



saratoga
PLAN

Preserving Land and Nature

Fall 2014

fieldnotes

Preserving the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of Saratoga County.



CONSERVING
FARMLAND



PROTECTING
WOODS + WATERS



BUILDING
TRAILS



Annual series explores the woods and waterways of Saratoga County, from the top of mountain peaks, to the depth of the rivers and creeks.

NEW OUTING SERIES: PEAKS TO CREEKS

ON AUGUST 2 & AUGUST 9, hikers and paddlers alike joined PLAN in celebrating Saratoga County's diverse landscape, from its peaks down to its creeks! The first Saturday was spent hiking Hadley Mountain, the top of which is one of the highest points in Saratoga County. The following week paddlers came

together for a smooth ride down the Hudson River between the Corinth and Spier Falls dams.

Peaks to Creeks will be an annual recreation series; we hope that you can join us next year as we further explore Saratoga County's mountains and valleys.



NEW ON-LINE MATCHING SERVICE FOR FARMLAND

Hudson Valley Farmland Finder

SARATOGA PLAN IS PARTICIPATING IN A NEW PARTNERSHIP OF

15 farmland organizations called the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network coordinated by the American Farmland Trust. Saratoga PLAN will be able to offer additional services and resources to landowners and farmers as a member of



Farmlink, expanding beyond what it could do on its own. Over the past few months, the Network has joined forces to create a series of workshops on leasing farmland and estate planning throughout the Hudson Valley. An exciting new online tool just launched helps landowners looking for farmers to buy or lease their land, or farmers seeking access to land, to list their needs and profiles and find one another. Inquiries are screened by the local land trust covering that region to make sure inquiries are legitimate and then we will facilitate appropriate matches. The network partners can also assist landowners and farmers with offering other technical assistance support and resources for developing well-structured agreements, as needed. To create a listing for available or desired farmland, visit: hudsonvalleyfarmlandfinder.org.

“The Hudson Valley Farmland Finder website is a great new resource for farmers and landowners in the Hudson Valley. The new website connects farmers and landowners and makes it easy to learn about upcoming, regional events and resources focused on farming and farmland access, farm transfers and farmland conservation.”

Tim Biello, *New York Field Representative, American Farmland Trust*

INTERNSHIPS THAT MATTER

Experiences of PLAN's former interns

“I had a great experience working with great people. I learned a lot and would recommend interning or working with Saratoga PLAN to anyone interested in environmental or agricultural land conservation.”

Daniel Dunn, *MPA Candidate 2015 Cornell University*

“Working with PLAN has been a truly rewarding experience. Not only have I had the chance to improve my GIS Skills and learn some of the fundamental aspects of conserving and managing land; but I also had the opportunity to explore some of the beautiful ecosystems located within Saratoga County and network with some of the most ambitious community members who volunteer their valuable time to take great care of these wild places. PLAN is truly a remarkable organization, and the friends and fond memories I have made there will surely be missed.”

Greg Redling, *Clarence Petty Intern at the Adirondack Council*

“I am honored to have been a part of Saratoga PLAN's small but powerful team this past summer. Working with PLAN has contributed immensely to my sense of place in the Adirondack foothills that make up Saratoga County, a truly special place.”

Olivia McKee, *BS Candidate Skidmore College*



PLAN intern, Greg Redling, and Christopher Kuzmich sharing an enthusiastic high-five at the Galway Preserve.

If you're interested in interning with PLAN, contact us today.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

OVER THE SUMMER, PLAN conducted an Agricultural Outreach Survey with the hope of finding better methods to provide services and information to the agricultural community of Saratoga County. Cornell graduate student Daniel Dunn conducted the survey. The survey focused on motivations for participating in conservation as well as beneficial methods of communication with farmers and agricultural land owners. Some results from the survey suggest agricultural land owners would be most motivated to conserve farmland as a means of either conserving the land for future generations or for reasons pertaining to family heritage. This is interesting because the majority of respondents also indicated they or their families have owned their land for 30 or more years. In answering the questions pertaining to communications mechanisms, respondents indicated they would like to see more public awareness efforts and more direct contact with the agricultural community. Specifically, respondents suggest there are a number of direct contact avenues, such as emails and newsletters that would cater to them personally, but the overarching theme was specific contact directed toward the farmers and agricultural land owners.

We would like to extend thanks to everyone who participated in the survey this summer, it is greatly appreciated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEE SARATOGAPLAN.ORG FOR DETAILS

October 18 Photography workshop with Linda Eastman at the Ballston Creek Preserve

October 21 Restaurant Night at the Crown Grill in Saratoga

October 25 Pumpkin Carving and Halloween Trail Walk at the Coldbrook Preserve

November Give a Gift for Conservation at Healthy Living Market (all month)

Winter outings TBA Snowshoeing, skiing and ice fishing will be offered during the snowy months. Stay tuned to stay active this winter season.

FEAST OF THE FIELDS



By the numbers

4 Conservation Heroes **5** Musicians
8 Culinary Students **10** Chefs **27** Business Partners
43 Farmers & Local Producers **45** Volunteers
73 Auction & Raffle Donors **79** Ingredients
113 Honorary Committee Members **476** Guests

And \$63,000 raised for farms, woods, waters, and trails in Saratoga County. Thank You!



Steve Whitesell accepted a Conservation Hero award on behalf of John Wolfe, honoree for the Patricia S. Whitesell Conservation Easement in Galway.

Artist, Chrissy Colley, decorated the Conservation Hero Birdhouse presented by outgoing Board Chair, Katie Petronis.



A huge thank you to all of our dedicated supporters and volunteers. Lasting conservation work requires considerable money and time, and without you, none of this is possible.

Volunteer educator, J'Mae Shemroske, invited children to use their imaginations to create fairy houses at the Orra Phelps Preserve.



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Saratoga PLAN is a nonprofit land trust that helps communities make long-term decisions to sustain our region as a great place to live, work, visit, and farm.

PLAN assists landowners with fulfilling their conservation goals for their land and provides stewardship for over 3,600 acres of farmland, forest, natural habitat, trail corridors, historic places, and water resources in Saratoga County.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT WWW.SARATOGAPLAN.ORG
OR CALL 518-587-5554



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