

2017 Annual Report



Young Bog's Nature Preserve



From the Executive Director

As always, your generosity drives our shared mission of land protection, nature appreciation, and community conservation education in Rensselaer County. 2017 year was one of action and planning with new lands protected and future directions defined. We have a big new commitment to protecting water quality, a gorgeous new riverside preserve, and two exciting new planning documents that will carry us forward over the coming years. Turning our plans into reality will take plenty of financial resources so we've highlighted a few ways we can continue to build RLT together. Thank you!

With appreciation,
JOHN WINTER



From the Board President

The Rensselaer Land Trust is a mature organization with deep roots and growing branches. We were stable and steadfast through staff transition in 2017 and have solid plans for the future that have been recognized as "Best Practice" by the American Planning Association Upstate Chapter. Our partners, including the Hudson River Greenway, the Estuary Program, and the Open Space Institute, are looking to us to do more. We are saying yes, knowing that we have the support of our members to do so.

Thank you.
KRISTINA YOUNGER

Key 2017 Projects

Water Quality Improvement Program Land Acquisition Grant

RLT and its partners, the Agricultural Stewardship Association and the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, were selected to receive a \$1.5 million grant from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to purchase land for water quality protection in the Tomhannock watershed. The Tomhannock is the drinking water supply for more than half of the county's residents and businesses. This grant, the largest ever received by RLT, will provide three years of funding to RLT and our partners to buy hundreds of acres of conservation easements and fee-owned parcels on privately-held land on the shoreline and along streams that feed the reservoir.

Featherweald Preserve

RLT's newest protected property is a 44-acre gem along the Hoosic River in the town of Cambridge in Washington County (our first protected land outside of Rensselaer County). Home to a great blue heron rookery and located in an area with nesting bald eagles, the planned preserve will be ideal for bird watching. Featherweald was a gift to RLT from Lisa Lindquist, Ilse Godfrey, and Craig Johnson in memory of their parents. RLT received a New York State Conservation Partnership Program Grant to prepare a management plan (mostly to protect

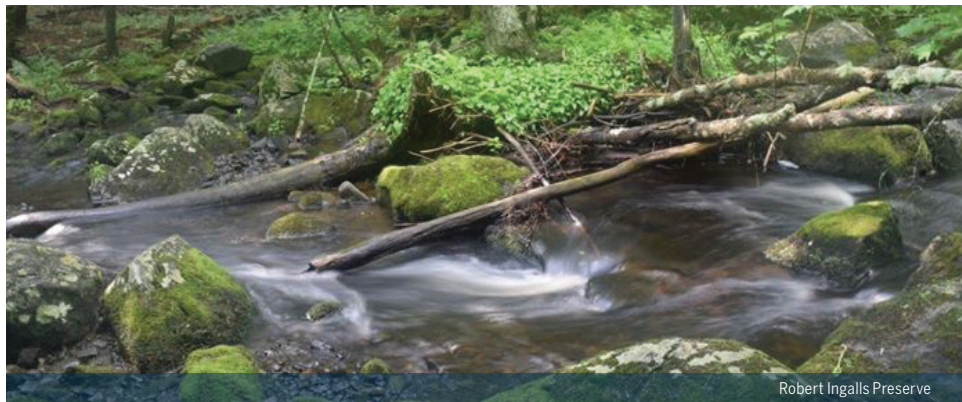
the heron rookery) and make access improvements to the property before we open it to the public.

2018 to 2030 Land Conservation Plan

The County Conservation Plan is complete and ready for implementation by RLT and our land protection partners! While most of the work was done in 2017 the plan was finalized and presented to county and municipal leaders over the past several months. The plan identifies and maps more than 37,000 priority acres among five natural resource targets: ecologic, water quality, agriculture, scenic, and climate change resiliency for biodiversity - and sets an ambitious goal of protecting 10,000 of these key acres by 2030.

Hudson River Access Plan

This key RLT planning tool was begun in 2017 and finished this year. The Hudson River Access Plan provides recommendations to government leaders for improved access to 44 sites along the entire Rensselaer County riverfront. RLT's continuing role will be to assist county and municipal leaders in securing funding to complete the projects - many of which are smaller scale and affordable. Once these projects are completed, Rensselaer County will have a significantly more accessible riverfront.



Robert Ingalls Preserve

2018 News

Here's what's new at your land trust.

