

LAKE GEORGE MIRROR.

June 9, 2023

The Lake George Mirror

Battlefield Park Alliance Awarded Grant to Hire First Employee

By Mirror Staff

The Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance, a volunteer organization, has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from a non-profit state advocate to hire its first full-time staff member.

The \$50,000 grant, to be matched by an additional \$10,000 from donations to the Lake George Battlefield Alliance, will be distributed over the course of two years and subsidize the salary of a Member Services Manager, who will promote Battlefield Park through marketing and fundraising as well as through the ongoing operations of its Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center.

According to Jonathan Duda, Parks & Trails New York's Grants Coordinator, this is the fourth grant the advocacy group has awarded the Lake George Battlefield Alliance.

Last year, the Alliance received a \$7,500 grant from Parks & Trails New York to retain a contractual employee to coordinate activities at the new Visitor Center. In 2021, it was awarded \$2,040 to produce a rack card promoting the Visitor Center and to refurbish a self-guided tour of historic sites in Battlefield Park. A \$3,528 grant in 2020 helped underwrite the replacement of historical markers in Battlefield Park.

"We're very happy to be able to work with the Battlefield Alliance," said Duda.

According to Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance President John DiNuzzo, the organization has

relied entirely upon volunteers since it was founded more than twenty years ago.

The 2023 Parks & Trails New York grant "will permit the Alliance's volunteers to continue to focus on historic preservation and public awareness with our Visitor Center as the hub, while a paid professional coordinates marketing and revenue-generating activities that align with our goals," DiNuzzo said.

DiNuzzo thanked Parks & Trails New York for its "creativity" in supporting non-profit friends groups.

The Partnership Grant to the Lake George Battlefield Alliance was one of several awarded to friends' groups in the state's Capitol District and North Country Regions.

Funds awarded include: \$36,000 to the Friends of Grant Cottage in Wilton and \$150,000 to John Brown Lives! a friends group affiliated with the John Brown Farm State Historic Site in North Elba.

Parks & Trails Partnership Grants program, which are financed by the state's Environmental Protection Fund, support a wide array of state park-related initiatives, from fund raising for capital projects and maintaining and improving landscapes to providing educational programs and encouraging the use of the parks through special events.

"The work of partners such as the Friends groups and not-for-profit organizations is critical to enhance DEC's environmental education and programming and advance



Lake George Battlefield Alliance president John DiNuzzo and trustees Russell Bellico and Bruce Venter, at the Battlefield's Visitor Center, which the Alliance manages.

conservation and access projects to State lands," said Basil Seggos, Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

The Lake George Battlefield Alliance's Visitor Center reopened May 26 and will be open Friday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. After July 4, the Visitor Center will be open five days a week.

The Visitor Center's exhibits

include a wide array of artifacts uncovered by archaeological digs in the Park, on loan from the New York State Museum.

According to John DiNuzzo, the Visitor Center also features specially created models that illustrate the sloops, bateaux and radeaux that were rowed or sailed by British and American soldiers here, as well as the forts themselves.