

You're Invited!

To a Public Meeting on Unique Natural Areas (UNAs)

Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 7:00 PM
In the Borg Warner Room of the Tompkins County Public Library
(101 East Green Street, Ithaca)

☞ The Tompkins County Environmental Management Council invites the public to a special presentation about two new proposed UNAs. This presentation will explain the Unique Natural Areas Inventory, and provide details on the two newly-identified additions. For more information go to: <http://www.tompkins-co.org/emc>

☞ Unique Natural Areas feature outstanding environmental qualities that deserve special attention for preservation in their natural state, and have locally rare plants, animals, or interesting assemblages of plants and animals that are locally uncommon. They may also include a designated preserve; a state-designated wetland; historical, cultural, botanical, zoological or geological importance; recreational value; scenic vista; wilderness; archeological or paleontological site; and/or urban greenspace.

☞ The UNA inventory promotes the conservation and/or preservation of UNAs for the benefit of future generations, and is an information tool to help people make the wisest choices possible in protecting the rural character and natural beauty of Tompkins County.

☞ The UNA inventory was started in 1973. It was greatly expanded and updated in 1990, and was revised in 2000. Currently, within Tompkins County there are 192 UNAs encompassing over 15,000 acres. These sites were included in the inventory based on the work of ecologists, botanists, animal scientists, geologists, and wetland specialists who, when permission was granted, surveyed many of these sites on foot. Other parcels that were not field-visited were surveyed from the road or adjacent parcels, or by using topographic maps and aerial photography.

☞ The EMC has identified Hawthorn Orchards and Salt Road Fen as meeting the criteria to be included in the UNA Inventory.

☞ **Hawthorn Orchard** is south of Mitchell Street and west of Pine Tree Road, near the Cornell tennis and equestrian centers. It consists of 50 acres in the Town and City of Ithaca, and includes Cornell property. It has outstanding birding during spring migration, some public access, and is an important teaching site.

☞ **Salt Road Fen** encompasses 74 acres in the Town of Groton. There are rare or scarce plant communities and species and it is an important rich fen habitat with known population of *Trollius laxus*, the globally rare globeflower.

☞ Information will also be available on boundary revisions for 47 of the existing UNAs.

The EMC is a citizen board that advises the County Legislature on matters relating to the environment and does not necessarily express the views of the Tompkins County Legislature.

Tompkins County Environmental Management Council
121 East Court St.
Ithaca, NY 14850
Web: <http://www.tompkins-co.org/emc>



Pink Lady's Slipper *Cypripedium acule*