

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



FALL 2016
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 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.

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.

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

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

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."



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

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

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.

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, 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
Total Revenue	\$201,965

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
Total Expenses	\$129,621

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

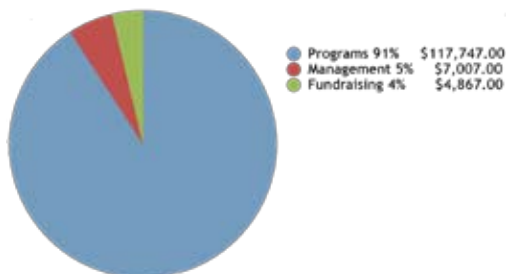
Jan McCracken

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 Cerminaro
Francille Egbert
Anthony Garner
Stacey and Keith Goldstein
Deborah Hartz
June and Stanley Hmielenski
Lois and Michael Jensen
Gail Landrigan
Maevie 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
Harrriet 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 Gumae
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 Krencieski 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 Hoppie
 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.



• **Founded in 1987** •

Stay in Touch

E-news: [e-mail julie@renstrust.org](mailto:julie@renstrust.org)
www.facebook.com/RensselaerLandTrust
www.meetup.com/Rensselaer-Land-Trust
www.renstrust.org
E-mail: renstrust@renstrust.org
Phone: (518) 659-LAND (5263)

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.



415 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage Paid
Albany NY
Permit No 403

