



Spatial Storytelling in Western Warren County

Our work in Heritage Tourism: An Overview



Driven by a passion for storytelling empowered by
by technology, the First Wilderness Story Collaboration
supports heritage tourism in Western Warren County.

The **First Wilderness Story Collaboration** brings together experts — authors, historians, and those with deep roots in western Warren County — with students and editors who research and write stories that support heritage tourism.

PARTNERS

- Warrren County Department of Planning and Community Development
 - Warren County Historian
- Warren County Historical Society
 - Johnsburg Historical Society
 - North Creek Depot Museum
 - Kelly Adirondack Center
 - STORY
 - Cliff & Redfield Interactive



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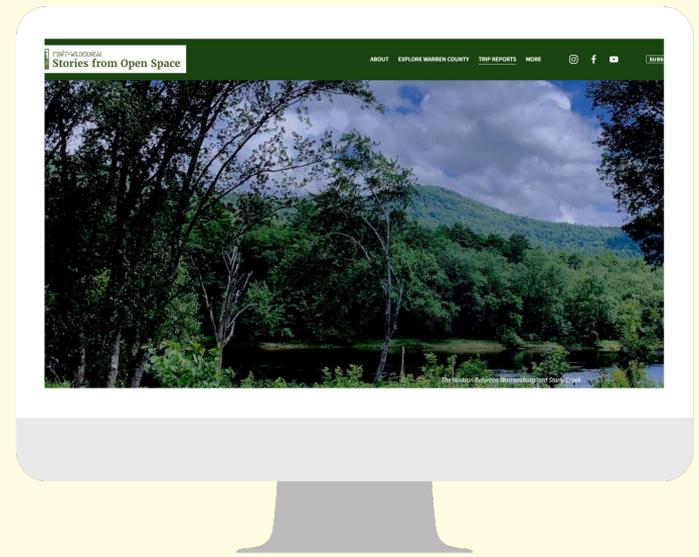


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Johnsburg Central School
Skidmore
SUNY Plattsburgh
SUNY Adirondack
Middlebury College

Erin Corr * Aswad Khan * Mackenzie Lawler * Sam MaGarrahan * Noah Chirmomas

**Since its inception
in the fall of 2021,
the collaboration
has:**



**Launched a
website:**

StoriesFromOpenSpace.org

Published two articles in Adirondack magazine

Wilderness

Following the Adirondack River from Saratoga Springs to North Creek, the sixty-mile rainbow trail by Thomas C. Zahner brought vacationers to the interior of the Adirondacks for the first time. Today this corridor offers a wealth of low-impact trails to be discovered.

Rediscovering the FIRST WILDERNESS

By Dan Forbush

It makes sense to explore lakes in such a remote area before heading into the High Peaks or heavily trafficked areas of the park. The road doesn't open to open space for several miles of the year. The road isn't open to open space for several miles of the year. The road isn't open to open space for several miles of the year.

By popular, wilder west, avoiding the highways I head north through the water embankment of some the Adirondack Park's lakes, some of which are now open to open space for several miles of the year. The road isn't open to open space for several miles of the year.

PAST TO PRESENT

TO FUTURE

From the Adirondacks in the 1850s, you've now found just a scattering of trails. Twenty years later, you'll have found two hundred. That's the hope of the Adirondack Park's lakes, some of which are now open to open space for several miles of the year. The road isn't open to open space for several miles of the year.



about the Adirondacks written by other authors by The Adirondack Park's lakes, some of which are now open to open space for several miles of the year. The road isn't open to open space for several miles of the year.

EXPLORE THE FIRST WILDERNESS



Where Wilderness Preservation Began Exploring Cabin Country

By Dan Forbush and Bill Walker, with Others (see Acknowledgments)



The Adirondacks have played a key role in state, national, and even international environmental awareness and conservation history, and ADK has throughout its one hundred years been an increasingly major influencer in that development. In this and the following article, we investigate the process.



The Old Egg Cabin. Paul Schaefer and his brother Vincent bought this cabin at the base of Ellsworth Mt. In 1928 from Anthony Stephenson. The bonded partnership of Echo Valley, as Paul described it in the Adirondack Club Country. Possession of the cabin, he wrote, "quickly changed my life... My friends from the city area had a place with free lodging in a vast wild region where they would hunt deer and bear and fish for sport." The cabin is no longer standing.

Almost

everyone in the community of Adirondack cabins is aware of the key job the "forever wild" class of the New York State Constitution has played in preserving wilderness on state-owned lands inside the Blue Line. Fewer of us know the extent to which New York, and in particular the Adirondacks, has served as a national and international model for wilderness protection. Fewer still know the story of the remarkable partnership forged by wilderness activists Paul Schaefer and Howard Zahner in exploring remote areas following World War II, a period in which they owned adjacent cabins at the base of Ellsworth Mt. on the eastern edge of the vast Suisse Pays Wilderness Area.

In 1946, Schaefer and Zahner embarked on a collaboration that would lead to a victory in the ten-year "Black River War," which prevented the power industry from building huge reservoirs in the western Forest Preserve. Zahner then drew an eight-year effort to secure passage of the National Wilderness Preservation Act, a milestone in environmental legislation that achieved at the national level much of what the "forever wild" class achieved in New York State.

The Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation System, starting with 5.5 million acres, in later decades at 111 million. This statute permanently protects these areas from roads, mechanized vehicles, and power equipment such as chain saws.

The ADK is an environmental ethic and achieved for wilderness a "regulative" designation instead of an "agency" designation," says Ed Zahner, Howard's son and current owner of the cabin in which he grew up for the family in 1946. "New York's reputation was not in other than the only trail to truly preserve wilderness was to be in a national status. You had to take care of the land management because it was an infrastructure ordinary citizens and their organizations who favored wilderness over farms, oil reserves, logging, mining, and grazing."

