

• **Founded in 1987** •

**Stay in Touch**

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**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. Founded in 1987, we have protected 1263.31 acres, owning eight preserves with 407.37 acres and holding conservation easements on 15 properties with 855.94 acres. Your donations are our primary funding source.



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Troy, NY 12180

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# conservation **NEWS** public **EVENTS & WORKSHOPS** nature inspired **OUTINGS** **2015 ANNUAL REPORT**



FALL 2016  
[www.renstrust.org](http://www.renstrust.org)

## **Expanded: Mud Pond Nature Preserve**

In June 2016, Rensselaer Land Trust purchased lands adjoining the Mud Pond Nature Preserve, expanding the preserve to 50.71 acres and further protecting this rare and fragile ecosystem.

Mud Pond is a kettle hole pond that was formed when blocks of ice calving from glaciers became submerged in the sediment on the outwash plain. When the ice melted, the kettle hole pond was left behind. Decomposing organic plant matter made the water acidic and created a peaty kettle hole bog around the pond. Kettle hole bogs are closed ecosystems because they have no water source other than precipitation. Mud Pond supports sphagnum moss, which grows over the layers of peat, and carnivorous plants such as pitcher plants, sundews, and bladderworts, which capture and eat insects and are able to retain water from precipitation. Other species found at Mud Pond that are supported by the sphagnum mat are water willows, leatherleaf, and cranberries.

Because bogs are so extremely sensitive to disturbance, we limit public access to Mud Pond to escorted excursions. In the future we hope to further expand this unique nature preserve, and to build a parking lot and a boardwalk for the public.

## **New: Urban Trail in Troy**

By Director Joe Durkin

Rensselaer Land Trust's urban preserve, John B. Staalesen Vanderheyden Nature Preserve, is about to become the upstream anchor and entrée point of



a new urban trail corridor along the Wynants Kill in Troy. To facilitate public access to this urban trail corridor, Rensselaer Land Trust has agreed with the City of Troy to combine and integrate the Staalesen Preserve with an adjacent parcel owned by Troy. By itself this combination results in a beautiful 58-acre wooded and wetland preserve on both sides of the Wynants Kill. However, it does not end there. When combined with the additional downstream Troy property of the Burden Pond Environmental Preserve, the result will be a corridor of nearly two-miles of open space along the Wynants Kill. The Burden Pond Preserve is characterized by its large pond, marsh and forested slopes. Hidden from view is a deep gorge and waterfalls. The importance of the Staalesen Preserve connection is that it will enable residents of several neighborhoods to walk down to the Burden Pond Preserve through a beautiful open space preserve.

There is also a historical aspect to the Wynants Kill Corridor. *Continued on page 2.*

## Urban Trail, Cont.



The Wynants Kill contributed significantly to the development of Troy by providing water power to mills. There were several mills within the two-mile stretch of the Wynants Kill Corridor. Remnants of dams that served these mills are still in place. In fact, significant areas of the Corridor were mill ponds and under water at one time. The Burden Pond Preserve of course gets its name from the famous Burden Water Wheel and Iron Works which were directly downstream.

This multifaceted project involved the collaborative efforts of Rensselaer Land Trust, Post Contemporary, another not-for-profit located just downstream from the Burden Pond Preserve and of course the City of Troy. Post Contemporary advocated for the expansion of the Burden Pond Preserve while Rensselaer Land Trust highlighted the possibility of joining the Staalesen Preserve with adjacent Troy property and ultimately with the Burden Pond Preserve. Staff within the City of Troy embraced the idea and coordinated an effort to obtain a significant State grant to plan for improvements needed to combine these properties. These include pedestrian bridges across the Wynants Kill along with a major street crossing of Campbell Ave. which separates the Burden Pond Preserve from the combined 58-acre Rensselaer Land Trust–Troy parcel. One of these bridges will connect the Staalesen Preserve and Troy property.



A lot has been accomplished, but more lies ahead, as we hope to enter the implementation phase next summer. We may seek volunteers to help with various elements of the work. Beyond that, as part of the current agreement with Troy, we will be involved with helping maintain the trails through a so called “Friends Of” citizens group.

