

## Memento: Share Your Tug Hill Memories With Us!

Over the last 50 years, the Tug Hill Commission has been fortunate to work with amazing communities and individuals across the Tug Hill region. As part of our celebration, we are collecting memories and best wishes for the future in advance of our October 19 Anniversary Annual Dinner at the Tailwater Lodge in Altmar (invites in the mail soon).

Do you have any memories of the commission or words you would like to share? Have there been ways that the commission has helped your community? To share memories or fun stories, please use the following link to our free Memento account, where you can record and upload to the commission's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary video album: [tinyurl.com/tughillmemento](https://tinyurl.com/tughillmemento).

### Tips!

- Keep it short and sweet – no more than 60 seconds.
- Speak clearly.
- Check your lighting – we want to see your face.
- You can preview your video and redo if you want.

## Downtown Revitalization/NY Forward Webinar August 16

On **Wednesday, August 16 at 10:00 a.m.**, join the **NYS Department of State, NYSEDC, NYCOM & NYSAC** for a free webinar to learn more about Round Seven of the [Downtown Revitalization Initiative \(DRI\)](#) and the second round of the [New York Forward \(NYF\) program](#).

### Speakers:

**Kisha Santiago**, Deputy Secretary of State for Development, Planning, and Community Infrastructure, NYS Department of State  
**Sarah Crowell**, Director, Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure, NYS Department of State  
**Amanda Bearcroft**, Program Director DRI & NYF, NYS Department of State

The overarching goals of the two programs, both of which are led by the Department of State, are to revitalize downtowns and reinvigorate local and regional economies by creating a critical mass of vibrant downtown destinations in each region. NY Forward diverges in several aspects to reach and serve the unique needs and characteristics of the State's smaller and rural communities. There is a total of \$200 million available for both the DRI and New York Forward programs. Applications for both programs are available now.

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- Intent to Apply (optional): August 18, 2023.
- Application submittal: September 29, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Feel free to send advance questions to [schneider@nyse.dc.org](mailto:schneider@nyse.dc.org) to ensure they are answered in the webinar.

## September 26 and 27 Land Use Training

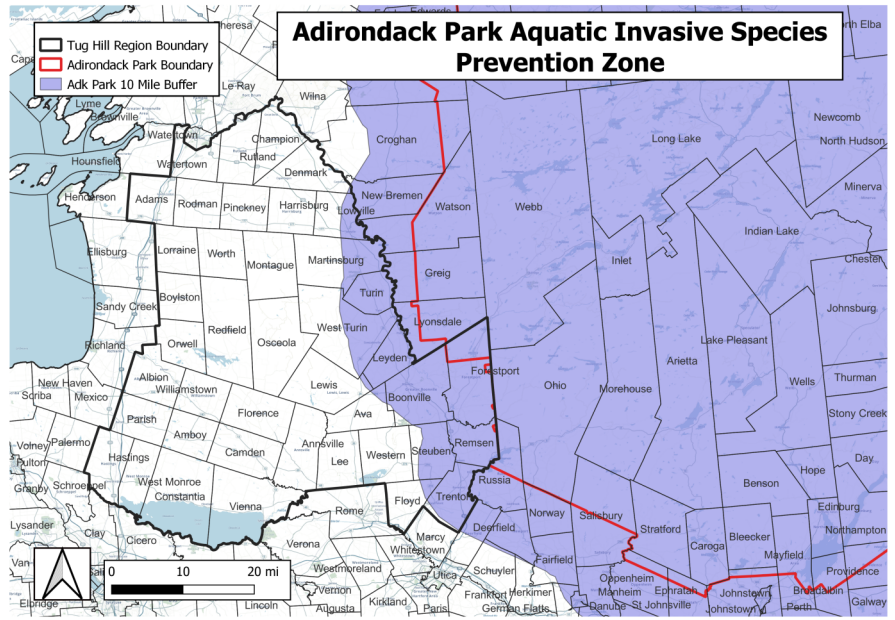
Lewis County and Jefferson County will be holding back-to-back land use training sessions on Tuesday, September 26 and Wednesday, September 27 in Lowville and Watertown respectively. Topics are still being finalized, and will be shared in future issues of Tug Hill Times. These classes will be delivered by NYS Department of State staff and will help planning and zoning board members get their required four hours of annual training.

