

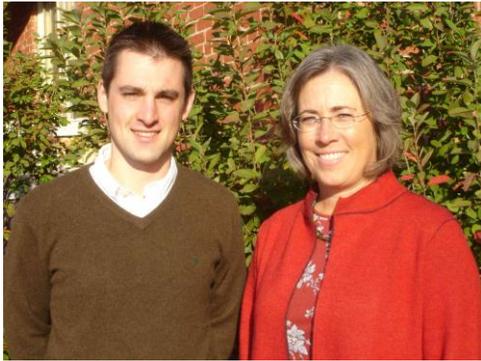


# HIGHLIGHTS

## SUMMER-FALL 2008

Saratoga P.L.A.N. (Preserving Land and Nature)  
112 Spring St, Rm 202, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, tel: (518) 587-5554, fax: (518) 587-4054

### Saratoga P.L.A.N. Welcomes New Staff & Board Members



Please welcome our new Executive Director, Maria Trabka, who comes to Saratoga P.L.A.N. from the Agricultural Stewardship Association. She's joined by Andy Fyfe, who was recently hired as our Stewardship and Education Coordinator. We look forward to the new energy, ideas and vision both Maria and Andy bring to the organization. We also welcome new board members, Peg Olsen, Joseph Scriver and Ethan Winter.

### 40 Acres Protected on Fish Creek

Saratoga P.L.A.N. worked closely with the Fish Creek Rod and Gun Club to protect a parcel they recently purchased along Fish Creek in the Town of Saratoga. The property, protected by a conservation easement, includes fields and forest.



Fish Creek drains Saratoga Lake through the Town of Saratoga and empties into the Hudson River

We hope to close soon on a two-acre parcel adjacent to Fish Creek in the Town of Saratoga. The site contains significant artifacts from the Battle of Saratoga, is adjacent to Brookfield Power's Fish Creek Trail and would provide opportunities for trail access and interpretation.

### Volunteers Improve Galway, Saratoga and Clifton Park Preserves



In May, Saratoga P.L.A.N. received a \$15,000 grant from the Dockstader Trust to continue site restoration and trail development at our Galway Nature Preserve in the Town of Galway. The 2008-09 Leadership Saratoga class has adopted the Galway Preserve as their class project. The group is installing signage and making other site improvements, as well as recruiting other volunteers from the local community.

We continue to make progress on our Karner Blue Butterfly restoration at our Ushers Road Preserve in Clifton Park. This fall crews have been removing trees at the site to create more suitable open habitat for Blue Lupine to grow – the host plant which the butterfly larvae solely feed upon

**Volunteers from HSBC Bank** (above) joined us for a day of trail clearing this September, to extend the Bog Meadow Brook trail in Saratoga Springs. Thanks to volunteer Geoff Bornemann who is overseeing this project.

**We're making headway on community planning efforts.** We submitted and received a Main Street grant for the Village of Corinth which will help stabilize some of the properties in their downtown damaged by last year's fire. We are also assisting the Village of Round Lake with development of an open space plan. This fall we completed our first conservation subdivision project in the City of Saratoga Springs which resulted in protection of a 45-acre parcel in the Grand Avenue-Meadow Vista Subdivision. We hope this collaboration with New York Development Group will serve as a model for future developments.

**Do you get our email news?** If not, join our Email Distribution List today! Go to [www.saratogaplan.org](http://www.saratogaplan.org)  
Enter your name and email in the lower left – you'll receive news about upcoming events & activities

## Culinary Magic Using Fresh Locally Produced Food Raises \$25,000 for Saratoga P.L.A.N.



The 2008 Feast of the Fields, held this year at Saratoga National Golf Club on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, was a huge success,

with over 250 people in attendance. Thank you to the chefs, farmers, corporate sponsors, honorary members, and everyone who attended and helped plan the event.

**Saratoga P.L.A.N. Trails are Going Places!** Saratoga P.L.A.N. meets bimonthly with trail advocates and government representatives to provide input, ideas and vision for development of a countywide trail system. Thanks to the advocacy efforts of the committee, soon the Zim Smith Trail will extend from Round Lake to the southern boundary of the Village of Ballston Spa. Some of the other trail initiatives we are involved in include:

- Promoting a trail connection from our Malta Trolley line (taken for the Round Lake Bypass) to the Zim Smith trail and into Luther Forest.
- Working with numerous partners to develop a Champlain Canalway Trail which will reach from Waterford to Whitehall.
- Supporting a trail on Geysers Road in Saratoga Springs which will connect to Railroad Run and the Spa Park.
- Urging the county to plan for a multi-use trail on the county's water line right-of-way, specifically, along the Daniels and Bloomfield Road section.
- Pursuing several trail projects in the Town of Saratoga and the Villages of Victory and Schuylerville on the tow path and along Fish Creek, in cooperation with Brookfield Power.



**Get Outside this Winter:** We will hold several special “winter walks” once the snow starts falling. And, we will once again cosponsor the **Winter Festival** with the Saratoga Sport and Social Club, which was a huge success last year. A date has not yet been confirmed but we anticipate early March. This is a fun, family friendly event including a 5K adult XC ski race, 1K kids race, snowman building contest, vendors, music, and overall fun time. Check our website, [www.saratogaplan.org](http://www.saratogaplan.org) for dates & locations of the winter walks

Join us for a snowshoe walk over the frozen wetlands of **Manning Cove Preserve** (left) this winter. Date TBD.

**New Saratoga Local Living Guide** and coupon book to your favorite Saratoga Springs' stores and businesses available for purchase. Guides are \$10 with a portion of the proceeds going to Saratoga P.L.A.N. and the Saratoga Farmer's Market. The books are available for sale at various locations including the Saratoga P.L.A.N. office.

**Easement Workshop for Landowners:** Saratoga County Planning Department will host an upcoming workshop for landowners explaining how easements are appraised and the tax implications of selling or donating development rights. Date TBD. For more information call 884-4705.

**Join Saratoga P.L.A.N. Today!** Please consider becoming a supporting member of Saratoga P.L.A.N. Now more than ever your support is needed to help us continue to protect Saratoga County's precious open space, rural character and quality of life. If you wish to establish a charitable gift annuity or make a bequest through your will to Saratoga P.L.A.N. contact Maria Trabka, Executive Director at 518-587-5554 x1.