

• **FOUNDED IN 1987** •
Conserving Land • Protecting Resources

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.

The Rensselaer Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donations are our primary funding source.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Lynn Bogan
 Bob Crowley, Treasurer
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 Nick Conrad, Executive Committee Member
 Joseph Durkin
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 Eric Keil
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 Scott Morley
 Thomas Phillips
 Paul Schroeder, Secretary
 Kristina Younger, President

STAFF

John Winter, Executive Director
 Julie Moore, Admin. & Comm. Associate

STAY IN TOUCH

E-news: e-mail julie@renstrust.org
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www.meetup.com/Rensselaer-Land-Trust
www.renstrust.org
 E-mail: renstrust@renstrust.org
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WOOD AND WATER, SAND AND STREAM

Celebrating 30 Years of Land Protection in Rensselaer County



Welcoming New Leadership

By Kristina Younger, President



As we usher in our fourth decade, the Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT) is pleased to introduce John Winter to our community. We are blessed to have an experienced land trust professional on board as Executive Director

as we chart the course for our next decade of land conservation in Rensselaer County. I hope that you will make a special effort to come to our Annual Meeting on November 12 at Revolution Hall to meet John and to celebrate our 30-year history.

Thank you for your support!

Celebrate with Us November 12

By John Winter, Executive Director

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Rensselaer Land Trust. Thirty years ago a group of forward-thinking citizens from our area saw the need to conserve key lands for open space, for wildlife habitat, and to maintain our quality of life. Three decades later that vision has protected over 1,300 acres of land in Rensselaer County, including eight nature preserves and fifteen conservation easements.

RLT is accredited by the Land Trust Alliance and, in fact, was among the first land trusts accredited when the program was established. We are also a member of the Berkshire-Taconic Regional Conservation Partnership, a collaborative effort among area land conservation groups to deliver landscape scale land protection.

Continued on page 2.

Celebrate with Us—continued

After 30 years there are many people to thank for land conservation in Rensselaer County. We'll do so at our Annual Meeting and 30th Anniversary Celebration on November 12th at Brown's Revolution Hall in Troy.

We'll take time to honor our donors, volunteers, and current and former board members and staff. We will hear from outgoing County Executive Kathy Jimino and Troy Mayor Patrick Madden. We'll pay tribute to our founders and our past RLT presidents, board members, and staff including Christine Young, our former executive director, who guided RLT so ably for nine years. And we will welcome our new Executive Director, John Winter.

We will also honor our 2017 William Niemi Conservation Leadership Award winner David Hunt and our Volunteer of the Year Award winner Marcy Steinberg for their inspiring conservation work.

"We are thrilled to be welcoming old friends and new to celebrate our 30th anniversary. It is the vision and hard work of so many people that we are commemorating this special day," said Kristina Younger, RLT's Board President.

As a special treat, George Wilson, local renowned fiddler, multi-instrumental virtuoso, and singer will perform a variety of traditional and folk styles. George has mastered nearly 500 tunes from New England, Quebec, Cape Breton, Scotland, Ireland, and Shetland.

Please join us as we celebrate at Brown's Brewing Company's Revolutionary Hall at 417 River Street in Troy. Parking is available at the site.

**Tickets \$30 per person,
Plated dinner included.
RSVP at www.renstrust.org**



Outings and Workshops

Co-sponsored by the Rensselaer Land Trust and Rensselaer Plateau Alliance.
More details can be found online.
www.renstrust.org

Wreath Making Workshop

November 11 • 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Make a fragrant balsam wreath with a variety of fresh greens. Enjoy good company and lunch. Supplies and lunch included in \$20 fee.
Registration: Francille Egbert (518) 674-3214.



Winter Snowshoe/Hiking Series

December 30 • 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate the beginning of winter at RPA's Grafton Forest. Register with Fred DeMay, freddemay@nycap.rr.com.

January 6 • 9:00 a.m.

Taconic Crest trail. Register with Michael Jensen, jensenMK@gmail.com.

January 27 • 10:00 a.m.

The Rensselaer Plateau Alliance Albert Family Community Forest in East Nassau. Register with Peter Wood, petermapleacres@gmail.com.

February 3 • 9:45 a.m.

RLT's Kinderhook Creek Nature Preserve. Register with Marcy Steinberg, marcygs@aol.com.

February 17 • 10:00 a.m.

