



saratoga
PLAN

Preserving Land and Nature

Fall 2015

fieldnotes

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



CONSERVING
FARMLAND



PROTECTING
WOODS + WATERS



BUILDING
TRAILS



This new 90-acre preserve encompasses critical environmental assets including both wetlands and woodlands, and offers ample opportunities for recreational activities.

THE ROUND LAKE PRESERVE: NOW OPEN FOR ADVENTURE

ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, Saratoga PLAN and the Town of Malta hosted a celebratory ribbon cutting for the new Round Lake Preserve, located in the Town of Malta off of Route 67.

With a long-term partnership envisioned, Saratoga PLAN and the Town of Malta acquired the land that now makes up the Round Lake Preserve from the Sweeney family in 2008. They have since worked together to preserve this land adjacent to Round Lake and the Anthony Kill, protecting significant natural and archaeological resources. “For thousands of years, Native Americans spent summers camping, canoeing, and fishing along the shores of Round Lake and the Anthony

Kill,” says Maria Trabka, Executive Director of Saratoga PLAN. “Future generations will now have the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful and special place, thanks to the partnership efforts of Saratoga PLAN, the Town of Malta, Saratoga County, New York State, and many private donors and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to preserve our heritage and our future.”

Be sure to check out the new preserve, which offers multiple passive recreational and cultural opportunities to the community including: accessible trails, boardwalk, educational signage, fishing access, viewing areas, and a car-top boat launch.

EXPLORING THE SIEGE IN VICTORY

Siege Trail now open!

JUST 8 MILES NORTH OF THE SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD an incredible siege took place along Fish Creek. After several days of being surrounded and starving, British General John Burgoyne was forced into surrendering on October 17th, 1777, an act that ultimately convinced the French to recognize the United States of America and join them in their battle for independence.

Saratoga PLAN has been honored to work with many partners over many years on a project that has built a historic interpretive trail for the public along this very same section of Fish Creek where the Americans laid siege. On Saturday, October 17th, PLAN officially opened the new trail to the public and held a grand opening in celebration of its completion.

“The land that this trail crosses holds great significance for American history. It is our hope that the new Siege Trail will draw and educate visitors for years to come,” says Devin Rigolino, Stewardship Coordinator of Saratoga PLAN. “Thank you to everyone involved in making the creation of this trail a possibility.”

Saratoga Siege Trail

Fog of War

Morning, October 11, 1777, the river valley is cloaked in autumn fog. Captain Nathan Goodale's Continental soldiers use the mist to bluff a British guard near the mouth of Fish Creek into surrendering.

During questioning, the prisoners reveal that the British have not yet retreated, and still hold positions in the hills across Fish Creek. British supply boats, laden with irreplaceable food, are quickly destroyed.

Surrounded and starving, the British surrender less than a week later.

Profile: Brian Pomeroy
This river valley became an important resource for the self-sufficiency of the people following the Revolutionary War. General Philip Schuyler's main ground position, several logs, and more than 100 tons for clothing and supplies, all with power harnessed from the waters of Fish Creek. After the British destroyed his home on Fish Creek in 1777, Schuyler used his saw mill to make quick rebuilding possible.

"The British guard were all paraded, the officer gave the word, make ready, they all cocked their pieces, in the meantime Capt. Goodale had the command to prevent his own men from firing to give the alarm to the Enemy who could not see him on account of the Fog, and such boldness of address as to draw the British officer out of his fire, and the whole to ground their arms."
—Colonel John Putnam to General George Washington, October 26, 1778





The new Siege Trail features interpretive signage that tells the American's tale of the great siege on Fish Creek. Be sure to check out the new trail to learn more about this important event in American history.

NEW ADDITIONS TO PLAN'S NATURE PRESERVES

Eagle Scouts make all the difference

SARATOGA PLAN IS PROUD TO WORK WITH local Eagle Scout candidates and their troop mates. Over the past several years, PLAN's nature preserves have seen many improvements, thanks to the contributions of scouts that have worked to improve our properties with benches, water crossings and signage.

This past summer, scout Tyler Gileski from Galway Troop 4005 worked to plan, build, and install information boxes at each of our public preserves. These boxes contain maps, letterbox clues, nature preserve passports, newsletters, and brochures which will help enhance the preserve experience for visitors. Thank you, Tyler and Troop 4005 for all your hard work!



A huge thank you to all of our dedicated supporters and volunteers. Lasting conservation work requires considerable money and time, and without you, none of this is possible.

CONSERVING THE PITNEY FARM

breathing life into a community vision

THE PITNEY FARM - A TREASURED LANDSCAPE WITH a cluster of rustic gray barns and large open corn field – is also one of the last remaining active farms within the city of Saratoga Springs. As the first step towards a larger community vision of transforming it into a “community farm,” the initiative to conserve the 166 acre farm is well underway. Once conserved, this farm will be *a place for people*.

A community farm in the city, close to home, where everyone will be welcomed to learn about, participate in, and enjoy the fruits of their labors and celebrate our agricultural heritage. Together, we will forever guarantee that there is a large community farm within the city of Saratoga Springs. By supporting the conservation of the Community Farm at Pitney Meadows, you're not just helping to save a farm; you're helping give everyone in our community a better quality of life, for generations to come.

Many thanks to all those who are helping realize the vision of the Community Farm at Pitney Meadows.

double your donation!

Help us save the Pitney Farm by reaching \$25,000 in online donations and your donation will be matched by an anonymous foundation. Make your donation today and share with friends and family to turn \$25,000 into \$50,000.

WORDS OF SUPPORT

SEE SARATOGAPLAN.ORG FOR DETAILS

“I will never forget the sight the fall day a few years ago when I drove out to West Avenue (from the Y) and saw the Pitney Farm’s chopped down cornfield covered in white snow geese. I wasn’t the only

one who stopped to gaze in wonder. That is the kind of marvelous experience this acquisition will make for Saratogians.”

Barbara Thomas



“I’m definitely hoping that people will join with us and Saratoga PLAN in helping to preserve this farm. It’s a historic farm. It’s been in the Pitney

family for a hundred and some odd years, and we feel like it’s an important part of the history and culture of Saratoga Springs and Saratoga County.”

Will Orthwein

“This is an opportunity to have a community farm where both my daughters can come and be a part of programs and learn about that history and be live and be real for them. My husband and I are getting behind it. We’re putting our time and our resources and our finances behind it. We’re donating and we’re asking everyone who can – to do as well. I think every Saratogian should be excited about what can happen here.” **Brooke McConnell**



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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 4,163 acres of farmland, forest, natural habitat, trail corridors, historic places, and water resources in Saratoga County.



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