More information about this training requirement is available on the NYS Department of State [website](#). The Tug Hill Commission has several videos on its [YouTube channel](#) for training as well.

# Boating and Invasives New Certificate Requirements

Beginning on June 8, 2022, all boaters operating any kind of motorized watercraft in the Adirondack Park and within ten miles of the blue line are required by law to possess certification that, before launching, their vessel has undergone measures to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by following [Clean.Drain.Dry.](#) standards. This rule applies on the eastern side of Tug Hill, in portions of the towns of Lowville, Martinsburg, Turin, West Turin, Leyden, Lewis, Ava, Boonville, Forestport, Steuben, Remsen, Trenton and Floyd (see map). These certificates can be acquired by visiting a DEC designated aquatic invasive species inspection [station](#) where boat stewards are present to inspect or decontaminate vessels and to provide boaters with a certification card. Alternately, boaters may perform Clean.Drain.Dry. steps themselves and then complete a [self-issued certificate](#).

More information available on the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's [website](#).



## Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg Nation Presentation Available on YouTube

The Tug Hill Commission, Friends of the Black River, and the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce were honored to host Chief Laurie Carr, Professor Chadwick Cowie, and Tina Howard from the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg Nation last Friday for a presentation in Turin. Special thanks to Florissante the Mansion for hosting the pre-event reception at their beautiful facility in Lyons Falls, and to the South Lewis Central School District for hosting the lecture. The entire presentation can be watched on the Tug Hill Commission [YouTube channel](#), and more photos from the event are on the Tug Hill Commission [Flickr account](#).



*Welcoming reception at Florissante the Mansion.*



*Chief Laurie Carr.*

# Budget & Accounting for Town Officials

**TUESDAY SEPT 26 -  
WEDNESDAY SEPT 27, 2023**

Space is limited; pre-registration is required.

Call the Tug Hill Commission at  
(315) 785-2380 with questions.



# Forest Economy Grant Applications Due September 22

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is accepting letters of interest for the fall 2023 round of the Forest Economy Program. NBRC's Forest Economy Program (FEP) supports the regional forest-based economy and the industry's evolution to include new technologies and viable business models across the four-state NBRC region. Eligible applications are state governments, local governments, Indian tribes, and not-for-profits.

The purpose of this program is to support the forest-based economy, and to assist in the industry's evolution to include new technologies and viable business models across the four state NBRC region. The Forest Economy Program emphasizes the **potential for impact across the entire NBRC region**, and infrastructure projects **must directly support the forest industry** (defined by Congress in NBRC's authorizing language to be inclusive of transportation, water and wastewater, telecommunications, and energy). All four Tug Hill counties are eligible for 80% funding with a 20% match.

Categories of grant projects are:

1. Community development projects
2. Workforce training and development projects
3. Marketing/communication and education projects
4. Business planning and technical assistance projects
5. Public infrastructure projects

Organizations interested in applying for funding are encouraged to attend an information session. Information sessions were held August 8 and 9, and letters of Interest will be accepted from all eligible applicants no later than 5:00 p.m. September 22, 2023. Please visit the [Forest Economy Program page](#) of the NBRC website for additional information about the program, including info session details, investment priorities, and application requirements.

If you have a potential project you would like to brainstorm, call the commission staff at (315) 785-2380.



## Upcoming Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust Events

**Evening Paddle on West Branch of Fish Creek and Gifford Lake** - Friday, August 11, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Bring your own canoe or kayak or rent what you need for an easy evening paddle on the West Branch of Fish Creek to Gifford Lake and back. This paddle offers great opportunities for photos and wildlife sightings. Learn more, register, and learn about kayak rentals [here](#).

**Finding Forest Park's Biggest White Pine** - August 12, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Located in Camden's Forest Park, the hunt will begin with a brief period of instruction, to understand how to identify and measure a variety of trees. Learn more and register [here](#).