Inspiration from the land

Paul Schaefer and Howard Zahner drew inspiration from the land about which Schaefer would eloquently write in Adirondack Cabin Country, a collection of short essays published three years before his death in 1996. Schaefer had discovered "cabin country" with four siblings in 1921 when his parents, Port and Rose, started buying them from Schenectady to the headwaters of the Adirondack Park. The cabin was built on a small tract of land that was part of the Adirondack Park's lakes, some of which are now open to open space for several miles of the year. The road isn't open to open space for several miles of the year.

"They were not only in their own way but in the way of the country," said Ed Zahner, nephew of Paul and son of Vincent Schaefer. "They learned English from their parents and had nature the importance of these wild and rugged regions."

Paul would go on to lead New York's wilderness conservation movement for a half-century, starting in 1951 when John Apperson, a charter member

The National Wilderness Preservation Act

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ADK, established in a way of environmental battles.

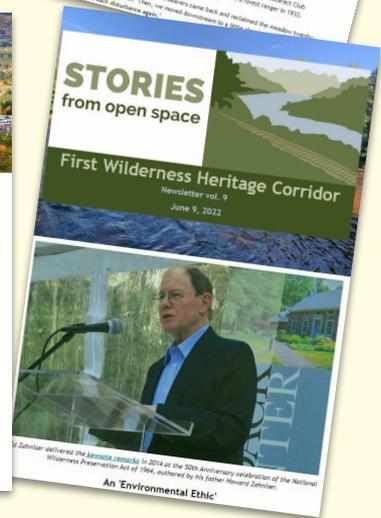
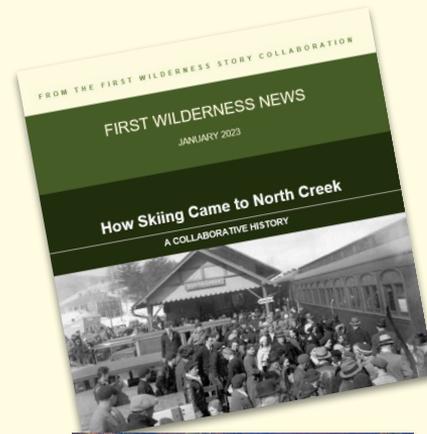
By the time he met Paul Schaefer, Apperson had been fighting environmental battles for twenty years, more. Paul would go on to lead New York's wilderness conservation movement for a half-century, starting in 1951 when John Apperson, a charter member



Ellsworth Mt. This is a massive ridge with five summits, so named because it is the Ellsworth Remnant of the vast Teton and Cordilleran mountain ranges that once covered the Adirondacks. Paul Schaefer and his brother Vincent bought this cabin at the base of Ellsworth Mt. in 1928 from Anthony Stephenson. The bonded partnership of Echo Valley, as Paul described it in the Adirondack Club Country. Possession of the cabin, he wrote, "quickly changed my life... My friends from the city area had a place with free lodging in a vast wild region where they would hunt deer and bear and fish for sport." The cabin is no longer standing.

Apperson figured out how to use grassroots, proscribing lobbying as his work to protect the wilderness of Lake George, calls Ed Zahner. "He had a huge impact on Paul, who then introduced and revised my father's grassroots work in the Black River War." Paul believed the hunters and fishers of the Adirondacks were the backbone of the conservation movement, and with them you would find your efforts." 1993. Paul Gilson, who, as managing partner of Adirondack Wild Friends of the Forest Preserve, helps to lead the state organization that Schaefer founded in 1946. "It is in use of the wilderness form."

Published fifteen email newsletters



Conducted over a dozen Civic Conversations with local historians and experts

The Smartacus Story Collaborative Presents

A Sense of Place

A Civic Conversation with Teri
Podnorszki Rogers



Rediscovering
The First Wilderness



The Smartacus Story Collaborative Presents

A Civic Conversation with Jim Schaefer



Rediscovering
The First Wilderness



Published 30+ articles in our Collaborative History, Living With Wilderness, and Exploring Cabin Country series.



Community of Adirondack hikers is aware of the key role the Forever Wild clause of the New York State Constitution played in preserving wilderness on state-owned lands inside the Blue Line.

to which New York has served as a national and international model for wilderness preservation. The story of the remarkable partnership forged by wilderness activists Paul Schaefer and John D. Rockefeller Jr. following World War II, a period in which they owned adjacent cabins at the eastern edge of the vast Siamese Ponds Wilderness.

Up Next: 'How Skiing Came to North Creek'

Oct 20 • Written By Dan Forbush

Here's what's about to happen at Gore Mountain, Adirondack Explorer tells us:

"A full service hiking center, scenic chairlift rides, and a vintage rail-dog sled centered around a new ski base lodge, designed to attract summer and shoulder season visitors."

We can't wait to see that. In the meantime, it's important in our effort to support heritage tourism to tell its compelling and easily accessible story. The whole story of how skiing in North Creek happened. That means going back to the 1880s when logging roads were carved into Gore's great forest. In the early 1920s, those crudes, weather roads became Gore's first ski trails.

We're looking for experts to tell us how:

- Those first logging roads were cut - for whom and by whom?
- GE scientists Irving Langmuir and Vincent Schaefer led the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club's search for suitable ski mountains;
- Bill Downing, the son of GE's "Boss of Magic" visited the crowd at the big "Slide Up, Slide Down" rally at the high school;
- packed the first snow hose from Schenectady on March 4, 1914;
- the legendary ski instructor Otto Schvebio became a legend.
- hope the effort was to build the "Big Lift" in 1946.

