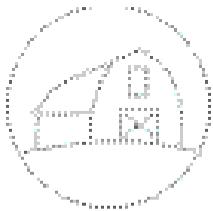


Preserving the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of Saratoga County so that these irreplaceable assets are accessible to all and survive for future generations.

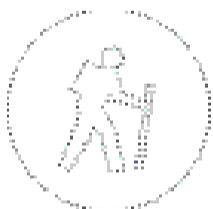
FEAST OF THE FIELDS RAISES \$120,000



CONSERVING FARMLAND



PROTECTING WOODS + WATERS



BUILDING TRAILS

THE 14th ANNUAL Feast of the Fields raised \$120,000. Thank you to all Business Partners, volunteers, farms, chefs and guests. Because of your generous support, Saratoga PLAN can continue completing critical conservation projects, connecting communities with local agriculture, raising conservation awareness, and putting on an *unmatchable* farm-to-table celebration.

At this year's Feast, PLAN set a \$33,000 goal for two specific projects: internships, and trail and stewardship needs. Thank you to all who helped raise \$30,000 of

the goal during the evening! Educating future conservation leaders and providing volunteers with stewardship tools to keep PLAN's preserves and trails safe and accessible is made possible by the conservation community's philanthropy.

PLAN is just \$3,000 away from reaching the goal and fully funding these projects. How close is close? If each PLAN supporter gave 50 cents, we could reach \$33,000.

Help us help the land.
Donate online, by mail, or by phone, today.



Every \$1 raised equates to \$10 in land conservation

save the date
feast of the fields
september 17, 2020



community engagement



SUMMER REFLECTIONS

PROTECTING WATERWAYS IN SARATOGA COUNTY

THIS SUMMER, 120 CUBIC FEET of water chestnuts were harvested from Fish Creek by more than 50 PLAN volunteers. That's equivalent to 20 bathtubs full of water chestnuts.

Saratoga PLAN board member, dedicated rower and water-lover, Lorraine Skibo led the efforts alongside volunteer Tom Federlin. "Between Stafford's Bridge and the old railroad bridge pilings we have nearly eradicated the smaller patches of water chestnuts," she said.

Water chestnut is an aquatic invasive plant that made its way into the northeast in the late 1800s from Europe. The sharp inch-wide seeds have four extremely sharp points, which can injure swimmers and other shoreline visitors, including animals.

The plant's thick coverage on the surface of the water limits light penetration, significantly decreasing native aquatic plant growth, clogs waterways, and tangles in boat motors. Its annual dieback results in low oxygen levels, leading to potential fish kills.

Saratoga Rowing Association rower, Christian Sauer, volunteered with a dozen other rowers that train on the creek almost daily. "This water is going to be here long after we're gone, and I want to make sure future generations can enjoy it," he said.



SHENENDEHOWA HIGH SCHOOL

COLLABORATES WITH PLAN

STUDENTS from SHEN high school will be branding PLAN's largest woodland conservation project to date: the Palmertown Conservation and Recreation Strategy. Working with guidelines and ideas put forth by PLAN staff, 20 students in Sallie Way's Graphic Design class will work in teams to create and present logo options to PLAN.

"I have been running the class like an ad agency for non-profits for 23 years now," said teacher Sallie Way. "Practicing presenting their creative ideas to a client is such a great experience for them."

"This collaboration is a fantastic way, not only to give students a glimpse into working with real clients, but also to introduce them to critical conservation work," said Alex Fylypovych, PLAN's Community Engagement Manager.



CAFFEINATED CONSERVATION

DEATH WISH COFFEE COMPANY BUILDS TRAILS WITH PLAN

ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 19, 11 Death Wish Coffee Company employees teamed up with PLAN staff and Monday Stewards for a community service work day in Galway. The group worked on sections of the new Barkersville Trail, which will be open to the public.

