

• 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

Fred Alm
Lynn Bogan
Bob Crowley, Treasurer
Carl Ciperly
Nick Conrad, Executive Committee Member
Joseph Durkin
David Gaskell
Eric Keil
Sally Lawrence, Vice President
Scott Morley
Trix Nienberger
Thomas Phillips
Paul Schroeder, Secretary
Allan Stern
Kristina Younger, President

Staff

Christine Young, Executive Director
Julie Moore, Admin. & Comm. Associate

Stay in Touch

E-news: e-mail 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)

Cover Photo Credit: Trix Nienberger, Kinderhook Creek Preserve



Return Service Requested



Nonprofit Organization
US Postage Paid
Albany NY
Permit No 403



Community Conversations on Special Places in Rensselaer County

What do you love about living in Rensselaer County? The Rensselaer Land Trust wants to hear what places in Rensselaer County are important to you, and why. The Land Trust has received funding to develop a Conservation Plan for Rensselaer County that will identify the most important places to preserve for future generations. We are holding Community Values Meetings around the County to gather local input from communities and residents on lands they value for recreation, scenic views, natural resources, wildlife, and quality of life. Landowners, business owners, hikers, cyclists, hunters, skiers, snowmobilers, realtors, and anyone interested in the future of Rensselaer County's landscapes and resources are encouraged to attend. Come to one of the meetings to make sure your values help guide the Conservation Plan.

Community values meetings schedule: East Greenbush – Thursday, March 2, 6 - 8:30 pm at the East Greenbush Library; Valley Falls – Saturday, March 18, 10 am – 12:30 pm at the Valley Falls Community Hall; Troy – Monday, April 3, 5:30 – 8:00 pm at the RPI Cultural Center and Chapel.

Light refreshments will be served, with pizza

at evening meetings and bagels at the Saturday meeting. Can't make a meeting? Check out our online survey later this spring at www.renstrust.org.

The Community Values Meetings will be led in partnership with the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources, with funding from the Hudson River Valley Greenway and from the Environmental Protection Fund through the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program and the NYS Conservation Partnership Program. For more information, please contact the Rensselaer Land Trust at renstrust@renstrust.org or 518-659-5263.

President's Message

Kristina Younger, President

The Rensselaer Land Trust celebrates 30 years of land conservation in Rensselaer County in 2017 with a strong history and clear vision for the future. As you browse the timeline of our accomplishments on the following pages, I invite you to join us in extending this timeline in both length and breadth by becoming more involved. Thanks for helping us make it this far – with your support we can go even further!

SPRING 2017 • WWW.RENSTRUST.ORG

Celebrating 30 years • 1987-2016

1987

Launched Organization

1989

Obtained 501(c)(3) Status

1990

133.07 Acres Protected

- Acquired 1st Conservation Easement at Dyken Pond
- Acquired Geiser Preserve
- Donated 14 acres to Dyken Pond Envir. Center

1991

203.07 Acres Protected

- Published 1st Edition of *Natural Areas of Rensselaer County*
- Donated 70 acres to Dyken Pond

1992

215.07 Acres Protected

- Acquired Black River Conservation Easement

1993

215.07 Acres Protected

- Launched Plateau Open Space Project

1994

222.57 Acres Protected

- Acquired Ethier Drive Conservation Easement
- Awarded Rensselaer County Environmentalist of the Year

1995

237.97 Acres Protected

- Acquired Bear's Den Nature Preserve
- Produced Streeter Centennial Hike Portfolio

1996

276.77 Acres Protected

- Acquired Mud Pond Nature Preserve

1997

305.77 Acres Protected

- Acquired 2nd Dyken Pond Conservation Easement

1998

305.77 Acres Protected

- Completed Botany Resource Inventories for Dyken Pond, Bear's Den, & Grafton Lakes

1999

338.67 Acres Protected

- Acquired 3rd Dyken Pond Conservation Easement
- Identified 48 Rensselaer County Waterfalls

2000

394.84 Acres Protected

- Acquired Plateau Escarpment Conservation Easement
- Acquired Friends of Dyken Pond Conservation Easement

2001

394.84 Acres Protected

- Launch of 1st website
- Collaborated in the development of the County Ag. & Farmland Protection Plan

2002

439.14 Acres Protected

- Published 2nd Edition of *Natural Areas* book
- Assisted Friends of Dyken Pond with Dustin Swamp Purchase