## An Historical First: New Awards Program Seeks Nominations

Rensselaer Land Trust announces the inauguration of its annual awards program. Starting this year, Rensselaer Land Trust will present awards at our annual meeting to recognize outstanding service to Rensselaer Land Trust over the preceding year.

For our Volunteer of the Year Award, we are soliciting nominations for an individual who merits recognition for outstanding service as a volunteer or steward in 2015/16. Written nominations should not exceed one page, double spaced, and be specific as regards to the services performed or contributions made (on an unpaid basis) that further the mission of the Rensselaer Land Trust. Current Rensselaer Land Trust Board members are not eligible.

Please send your nomination via email or hard copy to Sally Lawrence, Chair of the Subcommittee on Awards, Governance Committee at [lawres@sage.edu](mailto:lawres@sage.edu) or 49 Olmstead Lane, Averill Park, NY 12018 by **September 1, 2016**.

We will also be making the first presentation of the William Niemi Award for Outstanding Service. This award is in honor of one of Rensselaer Land Trust's longest serving Director, Bill Niemi, and he will be presented with the award at our annual meeting as the kick off to our new annual awards program.

# OUTINGS • WORKSHOPS • EVENTS

## 7th Annual Rensselaer Plateau Traverse

Sat. Sept. 24 & Sun. Sept. 25 • 7:50 a.m.

Our 7th annual hike with Rensselaer Plateau Alliance will cover 27-34 miles across the Rensselaer Plateau over two days. Hike through the new Community Forest and enjoy the company of hardy hikers who want to stretch their endurance. Sponsored by Rensselaer Land Trust, Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, and Dyken Pond Environmental Center. Register by contacting: Jim (518) 712-9211 or e-mail [jim@rensselaerplateau.org](mailto:jim@rensselaerplateau.org).

## Hiking Through History Along Troy's Wynants Kill

Sat. Sept. 24 • 12:15 p.m. & 1:00 p.m.

Come learn about the local history and the changing landscape of south Troy shaped by the Wynants Kill from Colonial time mills to the Industrial Era Burden Iron Works. Register by calling: Joe (518) 279-9870.



## Hike to Berlin Mountain

Sat. Oct. 1 • 9:00 a.m.

Berlin Mountain, at 2798 feet, is the highest point in Rensselaer County, and its open summit provides wonderful views of the Taconics and of Mt. Greylock and the Berkshires. Register by contacting: Nick (518) 279-1963, or e-mail [nbconrad@msn.com](mailto:nbconrad@msn.com).

## Fall Foliage Hike to the Dickinson Fire Tower

Sat. Oct. 15 • 10:30 a.m.

Join Grafton Lakes State Park's Environmental Educator on a three-mile round trip hike to this historic fire tower, recently restored by the Friends of Grafton Lakes State Park. Register: (518)-279-1155.

## Wreath Making Workshop

Sat. Nov. 19 • 11:00 am–1:00 p.m.

Learn to make a fresh fragrant balsam wreath to last the entire season with a variety of fresh greens. Enjoy good company and lunch. \$20 fee supporting Rensselaer Land Trust and Rensselaer Plateau Alliance. Register by calling: Francille (518) 674-3214.

More details at [www.renstrust.org](http://www.renstrust.org)

## Annual Meeting & Keynote Speaker Jeff Olson Presenting “The Transformative Impact of Trails and Greenspace on Communities”

Sun. Nov. 13 • 4:00 p.m. • \$15 per person • RSVP to [julie@renstrust.org](mailto:julie@renstrust.org)

Join us at Brown's Brewing Co.'s Revolution Hall as we celebrate the year's accomplishments, review plans for next year, hear a compelling presentation, and enjoy good food and company.

