

New Tug Hill Housing Analysis Issue Paper; Comprehensive Plan Technical Paper Update

Tug Hill Commission recently completed a new issue paper, *NYS Climate Policy: A Tug Hill Housing Analysis*, which seeks to portray the scope of climate policy in New York State and its impact on Tug Hill residents. The paper captures the current conditions of housing in the Tug Hill region, including age of housing stock and primary heating method, and then lays out the climate policies expectations for homes to compare the gap between the two. The paper discusses certain challenges for the Tug Hill region such as the rural nature of the hill, cost of energy saving renovations to homes, and the electrification of appliances as well as increased cost of electricity. The data was compiled from various sources and there are many citations throughout the paper. This document can be useful for local governments to understand the current situation with regards to housing and existing energy conditions, and where to look for community funding, as well for individual homeowners to look for funding for home upgrades. The paper is available to read [on our website](#).

ISSUE PAPER SERIES

NYS Climate Policy Implications: A Tug Hill Housing Analysis
April 2024

NEW YORK STATE TUG HILL COMMISSION

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Tug Hill Commission staff also recently updated the *Why Prepare a Comprehensive Plan* technical paper available [on our website](#). The update primarily includes placing model resolutions for the comprehensive plan committee process as appendices in the paper.

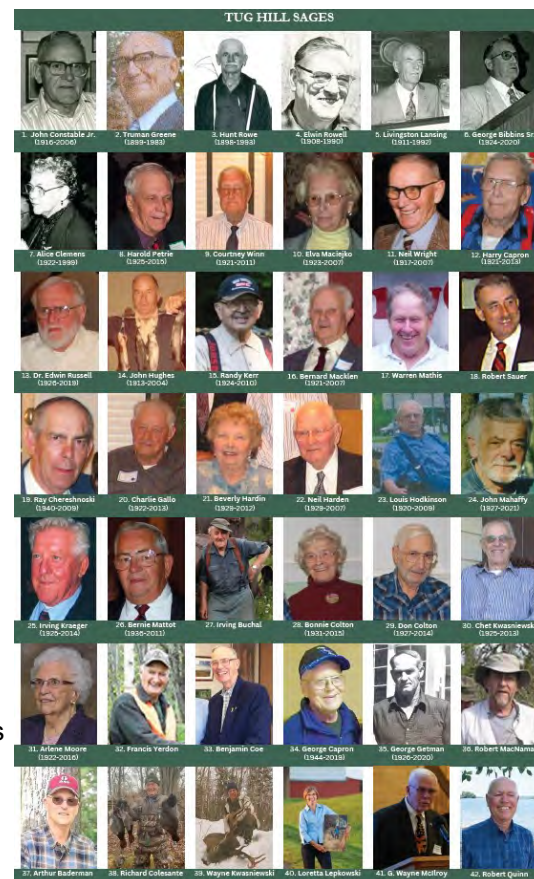
Updated Tug Hill Sages Photos & Biographies

Last year, the NYS Tug Hill Commission celebrated 50 years of serving the towns and villages within the region. As part of the anniversary celebrations, the commission sought nominations from within its communities for another round of Tug Hill Sages: a distinction the commission bestows upon individuals with vast knowledge of Tug Hill's heritage, culture, and environment, and who have demonstrated long-term involvement to their community.

In This Issue

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- Black River Watershed Conference
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- Can Solar Help Your Farm Listening Session
- NYCOM Annual Meeting and Training School
- FOIL Sessions Webinar
- Clean Energy Conference

Six new sages were inducted into the Class of 2023 at Tailwater Lodge in Altmar, NY, during the commission's 2023 Annual Meeting. To learn more about Tug Hill Sages past and present, click [here](#) to view our updated graphic and biographies on the Tug Hill Commission website.



Grant Opportunity: Park and Trail Partnership Grants

Parks & Trails New York (PTNY), working with the NY Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and funded through the Environmental Protection Fund, has announced the opening of Round 10 of its annual application process.

