



spring 2014

**maria  
trabka,  
executive  
director:**

“Volunteers are the heart and soul of Saratoga PLAN. They set the course and make things happen! I feel honored and uplifted every day to have the opportunity to enable a talented pool of dedicated souls in their efforts to conserve the landscape of Saratoga County. Having a small

staff  
of 4  
providing  
the support  
for a large force  
of over 250 kindred  
spirits makes PLAN a  
truly strong, resilient and effective  
community organization.”

**trisha foster, operations**

**director:** “Saratoga PLAN has been fortunate to have exceptional and enthusiastic interns. Student internships offer a structured work experience for students to explore conservation career aspirations, and to gain valuable skills that can parlay into future employment. The energy,

talents and fresh perspective offered by student interns greatly enhance our capacity and spirits as we tackle the challenges of protecting our natural resources, farms, and special places through education, community planning, direct land protection, and stewardship.”

volunteers  
give us wings

emily oswald, community

**relations coordinator:** “I feel blessed to work for an organization that is supported by individuals that give of their time, talent, and compassion - all to shape a community that is rich in natural resources. The enthusiasm and passion of so many giving people inspires me each and every day. I’m grateful for the many opportunities to learn and grow, and to celebrate successes through the generosity of volunteers! Many many thanks to all our volunteers!”

devin rigolino, stewardship

**coordinator:** “I am constantly amazed by the dedication of our volunteers. Seeing how Saratoga PLAN’s mission can bring people together over their love of land & nature drives my passion and makes me even more proud of every accomplishment that we make as an organization. To all our volunteers: Thank You!”







**"never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."**

*- margaret mead*

## **the levine legacy: a gift that keeps on giving**

The 177 acres of land that forms the LeVine Nature Preserve in the Town of Providence, NY has served as a place to understand and appreciate the natural world for generations.

Dr. Milton LeVine, a physician and radiologist from Albany, NY, purchased the land in 1968 in hopes that he would watch his two sons grow up learning to love the many natural wonders that the property has to offer. Sadly, Dr. LeVine did not get that chance, as his boys were only 2 and 5-years-old when he passed away in 1969. In honor of the great doctor, Robert & David, his sons, and Lee, his wife, chose to share his dream with the public by endowing the land to Saratoga PLAN in 2002.

For the past 12 years Saratoga PLAN has been honored to care for the property as countless visitors have enjoyed the land by means of its main Taber Road Trail. Through a lot of planning, hard work, and good company from some of Saratoga PLAN's most dedicated volunteers, we are now proud to open four (4) additional trails at the LeVine Nature Preserve.

In honor of the LeVine family's donation and the generous commitment of our many volunteers we invite you to join us at our LeVine Nature Preserve grand re-opening ceremony on **Saturday, July 12th from 10:00 am -2:00 pm**. The event will include guided hikes of the new trails, and a hands-on scavenger hunt for children and families.

Dr. LeVine, who wrote an autobiography when he fell ill so that his sons could learn about his life, wrote that he would leave the property to his boys hoping that it would serve as a "friend, companion,

and source of solitude, reflection, contemplation, and contentment." Now, this generous gift made by his wife and children provide these much needed values to everyone who visits and explores the ~3 miles of trails that complement the property's natural beauty. It is our hope that friends and families enjoy visiting the preserve as much as we have enjoyed caring for it. More than a protected place, it is also a lasting legacy.



**happy faces make special places!**

*volunteer stewards have logged hundreds of hours working on the LeVine Preserve's new trail system.*



stewardship

education

committees

events

“When I connect with the great outdoors, I am uplifted in body and spirit. To do so while working on a mutual project with friends is great fun. If on top of that, I am creating and maintaining trails for families in the community to enjoy, well, “give-back” just doesn’t get better than that.” - *Mary Alice Nyhan, committee member & steward*

“I can’t believe how lucky I am to live in a county so rich in unspoiled woods and waterways. I have an incredible bounty of forests, fields, streamsides, lakeshores, mountains and meadows just minutes away from home, thanks in large part to the preservation efforts of PLAN.” - *Jackie Donnelly, event leader*

“Working on the trail crew for Saratoga PLAN at the Hennig and LeVine Preserves is both fun and rewarding. Constructing and maintaining the network of trails opens up access to the special places that exist on those preserves that visitors would not normally be able to see and enjoy. Hearing the positive feedback from users is all the reward I need to continue.” - *Peter Fedorick, event leader & steward*

**our volunteers inspire us,  
each and every day!**

**they provide invaluable  
support, and make all that  
PLAN offers possible.**

**it warms our hearts to hear  
from them about how PLAN  
enriches their lives, and why  
they volunteer.**

“Being a steward and helping to make the preserves a special place to visit, is a great experience. The friendships developed are the real gifts as folks come together to build and maintain trails.” - *Ren. Dr. Don Washburn, committee member & steward*

“Volunteering at PLAN is not only beneficial for the organization, it has helped me grow as an individual. I have made business and personal connections, and I have also learned about my community and the vision that Saratoga PLAN brings to life time and time again. Supporting nonprofits doesn’t just build a bigger, better organization – it builds a bigger, better community.” - *Jess Collette, committee member, event planning*

“I have never seen a community that gives more support to local organizations, whether in time or money, than Saratoga. It is almost like a requirement to live here – that you must be committed to making this a better place.” - *Rich Higgins, board member*

conservation

trails

family walks

outreach

**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!**

## upcoming events

see website for details, updates, and more dates

**April 19:** Earth Day Celebration at Galway Nature Preserve

**May 3:** Guided Botany Walk at Moreau Lake State Park

**June 7 & 14:** Peaks-to-Creeks Hike & Paddle

**Fridays on the Trail:** A Series of Family Walks

**July 12:** LeVine Preserve Rededication

**August TBD:** Lake Lonely Water Chestnut Pull

**September 11:** Feast of the Fields

**Fairy House Building:** A Series of Workshops for Families

# volunteer with PLAN

As a not-for-profit organization, we rely heavily on support from our dedicated volunteers. Their combined efforts allow our small organization to make a big impact as we extend our conservation efforts far and wide across the County.

Let us know if you are interested in getting involved with Saratoga PLAN and joining us as a volunteer. We would be happy to match you with a volunteer position that fits your interests. Volunteer opportunities range from writing articles, staffing exhibits, maintaining trails, planning events, and hosting a small home gathering.

Whether you'd like to help out once a season, once a month, or once a week, there is always room for growth in Saratoga PLAN's family tree.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Saratoga PLAN is dedicated to preserving the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of Saratoga County so that these irreplaceable assets are accessible to all and survive for future generations.

## SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR PLAN!



DONATE quickly and securely at [www.saratogaplan.org](http://www.saratogaplan.org)



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VOLUNTEER by emailing [trisha@saratogaplan.org](mailto:trisha@saratogaplan.org) or calling 587-5554



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For more information visit [www.saratogaplan.org](http://www.saratogaplan.org) or call 518-587-5554

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