Albany-Hudson Electric Trail

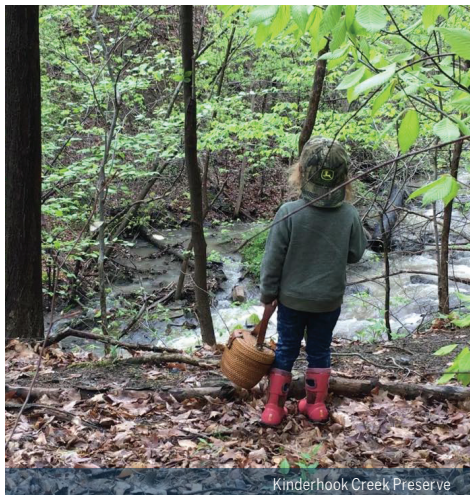
The Hudson River Greenway is providing funding to RLT to own and operate a trailhead in the Town of Schodack along the 35 mile AHET. The AHET is a 35-mile walking trail running from Columbia County to the City of Rensselaer and is part of the larger 750 mile Empire Trail. RLT will buy several parcels in late 2018 to develop the trailhead near Nassau Lake which is expected to be completed in 2019.

Protected Land Assignments from Open Space Institute

OSI is changing their land protection methodology and is making local lands available to land trusts throughout the eastern US. RLT has been selected to be assigned two significant parcels in Rensselaer County and is currently developing conservation easements for the properties.

New Conservation Easements

Landowner interest in protecting their properties continues to be high. RLT has a queue of exciting projects under consideration. Stay tuned!



Kinderhook Creek Preserve

Land Trust Re-Accreditation

We're gearing up for our second re-accreditation for the Land Trust Alliance. One of the first accredited land trusts in the country, we will prepare our documentation in late 2018 for submittal in 2019, renewing our commitment to follow the Standards and Practices that provide confidence to the landowners that trust us to steward their land in perpetuity.

New Strategic Plan

It's time to update our organizational strategic plan. Over the past several months RLT's board and staff have been hard at work finalizing our programming for the next several years. Coupled with our land conservation plan and its goal to protect 10,000 acres by 2030, we'll soon have an exciting set of tools to chart the future of your land trust. And, late in 2018 we'll be submitting a NYS Conservation Partnership Program grant proposal to hire a fundraising consultant and coach to help us attract the considerable amount of money we need to make it all happen.

New Outings, Events, and Outreach

Watch the website (www.renstrust.org) and the RLT Facebook page for news and schedules about upcoming hikes and events. Once again we'll be offering a winter snowshoe and hiking series to keep us all active during the colder months. We continue to expand our online and social media reach so expect to see us in new places and with new allies.



Bog Walk

How to Help

*Keeping land conservation vital
requires strong financial support.
All we do is because of you!*

New for 2019! Join Our Major Event Planning Team

Do you like to put on a party?! Would you enjoy planning an extravaganza all your friends will be talking about?! If so, we need you! We want to create a signature event to put RLT on the social calendar - one that's fun and memorable and that will raise lots of money for local land conservation. Join our volunteer team to create the event. Contact John Winter (jwinter@renstrust.org) or Julie Moore (julie@renstrust.org) to sign-up.

Renew, Renew, Renew (Your annual membership)

Your membership is the lifeblood of RLT. All we do is because of you. Invite your family and friends to become members and ask them to invite their friends too. Renewals start in early 2019; new members can join any time. Visit www.renstrust.org to sign up.

Join our Woodland Guardian Program

Go to www.renstrust.org to make a monthly recurring donation with your credit card. It's a fast, easy, and a no fuss way to make a long-term commitment to local land conservation. RLT benefits by receiving a steady source of revenue and a more predictable cash flow. Please make a monthly donation of \$100, \$50, or \$25 today. Thank you!

Business Membership or Sponsorship

Give at home; give at work. Invite your employer to become an RLT business member or sponsor. Not only will they be showing their support for land conservation, water quality protection, and biodiversity protection in the place they do business they'll get great local publicity for their generosity. RLT has hundreds of members and donors and receives thousands of visits to the website each year. Make sure your employer gets noticed at RLT. Invite your employer to visit www.renstrust.org for information on our business options.

State Employees Payroll Deductions

NYS employees can donate to RLT through the New York State Employees Federated Appeal (a.k.a. SEFA). To get started, visit www.sefany.org, fill out the form, and give it to your SEFA Agency Coordinator. Invite your colleagues and friends to do the same.

Bequests

Remember RLT in your will and life insurance policy. Join several RLT members who have provided a bequest to RLT as part of their end of life planning. Talk to us about sample language for your will or for information on other estate planning tools such as charitable trusts and annuities.