Stevie Goodspeed is our guide. He helped to establish the North Creek Depot Museum and bring the Adirondack Historical Society back to life. Today he hosts the 2nd annual Spring Snow there in 2020. James Clouston on July 4, 1984 when they celebrated since Schaefer's 78th birthday and installed his great work in Adirondack rock above the pulpit.

Stevie is holding us connect with North Creek's best storytellers so we can record, publish, and archive their oral histories. We have in development a book for the Warren County Historical Society, an ARCIS StoryApp. We'll call the GPS Tour we built the Gore Mountain Ski Club.

By this time next year, Gore's child of the 1880s lives to our benefit & the benefit of us & beyond the Adirondack Mountain Region.



FROM WILDERNESS
STORIES from Open Space

ABOUT | EXPLORE WARREN CO.

How Hackensack Mountain Got Its Name

Apr 24 • Written By John Sasso

Hackensack Mountain is a rocky hill overlooking the hamlet of Warrenburg that presents an easy hike of less than one mile to its summit, which provides a panoramic view of 2,297 feet, one can catch views of mountains such as Pine, Bald, The Three Sisters, Hedges, Baldhead, Moore, Number Nine, and Cones, accessed from two trailheads: one at the end of Hackensack Avenue, and the other off Prospect Street. For a trail map with mileages denoted on the trail see [Hackensack%20Hike%20to%20Warrenburg.pdf](#)

A History of the Name

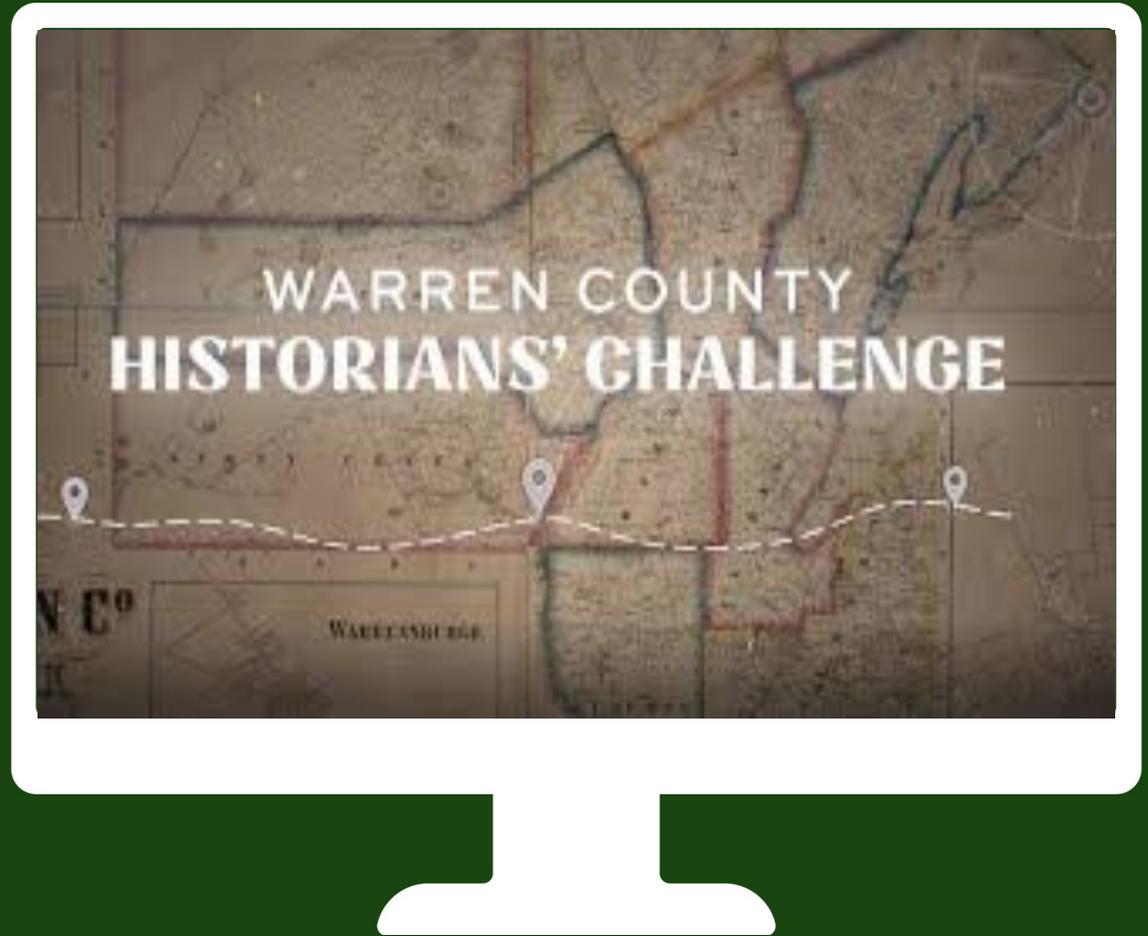
The origin of the name of the peak is a bit complicated and uncertain. According to the Warrenburg Town Historian, the name "Hackensack" is derived from two rivers come together: "William M. Beauchamp in his classic work, *Aboriginal Place Names of New York*, elaborates further:

"Hackensack, town in Bergen County, New Jersey. An Indian word, authorities differ as to its meaning, the many versions being 'hook mouth,' 'stream that runs into the 'hook mouth' version. J. Hammond Trumbull states in his 1870 work, *The Composition of Indian Geographical Names*, illustrated from the Algonquian:

