



Preserving the Land and Protecting the  
Natural Resources of Rensselaer County, NY

# RENSSELAER LAND TRUST

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### A New Level of Recognition

2008 has been a very busy and productive year for the Rensselaer Land Trust. Our most notable achievement was to become one of (and the smallest of) only 38 land trusts to be nationally accredited by the Land Trust Alliance. We now proudly display the Land Trust Alliance seal on our communications. Roger Armstrong, John Middlebrooks, Katrina Shindledecker, Melissa Barry, John Munn, Nick Conrad and other volunteers put in more than 1,000 hours of service to achieve this major milestone in our organization's growth.

Additionally, we continue to enjoy great partnerships with our local representatives. The Rensselaer County Legislature passed a resolution recognizing and supporting our efforts to make Rensselaer County a better place to live. County Executive Kathy Jimino and Mayor Harry Tutunjian were both on hand for our first ever Oktoberfest Event behind Brown's Brewing Company.

### A New Public Image

We have a new logo and an improved website. Bryan Kahrs a Senior Designer at id29 in Troy, volunteered his skills in developing a new identity for the RLT. Our communications committee continues to work on our newsletter and website in an effort to keep you informed of our ongoing developments.

We completed two new easements, purchased some land along the Hoosic, and did some public outreach to spread our message. Robert Ingalls, as chair of Stewardship Committee, made sure all of our easements and holdings were monitored in 2008.

Our outings committee hosted a nice variety of activities including waterfall tours, wildflower identification, and hikes which introduced new members to some of the treasures of Rensselaer County.

With funding from the Hudson River Valley Greenway, we carried out the acquisition of public feedback on the feasibility of a county-wide trail system. We also continue to work with our neighboring land trusts, ASA, CLC and MHLC in areas where our interests overlap.



### New Needs for the Future

RLT initiated a 3 million dollar capital campaign to address the basic needs of a professional land trust. As chair, Roger Armstrong organized our fund development committee for the effort. 2009 brings with it some challenges due to the economy, but we are earnest that now is the time to move forward. We need new sources of funding and new partners.

We are lucky to have Garry Brown take over the difficult job of being treasurer, a job that John Munn, another charter member, has done on and off for 22 years! John will continue his service on the Board and on some committees. His contribution of time to the RLT has been equal to that of the President with less recognition and more responsibility. I, on behalf of the Board thank him for many years of accounting (at least a dozen).

We welcome new Board member Stacey Goldstein and bid farewell to John Dennehey and Roger Armstrong. Roger is a charter member of 22 years. Both John and Roger will continue supporting the RLT on a more informal basis. New Board members are needed to support our work. If you have any expertise in meeting the financial challenges we face, please contact us at 238-2832 for more information.

# RLT LAUNCHES \$3M CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT) has begun a new era of resource protection for our county as a modern land trust. We are initiating a **\$3 Million Capital Campaign** to expand and accelerate our efforts to place conservation easements on critical lands.

Our efforts need to be **proactive** in watershed protection **before** our water quality suffers. Rensselaer County residents have the privilege of drinking clean water from local sources at a very modest cost. Some neighboring counties are obtaining their water from the Hudson River. Protecting watersheds that feed the Hudson can also help the Hudson become a cleaner river. **Let's keep our water clean!**

## New "Watershed Circle" Donors Step Up

Significant conservation efforts require significant funding! Some of our members are joining our new "Watershed Circle" by giving \$3,000 or more each year. They are forming the backbone of a growing campaign. There are three key areas our \$3 million campaign will underwrite:

### **\$600,000 for Professional Staff**

The benefit of professional staff is evidenced by the success our neighboring land trusts have achieved in their respective counties: Columbia Land Conservancy, Saratoga PLAN and Washington County's ASA. As a starting point, RLT needs to hire three full-time staff: an executive director, a director of land stewardship and a development officer.

### **\$400,000 for Stewardship and Legal Defense**

As we have researched the best practices of land trusts across the nation, we have found the need to shore up our funds for stewardship and legal defense. So far, we have been fortunate to deal with first generation property owners who truly care about our natural resources. In the future, we must have secure funding to protect the land against legal challenges and steward the land "in perpetuity" in the face of a changing landscape.

### **\$2,000,000 for Land Acquisition**

The amount of land we steward is a very small percentage of what needs to be protected. RLT needs to step up the pace by identifying larger areas of interest and partnering with others to secure our future.

