



Preserving Land and Nature

fieldnotes

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



CONSERVING FARMLAND



PROTECTING WOODS + WATERS



BUILDING TRAILS



Sold-Out Feast 2017

The 12th annual Feast of the Fields was a sold-out success. With perfect weather, ten local chefs, and food from more than 40 local farms and vendors, there was plenty of good eating and drinking for everyone at Saratoga National Golf Club. Thank you to everyone for supporting Saratoga PLAN!

Mark your calendars!
13th annual Feast of the Fields
September 20, 2018

Bluegrass at Buckley

Join us on November 2 at the Wm. H. Buckley Farm for some great music with the Gibson Brothers Trio. There will be delicious food and local brews too! Tickets are only \$50. Learn more on our website and Facebook page.



Yoga Along the Trail

Saratoga PLAN's Yoga Along the Trail series continues for Fall 2017 at the Coldbrook Preserve on November 19. Join yoga instructor Martina Zobel for an energizing and meditative connection with nature. Learn more on the PLAN website, on our Facebook page, or by contacting the office: danak@saratogaplan.org

Connect with PLAN

Stay up to the minute on the latest developments at Saratoga PLAN, and don't miss out on hiking trips, events, volunteer opportunities, and other special happenings. Sign up for our email newsletter and check us out on Twitter @SaratogaPLAN, on Facebook @Saratogaplan, and on Instagram @saratogaplan.

CARPENTER FARM AND RHODES PROPERTY ADD 82 ACRES TO MILTON PRESERVE

On June 12, 2017, Saratoga PLAN finalized a perpetual conservation easement to preserve the 59+/- acre Carpenter Farm, located in the Town of Galway. Property owner Donald Carpenter is donating the easement in order to conserve the land for agriculture, forestry, wildlife habitat, water resource protection, scenic beauty and public recreation. The property is situated in a rural historic landscape with scenic charm.

In August Harold (Dusty) and Arlene Rhodes donated to Saratoga PLAN 23 acres of forested land in Galway that will connect the Milton Preserve to the south and the recently acquired conservation lands on the Carpenter Farm to the north. Together, these properties could provide a natural corridor for the proposed extension of the Long Path trail, eventually extending from New Jersey all the way to the Adirondacks. Saratoga PLAN will steward these lands, with plans for creating public trails across all three adjoining properties. The closing on the property transaction was on July 28, 2017.

PLAN Executive Director, Maria Trabka, said, "The Carpenter Farm and the Rhodes' woodlands make wonderful additions to protected lands in Galway." She added, "Interest in land conservation has been growing in the Town of Galway, and discussions with a few other landowners are in progress."



FIDDLE-I-FEE FARM CONSERVED

With a high percentage of "prime" soils, beautiful views toward the Hudson River, and nearby productive dairy farms, the 144-acre Fiddle-i-Fee Farm in Bacon Hill, Town of Northumberland, will be permanently conserved with the aid of county and state funding. To make this possible, Saratoga PLAN worked with property owners Cathy and Neil Roberts, who bargain sold the conservation easement on the property. The closing took place on October 24, 2017.

Funding for the purchase included \$80,000 from Saratoga County and \$450,048 in Hudson Valley Agricultural Enhancement Program funding from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. The conservation-minded landowners wanted to conserve the property for agriculture, timberland, scenic views and as an environmental buffer to the Hudson River. A portion of the land is utilized by the nearby dairy, Welcome Stock Farm. The Roberts will continue to own and manage their farm, and the legally-binding conservation easement stays with the property in perpetuity, as ownership changes over time.

THANK A VOLUNTEER!

With 10 public preserves and more than 22 miles of trails to maintain, Saratoga PLAN depends on the work of many dedicated volunteers. You may have met some of these tireless workers clearing downed trees, building kiosks, marking trails, working on bridges, or patrolling to make sure your hike is safe, fun, and rewarding.

Ralph Keating exemplifies the amazing contributions made every week. This summer he headed out to the Galway Nature Preserve to do some work, and then submitted the report below. It is a great example of what volunteers do, often out of sight and out of mind. The next time you enjoy a hike on a PLAN property, please thank a volunteer!



Ralph Keating (left), Cliff Samson, Mary Alice Nyhan

Hi Greg:

I got back to Galway Preserve today to do some of the building repair jobs that we discussed and also did trail work. First I went to Lowes at 8 am to get new windows, glazing and quickrete concrete mix.

