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E-NEWS

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WEBSITE

www.renstrust.org

E-MAIL

renstrust@renstrust.org

PHONE

(518) 659-LAND (5263)

The Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Founded in 1987, we have protected 1,116 acres, owning eight preserves with 330 acres and holding conservation easements on 13 properties with 686 acres. Your donations are our primary funding sources.

Rensselaer Land Trust
415 River Street
Troy, NY 12180



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Outings

**Celebration and Walk on the
Ridgeline Easement**

Sunday, May 4 • 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Forage Walk with Sean Rowe

Saturday, May 10 • 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

**Wild Flower Walk with Tom Phillips
at Bear's Den Preserve**

Saturday, May 24 • 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

**Sample the Waters at Kinderhook
Creek Preserve with Fran Martino**

Saturday, June 7 • 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Hoosic River Paddle

Saturday, June 21 • 9:00 a.m.

**Sample the Waters at Ingalls
Preserve's Black Brook**

Saturday, July 13 • 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Rensselaer Plateau Traverse

All Day Saturday and Sunday, Weekend in
September–To Be Determined

Hike to the Snow Hole and Beyond!

Saturday, September 27 • 9:00 a.m.

Programs and Events

**Solar Energy: Cooperating With Your
Neighbors to Save Money**

Thursday, March 27 • 7:00 p.m.

**Finding the Mohican Indians in
Rensselaer County**

Sunday, March 30 • 2:00 p.m.

**Sean Rowe–Solo Acoustic
RLT Benefit Performance**

Saturday, April 12

Meet the Artist Reception • 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Performance • 8:00 p.m.

Troy Music Hall Troy, see page 2 for more
details.

**Tour Brown's Brewing Co.'s New
Brewing Facility**

August: TBD. Hoosick Falls

Wreath Making at Pineridge Cross

Saturday, November 22 • 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Mushroom Series

**Top Ten Easy Non-Gilled
Edible Mushrooms**

Thursday, June 12 • 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Ready to Learn the Gilled Fungi?

Thursday, June 12 • 7:45–8:45 p.m.

Mushroom Walks

Ingalls Preserve

Saturday, August 30 • 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Location to be Determined

Saturday, September 20 • 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities

**Tomhannock Reservoir Cleanup:
Volunteer Day**

Saturday, April 26 • 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Stream Spotter Training —
Volunteer Citizen Science Program**

Saturday, May 3 • 10:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.

Training for Stream Assessment

Saturday, June 21 • 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

*Special Thanks to Snyder Printer
for underwriting a portion of the
Spring 2014 Newsletter/2013
Annual Report.*





RLT News

Spring 2014/Annual Report 2013

Protecting Over 1,000 Acres in Rensselaer County!



Ridgeline Easement



Kinderhook Preserve

New Conservation Easement Protects Over 127 Acres in Stephentown

On December 23, 2013, Bill and Teresa Holliday donated a conservation easement to the Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT) on their farm and forest land in Stephentown, New York. The Ridgeline Easement protects over 127 acres and has several different zones, including fields, forest, a pond, a wildflower meadow, bird nesting zone, and a buffer zone along a creek. The easement keeps the property as working land, permitting the farming of the fields and sustainable timber harvest from the forest sections. The easement permanently protects the property from development while reducing forest fragmentation and preserving natural ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and water quality.

Bill and Teresa said, "We're very happy to have donated this easement and be working in partnership with RLT. We love this land, and it's an important part of our legacy to ensure that our bit of the Rensselaer Plateau remains as friendly habitat to the frogs, salamanders, fish, woodcocks, pheasants, bobwhites, occasional bobcats, and all of the other wildlife. The easement also protects the history and future of the land and the barn by allowing responsible traditional use of the fields, forest and structures."

The property contains a historic 19th century hay barn known as a "Scottish Barn," significant features of which include a remaining dry laid stone foundation wall, a conserved and preserved chestnut square-ruled mortise and tenon timber frame
Continue on page 8.

RLT Establishes Kinderhook Preserve in Southern Rensselaer County

Last month David and Lucy Gaskell and Kenneth York donated their land in East Nassau to the Rensselaer Land Trust for the establishment of our eighth public nature preserve, the Kinderhook Preserve. The properties are adjacent to one another and together they total 38 acres of forest land along the Kinderhook Creek, a renowned trout stream. The Kinderhook Preserve has approximately four miles of trails on varied terrain, some of it quite steep, which will make for exciting and interesting hiking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing! The Preserve will also provide easy access to 773 feet of shoreline on the Kinderhook Creek for fishing and general enjoyment by the public. The Preserve contains a wide variety of ecosystems including cliffs, hemlock-hardwood swamp, riverside sand and gravel bar, and six forest community types, providing habitat for wildlife and rare plants.

