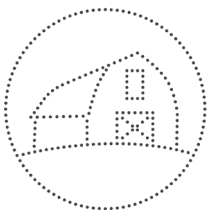




saratoga
PLAN
Preserving Land and Nature

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.



CONSERVING
FARMLAND



PROTECTING
WOODS + WATERS



BUILDING
TRAILS



MAJOR GIFT FOR PALMERTOWN RANGE TRAILS AWARDED

Sarah B. Foulke loved to explore new trails with her two- and four-legged friends. Through her estate, a charitable fund was established, creating a legacy for others to share Sarah's passion through a new trail network being planned for northern Saratoga County.

A \$500,000 gift will create a master plan for the Sarah B. Foulke Friendship Trails throughout the 40,500-acre Southern Palmertown Range. This is the largest private cash contribution ever made to PLAN in its 17 years of operation.

The donation will underwrite the planning and design of publicly accessible trails for a spectrum of outdoor enthusiasts, including hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, wheelchair riders, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers and others. Trails will be located on public lands, as well as private properties with landowners who wish to share their land with trail users.

The Southern Palmertown Range is a beautiful ecologically-important area formed by a N-S fault line that creates a prominent ridge just west of Route 9 between Saratoga Springs and Glens Falls and includes Moreau Lake State Park. The Southern Range stretches from Route 9 westward to Route 9N and from Skidmore College northward to the Hudson River.

"The Palmertown Range forms the southeastern-most corner of the Adirondacks. It is a semi-wild woodland that provides climate resilient habitat, replenishes our clean drinking waters, streams and lakes, and fosters a sustainable forest industry," said Maria Trabka, Executive Director of Saratoga PLAN.

"The Sarah B. Foulke Friendship Trails will enable the growing population on the Range's edges and visitors to the area to enjoy a permanently

conserved wilderness experience within easy access of their homes."

Over the past year, Saratoga PLAN and partner Open Space Institute (OSI) have collaborated with seven municipalities, two state agencies, and Skidmore College to devise ways to marry conservation, recreation, and compatible economic development in the Palmertown Range area.

"This grant will support the development of a recreational trail network within Saratoga County that will provide people with a place to enjoy nature and wildlife while also creating a corridor for habitat and movement. The trail system has been recognized as a top priority by business owners, partners, and outdoor recreation interest groups, and this funding will help make that goal a reality," said Kim Elliman, president and CEO of the Open Space Institute.

Anthony J. (Tony) Izzo, one of three donor-advisors to the Sarah B. Foulke Charitable Fund, which is administered through The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, explained the impetus for the grant:

"Sarah Blackwell Foulke, a Skidmore graduate and an attorney who practiced in Saratoga County, was a kind, giving, compassionate and courageous woman with an outgoing personality, strong spirit, and a great heart and soul."

The Sarah B. Foulke Friendship Trails project embodies Sarah's love of Saratoga Springs, nature, dogs, horses, and the power of friendship. We are confident that this gift to the community will bring pleasure to many and benefit all. We hope that our donation will inspire others to donate their time and money to Saratoga PLAN projects for the benefit of present and future generations of Saratoga County residents and visitors."

READ THE FULL STORY AND FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH
THE PALMERTOWN RANGE PROJECT ONLINE AT WWW.SARATOGAPLAN.ORG

land conservation



FROM THE ARCHIVES: GLENWILD PRESERVE KAY FLICKINGER'S LEGACY OF LAND

In the town of Providence, an undisturbed tract of land comes to life in the spring. Chirping birds, croaking frogs and blooming flora hint that the land is thriving. The Glenwild Preserve, 138 acres of biologically rich woodlands, wetlands, rolling hills and meadows was stitched together by the diligent efforts of the late Katherine "Kay" Flickinger Dockstader and permanently conserved 25 years ago.

Kay spent most of her life pursuing the enjoyment of the great outdoors. Perhaps the infatuation began in the 1920s, when Kay spent her summers as a teen in Fish House where her family used the old Shew house as a summer camp.



Kay on trail with a bedroll.

