



JAN

Michael Horn rang in the New Year with a new job as Conservation Director for Saratoga PLAN. Mike has enhanced the ability of a small staff to take on big projects and make big achievements. With nearly 1,000 acres conserved in 2018, and 10 additional projects in the works, Mike is already a known and trusted partner to many farmers, landowners, and conservation professionals.

In order to strengthen expertise throughout the county, Mike and Maria convened a group of Conservation Colleagues to learn from one another and collaborate to get more accomplished.



FEB

Concluding years of hard work, Saratoga PLAN finalized perpetual conservation easements on three adjacent scenic and productive farm properties in the Town of West Charlton, totaling more than 405 acres. Landowners Dawn and Dorothy Szurek sold conservation easements on a 315 acre farm, and Gary and Anne Vanderhorst sold an easement on their adjacent Cottage Farm of 90 acres. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets provided partial funding through a competitive process to purchase the conservation easements and pay for the transactional costs of the projects.

Saratoga PLAN will steward these actively farmed properties in perpetuity, preserving open space, productive farm and forestland, and providing scenic enjoyment for all.

MAR

Thanks to support from the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network, which is coordinated by American Farmland Trust and has received primary funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Saratoga PLAN received \$15,000 to support farmland conservation educational programs. The grant helped fund conservation workshops, consultations, publications, and other activities that informed farmers and landowners about options for permanently conserving their lands, accessing or transferring land, and succession planning.

In late March, Saratoga PLAN was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the new Land Trusts Grants program, administered by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM). In awarding the grant, Commissioner Richard A. Ball noted that some of the goals of the grant include enhancing the inventory of viable farmland in Saratoga County and developing farmland access outreach activities to assist landowners and farmers.





APR

At a statewide land trust gathering in Albany, Saratoga PLAN received \$64,000 in Conservation Partnership Program grants awarded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and administered by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA). LTA administers the Conservation Partnership Program in partnership with the DEC.

Saratoga PLAN utilized one grant for making capital improvements to the 25-year-old **Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail**. A second grant was used for improving communications and marketing to broaden the reach of conservation information and support in Saratoga County.

PLAN worked with community members in the Town of Milton to find a solution for Camp Boyhaven as a valuable public recreational and natural area. In partnership with Friends of the Kayaderosseras, Planning Board Chairman Larry Woolbright, and other community members, Saratoga PLAN supported a grassroots campaign, gathering more than \$100,000 in pledges in a week.

a year of land conservation

MAY

Work on the Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail was begun in May. Renovations were partially paid for by a \$30,000 grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Conservation Partnership Program, by \$10,000 from the City of Saratoga Springs, donations from the 3M Company and Stewart's Shops, discounted materials from D.A. Collins Companies and Curtis Lumber Co., equipment from TRAK Equipment Rental, and lots of labor and engineering from Munter Enterprises, Foothills Tree Service, and D.M. Wardell Excavation.



"THIS CREEK IS A REAL GEM. WE'RE REALLY EXCITED THAT PLAN IS TEAMING UP WITH US TO PROTECT IT."

Kavak Shak owner Beau Stallard



Saratoga PLAN organized a celebration of National Trails Day with a picnic lunch for elected officials, trail volunteers and planners for the Champlain Canalway Working Group. The gathering of 40 trail advocates met in beautiful Lighthouse Park on the Hudson River, in Halfmoon, where town supervisors shared news on local progress towards the longheld vision of a complete 62-mile trail along the Champlain Canal and Hudson River extending from Waterford to Whitehall.

Saratoga PLAN led over 36 volunteers on June 30 to begin removal of an invasive outcropping of water chestnut plants on Fish Creek, the outlet of Saratoga Lake.

JUL

Saratoga PLAN finalized protection of 219.9 acres of the productive Wildwood Farm in the towns of Northumberland and Saratoga, adjacent to historic Stark's Knob. The property, owned by Allen D. (Wayne) Wood and Wood Family Trust, is now protected for scenic enjoyment by the public and for agricultural use by a permanent conservation easement that will be forever monitored by Saratoga PLAN.

