

fieldnotes

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



CONSERVING
FARMLAND



PROTECTING
WOODS + WATERS



BUILDING
TRAILS



Ebike Raffle: Congratulations Andi!

A big thank you to Blue Sky Bicycles, TREK Bicycle Store, and Aztech Environmental for their donation of an Electra Townie Go! Bicycle! The bike is custom fitted to our winner, Andi Dolinsky. The Electra Townie Go! monitors your peddling power and speed, and automatically gives surprising power from a Bosch electric motor for an added boost to help power up hills and ride long distances without breaking a sweat! Thank you to everyone who participated in this exciting raffle and making it a huge success! We raised a total of \$2,700. The money raised will go toward preserving the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of Saratoga County. Congratulations, Andi! Enjoy your new Ebike!

FARMER MIXER 2016

On October 15th, PLAN held its first Farmer Mixer at Yankee Distillers in Clifton Park. The focus of the gathering was to help farmers find useful information about grant opportunities and technical assistance money. There was an appetizing chili prepared by 9 Miles East featuring local grassfed beef from West Wind Acres and butternut squash produced by 9 Miles East. Matt Jager, owner of Yankee Distillers, gave the attendees a tour of the distillery with great detail on how their whiskey, rum and vodka are produced. At the end of the tour, all engaged in a tasting opportunity. The Farmer Mixer created wonderful networking opportunities. One farmer was able to secure a source of "porridge", leftover distiller's grains for livestock feed through attending this event. Other attendees learned of the distillers' needs for local rye and wheat.



ENGAGING COMMUNITIES IN CONSERVATION : PALMERTOWN AREA

PLAN is teaming up with a range of partners to protect unfragmented forests, headwaters, habitat, and landscapes in the Palmertown Conservation Area, while also planning a trail system to connect Moreau Lake State Park and Saratoga Spa State Park. The Palmertown Area is bordered by the Hudson River to the North, State Rt. 9N to the west, and State Rt. 9 to the east. The area includes the Palmertown Range, Moreau Lake State Park, lands owned by Skidmore College, and other New York State Forests. Palmertown has high potential as well as public support for conservation of working forests, stream headwaters, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation based on the results of PLAN's recent landscape analysis. In addition, our recent advocacy resulted in the addition of Mt. McGregor State Correctional Facility property to Moreau Lake State Park, expanding connections within the Palmertown Area.

This project will focus on:

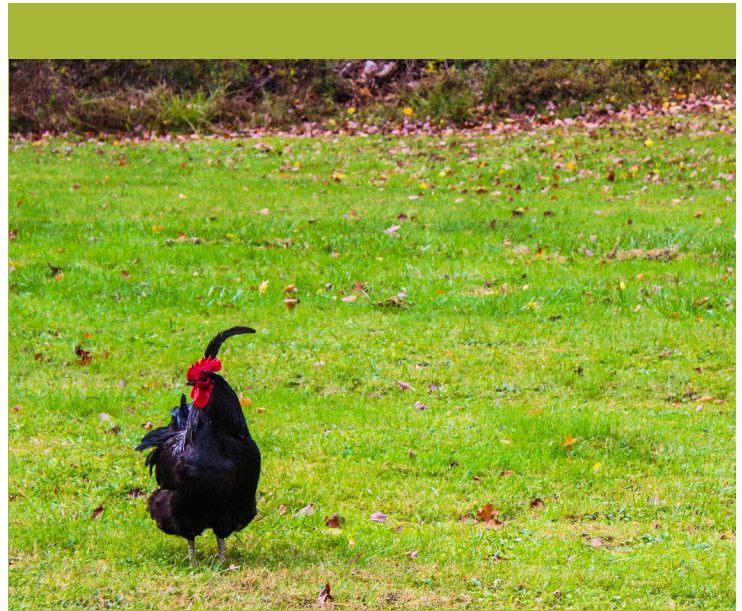
- 1) localized public outreach and education efforts,
- 2) cultivating and formalizing relationships, and
- 3) gathering ecological and sociological information.

