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MARIA TRABKA, Executive Director

## land protection MATTERS

From woodlands to wetlands, fern groves to fertile fields, Saratoga PLAN facilitated the conservation of five remarkable properties in 2019. These lands are now protected in perpetuity, allowing farmers permanent access to land, providing shelter for wildlife whose habitat is continually threatened, and creating outdoor spaces where you and your descendants can fill your lungs with fresh air.





#### **BARKERSVILLE TRAILS** Towns of Galway-Providence (168 acres)

Soon to be open to the public, the property's 2+ miles of winding trails will take you through woodlands, wetlands, pastureland, and a spring that flows from the protected land to the Glowegee Creek, a tributary of the Kayaderosseras, and into Saratoga Lake. Property owners Dolores Arste and David Hickey donated the easement to their land so that it remains undeveloped, explorable forest.

"I thank my mother every day for moving me from a suburb of Philadelphia to Galway, New York," said daughter Deanna Hadley.

**BURKE FOREST** Town of Saratoga (80 acres)

Blanketed with red oaks and maples, the distinctive ridgeline of Irish Hill has been conserved by Rick Burke and The Nature Conservancy. Rick grew up in the woods hunting, chopping wood, and exploring its stone foundations. Witnessing how housing pressure has caused local farmlands to vanish, he wanted to ensure that wouldn't wipe out the woodlands he stewards. Thirteen years after Finch, Pruyn & Company sold the neighboring woodlands to The Nature Conservancy, Rick bought the land from TNC and conserved it in perpetuity.

## BARBER BROS. DAIRY

Town of Northumberland (463 acres)

This April, 463 acres of Barber Bros. Dairy Farm was conserved in perpetuity, marking PLAN's largest farmland conservation project to date. The purchase of development rights was made possible by funding from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYS-DAM), with a partial donation by Linda Barber and her son, Chad.

With a conservation easement in place on nearly one-third of the farm, Linda Barber, the female force behind the Barber Bros. Dairy Farm operation for the last 50 years, can finally enjoy views of her property without fear of encroaching development. The decision to conserve was twofold: one, to secure the forage needed for their large dairy herd and two, as Linda Barber put it, "I want to sit in my rocking chair and see fields, trees, and crops, and that's it."

#### **FEATHERBED LANE FARM** Town of Charlton (60 acres)

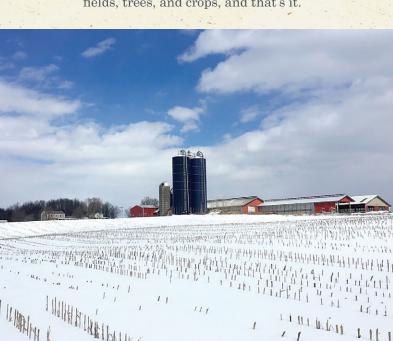
After years of apprenticing on other farms, farmer Tim Biello worked closely with the Local Farms Fund, a community impact farmland investment fund, to purchase and lease land in Charlton. In 2015, Tim established Featherbed Lane Farm. With funding from NYSDAM, PLAN purchased the development rights to the land in 2019, conserving it for generations to come.

Equity Trust, a Massachusetts nonprofit organization committed to keeping land affordable for farmers, contributed a preemptive purchase right, which provided funding for additional protection. This will ensure the protected farm remains economically accessible and in the hands of working farmers into the future.

### WM H. BUCKLEY FARM Phase II, Town of Ballston (62 acres)

Mark Sacco conserved an additional 62 acres of farmland overlooking Ballston Lake. Mark used some of the proceeds from selling his development rights on 252 acres in 2015 to purchase the nowconserved adjacent land that was slated for development. Purchase of development rights was made possible by funding from NYSDAM.

The farm has over 3,000 animals, hundreds of fruit trees, and five hives producing 300 pounds of honey a year. Animals are raised in open pasture and are fed an all-natural diet without hormones or antibiotics. His local customer base enjoys his trusted products, available through the farm store and butcher shop, and support his commitment to responsible farming.





FARM FACT Featherbed Lane Farm is entirely powered by Tim's two draft horses, Duke and Bear.