The Kinderhook Preserve will be open to the public for hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, fishing, and nature viewing later this year after a parking area and signage are installed along Martha Hicks Road. It will provide a wonderful place to get outside and enjoy nature at its best.

To walk with David Gaskell on his land is not just to learn about the forest, but to learn about how
Continue on page 8.

Two days after he donated his land to RLT, Ken York passed away at age 86. See a tribute to Ken York on page 9.

BIG NEWS!

Sean Rowe Will Perform a Benefit Concert for RLT at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall on April 12!

You Can Meet Him at the Artist Reception Prior to the Concert! And He Will be Leading a Foraging Outing in May at Our Ingalls Preserve!

RLT's Christine Young Talks with Sean Rowe



It was a bright sunny February day when I met internationally renowned singer/songwriter Sean Rowe at a local coffee shop. He walked in with a big smile and warm hug. It is easy to feel comfortable around him; he's that kind of guy.

Over coffees we spoke about the benefit concert. I asked Sean why he was doing this wonderful thing for our organization. He said, "I believe in what you are doing. It's a really good cause. I think it is important to sustain the natural areas that are left for the future generations of people and wildlife. I believe in sustainability, the long road, and that's what Rensselaer Land Trust's work is all about."

Our conversation turned to nature... Sean said, "When I think about nature, I find the word nature too limiting. The word creates a separation. I don't like to separate nature from myself. Nature is everywhere, in everything. My goal, as a human being, is to connect with nature and to be a part of it. I appreciate nature from the inside by participating in it. For example, one of my passions is foraging. When I'm foraging, I'm part of nature."

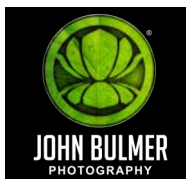
I asked Sean how the natural world has influenced his music. "The natural world has direct and indirect influences on my music. By direct I mean that there's a universal connection; there's a rhythm out there in all natural things. You just need to pay attention. By indirect I mean the raw emotion that you can feel when you're out in the woods... it is an instinctual thing... you just let it happen. It's an organic thing that touches your soul. Writing music is a multi-dimensional process. There's the mental side, then there's the rhythm, and then that 'in the moment' feeling. The best music has all of those aspects."

We spoke about his roots in music and I learned that Sean comes from a long line of musicians. "I was always drawn to instruments. My uncle, Anthony Prezio, used to give me harmonicas when I was a child and at 14 he bought me my first acoustic guitar and lessons. The first song I played on that guitar was 'The House of the Rising Sun.' I began writing music at 12 and performing at 18. Of course, I absorb a lot from the greats like Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Tom Waits, Neil Young, Van Morrison and Johnny Cash, but besides that I also borrow so much from early rhythm and blues, the original folk music scene, early punk music and 50's rock n roll. I think it's important if you wanna be distinctive, to find out what the artists you love were inspired by. In other words, tracing the music back to the source."

Sean's voice is a bass baritone. The concert will be in one of the best acoustic music halls in the world and I can't wait to hear and see him perform. Local county singer MaryLeigh Roohan will be the opening act for the Sean. What a night it will be! There's also the Meet the Artist Reception at the Rensselaer County Historical Society from 6-7 p.m. just before the concert. It's a small, elegant, catered event with wine and plenty of good finger food where you can personally meet and speak with Sean. Tickets for the concert are available through the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. Tickets for the Meet the Artist Reception are available from RLT at 518-659-5263.

And don't forget to sign up to forage the forest with Sean on May 10th. See page 7 for details!

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors



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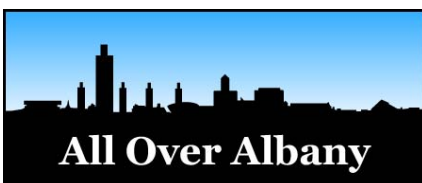


Instruments & Amplifiers



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Welcome New RLT Board Members



Tom Phillips

When I was a young boy I would accompany my grandfather, an avid botanist, on numerous field trips and developed a strong interest in Natural History. I inherited his love of plants particularly those of unique natural habitats such as peat bogs and other wetlands. I have lived in Rensselaer County for thirty years and have been a member of the RLT for many of those years. I'm now interested in taking a more active role supporting the mission of the RLT and conserving natural areas in our

local communities. During the day I am a veterinarian at Nassau Veterinary Clinic but always enjoy outdoor activities including skiing, hiking, triathlons or an outing to explore our area.

