

Local Farms to be Conserved

Congratulations to the Town of Saratoga and Saratoga County for purchasing the development rights on 58 acres of the Galcik Farm on Fish Creek and for receiving a \$2M award from the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets to purchase the development rights on the Hoogveen Farm, 404 acres of fertile, scenic, productive farmland. P.L.A.N., meanwhile, is making progress on purchasing the development rights on 94 acres of farmland adjacent to the Round Lake property on Route 67 that we protected last year. The towns of Charlton and Malta are putting the finishing touches on plans to secure agricultural futures for their towns, too. Saratoga P.L.A.N. will help the towns implement their plans by consulting with landowners and providing technical assistance for farmland protection projects.

Winter Fun

Chunky globs of wet snow made for great sculptures and race conditions at the Winter Festival held at Saratoga Spa State Park. Many thanks to the Saratoga Sport and Social Club for hosting this event which raised funds for the Manning Cove Preserve this year.



Manning Cove on Saratoga Lake

Twenty-eight brave souls walked on water in February to view this new 159-acre preserve. Located on the west side of Saratoga Lake just north of the Sailing Club, this wetland site is best toured in winter by snowshoe when the ground is frozen or in summer by boat. Home to muskrats, migratory waterfowl, wild rose, speckled alder, and sedges, this wonderful wild place helps filter sediments and pollutants from the incoming watershed before they reach the lake. The Winter Festival, lake neighbors, and other supporters have contributed \$9,000 for ongoing stewardship of this site; we're still \$41,000 short of our goal. Please help conserve this special place by making a contribution.



Manning Cove, February, 2009.

Wish List

Volunteers – illustration, photography, graphic design, writing, data entry, mailings, library organization, GIS, field trip leaders with botanical or wildlife expertise

Site Stewards – Since we announced our “Site Steward” program in the last newsletter we have placed stewards (or groups of stewards) on 7 priority properties. These stewards are responsible for monitoring the trails at least once a month. We still need Site Stewards in Clifton Park, Providence and Round Lake.

Office Furniture – desk and chair, small conference table and chairs, 2 file cabinets (legal 4-drawer lateral)

News from the Field

SPRING 2009

Saratoga P.L.A.N. 112 Spring Street, Room 202 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-587-5554 www.saratogaplan.org



Steve Salzman, Volunteer Extraordinaire

A licensed real estate professional, property manager, and arts supporter, Ballston resident Steve Salzman's true passion centers on the outdoors: hiking, fishing, and building trails. Steve recently found an avenue for this passion when he volunteered for Saratoga P.L.A.N. as a member of Leadership Saratoga, a Chamber of Commerce program for professionals who wish to give back to their community. Steve and six of his colleagues adopted P.L.A.N.'s Galway property as their project, and turned the overgrown property into a public preserve, marking and cutting three miles of trails, renovating an old garage into an educational building, installing interpretive signs, conducting outreach to local community and school groups, and holding educational events.



Steve Salzman, far left, with the Leadership Saratoga Team at Galway Preserve after a long work day.

