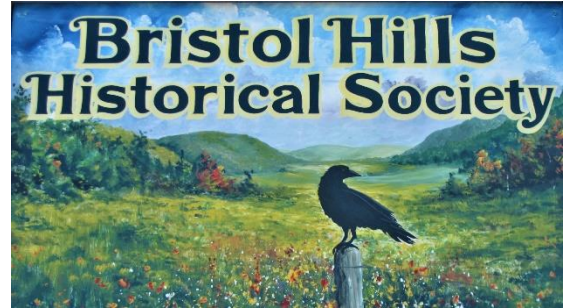


NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2023



Bristol Hills Wildflowers Since the Ice Age: A Free Lecture on the Native Plants of Our Region

It's spring wildflower season in the Bristol Hills. To gardeners and forest-lovers, that means seeing the reappearance of old friends as they color in our landscape. To the region's leading expert on our native plants, this season continues a 12,000-year-old story about why certain plants thrive here and why others don't.

The Bristol Hills Historical Society will host a talk on Saturday, April 29, at 10 a.m. at the Bristol Springs Grange Hall by Dr. Bruce Gilman, author of the book *Ontario County Flora*. Gilman is professor emeritus at Finger Lakes Community College's Department of Environmental Conservation and Horticulture and curator of the Finger Lakes Herbarium, a collection of more than 18,000 plant specimens from Western New York.

Gilman's talk, "After the Ice Age: The Return of Plant Life to the Bristol Hills," is free and open to the public.

"Questions remain about where plants sought refuge when glacial ice covered the Bristol Hills, and what were conditions like when they migrated back into our region," Gilman said.

By examining how plant life developed here in the 12,000 years since the glaciers receded, and how human settlement of the area dramatically changed the forests, Gilman will introduce the final part of his talk on what we can see growing all around us today.

"The program will conclude with a virtual tour of our woodland habitats today featuring their fantastic spring wildflowers," Gilman said. "I will also talk about efforts underway to document the flora of Ontario County using plant collections in the Finger Lakes Herbarium."

This is the third in a series he has given to the Historical Society, starting last April with the glacial history of our region and continuing last September on how the receding glaciers shaped the composition of our soils. Gilman's slides from those 2022 presentations are available on the Historical Society's website, at bristolhillshistory.org/natural-history.

The Grange Hall, which turns 100 years old this year, is located at 6457 State Route 64, Naples. Limited parking is available in front of the Grange Hall, preferably for those with limited mobility. Additional parking is available roadside and at the South Bristol Town Hall. The second floor lecture hall is not handicap accessible.

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 and the 1846 Methodist Episcopal Church in Bristol Center, both of which are on the National Register of Historic Places. 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 historic photos. The website also provides information on the Finger Lakes Barn Quilt Trail's driving tour map and Facebook group, which are now hosted by the Historical Society.

The Historical Society is volunteer-run and members-supported. Annual donor levels starting at \$15 for individuals and \$30 for families can be purchased on the society's website or at any of the society's free events.

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ATTACHED: Photos of native Western New York plants, identified in file names

For more information:

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