2003

568.64 Acres Protected

- Acquired Common Farms Conservation Easement

2005

576.84 Acres Protected

- Acquired Capital District Conservation Easement
- Hired 1st Executive Director

2007

685.94 Acres Protected

- Led 1st Annual Tomhannock Reservoir Clean-up
- Acquired Randall Brook Conservation Easement
- Acquired Hoosic River Nature Preserve

2008

840.24 Acres Protected

- Achieved National Accreditation
- Acquired Mashodack Road Conservation Easement
- Completed Rensselaer County Trail Vision Plan

2009

948.24 Acres Protected

- Signed fishing & boating access easement agreement with NYS DEC for Hoosic River

2010

978.24 Acres Protected

- Acquired Robert P. Ingalls Nature Preserve
- Tree planting at Hoosic River Nature Preserve

2011

1031.73 Acres Protected

- Acquired John B. Staalesen Vanderheyden Preserve
- Acquired Shadbush Hill Conservation Easement

2012

1085.90 Acres Protected

- Acquired Pine Swamp Nature Preserve
- Partnered for Forest Legacy grant to protect 12,348 acres
- Capital Roots granted community garden in Staalesen Preserve
- Produced interactive webpage featuring watershed map
- Developed outreach watershed map poster

2013

1213.03 Acres Protected

- Acquired Ridgeline Conservation Easement
- Established weekly trail crew

2014

1726.38 Acres Protected

- Acquired Kinderhook Creek Nature Preserve
- Acquired Sluyter Preserve Conservation Easement
- Achieved Renewal of Accreditation

2015

1,835.40 Acres Protected

- Expanded Robert P. Ingalls & Kinderhook Creek Preserves
- Launched Hoosic River Water Chestnut pull
- Acquired Colehammer Road Conservation Easement
- Launched Business Membership & Bluebird Society programs
- Built bridge over Black Brook at Ingalls Preserve

2016

1,847.31 Acres Protected

- Acquired Mud Pond Expansion Lands
- Developed invasive Species Management Plan for Staalesen Preserve
- Launched Conservation & Volunteer of the Year Awards
- Redesigned website

MARCH

Community Meeting for County Conservation Plan
Thurs., March 2 • 6–8:30 p.m.
East Greenbush Library

Community Meeting for County Conservation Plan
Sat., March 18 • 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Valley Falls Community Hall

Tour 'e ko logic
Sat., March 25 • 2:00 p.m.
Join us for a unique tour of 'e ko logic, led by designer and owner, Kathleen Tesnakis. Learn about her environmentally sustainable process of designing and creating clothing and accessories from recycled cashmere. Through her process she saves 97% of the energy and chemicals required to make a virgin item by recycling post-consumer clothing. 'e ko logic is located in downtown Troy, NY. Register online at www.renstrust.org or call Julie at 607-220-8580.

APRIL

Community Meeting for County Conservation Plan
Mon., April 3 • 5:30–8:00 p.m.
RPI Cultural Center and Chapel

Historic Troy Savings Bank Music Hall Tour
Thurs., April 6 • 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Have you always wanted to see behind the stage and scenes of the historic Troy Savings Bank Music Hall? Join us for a private backstage tour. The historic Music Hall was built in 1875 and designated a National Historic Landmark. Register online at www.renstrust.org or by calling 518-659-5263. Location: 30 Second Street, Troy, NY.

VOLUNTEER DAY
Annual Tomhannock Reservoir Shoreline Clean-Up
Sat., April 15 • 9:00 a.m.–Noon
We need you! This reservoir provides drinking water to over 135,000 people in our region. We will work regardless of the weather. Register online at www.renstrust.org or contact Paul Schroeder: 518-674-2480 or pschroeder1@nycap.rr.com.

Hike from Common Farms to Barberville Falls
Sat., April 22 • 1:30–4:00 p.m.
Rain date Sun., April 23
Join us for an Earth Day hike through the woods on private land protected under a conservation easement with Rensselaer Land Trust, onto the Barberville Falls Preserve of The Nature Conservancy to visit the 90-foot high waterfalls. Portions of the trail are steep and may be wet and slippery. \$5 donation. Register online at www.renstrust.org or contact Marcia Hopple 518-283-5353 or mhopple@nycap.rr.com.

