

Funding for New York Forward and Downtown Revitalization Initiative Announced

Funding is now available through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and NY Forward. The DRI aims to accelerate and expand the revitalization of downtowns and neighborhoods in all ten regions of the state to serve as centers of activity and catalysts for investment. NY Forward works in concert with the DRI to accelerate and expand the revitalization of smaller and rural downtowns throughout the State so that all communities can benefit from the State's revitalization efforts, regardless of size, character, needs and challenges.

For details about the program and **How to Apply**, please visit [Downtown Revitalization Initiative](#) and [NY Forward](#). There, you'll find the [Application and Submission Guidelines](#) which outlines eligibility criteria, important dates related to application deadlines and the anticipated timing of award announcements, resources to support application development, including [Capacity Building Webinars](#), and an overview of both programs. The [Guidebook](#) provides a detailed overview of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative and NY Forward planning processes. It is intended to serve as a resource for Local Planning Committees, municipal officials and staff, project sponsors, and the general public

- ♦ **October 17, 2025** – **Deadline** to submit **Intent to Apply Form** to receive technical assistance from our office. [Intent to Apply Form](#).
- ♦ **November 7, 2025, 4:00 p.m.** – **Deadline** to submit your community's **Application** through the [New York State Consolidated Funding Application Portal](#).

Commission Board Meeting

Monday, September 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the West Monroe Town Hall, 46 County Rte 11, West Monroe, NY 13167

The public is welcome to attend.

In This Issue

- New York Forward and DRI
- Commission Board to Meet
- Commission Annual Dinner
- Little Salmon River Dams Meeting Held
- State Wildlife Action Plan Seeks Input
- Jefferson County Annual Tree Sale
- Non-Profit Boot Camp
- Welsh Ramble Tour
- NYSCA's Capital Projects Funds
- Harmful Algal Bloom
- Land Use Training
- Reporting Drought Conditions
- Jefferson County Rain Barrell Workshop
- NYS Highway & Public Works EXPO

You Are Invited

NYS Tug Hill Commission Annual Dinner

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Delta Lake Inn, 8524 Fish Hatchery Road,
Rome, NY 13440

Cost: \$35/per person with cash bar.

RSVP's must be received by Tuesday, September 30, 2025.
Please make checks payable to "NYS Tug Hill Commission."
Credit card payment can be made at
tinyurl.com/2025-THC-Annual-Dinner.

Please call 315-785-2380 with any questions.

Hope to see you there!

Photo credit: Tony Machia

Little Salmon River Dams Annual Informational Meeting Held

On Tuesday, August 26, the commission hosted the Little Salmon River Dams Annual Informational Meeting at the village of Mexico office. Community members, local government leaders, educators, and scientists attended the event to learn about dam removal, including updates on the Little Salmon River dams removal, dam safety, research, monitoring efforts, funding opportunities, and how dam removal can affect aquatic invasive species. The evening started with a tour of the Black Creek dam removal site from Scott Prindle (NYS DEC).



Presentations followed, starting with students from Syracuse University's Engineers without Borders providing updates; Tio-Luwani Adebajo and Jacob Luther from DEC Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety spoke about DEC's dam owner information and dam safety; Roy Widrig from NY Sea Grant presented his research on ghost dams and dam safety research in the Great Lakes region; Emily Fell from DEC and Cornell Water Resources Institute gave insight into funding for dam removal projects; and Nicole Lexson from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission educated the audience on sea lamprey, followed by Megan Pistolese and Adrien Owens from the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management speaking about aquatic invasive species.



Presentations are available on the commission's [website here](#). Thank you to everyone who attended and presented and thank you to the village of Mexico for allowing us to use their office. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jillian at jillian@tughill.org.

