



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
Bob Crowley, Treasurer
Kristina Younger, Secretary
Benjamin Brinker
Carl Cipperly
Garrett Brown
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

RLT News

Fall 2014



RENSSELAER LAND TRUST'S HIGH STANDARDS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Renewed Accreditation Awarded by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

This past August your land trust, Rensselaer Land Trust, was awarded renewal of accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. We are very proud of this difficult achievement! Renewal is a testament to our continuing use of good business practices, transaction transparency, quality of work, ethics and honesty, and solid management.

Land conservation and watershed protection work is forever. Accreditation and its renewal requirements are rigorous with high quality standards that must be met. Our attainment of accreditation, not just once, but twice with this renewal, proves to our members, volunteers, donors, and funders that we are serious about our conservation work, and that we will be around in the future to steward our conservation easements, manage our nature preserve properties, and safeguard the natural resources and the beauty of Rensselaer County. We are here to last and our work will benefit not only today's generations but also future ones.



"Rensselaer Land Trust, Inc. is one of the first land trusts to achieve renewed accreditation, a significant achievement for the land trust and significant major milestone for the accreditation program. They are an important member of the 280 accredited land trusts that protect more than half of the 20,645,165 acres currently owned in fee or protected by a conservation easement held by a land trust," said Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. "Accreditation renewal, which must be completed every five years, provides the public with an assurance that accredited land trusts continue to meet exceedingly high standards for quality."

To achieve renewed accreditation, we submitted extensive documentation and underwent a thorough review. Our organization is stronger today because of the rigorous accreditation renewal process. "Through accreditation renewal land trusts are part of an important evaluation and improvement process that verifies their operations continue to be effective, strategic and in accordance with strict requirements," said Van Ryn. "Accredited organizations have engaged citizen conservation leaders and improved systems for ensuring that their conservation work is permanent."

RLT'S WATERSHED PROTECTION OUTREACH

Rensselaer Land Trust has recently developed an educational brochure on watershed protection, "Seven Clean Water Actions You Can Do."

SEVEN CLEAN WATER ACTIONS YOU CAN DO

The seven actions include:

1. Fertilize sparingly and carefully
2. Careful storage and disposal of household hazardous waste
3. Keeping your septic system doing its job
4. Cleaning up after your pets
5. Practicing good car care
6. Choosing earth-friendly landscaping
7. Saving water

In the coming weeks this informative brochure will be mailed by the Mayor of Troy to over 13,000 Troy residences with a joint message from RLT and the Mayor's office on the importance of watershed protection. To download your copy visit: www.renstrust.org.

The publication of this brochure was made possible by a grant from the Royal Bank of Canada. RLT recognizes and thanks the City of Troy Department of Public Utilities, the Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of Cornell Cooperative Extension for assistance with this watershed education project.

ANNOUNCING RLT'S NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM INITIATIVE- HUDSON RIVER FISH ADVISORY PROJECT



Photo Credit: Daniela Bertol

We are excited to announce that Rensselaer Land Trust has been selected to receive a grant award to provide education and outreach from New York State Department of Health Center for Environmental Health. RLT welcomes a new partnership with Fran Martino, proprietor of River Haggie Outdoors, who will expand her highly successful "Fish for Fun, not for Food" program. The Hudson River Fish Advisory project will help move RLT toward its goal of conducting more educational activities so Rensselaer County residents can know who the players are on nature's local stage, what their roles are, and how they connect with one another.

The project concentrates on communities in Albany, Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene Counties that are adjacent to, or in close proximity to the Hudson River. In addition to providing programming for schools, after school groups, scouts, town parks, day camps and other organizations, programs are tailored to draw interest from the general public. Fran has grown the program over the past five years with more than 2,500 participants, and looks forward to continued advancement. The "Fish for Fun, not for Food" program was presented recently at the following events.

In August and September, canoe trips on the Hudson River attracted 57 people who came out to paddle on the river with a stopover to collect fish in a 40-foot seine net. Participants were engaged to learn how to identify the fish, and learn about eating fish caught from the Hudson River.

The Fall Festival held on September 20th at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center provided an excellent venue for exposure to RLT. The annual event is a collaborative effort between the NYS DEC and the Friends of Five Rivers group. About 2,000 people attend the event each year.



More than 200 sixth grade students attended Environmental Awareness Days held at the Siuslaw Tree Farm adjacent to the Agroforestry Resource Center (ARC), an education and research facility run by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County.

The "Day in the Life of the Hudson River" held on October 16th brings thousands of students to the Hudson River one special day each year to engage, learn and sample the waters.

Watch for upcoming program dates in our next newsletter. Be sure to stop by and say hello to Fran at Oktoberfest. Look for the giant fish!

CONSIDER AN EXTRA DONATION THIS YEAR TO OUR ENDOWMENT FUND

Your additional donation to our endowment fund will help us achieve financial stability. If we can grow our newly established endowment fund to a size where its interest and growth can be used to support our annual operating expenses, we will have independence from grants and membership donations for paying our staff, insurance, rent, and all the other expenses of running an organization. That means more of your membership dues and annual donations can be put towards our conservation efforts and environmental educational programs. Our endowment fund is permanently restricted and its principal will not be touched. To make an extra donation to our endowment fund, just write "for endowment fund only" in the memo section of your check.

