

RENSSELAER  
LAND  
TRUST

CONSERVING LAND  
PROTECTING RESOURCES



# RLT News

SPRING 2012 • 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## RLT Acquires First Urban Preserve

In December, the family of the late John B. Staalesen donated 23.6 acres in Troy to the Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT). The property will be named the John B. Staalesen Vanderheyden Preserve.

Located in Troy's Vanderheyden neighborhood, the land includes fields, woods and wetlands, and is bordered on one side by the Wynantskill Creek. It is one of the last remaining undeveloped tracts of natural area and wildlife habitat in the city.

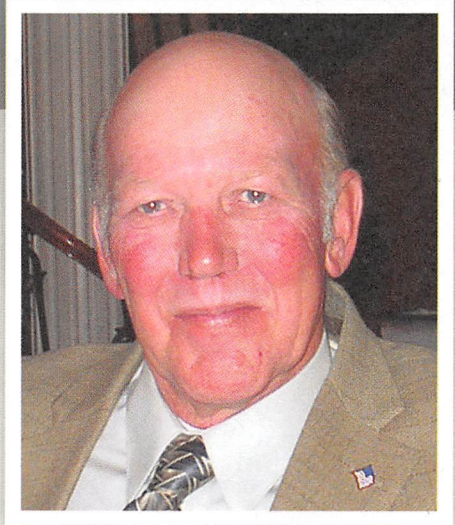
"We are thrilled to own this new preserve and will be preparing it for the public this year," said Nick Conrad, President.

"It is our hope that this property will be enjoyed for many generations to come, with its natural beauty along

the Wynantskill Creek, abundant wildlife, beautiful walking trails and historical significance," said Jim Staalesen, son and spokesperson for the family.

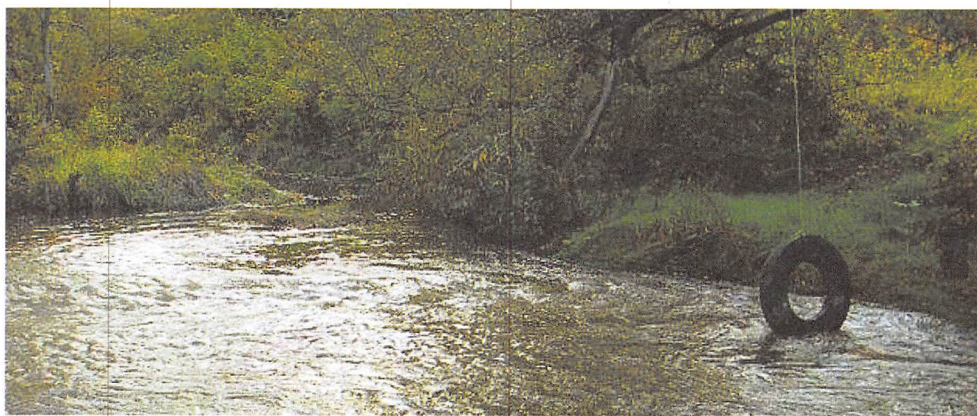
Builder John B. Staalesen constructed homes across all price ranges for more than 40 years, but he was most proud of his work building new homes for young families and first-time home buyers, which the Vanderheyden Estates neighborhood was designed to provide. Both of John's daughters purchased their first homes in Vanderheyden.

Board member Bob Crowley is the chairperson of RLT's new committee that will be preparing the property for the public. "It's not often an opportunity like the



John B. Staalesen

Staalesen Preserve comes along for an organization like ours. The possibilities are many and the effort required for success is substantial. I'm looking forward to creating a team to make this happen and hope anyone interested will contact me," said Bob, who can be reached at 518.283.7364.



## RLT Expands Donor Options

To facilitate different types of donations and transfers, RLT is establishing a brokerage account. You can donate stocks, mutual funds, and bonds, make money transfers, and even set up a charitable annuity trust. Contact Christine at 518.659.5263 to discuss these new options.





# RENSSELAER LAND TRUST

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## PHOTOS

Trix Niernberger, Nate Simms and volunteers

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 518.659.5263

This annual report and newsletter  
 were partially funded by a  
 grant from Macy's. RLT thanks  
 Macy's for their support.

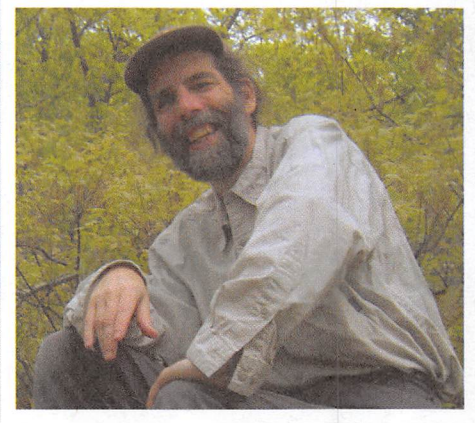


# RLT Celebrates Water in Our 25th Year

Rensselaer Land Trust celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2012! We've come a long way since 1987, when a group of visionaries with a love for the natural areas of Rensselaer County got together to preserve those lands for future generations. They formed the Rensselaer-Taconic Land Conservancy, and for the first 19 years we were an all-volunteer organization.