RLT's Robert Ingalls Nature Preserve. Register with Peter Wood, petermapleacres@gmail.com.

March 3 • 10:00 a.m.

Grafton Forest. A serious snowshoe/hike through different places in this almost 1000 acre recent Rensselaer Plateau Alliance acquisition. Register with Peter Wood, petermapleacres@gmail.com.

REDFIN Special Thank You to Redfin for their sponsorship of our 2017 Outings and Workshops Series.

An Anniversary Request as RLT Turns 30

Thirty years ago a group of forward-thinking people came together to conserve the special places in Rensselaer County. Since then, thousands of people have contributed in so many ways to ensuring our lands and waters are protected for us, our children, and our grandchildren. As we celebrate 30 years of land conservation we'd like you to consider a special gift befitting the occasion – \$30 per month for 30 months. Your tax-deductible commitment to the future will be used to protect land for people and the animals and plants we share it with and help make sure the water is clean. Thank you for caring for these 30 years and for supporting us as we begin our next 30 years together.

Appreciation for Christine Young's Service to the Rensselaer Land Trust



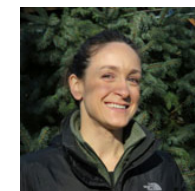
The Executive Director position in any small nonprofit organization requires a very broad range of talents from fundraising and cultivation of donors to office management and stuffing envelopes. Throughout her eight and a half years of service to RLT, Christine has been an enthusiastic and dedicated advocate, going way beyond the boundaries of her job description.

Christine has done an admirable job of advancing RLT's mission. Over 50% of the current protected acreage has been accomplished during her tenure as Executive Director, with the Ingalls, Kinderhook, and Staalensen preserves being the most recent and the best known.

She led RLT in being one of the first land trusts to be awarded national re-accreditation. RLT owes much of its success and growth these past eight years to Christine's leadership. As she has said, she didn't think of RLT as a 9 to 5 job, but rather as "her own personal business." Thank you, Christine, for a great eight years!

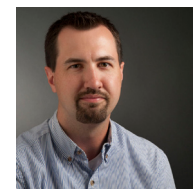
Welcome New Board Members

Lynn Bogan, Cropseyville



Lynn joined the board in 2017 and is excited to be part of the Land Trust because of its mission to conserve natural communities and native biodiversity, as well as to provide opportunities for people to get outside and enjoy nature. She is the Environmental Stewardship Coordinator for NY State Parks, where she works to balance environmental conservation and recreation.

Her professional interests are in land use and biodiversity conservation, and she received her B.S. in Environmental and Forest Biology with a concentration in Ecology from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry and her M.S. in Biodiversity, Conservation, and Policy from the University at Albany.



Eric Kiel, Troy

Eric grew up in Western New York and moved to Troy, NY after graduating from SUNY Brockport with a degree in Communications Broadcasting. He is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys cycling, hiking in the summer and snowshoeing in the winter.

An avid cyclist, Eric enjoys riding his bike throughout Rensselaer County. He is always excited to find new routes and pleasant rest areas. Once Eric found out about the Rensselaer Land Trust, he was excited to help educate and preserve land in his backyard.

Projects are Happening!

Our conservation projects across Rensselaer County are keeping our staff, board members, volunteers, and partners engaged and focused on our mission to conserve the open spaces, watersheds and natural habitats of Rensselaer County for the benefit of our communities and future generations. Here is a brief glance at our current projects:

Countywide Conservation Plan

With support from the Land Trust Alliance, the Hudson River Estuary Program, The Hudson River Greenway, Rubins Fellows, and the Royal Bank of Canada, a data-based conservation plan is well underway. A series of four public workshops in the spring captured the important places that reflect our conservation values, and over 100 surveys have been tabulated. Maps are in production that will reflect this data, and you can expect a draft report for review by Spring 2018.

Hudson River Access Plan

In cooperation with riverfront communities and the Hudson River Estuary Program, we have hired Partnership 4 Places to develop a Rensselaer County Hudson River Access Plan. An inventory of existing access is being supplemented with a public survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HudsonRiverAccessPlan>), local plans, and public outreach to outline the many ways that Rensselaer County wants to use and love the river on our western border. The Plan is on schedule for release in the next few months.