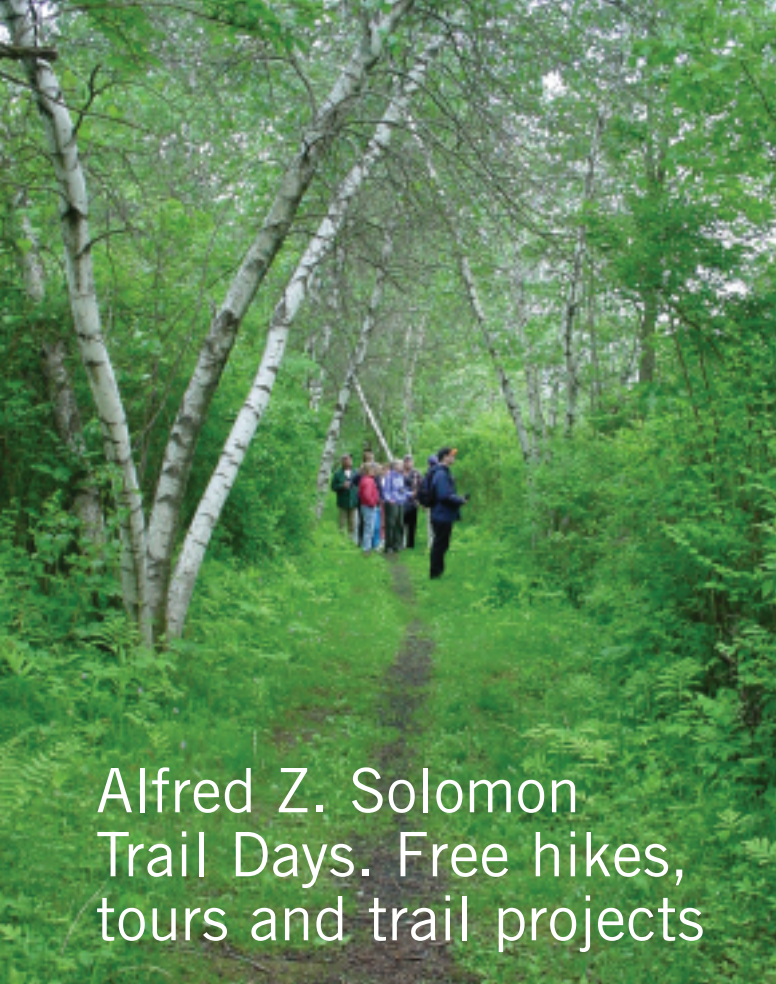
Steve explains, “I support Saratoga P.L.A.N.'s land conservation efforts, and I'll do whatever I can to help them in their mission. Plus, it gives me a chance to get outdoors, and often with a chainsaw in hand!” Steve has volunteered for ongoing duties as a Site Steward. “Site Stewards act as the eyes and ears on P.L.A.N.'s public preserves,” said Andy Fyfe, our Stewardship and Education Coordinator.

“They solve problems, communicate with neighbors, clean up, maintain trails, and report problems. We depend on community volunteers like Steve Salzman to help manage over 3,115 acres of public preserves, trails and open space. We simply couldn't do it without these volunteers, and we thank Steve for his dedication.”

Marshall DesRoches of Galway willed the Galway Preserve to Saratoga P.L.A.N. in 2005, stipulating that the land remain forever wild and open to the public for passive recreation and environmental education. We hope that Mr. DesRoches would be proud of what Saratoga P.L.A.N. and volunteers like Steve Salzman accomplished at the Preserve.

Ribbon Cutting and Nature Walk at Galway

On Tuesday, July 28th at 10am, Saratoga P.L.A.N. will officially open the Galway Preserve to the general public. We will have a short ceremony, and then proceed on a leisurely, family-friendly nature walk around the recently completed trail system to learn about significant ecological communities and species. The 49-acre property now boasts 2 miles of marked trails meandering past ponds, and through conifer plantation and open field. We recommend it as a great place to study botany and tree identification, take a walk with your canine friends (on leash please), and cross country ski.



Alfred Z. Solomon Trail Days. Free hikes, tours and trail projects

Saturday, July 18th Levine Preserve, Providence:	Saturday, September 12th Spruce Mtn., Corinth (NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE IN LOCATION):	Saturday, September 26th Carver Farm, Greenfield:
Conduct a biological survey on this beautiful 176-acre property. We will be compiling ecological information, identifying and aging tree species, surveying plant species, and looking for mammal tracks and trails. We will be using map and compass skills and posting boundary signage.	Hike to the summit of Spruce Mtn., and see the tallest fire tower in the Adirondacks. The 2.5 mile round-trip ascends 100 feet through both deciduous and conifer forest, as well as some areas recovering from logging covered in ferns. We will post trail markers along the way and stop for lunch at the summit.	Tour this unique farm, on which Saratoga P.L.A.N. holds an easement. Caretaker Mike Spiak will show us his wine grape vineyard and provide some farm history. We will then help with installing fencing, pruning grapevines, and working on some wonderful new trails.

Registration is required for all programs!
Call **587-5554 ext 4**

A Delicious Way to Support Saratoga P.L.A.N.

