

Oswego County Micron Strategy Steering Committee Summit

On Tuesday, June 11, SUNY Oswego hosted the first annual summit of the Oswego County Micron Strategy Steering Committee, at which the [2023 Annual Report](#) was released. Launched in early 2023, the steering committee includes workgroups in these areas: childcare; economic development; education; healthcare; hotel, restaurant and tourism; housing; public and private infrastructure; transportation; and workforce development. The Micron FAB site, while located in the town of Clay, is only a few miles from Oswego County. Housing and supply chain companies are expected to be developed in Oswego County given the availability of land, rural atmosphere, access to utilities, and proximity to I-81 and I-481.

Following remarks from SUNY Oswego President Dr. Peter Nwosu, presentations were delivered by Rob Simpson, CenterState CEO

president and chief executive officer; Dan Kolinski, Empire State Development Central NY regional director; Joe Nehme, Micron technology senior manager of external affairs; and reports from each of the work group chairs. Construction on the site is expected to begin in 2025, with the first chips out the door in 2028. The remainder of 2024 will be spent completing environmental reviews and conducting site preparations. Communities are encouraged to think big and take proactive steps to make sure comprehensive plans and zoning laws are up to date, so that development occurs according to the goals and objectives of each town and village. Estimates are that over the next 20 years, the Central NY area will see a minimum population growth of 100,000 people.



SUNY President Dr. Nwosu introduced work group chairs from several Oswego County agencies and organizations.

Tug Hill Traverse Trail Extended

Commissioner Bob Keller and Tug Hill sage Bob McNamara led a group of Tug Hill staffers on the newest completed section of the Tug Hill Traverse, from its intersection with G&W Road to its northern terminus in the Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area. About five miles in length, this section of the traverse features several places to view the East Branch of Fish Creek. Old-growth cherry and birch, lady slippers, deer flies, grouse, snowshoe hare, mosquitoes, and signs of bear and deer were all observed during the hike.



A geo-pdf of the trail is available [here](#), printable or to be used on a smartphone with the Avenza app.

In This Issue

- Micron Strategy Steering Committee
- Tug Hill Travers Trail
- Marine Sanctuary Approved
- Tug Hill Commission Meeting Rescheduled
- New Enforcement Powers
- New Secretary of State
- Clean Energy Conference Attended
- DEC Deer and Bear Harvest
- NYPF Conferences
- Grant Management in SFS
- NOCCOG Scholarship Awards
- THTLT June Events

Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary Approved

Finalization of the [Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary](#) was announced in Washington D.C. last week, during Capitol Hill Ocean Week. The Lake Ontario sanctuary is the 16th sanctuary to be designated, and the third on the Great Lakes. The sanctuary area starts at the west boundary of Wayne County and extends along the lakeshore through Cayuga and Oswego Counties, through Jefferson County ending at Tibbetts Point in Cape Vincent, and includes 1,722 square miles of Lake Ontario. The designation process began with a nomination by the four counties and the city of Oswego in 2017.

The sanctuary will be co-managed by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and New York State. The new sanctuary includes 41 known shipwrecks and one known submerged aircraft discovered over decades by recreational scuba divers and shipwreck explorers. The effective date of the sanctuary will be late July.



The Tug Hill Commission June 17 meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, July 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town of Denmark, 3707 Roberts Rd., Carthage, New York 13619. The public is welcome to attend.

OCM Presents on New Enforcement Powers

The New York State Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) recently conducted a briefing on the new cannabis enforcement powers found in the FY2025 budget. The budget unveiled the strongest set of policies enacted thus far to tackle the illicit cannabis marketplace. This initiative provides OCM and local governments with enhanced authority to act against illicit cannabis storefronts and those who enable them.

The enforcement role of local governments will vary based on the locality, but all have options to investigate and close illicit cannabis shops through a structured process aimed at enforcing regulatory compliance and maintaining public safety.