Tributary Water Sampling

Citizen scientists coordinated by Fran Martino of River Haggie Outdoors have been sampling 18 sites on Hudson River tributaries for the presence of enterococci and other contaminants.

More information on these projects is available at www.renstrust.org.

YOUNG'S BOG NATURE PRESERVE RENAMING CEREMONY

Photo Credit: Trix Niernberger

With analysis by Watershed Assessment Associates, and the United States Geological Survey, this Hudson River Estuary Program-funded project is being coordinated with Riverkeeper, with results published at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Hudson-RiverAccessPlan>. The goal of this sampling project is to encourage actions contributing to cleaner water.

Troy Urban Trails

RLT board members are active members of the project team to develop a trail system along the Wynantskill Creek, connecting our Staalensen Nature Preserve to the Burden Pond, and ultimately, Prospect Park, through a ravine and past old mill ponds and waterfalls. Led by the City of Troy and Post Contemporary, engineering studies are well underway and construction funding has been applied to from NYS Parks.

Valley Falls Old Thompson Mill Conversion to Waterfront Park

The Environmental Protection Agency has funded a Brownfields Assessment Grant for the Old Thompson Mill site – the first step towards implementing the Village's vision of creating a Hoosic River waterfront park for passive recreation. RLT continues to provide technical assistance, with our partner Hoosic River Watershed Association.

On September 16, we celebrated the expansion and renaming of our Mud Pond Nature Preserve to Young's Bog Nature Preserve, a 51-acre nature preserve which protects a classic kettlehole bog with a floating mat of Sphagnum peat moss and an ecologically significant wetland complex. Special thank you to Christl (Christine) Young for her generous donation that has allowed RLT to expand the protection of this unique ecosystem.

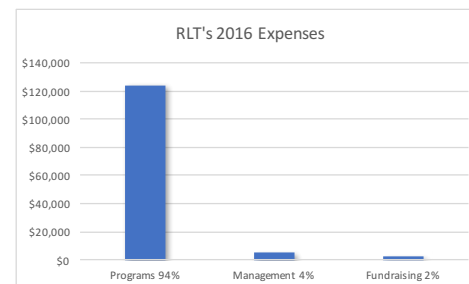
Financial Data

Income

Member Contributions	\$64,098
Other Contributions (gifts & grants)	\$76,838
Noncash Contributions (land)	\$0
Interest Income	\$102
Total Revenue	\$141,038

Expense

Payroll Expense	\$60,568
Payroll Taxes	\$6,355
Professional Services	\$38,616
Advertising and Promotion	\$90
Office Expense	\$10,409
Occupancy	\$3,995
Travel	\$843
Depreciation, Depletion, and Amortization	\$335
Conferences, Conventions and Meetings	\$172
Insurance	\$3,810
Printing and Publications	\$1,528
Repairs	\$2,810
Membership Dues	\$1,150
Postage and Shipping	\$1,273
All other expenses	\$1,328
Total Expenses	\$132,250



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Gifts

Grants

NYS Dept of Health—administered by Health Research Incorporation
NYS EPF—administered by Land Trust Alliance
The McCarthy Charities
The Peter Carmen and Lucia Buck Foundation
Royal Bank of Canada Foundation—USA
Stewart's Shops

Corporate Matching Gifts

GE Foundation Matching Gift Program
NGM Charitable Foundation

Corporate Sponsors & Partners

Amazon Smiles
Brookfield Renewables
Hannaford Community Cash—CLYNK

Business Members

Land Steward \$1,000–\$2,999
Brookfield Renewables

Advocate \$500–\$999

Boght & Oakwood Veterinary Clinics
CSRA

Sustainer \$250–\$499

Bovair Real Estate
Habana Premium Cigar Shoppe
Scarano Boat Building, John Scarano
Trustco Bank
Wojeski & Company CPAs. P.C.

Tribute Gifts

In Memory of Catherine Steele
Barbara Green

In Memory of Rosemary Landrigan
Gail Landrigan

In Memory of Glen Martin
Anthony Garner

In Honor of R.J. Hydorn
Anne Cheeseman

In-Kind Donations

Fred Alm and Sharon Bedford
Bella Napoli
Brown's Brewing Company
John Bulmer
Nick Conrad
Cafe Deli-icious
Chez Mike
Bob Crowley
Joseph Durkin

Young's Bog Nature Preserve was donated in loving memory of Gisela Young (1921-2007), Charles Thomas Young (1926-2001) and Nick Young (1957-1976).