In an effort to prevent trail erosion and increase trail longevity, stones were placed along sections of trail that are muddy during wet seasons. The group also cleared brush to allow for better trail definition, placed trail markers, and enjoyed a mighty good cup of Joe.

“It’s a great day when folks from different backgrounds come together for conservation,” said Bonnie Nightingale, PLAN’s Stewardship Coordinator. “We are so grateful for the group’s help and can’t wait for the grand opening of the trail.”



DAY FOR DOING GOOD

REGENERON PHARMACEUTICALS TEAMS UP WITH PLAN

IN LATE OCTOBER, over 30 volunteers from Regeneron linked up with PLAN for their annual company-wide day of service, Day for Doing Good.

The team focused on developing the new Glowegee Creek Trail. Once completed, the trail will link the Carpenter-Rhodes-Milton properties, three adjacent lands that have been conserved in the Town of Galway.

Work included setting 4x4 posts with markers along the trail, clearing brush and debris, placing stepping stones along wet sections of trail, leveling slopping terrain and marking the trail.

“A lot of young people appreciate nature but don’t know how they can help conserve it. Partnering with PLAN helped bridge the gap between interest and action,” said Alex Gilgore, Regeneron’s Day for Doing Good team leader.





OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS SKIDMORE STUDENTS TO VALUATE PALMERTOWN RANGE BENEFITS

THIS FALL, Saratoga PLAN and OSI (Open Space Institute) are working with a team of students in the Skidmore-Saratoga Consulting Partnership (SSCP). This 12-week advanced seminar and practicum provides accomplished Skidmore students for-credit opportunity to gain hands-on consulting experience.

This semester, the team is tasked with examining the economic value of the benefits received from Palmertown area, an ecologically rich zone Saratoga PLAN and the OSI are working to conserve.

Located in northern Saratoga County, the Palmertown Range is at the interface between urban and suburban development and natural habitat. In 2018, Alta Planning + Design, Bernuth & Williamson, PLAN and OSI published the Palmertown

Conservation and Recreation Strategy, based on community input and GIS analyses.

The document highlights the potential to connect more than 10,000 acres of predominantly forested habitat between Saratoga Springs and Moreau Lake State Park, to be used for conservation, recreation, and compatible economic development.

“The Southern Palmertown mountain range is a hidden gem in our backyard,” said Wendy Mahaney, the newly hired Palmertown Coordinator working to implement the strategy.

The Skidmore research team is comprised of both business and environmental studies students who will be using their expertise to help calculate the value of conservation and recreation to the Palm-



Students from SSCP join Professor Colleen Burke on an exploration of Moreau Lake State Park.

ertown area – a challenging task, as ecosystem services don't always have an easy-to-calculate economic value.

Ecosystem services are the direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human well-being. These services can be the direct provision of resources like timber, syrup, and drinking water, or indirect services such as pollination, pest control, water purification, stormwater absorption, groundwater recharge and carbon sequestration.

There's also recreation, aesthetic, cultural and health benefits that ecosystems provide. "Who needs a playground when you have Palمرتown?" says Aniba Rahmen, Skidmore Business major.

To get the creative thoughts flowing, students attended a recent Saratoga Trails and Finance Forum organized by Jeff Olson from Alta Planning + Design, which focused on the Palمرتown area. The forum began with a keynote by Seth Brown

of Quantified Ventures, who discussed financing green infrastructure projects based on their quantifiable economic benefits.

"Who needs a playground when you have Palمرتown?"

The group then discussed next steps in the implementation of the Palمرتown Conservation and Recreation Strategy as a catalyst for innovative economic opportunities.

The results of the student project will be used as part of the outreach and engagement efforts to stakeholders in the area. "The students have jumped right in and are coming up with some creative ideas. I cannot wait to see how their project develops over the semester," said Mahaney.

up next

NEXT GENERATION COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019
5:30-6:30 PM

If you or someone you know wants to be part of a team of like-minded, young professionals impacting local conservation, now's your time to shine. Be sure to attend PLAN's inaugural Next Generation Committee meeting.