Jeff Olson, an RPI Alumnus, is an architect, planner, and author who has been involved in greenways, open space, active living, and alternative mobility projects for more than 25 years. Jeff has had a diverse career with national, international, and local experience in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. This experience was recognized in 2014 by the Association for Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals with a Lifetime Achievement Award. His unique vision and leadership ability are important assets to projects ranging from regional planning to site-specific projects and programs. He is the co-founder of the Saratoga Springs Open Space Project, teaches America's first university course in bicycle and pedestrian planning, and is Co-Director of the UAlbany Initiative for Healthy Infrastructure, which creates model plans connecting public works with public health. He is a frequent inspirational speaker at conferences, public meetings and other events and the author of the book “The Third Mode: Towards a Green Society.”





# Ways to Get Involved

## We Have A New Website Same Web Address, New Look, and Many New Resources

Over the last year we've been developing a new website that provides our community with a wealth of knowledge and opportunities to get involved with land protection in Rensselaer County. Our website's redevelopment was made possible by funding from NYS's Environmental Protection Fund, administered by the Land Trust Alliance. Special thanks to our volunteer committee: Fran Egbert, Jenny Hixon, Kristina Younger; staff, web coordinator Sarah Parks, and Web Developer Brian Shaughnessy of Lighthouse Consulting & Design.



### Some Special Features include:

- Interactive Watershed Map of the county
- Land Owner Information
- Interactive County Map of preserved properties, easements or other conserved lands in Rensselaer County
- Our Projects
- Detailed information, pictures, and maps of our properties
- Shop Our Store
- Online calendar of events
- Multiple ways to get involved
  - Membership
  - Monthly Giving Program
  - Legacy Giving
  - Corporate Sponsorship
  - Volunteering
- Partner Trails

**Did you know that up to 4% of your contribution goes to pay credit/debit card fees?**

With our new website you can switch your payment method to Bank Withdrawal (ACH) and Rensselaer Land Trust will receive the full amount minus a \$0.26 transaction fee!

## A Small Monthly Gift Can Have a Big Impact

By joining our monthly giving program, your automatic monthly gift helps provide the sustained resources needed to promote land, water, and habitat conservation efforts made by the Rensselaer Land Trust. You will also help us to save on fundraising costs, by reducing our expenses related to paper, postage, and printing.

- Make generous contributions to fit within your budget with monthly donations as low as \$5/month.
- Choose automatic withdrawal from your checking account or use a credit card for monthly donations.
- Save time, paper, and postage, so your gift has more impact on preserving the place you love.

## Bottle Returns Help Us Protect Valuable Open Spaces



Rensselaer Land Trust has partnered with Hannaford's Community Cash Program—CLYNK bottle return program. This is a new, easy, and convenient way to return your empty bottles and cans, located right inside your local Hannaford. With CLYNK, you can quickly drop off your empty bottles and cans at CLYNK's bag drop on your next Hannaford shopping trip.

To participate and benefit Rensselaer Land Trust, contact us to receive your supply of CLYNK home collection bags, which are tagged with a special bar code to ensure your returned bottles and cans will benefit the Land Trust.

## Support What You Enjoy!

These donation kiosks are now at some of our parks and trails. Drop in a buck or two when you visit to help with our mission of preserving green space!



## Call for Volunteers



### Mohawk Hudson River Marathon Road Marshals Needed

Sun. Oct. 9 • shifts throughout the day

**Volunteer** as a road marshal at the race and help raise funds for the Land Trust. Sign-up with Christine Young by calling 518-659-5263 or e-mail [Christine@renstrust.org](mailto:Christine@renstrust.org)

**Race** in this year's Full Marathon. Rensselaer Land Trust has Full Marathon Bibs available for \$500 each. 100% of the bib proceeds benefit the Land Trust. For more details email: [julie@renstrust.org](mailto:julie@renstrust.org)

### Event Coordinator

We are looking for a volunteer with strong organizational skills to coordinate and plan Rensselaer Land Trust events. Events may include: special ribbon cutting and dedication events, top donor events, volunteer thank you events, annual meeting, workdays, Victorian Stroll and others. Must have internet access and ability to work independently. For more details contact: Paul Schroeder at [pschroeder1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:pschroeder1@nycap.rr.com).