DEC Seeks Input on State Wildlife Action Plan

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced it is seeking public input on the draft revised [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) (SWAP) for 2025-35. In 2024, DEC sought review and input on draft species status assessments and the list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). SGCN are existing and species native to New York that are currently experiencing threats likely to result in further decline of their populations if conservation actions are not implemented within the next ten years. Relevant data and other feedback informed the revised SGCN list and were incorporated into the species status assessments now available for final review.

DEC Commissioner, Amanda Lefton, said, "The State Wildlife Action Plan is New York State's guiding document for managing and conserving species and habitats before they become too rare or costly to restore. I encourage the public and DEC's conservation partners to provide feedback on the plan's strategies and actions to address threats to New York's species of greatest conservation need."

The SWAP guides management actions for New York's SGCN and is a requirement for New York to participate in the federally funded State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. DEC is seeking public input on the SWAP chapters and appendices, including any additional sources of information on the status and distribution of New York's SGCN, new information on threats to these species, updates on completed or ongoing conservation projects, and efforts initiated by conservation partners since 2015 to monitor, conserve, or manage populations of SGCN or their habitats. Input is due by Friday, September 20, 2025.

The draft SWAP, SGCN list, and species status assessments are available to download from [DEC's website](#). Comments may be submitted by email to nyswap2025@dec.ny.gov. Please include "Draft SWAP Comments" in the subject line. Comments may also be sent by mail to: SWAP Coordinator, Division of Fish and Wildlife, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754.

Jefferson County Annual Tree Seedlings & Transplants

The Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Tree Sale is underway.

Visit jeffersoncountyswcd.org to order online or contact the office (315-782-2749) to make an appointment to place an order in person. Quantities are limited. Prepaid orders will be available for pick up on April 10, 2026. Customers must pick up their trees at the District Office in Burrville, located at 25451 State Route 12, Watertown, NY 13601. Delivery is not available. The deadline to order is Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

NON-PROFIT BOOTCAMP



Session #1

GETTING STARTED & GROWING YOUR NON-PROFIT

Learn the essential steps to start and grow a successful nonprofit. This session will walk you through the legal and organizational foundations, including incorporation, bylaws, board development, compliance, and fundraising basics. Whether you're just starting out or strengthening an existing nonprofit, you'll gain practical tools and guidance to set your organization on the right path.

OCTOBER 2, 2025

Thursday | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Lewis - JCC Education Center | 7395 E Rd, Lowville, NY 13367





TOPIC HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Legal Steps
- ✓ Mission, Vision, & Bylaws
- ✓ Building Your Board
- ✓ Fundraising & Grants

REGISTER



PANEL

-  **Deanna Nelson**
Watertown Attorney General's Office
-  **Joe Foy**
Harmonny Performing Arts Community
-  **Kylie Schell**
Encompass Recreation
-  **Kaylee Tabolt**
Naturally Lewis & Panel Moderator