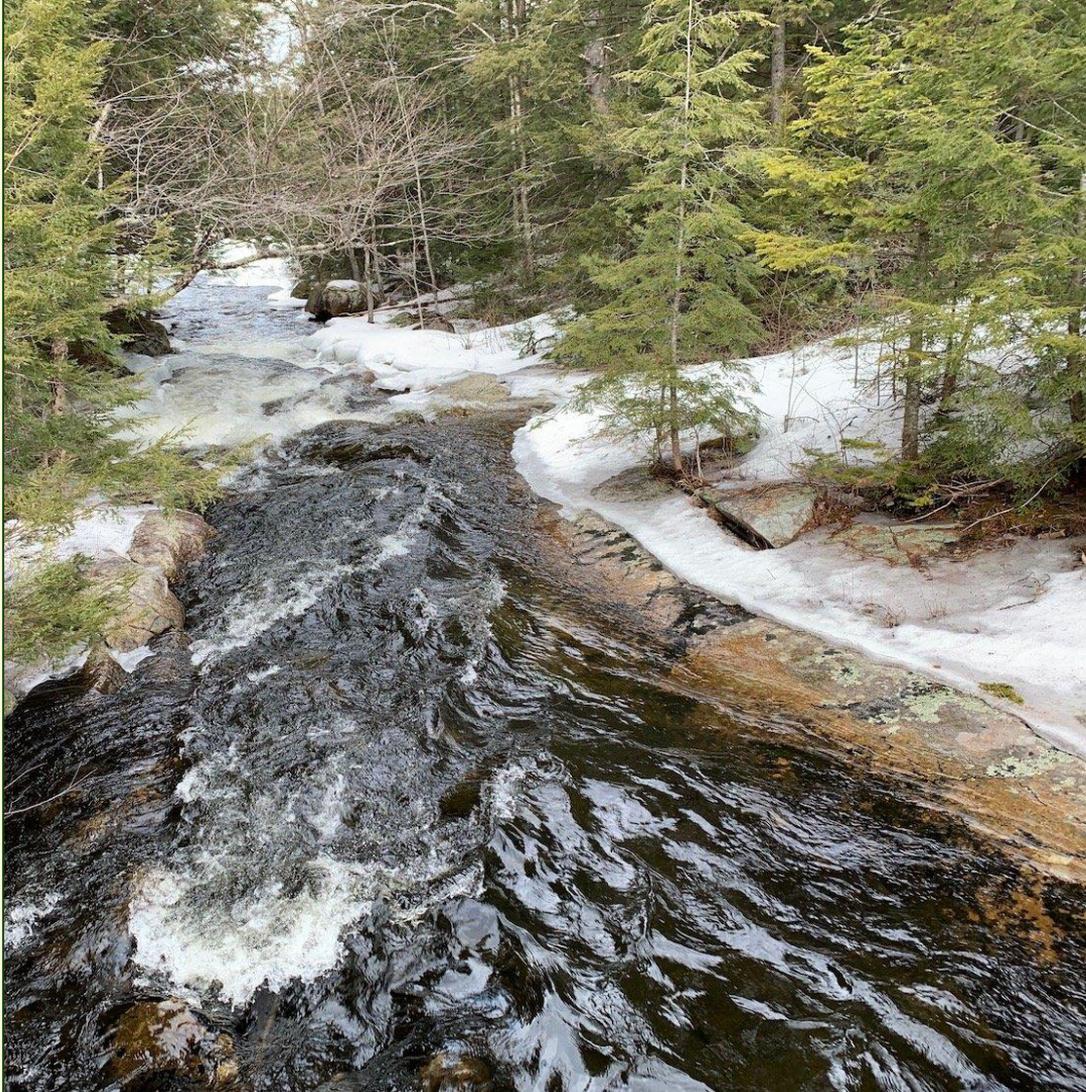
"Hackensack may have had its name from the hickuppenoak, 'hook mouth,' by which the waters of Newark Bay find their way, around Bergen Point, by the Narrows."

Finally, Joshua Jelly Schapiro in his book, *Names of New York*, says the name "Achichincheschakuy" is a Munsee term for a "stream which discharges itself in divisions of the Lenape Indians who once lived along the upper portion of the Delaware River and other regions of southern New York as well as New Jersey. Trumbull refers to the Hackensacks as a sub-tribe of the Lenape. The *Encyclopedia of New Jersey* indians provides some clarification, noting that the Hackensacks were a sub-tribe of the Lenape.

Researched,
produced
articles, and
filmed a video
for the
Historians'
Challenge
Letterboxing
Trail



Published 33
Trip Reports for
recreation and
historic
destinations in
the First
Wilderness



And in our first foray into spatial storytelling, published two ArcGIS StoryMaps, combining narrative with an interactive map



Warren County's Underground Railroad

URR in Brief Adk Routes Points of Interest Contributors

We honor the contributions and struggles of Black Americans, reflecting on the impacts of slavery and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Black people over centuries. We also salute those of all races who have fought for freedom and equal rights, working toward a society that respects fairness and justice for all citizens, regardless of color.



Old Log Cabin

Paul Scherer and his brother Vincent bought this cabin at the base of Eleventh Mountain in 1824 from James Matthews, "the bested partner of Eliza Winkley," as Paul described them in Adirondack Cables...



Eleventh Mountain

This is a massive ridge with five summits, so named because it's in the 11th Township of the west Totten and Crockett Purchase that colonial surveyors respectively UTI. The Scherer family settled on a slope of...



Diamond Mountain Meadow

"Three miles back in the woods from the cabin clearing, we hunters have known this is 1824: each fall for decades," wrote Paul Scherer. Their favorite site was the "sacred beaver meadow at the root of a boulder..."



Crane Mountain

One of the Adirondack's most distinctive peaks, Crane is popular with a perch and dozens of rocky outcrops that provide the best views in the region, a 360-degree panorama that encompasses the high...