### Would you like to help with our Conservation Plan for Rensselaer County?

Rensselaer Land Trust is starting a two-year project to inventory, map, and assess the natural resources, natural features, and valued open space of Rensselaer County, which will result in a Conservation Plan that will guide the Land Trust's land protection activities to those areas that contribute the most to the County's ecological health and environmental quality of life. We are looking for volunteers for the Technical Advisory Committee and for the Project Steering Committee. If you would like to explore how you can help, contact Nick Conrad, [nbconrad@msn.com](mailto:nbconrad@msn.com), 279-1963.

## Partners Make It Happen

By Kristina Younger, President



Hidden between the numbers of the 2015 Annual Report included in this newsletter are stories of how those facts and figures came to be. And almost without exception, those stories include partners that work with Rensselaer Land Trust to support and further our mission.

Our critical partners are of course those on the income side of the ledger, starting with our members, business sponsors, donors, and grantors. The Peter Carmen and Lucia Buck Foundation and The McCarthy Charities have graciously provided supplemental contributions towards our operational expenses. The Land Trust Alliance and the NYS Department of Health fund project specific grants, and we receive “non-cash” donations which range from land to professional services. All of which allows us to deliver programs and services on the other half of the ledger to meet our organization’s goals.

Rensselaer Land Trust’s partner list is long and growing. We regularly write letters of support for grants, publicize events and programs, and jointly sponsor workshops and workdays with many local non-profits, alliances, and conservation allies (see page 11 for listing). Local municipalities, state agencies, and regional organizations are also part of our working family, as we can, do and will work with whomever we need to “conserve the open spaces, watersheds and natural habitats of Rensselaer County, for the benefit of our communities and future generations.”

That is the real message of our 2015 Annual Report. Partners make it happen. Thank You!

### Board of Directors

Fred Alm  
Bob Crowley, *Treasurer*  
Carl Cipperly  
Nick Conrad  
Joseph Durkin, *Executive Committee Member*  
David Gaskell  
Sally Lawrence, *Vice President*  
Scott Morley  
Trix Niernberger  
Thomas Phillips  
Paul Schroeder, *Secretary*  
Allan Stern  
Kristina Younger, *President*

### Staff

Christine Young, Esq., *Executive Director*  
Julie Moore, *Fundraising & Communication Assoc.*

### Past Presidents

Bill Niemi  
Glen Martin  
Brian Zweig  
Lisa Birr  
James Atkinson  
Peg Olsen

### Advisors and Committee Volunteers

*The following volunteers contribute their expertise as advisors to the Land Trust, serve on Board committees, or steward protected properties.*

Jenny Brinker, *Fundraising Committee*  
Hal Howard, *Board Advisor*  
Fran Egbert, *Outings Committee Chair and Trails Committee*  
David Hunt, *Ecologist*  
Seth Edelman, *Easement Steward*  
Deb Hartz, *Fundraising Committee*

Jenny Hixon, *Website Committee*  
Michael Jensen, *Outings Committee*  
Rebecca Krakowiak, *Outings Committee*  
Steve Longtin, *Acquisitions Committee & Preserve Steward*  
John Munn, *Governance Committee*  
Brian Shaughnessy, *Web Developer*

## Financial Data

### Income

Member Contributions	\$58,165
Other Contributions (gifts & grants)	\$120,969
Noncash Contributions (land)	\$22,723
Interest Income	\$108
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$201,965</b>

### Expense

Payroll Expense	\$56,739
Payroll Taxes	\$6,355
Professional Services	\$34,637
Advertising and Promotion	\$125
Office Expense	\$7,447
Occupancy	\$3,995
Travel	\$816
Depreciation, Depletion, and Amortization	\$389
Conferences, Conventions and Meetings	\$1,091
Insurance	\$3,667
Printing and Publications	\$9,418
Repairs	\$1,701
Membership Dues	\$1,425
Postage and Shipping	\$1,023
All other expenses	\$793
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$129,621</b>

