

2023 Headwaters Released

The most current Headwaters, the annual newsletter report of the NYS Tug Hill Commission, is now available on the commission's [website](http://www.tughill.org). This year's edition highlights the commission's 50th anniversary celebration at Tailwater Lodge, which included the release of the video Park It: Tug Hill by WPBS, recognition by the Tug Hill legislative delegation, remarks by current Commission Chairman Jan Bogdanowicz, former Commission Executive Directors Ben Coe, Bob Quinn and John Bartow, and current Commission Executive Director Katie Malinowski, and designation of the Class of 2023 Tug Hill Sages.

Also included in the report is an overview of the workshops and other training opportunities offered in 2023, reports from our five councils of governments, and passage of the Lorraine Minimum Maintenance Road state law. Altogether, it was a very busy and successful year for the commission, its councils, and communities alike. A limited number of print copies of Headwaters are available, call the office at (315) 785-2380 if you would like one.

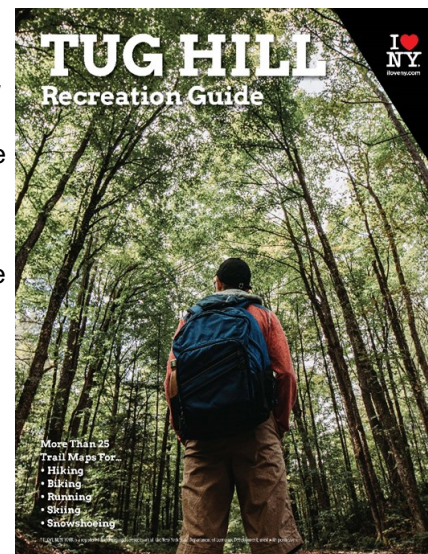
Hot Off the Press: Tug Hill Recreation Guide Refresh

The next time you see a Tug Hill Commission table at a local event or conference, keep an eye out for brand new copies of the Tug Hill Recreation Guide! As part of efforts to keep content as fresh as possible, the recreation guide has been given a facelift via a new cover, and its pages have been updated to reflect some small community and trail map changes. Waterfall content, which was added as a supplement to the [Visit Tug Hill](http://www.visit-tug-hill.org) website two years ago, has also been integrated into the trail maps.

Several editions of this guide have been developed and released over the years to help promote visitation and non-motorized recreation on and around the Tug Hill region. Showcasing trails, activities, and community features throughout portions of Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, and Oswego counties, this guide is designed to be family-friendly, useful for incoming tourists and locals alike, and to encourage people to get outdoors and enjoy all the natural beauty that Tug Hill has to offer.

The Tug Hill Recreation Guide is produced in partnership between the NYS Tug Hill Commission, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, 1000 Islands International Tourism Council, Naturally Lewis, Oneida County Tourism, and Oswego County Tourism. In addition to partner support, this update and reprint was also supported by "Market New York" (I Love NY) matching funds.

A complete digital version of the recreation guide can be found [here](http://www.visit-tug-hill.org). For convenience, please note that all trail maps can be downloaded as one-page georeferenced PDFs [here](http://www.visit-tug-hill.org). These PDFs can then be uploaded to free mapping apps like Avenza, and can help users identify their location on the map even if they are not within range of cellular service. For greater detail on the waterfall features of this recreation guide, please check trail difficulty and parking/navigating advice on our interactive Google map [here](http://www.visit-tug-hill.org).



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Lead Service Line Inventory Workshop Materials Available

On March 26, the NYS Tug Hill Commission partnered with the [New York Rural Water Association](#) (NYRWA) to present on the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and Lead Service Line Inventories (LSLIs) in Lee. This workshop aimed at providing municipalities and public utilities with any remaining information they may need to start or complete their initial LSLI by this year's October deadline.

Jamie Herman, CEO of NYRWA, presented to a little over 50 people both in the Lee Town Hall and those who attended virtually via Zoom. He was assisted by fellow New York Rural Water experts Mark Roberts, technical assistance, and Steve Freeman, a water technician, in answering questions. Attendees included town and village employees and officials, engineers, water operators, planning staff, and health department staff.

To watch the webinar recording, click [here](#). To access the slide deck, see our website [here](#).



If you have any remaining questions about your initial lead service line inventory – or require expertise on other water and wastewater issues – reach out to your local New York Rural Water Association contacts: Mark Roberts (technical assistance) at roberts@nyruralwater.org or (518) 669-9308, or Steve Freeman (water technician & circuit rider) at freeman@nyruralwater.org or (315) 929-1006.