In 2005, we hired our first professional staff, in 2007 we changed our name to the Rensselaer Land Trust, and in 2008 we were in the first group of land trusts to be awarded national accreditation. To date, we have conserved almost 800 acres in Rensselaer County, the majority of those in just the last 10 years.

Every milestone anniversary calls for a theme. The theme for RLT's 25th is Water. One of our priorities for conservation is land that protects drinking



Nick Conrad, President

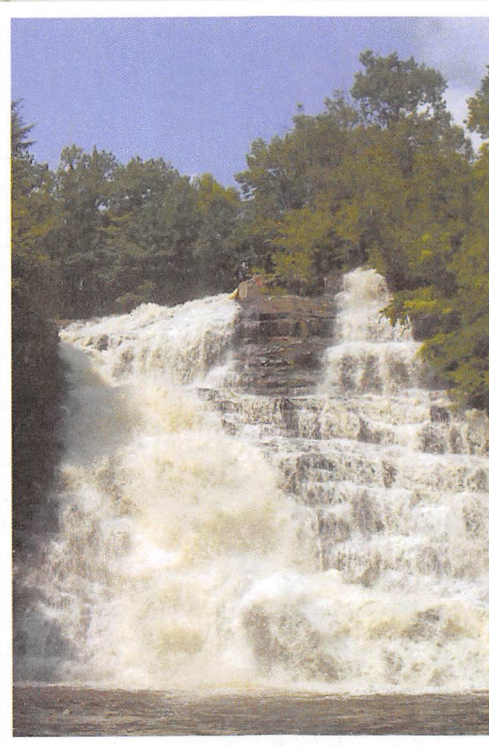
water sources or contributes to water quality. Water is only as clean as the land through which it flows, so whether you get your drinking water from a well or the Tomhannock Reservoir, maintaining open space and healthy forests helps keep your water clean.

Our Water Year has started with a big splash. RLT was awarded a \$5,000 Community Action Grant for watershed education from the Royal Bank of Canada's (RBC) Blue Water Project™. RBC launched the Blue Water Project™ to create a future of sustainable water resources worldwide. The first phase is a 10-year \$50 million commitment to supporting organizations that protect watersheds and ensure access to clean water.

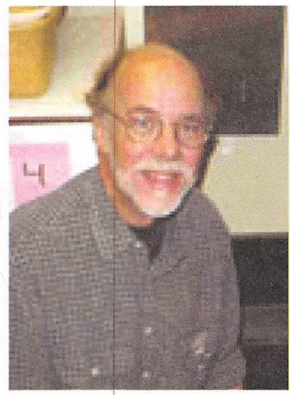
With this grant, RLT will develop an online interactive map of Rensselaer County. You'll be able to click your location and see where your water comes from, which watershed you live in, and where water on your land goes. You'll learn about how to keep water clean and how to use it wisely.

We hope to have this new educational resource available to residents and schools later this year. Our thanks go to Jim Watkinson, of RBC Wealth Management's Albany office, for recognizing RLT's shared commitment to protecting this valuable resource and for supporting our grant application.

Our 25th anniversary year has just started, and already we've had exciting successes in land conservation. I can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store!







### In Memory of Norton Miller

A former RLT board member, Dr. Norton G. Miller, died December 7, 2011. From 1991 to 2001, Dr. Miller was a director of the Rensselaer Taconic Land Conservancy, the former name of the Rensselaer Land Trust. He led our botany education project, conducted many surveys of plants in Rensselaer County, and co-wrote our natural areas book. Dr. Miller earned a PhD in botany, was an authority on mosses, and published extensively on the flora of North America. He served as principal scientist in botany at the NY State Museum and was an amateur bird watcher. He lived in Brunswick at the base of the Rensselaer Plateau. A celebration of his life may be held in the spring.

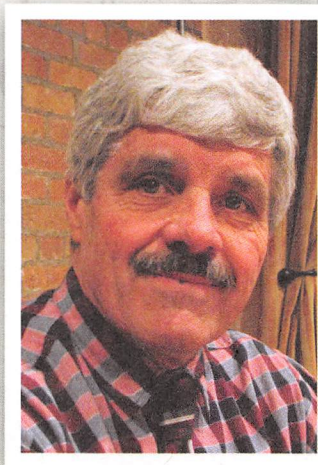
### Thank You, Jeff

W. Jeffrey Roche (Jeff) stepped down from the RLT board of directors due to time constraints. He joined the board in 2009 and was involved in fundraising and outreach activities. Jeff brought real estate expertise to the board and we will continue to consult him about properties. The RLT board thanks Jeff for his volunteer service and wishes him good luck in his many endeavors.

### New Board Members

#### Bob Crowley

Bob Crowley's involvement with RLT began a couple of years ago when he volunteered to collect trash around the Tomhannock Reservoir. Since then, he has participated in several other RLT service projects. Bob grew up in Hoosick Falls, graduated from Union College, and spent time in the Peace Corps working in rural community development in West Africa. He is now employed as a budget analyst for the NYS Department of Transportation. He stays busy with church activities, nurturing his old house in Poestenkill, and trying to convince himself to restore the 1939 Plymouth truck in his garage.



