



saratoga  
PLAN

Preserving Land and Nature

# fieldnotes

FALL 2018

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



CONSERVING  
FARMLAND



PROTECTING  
WOODS + WATERS



BUILDING  
TRAILS

## WIN A FAT BIKE

Enter our raffle to win a full carbon fiber Borealis Crestone Eagle GX fat bike, with a retail value of over \$3500. Raffle tickets are \$50 each, and only 300 will be sold. The drawing will be on December 27, 2018. Call 518-587-5554 to get your tickets, or they may be purchased at PLAN's office.

Stop by, say hello, and get your tickets!



## BARKERSVILLE TRAIL PROJECT

Saratoga PLAN has the opportunity to protect a 168-acre property straddling the Galway-Providence town line in the hamlet of Barkersville. Formerly a training ground for sled dogs and home to horses, the property has a well-designed trail system already in place. The owners would like to donate a conservation easement, valued at \$420,000, so that the property remains permanently undeveloped, and provides public access to trails, hopefully to include equestrian access.

The Dockstader Charitable Trust has awarded a \$19,000 grant toward this acquisition, and the Miller Family Charitable Trust has donated \$15,000. \$27,000 is still needed as of 10/18 for transaction and Stewardship Fund requirements.

Please use the enclosed form to make your contribution to this great project!

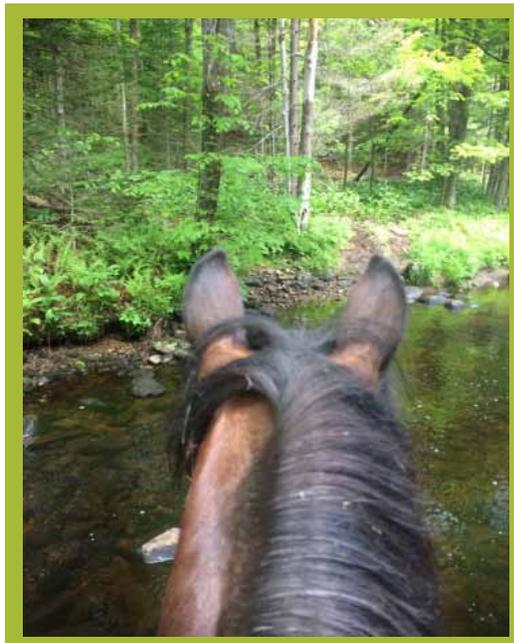


Photo by Frieda Garrison

CONNECT WITH PLAN Stay up to the minute on the latest developments at Saratoga PLAN, and don't miss out on hiking trips, events, volunteer opportunities, and other special happenings. Sign up for our email newsletter @saratogaplan.org and check us out on Twitter @SaratogaPLAN, on Facebook @Saratogaplan, and on Instagram @saratogaplan.

# Thank you 2018 Business Partners!

## 2018 BUSINESS PARTNERS \$500+

Adirondack Sign Company  
Adirondack Trust Company  
Aztech Technologies, Inc.  
Brookfield Renewable  
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Capital Region Living  
Colley Asset Management  
Courtyard Marriott Saratoga Springs  
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Meyer & Fuller PLLC Attorneys at Law  
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Saratoga TODAY  
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The Daily Gazette  
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Walter Borisenok Family Foundation  
Welcome Stock Farm

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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 and communities with fulfilling their conservation goals for their land and provides stewardship for over 5,200 acres of farmland, forest, natural habitat, trail corridors, historic places, and water resources in Saratoga County.



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Donate: [www.saratogaplan.org](http://www.saratogaplan.org)



Volunteer: 518-587-5554



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518-587-5554

## TOOKER FARM CONSERVED



Donald Tooker still plants his own garden and freezes his vegetables for the winter. His life and legacy is a confirmation that hard work and fertile farmland are needed to feed the fast-growing population of the Town of Wilton, a suburb of Saratoga Springs.

The results on Don's 90 acres speak for themselves: a bountiful harvest of honey, fresh vegetables and a wealth of good feed for local dairies. With help, Don still nurtures 30 bee hives.



