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.

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, Schuylererville

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 Schuylererville
Watch artists create as they interpret landscapes conserved by Saratoga PLAN

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

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.

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**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.featherbedlanefarm.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).

**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 NORTHERMBERLAND**

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
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 deferred 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 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.”

Lorna Kircher with her retired racing greyhounds Tyne and Lenti.
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