

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2022

PUBLIC LECTURE: THE HISTORY OF BRISTOL HILLS SOIL

Our region's hills, gullies and lakes are the most obvious remnants of the glaciers that shaped our geology thousands of years ago. But, for a more granular view of our region's glacial history, the Bristol Hills Historical Society on Sept. 14 will host a lecture on how glaciers affected the soil under our feet.

The lecture is the second in a three-part series by noted local expert Dr. Bruce Gilman. Last April, Gilman's talk at the historical society on the "glacial history of the Bristol Valley" was one of the best-attended and most talked-about events at the historical society in years. Next spring, in conjunction with the publication of an update to his authoritative book *Ontario County Flora*, Gilman will give the third talk on how the soils and climate shaped the development of native plants and human history in our region.

The special focus on soil in his Sept. 14 talk completes the picture, Gilman said.

"Soil composition influences so many aspects of our lives," Gilman said, "from farming and gardening to where and how we build our houses and what kinds of plants do and don't thrive in our region."

The Sept. 14 event takes place at 7 p.m. at the historical society's Bristol Springs Grange Hall, 6457 State Route 64, Naples. It is free and open to the public. The lecture will take place in the Grange's second floor auditorium, which is not handicap accessible, but a video monitor and speakers will make the lecture available in the ground floor meeting room.

Parking in front of the Grange is limited, so the society asks that spaces there be reserved for people with limited mobility. Additional parking is available at the nearby South Bristol Town Hall and across the street from the Grange at Gannett Hill Gardens.

Gilman recently retired from Finger Lakes Community College's Department of Environmental Conservation and Horticulture, where his 42 years of teaching included courses on soil science and glacial geology. Gilman, who continues to curate the Finger Lakes Herbarium, a collection of over 18,000 plant specimens representative of western New York, has served as director of FLCC's Muller Field Station in the southern Honeoye Valley and has monitored and researched the waters of Honeoye and Canandaigua lakes, among others.

The Bristol Hills Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that was formed in 2020 through the merger of the historical societies of Bristol and South Bristol, N.Y. It cares for two of the region's most distinctive historic buildings, the 1923 Grange Hall in Bristol Springs, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, and the 1846 Methodist Episcopal Church in Bristol Center. The society's website at bristolhillshistory.org and Facebook page at facebook.com/bhhistorical provide calendars of

upcoming history presentations and other events, articles on local history, and a convenient way to become an annual donor at levels starting at \$15 for individuals and \$30 for families.

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ATTACHED: Photo of Dr. Bruce Gilman

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