Ben Brinker

I was born and raised in Daytona Beach, FL. I grew up spending a lot of time outdoors, especially on the water. In 1996, I graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Psychology. I spent the next four years working in the psychiatric and social work field.

In February 2000, I decided to follow my desire to fly for a living. As I was working and learning how to fly, 911 happened. It affected so many people, in so many ways and for me, it meant not getting a job as a flight instructor in Daytona Beach. Many furloughed airline pilots, who were still certified flight instructors, flooded the area. The only place that was hiring flight instructors was in New Hampshire, Daniel Webster College so we moved to the northeast.

Once in New Hampshire, Jenny (my wife) and I started hiking in the White Mountains. The "new" variety of wildlife and fauna captured my spirit. This is when I realized that not only was I outdoors, but I started to listen and see what was around me as I hiked and camped.

Since moving to Rensselaer County in 2008, I have been hiking in the Adirondacks, Catskills and several National Parks. I consider myself a "learning" naturalist. With the help of my wife, who is an environmental educator, I am evolving as a person. We discovered RLT through its outings and fundraising events. Last year I was asked to be on the Board of Directors. I thought, "what a great way to be a part of preserving the resources of this area."



RLT bids farewell to Jessica Stephenson



Early last summer, my husband and I moved from Troy to the Ithaca, New York area, prompted by a job offer I received from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Cornell University as a Communications Specialist. My responsibilities vary from photography and videography, to graphic design, website management, and project management.

In November, we purchased an old farmhouse in Dryden, NY built in 1804. Set near the top of a hill, the house's name "Hill Crest" is painted on the original fireplace. We have three-and-a-quarter acres overlooking the valley, with a former 20-cow dairy barn, and we are surrounded on two sides by "forever farmland."

While we very much miss our many friends in Troy and volunteering with the Rensselaer Land Trust, we are grateful for the opportunities we've received and are excited about the new life we are creating in the Ithaca area!



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Rensselaer Land Trust is to conserve the open spaces, watersheds and natural habitats of Rensselaer County, for the benefit of our communities and future generations.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision Rensselaer County having sufficient conserved land to maintain clean water, clean air, wildlife and plant habitats, local farms, working forests, and scenic beauty.

We envision the people of Rensselaer County being connected to nature; having access to outdoor places; understanding the benefits of land conservation; and enjoying the quality of life created by a balanced mix of urban, suburban, and rural communities.

We envision the Rensselaer Land Trust having sufficient staff, board of directors, members, volunteers, partnerships, and financial resources to accomplish our mission.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nick Conrad, President
Sally Lawrence, Vice President
Garrett Brown, Treasurer
Kristina Younger, Secretary
Benjamin Brinker
Carl Cipperly
Bob Crowley
Joseph Durkin, Executive Committee
Francille Egbert
Stacey Goldstein
Jennifer Hixon
Scott Morley
Thomas Phillips
Allan Stern

STAFF

Christine Young, Esq., Executive Director
Julie T. Moore, Communications and Development Associate

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Paul Schroeder

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

Hal Howard, Investment Advisor
David Hunt, Conservation Ecologist
Julie Moore, Graphic Artist
Linda London, Development Professional
Steve Longtin, Civil Engineer
Brian Shaughnessy, Web Developer
Ray Smith, Surveyor
Joseph V. O'Brien, CPA
James Watkinson, Financial Advisor

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Family of long-time RLT Director Bob Ingalls at Ingalls Preserve Dedication



RLT Board Members at Kinderhook Preserve



RLT Board Members Monitoring Randall Creek Easement

Outreach and Educational Work

- ⤴ Dragonfly Identification Workshop
- ⤴ Grow a Shiitake Log Workshop
- ⤴ Vernal Pool Hike at Geiser Preserve
- ⤴ Wildflower Walk with Caving at Bentley's Cave
- ⤴ Nature Walk at Staalesen Preserve
- ⤴ Foray for Spring Edibles
- ⤴ Ten Edible Mushrooms Workshop
- ⤴ Annual Hoosic River Paddle
- ⤴ Ecology Hike at Mud Pond
- ⤴ Height of the Season Foray
- ⤴ Rensselaer Plateau Traverse
- ⤴ Bennington Battlefield History Walk
- ⤴ Taconic Crest Hike
- ⤴ 6th Annual Benefit Oktoberfest
- ⤴ Annual Meeting
- ⤴ Victorian Stroll Open House Concert
- ⤴ Robert Ingalls Preserve's Ribbon Cutting Event
- ⤴ Troy 100 Forum (2)
- ⤴ Grafton Winterfest
- ⤴ Taborton Earth Day Festival
- ⤴ Wetlands Diversity and Value Event
- ⤴ Bird Friendly Shade Grown Coffee Tasting Event