"WE'RE VERY PLEASED THAT THIS LAND WILL NEVER BE DEVELOPED AND WILL LIKELY ALWAYS

BE FARMED." Wayne Wood





AUG

To celebrate the natural beauty and gardens of the permanently conserved 144-acre Fiddle-i-Fee Farm, Saratoga PLAN held a Botany Tea, attended by 30 people. Saratoga PLAN permanently conserved the farm, the home of Neil and Cathy Roberts, with a conservation easement funded by NYSDAM, Saratoga County and the owners.

SEP

Saratoga PLAN hosted 606 hungry and thirsty patrons of local food at the 13th annual Feast of the Fields at Saratoga National Golf Club in Saratoga Springs overlooking a 135-acre wooded conservation easement buffering Lake Lonely. The event paired ten chefs from area restaurants with farm-fresh ingredients, local beverages, and other regional foods supplied by more than 65 local farms and vendors.

OCT

Retired farmer Donald Tooker generously donated a conservation easement to permanently protect 89 acres of productive farmland in the heart of the Town of Wilton. With the assistance of Saratoga PLAN, the farm will be conserved primarily for agricultural purposes. Grants from Saratoga County and the Town of Wilton, combined with private donations, funded transaction costs so the easement donation could be accepted.

NOV

A hardy group of more than 50 trail enthusiasts braved rain, wind, and high water in early November to cut the ribbon at the new entrance to the Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail. The reopening culminated a season of trail renovations, including the creation of a new spur trail at Meadowbrook Road, extended bog bridging to traverse wet areas, extensive raising and smoothing of the trail surface, numerous drainage improvements, and new additions to prevent flooding caused by an active beaver population.

DEC

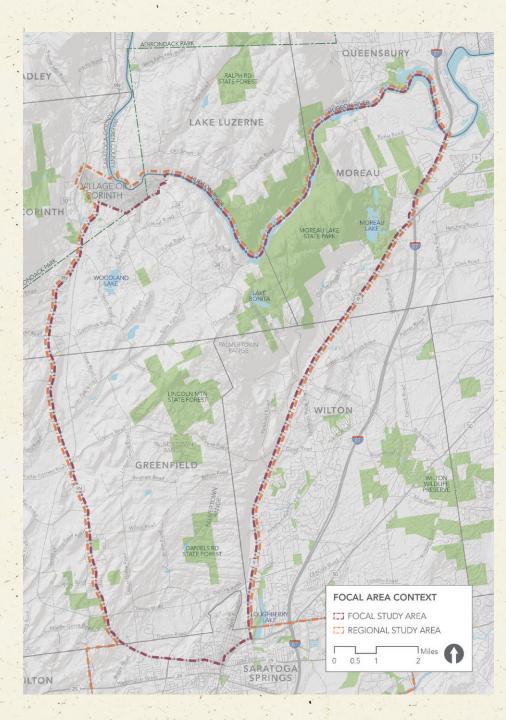
Conservation Heroes are your neighbors, suppliers of your food, builders, planners, repairers, and volunteers. Conservation Heroes are very special people and organizations that contribute in extraordinary ways to conserving Saratoga County's important farmland, wildlife habitat, water resources, and outdoor spaces, such as parks and trails, for all. In December 2018 Saratoga PLAN recognized some of these heroes who contribute so much to preserving the present in order to ensure a better future.

"CONSERVATION
HEROES TEND TO BE
RARE INDIVIDUALS
WHO CAN SEE BEYOND
THEMSELVES TO
THEIR COMMUNITY,
BEYOND THEIR LAND'S
BOUNDARIES TO THE
LARGER LANDSCAPE,
AND BEYOND THEIR
LIFETIMES TO FUTURE
GENERATIONS."