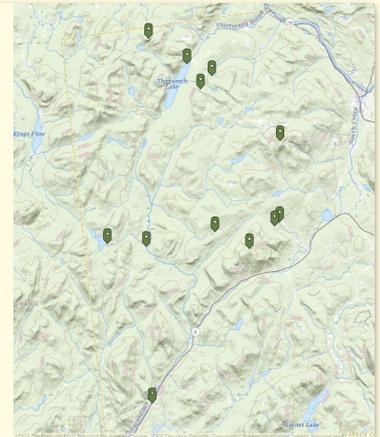
Balm of Gilead Mountain

Located on the east side of C30 Lake, across opposite Peaked Mountain, this short, family-friendly hike requires an elevation gain of just 432 feet but delivers extraordinary views of the Tappan Peak Wilderness, including...



Peaked Mountain

This 27-mile round-trip hike with 1,332 feet of elevation will take you into the above of C30 Lake, then turn sharply for a 500-foot ascent along Peaked Mountain Brook to Peaked Pond. You'll find there tw...





Explore
Warren
County

Thanks for joining our first for
into GPS-triggered spatial
storytelling. Our new app is
brought to you by the **First**
Wilderness Story Collaborat
and our student production te
We look forward to sharing gr
stories by local historians and
long-time Warren County, Ne
York residents as you enjoy o
beautiful landscape. Happy
touring.



Home



Tours

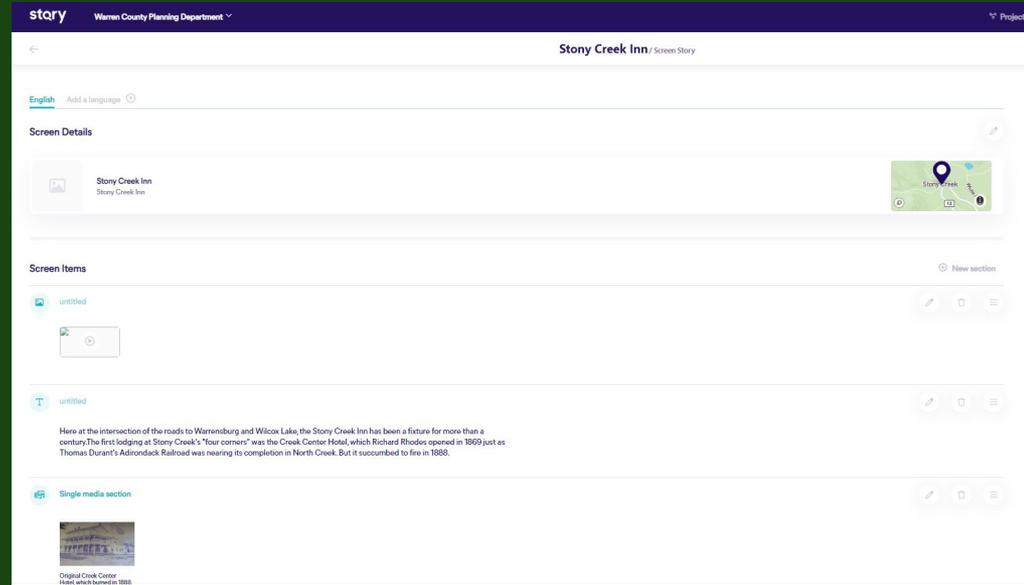


Rec

Next up:
we're delving
even more deeply
into spatial
storytelling with
the **STQRY**
platform

Here's a look at the backend.

We write and record audio narratives about a series of Points of Interest along a tour route. We can also include photos and link to additional content.



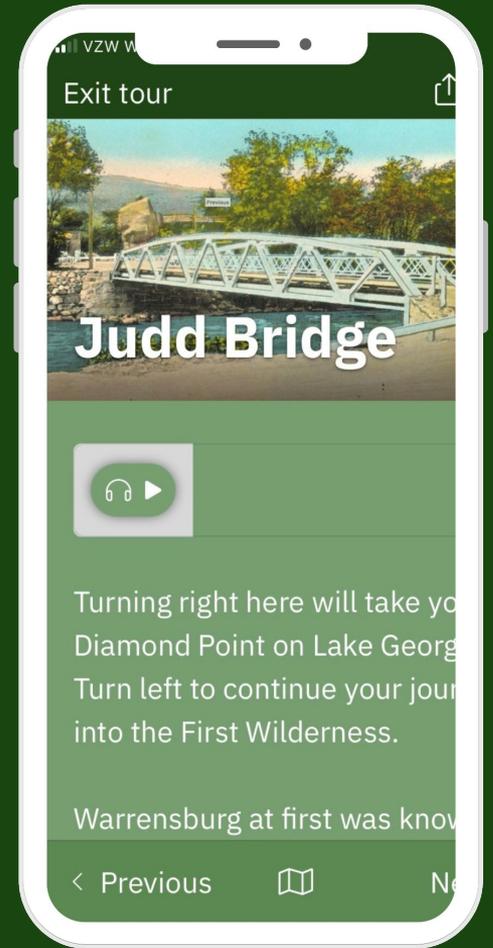
Next, we place GPS “fences” around the story of each point of interest we’re spotlighting...

The screenshot displays the Story Maps application interface for the Warren County Planning Department. The main title is "First Wilderness Audio Tour / tour". The interface includes a navigation menu on the left with 27 stops, each with a "Screen Story" link and edit/delete icons. The main map area shows a topographic map of the region with 27 numbered blue location pins (GPS fences) placed along a route. The map includes various controls such as "Mapbox Terrain Map", "Import routes", "Enable Get Directions link", and a search bar. The top navigation bar contains links for "Projects", "Content", "Analytics BETA", "Help", and "SF".