#### Jessica Stephenson

Jessica Stephenson has served as RLT's volunteer events coordinator working on our Oktoberfest, open house, annual meeting and other events. Growing up in Lansingburgh on the Hudson River, she received her BA from SUNY Albany and MA from Rosemont College near Philadelphia. Jessica is the director of communications for a nonprofit management company, responsible for graphic design, promotions, marketing and events. She recently became engaged to marry another RLT volunteer, Matthew Edmister. Congratulations to both of them.



# Volunteer David Hunt

Ecologist David Hunt, PhD, has donated his expertise to the Rensselaer Land Trust for 20 years. He leads hikes and shares his knowledge of plants and ecosystems. When we are investigating a potential property to be saved from development, Dr. Hunt accompanies our team to assess its ecological importance at the county level.

For instance, when board members toured our new Staalesen property (see page one), Dr. Hunt took kick samples of the Wynantskill Creek. With his net, he pulled out Long Nosed Dace, a fish found in only a few streams in Rensselaer County. He also documented three plants that are rare in the county on the Staalesen site.

Although Dr. Hunt's doctorate in botany is from the University of Georgia, he has lived most of his life in New York. He resides in Grafton with his wife and eight year old son.

"My goals are the same as those of the Rensselaer Land Trust. I'm ecstatic to see some of your recent land acquisitions. You are making my dreams come true," said Dr. Hunt.

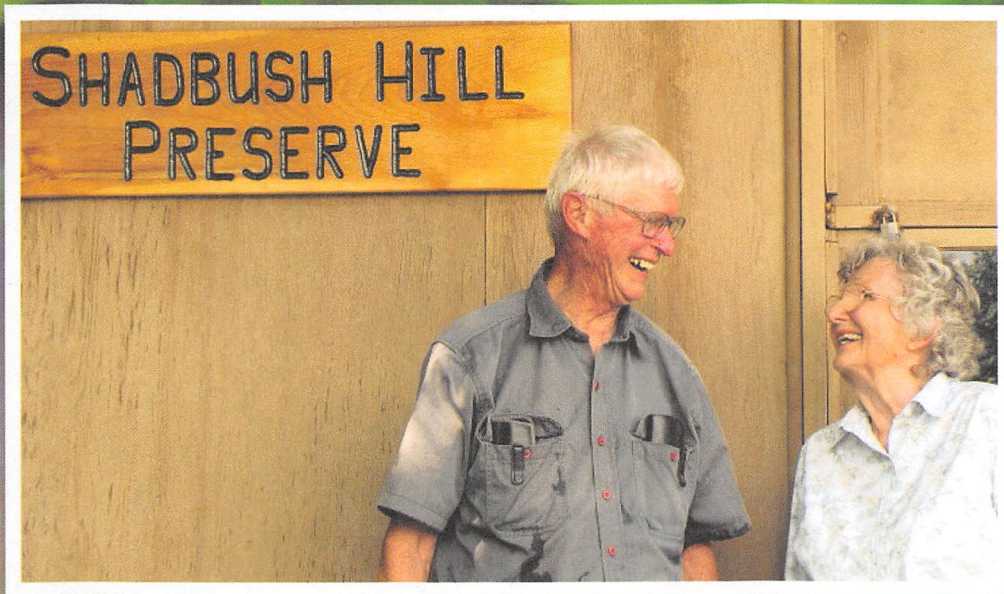
"David is the premier expert on Rensselaer County's flora, and his work provides sound science on which to base RLT's land conservation decisions," says Nick Conrad, RLT Board President. "From crawling on his hands and knees through an underground stream to slogging waist-deep through a marsh, David is dedicated to discovering and preserving the natural world."



RLT WISH LIST • Office supplies • Oktoberfest raffle items • Small microwave oven



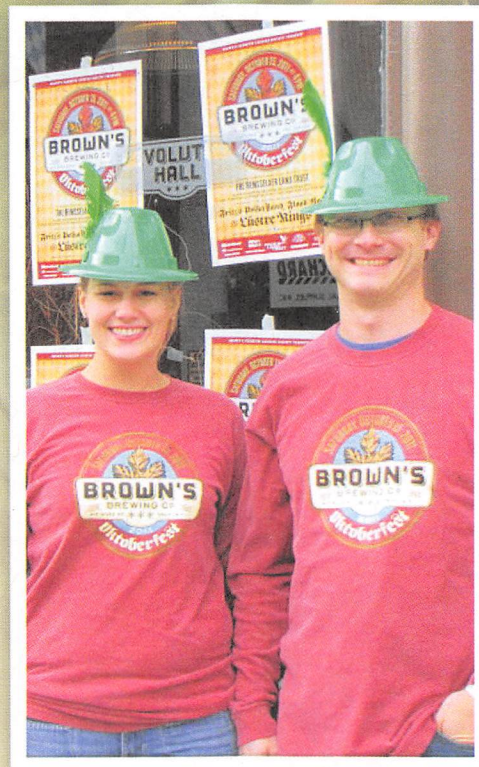
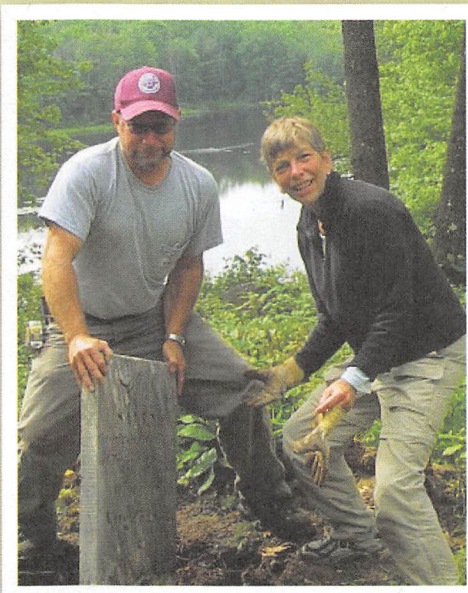
# 2011 Accomplishments