WHO: This program is for registered charities and 501(c)3 not-for-profit organizations whose missions reflect the preservation, stewardship, interpretation, education, maintenance, and/or promotion of a New York State Park trail, historic site, or public land under the jurisdiction of OPRHP or NYSDEC. Check PTNY's [eligibility page](#) for greater detail.

WHAT: This funding is meant to 1) Enhance the preservation, stewardship, interpretation, maintenance, and promotion of NYS parks, trails, state historic sites and public lands, 2) Increase the sustainability, effectiveness, capacity of non-profit organizations that promote, maintain, and support NYS parks, trails, historic sites, and public lands, and 3) Promote tourism and economic development benefit of outdoor recreation through the growth and expansion of a connected statewide network of parks, trails, greenways, and public lands.

WHEN: The application period opens **May 15, 2024**. Professional development letters of intent are due **June 24, 2024**. Invited applicants must submit their full application by **Wednesday, August 28, 2024**.

WHERE: The application process for this grant is supported by a [PTNY online portal](#). There are opportunities for prospective applicants to register for informational webinars on this topic, occurring in June. For direct questions about the grant program, please contact Jonathan Duda at grants@ptny.org or (518) 434-1583 x3.

The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Monday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m. at the Village of Central Square, 3125 East Avenue, Central Square, New York 13036. The public is welcome to attend.

Sand to Solid Bedding Agriculture Workshop Held

Jefferson and Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in collaboration with Cornell University and Cooperative Extension, hosted an agricultural workshop called "Thinking about converting from sand to solid bedding?" on April 3 in Sackets Harbor. Jenifer Wightman, from Cornell University, provided an overview of the agriculture section of [New York's Scoping Plan](#) to explain why reducing methane and nitrous oxide emissions is important to help meet the 2030 and 2050 reduction goals for greenhouse gas emissions.

The workshop provided benefits, drawbacks, and management requirements of sand and solid bedding, implications to cow health, and information on the New York Phosphorus Index 2.0. A panel discussion was held with three dairy farmers from Adams (Sheland Farm), Auburn (Patterson Farm), and Le Roy (Stein Farms). They discussed bedding techniques and management practices used to find success in their dairy businesses. The workshop concluded with a funding panel that described various Natural Resources Conservation Service grant opportunities available to farmers. How does this relate to the Tug Hill region? As farmers learn more effective ways to manage manure benefits, it leads to better nutrient management, improved water quality and watershed health (e.g., the Black River watershed), and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.



BLACK RIVER WATERSHED CONFERENCE 2024

JUNE 13, 9AM-3PM
THE VIEW ARTS CENTER, OLD FORGE

Featured Content



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT UPDATES

Jefferson, Lewis, Hamilton, Oneida, and Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation Districts will give updates on new and developing projects



HYDROELECTRIC DAM RELICENSING PANEL

This panel discussion will explore the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's hydroelectric dam relicensing process



THE IMPACT OF SOLAR ON AG LAND AND STORMWATER

How are ag land and runoff being effected by increased solar development?



CLIMATE SMART LEWIS COUNTY

The county achieved bronze certification!