Project partners include local landowners, Open Space Institute, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, towns of Moreau, Wilton, Greenfield, and Corinth, the City of Saratoga Springs, Skidmore College, Saratoga Backcountry Horsemen's Association, Saratoga Mountain Bike Association, Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Countywide Trails Committee, Saratoga Greenbelt Trail Committee, and more! Look for upcoming events including trail scouting, naturalist tours of evergreen plants and Lake Bonita and a wildflower presentation with Jackie Donnelly, and bird viewing with South Adirondack Audubon Society. Other field events are in development, and will focus on bringing citizens and experts together to explore Palmertown ecosystems through mammal tracking, insects, fungi, trees, amphibians, reptiles, or geology, in order to engage local communities, connect to the landscape, and collect environmental data.

Contact Abbie, PLAN's intern coordinating this project, for more information (abbie@saratogaplan.org)



Lake Bonita in the Palmertown area



Rooster at a property by the Hennig Preserve



Bog Meadow Pond



Farm located in West Charlton, Saratoga County

TIME FOR CHANGE!

Now a 13 year-old organization, “teenager” seems fitting for this next stage of Saratoga PLAN’s life. We’ve gotten through an awkward growth stage, become a nationally accredited land trust, tackled greater numbers, and increasingly complex, conservation projects, and established working relationships with multiple partners in communities across Saratoga County.

A recent strategic planning process resulted in a Business Blueprint for the coming teenage years, 2016-2019. The Business Blueprint demonstrated that it is time to “grow into our boots” and make some changes in order to have greater impact. The analysis of PLAN as an organization and the context in which it works showed that:

- PLAN is a small, stable, successful organization with an impressive portfolio of accomplishments.
 - PLAN’s balanced, strategic community-centric approach to conservation has earned it respect from landowners, elected officials, business leaders, and supporters.
 - PLAN is viewed as “quietly effective” and considered “Saratoga County’s best kept secret.”
 - There is a significant need and growing demand for conservation services in Saratoga County, and PLAN is the best organization to provide those unique services.
 - Community members are ready to increase support for conservation services which will, in turn, provide the financial resources to sustain adequate numbers of professional staff and volunteers, improve the efficiency of operations, and raise the profile of PLAN’s governing Board.
- We are ready to grow up and we’ve wasted no time getting started. We’ve restructured our staff and are in the process of forming a senior leadership team. The hiring process is underway to bring on a Constituent Engagement Director to broaden our base of support and help citizens connect and become more effective in taking action in their communities to strengthen conservation. We plan to hire a Conservation Director in early 2017 to handle the mushrooming

- roster of land protection projects and landowner inquiries and to
- help municipalities with protecting resources important to their
- communities. Greg Redling, a former intern, has been hired to
- steward our portfolio of preserve and conservation easements.
- Ashley Keatley is serving as our new Program Assistant. We will be
- rolling out new positions as we are able.
- The places you love – local farms, accessible open spaces, recreational
- trails – and the quality of life you enjoy will be enhanced if we
- work together to protect Saratoga County’s rural character, natural
- habitats, and scenic beauty. Please contact executive director Maria
- Trabka, if you want to help make this next growth spurt a reality!
- PLAN’s Board and staff sincerely appreciate the county residents who provided
- insights and perspectives to Shelli Bischoff of Conservation Impact who helped
- prepare the Business Blueprint, with funding from the NYS Conservation
- Partnership Program administered by the Land Trust Alliance.



New staff members, Ashley Keatley (Program Assistant) and Greg Redling (Stewardship Coordinator).