## Property Preserved

Shadbrush Hill Preserve, conservation easement on private 30 acres, Schodack

John B. Staalesen  
Vanderheyden Preserve, 23.6 acres public preserve, Troy

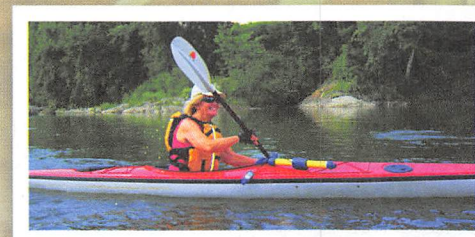


## Land Stewardship

Property monitoring visits (17)

## Education & Outreach

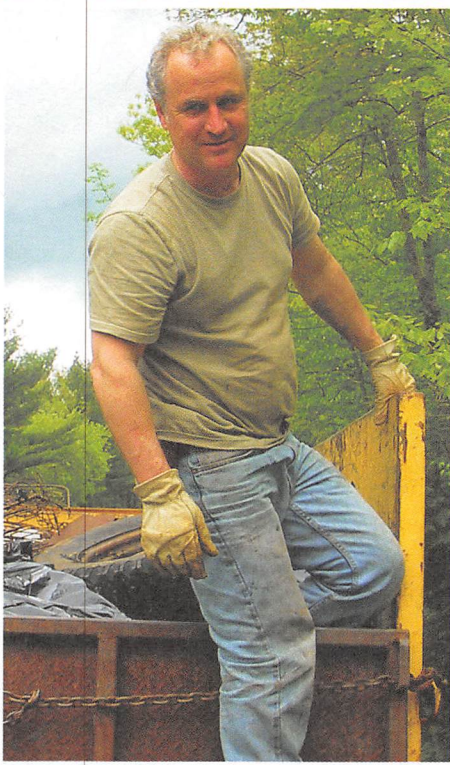
- Annual Meeting with Alice LaBlanc
- Capital Region Economic Development Council workshop
- Grafton Winterfest
- Market Block Books window display (2 months)
- NYS Outdoor Education Association conference
- Oktoberfest benefit
- Rensselaer County Agriculture Board
- Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce networking luncheons (4)
- Rensselaer Plateau Alliance open house
- SEFCU Community Expo
- Taborton Zion Church Earth Day
- Troy Victorian Stroll open house
- Woodlots workshop



## Outings

- Common Farms & Barberville Falls hike
- Historic Barns of Nipmose tour
- Hoosic River paddle
- Plateau traverse hike with Rensselaer Plateau Alliance
- Robert Ingalls Preserve snowshoe hike
- Solar house tours (3)
- Taconic Crest Trail hike
- Wildflower hike





### Media

Times Union (4)

Troy Record (3)

The Eastwick Press (14)

The Advertiser (8)

Other publications (3)

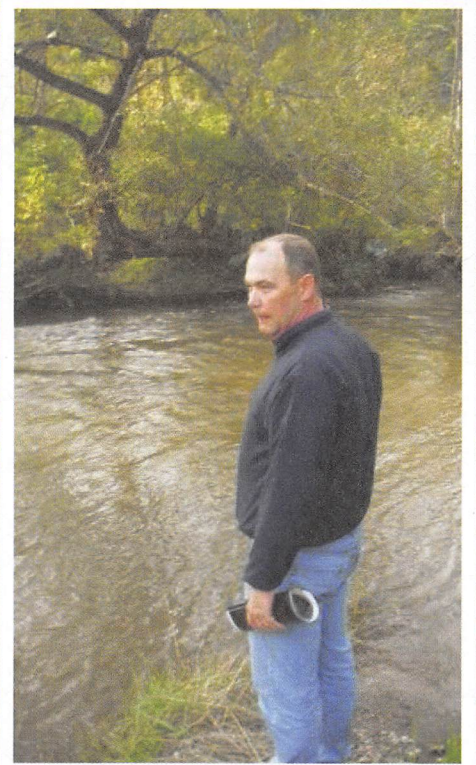
Monthly electronic news

Spring newsletter/2010  
Annual Report

Fall newsletter

Website updates: [www.renstrust.org](http://www.renstrust.org)

Facebook updates:  
[www.facebook.com/RensselaerLandTrust](http://www.facebook.com/RensselaerLandTrust)



### Work Days

Broderick property clean-up

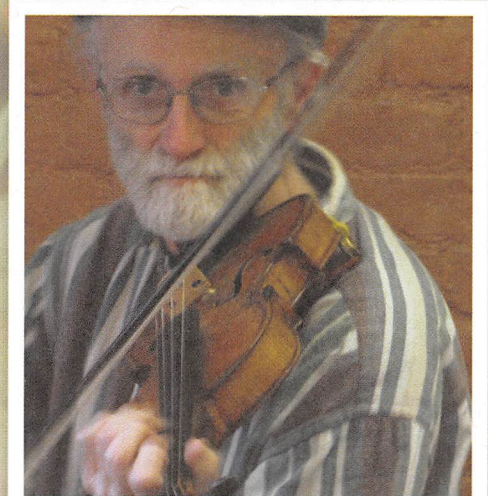
Historic cemetery  
restorations (2)

Hoosic River tree planting

Robert Ingalls Preserve clean-up

Tomhannock Reservoir clean-up

Trail Day





# Outings, Programs & Events

2012 CALENDAR



Events titled in blue follow RLT's 25th anniversary theme of Water.

