



Trails through transitions

Saratoga P.L.A.N.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



JULIA S. STOKES



Chairperson's Message

2008 was the year in which we refocused our mission. Two critical members of our staff accepted new positions and we used that opportunity to re-examine our “Strategic Plan” and determine skills for new staff. It was immediately clear that Saratoga PLAN needs to set an example of good stewardship for our 3,000+ acres in fee and easement. We are responsible for managing our lands to protect the resources and encourage public access where appropriate. We also accept the responsibility to manage them in perpetuity. This requires staff skills and a robust Stewardship Endowment to demonstrate not only to our donors but also to the federal government that we take these responsibilities seriously.

Maria Trabka and Andy Fyfe, our Executive Director and Stewardship and Outreach Coordinator respectively, joined Saratoga PLAN in October. Their skills are already evident in numerous stewardship, land protection, education, and community planning projects and initiatives throughout the county.

We continued in 2008 to take our dual mission of smart growth planning and land protection seriously. We completed the American Battlefield Protection Plan for the Revolutionary War sites and the views to and from the battles, siege and surrender at Saratoga in 1777. We commented on numerous development proposals and crafted our first “Conservation Subdivision” in the City of Saratoga Springs, working out a site plan that has a significant conservation component with the developers and the Planning Board. Our trails initiative has been successful in numerous locations and especially our new working relationship with NYSDOT to assure that road projects support trails rather than restrict them. We completed three important land acquisitions and advanced the development of trails and site clean-up at the Galway Nature Preserve.

2009 will be an important year for all of us to sustain PLAN. As Global Foundries puts their first shovel in the ground and grant funding supporting farmland and open space preservation is seriously diminished – PLAN’s role is increasingly important. We not only work to protect lands but *more importantly we work with communities to help them define what they want their landscapes to look like in 20 years* and help them realize their vision. We appreciate your continued support.

Land Conservation
Accomplishments

Round Lake I

In February, 2008, Saratoga P.L.A.N. completed our most complex land project through the acquisition of 92-acres on the eastern shore of Round Lake. The preserve includes 57-acres of wetlands, forests and fields purchased by Saratoga P.L.A.N. and 35-acres of lakefront purchased by the Town of Malta. The preserve protects critical habitat in the Round Lake/Anthony Kill watershed, especially important since it located less than one mile from the Luther Forest Technology Park. The acquisition was made possible thanks to commitments from the Town of Malta, Saratoga County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Fund, the New York State Environmental Protection Fund, and generous donations amounting to \$48,000 from individuals. Saratoga P.L.A.N. led the partnership to protect this land, which was purchased from the Sweeney Family.

Larmon Property

Saratoga P.L.A.N. partnered with David and Betty Larmon and the Fish Creek Rod and Gun Club to



acquire a conservation easement on the Larmon Property, consisting of 40 acres of forest and fields adjacent to Fish Creek. Saratoga P.L.A.N. purchased the easement from the Larmons who then sold the property to the Fish Creek Rod and Gun Club. Both the Larmons and the Fish Creek Rod and Gun Club were eager to see this property protected, and to ensure it could never be developed. The project protects important open space and habitat in the Fish Creek watershed and allows for the continuation of agricultural use of the land. It was supported by a grant from the Saratoga County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Fund and funds from the Fish Creek Rod and Gun Club.



Corbett Property

Saratoga P.L.A.N. protected a one-acre parcel in the Village of Victory along Fish Creek, considered of historical importance for its Revolutionary War fortification features. The parcel, purchased from Kathleen Corbett and Joan Davis, also includes 270 feet of creek frontage along Fish Creek. The property is in close proximity to the Fish Creek Trail, another project in progress, and will offer opportunities for trail access and interpretation of the creek’s natural and historic features. The project was made possible through a grant from the Saratoga County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Fund, as well as individual donations. PLAN supporter Barbara Faraone initiated a grassroots fundraising campaign to protect this property. Evidence of the American fortifications on the riverbank make this acquisition an extraordinary opportunity for historical interpretation as well as recreation.