Maria Trabka







Palmertown Report

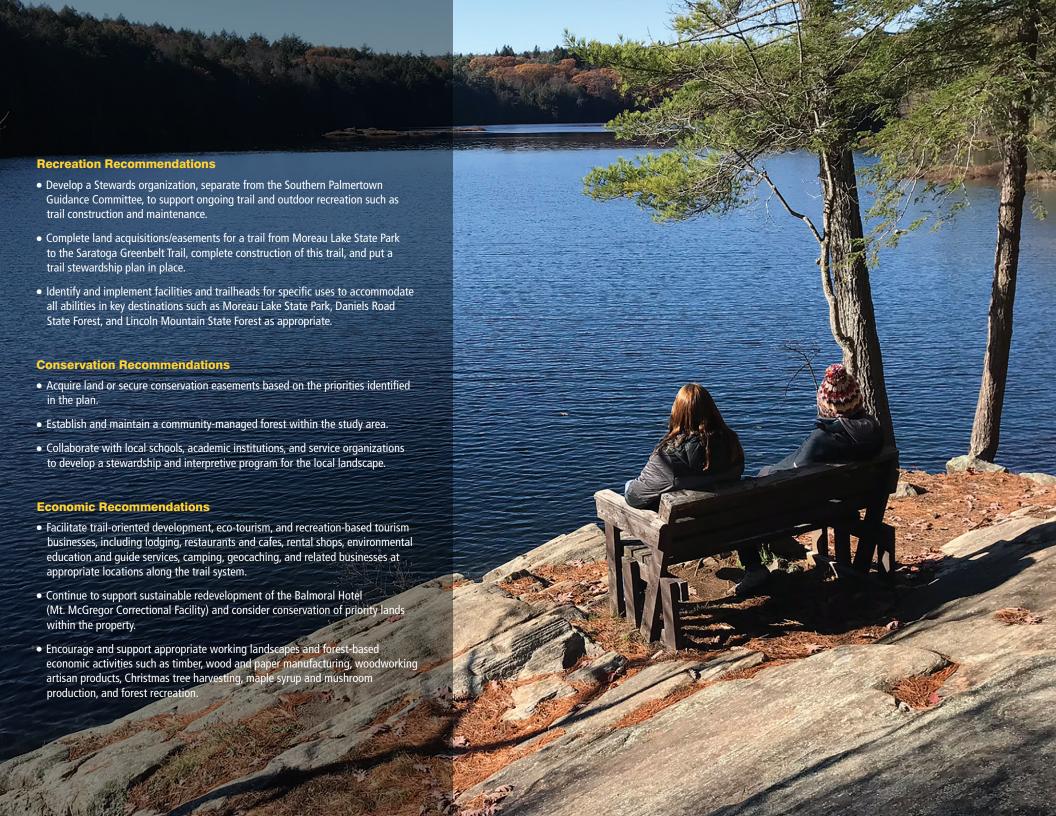
The Southern Palmertown Range is an ecologically intact landscape with extensive, unfragmented, diverse forests and wetlands. It serves to capture and purify source waters for streams and groundwater reserves. Furthermore, the area is in-close proximity to the Northway and growing population centers in Saratoga Springs, Glens Falls, and Wilton. The Southern Palmertown Area has the potential to link communities through thoughtful use of a connected landscape. With over 7,000 acres of land currently protected, this area, in the northern part of Saratoga County, is an important ecological linkage between the Adirondack Park, Lake George, the Taconic and Green Mountains of Vermont, the Capital Region, and the Hudson River Valley.

A plan was formulated this year that suggests steps that can be taken by local communities working together with thoughtful, cooperative planning and action that will result in retention of the landscape, its environmental services, and natural resources while simultaneously stimulating compatible economic development activities.

The vision of this plan provides recommendations for conservation, recreation, and sustainable economic development. Key features include lands recommended for conservation, a trail through the study area from Moreau Lake State Park to Daniels Road State Forest, with connections to the communities and businesses in Corinth, Moreau, Greenfield, Saratoga Springs, and Wilton. The plan suggests, as a first step, establishing a Guidance Committee composed of representatives from local municipalities and nonprofit organizations to oversee collaborative implementation of the recommendations contained in the plan, and hiring a coordinator to facilitate collaboration by an extensive group of interested partners.