A remarkable woman, Kay became a founding member of the Adirondack Forty-Sixers (#41) and was also an avid photographer, writer and teacher at the ADK Winter Mountaineering School. She was a strong advocate for conservation and land protection.

When Kay began planning for her retirement, she sought acreage to buy for her personal recreational

use in Providence, an area peppered with memories from her childhood adventures.

A letter typed by Kay to then Saratoga County Land Chairman, Charles Cleveland, stated her interest in owning property: "Being at Fish-House so much means we've spent a lot of time in Providence, -- all over Baldy and Maxon Ridge, and Hans Creek country, -- and Glenwild before it had to be closed to the public."

She further stated in a subsequent letter to Cleveland that her goal was to use the land simply "for wandering and exploring."

By the end of the 1960s, Kay was able to piece together and purchase five separate but adjoining parcels that spanned Glenwild Road, totaling 138 acres. These parcels included field, forest, swamp and gently rolling terrain.

Throughout this process, as was her nature, Kay kept meticulous notes that she hoped would be helpful to others who might also be interested in researching and acquiring

land for the purpose of conservation. Kay's modest and pragmatic original investment of less than \$5,000 to purchase the property in the 1960s had grown to \$150,000 at the time she donated it to PLAN.

.....
*Her goal was to use the land simply
"for wandering and exploring."*
.....

As Kay did not reside on the Glenwild property, she faced some landowner issues over the years. She saw a small cabin on her property vandalized and eventually burned to the ground by trespassers. On another occasion, she and her niece arrived at her property to find individuals hauling large burlap bags of Princess Pine off her land.

Despite these challenges, Kay continued to care for her oasis and was always committed to keeping it in its natural state.

Today the preserve continues in its natural state, under the watchful eye of Saratoga PLAN. The preserve is closed to the public and though no cut trails exist on the wild property, a faint path still exists, one that originally led to Kay's cabin.

The Glenwild Preserve remains a testament to the efforts of one woman determined to assure that this piece of natural habitat survives future generations. On this 25th anniversary of Kay's conservation of her property, we reflect on the legacy of the land and the female force responsible for its protection.



Kay's dear friend Martha Apicella stands among blooming pearly everlasting at the site where Kay's cabin once stood.
Photo: 1996.



129 ACRES OF FOREVER FARMLAND MALTA RIDGE ORCHARD AND GARDENS CONSERVED

In late February, Saratoga PLAN and property owner David Bowman finalized a conservation easement on 129 acres of his fertile farmland in the Town of Malta.

Bowman explained that after farming a piece of property for over 40 years, the last thing he'd want is to see someone divvy up the land and build houses on it.

"The biggest thing, especially in our area, is that there is so much development pressure," David said. "I hate to see houses planted on the land, I'd rather see it stay a farm."



The farm was formerly an orchard and nursery with a farm store, growing a wide variety of fruits and vegetables from peaches and plums to blueberries and raspberries, in addition to pork, chicken, beef and turkey.

This farmland conservation project enjoyed wide community support. Funding for this project came from NYS Department of Ag and Markets' Hudson Valley Agriculture Enhancement Program, a Saratoga County Farmland Protection Grant, a grant from the Town of Malta, and a generous donation from Bowman.



Left: The project team moments after the easement was finalized. From left: Lawrence E. Howard, Esq., Michael Horn, David Bowman, Maria Trabka, Mark Sacco, Esq., Dana Kear. **Right:** Snow-covered view of the conserved farmland.

\$45 MILLION

made available by NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for farmland protection throughout NYS.



\$30 million focused on dairy farms at risk of non-farm conversion due to low milk prices.

\$15 million focused on non-dairy farms vulnerable to trade disputes, increasing debt, changing consumer preferences and climate change.

2020 VISION FARMLAND CONSERVATION

685 ACRES

of additional farmland is expected to be conserved by Saratoga PLAN this year.



This conserved acreage will total 9 conservation easements throughout 5 municipalities in Saratoga County.