Workdays

- ⤴ Tomhannock Clean-Up
- ⤴ Robert Ingalls Preserve Work day
- ⤴ Historic Cemetery Restoration
- ⤴ John B. Staalesen Vanderheyden Preserve
- ⤴ Trail Work Day at our Dyken Pond Easements
- ⤴ Established a Weekly Trail Crew



Tomhannock Clean-up



Tree Planting at John B. Staalesen Vanderheyden Preserve



Couch Removal From Robert Ingalls Preserve

DID YOU KNOW?

We have protected 1,016 acres, we own and manage eight nature preserves totaling over 330 acres, and we hold 13 conservation easements protecting 686 acres. Through our work, 415 acres have been opened up for the public to enjoy. We have protected more than 4 miles of stream and river shoreline, over 154 acres of wetland, 228 acres of farmland, and 614 acres of forests.



Dragonfly Workshop
Photo Credit: Tracy



Vernal Pool Outing at Geiser Preserve



Mushroom Workshop

Partnerships

- ▲ Partnered with Agricultural Stewardship Association
- ▲ Partnered with Audubon Society of the Capital Region
- ▲ Partnered with Birds and Beans—The Good Coffee
- ▲ Partnered with Capital District Community Gardens
- ▲ Partnered with City of Troy
- ▲ Partnered with Lakes to Locks
- ▲ Partnered with Louis Miller Museum
- ▲ Partnered with Rensselaer Plateau Alliance
- ▲ Partnered with New York Forest Owners Association
- ▲ Partnered with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- ▲ Represented on Rensselaer County Agricultural Board
- ▲ Represented on Historic Saratoga Hoosic on the Hudson Partnership

Land Protection/Stewardship

- ▲ Added new Ridgeline Easement – 127 acres
- ▲ Monitored all 19 properties
- ▲ Partnered with Forest Legacy Program to protect over 2,500 acres of the Plateau's forested land
- ▲ Acquisitions Committee Property Inspections (5)
- ▲ Built two informational kiosks (2)
- ▲ Surveyed Preserves (2)
- ▲ Installed Preserve Signs (2)
- ▲ Developed Preserve Trails (2)
- ▲ Developed Property Management Plans (3)
- ▲ Completed Baselines for Easements (2)

Organizational Growth

- ▲ Featured 34 times in the media
- ▲ Applied for renewal of national accreditation
- ▲ Updated our Mission and Vision Statement
- ▲ Developed a five year Strategic Plan



6th Annual Oktoberfest



Staalesen Preserve Workday



Robert Ingalls Preserve's
Surveying Marker

OUTINGS, PROGRAMS, & EVENTS

Outings

Celebration and Walk on the Ridgeline Easement

Sunday, May 4 • 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Rain date Sunday, May 18

Celebrate our new Ridgeline Easement and meet the owners. Enjoy the fields and forests in the Stephentown area with an amble through the land. Contact Francille Egbert (518) 674-3214, fran.egbert@gmail.com for directions.



Forage Walk with Sean Rowe

Saturday, May 10 • 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Learn to forage the forest with Sean Rowe, singer-songwriter. He lived at Hawk Circle Wilderness Education for an entire year, eventually embarking on the 24-day solo survival quest. “I spent an entire year living off the land and going into the woods and surviving on my own,” he says. “I can’t think of a more pure experience.” Contact Kristina Younger (518) 527 6577, key12061@gmail.com, cost \$25, participants limited to 25.

Wild Flower Walk with Tom Phillips at Bear’s Den Preserve

Saturday, May 24 • 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Bear’s Den Preserve, Cherry Plain

Enjoy both well-known and less common spring wildflowers at RLT’s Bear’s Den Preserve near Cherry Plain. We’ll also hike to a rock shelter cave. Tom Phillips, well-versed botanist, will help us find and identify the area’s wide variety of flowers. There will be only a couple of miles of walking, but with one steep hill. Register in advance; space is limited. Charge \$5, RLT members free. Contact Francille Egbert (518) 674-3214, fran.egbert@gmail.com



Sample the Waters at Kinderhook Creek Preserve with Fran Martino

Saturday, June 7 • 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

This is the first of two stream walks Rensselaer Land Trust will host to sample the waters of native brook trout spawning streams. Participants will conduct simple visual assessments of habitat to gain a greater appreciation of local stream ecology. We’ll poke around looking for aquatic insects that come in many sizes and shapes as well as a wide range of pollution-tolerance levels. This is a hands-on, feet-wet outing so come prepared to wade in the stream, learn about stream ecosystems, and have some fun! The field study will be beneficial to citizen volunteers who desire to establish a stream-monitoring program. To register, contact Francille Egbert (518) 674-3214, fran.egbert@gmail.com. Information on meeting place will be given at time of registration. No charge.