County and city governments can adopt their own laws related to regulating unlicensed cannabis businesses, including emergency padlocking and seizure powers, as long as the law meets the following requirements:

- Ensure consistent enforcement and procedures to conduct inspections, hearings, and padlocking businesses that mirror OCM's.
- Designate a point of contact to coordinate with OCM to report on enforcement activities.
- Require hearings in city or county courts within three business days of emergency padlocking and a court decision within four business days after the hearing, for locations that were padlocked at first inspection due to imminent threat to health and safety.

County, city, town and village governments can initiate emergency proceedings with orders to cease illicit activity against both businesses and landlords using Section 16-a of the Cannabis Law, upon 10 days' notice to OCM, with the option to collect penalties in those proceedings. There is also a form for anyone to report issues with a cannabis business, product or an adverse event at cannabis.ny.gov/report-an-incident

A recording of the briefing regarding town and village enforcement powers can be found [HERE](#). Additional information can be found on the [OCM Enforcement webpage](#) or you can contact the OCM office at cannabis.ny.gov or 1-888-OCM-5151 with additional questions.

New Secretary of State Mosley Confirmed

The NYS Department of State welcomed new Secretary of State Walter Mosley last week, after his nomination by Governor Hochul was confirmed by the Senate. Secretary Mosley fills the position recently vacated by Robert Rodriguez, who was also just confirmed as the executive director of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York.

Secretary Mosley has worked in both the private and public sectors, including seven years as a State assemblyman from Brooklyn. He is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and of the Howard University School of Law in Washington, DC.



Commission Staff Attend ANCA's Clean Energy Conference

Gabriel Yerdon and Jillian Lee attended the Adirondack North Country Association's (ANCA) Clean Energy Conference on May 20-21 in Clayton, where the theme was "building a community for a clean energy future." Tours were held on May 20 at Brookfield Renewable's Black River Hydropower Facility, followed by an electric school bus tour and reception. An informative discussion about North Country climate collaboration also took place between non-profits, community volunteers, municipal leaders, and local businesses to foster ideas about increasing climate action in the North Country. The following day started with keynote speaker Chief Spencer Ohsgoñ:da' Lyons of the Onondaga Hawk Clan, who served on the Onondaga Nation Council and works with the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force and Onondaga Language Program. Informative and educational presentations were given on workforce development (e.g., statistics on the working population and job opportunities for people with a variety of backgrounds), connecting communities to clean energy initiatives, electric grid upgrades and New York's clean energy goals, and some state and federal programs (e.g., New York's Cap-and-Invest Program) and the Inflation Reduction Act). Visit ANCA's [website](#) to learn more about the conference and keep an eye out for their conference in 2025.



DEC 2023-24 Deer and Bear Harvest Estimates

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently announced that New York hunters harvested an estimated 209,781 deer during the 2023-2024 season. The white-tailed deer [harvest report](#) highlighted progress for DEC's "[Let Young Bucks Go and Watch Them Grow](#)" program, with 67.9% of the adult bucks harvested at two-and-a-half years or older statewide, up from 45% a decade ago, and 30% in the 1990s. Of the total harvest, 112,224 were antlered bucks (adult males), and 97,557 were antlerless deer (adult females and fawns of either sex).

Overall, there was a 3.6% decrease in antlered buck harvest and a 15.6% decrease in antlerless deer harvest from last season. This trend is concerning because DEC relies on hunters to help maintain deer populations at levels that enable an adequate food supply for deer reproduction, antler development, and nutritional needs. Healthy population limits can also reduce deer-vehicle collisions, crop damage, and other human conflicts. DEC highlighted 19 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) where antlerless deer harvests are especially below the ideal rate. These include Long Island, the Lower Hudson Valley, the Albany area, and a large swath of Central-Western NY, including Syracuse, the Finger Lakes Region, Rochester, and Niagara County.