Stops (27)

- 1 Big Bend Screen Story
- 2 Adirondack Welcome Cent Screen Story
- 3 Glens Falls Screen Story
- 4 Queensbury Screen Story
- 5 Warren County Historical S Screen Story
- 6 Adirondack Park Screen Story
- 7 The Northway Screen Story

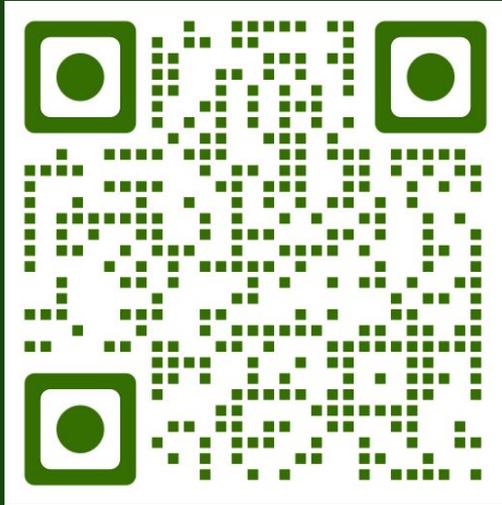
**...so that visitors to
Warren County can hear
the stories on our app.**



The STQRY platform can accommodate up to ten tours. Thus far, we've produced three:



Let's Explore the app



Install on an **Android** or **Apple** smartphone using **QR code** or

Search for ***Explore Warren County NY*** in the **App Store** or **Google Play Store**

< Today



Explore Warren County, NY

Travel

OPEN



AGE

4+

Years Old

CATEGORY



Travel

DEVELOPER



Cliff & Redfield

What's New [Version History](#)

Version 9.0.40

5d ago

- minor bug fixes and improvements

Preview



Today



Games



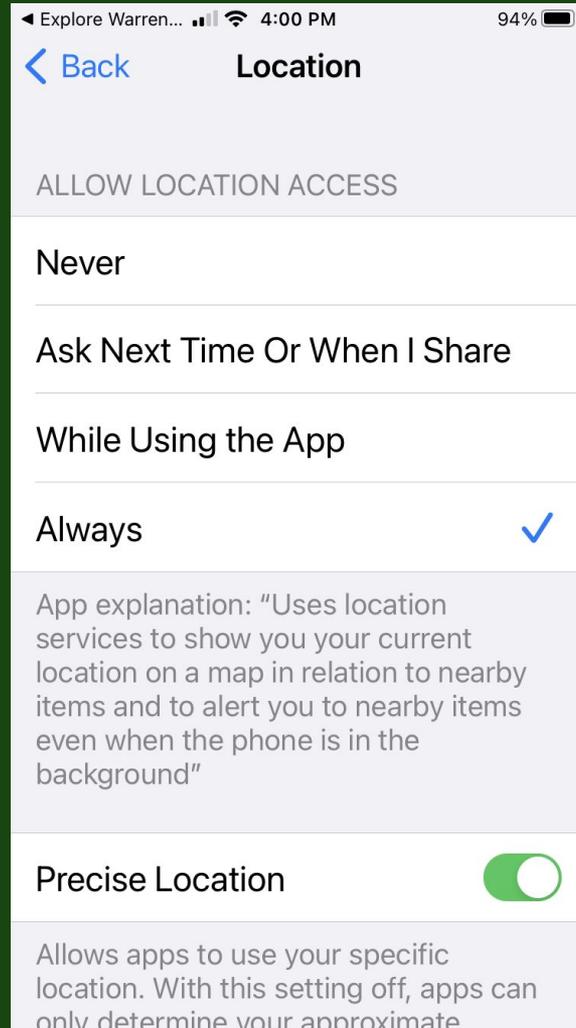
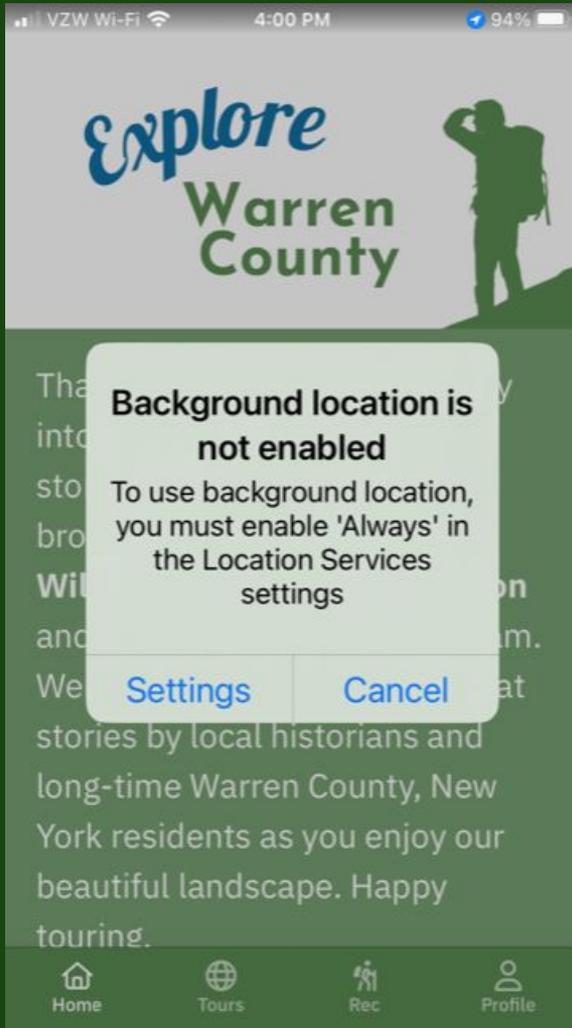
Apps