## Gifts

### Grants

Brookfield Renewables  
 NYS Dep't of Health--administered by Health Research Incorporation  
 NYS EPF--administered by Land Trust Alliance  
 Louis Hortense Rubins Fellows Program  
 The McCarthy Charities  
 The Peter Carmen and Lucia Buck Foundation  
 Royal Bank of Canada Foundation--USA

### Corporate Matching Gifts

GE Foundation Matching Gift Program  
 NGM Charitable Foundation

### Business Members

**Benefactor \$5,000--\$9,999**  
 Browns Brewing Company

### Advocate \$500--\$999

Boght & Oakwood Veterinary Clinics  
 Brookfield Renewables

### Sustainer \$250--\$499

Advent Associates, LLC  
 Farm Credit East, ACA  
 Scarano Boat Building

### Tribute Gifts

**In Memory Sonny Helms**  
 Lois and Michael Jensen

**In Memory of Robert Ingalls**  
 Amanda Poppei

**In Memory Alice Kirstein**  
 Lois and Michael Jensen

**In Memory of Christine Schurtman**  
 Judith and Frederik Rusch

**In Honor of Anthony Garner and Sabra Sanwal**  
 Claire Hughes  
 Abbie Kiley and Michael Bergen  
 Maeve McBride

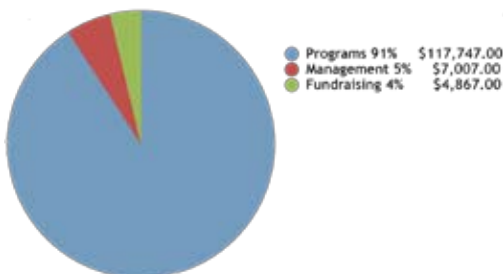
**In Honor of Paul Schroeder**  
 Jan McCracken

### Bequests

Catherine Steele

### In-Kind Donations

Brown's Brewing Company  
 John Bulmer  
 Chez Mike  
 Bob Crowley  
 Delidelicious  
 Joe Durkin  
 Francille Egbert  
 FRA\_MAR Farms





Edward W. Golden Foundation  
 Empire Wine  
 Anthony Garner  
 David Gaskell  
 Gregory Gaskell  
 Hannaford  
 Honest Weight Food Coop  
 Jenny Hixon  
 Dr. David Hunt  
 Sally Lawrence  
 Fran Martino  
 Town of Nassau  
 Trix Niernberger  
 Scott Morley  
 St. Timothy's Church  
 Joe O'Brien  
 Old Dailey Inn  
 Price Chopper  
 Paul Schroeder  
 Rensselaer County  
 Rensselaer County Historical Society  
 Russell Sage Colleges  
 Brian Shaughnessy  
 Marcy Steinberg  
 Allan Stern  
 Trees for Tribes  
 City of Troy  
 Jim Watkinson  
 George Wilson  
 Christine Young  
 Kristina Younger

### **Watershed Circle \$3,000 +**

Naomi Ingalls  
 Sarah Ingalls  
 Linda and John Gowdy

### **Land Steward \$1,000–\$2,999**

Sharon Bedford and Fred Alm  
 Joseph Durkin  
 Teresa and Bill Holliday  
 Lyn Howard and Jack Alexander  
 Sally Lawrence  
 Karen and Chet Opalka  
 Margaret Phillips and Thomas Phillips, DVM  
 Catherine J. Stevens  
 Gary Thomann  
 Kristina and Mark Younger  
 Patricia Zalinka-Cook and Edwin Cook

### **Advocate \$500–\$999**

Barbara Cutler  
 Bob Crowley  
 Kay and Scott Dawson  
 Shirley and Gerald Dunn  
 Harold and Alice Howard  
 Liz McLean and Nick Conrad  
 Ed Miller

Susan Mix  
 Trix Niernberger and Bill Preston  
 Edwina and Alan Randall  
 Bethany and Paul Schroeder  
 Debbie and John Wen