Annual Report

FINANCIAL DATA

INCOME

Member Contributions	\$85,973
Grants	\$98,060
Stewardship	\$15,000
Interest	\$99

TOTAL	\$199,132
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EXPENSE

Payroll Expense	\$54,817
Payroll Tax	\$4,619
Professional Services: Grants	\$71,189
Advertising/Outreach	\$3,107
Accountant	\$4,035
Supplies and Equipment	\$10,611
Rent/Utilities/Phone	\$4,838
Travel	\$173
Depreciation	\$192
Conferences	\$133
Insurance	\$3,810
Printing and Pubication	\$2,059
Postage and delivery	\$1,306
Internet fees	\$1,186
All Other	\$10

TOTAL	\$162,085
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GIFTS

GRANTS

Greenway Heritage
Conservancy HRV, INC.
Health Research Inc.
Hudson River Estuary
Program
Land Trust Alliance
Peter and Carmen Lucia
Buck Foundation
RBC Foundation--USA
State of New York
The Sage Colleges

TRIBUTE GIFTS

In Honor of Bob Crowley
John Rowen
In Honor of Sarah Ingalls
Natalie Weinstein
In Honor of
Trix Niernberger
Patricia Stauffer
In Honor of Kathe Kennedy
Francesca Anzola
In Honor of
Eduardo & Joan Anzola
Francesca Anzola

SPONSORSHIPS

Brookfield Renewables
Redfin

CORPORATE
MATCHING GIFTS

GE Foundation Matching
Gift Program

In Honor of Francille Egbert
Emily Ruckdeschel

In Honor of Joseph Durkin
George Weissman

In Honor of
Marcy Steinberg
Paul & Bernice Kessler

In Memory of
Charles Schmelkin
Mr. Martin Schmelkin

In Memory of
Dr. Glenn Martin
Anthony Garner
& Brian Zweig

Business Members

Boght & Oakwood Vet. Clinics
CSRA
Seed Engineering and Solar
Shulmand Howard & McPherson LLP
Trustco Bank

In Kind Donations

Sharon Bedford and Fred Alm
Bella Napoli
Berlin Mountain Fish & Game Club
Boy Scout Troop 525
Lynn Bogan
Brown's Brewing Company
John Bulmer
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Nick Conrad
Bob Crowley
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Delicious
Joe Durkin
Francille Egbert
Empire Wine
FRA_MAR Farms
Anthony Garner
David Gaskell
Gregory Gaskell
Hannaford
Jenny Hixon
Honest Weight Food Coop
Fred Holford
Hal Howard
Dr. David Hunt
Illium Café
Eric Kiel
Sally Lawrence
Lucas Confectionery
Fran Martino
Blake Metzger
Scott Morley
Bob Newton
Trix Niernberger
Old Dailey Inn
Joe O'Brien
Anthony Pastizzo
Thomas Phillips
Price Chopper
Rensselaer County
Rensselaer Cty. Historical Society
Russell Sage Colleges

Paul Schroeder
Brian Shaughnessy
Frank Sorrento
Marcy Steinberg
St. Timothy's Church
Tara Kitchen
The Fresh Market
Town of Nassau
Trees for Tribes
Jim Watkinson
George Wilson
Peter Wood
Kristina Younger

Watershed Circle
\$3,000+

Bob McCarthy
Peg Phillips and Tom Phillips, DVM
R. A. Hunsdorfer Foundation
Catherine J. Stevens
Christine Young
Kristina and Mark Younger

Land Steward
\$1,000-\$2,999

Anonymous
Sharon Bedford and Fred Alm
Susan and Tom Blandy
Patricia Zalinka-Cook & Edwin Cook
Barbara Cutler
Joseph Durkin
Lucy and David Gaskell
Linda and John Gowdy
Harold and Alice Howard
Naomi Ingalls
Sally Lawrence
Liz McLean and Nick Conrad
William Niemi
Karen and Chet Opalka
Bethany and Paul Schroeder
JudyAnn Wade

Advocate
\$500-\$999

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Beskid Family
Bob Crowley
Hannaford Community Cash
CLYNK
Joe Herkenham
Susan Nelsen
Debbie and John Wen

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Kathleen Corbett
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Contributors \$29 or less

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 Marjorie Geiger
 Loraine Geragosian
 Mariann Moloczniak
 John Rowen
 Richard Sinclair
 Kathleen Stallmer
 Mary Ann Van Alstyne

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.

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STAY IN TOUCH

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