The highest harvest rates, at 10-15 deer per square mile, were recorded in the Western Finger Lakes and the Central Appalachian Plateau (South of Rochester to the Pennsylvania border). Biological samples were collected from 2,713 deer to monitor for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), and all samples tested negative. Notably, only 49.9% of successful deer hunters reported their harvest as required by law. DEC staff checked 13,638 deer in 2023 to determine hunter reporting rate and collect biological data, such as age, sex, and antler data. The numbers in the DEC harvest report are estimates accurate within 1.7%.

WMU 6N, which holds much of the core forest of Tug Hill, had a harvest of 803 deer: 1.4 antlered, and 0.3 antlerless, per square mile. WMU 6K, which holds much of northern, western, and southern Tug Hill, had a harvest of 4,770 deer: 2.6 antlered, and 1.5 antlerless, per square mile.

The 2023 bear harvest report is also [available](#). 1,356 bears were harvested during the 2023 season, with 485 taken in the northern zone, which includes Tug Hill. Bear populations in New York are generally on target for DEC goals, except for the Catskill region where DEC is seeking to decrease population density, and some urban areas where bears are incompatible.

New York Planning Federation One Day Conferences

Three one day conferences are being offered by the [New York Planning Federation](#) (NYPF), registration fees for each day are \$95 for both members and non-members.

- August 2, 2024 - Finger Lakes Community College, Canandaigua
- September 12, 2024 - Wallace Center (FDR Site), Hyde Park
- September 26, 2024 - Olympic Center, Lake Placid

Details on topics for each conference are available on the NYPF website. Completion of the day will entitle attendees to 4.5 training hours and lunch is included with registration. Please email nypf@nypf.org with any questions.

Grant Management in Statewide Financial System

New York State has transitioned grantmaking activities from the Grants Gateway to the Statewide Financial System (SFS). Organizations, including municipalities, **must** be registered in SFS to compete for New York State grants, including those offered in the CFA. If you are already doing business with NYS, you are likely already registered. Your municipality likely already has a primary contact established. This primary contact may have also been designated the delegated administrator. If you're unsure of who that contact is, email the **Help Desk** at grantsreform@its.ny.gov. They can let you know who has login credentials and if you have access to grants management.

Please note that registering can take 5-10 business days from the receipt of complete materials to process a registration request. Due to the length of time this process could take to complete, it is advised that new registrants send in their registration form as soon as possible. Failure to register early enough may prevent potential applicants from being able to complete a grant application on time.



NOCCOG 2024 Scholarship Awards

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments board of directors is very pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 NOCCOG high school program scholarships.

This year's awardees are Dalayna DeVoe, from Adirondack CSD, Ava Platt, from Camden CSD, Heather Buchanan-Wise, from Holland Patent CSD, and Frank Austin, from Remsen CSD. Each winner will receive \$500 after the completion of their first college semester.

The award is given to recognize the importance of local government, as well as the unacknowledged service, commitment, and dedication of community members who are essential in the daily operation of our towns and villages. Ideally, the candidate has been involved in school or community organizations, given their time, often behind the scenes, without the desire for recognition. The award is given with the hope the recipient will someday be involved in their local government.

THTLT June Events

Wednesday, June 19, 6:30 p.m.

Evening Birding, Murray Agricultural Trail, Rodman

Friday, June 21, 4:00 p.m.

Redfield Reservoir Paddle, Redfield

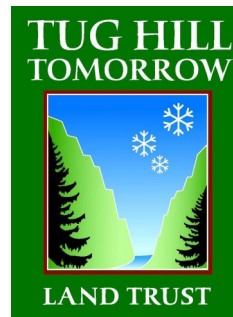
Saturday, June 22, 10:00 a.m.

Traverse Trail Work Day, East Branch of Fish Creek Headwaters

Thursday, June 27, 6:30 p.m. (Rain date June 28)

Evening Birding, Camp Zerbe, Williamstown

www.tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org



Contact Us

NYS Tug Hill Commission
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the region:
1-888-785-2380
Email: tughill@tughill.org

Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org

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

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

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