Land Stewardship

Galway Preserve

We made significant progress on our site restoration and trail development at our Galway Nature Preserve in the Town of Galway thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the Dockstader Trust, which helped cover the cost for materials and demolition of the abandoned house on the property. We’ve made significant progress on the stewardship of the preserve, including a survey of the boundaries, trail clearing, and community outreach. On Earth Day employees from Saratoga Associates, a local planning and environmental firm, spent the day volunteering their time at the preserve to help clear trails and prepare for further trail construction. Hannah Philips, an intern from Skidmore College, completed a draft Galway Nature Preserve Management Plan. In June, several board members presented the Plan at a public meeting to gather feedback from the community.

Karner Blue Management Area–Ushers Road

Karner Blue Butterfly habitat restoration continued for a second year at the Usher’s Road Karner Blue Management Area. Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from Assemblyman Robert Reilly’s “Salary Fund”, we completed habitat restoration needed for the federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly, including removal of trees and shrubs to create more suitable open habitat for Blue Lupine to grow – the host plant upon which the butterfly larvae exclusively feed. The Town of Clifton Park highway crew donated their highway crew’s time again this year for the project, and Milton CAT Corp donated equipment for the tree removal. Volunteers from HSBC bank also spent a day assisting with shrub and tree clearing.



Blanding’s Turtle Study

SUNY Graduate student Andrea Chaloux completed her second year of field research on the state threatened Blanding’s turtle and its habitat in the towns of Wilton and Northumberland. Her research, funded in part by Saratoga P.L.A.N. and the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park, gathered important data on the population, distribution and habitat use of the turtle. The Blanding’s turtle was only recently (2003) discovered in Saratoga County. Ms. Chaloux’s research will be useful in identifying conservation priorities and providing planning criteria to local municipalities to use as a guide in proposed developments and land conservation.

Trail Corridors

Saratoga P.L.A.N. contributed to a grant application to provide matching and additional funding for the Old Champlain Canal in Schuylerville. The segment is an important step in connecting Lock 5 Island with the Schuyler House and our own Fish Creek Trail. We convene a countywide trails committee which works on extending the Zim Smith Trail north and south and other trails for hikers, bikers, horseback riders, snowmobilers, and other users.



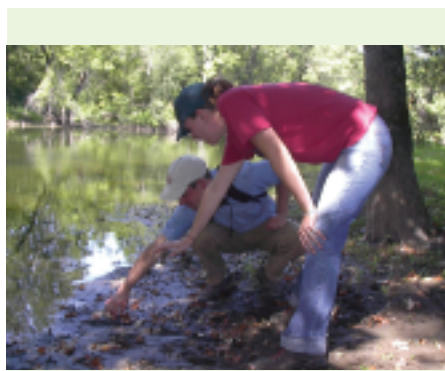
Community Planning

Smart community, inter-municipal and regional planning are evident throughout the County. Many Towns are undertaking the creation or revision of local planning documents. Saratoga P.L.A.N. is providing support to the Towns of Malta and Charlton as they create Farmland Protection Plans, the Town of Day as it revises its Comprehensive Plan, and the Village of Round Lake as it creates its first an Open Space Plan.



The fledgling New York State Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership, composed of 15 municipalities along the Hudson River, is using the preservation of the area’s resources to capitalize on its assets and boost the local tourism economy. The Partnership protected Burgoyne’s Sword Surrender Site and is offering grants for other projects near Revolutionary War sites.

Saratoga P.L.A.N.’s Battles of Saratoga Preservation and Viewshed Protection Plan continues to draw attention and garner support. Through the generous support of the Bender Family Foundation and the Saratoga National Historical Park, we have been able to print copies of the plan and town-specific maps in order to formally present the Plan to governing bodies and community groups in each of the communities on both sides of the river included in the study.



Educational Nature Walks

The 2008 Nature Walk Series continued our tradition of offering interpretive nature walks to some of the special places we’ve protected in Saratoga County. The walks, which were free and open to the public and featured opportunities to explore the flora and fauna at 14 Saratoga P.L.A.N. nature preserves.