### **Sustaining \$250–\$499**

David Aikens  
 Dorothy Barnes and Irv Stephens  
 Sharon and Laurence Beaudoin  
 The Beskid Family  
 Sid and Doris Brown  
 Cannon Heyman & Weiss, LLP  
 Jason Anthony Cerninaro  
 Francille Egbert  
 Anthony Garner  
 Stacey and Keith Goldstein  
 Deborah Hartz  
 June and Stanley Hmielenski  
 Lois and Michael Jensen  
 Gail Landrigan  
 Maeve McBride  
 Nancy Nichols and Scott Morley  
 Deborah and Stephen Pentak  
 Elizabeth and Dewy Reid  
 Emily and Ed Rosen  
 Karen and Jeffrey Ross  
 Susan Scrimshaw and Allan Stern  
 Elizabeth and David Trickey  
 Sharon and Lewis Zankel

### **Supporter \$100–\$249**

Anonymous  
 Judy and Roger Armstrong  
 Peter Bakal  
 Elizabeth Meer and Andrew Beers  
 Janice Bell  
 Lisa Fox and Timothy Bender  
 Eleanor Beskid  
 Susan and Tom Blandy  
 Harriet and David Borton  
 Carl Cipperly  
 Vivian and Martin Conboy  
 Charles Porter  
 Lauren Conway and Steven Penson  
 Laura and Edward Degenhart  
 Joyce Diwan  
 Elaine Ellis  
 Lorraine and Jeff English  
 Linda Filarecki  
 Patricia and David Flint  
 Blair and James Fosburgh  
 Garden Club of East Schodack  
 Ron Geuther  
 Chris Glander  
 Abigail Greene and Stuart Mark Rosenstein  
 Mary Ellen and Joseph Grimaldi  
 James Gumaer  
 Habana Premium Cigar Shoppe

Pat Harrington and George Wilson  
 John Hinzelman  
 Jennifer Hixon and Timothy Sergay  
 Sarah and Tim Howard  
 Kathy and Vince Jimino  
 Cathy Karp and Rob Bayly  
 Mary Krencseski and Jim Tkacik  
 Susan and Andre Lascari  
 Patricia Liddle  
 Richard Longman  
 Stephen Longtin  
 Mary Lynch and Rudy Stegemoeller  
 Eileen and Keith McDermott  
 Heinrich Medicus  
 John Meierhoffer  
 Ovsanna and Mihran Mooradian  
 Elizabeth Pohlmann and Harald Moore  
 Elizabeth and James Morely  
 Judith Morlock  
 Mary and Stephen Muller  
 Kathy and John Munn  
 Don Murray  
 Bill Niemi  
 Rae and Tom O'Connor  
 Jennifer O'Neill and Elton Dise  
 Jane and Jim Otto  
 Linda and Robert Peterson  
 Judith Powers  
 Joy and Brian Pratt  
 Nancy Reich  
 Miriam Russell  
 Denise and Robert Schwed  
 Jean and Charles Sheviak  
 Betty and John Siedhoff  
 Donna Simms  
 Thomas Slavin  
 Rosemarie and John Sniezyk  
 Maren and Fred Stein  
 Marcy Steinberg  
 Ross Sterantino  
 Margaret and Howard Stoner  
 Catherine Tracy  
 Jo and Gary Von Bieberstein  
 John and Christine Ward  
 Susan Weinrich  
 Yvonne and Darrell Welch  
 Mrs. Kimberly Wilson  
 Peter Wood  
 Christine Young  
 Brian Zweig

### **Family \$50–\$99**

Robert Addis  
 Gayle Anderson and Sidney Fleisher  
 Appalachian Mountain Club, Mohawk  
 Hudson Chapter  
 Annette Argyros  
 Nancy and Blair Barkley  
 Melissa Beskid