## Support the RLT Today!

For more information about our capital campaign and how you can be a "Watershed Circle" donor, please contact us at [renstrust@renstrust.org](mailto:renstrust@renstrust.org) or (518) 238-2832.

## RLT Receives Largest Donation Ever

Despite these difficult economic times, the RLT received its largest ever private donation—\$10,000—in early 2009. Ann Bartlett of Niantic, CT became interested in the work RLT has done to preserve and protect our watersheds. The fact that the land trust achieved national accreditation also impressed her. We thank Mrs. Bartlett for her generous gift, which will be put to use as we advance our mission to protect watersheds. Private family foundations continue to be a significant funding source for local land trusts like RLT.

## Help Us Be Green: Subscribe to the RLT Newsletter via email

You can help us save paper and money by receiving our newsletter by email. This saves us printing and postage costs. To subscribe, go to the "contact us" page on our website (see link below). Under "message subject" type "e-news". Make sure to let us know your full email address and the next newsletter will be sent via email.

RLT "contact us" page:  
<http://www.renstrust.org/contact-us>

# NEW EASEMENTS BUILD ON RLT'S SUCCESS IN 2008

## Simonson Easement

As 2008 drew to a close, RLT closed on a donated conservation easement that is the epitome of the mission and goals of our land trust. Paul and Susan Simonson agreed to donate a conservation easement on their 154 acre farm in the Town of Nassau to RLT thereby preserving a pristine pastoral setting, a fully functioning working farm with spectacular scenic vistas, forest lands and ponds. In addition, the Simonson's provided a sizeable donation to RLT's Stewardship Fund to enable RLT to preserve and protect this farm for generations to come. We are honored by their gifts and welcome them to the RLT organization as partners in land preservation in Rensselaer County.

## LeBlanc Easement

Last year, Alice LeBlanc donated a conservation easement on 76 acres of land on Calvin Cole Road in Stephentown. It will be kept natural except for two house lots located close to the road. The property consists of two open meadows and approximately one half mile of wetland bordering the Randall Brook which flows into the Kinderhook. The land rises from the brook up to Calvin Cole Road and is forested with hardwoods and hemlocks. It has a beaver pond and all of the wildlife typical of remote rural areas in Rensselaer County. There are several old roads on it that now serve as footpaths and a 200 yr old cemetery with at least one Revolutionary War veteran buried there.

The cemetery was overgrown with brush and trees until this past fall when Alice, with the help of volunteers and members of the Stephentown Historical Society, cleared it. The property is not open to the public, but the RLT will conduct outings to this property with permission from the owner. All RLT outings are listed at [www.renstrust.org](http://www.renstrust.org).





# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

## Land Trust Alliance National Accreditation

2008 will go down as a watershed year for the Rensselaer Land Trust, both in focus and in institutional development. It marks the transition of the old Rensselaer-Taconic Land Conservancy to the new Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT). This transition is more than a new name and logo. It is the culmination of two years of hard work by the Board, staff and advisors in analyzing, refining and redefining every aspect of this organization and its purpose.

The RLT Board put in hundreds of hours of effort to accomplish this task with the goal of submitting a national accreditation application to the Land Trust Alliance to become one of the first of the 1,800 land trusts in the United States to achieve this highest recognition by the national land trust community. Their dedication and commitment to this objective paid off. In August of 2008, the Land Trust Alliance's Accreditation

Commission informed RLT that they, along with 37 other land trusts, were awarded the first-ever national accreditation award. I was pleased and honored to accept this award on behalf of the RLT Board in November at the Land Trust Alliance's national conference in Pittsburgh. RLT was further recognized as being the smallest land trust to receive accreditation and, together with much larger and nationally recognized land trusts, now proudly displays the accreditation seal of approval. RLT has earned the respect and trust of every land trust in the United States for this effort and recognition and I am personally very proud of the Board for this accomplishment.

## New RLT Mission

Watershed Protection is the primary focus for RLT's land preservation efforts. It is the keystone of our land



RLT Executive Director John Middlebrooks (far left) accepted an award on behalf of the RLT at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in 2008. RLT was one of 37 land trusts to become accredited under the pilot program.

preservation program. By focusing on the protection of this vital natural resource in our County, the Board has recognized that protection of our watersheds cuts across all the major resource protection issues: farmlands, natural habitats, recreation areas and scenic vistas. More importantly, it brings attention to what is becoming an increasingly threatened vital resource as the quality and quantity of clean water diminishes. Development pressures are still impacting the quality of the environment in our County, including its water supplies, even in these difficult economic times.