FARM FACT In keeping with natural management practices, Wm H Buckley Farm's main defense against livestock predators is a pack of Maremma Sheepdogs that attentively patrol the property at night. "There are two definitions of the word hero that resonate with who we're honoring... caretaker or protector, and someone who inspires, someone who breathes life into things." PHYLLIS ALDRICH, Saratoga PLAN board member

# conservation heroes MATTER

Conservation Heroes are recognized for their outstanding commitment to conserving and stewarding lands, both in honor of those who did so before them, and in anticipation of future generations. Board Chair Will Orthwein and artists who painted birdhouses present awards to the 2019 Conservation Heroes.



Rick Burke and The Nature Conservancy, Burke Forest (Represented in photo by Julie Stokes and Peg Olsen) Dolores Arste and David Hickey, Barkersville Trails (Represented in photo by Deanna and Rob Hadley)



**Mark Sacco,** Wm. H. Buckley Farm, Phase II



Linda, Chad and

Amber Barber,

Barber Bros. Dairy



Bill Lasher, devoted guidance and management of the Monday Steward volunteer group, who help maintain the public access to PLAN lands.



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## community engagement MATTERS

### Volunteers & Stewardship

Whether volunteering, stewarding lands, or joining us for an event or outing, we are so grateful for the wonderful relationships we've forged throughout this busy year. We couldn't have had such a vibrant community presence without the help of close to 200 active volunteers who collectively logged over 4,000 hours. From tough and dirty trail work to detail-oriented event preparation, we're thankul for the aid from all the wonderful faces of our extended PLAN family.

Special thanks to the Monday Stewards, PLAN's volunteer trail maintenance crew that gathers every Monday year-round, without whom we wouldn't be able to develop and maintain numerous nature trails throughout Saratoga County. This year, with help from the Stewards, PLAN hosted four wildly successful community service work days. Teams from Ballston Spa National Bank, Newport News Shipbuilding-Kesselring Site, Death Wish Coffee Company, and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals spent their days cleaning up preserves, maintaining trails, and developing new ones.

"...without nature, we wouldn't exist. As more people inhabit this planet and take over more space, we need to learn how to develop and conserve and rehabilitate what we do have left." SHANE, Regeneron volunteer

## 5.75 MILES OF NEW TRAILS OPENING SOON -







(clockwise from top left) Death Wish Coffee, Ballston Spa National Bank, Regeneron work crews

Inaugural Apple Blossom Run graciously hosted by Saratoga Apple. Thank you Darrow family!

> "... I know what being outside does to my well-being. I want to be able to conserve natural areas for future generations to enjoy."

CASEY CARPENTER-ESLER, PLAN Next Generation Committee member

Share with us why #conservationmatters to you!

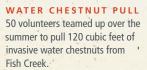




With the help of countless volunteers, PLAN was able to offer a wide variety of outings, activities, and events. Here's just a snippet of 2019! FARM TOUR

Charlton residents toured farms conserved by PLAN and listened to landowners' personal stories and connections to conservation.









APPLE BLOSSOM RUN 71 runners tackled the hilly course through Saratoga Apple's blooming orchard, celebrating with cider at the finish line.



**FEAST OF THE FIELDS** Over 500 attendees tasted local fare in support of conservation in Sarátoga County, raising over \$100,000.



**BEAVER WALK/TALK** 27 people celebrated Earth Day learning about beavers on the Bog Meadow Trail.



NEXT GEN COMMITTEE 13 eager young professionals joined PLAN staff for the first Next Generation Committee! We were so excited we forgot to take a picture.



## teamwork MATTERS

## Meet PLAN's new team members!

## staff



Alex Fylypovych As Community Engagement Manager, Alex not only spreads the word about PLAN, but also encourages the community to mingle with their local land trust via events, outings, and through social media.

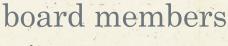


Bonnie Nightingale Bonnie's responsibilities as Stewardship Coordinator include caring for conserved lands by monitoring PLAN's 68 properties, leading trail maintenance volunteer crews, and creating GIS maps, among many other tasks.



#### Wendy Mahaney

As Palmertown Coordinator, Wendy is leading the charge on implementing the Palmertown Conservation and Recreation Strategy. Her goals include creating a guidance committee, scouting and planning trails, and engaging the community to garner support for PLAN's largest woodland conservation project, in partnership with the Open Space Institute, NYS, local municipalities, Skidmore College, trail users, foresters, and outdoor recreation enthusiasts.