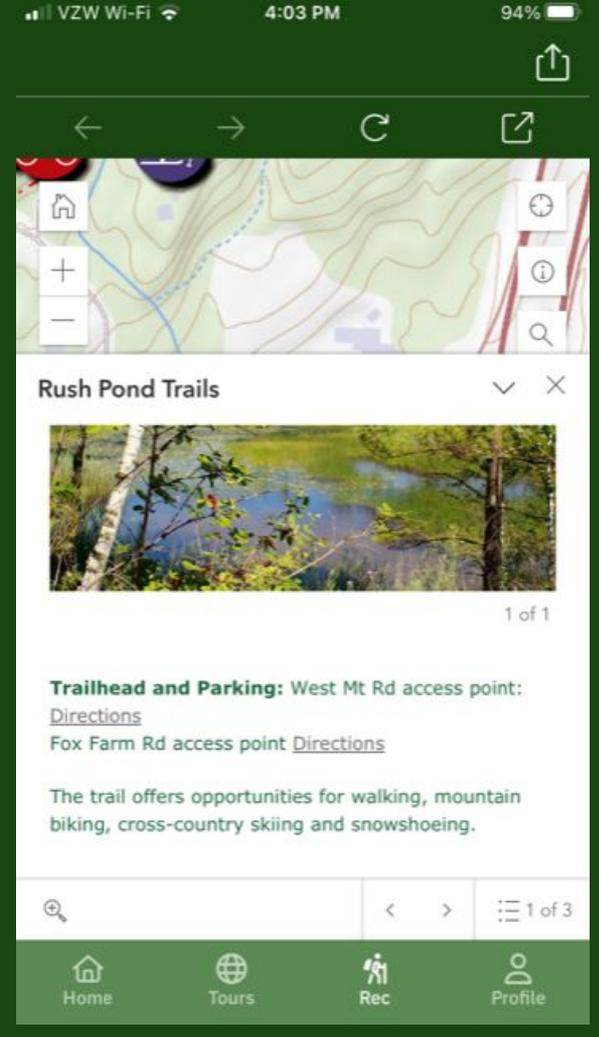
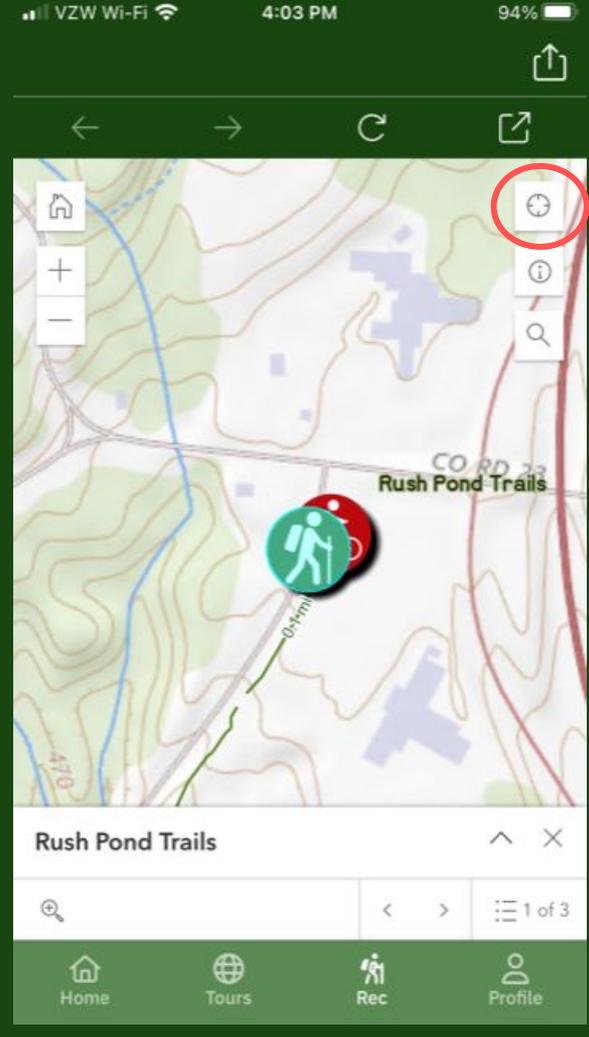
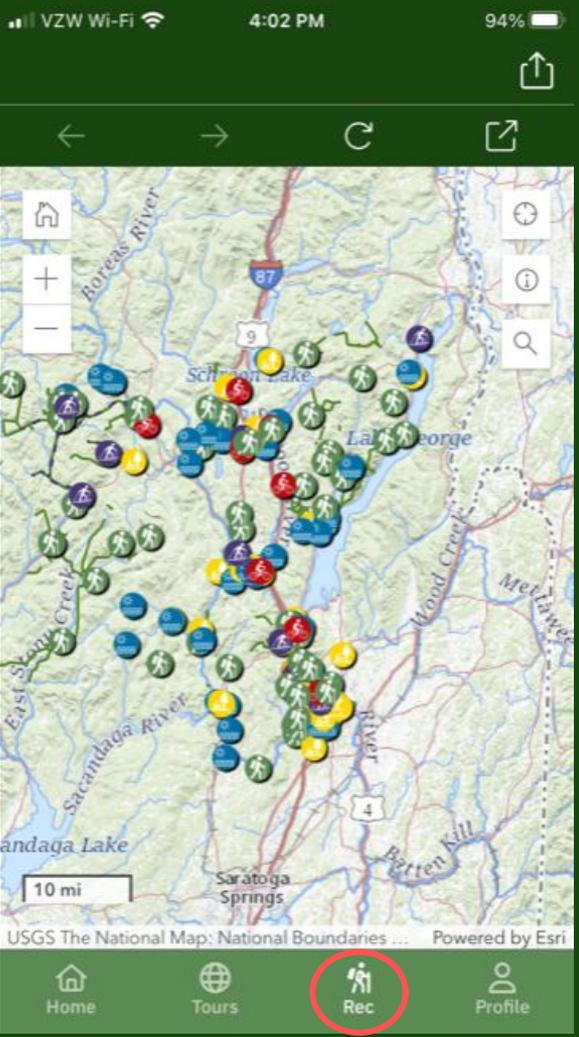


Arcade



Search







Tours

Click on a tour to start your audio journey through Warren County.