Sharon Beskid  
 Cheryl Boragine  
 Donna and Dave Boyles  
 Susan and John Brady  
 Charles Braverman  
 Jane and Richard Buck  
 Bernard Buff  
 MaryJo and David Burton  
 G. Stephen Christopher  
 Barbara and Paul Counterman  
 Karen Cox and Chere Perrone  
 Maureen and Kevin Cox  
 Beth and Bob Delaney  
 Robin Dropkin  
 Seth Edelman  
 Dee and Fred Erickson  
 Marie and Joe Erkes  
 Priscilla Fairbank and Owen Goldfarb  
 David Fleming  
 Angelo and Lilajane Frascarelli  
 Mary and Ross French  
 Stephen Fry  
 Lucy and David Gaskell  
 Shari and Dick Gibbs  
 Maria Gomez and Michael Dirac  
 Alison Grant and Fred Ricard  
 Linda Griffin and Freling Smith  
 William Hetzer  
 Linda and Drew Holcomb  
 Marcia Hopple  
 Claire Hughes  
 Fran and Jim Hyde  
 Marc Iorio  
 Ann Jardine  
 John Johanson  
 Janice and Henry Joyce  
 Becky and Martin Kaiser  
 Val Kavanaugh  
 Chris and John Kelly  
 Abbie Kiley and Michael Bergen  
 Knickerbocker Historical Society  
 Susan Lawrence  
 Carol and Douglas Leith  
 Jeffrey A. Levitt  
 Leo Levy  
 Ken Mangione  
 Jan McCracken  
 Marcia Middleton  
 Dale-Ila Riggs and Don Miles  
 Stefanie Neubert  
 Jennifer and Robert Newton  
 John Pattison  
 Amanda Poppei  
 Douglas H. Purcell Jr.  
 Jill Rembetski and James Bonesteel  
 Anne and Peter Rokeach  
 Kenneth Runquist  
 Judith and Frederik Rusch  
 Sand Lake Garden Club  
 Marilyn Schmidt

Jennifer Schulaner  
 Linda and John Sheehan  
 Miriam and Gregory Shields  
 Richard Sinclair  
 Martha and Claes Sjogreen  
 Kathleen Stallmer  
 Maria and Martin Steinbach  
 Florence Strang  
 Cathy and Charles Sullivan  
 Harriet and John Temps  
 Jane and Mohan Thapa  
 Deb Tice  
 George Vollmuth  
 Barbara and Jeff Walton  
 Barbara and Francis Welch  
 Jeanine Wisniewski

## **Individuals \$30-\$49**

Anonymous  
 John Abbuhl  
 Sharon Ahl  
 Phoebe Anderson  
 Hannah Becker  
 Russell Bennett  
 Patricia Betterly  
 Wanda Chenot  
 David Chinery  
 Wendy Cooper  
 James Corsaro  
 Matthew Corsaro  
 Julia Damkoehler  
 Becca Alexis Danz  
 Dan DeCondio  
 Myrna Denison  
 Edmund C. Dodge  
 Jonathan Duda  
 Michael Epstein  
 Jay Estabrooks  
 William Foland  
 Arthur Fontijn  
 Clark Galloway  
 Marjorie Geiger  
 Jack Gibbins  
 Matthew Gleason  
 April Hamilton  
 Jeanne Holm  
 Ed Hourigan  
 Bud Hovey  
 Jane and John Husson  
 Elizabeth Ingalls  
 Dylan Keenan  
 Kathleen Keyser  
 Constance Kheel  
 Cale Kneer  
 Philomena Kong  
 Hasbrouck Kurt  
 Nan F. Lance  
 Dennis Lang  
 Barbara Lefebvre

Candace Lider  
 Jim Malefyt  
 Scott Mastroianni  
 Robert Matthews  
 Marion McBride  
 Mariann Molocznik  
 Jeff Morad  
 Steve Muller  
 Mary Jo Murray  
 Joyce Musco  
 David Nunnikhoven  
 Eric Pengel  
 Lisa Pepper  
 Vanessa Perkins  
 Glenn Phillips  
 Leyla Pistone  
 Barbara Plume  
 Alanna Powers  
 Matt Primeau  
 Florjan Pulaha  
 Susan and Neil Roberts  
 Christine Roman  
 Judith Ropitzky  
 Gretchen and Lewis Rubenstein  
 Barbara Russell  
 Ruth Ann Sandstedt  
 Edie Schaefer  
 Erin Schoonmaker  
 Martha Schroeder  
 Charlene Shafer  
 Deanna Smith  
 Eleanor and Hans Spiegel  
 Kelly Stuto  
 Carol Surash  
 Valerie Swenson  
 Joan Taylor  
 Betsy Palmer Thompson  
 Alicia Tommasino  
 Valerie and Robert Traver  
 Mary Ann Van Alstyne  
 Christine Vanderlan  
 Ali Ward  
 Patty Watt  
 Deb Winslow  
 Nancy Yule