Red Flags for Fraud Workshop Held

The Tug Hill Commission hosted a webinar at the end of February entitled “Red Flags for Fraud”. Ingrid Otto, an auditor with the Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Local Government and School Accountability delivered a very informative presentation. Similar presentations and more information can be accessed as listed below:

[OSC Red Flag On-demand Webinar](#)

[Direct Link to Handouts](#)

[NYS OSC, Division of Local Government and School Accountability Unit](#)

The [Tug Hill Commission's YouTube Channel](#) has recordings of many of our past trainings and other historical workshops. Information about [past trainings and workshops](#) and [upcoming trainings and workshops](#) can also be found on our website.

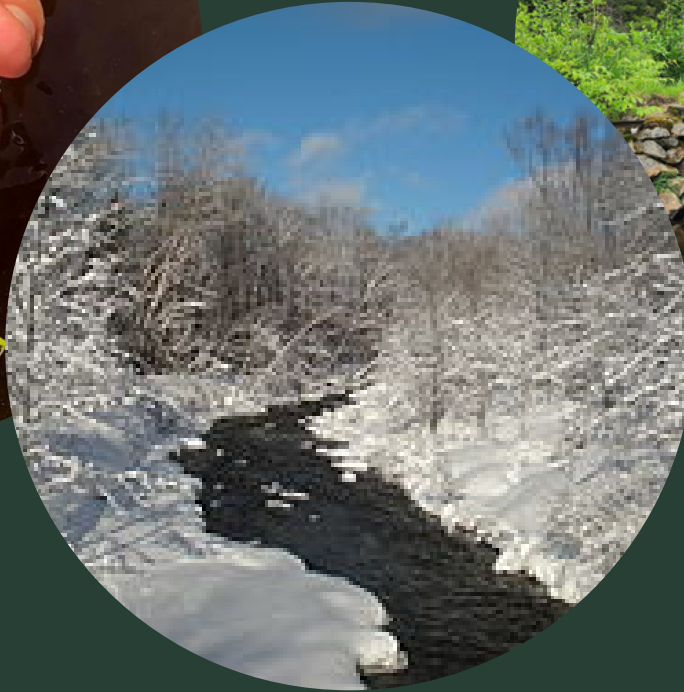
RACOG Summit Held on March 29

The River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) Economic Visioning Summit held on March 29 was a success with approximately 30 people in attendance in Carthage. There were presentations on local events, the Denmark highway garage solar project, Fort Drum's regional economic impact, growth at the Double Play Community Center, updates from the Carthage Area Hospital, progress with the Lowville Downtown Revitalization Initiative, information on the Tug Hill Commission's traffic data and safety coordination services, and a closing energetic round of Jeopardy.

RACOG thanks all the presenters and attendees for participating. PowerPoint presentations will be available on the RACOG [website](#) in the coming days.



BROOK TROUT CONSERVATION & GENETICS ON TUG HILL AND THE ADIRONDACKS



Thursday April 11, 2024, 6PM

PRESENTED BY

Paul Miller
NYS Council of Trout Unlimited
Region 6 Vice-President

Chris Murphy
Trout Power
President

REGISTER AT
[TINYURL.COM/TUGHILL
TROUT](https://tinyurl.com/tughilltrout)

Contact info:

View previous webinars at:
[TUGHILL.ORG/SERVICES/TRAINING/](https://tughill.org/services/training/) gabriel@tughill.org | 315-785-2387

Photo Credit: Trout Power (left), Trout Unlimited (right)

Tug Hill Participates in State Rural Resources Fair

The Tug Hill Commission was one of 30+ organizations sharing information at last week's Rural Resources Fair in Albany, sponsored by the [Legislative Commission on Rural Resources](#). The event was an opportunity for rural interests, ranging from agriculture to education to energy and more, to interact with legislators, staff and visitors in the Well of the Legislative Office Building.

The new [WPBS video](#) on the Tug Hill region was well-received, and there were opportunities for networking and discussion of relevant issues with organizations such as the [NYS Association of Counties](#), the [NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association](#), [American Farmland Trust](#), the [Adirondack North Country Association](#), [Cornell University](#), and more.



American Farmland Trust NY-NJ Director Linda Garrett and Tug Hill Commission Executive Director Katie Malinowski.