Francille Egbert
FRA_MAR Farms
Empire Wine
Fresh Market
Anthony Garner
David Gaskell
Gregory Gaskell
Hannaford
Honest Weight Food Coop
Jenny Hixon
Dr. David Hunt
Walter Kersch
Sally Lawrence
Lucas Confectionary
Fran Martino
Julie Moore
Trix Niernberger
Scott Morley
Joe O'Brien
Thomas Phillips
Price Chopper
Paul Schroeder
Rensselaer County
Rensselaer County Historical Society
Russell Sage Colleges
Brian Shaughnessy
St. Timothy's Church
Marcy Steinberg
Allan Stern
City of Troy
Jim Watkinson
George Wilson
Christine Young
Kristina and Mark Younger

Watershed Circle \$3,000 +
Linda and John Gowdy
Barbara Green
Lyn Howard and Jack Alexander
Naomi Ingalls
Karen and Chet Opalka
Christine Young

Land Steward \$1,000-\$2,999
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Sharon Bedford and Fred Alm
Susan and Tom Blandy
Patricia Zalinka-Cook and Edwin Cook
Joseph Durkin
Teresa and Bill Holliday
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Margaret and Thomas Phillips, DVM
Catherine Stevens
Sally Lawrence
Kristina and Mark Younger

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Trix Niernberger and Bill Preston
NYS Marine Highway Transport Co., LLC
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Donna Simms
Gary Thomann
Debbie and John Wen

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Veronica Fitzgerald Kaedy
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June and Stanley Hmielenski
Marie Hollister
Claudia Kavenagh and Joel Giller
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Emily and Ed Rosen
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Jean and Charles Sheviak
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Susan Watson
Peter Wood
Sharon and Lewis Zankel

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Elizabeth Pohlmann and Harald Moore
Elizabeth and James Morley
Judith Morlock
Mary and Stephen Muller
Kathy and John Munn
Donald Murray
Daniel O'Brien
Rae and Tom O'Connor
Elizabeth Orfan
Jane and Jim Otto
Theresa Page
Judith Powers



Invasive Species Management
3rd Annual Water Chestnut Pull

Joy and Brian Pratt
Nancy Reich
Betty and John Siedhoff
Thomas Slavin, Jr.
Rosemarie and John Sniezky
Cathy and Charles Sullivan
Betsy Thompson
Deb Tice
Yvonne and Darrell Welch
Kimberly Wilson
Jim Wysocki
Brian Zweig

Individuals \$50-\$99
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Steven Betzinger
Fred Bockis
Charles Braverman
Mr. Roberta and Bernard Buff
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Maryjo and David Burton
Daniel Carlo
Wanda Chenot
G. Stephen Christopher
Barbara and Paul Counterman
Robin Dropkin
Karli Dwyer
Tina Linden and Hoby Erbert
Marie and Joe Erkes
Patricia and David L. Flint
Lilajane Frascarelli
Mary and Ross French
Janice Joyce and Henry Frueh
Elizabeth & Stephen Fry
Ronald Geuther
Cathy Gilchrist
Sandy Gordon
Abigail Greene and Stuart Mark
Rosenstein
Chris Hawver
Nicholas Helper
William Hetzer
Steven Hicks
Ms. Marcia Hopple
Fran and Jim Hyde
Pamela and JR Jacobson
John Johanson
Mary and Richard Jones
Jill Jones
Michael Judge
Christina and John Kelly
Mary Krencski and Jim Tkacik
Sabra and David Larkin
Carol and Douglas Leith
Leo and Martha Levy
Virginia Martin
Robert Matthews
Bev and Rik McClave
Dale-Ila Riggs and Don Miles

Mariann Moloczniak
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Jennifer and Robert Newton
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Christa Hay and Robert Addis
Susan and Neil Roberts
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Martha and Claes Sjogreen
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Christine and John Ward
Jeanine Wisniewski

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Sara Blair
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Gabriella Cebada Mora
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James Corsaro
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Nadia Winslow
Nancy Yule

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Clark Galloway
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Marjorie Geiger
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Loraine Geragosian
Julie Moore
Edward Rasowsky
Barbara and K. John Russell
Brian Shaughnessy
Barbara Smith
Guinevere Thaler
Barbara and Francis Welch