RLT will continue to focus on the protection of this irreplaceable resource so that present and future residents of the County have enough quality water resources for drinking, recreation and development. Renewable energy has been a key topic of discussion and planning on many levels of our society as methods and means of alternative energy sources are explored and developed. However, no one as yet has discovered an "alternative" to clean and abundant water. Preserving and protecting what we have is vital to our future.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

## Hoosic River Project

On April 1, 2008 (the Opening Day of trout fishing in NYS) RLT in conjunction with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) hosted a press conference in Eagle Bridge, NY to announce the completion of the acquisition phase of the Hoosic River Project. Also attending the press conference were representatives from the NYS Attorney General's Office (OAG), Oak-Mitsui Corp. and members of the local community and neighboring land trusts. DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis praised RLT for its efforts to preserve the Hoosic River Watershed and to provide access to the public for fishing and canoeing. This project was a result of the combined efforts of RLT, DEC and the OAG as well as two local farmers who sold their property for the project. The agricultural operations continue on the property and access to the Hoosic River will be achieved by DEC through the construction of public access, parking, and a canoe launch as well as shoreline access for fishing. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2009. RLT looks forward to working with our neighbors to the north—The Agricultural Stewardship Association of Washington County and the Hoosic River Watershed Association—in developing long-range plans for the protection of the Hoosic River Watershed.

## Annual Meeting

RLT's 2008 Annual Meeting was held on Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> at Brown's Pub on River Street in Troy. The guest speaker was Judith Enck, Governor Patterson's Deputy Secretary for the Environment and an easement donor to RLT. Ms. Enck's remarks centered around the coming economic challenges land trusts will face as well as suggestions on how to maximize our efforts during these difficult times. A number of Hudson Valley land trusts were represented at our meeting as well as local, state and federal officials. A significant number of both old and new RLT

members enjoyed the breakfast provided by Garry Brown and his staff as well as the presentations and awards presented to individuals and board members for their services and efforts on behalf of RLT.

*Continued on page 10*



Roger Armstrong (left), one of the founding directors of the RLT, receives an award from Bill Niemi (right) for his 15+ years of service. Roger's accomplishments are numerous—most recently he led the committee that achieved accreditation for the RLT.



Judith Enck, Deputy Secretary for the Environment under Governor Patterson, spoke at the RLT annual meeting about the economic challenges and opportunities for land trusts in the future.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

We've had a successful year. I have the honor of writing to you this final time as the retiring treasurer. 2008 was a challenging, though successful, year for us. We have a few more dollars at year-end than we started with, though at first glance, it appears that we did not raise the income we had in 2007. Numbers rarely tell the whole story.

For the most part, the balance sheet accounts remain little changed from the beginning of the year and we end the year about \$1,000 richer. The two major account differences in cash and inventory offset each other with cash increasing about \$9,000 and inventory falling about \$8,000 due to the Board's decision to write down inventory. Oddly enough, the write down provides the board with flexibility and new future opportunities to manage fundraising initiatives, so the news here is positive.

Quick comparison of 2007 and 2008 income statements reveals that our 2008 income was about \$72,000 less than 2007. However, 2007 income was sharply increased by an unusual \$93,000 state grant to purchase land. If we discount this grant, then 2008 gross income actually increased about \$20,000 over 2007.

Expenses in 2008 increased significantly over 2007. Professional fees paid to survey the Geiser Preserve and the inventory write down significantly reduced the net income. Still, we ended 2008 about \$2000 in the black, whereas 2007 would have shown a small loss were it not for the unusual state grant received.

Term limits require I step down after three consecutive two-year terms as Treasurer, and our board director Garry Brown has taken my place. As with 2007, an accountant will review the 2008 financial records, a review I welcome as I transfer responsibilities to Garry. This will be done prior to filing our 2008 annual reports with the IRS and the State of New York's Charities Registration Bureau. I know Garry will do a great job, and I welcome his initiative.