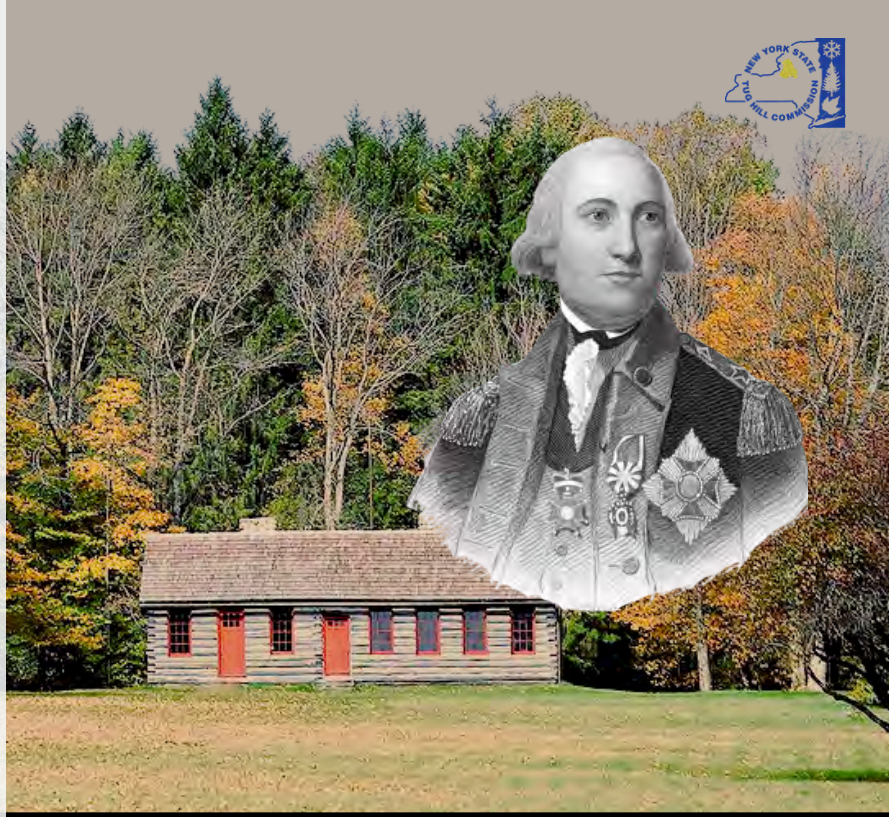
Northern New York
Community Foundation



WELSH RAMBLE

*Hosted by the Remsen-Steuben
Historical Society and the NYS Tug
Hill Commission.*

**Saturday, October 4, 2025
10 A.M. - 1 P.M.**



Location

The event will begin at the Steuben Memorial State Historic Site.

**9957 Starr Hill Road,
Remsen, NY 13438**

Speakers

The tour will be hosted by members of the Remsen-Steuben Historical Society, with guest speakers from the Remsen Performing and Visual Arts Center and the Remsen Depot.

Event Details

This event is free to attend, but pre-registration is required.

Attendees will need their own vehicle. Carpooling is highly recommended!

A GPS-friendly map will be provided upon registration.

This fall, the Remsen-Steuben Historical Society will be lending its expertise for an exploration and appreciation of its local history. The "Welsh Ramble" will feature a driving tour of the community's hidden historical gems, explore its strong Welsh ties, and directly connect its local heritage to Baron Von Steuben, a former Prussian military captain and key figure in the American Revolutionary War.

The tour will begin at the Steuben Memorial State Historic Site and end at the Stone Meeting House, formerly known as Capel Cerrig, or the "Stone Church," where the Remsen-Steuben Historical Society maintains one of the largest archives of Welsh and Welsh-American records in the nation. In between these two locations, the driving tour will include several stops of sites of local historical and cultural significance: the grounds of the former Capel Isaf and Capel Ucha, the Remsen Performing and Visual Arts Center, the Remsen Depot, and Capel Enlli.

REGISTER BY CLICKING [HERE!](#)

OR

tinyurl.com/welshramble

New York State Council on the Arts Capital Projects Fund

Capital funding is now available to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations through the New York State Council on the Arts Capital Projects Fund. NYSCA's Capital Projects Fund will support arts and cultural nonprofits seeking funding for investments in capital improvements that allow organizations to sustain and expand cultural programming for diverse audiences, promote accessibility and environmental sustainability, preserve and create jobs, and ultimately contribute to the growth of New York's dynamic arts and tourism sectors.

The [application portal, webinar registrations, and guidelines for these opportunities are now open, and can be accessed on NYSCA's website](#). **The deadline to submit completed applications is January 13, 2026.** All eligible New York State nonprofit arts and cultural organizations are encouraged to apply for NYSCA's Capital Projects Fund. NYSCA will also conduct webinars about the application process and host multiple virtual office sessions for applicants to receive one-on-one assistance before the January 13, 2026 deadline. Prospective applicants that are interested in Large Capital support must consult with NYSCA Capital Projects staff to make sure their projects are aligned with program priorities before applying. Grant awards are expected to be announced in spring 2026.