Hoosic River Paddle

Saturday, June 21 • 9:00 a.m.

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 stretch is flat water with coves and marshy backwaters alive with birds and animal life. Provide your own boat and PFD. Bring snacks and water. You need to be in good physical condition to negotiate about ¼ 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. Charge \$5, RLT members free.

You must preregister with Paul Schroeder, (518) 674-2480, pschroeder1@nycap.rr.com



Sample the Waters at Ingalls Preserve’s Black Brook

Saturday, July 13 • 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

This is the second of two stream walks Rensselaer Land Trust will host to sample the waters of native brook trout spawning streams. See program description under the June 7th program. To register, contact Francille Egbert, (518) 674-3214, fran.egbert@gmail.com. Information on meeting place will be given at time of registration. No charge.

Rensselaer Plateau Traverse

All Day Saturday and Sunday, Weekend in September–To Be Determined

Join the hale and hearty for our fifth annual two-day hike along the length of the Rensselaer Plateau, totaling 27 to 34 miles (you can do just one or both days). Each year the hike takes a slightly different route exploring the treasures of the Plateau, including the Dickinson Hill Fire Tower. Optional overnight at Pine Ridge Cross Country Ski Center. This is a strenuous hike. Watch for dates on the RLT’s website or Facebook page. Sponsored by the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Friends of Dyken Pond Center, and RLT.

Hike to the Snow Hole and Beyond!

Saturday, September 27 • 9:00 a.m.

On this trip, we’ll hike from Petersburg Pass to the Snow Hole, and just keep going! We’ll hike the north portion of the Taconic Crest Trail and descend steeply down Prosser Hollow in Petersburg. The Snow Hole is a deep rock crevice where snow and ice often persist all year. This will be a moderately strenuous hike, 7-8 miles with an 1800’ elevation drop. Wear boots or sturdy shoes. Bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water. No charge. Registration contact: Nick Conrad, nbconrad@msn.com, (518) 279-1963.

Programs and Events

Solar Energy: Cooperating With Your Neighbors to Save Money

**Thursday, March 27 • 7:00 p.m.
East Greenbush Library**

“Community Solar” is an initiative to increase the use of solar energy in Troy and local communities and reduce its cost for participants. Steve Andersen will share information about how solar electric energy works, then introduce you to the innovative community solar program, which has already been implemented in communities in Tompkins County and Madison County. Jaron Koppers, a homeowner in Troy, will share his experience with the installation of rental solar. Global warming, children’s futures — you can make a difference within your budget. No charge.

DID YOU KNOW?

RLT is 27 years old this year. Each year over 100 volunteers work on our preserves, projects, workdays, and events, and we have an all-volunteer board of directors. We have produced two books, a county trail vision plan, an on-line interactive county watershed map, and a series of history portfolios.

Programs and Events

Finding the Mohican Indians in Rensselaer County

Sunday, March 30 • 2:00 p.m.
East Greenbush Library

Learn about the Mohican Indians, first inhabitants of Rensselaer County -- how they met Henry Hudson, how and where they lived and how their role in local history has been overlooked because of emphasis on the Iroquois, who lived far inland. Speaker Shirley W. Dunn will show the locations of some of the Mohican villages in Rensselaer County, and name some of the Mohican leaders of past centuries who not only signed land deeds, but helped the newly arrived Dutch. Shirley Dunn is the author of three books about the local Mohican Indians. No charge.



Sean Rowe--Solo Acoustic RLT Benefit Performance

Saturday, April 12
Meet the Artist Reception • 6:00–7:00 p.m.
Performance • 8:00 p.m.
Troy Music Hall Troy, see page 2 for more details.

Tour Brown's Brewing Co.'s New Brewing Facility

August: TBD. Hoosick Falls

Learn how local brewing can be good for the community and taste good, too.

