



saratoga
PLAN

Preserving Land and Nature

Preserving the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of Saratoga County so that these irreplaceable assets are accessible to all and survive for future generations.



CONSERVING
FARMLAND



PROTECTING
WOODS + WATERS



BUILDING
TRAILS

fieldnotes

SPRING 2019

FEATURED EVENT: INAGURAL APPLE BLOSSOM RUN

Let's kick up our knees to save our trees! Local cidery, Saratoga Apple, has partnered with Saratoga PLAN to host a 5k race and kids fun run through their picturesque orchard, expected to be in full bloom by race day. We can't imagine a better way to celebrate spring! Runners, walkers, and frolickers welcome.

Proceeds will go toward ongoing and future Saratoga PLAN projects to conserve irreplaceable lands in Saratoga County for farming and recreation.



WHEN: May 18, 2019
WHERE: Saratoga Apple
RACE TIME: 9:00 am
KIDS FUN RUN: 10:00 am

ADULTS: \$30
KIDS: \$10

Registration and race details coming soon to saratogaplan.org!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- APRIL 10 Wednesday Walk with Michael Gaige, Woodcock Preserve, Clifton Park
An evening outing to scout for woodcocks with ecologist Michael Gaige
- APRIL 26 4H Arbor Day @ Into the Woods Farm, Middle Grove
Celebrate and learn about trees with interactive activities and games
- MAY 11 Wildflower Walk with Jackie Donnelly, Featherbed Lane Farm, Charlton
Perfect for Mother's Day weekend. Discover the beauty of seasonal wildflowers
- MAY 15 Wednesday Walk with Michael Gaige, Hawkwood Preserve, Ballston
- MAY 18 Apple Blossom Run @ Saratoga Apple, Schuylerville
- JUNE 5 Global Running Day @ Saratoga Spa State Park
- JUNE 16 Sundae on the Farm @ Clear Echo Farm, Northumberland
- JUNE 29 Plein Air Art Event, sites throughout Schuylerville
Watch artists create as they interpret landscapes conserved by Saratoga PLAN

FOR EVENT DETAILS & UPDATES SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER
@ SARATOGAPLAN.ORG

FARMLAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE

BUDS AND BLOSSOMS AREN'T THE ONLY THINGS GROWING THIS TIME OF YEAR. Saratoga PLAN's farmland conservation program is, too. Since December, PLAN has been awarded five Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG) from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYS DAM).

PLAN will use these grants to purchase the development rights on **613 ACRES** of productive farmland. Retiring development rights is how PLAN keeps land permanently available for agriculture, natural habitat, and recreation. PLAN also assisted the Town of Clifton Park in securing a grant to protect **72 ACRES**.

In addition, PLAN received a grant from NYSDAM to pay for appraisals on **10** proposed farmland protection projects totaling **1,060 ACRES**. Once landowners know the fair market value of development rights, they can make an informed decision regarding protection of their farmland.

The success of these projects is rooted in PLAN's agricultural outreach efforts, as well as funding from the generous donations of our supporters and business partners, as well as grants from the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network* and the State of New York.

* PLAN's farmland access outreach is supported by the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network, which is coordinated by American Farmland Trust and has received primary funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

BROOKDALE FARM
TOWN OF BALLSTON
Used by Brookbound Farm to grow crops

LENDL FARM
TOWN OF GALWAY
Used by Eildon Tweed Farm to grow crops

HALF-A-CHANCE FARM
TOWN OF NORTHUMBERLAND
A horse-boarding and retired race horse farm

HANEHAN FARMS II AND III
TOWN OF SARATOGA
Used by Hanehan Family Dairy to grow crops

DRUMM FARM
TOWN OF SARATOGA
Used by Koval Brothers Dairy to grow crops

+

MAPLE HILL FARM
TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK
Produces beef, maple syrup and small fruits

conservation projects

FEATHERBED LANE FARM



Town of Charlton: A 63-acre property with mixed woods, wetlands and fertile fields that are worked with draft horses. Produce is sold through CSA memberships (www.featherbed-lanefarm.com).