The Fund has three grant categories: Small and Midsized Capital Improvement Grants, Large Capital Improvement Grants, and Capital Design Grants for Arts and Culture:

Small and Midsized Capital Improvement Grants for Arts and Culture: This opportunity funds projects initiated by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations of any size, with construction and capital equipment grants of up to \$2 million that prioritize accessibility, artistry, cultural development, sustainability, health and safety, and structural and historical improvements. No-match grants of \$10,000-\$99,000 are available for organizations with operating budgets under \$2 million. Strong projects combine excellence in design with informed decisions about organizational capacity and community needs that will positively affect the future of arts and cultural organizations across New York.

Large Capital Improvement Grants for Arts and Culture: This opportunity will support arts and cultural nonprofits across the state that are undertaking impactful, large-scale capital improvements. Grants will range from \$2 million to \$10 million for projects that have a total cost of \$4 million or more (grants support a maximum of 50 percent of the project's total cost). This funding will support investments that allow organizations to thrive by expanding cultural programming, reaching new and diverse audiences, and promoting accessibility. These grants will also help advance the State's goals around economic development and will require all applicants to commit to social equity initiatives and access plans that serve all New Yorkers.

Capital Design Grants for Arts and Culture: This opportunity will support the development of mid-stage and advanced design documents for arts and cultural nonprofits with operating budgets of \$10 million or less across the state that are planning eligible capital improvements and are currently in the early stages of design. Grants will range from \$50,000-\$500,000, for a maximum of 50 percent of the design phase's total cost. No-match grants of \$10,000 to \$99,000 will also be available for organizations with budgets under \$2 million.

Harmful Algal Bloom Notifications

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) in freshwater (lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams) generally consist of visible patches of cyanobacteria, also called blue-green algae. Several types of cyanobacteria can produce toxins and other harmful compounds that can pose health risks to people and animals through ingestion, skin contact, or inhalation. It is hard to tell a HAB from non-harmful algal blooms so it is best to avoid swimming, boating, recreating in, or drinking water with a bloom.

Visit [NYHABS](#), DEC's harmful algal bloom notification map to view locations of freshwater HABs in New York State that have been reported. Dots with a black circle indicate current HABs and those without a black circle are archived. Click on a dot for more information, including the date it was reported, the waterbody name, and pictures. Click on the arrow at the bottom of the screen to view a list of reported HABs. Instructions on how to use NYHABS are on DEC's [HABs notification webpage](#). Follow DEC's know it, avoid it, and report it recommendation:

Know it: HABs vary in appearance from scattered green dots in the water, too long, linear green streaks, pea soup, or spilled green paint, to blue-green or white coloration.

Avoid it: People, pets, and livestock should [avoid contact](#) with floating mats, scum, and discolored water.

Report it: Report a suspected HAB using the [NYHABS online reporting form](#). Report health concerns related to HABs to the Department of Health at harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov, or contact your local health department.

2025 Annual Land Use Training

For all members of Town and Village Planning Boards, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Code Enforcement Officials seeking Professional Development electives



**LEWIS
COUNTY**
NEW YORK






NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

**Department
of State**

AGENDA


- 3:45 PM - 4:00 PM Registration
- 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Site Plan Review
- 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM Break
- 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Land Use Moratoria
- 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Short-Term Rentals

EVENT DETAILS

-  Lowville Academy & Central School
LGI Room | 7668 N. State St., Lowville
-  4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
-  Thursday, October 9, 2025

REGISTRATION

RSVP's are strongly encouraged by **Thursday, October 2, 2025**. Register via the methods listed below:

-  315-376-5422
-  suekulzer@lewiscountyny.gov
-  <https://lewiscountyny.gov/departments/calendar/>

SITE PLAN REVIEW

An overview of the authority municipalities have to review site plans. Learn what a site plan includes, how it fits into the review of development projects, and how design choices can impact community character and project outcomes.