Each year, RLT sponsors a series of hikes, workshops and work days that give participants the opportunity to experience the natural beauty and history of Rensselaer County. This year, we added programs highlighting our 25th anniversary theme of Water.

RLT programs range from indoor presentations to leisurely strolls to more strenuous hikes with a variety of terrain and difficulty levels. Choose outings based on your physical ability and comfort. We make every effort to accurately describe the difficulty level of each outing, but it is still a subjective description. Dress appropriately for all weather and trail conditions. Wear long pants and hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes. Carry adequate water and food. If you have questions, contact the listed trip leader or RLT.

## Volunteers welcome!

Do you know of a scenic spot in Rensselaer County that would make a good location for a hike? Are you interested in helping to plan and lead an outing? RLT's Outings Committee welcomes your ideas for future outings, and we welcome volunteers to help us plan and lead them.

In addition to our own events, other local organizations offer activities that highlight the great outdoors of Rensselaer County and the Capital Region. For links to these websites, go to our website, [www.renstrust.org](http://www.renstrust.org), and click Web Resources.

Watch our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/RensselaerLandTrust](http://www.facebook.com/RensselaerLandTrust)) and website ([www.renstrust.org](http://www.renstrust.org)) for the latest news on these outings and on new outings added to the schedule.

## Changes in the Hudson River Over the Last 150 Years: Talk

Thursday, March 29, 7:00 pm • East Greenbush Library, 10 Community Way

Join Dan Miller, Habitat Restoration Coordinator, DEC Hudson River Estuary program, for a fascinating look comparing historical and current maps of the Hudson River. He will speak about his work identifying opportunities to restore important habitats.

## Waterfalls & Hydroelectric Plants: Tour and Talk

Saturday, April 14, 2:00 - 6:00 pm

James Bell, hydraulic energy consultant, will lead a driving and walking tour of the 1908 hydroelectric plant in Schaghticoke, another plant in Middle Falls, and two plants in Greenwich. Walk a trail through forest leading to two scenic overlooks. Wear hiking shoes and bring cameras. After tour, adjourn to the Gallery Space, 111 Main Street, Greenwich, for discussion on history of water power in Rensselaer County. Feel free to join James for dinner in the eatery at same location after talk. Meet at Stewarts Shop, 62 Main Street, Schaghticoke, at 1:45 pm. Register: [christine@renstrust.org](mailto:christine@renstrust.org), (518) 859-4363.

## Tomhannock Reservoir Clean-up: Volunteer Day

Saturday, April 21 • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

In observance of Earth Day, join us for our fifth annual clean-up of the shores of Tomhannock Reservoir, source of drinking water for 125,000 residents of Troy and other communities. Meet at NYS DEC public access parking lot on NYS Route 7 in Raymertown, just before the causeway over the reservoir. Groups will collect trash along a half-mile stretch of the shore. Garbage bags will be provided. Bring gloves. We will work regardless of weather, so dress appropriately. To register, contact Paul Schroeder at (518) 674-2480, [pschroeder1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:pschroeder1@nycap.rr.com). Sponsored by RLT and City of Troy.

## Introduction to Wild Mushrooms Workshop

Tuesday, April 24 • 7:00 - 9:00 pm • The Sage Colleges Library's Media Room, Troy

RLT is providing a series of opportunities to get to know the fungi with local mycologist Sue Van Hook. First up is this indoor workshop. Learn to identify the different groups of fungi in preparation for Sue's outdoor mushroom walks in May (morel season) and in August (see below). Bring a notebook and pen. Sue will have copies of *How to Identify Mushrooms to Genus I: Macroscopic Features* by David L. Largent for sale (\$20). Charge: \$10/person, \$15/couple. Kids free. Register: Marcy Steinberg at (518) 674-2171, [marcygs@aol.com](mailto:marcygs@aol.com). For info, visit: [www.suevanhook.com](http://www.suevanhook.com)

## Tree Planting at Hoosic River Boat Launch: Volunteer Day

Saturday, May 5 • 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Join us for our third annual tree-planting party at the public boat launch at RLT's Hoosic River property in Eagle Bridge. NYS DEC is providing seedlings for landscaping and erosion control. Bring gloves, a shovel and bucket if you can, snack and drink. We will work regardless of weather. Boat launch is about one mile west of Eagle Bridge on the north side of Route 67, at DEC sign. Register with Paul Schroeder, (518) 674-2480, [pschroeder1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:pschroeder1@nycap.rr.com).



