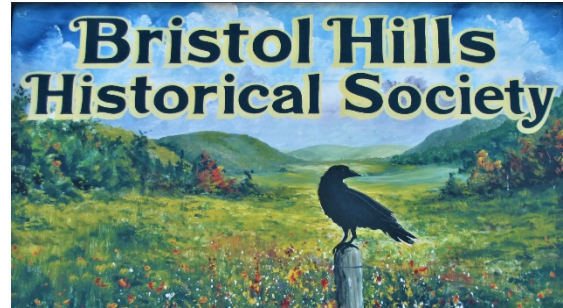


NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2024



Bristol's Historic Burning Springs Open to Public on Last Weekend of May

The Bristol Hills Historical Society will host its annual opening of Bristol's historic Burning Springs site on the last weekend of May.

The site is Bristol's oldest historic attraction, featuring multiple natural gas flares throughout the bed of a flowing creek. Visitors can view (and smell!) this phenomenon, hike up the creek to a scenic waterfall, and view the gardens at the farm, which feature a large collection of peonies.

The May 25-26 event at the privately owned site is free and open to the public from noon to 5 p.m. both days. In recent years, the event was held on two consecutive weekends, but the 2024 event will be limited to two days on the same weekend.

Each day, the owner of the site, Alan Jones, will give a lecture at 2 p.m. on the history of the Burning Springs, which the Seneca considered sacred. The first known non-native visit to the Burning Springs was in 1669, when Seneca guides showed the springs to the French explorer La Salle, who returned to his homeland to give Europeans their first hint of a natural gas that burns.

The Burning Springs farm is at 4348 Case Road in Bristol. At the event, the Historical Society will offer for sale its popular illustrated book *History and Mystery: The Folklore and Legends of the Bristol Hills*, which includes the Burning Springs story.

The Historical Society also asks visitors to consider a \$5 donation per person to help support the preservation and educational mission of the volunteer-run society. This spring, one of the society's two buildings on the National Register of Historic Places — the century old Grange Hall in Bristol Springs — is undergoing costly repairs to its foundation.

The Bristol Hills Historical Society 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. 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: Photos of Burning Springs farm gardens, waterfall, gas flame

For more information:

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