Don made a full donation of a conservation easement, with grants from Saratoga County and Town of Wilton, for some of the transactional costs.

*"I've been offered money by different developers they didn't feel I could turn down. But, I never wanted a housing development down through the fields." Donald Tooker*

PLAN fundraising will pay for other transaction costs and the perpetual stewardship that protects the easement.

Please consider making a contribution toward the stewardship of this important property. Contact PLAN to learn more.



Maria Trabka and Donald Tooker

## FEATHERBED LANE FARM



Farming is a challenging profession, that requires persistence, knowledge, skill, hard work, financial support and productive land. Saratoga PLAN partners with farmers to guarantee access to valuable farmland.



Tim Biello is a multi-tasking farmer who gets up early to work the fields of the 60-acre Featherbed Lane Farm, located in the Town of Charlton, using real horsepower-draft horses! He then goes to work at the offices of American Farmland Trust where he is helping other farmers to keep local agriculture productive. Nobody said making a living as a farmer is easy!

"It was a challenging growing season, Tim noted. "It was a cool and slow start to spring, followed by two months of heat and almost no rain, and then a late summer and fall with too much rain."

Saratoga PLAN secured \$185,936 in funding from NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and \$35,900 from Saratoga County to purchase development rights. Equity Trust is providing funding to include a "Pre-Emptive Purchase Right" as a provision in the easement, and RSF Social Finance provided \$15,000 to help defray some of the stewardship fund expense. PLAN managed the transaction and will uphold the terms of the easement in perpetuity.

PLAN has 10 more farm projects in the works.

This land is permanently conserved in partnership with



## BRIDGING THE BOG



In October Saratoga PLAN rallied an intrepid group of volunteers who braved rain and deep mud to build more than 600 feet of bog bridging on the Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, in Saratoga Springs. Renovations to the 25-year-old trail were partially paid for with a \$30,000 grant from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program, \$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., and lots of labor and engineering from Munter Enterprises. Volunteers carried and installed hundreds of board feet of supports and planking to make the trail dryer and safer. Parts of the trail were leveled with crushed stone and stone dust. New culverts and beaver control measures will help keep the trail dry. The trail will reopen in November (see below).



### CELEBRATE THE REOPENING OF THE BOG MEADOW TRAIL

**What:** Bog Meadow Trail Reopening Event and Press Conference to reopen the newly renovated Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail

**When:** November 3, 10:30am

**Why:** On the 25th anniversary of the trail, Saratoga PLAN completed significant improvements and upgrades to the trail to improve public access.

**Where:** Meadowbrook Road parking area, which is now the new trailhead.

**RSVP:** [info@saratogaplan.org](mailto:info@saratogaplan.org) or call 518-587-5554

### NDAKINNA NATURE PRESERVE

Thanks to brothers Jim and Jesse Bruchac who added 10 acres of forest to the Ndakinna Nature Preserve, bringing the total protected area to 85 acres.

The Ndakinna Nature Preserve was created in 1991 through the donation of Saratoga County's first conservation easement by Marion Bruchac, Jim and Jesse's grandmother.

The land hosts native culture and wilderness education programs of the Ndakinna Education Center. "We're glad to partner with Saratoga PLAN to ensure this land will be forever wild and available for the enjoyment of future generations," said Jim.

## 220-ACRE WILDWOOD FARM PROTECTED



In July, Saratoga PLAN finalized protection of 219.9 acres of productive farmland in the towns of Northumberland and Saratoga, located near the village of Schuylerville, and 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.

*"We're very pleased that this land will never be developed and will likely always be farmed. That's what we're all about."*  
Wayne Wood

This significant project was supported by Hudson Valley Agricultural Enhancement funding from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Saratoga PLAN managed the grant funding and the transaction, and performed all necessary legal steps to secure the transaction. The terms of the agreement will be monitored, upheld, and documented

## JOIN US IN HONORING CONSERVATION HEROES

**Save the Date: December 1, 2018**



Join us at Featherbed Lane Farm to honor seven Conservation Heroes who have made valuable contributions toward conserving land and stewarding preserved lands in Saratoga County. Each honoree will receive a hand-painted and themed birdhouse.

