

As the Canals Reopen, Discover Something New!

by **Pete Bardunias**, Senior Vice President, Community Advancement, Capital Region Chamber

The New York State Canal System is slowly emerging from its Coronavirus-induced extended slumber, and the Locks are starting to reopen to boat traffic once again. This is great news to the many boaters who have planned to use the waterway, whether for a long weekend or, in the case of our friends on America's Great Loop, as a thoroughfare to inland US or Canadian waters.

The Canal System was in the midst of a rather intensive maintenance project on several of its Locks, and that is having an impact on the reopening schedule. Erie Canal Locks 2-6 and Champlain Canal Locks 1-11 are open, but you can't get all the way through the canal. Lock E-7 and Lock C-12 will not be ready until late July/early August, so please plan accordingly.

BUT, maybe it's time to enjoy the places you normally pass by on your canal cruise. There are great places to visit even without

being able to lock through! Have you been to Schuyler Yacht Basin lately? Big changes are underway, and owner Chip Lawrence says they are open with lots of space to spread out and socially distance while enjoying the great food and drink at Clark's Steakhouse. Nearby is the awesome new Bound by Fate Brewing Co. (www.boundbyfatebrewing.com) at 31 Ferry Street, the first brewery in Schuylerville history! You can enjoy the new Empire State Trail, Hudson Crossing Park, the great shops and restaurants in town, and even provision at Byron's Village Market. Schuylerville is a destination all in itself, and a great place for long distance voyagers to await the reopening of Lock C-12 before you head north later in the summer.

Further south on the Hudson, the Mechanicville docks will be ready to accommodate your overnight visit, as well as Lock One Marina and Shipyard. Many people bypass Lock One Marina in favor of nearby free accommodations. Perhaps now is the time to pay Larry Ascenzi for a transient slip, try something new, and get to meet the local inhabitants! We promise you that they are friendly.

On the Mohawk River, one can find similar accommodations at Blain's Bay Marina, the Crescent Boat Club, Schenectady Yacht Club and Mohawk Valley Marine. Bring the dink and bicycles and check out nearby sites such as the Schenectady stockade, Jumpin' Jacks, the Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway, the Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve, Historic Lock 19, and the trails along the river to Crescent.

Plan to come on up to the Canals and explore, even if it will be a bit different than usual for awhile!!! Please email pbardunias@capitalregionchamber.com if you need any additional help or advice!!!



Right top - A view of the bar area at the **Bound by Fate Brewing Company**, just steps away from the Schuyler Yacht Basin in downtown Schuylerville. The first brewery ever to locate in the village, Bound by Fate is right across the street from historic Revolutionary War sites and the Gateway Visitor Center (under construction).

Right bottom - **Bound by Fate Brewing Company** celebrated its grand opening right before the COVID-19 crisis hit. Owner Pam Pradachith-Demler (holding scissors) celebrated alongside Schuylerville Mayor Dan Carpenter, Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, the author, and representatives of the Capital Region Chamber, Schuylerville Small Business Association, and Schuylerville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Left - This picnic area in the Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve is accessible by dinghy on the west side of the Mohawk River between Locks E-6 and E-7. It is a carry-in, carry-out facility.