Geology Hike at RPI Tech Park
Sat., April 29 • 10:00 a.m.
Geologist Chuck Porter will lead us on a hike through time on one of the recently revitalized RPI Tech Park trails. We'll explore this beautiful area with Chuck discussing the geological and glacial forces that created it. Shale, sandstone, clay, ravines, and waterfalls – we'll walk on the bottom of ancient Lake Albany and the proto-Atlantic Ocean. A 2-mile hike with some steep and perhaps muddy sections. \$5 donation. To register contact Peter Wood at 518-378-1361.

MAY

Benefit Event: Sail the Rensselaer Hudson River Shoreline on the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
May, TBD
Join us for a three hour-sail on the beautiful Hudson River. Sail will include dockside orientation, Clearwater's history, wildlife observation, education, even a chance at steering the ship. Music by the crew and sing-a-longs. Refreshments available at the dock. Limited 45 tickets available, \$100/pp. This is a benefit for the Rensselaer Land Trust and the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. Register online at www.renstrust.org. Photo credit: Anthony Pepitone



VOLUNTEER DAY
Troy Urban Trails at John B. Staalesen Vanderheyden Nature Preserve
Sat., May 6 • Start at 9:00 a.m. Come when you can!
Come help us get started working on the Wynants Kill Trail in South Troy. Collaborative work with the City of Troy to develop the trail from Rensselaer Land Trust's John B. Staalesen Vanderheyden Nature Preserve to Troy's Burden Pond Park. To get involved call Bob Crowley (518-283-7364) or Joe Durkin (518-279-9870).



Photo credit: Trix Niernberger

Birds and Brew – Hoosic River and Brown's
Sun., May 7 • 8:00 a.m.
Birds in full spring migration, followed by the finest locally brewed beer – a great combination! Join us as we see and hear a wide variety of spring birds along the Hoosic River Greenway trail in Hoosick Falls. Bring binoculars. Then we'll head to North Hoosick to partake in the fine craft beers at Brown's Brewing Company's Taproom and Brewery. Walk led by John Loz of the Audubon Society of the Capital Region, our co-sponsor. \$5 donation. For directions and more information, see our website or contact Nick Conrad, nbconrad@msn.com.

Wild Flower at Bear's Den Preserve
Sun., May 14 • 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Enjoy spring wildflowers, including uncommon ones, at the Rensselaer Land Trust's Bear's Den Preserve near Cherry Plain, NY. Tom Phillips, avid botanist, will help us find and identify the area's wide variety of flowers. The walk will be a couple of miles long, with just one steep hill. \$5 donation. To register contact Francille Egbert (518) 674-3214, fran.egbert@gmail.com.



Photo credit: Andy Arthur @ Flickr

Taconic Crest Trail in One Year

We will hike the entire 37 miles of the Taconic Crest Trail in six separate trips over several months. This beautiful ridge-top trail winds through NY, MA, and a corner of VT, from near New Lebanon to North Petersburg, passing by the renowned Snow Hole and over Rensselaer County's highest peak. With about 7000 feet each of cumulative ascent and cumulative descent, views include the Little Hoosick Valley and Mount Greylock. Join us for one, some, or all of the sections. Those who complete the entire trail (with us and/or on their own), can receive a patch from the Taconic Hiking Club.

\$5 donation per hike. Please register with listed contact. All hikes have long steep uphill and/or downhill sections over rocky ground. Go to our website's events calendar for more details on each hike. www.renstrust.org.

Part I: Sat., May 20 • 9:00 a.m.
South end (Route 20 near New Lebanon) to Potter Road in Hancock, MA, 10.5 miles.
Register: Nick Conrad: nbconrad@msn.com

Part II: Sat., June 10 • 9:00 a.m.
Madden Road in Hancock, MA, to Robinson Hollow, Stephentown, NY (6 miles).
Register: Michael Jensen: jensenmk@gmail.com

Part III: Sat., July 15 • 9:00 a.m.
Robinson Hollow in Stephentown to Mattison Hollow in Cherry Plain (7 miles).
Register: Peter Wood: 518-378-1361

Part IV: Sat., August 12 • 9:00 a.m.
Mattison Hollow in Cherry Plain to Southeast Hollow in Berlin (7.2 miles).
Register: Peter Wood: 518-378-1361