#### Susanne M. D'Isabel

Sue is an active member of the Saratoga Springs, NY community. She volunteers at The Franklin Community Center and serves as the Arts-in-Education Program Coordinator at Division St Elementary. Sue holds a Doctorate in Public Health and Sociomedical Sciences, most recently working at Skidmore College as an Adjunct Professor of Health and Exercise Sciences. Welcome to the team, Sue! '



#### Peter Qimsted Over the past two decades, Peter has dedicated his career in the public and non-profit sectors to addressing some of the most pressing energy and environmental issues of our time. Peter currently serves as Chief of Staff for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). We are thrilled to welcome him to PLAN's board of directors!

## interns



Maddie Putman As the Community Engagement summer intern, Maddie helped organize events, social media messaging, and volunteer activities. Maddie is studying Conservation and Sustainability at University of New Hampshire.



### Kyra Morrill

Working with PLAN this fall, Kyra worked diligently behind the scenes on office tasks and community engagement projects. She'is a senior at Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School.

Share with us why #conservationmatters to you!

As a MATTER of fact, PLAN has:

**13** preserves open to the public

22+ miles of trails (

5,926 acres

834 acres conserved in 2019

**5** new conservation easements in 2019

**68** total conserved properties

7,000+ acres conserved

> 196 volunteers

**4,000+** hours of volunteer time

# future MATTERS

For 16 years, PLAN has worked industriously alongside all community partners to conserve the vital natural resources that support Saratoga County's long-term economic health and quality of life for current and future generations. Here's to another year of conserving the air you breathe, water you drink, food you eat, places in which you recreate, and the wildlife that inhabits them. Below is our exciting vision for the year ahead!

## OUR 2020 VISION

**\$3.2** million reinvested into the farming community

820

additional acres

of farmland to be

conserved

**140** acres of land protection for trails and recreation 5 + miles of new trails opening in the Towns of Galway and Providence

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES ON WHAT THE NEXT GENERATION COMMITTEE IS TACKLING, UPCOMING EVENTS AND MORE!

Cash & In-Kind —— Donations \$386,100

--- Contracts **\$2,133,503** 

## TOTAL REVENUE \$3,772,574

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,772,875

Land & Easement Donations **\$928,126** 

Grants — **\$215,244** 

Special Events \$109,601

Transfers to – Stewardship Fund **\$122,550** 

Land Value — Write-Down

\$2,904,548

Professional Fees **\$188,870** 

> — Personnel \$389,237

Programs & Operations **\$118,124** 

Special Events \$49,546 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

Notes Saratoga PLAN's audited financial statement for fiscal year 2019 should be completed by mid-summer 2020. Until then, we anticipate that the basic financial picture for the organization (minus investment data) is accurately reflected in these charts. Some of the revenue received in 2019 is restricted for project expenses in 2020. Saratoga PLAN is a not-forprofit 501(c)3 organization, a registered NYS charity, and a nationally accredited land trust; meeting the highest standards for nonprofit management, land conservation transactions, and land stewfinancial statements for prior years are available from the NYS Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.



# THANK YOU

Your support matters the most. Without it, we couldn't make the connections that preserve land and nature for all of us. And, the most important connection is with you, the backbone of Saratoga PLAN.

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Greater Capital Region Dockstader Charitable Trust Equity Trust Hamill Family Foundation Jane N. Mooty Foundation Trust Nordlys Foundation PCLB Foundation. Inc. Walter S. Borisenok **Family Foundation** 

#### GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Saratoga County NYS Department of **Environmental Conservation** - Conservation Partnership Program NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets - Farmland Protection Program Town of Ballston Village of Corinth LAND AND CONSERVATION EASEMENT DONATIONS

### **Dolores** Arste Barber Bros. LLC

Chad Barber Linda Barber Tim Biello

Local Farms Fund – NY Foodshed LLC Mark Sacco The Nature Conservancy Wm. H. Buckley Farm

#### **STEWARDS**

(\$25,000+)Dolores Arste and David Hickey Linda Barber Dockstader Charitable Trust Equity Trust Barbara L. Glaser and Paul Zachos Land Trust Alliance Tom Newkirk PCLB Foundation. Inc. Mark Sacco The Nature Conservancy

#### CONSERVATIONISTS

(\$10.000+)James Gold **Richard Higgins** Jane N. Mootv Foundation Trust Lorna Kircher Nordlys Foundation Julia and Robert Stokes Larry and Meg Woolbright

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