Wreath Making at Pineridge Cross

Saturday, November 22 • 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Country Ski Center

Learn to make a balsam wreath with a variety of local greens and cones to celebrate the beauty of the season. Enjoy good company and warm drinks. Learn the names of your greens so you can celebrate local forests every year. Supplies included in a \$20 fee. You will also be supporting RLT and Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, which are conserving the forests of Rensselaer County. Registration contact :Francille Egbert, (518) 674-3214, fran.egbert@gmail.com



Mushroom Series

Top Ten Easy Non-Gilled Edible Mushrooms

Thursday, June 12 • 6:30–7:30 p.m.
Cowee Conference Room 4th floor
Russell Sage College, Troy

Mycologist Sue Van Hook, will teach you how to identify ten species of delicious wild fungi that commonly occur in our area. Learn or get a refresher on chicken and hen of the woods, morels, puffballs, boletes, chanterelles, trumpets, and hedgehogs. If you already know these mushrooms, sign-up for the workshop below. Cost is \$10. Registration contact: Marcy Steinberg at (518) 674-2171, marcygs@aol.com

Ready to Learn the Gilled Fungi?

Thursday, June 12 • 7:45–8:45 p.m.
Cowee Conference Room 4th floor
Russell Sage College, Troy

For those who feel comfortable enjoying the top ten edibles, it is time to tackle the gilled fungi. This talk will focus on learning stature types, gill attachment, stipe types and spore colors. A copy of *How to Know the Mushrooms I* by David Largent is a must. Bring your copy or Sue will have copies for sale for \$20. Cost is \$10. Registration contact: Marcy Steinberg at (518) 674-2171, marcygs@aol.com

Mushroom Walks

Ingalls Preserve
Saturday, August 30 • 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Location to be Determined
Saturday, September 20 • 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Sue Van Hook, local mycologist, will lead us into the woods to see what is up in the late summer and fall. It is highly recommended that participants have attended the June 12th lectures or a previous one on Edible Mushrooms. Participants will have a chance to develop their field skills in mushroom identification. Bring a basket or bag with stiff sides, a field knife or trowel, and a hand lens if you have one. Cost: \$10/person, Kids free. Directions to meeting location will be sent two weeks prior to the walk to those registered. Registration contact: Marcy Steinberg at (518) 674-2171, marcygs@aol.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Tomhannock Reservoir Cleanup: Volunteer Day

Saturday, April 26 • 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Join our 7th annual cleanup of the shores of the Tomhannock Reservoir, which provides drinking water to residents of many local communities. Meet at the NYS DEC public access parking lot on NYS Route 7 in Raymertown, just before the causeway over the reservoir. Trash will be collected along the shores of the reservoir. Garbage bags will be provided. Bring gloves. We work regardless of weather. Registration contact: Paul Schroeder at (518) 674-2480, pschroeder1@ny-cap.rr.com. Sponsored by RLT and City of Troy.

Stream Spotter Training — Volunteer Citizen Science Program

Saturday, May 3 • 10:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.
Kinderhook Preserve, East Nassau

Our first volunteer stream monitoring opportunity this year: Stream Spotters are the “eyes of the watershed.” They keep watch on what’s going on out there and share their findings with others. Stream Spotter volunteers are asked to take the training and then sample their stream location each week during July, August and September. Environmental monitoring can be a great family activity, or just a good excuse to get outdoors! No previous education is required; training is free, and test equipment is provided. All you need is a desire to learn and help out. Bring your lunch, and come prepared to wade in the stream with proper footgear and wading stick (old ski pole works fine). Registration contact: Francille Egbert, 674-3214, fran.egbert@gmail.com. Details on where to meet will be given upon registration. No charge.

Training for Stream Assessment

Saturday, June 21 • 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Our second volunteer stream monitoring opportunity this year: Learn what lives in local streams and assist a science research project at the same time! Volunteers are needed to help sample the aquatic insects that indicate the degree of human impact on a stream. Volunteers will attend this all-day training session, and then arrange to accompany a professional biologist at least one other day to a stream in Rensselaer County. Equipment provided. Registration contact: Nick Conrad nbconrad@msn.com, (518) 279-1963. No charge.





Bill and Teresa Holliday



David Gaskell



York Family

Ridgeline Easement Con't.

featuring cantilevered queens posts, conserved and preserved roof timbers, a restored white oak floor held down with reproduction early 19th century cut nails, restored board and baton rough milled local pine siding affixed with reproduction early 19th century cut nails, and swing doors held by recovered 19th century iron strap hinges.