DOWNLOAD THE FULL REPORT www.saratogaplan.org/blog/palmertown-report-released/









Staff and Board



With a small staff pulling hard on their oars, someone needs to guide the boat in the right direction, and Executive Director **Maria Trabka** juggles competing

priorities, tight schedules, limited funding, and diverse constituents and supporters while steering a clear course: preserving land and nature.



Mike Horn joined Saratoga PLAN in early 2018 as Conservation Director, and he quickly began marshaling the army of partners required to envision and eventually complete

land protection projects. Working daily with landowners, state and local officials, business leaders, fellow non-profit leaders, lawyers, bankers, town clerks, and other staff, Mike was soon marching his way through the complex work of land conservation.



Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow will keep Stewardship Coordinator **Greg Redling** from his appointed rounds. They include monitoring 64 properties, leading

volunteer crews in maintaining trails, planning trail restoration, fighting invasive species, managing the Stewardship Committee, and "other duties as assigned." His days are long, distances walked are great, and Saratoga PLAN's properties are well cared for



Michelle Hall,

Program Assistant for Development, pulls the levers and strings that move volunteers, staff, chefs, farmers, vendors, and guests from their cells on many spread-

sheets toward the first, and best, farm-to-table experience in Saratoga—Feast of the Fields. The 13th Feast of the Fields, held in 2018, was a sold-out success, and believe it or not Michelle is already filling in the spreadsheets for 09/19/19.



Balancing checkbooks, QuickBooks, and booking meetings,

Dana Kear, Program Assistant for Operations, juggles a never-ending list of tasks that grows with PLAN's expansion.

Dana keeps all the plates spinning, while staff throw her balls, clubs, and flaming torches, and then she does it all over again, and again.



Joining Saratoga PLAN again in 2018, **Laura Kipper**, GIS Specialist & Ag Outreach Intern, played the keyboard in a Bravo performance of map making, data crunching, and GIS

analysis. Digital music replaced analog long ago, and the same is happening with land trust data. Laura was our maestro conductor of clouds of numbers and information.

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Rachel (Czub)
McDermott is an entrepreneurial farmer using her investment banking and technology background to diversify her family's corn operation. She

is establishing a grain hub on fertile farmland in Moreau to grow, aggregate, process and distribute grains grown in NY for craft brewers and distillers. She is also planning her own brewery, distillery and taproom onsite. Rachel's enthusiasm for value-added agriculture and welcoming the public onto the farm is a model PLAN hopes to "tap" into.



Kyle Nichols is a professor of Geosciences at Skidmore College. Kyle and his students research hydrology and surficial geology at locations in upstate New York, the deserts

of the southwest US, Australia, Africa, and beyond. Kyle's expertise will help PLAN better understand and prioritize the landscapes we're working in, especially the Southern Palmertown Range, its ridge, wetlands, and headwater streams.



Ray O'Conor is an avid hiker and climber who explores the area's forests and mountains with great frequency.
Retired from the banking industry, Ray's civic engagement continues

through the Saratoga Center for the Family,

Saratoga County Capital Resource Corporation, the Veterans' & Community Housing Coalition, and many other community service projects.

THANK YOU DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS!