PLAN will have conserved a total of 3,445 acres of farmland once these projects are completed.

community engagement



WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO IN 2020



On President's Day, ecologist Michael Gaige led a natural history hike for donors who supported the Barkersville Trails project at \$250 or more and for volunteers who have been diligently working on trail development. Stay tuned for the public opening of the Barkerville Trail in the Towns of Galway and Providence.

Left: Will Orthwein, Chair of the Board of Directors, leads the pack.

In honor of Leap of Kindness Day, PLAN staff spent the afternoon singing and dancing with individuals from Wildwood Programs, a treasured community partner, as a thank you for their years of volunteering with PLAN out on the trail. Leap of Kindness Day is an initiative to do good with your "extra" leap day, started by the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce in 2016.

Right: Dana Kear, PLAN's Program Associate; Don Washburn, PLAN's volunteer liaison with Wildwood Programs; Mike Horn, PLAN's Conservation Director



In early March, PLAN partnered with Lake George Land Conservancy. Together, they presented on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, an invasive aphid threatening hemlock forests. Participants spent the afternoon surveying hemlocks at PLAN's Hennig Preserve - luckily, finding no trace of HWA!

PLAN partnered with famed local brewery Artisanal Brew Works on Geyser Road in Saratoga Springs to release a limited edition beer in honor of World Water Day and to raise awareness about water conservation. A portion of the proceeds from the beer, a World Water Day IPA, will benefit PLAN for continued protection of critical water resources in Saratoga County (and the main ingredient in beer!).

Limited edition 4-packs and draft pours available at Artisanal while supplies last!



UPCOMING EVENTS

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

In keeping with COVID-19 safety guidelines, we are working to connect with you through virtual events this spring and summer. Be sure to check our website for updates. Also, connecting with nature can be extremely beneficial for one's health and wellness, particularly in trying times. PLAN's 10 preserves, with over 22 miles of trails, remain FREE and open to the public.

Hit the trail to clear your mind,
strengthen your body, and *rejuvenate* your soul.

Try some or all of the suggested ideas below!



WHAT'S LETTERBOXING?



Letterboxing is an old English tradition dating back to the 1800s where people left self-addressed notes in a jar, hoping for them to be returned in the mail by the next visitor.

We've adapted this tradition and created Saratoga PLAN's Nature Passport Program. Every spring, we hide letterboxes at our preserves for you to discover. It's the perfect activity to engage kids of all ages with the natural world and get active outside.

Follow clues, find treasure and win a prize! Keep track of your adventures in PLAN's Nature Passport, available on our website.



**OPENING
EARTH DAY
APRIL 22 2020**



**THANK YOU
NATIONAL GRID
FOR GENEROUSLY
FUNDING THIS
NATURE PASSPORT
PROGRAM**

Learn how to start the fun this Earth Day at www.saratogaplan.org/explore/letterboxing

THANK YOU 2020 BUSINESS PARTNERS

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TRAILBLAZERS

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CUDNEY'S LAUNDERES &
DRY CLEANERS
HIGH PEAKS SOLAR
LEONARD BUS SALES, INC.

OTHER

GREENMAN-PEDERSEN, INC.



Laura Kipper has worked with PLAN in the past and we are thrilled to have her on board again. She started in 2017 as the Stewardship Intern, returned as an ArcGIS Consultant and Agricultural Outreach Assistant in 2018, and is back again this spring as a Conservation Intern to help with land conservation projects. Throughout all her roles at PLAN, she has been attending SUNY

Albany to complete her Masters of Science in Biodiversity, Conservation and Policy, focusing her research on mapping food deserts across NYS and analyzing policy to ensure all New Yorkers have access to nutritious and affordable food. Laura discovered her passion for agriculture and land conservation through her experiences at Saratoga PLAN and she is excited to be re-joining the team to help progress farmland conservation in Saratoga County.

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Donate: www.saratogaplan.org



Volunteer: 518-587-5554



Recycle: pass it on to a friend

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, play and farm. PLAN assists landowners and communities with fulfilling their conservation goals for their land and provides stewardship for over 5,500 acres of farmland, forest, natural habitat, trail corridors, historic places, and water resources in Saratoga County.