

TUG HILL TIMES

Bi-weekly newsletter bringing you the latest news, trainings, and updates from in and around the Tug Hill region.



NYS Tug Hill Commission
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COMMISSION ANNUAL DINNER OCTOBER 8, ADAMS

We hope you can join us at the Adams Country Club on Thursday, October 8 for our annual dinner, where we will enjoy music by the NYS Old Tyme Fiddlers' Association, hear about the commission's work in 2026, and celebrate Leona Cheresnoski's dedication to Tug Hill and the Tug Hill Commission.

Invitations are in the mail. If you did not receive one directly, please call the office at 315-785-2380, or sign up online at www.tinyurl.com/thdinner2026.



WOODSMEN'S FIELD DAYS SEMINARS AVAILABLE ONLINE



The Tug Hill Commission, NYS Wood Products Development Council, and the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments partnered to host two days of educational forestry seminars, non-profit organizations, and a new "recharge station" with electronic device chargers and a water bottle filling station at the 2026 NYS Woodsmen's Field Days. Approximately 140 people attended presentations, located this year in the Wagoner Show Barn. Thanks to the partnering agencies and organizations that shared their expertise: Oswego County Soil & Water Conservation District, SUNY ESF, the American Chestnut Foundation, SLELO PRISM, Snapshot NY, CCE of Columbia Greene, Empire State Forest Products Association, NY Forest Owners Association, Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Grow Big Trees, and Sound Designs. Slide decks from each presentation can be accessed in PDF format [here](#). Additionally, over the next several editions of the Tug Hill Times, readers can enjoy informative articles based on the Woodsmen's Field Days presentations.

Newsletter Highlights

- Commission Annual Dinner October 8
- Woodsmen's Field Days Seminars
- Fort Drum Selected to Host Next-Gen Nuclear Reactor
- Little Salmon Rivers Dams Annual Meeting Held
- East Branch Fish Creek Working Group Meeting September 23
- Fire Protection Workshop October 27
- Documents, Policies and Records Paper Updated
- Woodsmen's Field Days Highlight Upper Susquehanna Coalition
- NYS Archives Webinar September 10
- Lewis County Climate Change Survey

FORT DRUM SELECTED TO HOST NEXT-GEN NUCLEAR REACTOR

The Department of the Army announced this week the five locations chosen to participate in the [JANUS](#) program, with Fort Drum one of the selected sites and Westinghouse Government Services the selected vendor at Fort Drum. Additional locations are Fort Benning, Fort Bragg, Fort Campbell, and Fort Hood. The Army is awarding up to a combined \$2.2 billion to five private companies to own, construct and operate nuclear microreactors on military installations, with private investment required from each vendor as well.

The goal of the Janus program is to strengthen the Army's installation energy resilience, support evolving mission requirements, and advance the military's adoption of nuclear energy. Each microreactor will generate up to 20 megawatts of power, with a goal of at least [one reactor](#) providing useful electricity by September 2028. Once construction of each microreactor is completed, power purchase agreements are to be signed with the local utility company (National Grid). Fort Drum is familiar with power production on post, with the ReEnergy facility generating using woodchips as fuel for electricity production for several years.

LITTLE SALMON RIVER DAMS ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING HELD

A small but mighty crowd met Monday, August 24 at the village of Mexico's offices to share information about ongoing work in the Little Salmon River watershed. Speakers from Engineers Without Borders at Syracuse University, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and Cornell University's Water Resources Institute covered a wide range of topics including Little Salmon River dam design concepts, Black Creek monitoring post dam removal, aquatic passage, and the economic, flood resiliency, and river restoration co-benefits of dam removal. To learn more about this effort and view presentations from the last three years, [click here](#).



EAST BRANCH OF FISH CREEK WORKING GROUP MEETING SEPTEMBER 23



The East Branch of Fish Creek Working Group will meet Wednesday, September 23 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the West Leyden Fire Hall, 1046 State Route 26, West Leyden. Join us for this annual gathering of lessees, landowners, and other stakeholders in the East Branch of Fish Creek area.