Home



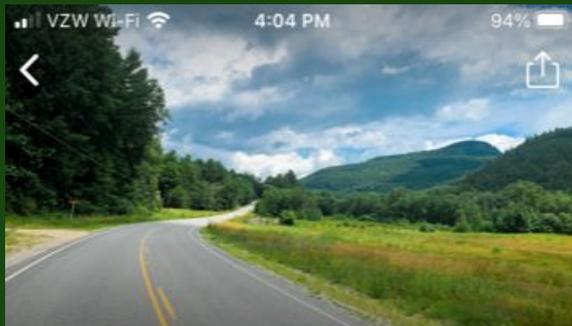
Tours



Rec



Profile



First Wilderness Audio Tour

27 Stops

We take you on the Central Adirondack Trail of the New York Scenic Adirondack Byway from Rio Bend on the Northway to

Update available. [Download](#)

Start Tour



Home



Tours



Rec



Profile

Exit tour



Big Bend



GPS satellites triangulating your location have informed us that you're on the Northway heading toward Warren County. That's great. Welcome. We'll be your guide through the First



Next >

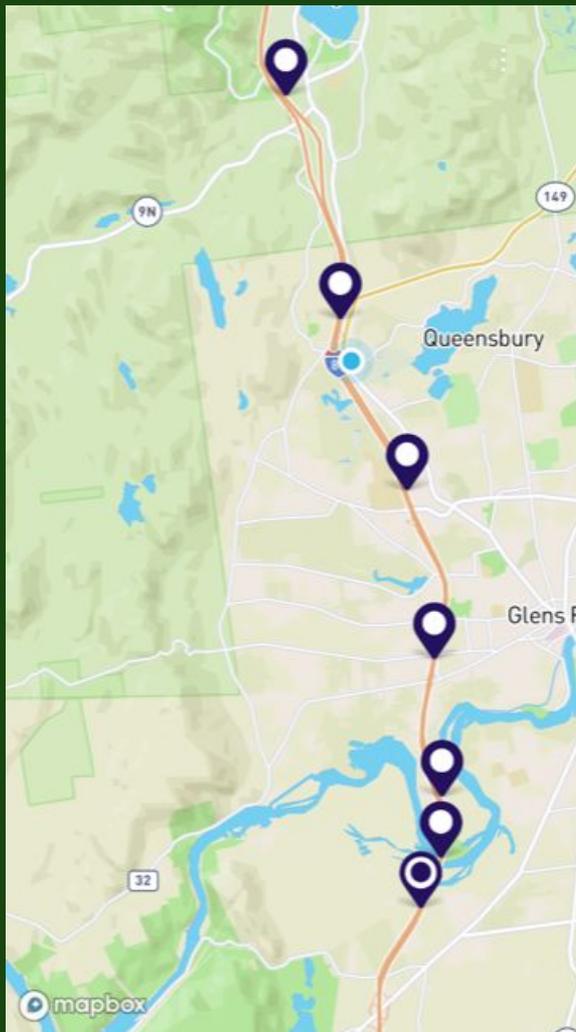
Exit tour



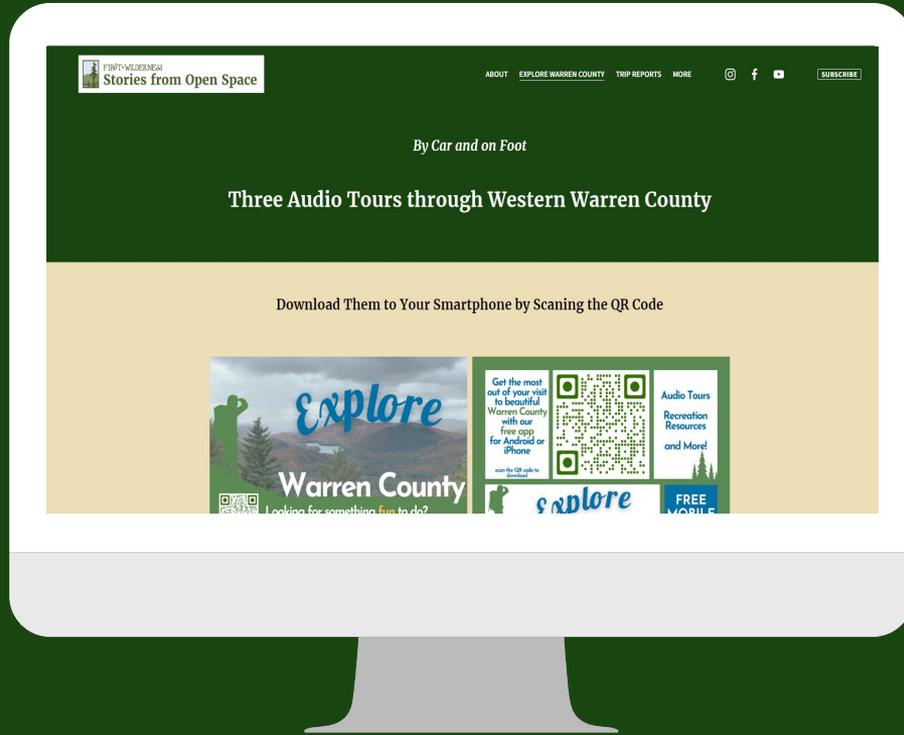
GPS satellites triangulating your location have informed us that you're on the Northway heading toward Warren County. That's great. Welcome. We'll be your guide through the First



Next >



Link to more information



StoriesFromOpenSpace.org

Two more tours are in development for release later this year:



Walking Tour of Lake Luzerne



Dude Ranch Trail Driving Tour

try out Explore Warren County!

