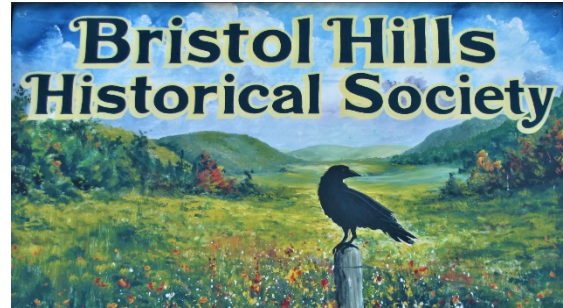


NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2024



Falconry: How the World's Oldest Sport Gets Practiced In the Finger Lakes

The sport of falconry has ancient roots, dating back thousands of years when hunting was performed with a bird of prey rather than a gun. One of New York's licensed falconers will tell how the sport is still practiced locally today in a free public lecture on April 13.

The Bristol Hills Historical Society will host the audiovisual journey through the history and current practice of falconry by Markus Hardt at the Historical Society's Bristol Springs Grange Hall, 6457 State Road 64.

Hardt is one of about 300 licensed falconers in New York. Accompanied by Heidi, his red-tailed hawk (despite the name, falconry often is practiced using hawks), Hardt will give an insider's perspective on the training, care and unique bond between falconer and bird.

Alongside a description of falconry through the centuries, Hardt will tell how people today can join the sport, including navigating the permit process and other legal requirements of responsible bird ownership. He will also discuss resources and organizations that can guide beginners.

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, both of which are listed 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 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 Markus Hardt and his red-tailed hawk Heidi

For more information:

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