DUCKS UNLIMITED HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

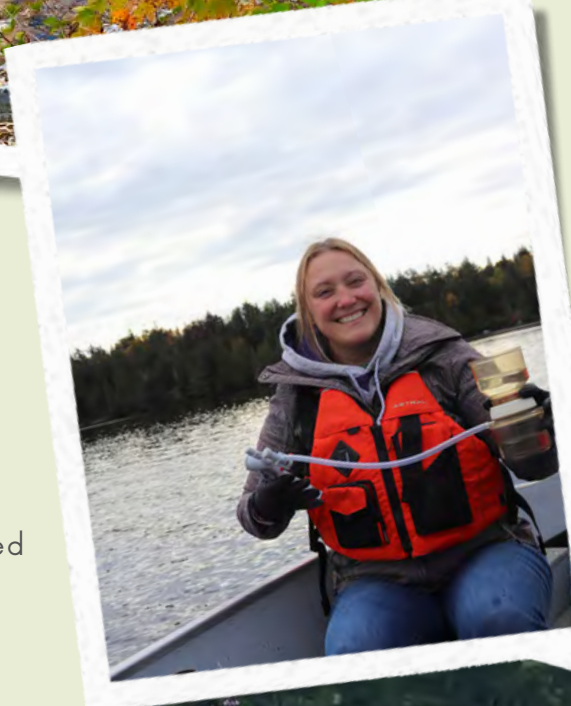
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and Ducks Unlimited project to restore the Mohawk Hill Public Conservation Area

AND MORE!

**Breakfast and
lunch included!**
**Registration
begins at 8:30AM.**

**REGISTRATION
COMING SOON!**

Questions? Contact Gabriel Yerdon at [315-785-2387](tel:315-785-2387) or gabriel@tughill.org



Meet our Intern: An Interview with Paul Shepard

Where are you from?

I was born in Littleton, Colorado, and grew up in New Mexico. I enjoyed participating in 4-H leadership programs, competitive archery, and learning to hunt and fish with my mom and grandfather.

What are some of your favorite hobbies?

The southwest's wide-open spaces drew me into the outdoors. I love to hunt and fish. Thanks to military life, I have fished in over a dozen states in the US and in three foreign countries: Kuwait, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.

What brought you to Tug Hill?

Army service and Fort Drum brought me here, and I am very happy to say that my wife, Brenna, is from Black River. I will forever call the village of Black River, Tug Hill, and the North Country home.

Tell us a little about your experiences in the Army and Fort Drum?

Military service has been an exciting and rewarding way to gain a college education, build a family, and develop into a strong organizational leader. Some of the most impactful experiences have been working closely with diverse teams and partnered nations on projects, training missions, and operations.

What are some of your favorite places to recreate or spend your free time?

The shores of the Black River are special to my family. Fishing with my four children, walking our woods with my wife and spending time on Black River beach are all favorites.

What projects are you working on for the Tug Hill Commission?

I have been supporting several projects for RACOG, particularly a local government student activity project, as well as doing some circuit rider duties. I think the program will develop into a strong path for students and young adults to experience civic leadership and ultimately become the leaders of tomorrow on Tug Hill.

What do you enjoy most about working at the Tug Hill Commission so far?

I enjoy learning about the broad variety of experience our THC staff brings to public service and learning about and being with our community leaders at the grass roots level.

What are some of the challenges with your internship and how do you solve them?

The Tug Hill region is vast, so I am always meeting new people, which is a challenge and a wonderful opportunity. I am also unfamiliar with grant applications, but I think to get better, I just have to jump right in.

What do you plan to do in the future?

After military service and retirement, I plan to continue public service in as broad and regionally supportive manner as I can. I also look forward to continuing service in the Black River Fire Department and Black River Village Planning Board. I would also like to continue work as an associate circuit rider for RACOG and forward to spending time with my family here in the North Country, New Mexico, and Colorado.

What would you like to share with future Tug Hill Commission interns?

Future interns and transitioning service members should know that Tug Hill is an exceptional and special region and the North Country is an amazing area to live and work. The commission is an outstanding organization with a clear vision for community involvement, for their interns, employees, and future leaders and our citizens.



**Come to a virtual listening session hosted by
American Farmland Trust in partnership with:**

- Agricultural Stewardship Association
- Columbia Land Conservancy
- Finger Lakes Land Trust
- Genesee Valley Conservancy
- Thousand Islands Land Trust



BRAD HEINS

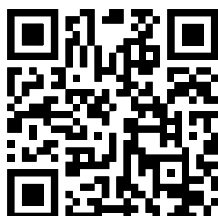
Can solar help your farm's bottom line? Share your questions, insights and concerns

Choose from two virtual presentation dates:

**Tuesday, April 16th
from 12 – 2 PM**

or

**Wednesday, April 24th
from 7 – 9 PM**



Register online now >

**Are you facing the possibility of a solar lease?
Interested in farming and solar?**

Come share your insights and concerns, and learn how solar can work with farming rather than against it. We will provide information on avoiding inappropriate solar development and ensuring it is properly designed to increase soil health, water management, and farm viability.