LETTERBOXING



Saratoga PLAN recently updated five sets of new letterbox clues at PLAN trails and preserves. Thanks to the creativity and hard work of Kim Dellis, Speech/Language Pathologist and Assistive Technologist for the Saratoga Springs School district and Saratoga PLAN volunteer, we now have new clues at the Saratoga Siege Trail, the Zim Smith Trail, Railroad Run Trail, Spruce Mountain Trail and PLAN’s Round Lake Preserve. Saratoga PLAN is also seeking funding opportunities to re-print Preserve Passports for visitors to the trails and preserves. In the meantime, clues can be found on our website www.saratogaplan.org/explore. We encourage you and your family to get outdoors, visit one of these great places in your area and see if you can find any of our letterboxes. If you do, sign the log book inside and tell us about your experience. We know you’ll enjoy the beautiful natural places in Saratoga County.



ASHLEY'S STORY:

I am a senior at the State University of New York at Cobleskill. I live on a small farm. Our farm is primarily egg laying hens and dairy goats. I have the goal of building my own farm on a piece of property that neighbors my family's property. I began at Saratoga PLAN as an Agriculture Intern working on farmland protection. Part of my internship was planning a farmer gathering. While I was researching different grants available to beginning farmers, I found resources that I could use to accomplish my own farm goals. I am applying for a technical assistance grant that will help me obtain legal advice for purchasing the neighboring farmland. I am finishing my bachelor's degree in Animal Science, farming full time, and working part time. By 2017, I plan to have the extra space to expand our farm and join the dairy goat industry! The internship and the technical assistance grant is supported by Hudson Valley Farmlink Network which is coordinated by American Farmland Trust and has received primary funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.



2016 BUSINESS

PARTNERS \$500+

Adirondack Sign Company
Advanced Manufacturing Technologies, Inc.
Buckley Gent McDonald & Cary, PC
Capital Region Living Magazine
Capital Tractor Inc.
Collins Mechanical, LLC
Courtyard Saratoga

D. A. Collins Construction Co., Inc.
Elan Planning & Design Inc.
Explore Saratoga
Farm Credit East
Greenfield Manufacturing, Inc.
Innovative Resources Group Inc
King Wealth Management Group, LLC
Leonard Bus Sales, Inc
Linell Lands, Inc.

Marvin & Company, PC
Miller Printing
Prime at Saratoga
National Inc
Rulyn Design Resources
Racing City Realty Inc.
Saratoga National Bank
SKS Bottle & Packaging, Inc.
Sneeringer Monahan
Provost Redgrave
Stewart's Shops
Walter S. Borisenok
Family Foundation
Welcome Stock Farm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jackie Hakes, *Chair*
Will Orthwein, *Vice-Chair*
Jane Mastaitis, *Treasurer*
Jay Arnold, *Secretary*
Phyllis Aldrich
John Munter
John L. Barone, Esq.
Jenn Hunt Dempsey
Chip Ellms
Fil Fina, III
Richard Higgins
Tim Jaques
Karl Newton
Katharine Petronis
Alain Polynice
Jim Sevinsky
Genevieve Trigg, Esq.

EMERITUS BOARD

Tim Barnett
Peter Brooks
John Colley
Barbara L. Glaser
Lisa Nagle
Brad Oswald
Ray Seymour

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Barbara Faraone
Michael Gaige
Joe Grasso
Charles Hanehan
Scott Miller
Jeff Olson
Libby Smith-Holmes

STAFF

Maria Trabka
Ashley Keatley
Greg Redling

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 4,407 acres of farmland, forest, natural habitat, trail corridors, historic places, and water resources in Saratoga County.



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



SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR PLAN!



DONATE quickly and securely at saratogaplan.org.



FOLLOW us on Twitter @SaratogaPLAN.



VOLUNTEER by calling 518.587.5554.



LIKE us on Facebook and share our updates with your friends.



RECYCLE this newsletter by passing it on to a friend.



SUBSCRIBE to our e-news by signing up on our website.



FOLLOW [saratogaplan](https://www.instagram.com/saratogaplan) on Instagram.