

OUTINGS • WORKSHOPS • EVENTS

unplug & adopt the pace of nature

**Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA) and Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT) have teamed up to share opportunities for you to experience what Rensselaer County has to offer.
JOIN US!**

Become a Rensselaer Naturalist!

As you wander through the woods have you ever wanted to identify the mysterious bird call from the tree tops, or the tree with the paper like bark, or the ferns and growing in the squishy bog floor?

Rensselaer Land Trust and Rensselaer Plateau Alliance are offering the **Rensselaer Naturalist Series** this year. At each outing in the series, adults and teens can learn about a specific aspect of the natural history of Rensselaer County, such as birds, wildflowers, trees, and bogs. There will be a learning goal related to each of the outing's topic; for example, learn 10 birds, or learn 10 wildflowers, or learn about what makes a bog a bog. Participants who complete learning goals for at least eight of the Rensselaer Natural Series programs will receive a customized Rensselaer Naturalist patch!

Whether you're a beginner or already have experience with a given topic, you'll learn something new from a Rensselaer Naturalist program. Our hope is that you'll come away from these outings able to put names on some plants and animals you're likely to see in the County. We will provide participants with resources to review before each outing, and a list of resources for further exploration.

Most of the following outings are designed specifically for the Rensselaer Naturalist series. Those marked with * are other outings that will also offer an opportunity to earn credit toward the patch.

More information on each outing, online registration, and any changes in the schedule will be posted at www.renstrust.org and at www.renselaerplateau.org. Suggested donation of \$5 per person for each outing, unless otherwise indicated.

Rensselaer Naturalist Series Schedule

4/6 • 10 am–1 pm: Amphibian Walk at Poestenkill Community Forest. Leader: Jeff Briggs

4/27 • 7 am–10 am: Birds and Bird Song at Poestenkill Community Forest. Leader: Jim de Waal Malefyt

*5/11 • 9 am–noon: Invasive Plants Program and Workday with Capital Mohawk PRISM at Staalesen Vanderheyden Preserve, Troy. Leader: Joe Durkin, no fee.

5/18 • 10 am–1 pm: Spring Wildflowers at RPI Tech Park, North Greenbush. Leader: Tom Phillips

6/1 • 1 pm–4 pm: Wetland Plants/Ecology at Quacken Kill Marsh in Grafton. Leader: David Hunt and David Gaskell

6/8 • 9 am–1 pm: Old Growth Forests at Wyomanock Center for Sustainability. Leader: David Hunt

6/22 • 9:30–11:30 am: Trees at Kinderhook Creek Preserve. Leader: Dave Hart and David Gaskell

7/13 • 9 am–Noon: Geology at Kinderhook Creek Preserve. Leader: Bill Kelley and David Gaskell

7/14 • 10 am–1 pm: Ferns and Mosses at Poestenkill Community Forest. Leader: Tom Phillips

7/20 • 1–4 pm: Peatlands/Bogs (site to be announced). Leader: David Hunt

*7/27 • 9 am–3 pm: Invasive Species/Peatland Restoration workday at Wyomanock Center for Sustainability. Leader: David Hunt, no fee.

*8/10 • 7–8:30 pm: Annual Hudson River Fish Count at Schodack Island State Park. Leader: Fran Martino, no fee.

8/17 • 10 am: Field and Meadow Plants at Grafton Lakes State Park. Leader: Rich Ring

*8/24 • 10 am–Noon: Mushroom Walk with John Wheeler. Contact: Marcy Steinberg, extra fee.

9/28 • 10 am–Noon: Mushroom Walk with John Wheeler. Contact: Marcy Steinberg, extra fee.

*10/19 • 10 am–Noon: Mushroom Walk for Beginners. 1–3 pm: Learn to Key Mushrooms, Intermediate. Leader: Sue Van Hook, extra fee.

2019 Spring/Summer

www.renstrust.org • www.renselaerplateau.org

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Taconic Crest Trail in One Year

Sponsored by Rensselaer Land Trust, Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, and Taconic Hiking Club.

We will hike the entire 37 miles of the Taconic Crest Trail over the course of the year in six separate trips. This beautiful ridge-top trail winds through New York, Massachusetts, and a corner of Vermont, from North Petersburg to near New Lebanon, passing by the renowned Snow Hole and over Rensselaer County's highest peak. With about 7000 feet of both cumulative ascent and cumulative descent, views include the Little Hoosick Valley and Mount Greylock. Join us for one, some or all of the sections. Those who complete the entire trail (with us and/or on their own), can receive a patch from the Taconic Hiking Club.

All hikes have long steep uphill and/or downhill sections over rocky ground.

All hikes start at 9 am. More information on each outing, online registration, and any changes in the schedule will be posted at www.renstrust.org, www.rensselaerplateau.org and www.taconichikingclub.org. Suggested donation of \$5 per person for each hike.

Hike Dates

May 4: Petersburg Pass to Snow Hole and on to north end in North Petersburg, 7.9 miles. Leader: Michael Jensen.

June 29: Petersburg Pass to Berlin Mountain and on to Southeast Hollow in Berlin, 7.3 miles. Leader: Peter Wood.

July 13: Southeast Hollow to Mattison Hollow in Cherry Plain, 7.2 miles. Leader: Michael Jensen.

August 10: Mattison Hollow to Robinson Hollow in Stephentown, 7 miles. Leader: Peter Wood.

September 7: Robinson Hollow to Madden Road in Hancock, MA, 6 miles. Leader: Nick Conrad.

October 5: Potter Road in Hancock, MA to south end near New Lebanon, 10.5 miles. Leader: Nick Conrad.

Connecting Children to Nature

Register Online at www.renstrust.org

July 28 • 10 am: Botanical Sun-prints

Ferns, flowers, sedges and more! Capture some of summer's fleeting beauty with photographer Kate Lovering, using the sun and the photographic method of cyanotype. Open to all ages; young children should be accompanied by adults. Contact Kate Lovering at: loving.katherine@gmail.com (Rain date Saturday, August 4, 10 am)

June 29 • 10 am: Alphabet of the Trees

Calling all young naturalists to discover the trees and water of RLT's Staalesen Preserve using their five senses. We'll go for a short hike and get to know trees up close and personal through sensory activities, and each child will have a chance to record their studies through bark rubbings and poetry. For children ages six and up. Contact Annie Jacobs at: annie@rensselaerplateau.org

Other Outings & Events

8/3 • 9 am–noon: Hike to Lt. Col. Gundrum Land
Beautiful pond and mountain views, Berlin.

RPA's 3rd Thursday Lecture Series

Each year from September through June Rensselaer Plateau Alliance offers *People of the Plateau* lecture series. Schedule is at: www.rensselaerplateau.org/events.

RLT's Volunteer Days

4/13 • 9 am–Noon: 12th Annual Tomhannock Reservoir Shoreline Clean-Up. Contact Bob: crowleyrh@aol.com

6/15 • 9 am–4 pm: Fifth Annual Water Chestnut Pull, Hoosic River. Contact Kristina: kristinayoungerrlt@gmail.com

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