The 2018 award recipients will be Tim Biello, Jim (deceased) and Shirley Bold, Geoff Bornemann, Douglas Meyer, John Munter, Wayne Wood, and Larry Woolbright.

**R.S.V.P. for full details: [info@saratogaplan.org](mailto:info@saratogaplan.org)**



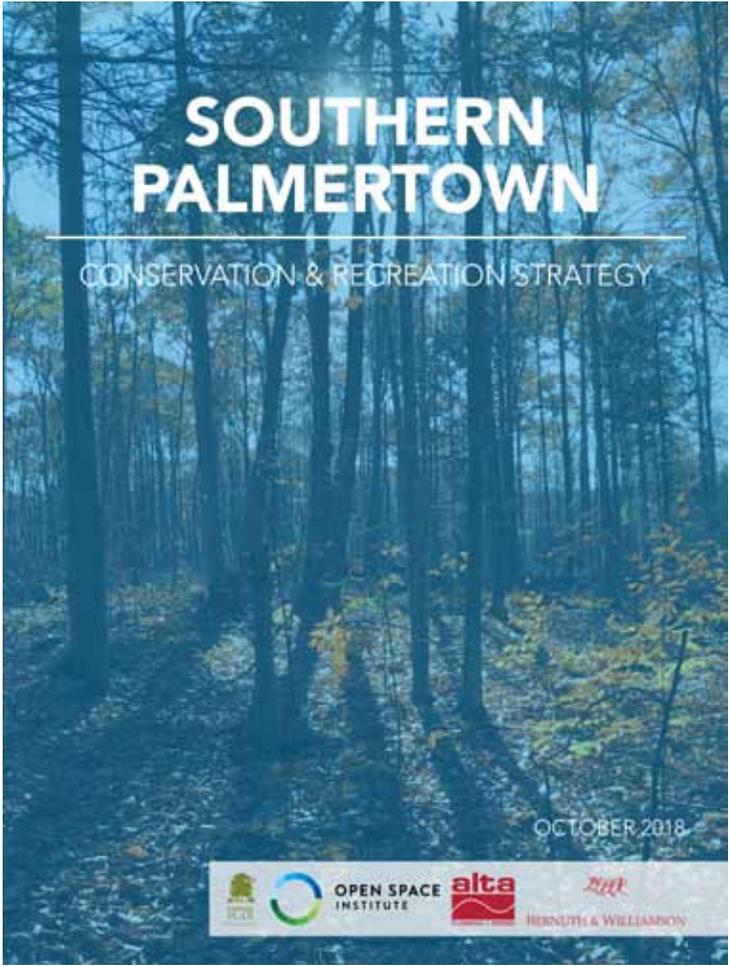
## REDUCE YOUR TAXES AND GET A CHARITABLE DEDUCTION

When a Saratoga PLAN supporter learned that the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from her IRA could be used to support her favorite charitable organization she was surprised, and then she learned taking advantage of this could also reduce her taxable income.

Phyllis Aldrich, a PLAN board member and supporter, said, "Donating my RMD to a charity reduced my income, and I received a charitable deduction. This is perfect!"

A **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** from an IRA owned by someone who is 70½ or older can be both tax deductible, and satisfy your **Required Minimum Distribution** from the IRA. The QCD must be paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity. As a U.S. 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, Saratoga PLAN is a qualified charity.

Learn more about QCDs, RMDs, and IRAs at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), or get advice from your tax professional.



