

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 29, 2022

### **Bristol's Famous Burning Springs Open to Public on Two Upcoming Weekends**

The Bristol Hills Historical Society hosts its annual opening of the privately owned Burning Springs on two upcoming weekends, with a lecture on the site's centuries-old history, an optional hike up the gully to see the lit flame and waterfall, and a new attraction this year – an archaeological dig at the site of the original settlers' cabin on the property. The Burning Springs farm's lovely gardens will also be in full bloom, including more than 150 tree peonies.

The event will be held on three days of two consecutive weekends: Sunday, May 29, and Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and June 5. The site at 4348 Case Road, Canandaigua, in the town of Bristol, will be open from noon to 5 all three days. The lecture by site owner Alan Jones will take place each day at 2 p.m.

Although naturally fed gas flares are not uncommon in the shale beds of streams throughout the Finger Lakes, this one has a storied history. It was long considered a sacred site by local Senecas. The first known non-native encounter with the Burning Springs was in 1669, when Seneca guides showed the springs to the French explorer La Salle.

Visitors can wander the gardens and view the burning spring nearby the farmhouse. The more adventurous, with proper footwear, can hike up the creek to a scenic waterfall and gorge. A student team from SUNY Geneseo is currently conducting an archaeological dig at the site of the property's original log cabin, dating to 1795. Researchers will be on hand to explain their work at the site.

The Historical Society asks visitors to consider making a \$5 donation to support the work of the society. Children are welcome.

The Bristol Hills Historical Society is a volunteer run 501(c)3 organization serving the towns of Bristol and South Bristol, N.Y. Its work includes sponsoring educational lectures and preserving the organization's two historic buildings, the 1846 Bristol Center church and 1923 Bristol Springs Grange Hall.

For more information on the Bristol Hills Historical Society, and to watch the calendar for upcoming events, visit [bristolhillshistory.org](http://bristolhillshistory.org) or the society's Facebook page, at [facebook.com/bhhistorical](https://facebook.com/bhhistorical).

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For more information:

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Photos included: peonies from the Case Road garden, Burning Springs sign, Burning Springs waterfall