The easement protects a creek, known as Tributary 29, which the New York State Department of Environmental has classified as a CTS native brook trout spawning stream. The creek is part of the Kinderhook Watershed. The easement also protects a forested ridgeline that forms part of the boundary between Rensselaer County and Columbia County. Some of the property's woods trails will be open for the public for hiking later this year after trail markers have been posted.

This beautiful property has scenic, historic, and natural significance. In all, the easement protects over 11 acres of agricultural land, 86 acres of forest land, 2,300 feet of creek shoreline, 24 acres of pond and wetlands, and a one-acre wildflower field.

Kinderhook Preserve Con't.

land becomes a part of you and you become a part of the land. This close connection started early for David, who grew up in the Northeast Kingdom in Vermont, composed mostly of agricultural and forest land. After moving to New York, one of the first pieces of forested land David bought was landlocked. He then spent time getting to know his neighbor, a very reserved German gentleman, before he could buy another piece of land to gain road access. In the years since, David has opened and maintained the old woods roads and created new trails, fought invasive species, managed the forest for improved timber growth, and cut firewood for his own home and for his neighbors.

The trails, some 3-4 miles, seem to extend everywhere, along stone walls, along ridges, through tall, majestic pines, down hemlock-covered slopes to the Kinderhook Creek, or up to the view on the oak-covered, high ridge, and then circling to other trails. Wildlife is abundant, particularly white-tailed deer. During this snowy season, animal tracks are everywhere. David has planned and developed most of these trails himself – although planning might be too strong a word. “Sometimes I just start a trail and see where it leads me.”

David's love of his land led him to think about what will happen to it in the future. He wanted longer-term protection for his land and began working with the RLT last year to conserve his forest forever while still being able to use it actively as a woodlot. Since the woods and ridges were not confined to just his property, David reached out to his neighbors to develop a larger preserve. Ken York responded with enthusiasm to his suggestion to work together for conservation, and the Kinderhook Preserve is the result of their generosity. Discussions are also being held with other neighboring landowners, and it hoped that RLT will be able to add more acreage to the Preserve, which would add significantly to the quality and value of the Preserve.

“This property runs along the Kinderhook creek and is gorgeous any time of the year. Those who visit will think they are out in the Rockies. My family is happy to put this beautiful location into the Rensselaer Land Trust so that others may enjoy its many advantages in perpetuity,” said Ken.

The York family purchased their property in 1971. The six York children, William, Wendy, Barbara, Richard, Deborah and Steven, loved the outdoors and played on the land and in the creek. Steven died in a tragic accident at the age of 15. A trail at the new Preserve will be dedicated in the memory of Steven Arthur York and it will be called the SAY Trail. Ken said, “Doesn't that sound like it could be an Indian name? SAY stands for Steven's initials and I used to ask my son ‘What do you say, SAY?’ This land donation is from the entire family. Those that have not survived to see the transfer are remembered and represented through the survivors.”

Under RLT's ownership, fishermen will have a way to access the Kinderhook Creek. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation holds a fishing easement along the shore of the Kinderhook Creek in this area, but until now, the only public access was by walking in the creek from the public bridge on Route 66. As the Kinderhook is more of a river, and the water is swift in areas, this way can be tricky. In contrast, access through the Preserve will be direct and easy.

In today's world, where more and more open space is posted, Rensselaer Land Trust is pleased to open up this new nature preserve to the public. Having access to natural areas is important to maintaining the quality of life that is created by a balanced mix of urban, suburban and rural communities. Their love of their lands inspired David and Lucy Gaskell and Kenneth York to preserve them for future generations, and we thank them for their generosity and vision.

Do You Value Clean Drinking Water?

RLT is working to protect key watersheds, keeping your water clean and safe.

Do you consider Rensselaer County's beautiful landscape part of your quality of life?

RLT is conserving the special places of the county for the benefit of the community and for future generations.

Do you enjoy being outside in nature?

RLT is opening up new lands for the public to enjoy, and holds a full array of outings and events to encourage their use.

If you like what we are doing for you and Rensselaer County, you can support us in many ways!

- ⬆ Participate in a work day at one of our preservers.
- ⬆ Come to the Sean Rowe Concert on April 12 and bring a friend!
- ⬆ Buy Birds & Beans–The Good Coffee.
- ⬆ Ask your friends and family members to join RLT.
- ⬆ Make a cash donation.
- ⬆ Volunteer on a committee or in our office.
- ⬆ Lead or organize an outing.