WM. H. BUCKLEY FARM (PHASE II)



Town of Ballston: Phase II adds 62 acres for a total of 315 acres protected at this farm that raises grassfed & pastured pigs, chicken and turkey and features an onsite butcher shop & café (www.buckleyfarm.com).

YOU GIVE AND YOU GET (SAVINGS)

lower your taxable income and support your favorite charity

In 2017, Lorna Kircher made the largest charitable donation she has ever made in her life to Saratoga PLAN. “Frankly, I stunned myself by making such a large contribution, but it was the smartest thing to do, and it saved me money.” She found the same benefit again in 2018, especially with the new federal tax laws.

One of the driving forces behind her donations was that after age 70½, the IRS mandates an annual Required Minimum Distribution from tax de-

“I stunned myself by making such a large contribution, but it was the smartest thing to do, and it saved me money.”

ferred retirement investments. The required distribution from IRAs can jettison thousands of dollars into taxable ordinary income. “My goal now is to prevent my Required Minimum Distribution from increasing my overall taxable income and jumping



Lorna Kircher with her retired racing greyhounds Tryn and Lenti.

me into a higher tax bracket, increasing my income tax burden and Medicare cost,” said Lorna.

Working with her financial advisor, Lorna found that the benefits of a charitable donation can be recaptured by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Lorna says, “It is a wonderful tool for lowering your taxable income and managing your tax bracket while allowing you to donate to the organizations you want to support.”

For people in Lorna’s age group who want to underwrite the important goal of land conservation, she strongly suggests that they look at what their new tax bracket is and whether making a Qualified Charitable Distribution to Saratoga PLAN would save money otherwise paid in taxes, allowing them to continue to support “this wonderfully effective organization.”

BARBER BROS. DAIRY (PHASE I)



Town of Northumberland: 464 acres of cropland that supports the dairy herd of approximately 1600 cows. This is PLAN’s largest ever farmland protection project.

MEADOWBROOK PRESERVE



City of Saratoga Springs: Bog Meadow Brook traverses 75 acres of woods and wetlands that will expand our Meadowbrook Preserve to 265 acres and will act as a critical link in the city’s Saratoga Greenbelt Trail.

THANK YOU 2019 BUSINESS PARTNERS

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Saratoga Builder's Association
SKS Bottle & Packaging, Inc.
The LA Group
W.J. Morris Excavating



Alexandra Fylypovych joined Saratoga PLAN's staff in March as the Community Engagement Manager. Alex will continue with outreach efforts regarding the preservation of agriculture, natural habitats, and recreation in Saratoga County, with a focus on reaching new constituents and strengthening existing community relationships. You'll find her online, posting conservation updates, photos, and videos, as well as out on the trail learning about and sharing people's stories of the land.

Prior to joining PLAN, Alex was Camp Director at Berkshire Botanical Garden. Before that she worked in outdoor education and as a photojournalist. "I'm eager to share the natural gems of Saratoga's backyard with the community in an effort to inspire folks to conserve their fresh air, clean water, healthy food, and natural spaces today rather than tomorrow."

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The Saratoga PLAN community mourns the passing of Ed Miller. A talented naturalist with a deep-seated passion for conservation, Ed frequented PLAN's preserves to botanize with friends and share his knowledge of nature. His enthusiasm and kindred spirit will be missed.



"Ed's delight in nature was contagious and his knowledge of the natural world extensive. He shared both generously. Ed also shared his financial resources, supporting several conservation organizations, including PLAN, for many, many years. After

a walk this past fall, he and his family made a sizeable gift toward the establishment of the Barkersville Trails property. It was our last walk together and I will cherish the times we spent in the field with one another." - Maria Trabka, Executive Director, Saratoga PLAN

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 5,000 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



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Recycle: pass it on to a friend



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