## Tibbitts State Forest Hike

Sunday, May 6 • 12:30 pm

Hike will follow five miles of old roads in a hardwood forest, passing an old lime kiln. Early spring flowers may be seen. Most of hike will be flat, with some short steeper portions. Depending on interest of group, we may add a short trail on the north side, with a long, moderately steep incline almost to the top. After hike, you can join the leader at the Man of Kent Pub. Meet at the parking lot on NY Route 7 just west of the intersection of Routes 7 and 22 in Hoosick, about 23 miles east of Troy on Route 7. Jointly sponsored by the AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter. Register with Sharon Bonk at (518) 674-0042, [sboqc@mindspring.com](mailto:sboqc@mindspring.com).

## Fishing with a Seine Net: Hands-on Program

Saturday, May 12 • 1:00 pm • Rain date: Sunday, May 13, 1:00 pm • Rensselaer Boat Launch

Experience the thrill of catching fish with a seine, or dragnet, and discover what lives under the surface of the Hudson River. Seining has been a simple, common and efficient method of catching fish for the last 5,000 years. Participants will assist in netting fish to examine and identify them, and release them unharmed. Learn about fish that live in the river year-round, and those that migrate and return during spawning season. Hear the latest advice from the Department of Health on eating fish from the Hudson River and its tributaries. Chest waders are available for loan on a first-come, first-serve basis, or bring your own. Dress accordingly for a hands-on, wet-feet experience! Meet at the Boat Launch off Forbes Avenue in Rensselaer. Register: Fran Egbert (518) 674-3214, [francillee@juno.com](mailto:francillee@juno.com).



## Spring Wildflowers Walk at Hidley Farm

Saturday, May 19 • 9:00 am

Tom Phillips, well-versed botanist, will help us identify spring flowers in the woods, fields, and wetlands of Hidley Farm in North Greenbush. We will walk two to three miles; some areas may be a little wet or muddy. From intersection US Route 4 and Williams Road (NYS Route 136) just south of HVCC, go east on Williams Road 1.9 miles, and turn right on Hidley Road. Go 1.4 miles to a dirt road on the left leading to parking.

## Spring Mushroom Walk

Sunday, May 20 • 10:00 - 12:00 pm

Sue Van Hook, local mycologist, will lead us in search of black and white morels and early oyster mushrooms. Sue's workshop on April 24 (see page 6) is good preparation, but not required. Bring a basket or bag with stiff sides, a field knife or trowel, and a hand lens if you have one. Sue will have hand lenses to share. Tentatively scheduled at the Rensselaer Tech Park, North Greenbush, depending on the mushroom crop. Confirm location at registration. Charge: \$10/person, \$15/couple. Kids free. Register: Marcy Steinberg, (518) 674-2171, marcygs@aol.com.

## Historic Cemetery Restoration: Volunteer Work Day

Saturday, June 9 • 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Join RLT in restoring a historic Baptist Cemetery in Stephentown with graves from the early 19th century. The property is owned by Alice LeBlanc who has granted the RLT a conservation easement. We will be excavating, resetting and cleaning tombstones. Bring lunch and drink. Contact Alice (917) 441-1333, Alicemleblanc@verizon.net, or Dan Lorber (914) 575-1965, denver@taconic.net.

## Free Fishing Day at RLT's new Staalesen Preserve, Troy

Saturday, June 23 • 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to RLT's Community Free Fishing Day to enjoy catch-and-release fishing, no license required. Bring your children and give them the opportunity to try this fun outdoor activity! Equipment and instructions provided by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation staff and volunteers. RLT's new public preserve in Troy, the John B. Staalesen Vanderheyden Preserve, provides access to the Wynantskill, known to have

its share of trout. From Campbell Avenue just east of Spring Street, take Wynantskill Way through Vanderheyden neighborhood to its end. For info, contact Jessica (518) 928-8447, jessicaestephenson@gmail.com.

## Hoosic River Paddle

Saturday, July 14 • 9:00 am

Bring your kayak or canoe and paddle eight miles on the Hoosic River. We'll put in at

the NYS DEC public boat launch on RLT's Hoosic River property in Eagle Bridge, and take out downstream just before the Johnsonville Dam. This attractive stretch of the Hoosic is flat water and features coves and marshy backwaters with bird and other animal life. The banks are mostly forested, with some farms and few houses. Provide your own boat and PFD. Bring snacks and water. You need to be in good

physical condition to negotiate about 1/4 mile of dense water chestnut growth at the take-out. Hoosic River boat launch is approximately one mile west of Eagle Bridge on the north side of Route 67, at the DEC sign. Register: Paul Schroeder, (518) 674-2480, pschroeder1@nycap.rr.com.

## History Hike to the Snow Hole

Saturday, July 21 • 9:00 am

Get the historic scoop on the favorite destination of hikers along the Taconic Crest Trail. As part of the Rensselaer County Historical Society's Hidden History series, Kathy Sheehan will relate the history of the Snow Hole, which is a deep crevice where snow and ice can be found year-round. Hike is 5 1/2 miles round trip, but relatively easy walking with little ascent except a short steep hill at start. Bring lunch to eat at Snow Hole and plenty of water. Dress for the weather. Wear hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes. Meet at the parking area at the top of Petersburg Pass on NY Route 2, just before the Massachusetts border. Charge: \$10 for RCHS and RLT members, \$12 non-members. Register with Historical Society at (518) 272-7232 x11.