Respectfully, John R. Munn

## Rensselaer Land Trust, Inc Draft Balance Sheet As of December 31

	2008	2007	\$ Change	% Change
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash	120,771	111,954	8,817	0.1
Inventory	503	7,808	(7,305)	-0.9
Total Current Assets	121,273	119,762	1,512	0.0
Equipment	2,015	2,015	-	0.0
Less depreciation	(464)	(315)	(149)	0.5
Total Fixed Assets	1,551	1,700	(149)	-0.1
Land	123,035	123,035	-	0.0
Easements	12	11	1	0.1
Total Other Assets	123,047	123,046	1	0.0
Total Assets	245,872	244,508	1,364	0.0
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accrued Expenses	1,699	2,547	(848)	-0.3
Sales tax payable	600	143	457	3.2
Unearned Private Grants	3,850	3,850	-	0.0
Total Liabilities	6,149	6,540	(391)	-0.1
<b>Equity</b>				
Opening Balance	237,968	146,624	91,344	0.6
Net Income	1,755	91,344	(89,589)	-1.0
Total Equity	239,723	237,968	1,755	0.0
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>245,872</b>	<b>244,508</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Rensselaer Land Trust, Inc**  
**Draft Income Statement**  
January 1 through December 31

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Income				
Individual Contributions	32,591	19,426	13,165	0.7
Govt & NPO Grants	5,000	92,777	(87,777)	-0.9
In-kind Contributions	-	83	(83)	-1.0
Program Service Fees	20,000	25,000	(5,000)	-0.2
Fundraising Revenue	8,368	1,012	7,356	7.3
Interest	<u>1,899</u>	<u>2,194</u>	<u>(295)</u>	<u>-0.1</u>
Total Income	67,858	140,492	(72,634)	-0.5
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>316</u>	<u>667</u>	<u>(351)</u>	<u>-0.5</u>
Gross Profit	67,542	139,825	(72,283)	-0.5
Expense				
Payroll & Salary Related	30,594	32,426	(1,832)	-0.1
Professional Fees	6,018	572	5,445	9.5
Office Related	7,345	6,750	595	0.1
Rent	1,258	1,589	(331)	-0.2
Travel	950	648	302	0.5
Conferences & Meetings	1,932	165	1,767	10.7
Interest	-	79	(79)	-1.0
Insurance	3,216	2,294	922	0.4
Membership Dues & Fees	650	3,650	(3,000)	-0.8
Property Taxes	758	286	472	1.7
Other Expenses	<u>12,568</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>12,544</u>	<u>522.5</u>
Total Expense	<u>65,287</u>	<u>48,481</u>	<u>16,806</u>	<u>0.3</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>2,255</u>	<u>91,344</u>	<u>(89,089)</u>	<u>-1.0</u>
Asset Transfer to NPO	<u>(500)</u>	<u></u>	<u>(500)</u>	<u>-1.0</u>
Net Income	<u>1,755</u>	<u>91,344</u>	<u>(89,589)</u>	<u>-1.0</u>

# FIRST EVER OKTOBERFEST A BIG SUCCESS

## Troy Mayor and County Executive Recognize RLT Efforts at Oktoberfest

On Saturday, October 4th, Troy Mayor Harry Tutunjian and Rensselaer County Executive Kathy Jimino joined the Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT) for the organization's first ever Oktoberfest. Brown's Brewing Company in Troy co-hosted the event as a fundraiser for RLT's newly unveiled three-year capital plan to raise \$3 million. The event also highlighted organization's recent recognition as a nationally accredited land trust.

On Saturday, September 13, RLT was announced as one of five land trusts in New York State to be awarded national accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance at its national convention in Pittsburgh, PA. Executive Director John Middlebrooks noted that RLT was only the smallest of 38 land trusts to be accredited out of the over 1,800 land trusts nationwide.

Rensselaer County Executive Kathy Jimino presented Middlebrooks with a certificate recognizing the achievement. "Part of the beauty of Rensselaer County is the rolling hills and the preservation open space. The Rensselaer Land Trust is there to protect our natural resources." The Rensselaer County Legislature also recently adopted a resolution recognizing RLT's leadership in preserving the county's watershed areas.

Troy Mayor Harry Tutunjian also congratulated RLT on its accreditation saying "They deserve it! We're really proud to support the Rensselaer Land Trust which seeks to protect our water supply, the Tomhannock Reservoir."



(left to right) County Executive Kathy Jimino, Garry Brown (RLT Director), Mayor Tutunjian, and John Middlebrooks (RLT Executive Director) all came out to support the RLT's first ever Oktoberfest last fall.



