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Wildlife Festival

Coming in for Landing at NYPA Visitors Center

by Jonathan Ment

For over 30 years, the New York Power Authority has hosted a Wildlife Festival, opening its gates to the furry and feathered and clawed and hooved and scaled and ... you get the picture! The annual event will be held this year September 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Blenheim-Gilboa Visitor Center, 1378 state Route 30 in North Blenheim. Possibly the largest of the site's annual events, attendance averages 4,000 to 6,000. That's not hard to imagine considering this popular festival, like others held here, features free admission, free parking and free programming. But it's the theme that really sets it apart. Highlighted each year at the early fall festival are exhibitors from around the region typically including birds of prey, reptiles, wildlife demonstrations and more. Exhibitors this year will include the Schoharie County Conservation Association, sev-



PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE FLYNN, FOR NYPA

Birds of prey have available for up close and personal encounters at past Wildlife Festivals.

eral groups affiliated with the state university at Cobleskill and others. There will also be face painting!

In addition to live entertainment – including a magician and live music and more yet to be announced, you'll also want to make time to browse close to 30 craft vendors and enjoy a snack or meal.

It's too easy to drive or ride past the Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center without ever slowing to stop and learn just what this incredible resource is all about. Don't make that mistake. Festivals like this one also

offer the opportunity to learn the lay of the land aboard free horse-drawn wagon rides.

Head inside the visitors center, housed in a 19th-century dairy barn and you'll find hands-on displays and exhibits on various forms of electricity generation and the unique engineering of a pumped-storage power facility. Also on the grounds stands Lansing Manor, an 18th century home preserved for modern visitors.

The largest state public power organization in the nation, the New York Power

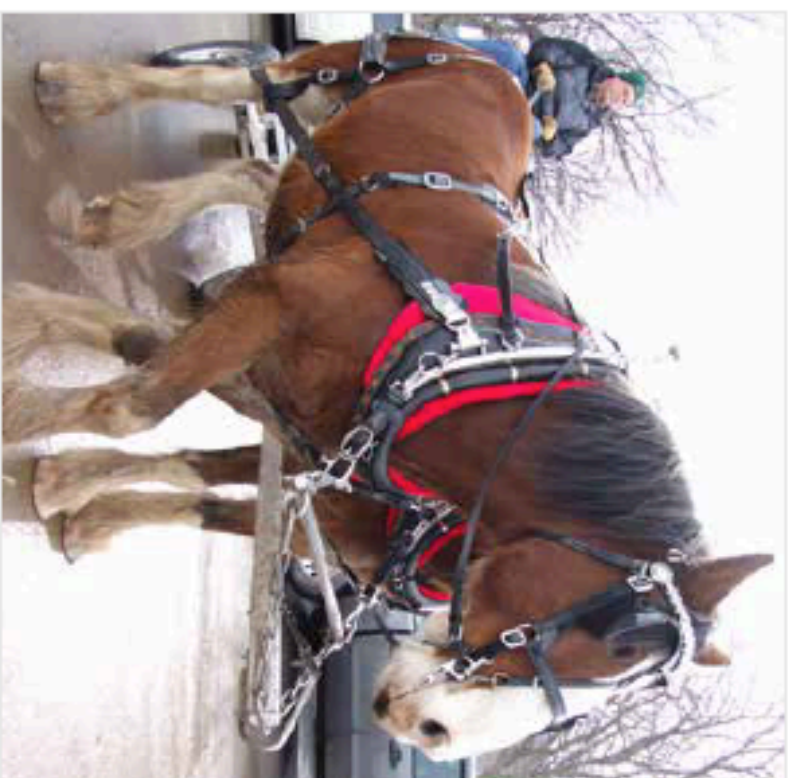


PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE FLYNN, FOR NYPA

Horse drawn wagon rides at this and other events at the Blenheim-Gilboa Visitors Center offer a chance to see the grounds as they would have been seen a century ago – from behind a horse.

Authority operates 16 generating facilities and over 1,400 circuit miles of transmission lines. Over 70 percent of the electricity the authority produces is clean and renewable hydropower – including that generated here.

No tax money or state

credits are used to operate NYPA. Instead, it is financed through the sale of bonds and revenue earned largely through sales of electricity.

For more information call the visitor center toll-free at (800) 724 0309 or visit www.NYPA.gov.