

Commission Annual Dinner Well-Attended

Over 100 people attended the Tug Hill Commission’s 2024 annual dinner on September 19 at the Hayloft at Moonshine Farms near Port Leyden, Lewis County. With music provided by Cincinnati Creek and catering by the Pine Tree Inn, members of the commission board and staff, representatives from many of the region’s towns, villages and councils of governments, along with partners from county and state government, local and regional non-profits, and friends had an opportunity to connect and network. Introductions were made by Katie Malinowski, commission executive director, who also presented a slideshow reviewing the work of the commission over the past year.

The event was unique in that members of the NYS Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC) also joined, as their 2024 Conference on the Environment was hosted by the Tug Hill Commission in the days before and after the annual dinner. This was a great opportunity for the Tug Hill Commission to put into action its charge to “enable local governments, private organizations and individuals to shape the future of the Tug Hill region and demonstrate and communicate ways this can be done by other rural areas.” Simon Skolnik, NYSACC board president, announced four awards during the dinner, three of which were given to area organizations/individuals – Naturally Lewis, the Boonville Environmental Conservation Commission (BECC), and Barbara Freeman, founder and long-time leader of the BECC.

The evening wrapped up with a presentation by Katie Petronis, deputy commissioner for natural resources at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. She discussed several statewide programs and policy initiatives that will have a direct effect on or provide opportunities for Tug Hill communities. Those include new wetlands legislation and upcoming regulations, NY’s 30 x 30 legislation (conservation 30% of NY’s lands and waters by 2030), tree initiative to plant 25 million trees by 2033, potential changes and considerations related to forest tax law (480a), and Environmental Protection Fund and Bond Act funding available for project implementation.

Presentations, photos, and videos from the evening will be available online in the next few weeks. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

Commission Hosts 2024 NYSACC Conference on the Environment

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The 2024 NYS Association of Conservation Commissions Conference on the Environment was held Wednesday, September 18, through Friday, September 20. Wednesday consisted of a virtual day of presentations and a social hour at Woodland Farm Brewery in Boonville. Speakers were from state agencies, nonprofits, academia, and more. They spoke about renewable energy, natural resources economy and opportunities, the environment, and recreation and tourism. A grant writing workshop and a student career panel started the afternoon, followed by NYS DEC and NYSERDA presentations about New York State’s 30x30 and 70x30 plans.

Thursday was filled with field trips throughout Boonville and Lyons Falls. In the morning, some attendees visited Keller Mohawk Hill Public Conservation Area to learn about conservation efforts in the Tug Hill region and went on an educational hike at Black River Environmental Improvement Association’s (BREIA) Jackson Hill Sunfield Trails. Other attendees visited the Black River Canal Museum and Constable Hall to learn about the history of Tug Hill and how it shaped the region we have today.

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CTHC Fall Meeting September 26

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council will hold their fall meeting on Thursday, September 26 at the Steak and Brew Restaurant in Turin. Social hour will start at 6:00 p.m., with dinner at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting to follow. This year is the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Tug Hill Council municipalities working together.



On the agenda for the meeting is review and approval of the 2025 budget, the search for a new associate circuit rider, some 50th anniversary facts, updates from the Tug Hill Commission on joint issues and supervisor and mayor topics. The speaker for the evening will be Laird Petrie, retired employee of the NYS Comptroller's office, who will talk about the services he is providing to Tug Hill communities through a contract with the Tug Hill Commission.

The meeting is open to the public and free to attend, but RSVPs are required for dinner. The CTHC will pay for the dinner for two representatives from each member municipality and the cost for guests to join us for dinner is \$42 (tip included), payable at the restaurant.

For more information contact Angie Kimball at (315) 599-8825 or angie@tughill.org.

RACOG Meeting September 26

The River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) will meet on Thursday, September 26, at 6:00 p.m. at the town of Wilna municipal building. In addition to regular COG business, Chris Barboza from the Tug Hill Commission will present the RACOG Transportation Study.