For more information:

American Farmland Trust

Linda Garrett

New York Regional Director

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NYCOM Annual Meeting and Training School, May 15-17



The New York State Conference of Mayors is holding their annual meeting and training school May 15 -17, at the Sagamore Hotel, in Bolton Landing. There are numerous concurrent sessions, a few of which are government operations and community development, volunteer firefighter issues, understanding battery storage in NYS, exploring health insurance options for local governments, state, and federal funding opportunities, and managing water resources in your community. The full agenda, which includes fireworks, is available [here](#). There is a cost to attend. While the conference and training run from Wednesday afternoon through Friday morning, there are pricing options that include Thursday only, as well as the dinner reception on Wednesday, or the banquet on Thursday. General and hotel information are available [here](#), or click [here](#) to register.

FOIL Sessions May 6

Kristin O'Neill, deputy director and counsel for the Committee on Open Government, will present a virtual *Freedom of Information Law* information session on Monday, May 6, 2024, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. and then a virtual *Open Meetings Law* information session later the same day from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Registration is needed for both, and each program will consist of a one-hour overview of the statute, followed by 30 minutes of a question-and-answer period. There is no cost to attend either webinar, but registration is required. Once registered, a confirmation email from WebEx with instructions for joining the session will be sent. If the confirmation e-mail is not received, it is advised to check your spam or junk folder, as committee staff is not able to provide WebEx technical support. While the information presented is extremely beneficial, continuing education credit is not provided with these webinars. Recordings of each session will be available afterward.



**Committee on
Open Government**

[REGISTER HERE!](#) Freedom of Information Law Information, Monday, May 6 at **10:00 a.m.**

[REGISTER HERE!](#) Open Meetings Law Information, Monday, May 6 at **2:00 p.m.**

ANCA Clean Energy Conference May 20-21, Clayton

The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) is holding its 2024 Clean Energy Conference in Clayton on May 20 and 21, 2024. Community members, stakeholders, educators, and advocates are invited to convene around current clean energy issues at the regional nonprofit's annual Clean Energy Conference. The two-day event will feature tours, presentations and networking opportunities designed to advance clean energy initiatives that benefit New York communities, businesses, and residents. Registration is open at www.adirondack.org/clean-energy-conference.

Through tours, presentations and breakout sessions, participants will learn from experts about topics including workforce development in the energy sector, hydropower, the electric school bus transition, climate justice, New York's Regional Clean Energy Hubs, and equitable access to project funding. Conference presenters and exhibitors will also share information about local, state, and federal initiatives that support residential, business, and municipal energy projects.

The event will begin at noon on Monday, May 20 with an afternoon tour of Brookfield Renewable's historic Black River hydropower facility, followed by a conference reception at the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel. Limited spots are available for a sunset boat cruise on the St. Lawrence River. On Tuesday, May 21, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the conference will feature presentations and breakout sessions, a poster exhibition, tour of a Blue Bird electric school bus, raffle giveaway, and opportunities to network with conference exhibitors including contractors, service providers, nonprofits and others working to expand clean energy initiatives across New York State.

Conference registration costs \$200. Municipal staff may attend at a reduced rate; contact ANCA Event & Engagement Coordinator Caitlin Bottcher at cbottcher@adirondack.org for a discount code. Participants who find the cost of registration or travel to be a barrier are invited to inquire about financial support. Rooms at the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel are limited and available at a special conference rate if booked by Friday, April 26, 2024.

Contact Us

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

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