July 15th, 6 – 8:30pm

Please join us at the **Summer Feast for Conservation** to toast our local conservation heroes, taste the fresh bounty of our farms in dishes prepared by five inspired chefs, and celebrate our conservation successes. This year, due to economic strains, we’ve combined the best of our Celebration for Conservation with Feast of the Fields to create a fun, delicious, and affordable way to continue our annual traditions of great food, company and quality auction items. Saratoga National Golf Club is offering a golf special that day, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting P.L.A.N. Tickets for the Summer Feast are \$50. Don’t miss it!



New Trail Connector for Bog Meadow Trail

We are building a new trail linking the Meadowbrook Manor neighborhood to the existing Bog Meadow Nature Trail. This new trail, on land donated to P.L.A.N. by the developers of the neighborhood, traverses through a hardwood forest, descends a gradually slopping bank of Hemlock groves, and then crosses a flat, low-lying wetland area, before connecting with the existing trail. Neighbors launched a fundraising effort and have raised \$2,500 of the \$3,000 needed for materials for crossing wet areas. A big thank you to all contributors and volunteers and a special thanks to Geoff Bornemann who is leading this project.



Saratoga P.L.A.N. (Preserving Land and Nature) is a not-for-profit land conservation organization that protects open spaces and special places throughout Saratoga County for present and future generations. Services include land protection, stewardship, community planning, and education. To date, Saratoga P.L.A.N. has protected 3,115 acres and over 50 miles of trails.



Ushers Road Restoration

Saratoga P.L.A.N. and its volunteers have restored over an acre of habitat for the Karner Blue Butterfly, a state and federal endangered species. The restoration project, in Clifton Park just off of Ushers Rd., includes a long history of collaboration between Saratoga P.L.A.N., Assemblyman Robert Reilly, the Town of Clifton Park, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and several local volunteer groups. Last winter, the Clifton Park highway department braved snow, wind, and ice storms to clear vegetation, opening the site to full sunlight, and making it possible for volunteers to plant Wild Blue Lupine (the Karner Blue caterpillar’s only food). The sandy site now includes hundreds of lupine plants, with another 3 pounds of lupine seeds planted in the past weeks.

Revolutionary War Site Protected

Land where the American fighters held off the British troops until they surrendered after the Battle of Saratoga has been purchased through a bargain sale from Kathleen Corbett and Joan Davis. Small in size but abundant in partnerships and potential, this one-acre project was made possible by the owners, who made a sizable donation by selling it at less than fair market value, Saratoga County, the Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership, and volunteer Barbara Faraone who solicited donations through a grassroots effort. Conservation organizations don’t usually protect such small parcels of land, but the history and location of this land compelled us to secure it. Located on the south side of Fish Creek in the Village of Victory, the site offers access to the creek, source material for interpretation of natural and cultural history, and a gateway to the Fish Creek Trail that we are developing just downstream with Brookfield Renewable Power. Our next step is to conduct an archeological survey on the site.

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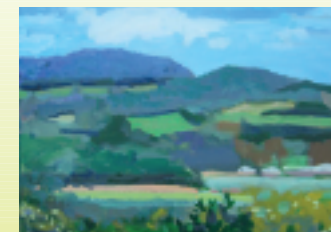
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Andy Fyfe, Stewardship and Education Coordinator
Diane Metz, Community Planner
Debbi Hess, Office and Finance Manager

American Battlefield Protection Plan

Due to the generous support of the Bender Family Foundation and the Saratoga National Historical Park, we have been able to print the **Battles of Saratoga Preservation and Viewshed Protection Plan** and related maps for each of the seven municipalities with historic sites and landscapes featured in the plan. Saratoga P.L.A.N.’s Community Planner Diane Metz is meeting with government officials, historians and interested parties in each municipality along the Hudson to present the plan and offer resources for implementing it.

The landscapes identified in the plan inspired 30 artists whose 60 paintings will be assembled for an art show, **Views from the Battlefield, Conserving Historic Lands** at the Saratoga Arts Center from August 1st – September 30th, and then in the Visitor



Center at Saratoga National Historic Park for the remainder of the year. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the artwork will benefit conservation of local landscapes.