See How Far Your Donation Goes

RLT has such a strong base of volunteers, that every dollar donated is stretched. In 2013, over 3000 volunteer hours were donated to RLT, with a total estimated value of \$65,000! 2225 of those hours were spent directly on program activities ranging from donated legal services and professional photography to expert leadership on hikes and outings. Over 350 hours were given for preserve monitoring, stewardship and trail development. RLT also received \$35,000 in donated materials and in-kind services, ranging from the generosity of Brown's Brewing Company in providing meeting space and Oktoberfest to the Christmas trees former RLT Board President Bill Niemi provided to help our fall fundraising appeal. Together, these valuable contributions basically doubled RLT's operating budget and allowed us to accomplish so much more than we could have otherwise!

So, to all our volunteers and donors – **THANK YOU!**



A Tribute to Ken York



Ken York died on February 23, 2014, just two days after he donated his land to RLT to be part of our new Kinderhook Preserve along the Kinderhook Creek. On the day of closing, February 21, he was very happy and full of smiles. Shortly after the closing, Ken sent me this message: "We made it....it's a good day for singing a song....some things are going your way....be happy...Ken." He brightened my day and always had a way of bringing a smile to my face. He was smart, compassionate, and an interesting man. He loved history and had a wonderful sense of humor. When you visit our new Kinderhook Creek Preserve, take a moment to think of Ken. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to conserve the land he loved.

– Christine Young, RLT Executive Director



Financial Data

Income

Member Contributions	\$63,841
2013 Grant Contributions	\$21,000
Previous Year Grant Carryover Funds	\$19,661
Special Events	\$6,474
Interest Income	\$84
In-kind Services	\$65,000
Total Income	\$176,060

Expense

Fundraising Expenses	\$1,409
Merchandise Costs	\$13
Outings Expenses	\$898
Advertising	\$621
Conference & Meetings	\$1,297
Insurance	\$2,983
Membership Dues	\$4,564
Mileage Reimbursement	\$711
Office Expense	\$6,932
Payroll Expense	\$72,202
Professional Fees	\$11,302
Rent & Utilities	\$3,995
Repairs of Equipment	\$8
Property Maintenance	\$1,482
Telecommunications	\$745
In-kind Donated	\$65,000
Total Expense	\$174,162
Net Operating Balance	\$1,898



GIFTS

Grants

Land Trust Alliance
Royal Bank of Canada
The Community Foundation
The McCarthy Charities

Corporate Donors

Birds & Beans—The Good Coffee
Boght & Oakwood Veterinary Clinics PLLC
CDPHP
GE Foundation
Stewarts Shops
Scarano Boatbuilding

Corporate Sponsors

Browns Brewing Company
iGive
Women In Development of
Northeastern New York

Bequest Society

Sharon Bonk
Francille M. Egbert
Cathie Stevens
Christine Young

Tribute Gifts

In Memory of Barbara Brooks

Robert Hardt & Sandra Peterson-Hardt
Berlin Mountains Fish & Game Club

In Memory of James Clark

Robert Hardt & Sandra Peterson-Hardt

In Memory of Doree Cox

Margaret Grogan
Chuck Irose

In Memory of Robert Ingalls

Elizabeth Ingalls
Naomi Ingalls
Sarah Ingalls

In Memory of Glen Martin

Maeve McBride

In Memory of Tom, Gisela and Nick Young

Christine Young

In Memory of Lorraine Winkler

Berlin Mountains Fish & Game Club

In-Kind Donations

Andrew Alberti
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Jennifer Brinker
Garry Brown
John Bulmer

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 Nancy Yule

Contributors

Anonymous
 Elaine Ellis
 Mary & Michael Hall
 Michael Judge
 Val Kavanaugh
 Nan Lance

Mariann Moloczniak
 Nels & Sheila Nelson
 Virginia O'Brien
 John Rowen
 Kathleen Stallmer
 Guinevere Thaler

RLT's Wish List

- ▲ Stamps
- ▲ Step Stool
- ▲ Small Microwave
- ▲ Utility/Storage Shelves
- ▲ Vacuum
- ▲ Sandwich Board
- ▲ Copier Cartridges
- ▲ Printer Cartridges
- ▲ Use of Carpet Cleaner for two weeks.
- ▲ Volunteer Photographer
- ▲ Volunteer Office Assistant

Did you know?

At our urban nature preserve in Troy, we have granted Capital District Community Gardens land for a Community Garden. At our preserve on the Hoosic River, we have a boat launch and we lease land to a farmer. Other RLT preserves protect a mountain top, a karst cave, a swamp, and a kettle bog. Our preserves have opened up fishing access for the public to four streams and rivers. In 1990, we gave Rensselaer County 14 acres of land to add to the Dyken Pond Environmental Center.