Tug Hill Presents in the Mohawk Valley

On Wednesday April 3, the Mohawk Valley Institute for Learning in Retirement (MVILR) organization hosted the NYS Tug Hill Commission's John Healt for a presentation on the Tug Hill Commission. Held in the Festine Auditorium on Mohawk Valley Community College's Rome campus, the presentation included a description of the Tug Hill Plateau, including the weather, energy production and what drives the economy. A brief history of the commission, how it operates and assists the municipalities within the Tug Hill region, and a description of the five councils of governments were also included in the presentation. The session ended with a viewing of the "Park It" video created by the Watertown PBS station, commemorating the Tug Hill Commission's 50th anniversary. More than 30 attendees participated in the event.



The [Mohawk Valley Institute for Learning in Retirement](#) is a non-profit organization that has provided opportunities for local seniors to "learn, live, grow, move, think, socialize, and create" since 1996. MVILR has partnered with MVCC's Center for Corporate and Community Education to continue providing local retirees with rich learning opportunities without homework, exams, or grades. MVILR is located at MVCC's Rome campus, which features large, dedicated classrooms for its courses, state-of-the-art special event spaces, and free parking. Class registration begins 25 calendar days before the start of the first class of the semester. Courses range in format from large lectures to small discussions taught by volunteer facilitators, members, and guest professionals who enjoy sharing their expertise, talents, interests, and enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

For more information on MVILR, click [here](#), email mvilr@mvcc.edu, or call 315-334-7761.

WIIA and IMG Grants for Clean Water Infrastructure Projects

The Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) has posted an instructional video to help local governments apply for \$325 million in grants available through the [Water Infrastructure Improvement \(WIIA\) and Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grant \(IMG\) programs](#). Their new video provides a walkthrough of the online application, with helpful tips and information for using the system. Watch the video [here](#).

EFC administers the WIIA and IMG programs in coordination with DEC and the Department of Health. Find [more information, including the applications and eligibility criteria](#), on EFC's website.

Submit grant applications and required supporting documentation **by 5:00 p.m. on June 14**. If you have questions, email NYSWaterGrants@efc.ny.gov or call 518-402-6924.

**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

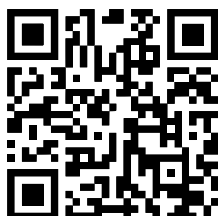
Can solar help your farm's bottom line? Share your questions, insights and concerns

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

Phone: +1 (518) 732 6254

Email: Lgarrett@farmland.org

Website: farmland.org

National Weather Service to Host SKYWARN Training

The National Weather Service (NWS) out of Buffalo, NY, will host a free SKYWARN training session on Tuesday, April 30, at 5:00 p.m. at the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library in Watertown. This training is open to the public. SKYWARN™ is a national effort to save lives during severe weather emergencies with an expanding network of trained weather spotters. The services performed by SKYWARN™ spotters have saved many lives.

By providing observations, SKYWARN™ spotters assist NWS members in warning decisions and enable the NWS to fulfill its mission of protecting life and property. The basic training session provides a brief overview of the NWS (e.g., the organization and responsibilities), severe weather safety tips, and basic severe weather meteorology, including how thunderstorms, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flash floods form. Training sessions last about two hours.

Registration for the event can be found online here: www.weather.gov/buf/Skywarn or you can contact the NWS at (716) 565-0204 x223. The Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library is located at 229 Washington St, Watertown, NY 13601.

Broadband Challenge Public Comment Closes April 11

Through the Challenge Portal, the public can answer a series of questions about internet service available at a given location, upload evidence to support a potential challenge, take and submit the results of a speed test, and/or submit a free text comment about the quality of their internet service in the [NYS Broadband Challenge Portal](#). This information submitted by the public will be made available to eligible local and Tribal governments and nonprofit organizations registered in the portal to review and potentially incorporate into formal challenges during the challenge phase.

Additionally, the portal is accepting challenges until April 18 from registered eligible challengers. Local and Tribal governments, nonprofits, and Internet Service Providers are eligible challengers and must register to participate. [Learn about the challenge process and how to register](#).

ConnectALL is hosting optional office hours throughout the process to provide technical assistance to eligible challengers navigating the portal. Register now, and bring your questions: [April 9, 2:00-3:00 p.m.](#), [April 15, 1:00-2:00 p.m.](#)

Metrocount Traffic Counter: Data Map

An interactive traffic counter map is available through the QR code below or [here](#). The map displays locations where the traffic counter has been deployed within the region. An overview is provided of each location and a more detailed link is available, which will display a day-by-day breakdown of collected data. The map can also be accessed through the Tug Hill Commission's website [here](#).



Contact Us

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Instagram: [Instagram](#)

YouTube: [YouTube](#)

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

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