Rensselaer Land Trust also accepts other types of donations, such as stock, bonds, mutual funds, or even a future interest such as a remainder interest in a trust, or a beneficiary interest in an IRA or life insurance policy, or a bequest in your Will.

Thank you for your support in helping us achieve financial independence.

To find out how you can donate non-cash assets or future interests, call Christine at 518-659-5263 or complete the form below.

Please send me information on how to

- ☐ Include RLT in my will.
- ☐ Donate stocks, bonds, mutual funds, future interest.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Best time to call: _____

Mail to: Rensselaer Land Trust, 415 River St., Troy, NY 12180

COMMUNITY PITCHES IN ON HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT



Community partners are coming together to make the John B. Staalesen Vanderhyeden nature preserve a beautiful place for all to enjoy. You too can help by volunteering on Saturday, October 25 (rain date Sunday, October 26). Come for one hour or the whole day, any time you can offer would be greatly appreciated. We will need help installing preserve signage, planting shrubs and trees, finishing the informational kiosk, and doing general landscaping, and sprucing up the preserve entrance. Please join us and become part of this community effort!

Why we need to do this?

There were two ancient sewer lines running under the preserve. They were falling apart, busting open and gushing raw sewage into our preserve and the Wynantskill, a trout stream. The City of Troy replaced the sewer lines and located the new one as far from the creek as possible. Now that the project is completed, we can begin habitat restoration in the preserve and make it a welcoming and beautiful corner of nature for our community.

Community Partners Come Together

With much appreciation and many thanks we'd like to acknowledge our community partners' efforts to help restore our beautiful urban nature preserve.

- The City of Troy for providing a much needed water line to the Capital District Community Garden's plot in our preserve; for sowing a native grass seed mix on the disturbed spaces; for planting trees along the new sewer line; and for installing a gate to prevent unauthorized motor vehicle access.
- The McCarthy Charities for the needed funding to acquire new preserve sign, materials to finish the informational kiosk, and wood for the fence.
- Brown's Brewery Co. for lending us a dump truck to move the trees and landscaping materials.
- NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program's Trees for Tribes program for donating 100 shrub and tree seedlings.
- Faddegon's Nursery for donating seven 15'-20' trees.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS— CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?

To volunteer at the work-day on Saturday, October 25 (rain date Sunday, October 26), please contact Bob Crowley, RLT Board Member at 518-283-7364. Please bring a shovel if you have one.





Rensselaer Land Trust
415 River Street
Troy, NY 12180



Nonprofit Organization
US Postage Paid
Albany NY
Permit No 403

Stay in Touch with RLT!

E-NEWS

Send your e-mail address to
julie@renstrust.org

FACEBOOK

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

MEETUP

[www.meetup.com/
Rensselaer-Land-Trust](http://www.meetup.com/Rensselaer-Land-Trust)

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.

Return Service Requested

Programs and Events



**RLT Benefit Event–
7th Annual Oktoberfest**

Saturday, October 18 • 1:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Join us for our 7th Annual Oktoberfest Benefit Event. Sponsored by Brown's Brewing Co. You must be 21 years of age or older to attend. \$10 admission benefiting RLT. Beer and food sold separately.

Bands Performing

Flood Road, 1:00–3:00 p.m.
Annie in the Water, 3:30–5:30 p.m.
Jericho Joe 6:00–9:00 p.m.

**Wreath Making at Pineridge Cross
Country Ski Center**

Saturday, November 22 • 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
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. Supplies included in \$20 fee. Contact Francille Egbert, (518) 674-3214, fran.egbert@gmail.com



RLT's Annual Meeting

Saturday, December 6 • 8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
Breakfast Buffet at Brown's Revolution Hall
Breakfast fee: \$15/per person

Keynote Speaker: Tom Lake
Presenting "Climate Change: We've Been Here Before!"

Join Tom Lake, NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program naturalist, as we travel back to earlier times in human history when severe climate change forced life on Earth to either adapt or go extinct. From Ice Ages to severe droughts, climate extremes have long been the catalyst for human change.

Tom Lake is an Estuary Naturalist for the NYSDEC's Hudson River Estuary Program. He compiles and edits the Hudson River Almanac, a weekly natural history in its 21st year with more than 7,500 readers. He teaches anthropology and archaeology and, as an active archaeologist, works on Hudson River prehistoric sites.



**Victorian Stroll Concert with
George Wilson & RLT Open House**
Sunday, December 7 • 2:00–4:00 p.m.

George Wilson, local renowned fiddler, multi-instrumental virtuoso, and singer will perform a variety of traditional and folk styles to be enjoyed by all. He has mastered nearly 500 upbeat tunes from New England, Quebec, Cape Breton, Scotland, Ireland, and Shetland. Concert will take place at RLT's office, 415 River Street, Troy. Free.

Volunteer Opportunity

**Workday at John B.
Staalesen Vanderhyeden**
Saturday, October 25

Rain date Sunday, October 26

We will need help installing preserve signage, planting shrubs and trees, finishing the informational kiosk, general landscaping. Bring a shovel if you have one. Please contact Bob Crowley, RLT Board Member at 518-283-7364.