NOCCOG Fall Dinner Meeting October 24

Invitations are being emailed for the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments Annual Fall Dinner and Meeting, which will be held Thursday, October 24, at the Woods Valley Ski Area. A cash bar and social hour will start at 6:30 p.m., with a buffet dinner and meeting to follow. Steve Smith, Executive Director of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District (MVEDD) is the scheduled speaker.



The cost is \$30 per person, and reservations are requested by Monday, October 21.

To reserve your spot, or for more information, check out the NOCCOG website, reach out to your current municipal advisor, or contact John Healt, 315-941-2818 or jhealt@tughill.org.

Commission Hosts NYSACC Conference on the Environment

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Thursday afternoon, attendees took field trips to Humblebee Farms and Black River Valley Natural, where they were educated on cutting-edge vegetable, microgreen, flower, and herb growing techniques and how a micro-creamery and small-batch artisanal foods facility is run. Other attendees went to Agers Falls via the Moose River Trail to hike, explore, swim, and enjoy what nature offers in the Tug Hill region. Thursday evening combined the Tug Hill Commission Annual Dinner and the conference reception, as described in the front page article.

On Friday, attendees toured Brookfield Renewable's hydroelectric facility in Trenton and were treated to a beautiful view of Trenton Falls. The conference was a great way to bring together environmental professionals and enthusiasts from all over New York State to recognize the diverse work being done in the Tug Hill region and understand how it relates statewide. The Tug Hill Commission thanks the speakers who took the time to present and educate attendees, the field trip hosts for a great experience, the conference sponsors AES, Brookfield Renewables, Unalam, and Stewart Shops, and NYSACC for the opportunity to host this conference and to bring recognition to the Tug Hill region. For more information, including speakers and field trips, you can visit the conference website: www.nysacc.net/2024-coe/conference-schedule

Discover the

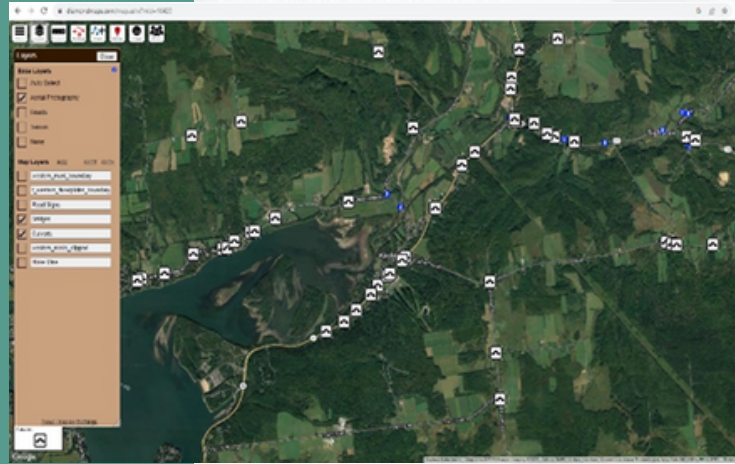
MUNICIPAL BENEFITS OF GPS MAPPING

Thursday, September 26

11:00 am - Noon

Town of Lee Town Hall

5808 Stokes Lee Center Rd, Lee Center



Join the NYS Tug Hill Commission and the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments as they present a free workshop showcasing the numerous benefits of GPS mapping in your municipality.

GPS mapping enables municipalities to efficiently collect and store this information, as well as manage, analyze, and deliver the collected data on-demand for a streamlined workflow. This allows municipalities the ability to integrate this information, keeping their records accurate and up to date.

WHY GPS MAPPING?

- A "LIVE" MAP, ACCESSIBLE FROM ANY MOBILE DEVICE
- SAVES CRITICAL TIME DURING EMERGENCIES
- EASILY UPDATABLE TO KEEP MAPS CURRENT
- ASSISTS WITH INVENTORY MANAGEMENT
- EXACT LOCATIONS ARE FOUND QUICKLY

COFFEE AND DONUTS WILL BE PROVIDED

TO REGISTER CALL:
NYS TUG HILL COMMISSION
315-785-2380

OR

JOHN HEALT, NOCCOG
315-941-2818



* All are welcome to attend, but please note that NOCCOG GPS services are only available for municipalities within the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments.