Representatives from NYSDEC, The Nature Conservancy, and LandVest (land and forest manager for Aurora Sustainable Lands) will give updates and provide the opportunity for questions and answers.

Please RSVP to the Tug Hill Commission, 315-785-2380 or gwen@tughill.org, by Wednesday, September 16.

PROVIDING FIRE PROTECTION IN NYS



**Tuesday,
October 27, 2026
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

**West Monroe Fire Hall
54 County Route 11
West Monroe, 13167**

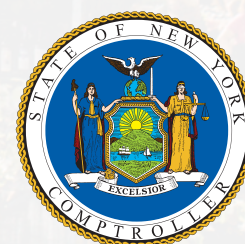
New York's system for providing fire protection is complex, and many towns and villages are working hard to maintain fire protection for their citizens balanced with fiscal responsibility. This workshop will include: a general overview of firefighting, fire protection by municipality type (city, town, village), fire districts, budgeting, and reporting requirements.

This workshop is free to attend, but pre-registration is required for planning purposes.

Presenters

Dan Acquilano, Manager of Local Training, Division of Local Government and School Accountability, Office of the State Comptroller

Katie Hodgdon,
Association Counsel, NY
Association of Towns



*Call the Tug Hill Commission at
(315) 785-2380 or email at
tughill@tughill.org with any questions.*

Register Now:



tinyurl.com/THfire2026



(315) 785-2380

DOCUMENTS, POLICIES AND RECORDS PAPER UPDATED

The commission's Documents, Policies and Records to Have on File technical paper has been updated. The paper includes several checklists for documents, policies, records, and procedures associated with the operation and administration of town and village government that are required by law or recommended to be on file in the municipal clerk's office. The checklist source and contact information is provided by section, to obtain more detailed information about a particular checklist item or action. This updated paper, as well as the entire library of Tug Hill Commission technical and issue papers, is available at tughill.org/publications/technical-issue-papers/.

WOODSMEN'S FIELD DAYS HIGHLIGHT: UPPER SUSQUEHANNA COALITION



Lydia Brinkley, a member of the [Upper Susquehanna Coalition's Watershed Forestry Team](#), focused on describing their efforts related to planting trees for conservation. She specifically spoke about planting riparian forest buffers where no forest exists (afforestation), to protect the Susquehanna River headwaters, a key part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, but the lessons and techniques apply to upstate NY as a whole. Those in attendance heard about the extensive planning and maintenance that goes into establishing these forests, including correct tree species and size selection for the site, how to plant correctly, the use of tree tubes and fencing to decrease tree mortality by excluding deer, and the importance of maintenance for the first several years to improve survival by an average of 13%. Some of the benefits of a healthy riparian forest buffer include improving the nearby stream health and water quality by filtering and slowing pollution runoff, as well as providing habitat and preventing soil erosion. The entire PowerPoint presentation can be accessed [here](#).

NYS ARCHIVES WEBINAR SEPTEMBER 10 - MANAGING SOCIAL MEDIA RECORDS

Many state and local government entities in New York State engage the public through social media, but few of those properly manage the records created on social media platforms. Presented by NYS Archives, this webinar will demonstrate how social media content can be a government record and provide guidance on using social media effectively. A major focus of the webinar will be how to capture and preserve social media records to ensure the retention of the records for the full extent of their retention periods. This webinar is being held on Thursday, September 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Click here for more information and to register!](#)

LEWIS COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEY RESPOND BY SEPTEMBER 8

Lewis County residents are invited to complete a second survey for the county-wide climate plan, focusing on vulnerability assessment. Survey respondents are asked about their experiences with past weather events, concerns for the future, and the places, services, and systems they rely on. Complete the survey at bit.ly/lewiscountysurvey2.

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