Then starting at the preserve at 9, I did the following:

Removed old broken glass and replaced with the plexiglass panels, caulked with the window glazing; made a form for the hole in concrete wall and put in three layers of quickrete to build up the concrete to existing outer wall surface (I did this over the course of the day to let each layer dry); build up the inside of the hole in the roof with wood and then sheathing, then placed two layers of aluminum roofing material on the new sheathing under the existing roof material, then caulked all seams; cut the grass around the preserve and building; walked the trails and placed about 30 markers where they were missing or inadequate (as I walked I noticed 4 good sized trees down on the preserve trails; went back on the trails with chainsaw and removed all the trees from the trails); painted the trim around the preserve building with white semigloss exterior paint.

I left the preserve at 5:15 and got home about 5:45. Long day – about 9.5 volunteer hours.

I plan to get there again in 2 weeks to cut the grass before I go away for a vacation.

Ralph

THANK YOU TO THE FARMS OF FEAST!

Saratoga PLAN extends a huge THANK YOU to the many farms that contributed delicious fresh food for the 12th Annual Feast of the Fields. Learn more about the Farms of Feast on the PLAN website, and check them out for farm-fresh food year-round.

Anderson Acres
Argyle Cheese Farmer
Bowman Orchards, LLC
Clark Dahlia Gardens & Greenhouses/ Anna Mae's Jams
Cliff's Vegetables
Cobram Estates
Dancing Ewe Farm
Denison Farm
Elihu Farm
Featherbed Lane Farm
Greenfield's Forever, Farmer T's
Hand Melon Farm
Hanehan Family Farmstand
King Brothers Dairy
Knight Orchards
Lou the Wood Guy, Exit 15N Firewood
Luckey Bee
Mack Brin Farms
Maple Valley Farm
Mariaville Mushroom Men
Maplebrook Farm Dairy
Moxie Ridge Farm
Native Flower Farm
Nettle Meadow Farm
Old World Farm
John and Steve Otrembiak
Pitney Meadows Farm

Pleasant Valley Farm
Roma Foods Importing Company, Inc.
Saratoga Apples
Underwood's Greenhouse & Shushan Valley Hydro Farm
St. Croix Farm
Thomas Poultry Farm
West Wind Acres
Whalen's Horseradish
Willow Marsh Farm
Winney's Blueberries
Wm. H. Buckley Farm



WILDWOOD VOLUNTEERS ASSIST PLAN WITH TRAIL MAINTENANCE

In August Wildwood programs partnered with Saratoga PLAN's trail stewards to help complete trail maintenance on Hennig Preserve and Anchor Diamond Park Preserve. This partnership has proved to be beneficial to both parties. Wildwood program members get to enjoy our beautiful preserves and get outdoors and PLAN gets extra helping hands keeping our trails beautiful. Some of the work accomplished has included building pathways and bog bridges, digging post holes for a new kiosk, scouting new trails and general trail clearing. We are so appreciative to both Wildwood and our stewards for the hard work they do. Make sure you get out to Saratoga PLAN's preserves to take a look at all the progress the stewards and the Wildwood group have accomplished!



NEW PLAN STAFF

DANA KEAR
PROGRAM ASSISTANT
FOR OPERATIONS



MICHELLE HALL
PROGRAM ASSISTANT
FOR DEVELOPMENT

2017 BUSINESS PARTNERS \$500+

- Adirondack Sign Company
- Aztech Technologies, Inc.
- Bella Home Builders, Inc.
- Brooks Group Merrill Lynch
- Buckley Gent MacDonald & Cary, P.C.
- Cannon Heyman & Weiss
- Christopher Dailey Foundation
- Colley Asset Management
- Courtyard by Marriott
- D.A. Collins Companies
- Elan Planning & Design, Inc.
- Free Form Fibers
- Global Foundries
- Greenfield Manufacturing, Inc.
- King Wealth Management Group, LLC
- Miller Printing
- Munter Enterprises
- New Country Motor Car Group, Inc.
- SKS Bottle & Packaging, Inc.
- Saratoga Builders Association
- Saratoga National Bank and Trust Co.
- Stuyvesant Plaza, Inc.
- The Adirondack Trust Company
- Walter Borisenok Family Foundation
- Welcome Stock Farm

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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 and communities with fulfilling their conservation goals for their land and provides stewardship for over 4,500 acres of farmland, forest, natural habitat, trail corridors, historic places, and water resources in Saratoga County.



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



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