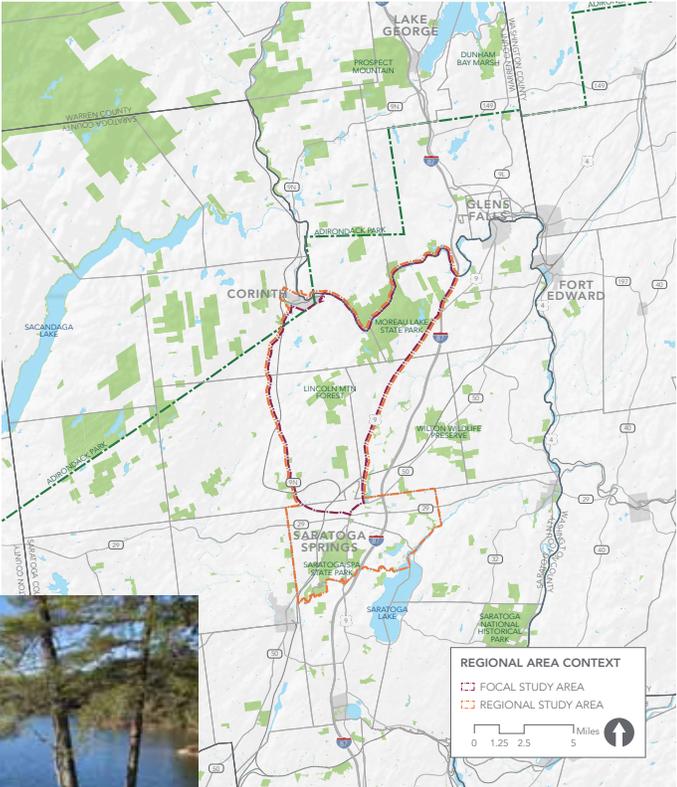
**PALMERTOWN REPORT**

The Southern Palmertown Area has the potential to link communities through thoughtful use of a connected landscape with over 7,000 acres of currently protected lands. 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.

The vision of this plan provides recommendations for conservation, recreation, and sustainable economic development. Key features include recommended conservation lands, a trail through the study area from Moreau Lake State Park to Daniels Road State Forest, with connections to the communities, businesses and managed landscapes in Corinth, Moreau, Greenfield, Saratoga Springs, and Wilton.

The Southern Palmertown Range is an ecologically intact landscape with extensive, unfragmented, diverse forests and wetlands. Furthermore, the area is in close proximity to growing population centers in Saratoga Springs, Glens Falls, and Wilton.

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 plan suggests, as a first step, establishing a Guidance Committee composed of representatives from local municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and businesses to oversee collaborative implementation of the recommendations contained in this Plan, and hiring a coordinator to facilitate collaboration by partners.

## A sample of recommendations from the report:

### RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a 'Friends' organization, separate from the Southern Palmertown Guidance Committee, to support ongoing trail and outdoor recreation such as trail construction and maintenance.
- Complete land acquisitions/easements for a trail from Moreau Lake State Park to the Saratoga Greenbelt Trail, complete construction of this trail, and put a trail stewardship plan in place.
- Identify and implement facilities for specific uses to accommodate all abilities in key destinations such as Moreau Lake State Park, Daniels Road State Forest, and Lincoln Mountain State Forest as appropriate.



### ECONOMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Facilitate trail-oriented development, eco-tourism, and recreation-based tourism businesses, including lodging, restaurants and cafes, rental shops, environmental education and guide services, camping, geocaching, and related businesses at appropriate locations along the trail system.
- Continue to support sustainable redevelopment of the Balmoral Hotel (Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility) and consider conservation of priority lands within the property.
- Encourage and support appropriate working landscapes and forest-based economic activities such as forestry, wood and paper manufacturing, woodworking artisan products, Christmas tree harvesting, maple syrup and mushroom production, and forest recreation.

### CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

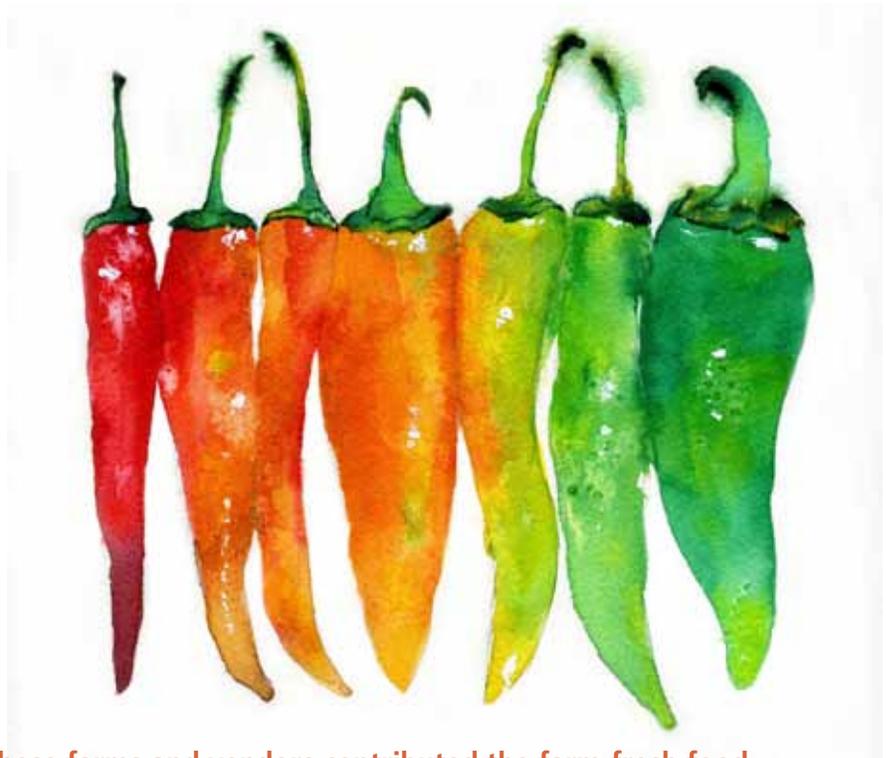
- Acquire land or secure conservation easements based on the priorities identified in this plan.
- Establish and maintain a Community Forest within the study area.
- Collaborate with local schools, academic institutions, and service organizations to develop a stewardship and interpretive program for the local landscape.



**Download the full report:  
SARATOGAPLAN.ORG**

## THANK YOU FARMERS AND VENDORS FOR FEAST OF THE FIELDS

Adirondack Pub and Brewery  
Anderson Acres  
Anna Mae's Homemade Jams  
Arnold's Farm Fresh Produce  
Artisinal Brew Works  
BLG Farms  
Bowman Orchards  
Cabot Creamery Coop  
DeCrescente Distributing Co.  
Denison Farm  
Featherbed Lane Farm  
Glens Falls Distillery  
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Hanehan Family Dairy  
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Heron Hill Winery  
Highland Farm  
King Brothers Dairy  
Lewis Waite Farm  
Lucky Bee Apiary  
Mack Brin Farms  
Mack Brook Farm  
Maple Valley Farm  
Native Farm Flowers  
9 Miles East Farm  
Old World Farm  
Otrembiak Brothers Farm  
Owl Wood Farm  
Peckhaven Farm  
Ramble Creek Farm  
Riverview Orchards  
Rock Hill Bakehouse and Cafe  
R.S. Taylor & Sons Brewery  
Saratoga Apple  
Saratoga Courage Distillery  
Saratoga Olive Oil Co.  
Saratoga Winery and Tasting Room  
Shushan Valley Hydro Farm  
Squashville Farm  
St. Croix Farm  
Stewart's Shops  
Thomas Poultry Farm  
Upstate Distilling Co.  
Welcome Stock Farm  
Willow Marsh Farm  
Wm. H. Buckley Farm



**These farms and vendors contributed the farm-fresh food, delicious accompaniments, beautiful decorations, and fabulous beverages you enjoyed at *Feast of the Fields 2018*. Together with the all-star local chefs, you went above and beyond to help Saratoga PLAN host 606 guests and gross \$115,200 to support conservation of land and nature in Saratoga County. We hope to see everyone again in September 2019!**



More than 600 people enjoyed *Feast of the Fields* in September 2018. Don't miss out on the next edition of Saratoga's original farm-to-table celebration. *Feast* will be back on September 19, 2019!