## **Contributors \$29 or less**

Anonymous  
 Jeffrey Beskid  
 Claudia Tumayo and Dennis Boyd  
 Rita Gavin  
 Loraine Geragosian  
 Mary and F. Michael Hall  
 Lisa and Pierce Hoyt  
 Elizabeth and Howard Kogan  
 Julie and James Lee  
 Sheila Rorke  
 Barbara Leavell Smith  
 Ruth VanBrocklen

# 2015 Accomplishments



## Education • Outreach • Outings

- 26 outreach and educational events
- 92 Media mentions
- Annual Conservation Partnership Event
- Annual Meeting with guest speaker, Bluebird recognition and awards
- Distribution of watershed educational map and brochure
- Five community workdays
- Hudson River Fish Advisory – 2nd year of program: 121 programs including canoe trips and festival presence
- Publication and distribution of two print newsletters and monthly e-newsletters
- Rensselaer Land Trust Rugby team
- Special events: Garland Cutting Ceremony at Kinderhook Creek Nature Preserve with 100+ attendees; Bridge Opening Ceremony at Ingalls Nature Preserve 40+ attendees; and the Conservation Partnership Event with 85 attendees

## Fundraising

### Continuing Activities:

- Contributions to Restricted funds – Endowment, Stewardship, and Legal Defense
- Oktoberfest

### New Initiatives:

- Conducted a Board Training on Major Gifts Solicitation
- Conducted a Board Training on land protection
- Established Business Membership Program
- Mohawk Hudson River Marathon
- Production and sale of local flora, fungus and winter scene note cards
- Production and sale of car magnets

## Land Protection

- One Conservation Easement
- One purchased parcel to expand the Robert P. Ingalls Nature Preserve
- Two donated parcels to expand the Kinderhook Creek Nature Preserve





## Stewardship

- 9th Annual Tomhannock Reservoir Shoreline Cleanup
- Hoosic River invasive water chestnut pull workday
- Ingalls Preserve—bridge, stone steps, new trail
- Kinderhook Creek Nature Preserve—woods road work, new trail
- Monitoring at all 24 properties
- Staalesen Preserve – tree planting, fence repairs, new access path created, new signage installed, kiosk information update, cleanup
- Weekly Trail Crew working on all trails in the county, not just on our properties

## Partnerships

- Berkshire Taconic Regional Conservation Partnership
- Brookfield Renewable Energies to control invasive water chestnut.
- Brown's Brewing Co. – Oktoberfest, Annual Meeting, Conservation Partnership Event
- City of Troy—Waterfalls Trails Project and Tomhannock Cleanup
- Corkscrew Rail Trail Association
- Friends of Dyken Pond – land acquisition and programs
- Historic Saratoga Hoosic—Hudson Partnership
- Open Space Institute
- Pineridge Cross Country Ski Center
- Postcontemporary –Waterfalls Trails Project
- Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA)—Support for RPA Community Forest and joint hike
- NYSDEC, RPA, ASA and NYSFOA – joint work on both the 2014 Forest Legacy Grant for over 12,000 acres and collaboration on a 2016 Forest Legacy Grant application
- School Districts—Watershed Education
- Stockport Watershed Alliance
- Town of Nassau
- Village of Nassau—trail from Columbia County into Rensselaer County
- Village of Valley Falls and the Hoosic River Watershed Association to turn an old textile mill brown field site into a riverfront public park.