Land Use Training Opportunities Locally September 24 & 25

On **Tuesday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m.**, the Jefferson County Planning Department is hosting a free training session, **Site Plan Review**, at Jefferson Community College, in the Amphitheater in the Jules Center. The course will be an overview of the statutory authority local governments have to review site plans. It will address the scope and content of a site plan and the role of the site plan in municipal review of development projects. A discussion of design and the reasons some approaches might be preferable to others is included in the course.

RSVP by calling the Jefferson County Planning Department at 315-785-3144 or emailing your name, board, and municipality to planning@jeffersoncountyny.gov.

On **Wednesday, September 25, from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**, Lewis County is hosting free training at the Lewis County JCC Education Center with the Department of State on three topics as described below. RSVP ASAP to 315-376-5422, email sue-kulzer@lewiscounty.ny.gov, or fill out this [form](#).

1. **SPECIAL USE PERMITS:** Some uses require additional review and should be granted permission only if the application meets certain conditions. These special uses include gas stations, dog kennels, and uses with drive-through windows. The special use permit is also used for development in environmentally sensitive zones with overlays such as for wetlands, steep slopes, and along scenic ridges.
2. **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW:** The State Environmental Quality Review process is one about which there are wide misconceptions. To help clarify the role of SEQR for local review boards, this course takes a hypothetical site plan for a relatively small project through Parts 2 and 3 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form.
3. **COUNTY REFERRAL:** Many applications before local boards require referral to the county planning agency before action can be taken on them. This course reviews the requirements of General Municipal Law 239-l, - m, and -n and the law's impact on local decision making.

Town Clerk Lunch & Learn September 30

The NYS Tug Hill Commission, the Office of the NYS Comptroller and the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments are pleased to offer the Fiscal Responsibilities of the Town Clerk hybrid workshop on Monday, September 30, from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., at the town of Trenton Municipal offices, 8520 Old Poland Rd., Barneveld. This no-cost session includes a free lunch for those attending in person.

In this session, Ingrid Otto, CPA auditor 2, from the Office of the New York State Comptroller will assist town clerks in understanding their major financial duties and responsibilities, to include receiving cash, recording receipts, preparing and making deposits, and monthly reporting to the town supervisor.

Registrations are requested by September 25. For more information, visit the [NOCCOG](#) or [Tug Hill](#) websites. Click [here](#) to register.



PFAS Biosolids Management Webinar October 1

On Tuesday, October 1 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., join the Environmental Finance Center Network and Mid Atlantic Biosolids Association executive director, Mary Baker, as they present an overview of the EPA's PFAS ((per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) commonly called "Forever Chemicals") Strategic Roadmap, the designation of PFOA and PFOS as CERCLA (The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, commonly known as Superfund) hazardous substances, developments in PFAS legislation by the Senate EPW (Environment and Public Works) Committee, and the latest research on PFAS.



Attendees will gain the knowledge and tools to better understand biosolids management in the context of PFAS to better serve your municipalities in addressing this challenging issue. For more information, or to register, click [here](#).



What do beavers, waterfalls, French explorers, and a map of the estate of Baron Steuben have in common? Find out more as Patrick Reynolds, Oneida County History Center director of public programs, leads a driving tour from Lyons Falls to Utica. Attendees will follow roughly in the footsteps of Pierre Pharoux and Simon Desjardins, two French explorers who chronicled their travels in New York just prior to the turn of the 19th century. The tour will feature several stops along the way to learn a bit about the local history of each site, and how it connects to various events and notable figures from early American history.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

MORE DETAILS:

- FREE TO ATTEND
- PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
- ATTENDEES NEED THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION (CARPOOLING IS ENCOURAGED!)
- GPS-FRIENDLY TOUR MAP & ITINERARY PROVIDED UPON REGISTRATION

HOSTS:



STOPS INCLUDE: LYONS FALLS, CONSTABLE HALL, STEUBEN MEMORIAL, AND ONEIDA COUNTY HISTORY CENTER IN UTICA

[REGISTER BY CLICKING HERE!](#)

OR

[TINYURL.COM/CASTORLANDRAMBLE](https://tinyurl.com/castorlandramble)

AG TRAINING FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS: COMMUNITY AGRITOURISM WEBINAR

Wednesday, October 9th

6pm-8pm

WEBINAR Via Zoom

Nan Stolzenburg, AICP Planner from Community Planning & Environmental Associates, will present on zoning policies, definitions, and techniques that open doors for agri-tourism, on-farm sales, breweries, and other farm-related ventures. This event is designed to empower municipal officials with the tools needed to enhance agri-tourism in their community through farm-friendly land use and zoning practices.

Planning and Zoning Board members may earn 2 credits towards their required training hours. Registration is required. Attendees will receive Zoom link once registered.

**For more information on events and
registration, visit: sullivancce.org/events**

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.
The public can contact the office to request accommodations.

**Cornell
Cooperative
Extension**



This program is co-sponsored by the Cornell Cooperative Extension Agri-Tourism Program Work Team, Sullivan County Division of Planning & Community Development, and the Sullivan County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board

Salmon River Fish Hatchery Open House September 28

The public is invited to attend the 25th annual Salmon River Fish Hatchery Open House and Family Day on **Saturday, September 28, from 9:00 a.m. p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** The free, rain-or-shine event celebrates National Hunting and Fishing Day and complements Governor Kathy Hochul's '[Get Offline, Get Outside](#)' campaign to encourage New Yorkers to put down their phones and screens and spend time in nature. The Salmon River Fish Hatchery is located at 2133 County Route 22, Altmar, Oswego County.

DEC regional staff and local partners, including the Tug Hill Commission, will have interactive displays and opportunities for a behind-the-scenes look at how DEC contributes to world-class trout and salmon fishing in Lake Ontario and its tributaries, including the exceptional Salmon River. National Hunting and Fishing Day was designated by Congress in 1972 to encourage people to experience, understand, and appreciate traditional outdoor sports and recreation and natural resources. This day also recognizes hunters and anglers for their leadership in fish and wildlife conservation.

DEC will lead tours of the facility between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., providing rare behind-the-scenes access to the hatchery's inner workings. Guests can visit the redesigned fish observation decks, which are accessible to wheelchairs and strollers, and offer new and improved views of salmon as they migrate. Visitors can also observe New York fish in the hatchery's indoor aquaria and learn about rare and threatened fish species in New York State. Outside on the grounds, youth can learn how to cast a fishing rod. The tour of the hatchery includes one flight of stairs.

The Salmon River boasts a world-class fishery for migrating Lake Ontario trout and salmon. Bring your fishing gear and experience the thrill anywhere along the [12 miles of public access](#), served by 12 DEC parking areas and several other access points in the village of Pulaski. DEC also recommends visiting Salmon River Falls Unique Area, located approximately six miles from the hatchery. The area offers hiking trails, including a short quarter-mile accessible crushed stone trail leading to two observation points for a 110-foot waterfall that offer views of spectacular scenery.



Large Scale Solar Energy Project Siting Workshop Held

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County hosted the second of two evening workshops on large scale solar energy project siting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Watertown Wednesday, September 18. Guest speakers were Linda Garrett of the American Farmland Trust and Mickael Cejtin of the Staying Connected Initiative. Topics covered were promoting agricultural uses within solar projects (known as agrivoltaics) and siting and designing projects so they have minimal impacts on wildlife and wildlife migration corridors. Following the presentations, participants engaged in roundtable discussions on these and other issues regarding solar development.

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](#).