Part V: Sat., September 9 • 9:00 a.m.
Petersburg Pass in Petersburg to Southeast Hollow in Berlin (7.3 miles).
Register: Michael Jensen: jensenmk@gmail.com

Part VI: Sat., October 14 • 9:00 a.m.
Petersburg Pass to north end in N Petersburg (7.9 miles)
Register: Nick Conrad: nbconrad@msn.com

Learn Basic Mushroom Identification
Tues., May 30 • 7:00-8:30 p.m. • Shea Hall–Sage College
Spend 1½ hours with mycologist Sue Van Hook learning the basics of mushroom identification and absorbing Sue's enthusiasm for the beauty and diversity of local mushrooms. Your walks in the woods will be changed forever as you begin to identify mushrooms you never noticed before. Cost is \$10 per-person. Register online at renstrust.org. Workshop contact: Marcy Steinberg at marcygs@aol.com or (518) 674-2171.

JUNE

Weed Walk at John B. Staalesen Vanderheyden Nature Preserve, Troy
Sat., June 3 • 10:00 a.m.
Join David Chinery from Cornell Cooperative Extension on a natural vegetation and invasive species walk. Learn to identify invasive plants and ways to combat them. \$5 donation. Register online at www.renstrust.org or call 518-659-5263.

VOLUNTEER DAY
Third Annual Water Chestnut Pull at the Johnsonville Dam on the Hoosic River
Sat., June 17 • 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Rain or Shine

Join us in our ongoing effort to keep the boat launch above the dam navigable. Learn about invasive species first hand! It is dirty and tiring work, but the path has been getting a bit easier every year. Both boat based and land crew needed. Co-sponsored with Brookfield Renewable, Hoosic River Watershed Association, and the Johnsonville Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. Pre-register to receive free lunch with Kristina Younger: kristinayoungerrlt@gmail.com. Photo Credit: Trix Niernberger.



Fly Fishing for Women
Sat., June 24 • in the morning TBD
NYS Free fishing day! Led by Frank Cuttone. This workshop sold out last year, so we are repeating it! Waders and equipment provided. Must be in good physical condition. Co-sponsored with Trout Unlimited. \$10 nonmembers or \$5 members. Register online at www.renstrust.org or with Frank Cuttone: fcuttone@gmail.com.

JULY

Bog Exploration at Mud Lake, Berlin, NY
Sat., July 8 • 10:00 a.m.

Ecologist David Hunt will lead another visit to a Mud Lake, this time in Berlin, NY. Explore the fen, bog, and swamp surrounding the lake, and experience walking on a quaking bog mat of floating moss. Dr. Hunt will show us the unusual plants living here, including insect-eating pitcher plants and sundews, and plants rare in Rensselaer County. The walk will be short but wet and adventurous. \$5 donation. To register: Nick Conrad, 518-279-1963 or nbconrad@msn.com. Photo credit: Trix Niernberger.



AUGUST

Troy History Walk
Sat., August 26 • 9:30–11:30 a.m.
Join Rensselaer County Historical Society and Rensselaer Land Trust in a History Walk through Troy. Kathryn Sheehan, Registrar and Rensselaer County & City of Troy Historian, will lead us from the Hudson River to the Poesten Kill covering almost three centuries of changes in the landscape of Troy. Cost: \$20 per person. Register online at www.renstrust.org or by calling 518-659-5263.

Mushroom Walk at Robert Ingalls Preserve
Sat., August 26 • 10:00 a.m.–Noon
Sue Van Hook, local mycologist, will lead us into the woods at our Robert Ingalls Preserve in Stephentown. Participants will have a chance to develop their field skills in mushroom identification. Fee \$10/person, kids are free. Register online at www.renstrust.org. Limited to first 25 registered/paid people. Contact: Marcy Steinberg at marcygs@aol.com or (518) 674-2171.

SAVE THE DATES!

More details forthcoming online at www.renstrust.org
Sept. TBA: Hiking thru History
Sept. 23: Founders Day at Historic Eastfield Foundation, Nassau
Oct. 8: Mohawk Hudson River Marathon: Road Marshalls Needed
Oct. 7: Photography Foliage Hike with John Bulmer
Nov. 11: Wreath Making Workshop
Nov. 12: Annual Meeting Celebrating 30 Years, with Awards Ceremony, at Brown's Brewing Company's Revolution Hall