



Preserving Land and Nature

fieldnotes

SPRING 2017

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



**CONSERVING
FARMLAND**



**PROTECTING
WOODS + WATERS**



**BUILDING
TRAILS**

PALMERTOWN PROJECT



SARATOGA PLAN

CONTINUES TO coordinate conservation planning efforts in the Palmertown Conservation area. The goal is to implement a conservation strategy for the area, including a long-distance trail network.

We offered a series of opportunities for the public to engage in the Palmertown area. Each event focused on a different ecosystem characteristic – from sustainable forestry in Lincoln Mountain State Forest, to mammal tracking at the Kawing Crow Awareness Center, and even counting birds for Audubon's Great Backyard Bird Count in Skidmore's North Woods. Despite unpredictable weather, we managed to engage over 60 participants across five events and worked with numerous partners, including New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Moreau Lake State Park staff, Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, and experienced naturalist Jackie Donnelly. This series was supported by funding from New York State's Conservation Partnership Program for land



Expert naturalists focused on different ecosystem characteristics, such as mammal tracking at the Kawing Crow Awareness Center.

trusts helping to accomplish New York's Open Space goals.

In addition, Saratoga Plan has been working with Open Space Institute and graduate students enrolled in a SUNY Albany planning studio class to lay a foundation for a formal conservation plan for the Palmertown area. SUNY Albany students have been assisting with the initial development of a plan for open space conservation, recreation development,

and a trail network in the Palmertown area. They have been working since January to research and synthesize data that satisfies a range of conservation objectives, and provides an overview of the social and ecological characteristics of the landscape while highlighting the key challenges and opportunities associated with a large landscape conservation plan.

TO LEARN MORE, GOTO WWW.SARATOGAPLAN.ORG/EXPLORE/PUBLIC-PRESERVES-TRAILS/PALMERTOWN-CONSERVATION-AREA/

SAVE THE DATE




Join us for a fun-filled evening featuring farm-fresh food prepared by local top chefs, accompanied by enticing products and drinks from local producers. Test your luck in the silent auction too!

Reservations and tickets required. Learn more here: <http://www.saratogaplan.org/whats-new/upcoming-events/feast-of-the-fields/>



SUNDAE ON THE FARM


 **HELP US CELEBRATE** the 22nd annual Sundae on the Farm, scheduled for Sunday June 18th, at King's Ransom Farm, LLC, home of King Brother's Dairy. The event will run from 12-4pm.

The farm is located at 311 King Road in the Town of Northumberland. Farm tours will feature the dairy herd and related facilities. There is a special children's tent and exhibits featuring beef cattle, llamas, sheep, pigs, and agricultural businesses and agencies. Demonstrations will

include sheep shearing and wool spinning. Draft horse teamsters will be on hand to offer wagon rides. Good food and the always popular ice cream sundaes or pie à la mode will be available. Plan to make it a family outing!

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.SARATOGAFARMS.COM.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE ADDED TO PRESERVE

 **PLAN'S HENNIG PRESERVE**, Saratoga County's best kept secret, is rich with history and culture. Only a short drive from Saratoga in Providence, New York, Hennig offers over ten miles of beautiful trails marked by informative kiosks signs. Thanks to



support from community members, Saratoga PLAN Volunteers, Students, Faculty at Skidmore College, and Adirondack Sign Co., the new signage educates visitors on the preserve's cultural, ecological, and physical landscape.

Saratoga PLAN recently completed a project at the preserve highlighting some of these interesting and mysterious features. Through careful research, PLAN learned the history of these features and worked with some of our longtime Stewards to tell the story of the land. Have you ever hiked to the top of an Esker and wondered how it got there, or stumbled upon a cellar hole in the woods and considered who might have lived there? All of these answers are awaiting you at Hennig Preserve. Stop by the preserve to check out our new maps at the trailhead and read from the brochures tucked inside the kiosk, or visit Saratoga PLAN's website to view our interactive story map made by PLAN Intern, Carly Dellis. We hope you discover something new and exciting that inspires you to learn more about the amazing natural spaces in Saratoga County! 🐦

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 606 CONSERVED ACRES OF THE HENNIG PRESERVE AND TO ACCESS THE STORY MAP GO TO THE PLAN WEBSITE HERE: [HTTP://WWW.SARATOGAPLAN.ORG/EXPLORE/PUBLIC-PRESERVES-TRAILS/HENNIG-PRESERVE/](http://www.saratogaplan.org/explore/public-preserves-trails/hennig-preserve/).

2017 LETTERBOXING AND PASSPORT PROGRAM LAUNCH



PLAN KICKS OFF THE SPRING 2017 SEASON with a fresh batch of passports and new additions to our popular Letterboxing and Passport Program. Thanks to the creative work of PLAN volunteer, Kim Dellis, PLAN now maintains updated letterbox clues at five additional PLAN Preserves and Partner Trails in Saratoga County, including the Spruce Mountain Trail, The Zim Smith Trail, Railroad Run Trail, The Saratoga Siege Trail, and our Round Lake Preserve.

Dating back to 1854, letterboxing has a long and interesting history of English origin. Saratoga PLAN has adapted this tradition to serve our community with letterboxing at PLAN's nature preserves and partner trails. Each preserve and trail has a hidden letterbox and is paired with a set of clues to help you find it. When you find a letterbox, use the stamp inside to mark your PLAN Passport, and leave a comment or note by writing in the notebook or sending us one of the postcards included inside. When your passport is complete, come visit our offices in downtown Saratoga Springs to exchange for a special PLAN T-shirt.

This program is a favorite among parents with young children because it encourages their children to visit and interact with fourteen local natural areas. The passports can be used by anyone, young or old, and make a handy reference for residents in the area, providing directions to all these great outdoor places within Saratoga County. 📍

Passports can be picked up at PLAN's office in Saratoga Springs, or at kiosks located at the trailheads of PLAN's preserves. Stop in and meet the Saratoga PLAN team or visit our website: [WWW.SARATOGAPLAN.ORG/EXPLORE/LETTERBOXING/](http://www.saratogaplan.org/explore/letterboxing/).



CONSTITUENT ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR JOINS PLAN STAFF



John Kettlewell joined Saratoga PLAN's staff in January in the role of Constituent Engagement Director. He will work to further PLAN's outreach to everyone who values preserving the agricultural, recreational, and natural open spaces in Saratoga County.

John came to PLAN from Informz, an international digital marketing company based in Saratoga Springs. Prior to that he was the Publications and Marketing Director of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

He's been working to improve PLAN's digital outreach via the website, social media, email newsletters, and using more traditional press and media outlets. In addition, John will be working on fundraising and event operations and marketing.

John said, "My goal is to provide more information on the great work PLAN is doing, and to help educate those who don't yet know about PLAN. I've lived and worked in Saratoga for a long time, and I grew up and went to school here. It is a great feeling to be part of an organization that gives so much back to the place I love." 🌿

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(AS OF APRIL)

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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 4,400 acres of farmland, forest, natural habitat, trail corridors, historic places, and water resources in Saratoga County.



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