**Evening Bird Walk at Camp Zerbe** - August 16, 2023, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Ever wondered what bird that is singing in the woods? Come find out by joining THTLT for an evening bird walk at Camp Zerbe, 253 NYS Route 104, Williamstown, NY! Learn more and register [here](#).

**Dutch Oven Cooking Demo** - August 25, 2023, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

In cooperation with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation – Central Region, join John Souva for a Dutch Oven baking demonstration. This is a free program open to all ages, no registration required. Learn more [here](#).



# TOUR *THE LANDFILL*

**DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OPEN HOUSE**  
**AUG 24, 2023 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**  
**MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITY**  
**23400 ROUTE 177, RODMAN**

## *BUS TOURS*

See the entire landfill on a guided bus tour. Learn what happens to your garbage and see the newly-opened expansion area.

## *RECYCLE HARDCOVER BOOKS*

Bring your unwanted hardcover books to be recycled instead of disposed of as trash. You might even find a book to take home!

## *HANDS-ON DISPLAYS*

Learn about what the various divisions of the Development Authority do to help municipalities and encourage economic growth.



# Tug Hill Traverse Workdays – Volunteers Needed!

Twice a month, from June to September, volunteers meet in the heart of Tug Hill and work together to maintain current sections as well as clear and mark the remaining sections of the historic Tug Hill Traverse Trail. Remaining workdays will be held on August 26, September 8, and September 23.

Volunteers meet at the day's designated location at 10:00 a.m. and work until 2:00 p.m. Stay for an hour or stay for the day. The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust will email those signed up for each workday a few days prior to give the day's meeting location, suggest what kinds of tools to bring if available, and provide driving directions and a map. Work gloves, head protection, insect repellent, sturdy hiking/work shoes, water and brown bag lunch/snacks are recommended.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust has partnered for several years with the Black River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club to establish this historic 20-mile north/south hiking trail through the heart of Tug Hill. The Tug Hill Traverse Trail extends from the DEC's Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area on the north to the West Leyden Osceola Rd on the south, and generally follows the East Branch of Fish Creek. Interim trailheads are located on the G&W and Michigan Mills roads, respectively. [Register Here!](#)

## Help Your Local Community - Fill Out a Quick Survey



Help your local community by taking a quick five minute survey. The North Country Clean Energy Hub is working to learn what residents need to make their homes more comfortable, affordable, and energy efficient. All survey participants will be entered to win a \$100 Stewart's gift card.

North County residents living in the following counties are invited to participate: St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Lewis, and Jefferson. To fill out the survey, click this link: [bit.ly/hub-resident-survey](http://bit.ly/hub-resident-survey).

## Town Clerk September Regional Training Registration Open

The New York State Town Clerks Association's September regional training will be held in Buffalo on September 18, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. There will be association updates and discussions of current hot topics around the state. Issuance of One-Day Marriage Officiant licenses and first amendment audits will be included topics. Bring your questions, comments, and concerns and enjoy a morning of learning and lively discussion.

Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. The session will begin at 9:00 a.m., ending at noon with lunch to follow. The cost of the program, including lunch, is \$40. Regional sessions are a great time to meet new clerks, catch up with fellow clerks, and increase your clerk network.

Please register no later than September 1 [online](#) or by using the [registration form](#).

## New Solar Stormwater Runoff Tool

Supported by funding from the U.S. Department of Solar Energy Technologies Office, the National Renewable Energy Lab has developed a new, free calculator to aid in evaluating stormwater runoff from ground-mounted solar panels. Ground mounted solar facilities can change the way that stormwater enters the ground by creating puddles and streams down the rows of panels. The lack of a model for ground mounted solar made estimating the effects of stormwater runoff difficult by local officials until now. By better understanding the amount of stormwater runoff, both developers and regulators can develop mitigation strategies. So far, there are users of this tool within 25 states and jurisdictions. As more data is collected from solar facilities across the United States, the model can continue to be updated to become as accurate as possible. Learn more and access the tool [here](#).

### Contact Us

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**Facebook:**  
[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](#).