#CONSERVATIONMATTERS

INTERESTED?

Email alex@saratogaplan.org
or call 518.587.5554

HONORING CONSERVATION HEROES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Join PLAN in honoring selected Conservation Heroes at the Wm.H. Buckely Farm in the Town of Ballston. These individuals are being recognized for their exceptional contributions toward conserving land or stewarding preserved lands in Saratoga County. Tour the farm and enjoy lunch and refreshments.

2019 CONSERVATION HEROES

Dolores Arste	Rick Burke
Chad Barber	David Hickey
Linda Barber	Bill Lasher
Mark Sacco	

RSVP (Nov. 22) to michelle@saratogaplan.org
or call 518.587.5554

land conservation



FARMLAND CONSERVATION TOURING CHARLTON

IN EARLY OCTOBER, Joseph and Mary Grasso, Charlton residents and PLAN supporters, invited members of the community to gather in their home to learn more about how land conservation works, and PLAN's mission, accomplishments, and current projects.

The gathering was preceded by a tour of three breathtaking farms in Charlton: Featherbed Lane Farm, The Cottage Farm, and the Szurek Farm, all of which have been conserved by PLAN. At each location, the landowners and farmers shared their personal conservation stories.

"It's really challenging, with start up costs and land use costs, among others, to find and secure access to land. [Partnering with PLAN] helped us get access to this land," - Farmer Tim Biello, Featherbed Lane Farm

"I have peace of mind knowing that, when I go to my grave, by conserving our property, I have honored the land, my family who farmed the land before me, and future generations that will continue to farm the land." - Dawn Szurek



Gary Vanderhorst, of The Cottage Farm, explains to guests that he has forged a wonderful relationship with PLAN staff through the process of conserving his land.



DAIRY FARM CONSERVATION FUNDING AVAILABLE

NEW YORK STATE Department of Agriculture and Markets recently released an additional \$30 million in funding to protect farmland owned or operated by dairy farms that are in transition.

Dairy farms continue to face prolonged historic low milk prices. Should their businesses falter, the land that they utilize is at risk of being converted to non-farm uses, causing many dairy farmers to consider transitions.



A dairy farm is considered to be in transition if it is transferring to new ownership, diversifying its operation, growing value-added products, or getting out of dairy completely.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in this funding opportunity, please be in touch with Mike Horn, Conservation Director:

**michaelh@saratogaplan.org
518.587.5554**

staff updates



MADDIE PUTMAN

was PLAN's 2019 community engagement summer intern. She researched and shared invasive species updates for Saratoga County, helped plan events and volunteer activities, like the water chestnut pull, and worked on social media messaging. Maddie is studying Conservation and Sustainability at University of New Hampshire. Thanks for all of your help and good luck in school, Maddie!



BONNIE NIGHTINGALE

is PLAN's new Stewardship Coordinator. A Saratoga County native, Bonnie is honored to be caring for the preserved lands on behalf of the community and generations to come. She comes to us from New York State Parks and has a degree in biology and a passion for conservation and ecological restoration. Make sure to say hello when you inevitably bump into her on the trail!



WENDY MAHANEY

is PLAN's new Palmertown Coordinator. Wendy plans to combine her science background and experience with education and outreach to implement the Palmertown Conservation and Recreation Strategy. Her four main goals include creating a guidance committee comprised of town representatives, NYS DEC, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Skidmore College, Saratoga County and others, working with Skidmore students to value benefits of the Palmertown Range, trail scouting and planning, and engaging the community to garner support.

welcome to the team!

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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, play and farm. PLAN assists landowners and communities with fulfilling their conservation goals for their land and provides stewardship for over 4,500 acres of farmland, forest, natural habitat, trail corridors, historic places, and water resources in Saratoga County.



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PLAN

Preserving Land and Nature

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT WWW.SARATOGAPLAN.ORG
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Recycle: pass it on to a friend