Celebration of Conservation

The 2008 Annual Celebration for Conservation was held on a warm summer evening in July at the newly remodeled Saratoga National Golf Club’s outdoor veranda which overlooks the golf course and forests and wetlands buffering Lake Lonely that are protected by a conservation easement. Attendees enjoyed an abundance of tantalizing hors d’oeuvres prepared by the Prime at Saratoga’s talented chefs. As in past years, we recognized numerous community leaders for their commitment and generosity toward preserving open space, cultural and natural resources in the Saratoga Region. Conservation heroes in 2008 honored included:



Assemblymen Steve Englebright, Roy McDonald and John J. McEneny for their vision and leadership in forming the New York State Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership, a new initiative to preserve the sites and landscapes associated with the Battles of Saratoga;

Town of Malta for their commitment and partnership with Saratoga P.L.A.N. to protect the Round Lake Preserve;

Robert Lippman, Esq., and the **Saratoga Sport and Social Club** for their leadership in organizing the first Winter Festival: A Celebration for Preservation, to benefit the Round Lake Preserve;

Kevin and Kathleen Bette for their generous contribution toward protection of the Round Lake Preserve; and,

John W. Lucarelli & Sons, Inc. for their donation of services for site improvements at the Galway Nature Preserve.



Winter Festival: A Celebration for Preservation

The Saratoga Sport and Social Club (SSSC) organized a phenomenal Winter Festival event in March 2008 to benefit Saratoga P.L.A.N.’s new Round Lake Preserve. This first time event, held at the Spa State Park Warming Hut, was a huge success with over 300 people in attendance and \$3,000 raised. A special thanks to the SSSC members and outdoor enthusiasts for their commitment and dedication to help protect one Saratoga County’s special places.



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George and Leona Sweeney
David and Betty Larmon
Kathleen Corbett and
Joan Davis

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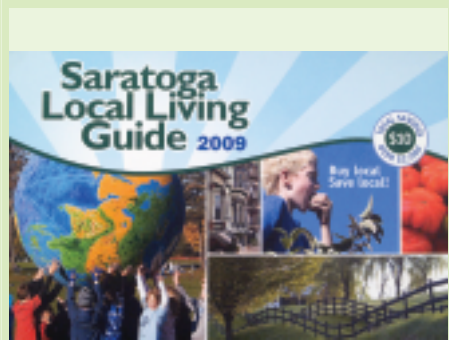
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Feast of Fields

The 2008 Feast of the Fields, held this year at Saratoga National Golf Club on Thursday, September 18th, was a huge success, with over 250 people in attendance and over \$25,000 raised to support our land trust, planning and education activities. The event featured 15 local and regional chefs paired with over 30 farmers who provided all of the meat, cheeses and produce for the event. Attendees roamed the grand ballroom sampling the specialty items at each chef station. Our thanks to the corporate sponsors, honorary members, and everyone who attended and helped plan the event. A special thank you to our Sponsors and participating Chefs and Farmers for creating a fun and delicious way to support conservation and local farms and foods.



Local Living Guide

This year Saratoga P.L.A.N. had the fortune to partner with the Saratoga Local Living Guide – a new initiative to support the local economy through the development and sale of a coupon book featuring Saratoga businesses. The book celebrates our diverse, unique, homegrown, community-based businesses. It offers residents a special opportunity to “live local” by supporting the local businesses featured in the book. In addition to being listed in the book, a Saratoga P.L.A.N. also received a portion of the proceeds from the sale of each book – as a way to continue to give back to the local community.

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Serendipity Farms & Country Store
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The Garden of Spices
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Contact us.

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Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
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Summarized Information from the 2008Financial Statement

Income

Grants - Programs	\$177,035
Grants - Acquisition of Lands and Easements	\$634,999
Contributions	\$118,380
Events (net)	\$28,149
Contract Services	\$31,333
Net Investment Income (loss)	(\$67,932)
Total Income	\$921,964

Saratoga P.L.A.N. is funded in part with public funds from the NYS Council on the Arts, a state agency, and the NYS Conservation Partnership Program. Complete audited financial statements for 2008 are available from the NYS Dept. of Law Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271 or from Saratoga P.L.A.N., 112 Spring St., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Expenses

Programs (Land Protection, Land Stewardship, Community Planning, Education)	\$217,601
Acquisition of Land and Easements	\$634,999
Management and General	\$51,352
Fundraising	\$23,377
Total Expenses	\$927,329



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