## Ecology Hike at Cranberry Pond

Saturday, Aug. 4 • 10:00 am

The site in Grafton includes high-quality spruce swamp, hemlock and hardwood forest, a bog-like poor fen, and plants and animals rare for Rensselaer County. Local ecologist Dr. David Hunt will explain the difference between a bog and a fen, and guide us through the different habitats. Two miles. Wear footwear you can get very wet if you go into the fen. Register: Nick Conrad, (518) 279-1963, nbconrad@msn.com.

## Mushroom Walk at Cherry Plain State Park

Sunday, Aug. 26 • 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Sue Van Hook, local mycologist, will lead us at Cherry Plain State Park in Berlin at the height of the mushroom season. Sue's workshop on April 24 (see page 6) is good preparation, but not required. Bring a basket, a field knife or trowel, and a hand lens if you have one. Sue will have hand lenses to share. Charge: \$10/person, \$15/couple. Kids free. Register: Marcy Steinberg at (518) 674-2171, marcygs@aol.com. Meet at the sign outside of the Cherry Plain State Park main entrance. For directions, <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/173/getting-there.aspx>.



## Rensselaer Plateau Traverse

All day Saturday and Sunday • Weekend in September TBA

Get up close and personal with New York's fifth largest forest region by hiking it from one end to the other. The third annual Rensselaer Plateau Traverse will take place over two days, with the option of overnighting at Pine Ridge Cross Country

Ski Center. Attendees may hike either one day or both days. This will be a strenuous two days - each day's hike will be 15 miles. Parts of route will be different than in previous years. Watch for the dates at the RLT website or Facebook page. Sponsored by the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Friends of the Dyken Pond Center & RLT.

## Home Energy Workshop: Discover how you can cut your heating costs

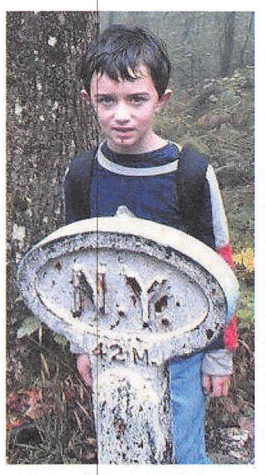
Thursday, Sept. 13 • 6:30 - 8:30 pm • The Sage Colleges, Troy, Room TBA

Learn how to obtain a free or reduced-cost energy audit, what to expect from the audit process, how to choose a contractor, incentive benefits and energy tips. Hear about: Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®, Home Energy Assistance, EmPower, Weatherization Assistance, HEAP, and low-interest loans for solar or wind energy systems. Program presented by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Light refreshments served. Register: Christine at (518) 859-4363, Christine@renstrust.org.

## Hike Up and Down the Hollows to the Taconic Crest Trail

Saturday, Oct. 6 • 9:00 am

We'll hike a portion of the central Taconic Crest Trail, going steeply up Robinson Hollow in North Stephentown, along the narrow Taconic Crest to the summit of Rounds Mountain, and descending to Hancock, MA. This will be a strenuous six to eight-mile hike with long steep uphill and downhill sections. Wear boots or sturdy shoes. Bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Prepare for cool and windy conditions. Register: Nick Conrad at (518) 279-1963 or nbconrad@msn.com.



## Watch for more information on these events later in the year:

### 5th Annual Oktoberfest RLT Benefit

Saturday, Oct. 20 • Brown's Revolution Hall • Troy

### Rensselaer Land Trust Annual Meeting

Saturday, Dec. 1 • Brown's Revolution Hall • Troy

### Concert with fiddler George Wilson

Sunday, Dec. 2 • Beacon Institute • Troy



## Rensselaer Plateau Plan Progresses

The Rensselaer Plateau Conservation Plan moves forward with a new grant to quantify the economic contributions of the Plateau's forests to the local economy. The Hudson River Valley Greenway awarded the grant to the Town of Nassau in partnership with the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA) and the Town of Sand Lake.

The economic study will address the direct and indirect contributions of the forest products, recreation, and tourism industries, and study the value of less easily quantified benefits of healthy forests, such as clean drinking water, storm water handling, clean air, personal recreation, open space and aesthetic value.

Public input is one of the driving priorities of the plan. Watch for community workshop dates or check [www.rensselaerplateau.org](http://www.rensselaerplateau.org). The web site has results of the community meeting on December 6, 2011, where residents were asked about expected beneficial outcomes and their concerns.

Rensselaer Land Trust has been assisting with data collection and analysis for the biodiversity and ecological resources section of the Conservation Plan, which is being led by local ecologist Dr. David Hunt, who is profiled in this newsletter. In December, RLT President Nick Conrad helped organize a meeting of botanical experts to assess the rarity of plants in Rensselaer County. The results of the meeting will play an important role in identifying the places on the Rensselaer Plateau especially worthy of conservation.

# National Land Trust Census Shows Big Gains

Rensselaer Land Trust's mission is to preserve the special places of Rensselaer County, so our work by definition has a local focus. However, RLT is a member of a large community of 1,723 land trusts across the country. While these organizations range from all-volunteer groups holding a conservation easement on just one property to international environmental giants such as The Nature Conservancy, we all work with private landowners to voluntarily conserve forests, farms and parks that enrich lives.

