Sanctuary in Rutland, took participants through numerous trails over streams, hills, and small mud pits.

Participants received “swag packages” which included a land trust banner, a wooden medal, a bird identification chart which doubles as a coloring sheet, and a Tug Hill Recreation Guide. Commission staff that participated said the event was a fun time and they enjoyed being on the outdoor trails.





Matthew Smith and Gabriel Yerdon Tug Hill Commission staff.


# Solar Siting Webinar May 18


The Penn State Extension Center is hosting a webinar about siting large scale solar facilities on Thursday, May 18 at 12:00 p.m. The *Siting and Zoning Considerations for Large-Scale Solar* presentation will focus on the importance of having solar ordinances. Zoning ordinances should define exclusion areas, type of use, setback, screening, access, decommissioning, and other considerations. Examples of recently adopted regulations will also be shared. The webinar will contain useful information for homeowners, landowners, business owners, and local officials. The event is free but requires [registration](#) by May 17.

# Free GIS Training Workshop

 **May 10, 2023**  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

 **Lewis County JCC Education Center**  
7395 East Road  
Lowville, NY 13367

 Participants should bring a **laptop** and/or **mobile device** with access to ArcGIS Online

 To register scan the QR code to the left or visit <https://arcg.is/0rr14b0>



**INSTRUCTOR**  
**William Olsen**  
Professor, Clarkson University

Interested in utilizing ArcGIS Online for your community or organization? Attend this **free** workshop to learn the fundamentals and how this tool could help you visualize data and meet your mapping needs for a variety of projects! **Lunch will be included!**



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## Contact Us

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[www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission](http://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](#).

Instructor Bill Olsen will provide generic ArcGIS Online accounts for workshop use.