Jenn Hunt Dempsey served on Saratoga



PLAN's Board of Directors for 9 years. During her tenure, Jenn focused on improving PLAN's fundraising program and the Board's participation. The

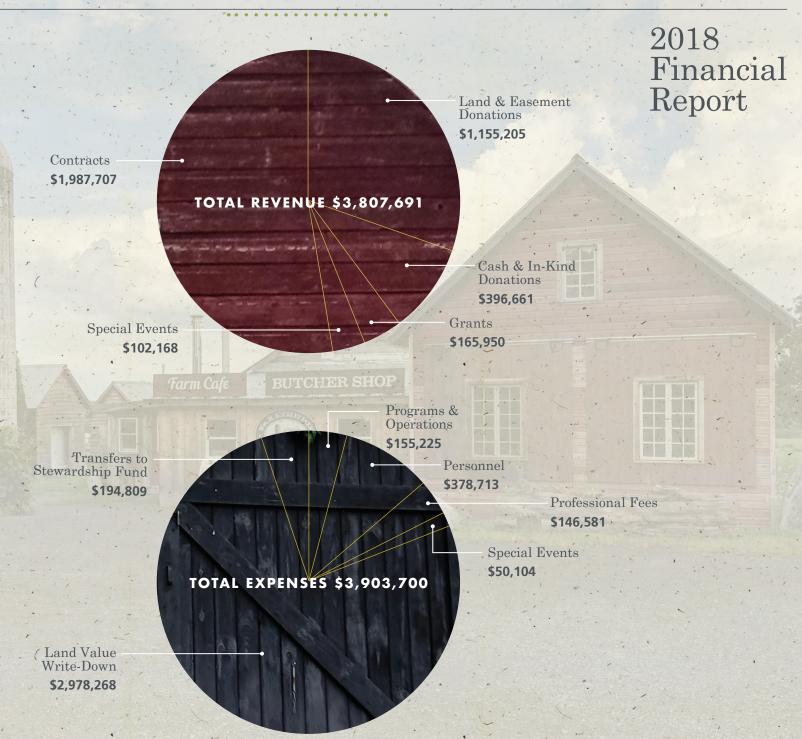
continuation of Jenn's service on the Emeritus Board will ensure that her keen analytical mind, communications acumen, and ability to recall details as well as big picture initiatives will be retained. Jenn is the Waldorf School's Communications Director and is an active runner and skier with her family.



John Munter

Sr. has been a tremendous force for conservation over many years. John helped build the Bog Meadow Trail 25 years ago and

rebuilt it in 2018. He also stepped up to the plate to purchase the Boyhaven Scout Camp when it became clear that an interim conservation buyer was going to be needed. While serving on Saratoga PŁAN's Board of Directors for 8 years, 2 of them as its Chair, John built bridges—literally and figuratively—with his wide network of respected business and construction peers he gained while building Munter Enterprises.



Notes

Saratoga PLAN's audited financial statement for fiscal year 2018 should be completed by mid-summer 2019. 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 2018 is restricted for project expenses in 2019. 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 stewardship. Complete audited financial statements for prior years are available from the NYS Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. *.



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Thank You!

Without your support 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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(planned beguests) Tim Barnett Rav David Barbara Faraone Barbara L. Glaser Sally Hart Barbara Hennig Richard Higgins Field Horne Merry Huber Barbara Jefts Gina Johnson Robin Kaska Lorna Kircher Carolyn Malstrom Charles Martin Susan Miller Maryanna Milton VE and Edith Pilcher Libby Smith-Holmes Martha Strohl Shane and Jamie Williams-Ness Larry and Meg Woolbright

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City of Saratoga Springs County of Saratoga **NYS Conservation Partnership** Program NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets

Town of Ballston Town of Wilton

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Bernice B. Godine Family

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D'Abate

Miller Fina

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White Dog Preserve Wild Birds Unlimited Saratoga Springs Willow Marsh Farm Wm. H. Buckley Farm

We truly appreciate each and every one of you and wish to acknowledge the individuals, foundations, business partners, partner organizations and volunteers who make it all possible. Inevitably, some names are missed or misspelled. We sincerely apologize. Please let us know!

PHOTOGRAPHY Frank Berlin Miyoko Fulleringer Fmma Hitch Dana Kear Ashley Keatley John I Kettlewell Laura Kipper Abigail Larkin Grea Redlina Jim Sevinsky

Dawn Szurek

Joanna and Bill Lasher

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