The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) is a national organization that supports and advocates for land conservation and land trusts. In December, LTA reported the results of its 2010 National Land Trust Census. As of 2010, land trusts in the United States have protected 47 million acres, an area over twice the size of all the national parks in the contiguous U.S. This figure is an increase of about 10 million acres since 2005 and 23 million acres since 2000. New York ranks sixth in the nation in acres conserved, with 97 land trusts protecting almost 1 million acres, an 88% increase since 2005. The collective impact of these land trusts is phenomenal.

The Census also showed that there are nearly five million land trust members and financial supporters and 347,000

active volunteers in the U.S., the latter figure a 70% increase since 2005. New York land trusts have 70,000 members and supporters, and 6,000 volunteers. Because RLT participated in the census, these totals include you!

Of the 1,723 land trusts in the U.S., RLT is one of only 135 that have been awarded national accreditation, recognizing our commitment to best standards and practices and our ability to protect land in perpetuity.

LTA's New York office has been a key partner to RLT in building the capacity of our organization. The New York program provides grants to land trusts in New York through the New York Conservation Partnership Program, funded by the state's Environmental Protection Fund. These grants have funded RLT's establishment of its professional executive director and development director positions, and costs associated with acquiring and managing several of our preserves, most recently the Robert Ingalls Preserve in Stephentown.

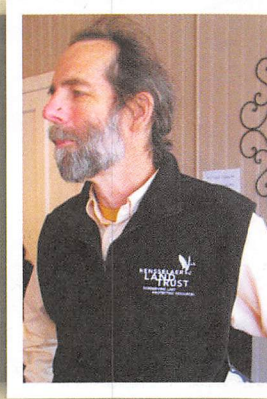
For more on the National Land Trust Census, go to <https://www.landtrustalliance.org/land-trusts/land-trust-census>.



## Does your image need updating?

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Call our office at (518) 659-5263.





CHRISTINE YOUNG, ESQ., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# RLT Builds Partnerships



Rensselaer Land Trust collaborates with other organizations, state agencies and municipalities to further our common environmental goals, to share costs and expertise, for educational outreach to different groups of people, and to ensure efforts are not duplicated. Here are a few of our partnerships.

This year, we are joining forces with Kentucky-based Equine Land Conservation Resource, Cornell Cooperative Extension Equine Division, Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy,

Agricultural Stewardship Association (ASA), Saratoga PLAN, and Columbia Land Conservancy, to give a series of adult workshops for horsemen and hay producers, providing education about land conservation options and trail sustainability.

We partner with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Our Hoosic River property located in Eagle Bridge has a 99-year fishing and boating access easement held by DEC. They constructed the boat launch, shore rip wrap, kiosk, benches and parking area, and provided over 600 trees and shrubs with another 300 coming this spring. Help us at our planting party this May.

We collaborate with the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA). In January, RLT invited RPA to participate in our hike and potluck event on the Rensselaer Plateau. And this winter, we worked with RPA, ASA and Cornell Cooperative Extension to provide an estate planning seminar for wood lot owners and those who manage forests. As we did last fall,

we will co-sponsor the two-day Hudson Ramble Plateau Traverse Hike again in 2012.

We are celebrating our fifth year of partnership with the City of Troy on the Tomhannock Reservoir shoreline clean-up. This open air reservoir provides clean fresh drinking water to over 125,000 people in Albany and Rensselaer Counties. If you live in the City of Troy, your drinking water comes from the Tomhannock. Dozens of volunteers gather each year to collect debris that has accumulated along the 17 miles of shoreline. Keeping inappropriate runoff from contaminating the reservoir is critical to maintaining the quality of the water.

RLT continues to seek out partnerships with other organizations to expand our effectiveness in land conservation and the protection of resources in our beautiful county. If you are involved with another organization or unit of government and would like to discuss an idea for collaboration, contact me at our office number 518.659.5263.

Participants of the Rensselaer Plateau hike on January 28, 2012. A delicious and plentiful potluck followed.





# Financial Data

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2011

# Gifts

2011

## INCOME

Donated Services	\$ 2,256
Grants	\$ 34,300
Interest Income	\$ 63
Member Contributions	\$ 37,427
Oktoberfest Proceeds	\$ 5,640
Stewardship Endowments	\$ 3,500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 83,186</b>

## EXPENSES

Conferences & Meetings	\$ 128
Donated Services	\$ 2,256
Fundraising Costs	\$ 1,467
Insurance	\$ 1,625
Marketing	\$ 1,376
Membership Dues	\$ 1,582
Mileage	\$ 489
Personnel & Taxes	\$ 43,186
Printing, Postage, Office	\$ 6,163
Professional Fees	\$ 15,011
Property Taxes	\$ 717
Rent & Utilities	\$ 3,995
Repair & Maintenance	\$ 97
Telecommunications	\$ 500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 78,592</b>

**NET OPERATING BALANCE** \$ 4,594

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Francille M. Egbert  
Christine Young

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Brown's Brewing Company

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2011

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Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of natural spaces throughout Rensselaer County, New York, especially land that protects sources of drinking water, provides natural habitat for wildlife and maintains the scenic rural character of the community. Founded in 1987, we have protected 792 acres, owning six properties with 235 acres and holding easements on 12 properties with 557 acres. Your donations are our primary funding source.



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# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



Participants of the two-day hike across the Rensselaer Plateau in September 2011. The hike was co-sponsored by Rensselaer Plateau Alliance.