LAND USE MORATORIA

A look at how local governments can temporarily pause development approvals while considering updates to their comprehensive plan or zoning regulations. This session highlights legal constraints, successful examples, and court cases, giving officials guidance on when moratoria are appropriate, how long they should last, and what exceptions may apply.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

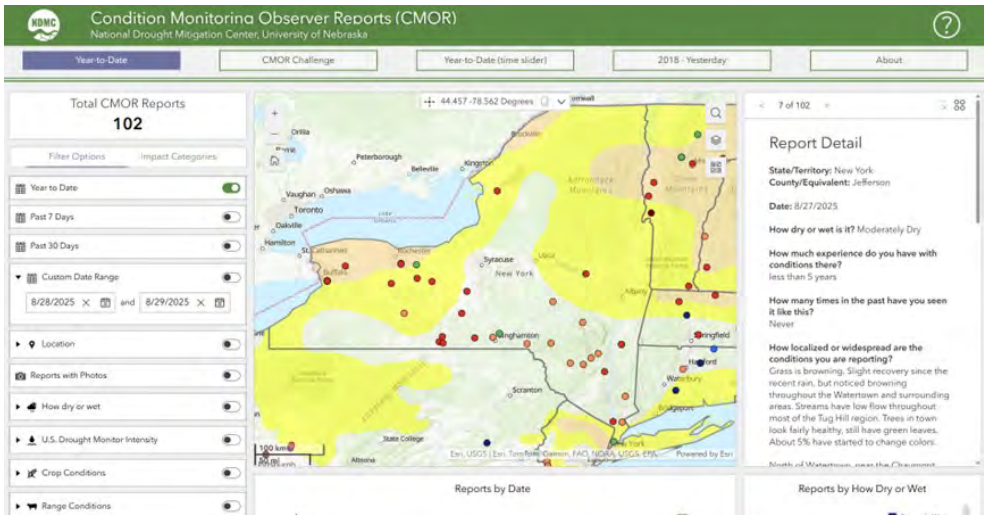
With the growth of online booking platforms, short-term rentals are reshaping neighborhoods across New York. This session explores the challenges they create, the variety of ways municipalities are responding, and how communities can craft regulations that balance local character, housing concerns, and economic opportunity.

FOOD & BEVERAGE PROVIDED!

Reporting Drought Conditions to the Condition Monitoring Observer Reports System

Have you noticed lakes and streams being lower than usual? Does your grass or field look more brown than green? Are you able to use your wells like you normally do? If you've noticed anything like this, or similar, you're encouraged to report it to the Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) system. The Tug Hill region could use more data input, and you can help!

The CMOR system is a way to report drought-related conditions and impacts within the U.S. and its territories. Submit a report to CMOR at go.unl.edu/cmor_drought to help the National Drought Mitigation Center understand what drought looks like where you are. A video tutorial is available to help you submit reports as well: <https://drought.unl.edu/archive/media/cmor/CMOR-intro-202404.mp4>



Jefferson County Rain Barrel Workshop October 22

Join Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District for a presentation on storm-water, rain gardens, and rain barrels! Learn about how local precipitation is changing and how to size a rain garden or install a rain barrel to make a difference in your community. The workshop will be hosted at the Flower Memorial Library in Watertown (229 Washington Street) on Wednesday, October 22, from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Free rain barrels will be given to attendees on a first-come, first-served basis!

2025 NYS Highway & Public Works EXPO, October 29

The 31st Annual New York State Highway and Public Works Expo is slated for October 29, in the Exposition Center, at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

This expo brings together highway superintendents, public works directors, D.O.T. officials, municipal board members and contractors to meet, and network with, many key product and service suppliers. Prepare for hands-on and product demonstrations!

There is no cost to register or attend, and a complementary lunch will be provided. Additionally, all attendees receive free raffle entry. Registering online prior to the show will provide faster entrance.

For more information, visit the expo [webpage](#), or click [here](#) to register.



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

Instagram: [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/tughillcommission)

YouTube: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/tughillcommission)

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

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