# OUTINGS REPORT

## 2008 RLT Outings

Rensselaer Land Trust's 2008 series of outings started with our traditional, and very popular, waterfall tour. Noted waterfall expert and author Russell Dunn and his wife Barbara led a visit in April to three waterfalls along Tomhannock Creek and the Hoosic River in the Town of Schaghticoke. The high water provided spectacular views of the falls at full power. Participants were also treated to some of the first blooming wildflowers of the spring, particularly early saxifrage and the showy white blossoms of bloodroot.

In May, spring wildflowers were again on display during our 5-mile hike up Mattison Hollow, from Cherry Plain in the Town of Berlin up to the Taconic Crest Trail and back. Participants observed 12 different kinds of plants in bloom, including red trillium, trout lily, spring beauty, Dutchman's breeches, dwarf ginseng and three colors of violets. Just before arriving back at the trailhead, the group was treated to the sight of a hen wild turkey sitting on her nest a very short distance from the trail.

In conjunction with the Hudson River Valley Ramble, RLT offered two hikes in September. RLT Board member Fran Egbert and Walter Kersch, owner of Pineridge Cross Country Ski area, led a hike from Pineridge to RLT's Perigo Preserve in the Town of Poestenkill. The following weekend, RLT Board member Nick Conrad led a small group, willing to brave a possible rainstorm, from Pittstown State Forest up the escarpment of the Rensselaer Plateau to Grafton Lakes State Park, and then back down. The storm never materialized; in fact, by midday the sun was out and the group enjoyed a very pleasant hike under colorful fall leaves.

## Outings in 2009

The RLT Outings Committee's schedule for 2009 is coming together. Our annual waterfall tour will be along the Wynantskill on April 25, followed by an easy hike on May 16 (co-sponsored with the Taconic Hiking Club) on a new trail at the Capital District Wildlife Management Area near Cherry Plain State Park. On May 17, a morning bird walk at the Dyken Pond Center will be followed by brunch at the Grafton Inn with guest speaker Kim Corwin, co-editor of the new book on the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas. On May 30, join us for a spring wildflower hike to one of RLT's own properties, the Geiser Preserve in Poestenkill. We will lead a hike to the popular Snow Hole along the Taconic Crest Trail on July 26. In October, we will hold an outing at the LeBlanc property, one of our new easement holdings. Look for more details on these and other events, such as our second annual Tomhannock Reservoir clean-up, on our web site.

**We welcome your suggestions** for hikes and outings; please feel free to pass them on to Nick Conrad at 279-1963, or at [renstrust@renstrust.org](mailto:renstrust@renstrust.org). We also welcome volunteers to help plan or lead outings.

## A New Office in Troy for the RLT

This April, the Rensselaer Land Trust will move to a new office at **415 River Street in downtown Troy**. The office is on the same block as Brown's Brewing and the Troy Waterfront Farmers Market. Our new space, with a street-level window on River Street, will allow us to engage more people and participate in events like the Troy Night Out.

More than ever we will need your continued financial support as we furnish our new office and make more of a public presence in the community. Your contributions in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

# RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZES RLT

This fall, the Rensselaer County Legislature passed a resolution of recognition and support for the RLT's work of protecting watersheds in Rensselaer County. The text of the resolution follows.

## Resolution Concerning Watershed Protection by the Rensselaer Land Trust

*Whereas* the Rensselaer County Legislature is concerned with the personal welfare of its citizens, the quality of life through recreational opportunities, and with the economic viability of the County;

*Whereas*, these things are dependent on the abundance of fresh water which currently exists only through wise environmental stewardship;

*Whereas* a majority of the County's citizens depend on the Tomhannock Reservoir, the aquifers and their surrounding watersheds for clean water; and

*Whereas* the Rensselaer Land Trust is engaged in the protection of the County's watershed areas through educational outreaches, conservation easements, and the raising of funds to achieve this mission;

*Therefore*, we, the Rensselaer County Legislature, recognize the Rensselaer Land Trust as a 21 year old organization acting on behalf of the citizens of this County to protect environmentally sensitive areas, wetlands, and watersheds; and

*Therefore*, we resolve to support this endeavor and commend the Rensselaer Land Trust in its ongoing mission to make Rensselaer County a great place in which to live and play and work.

## Have You Seen Our New Website?

In Early 2009, the RLT launched a newly-designed website at [www.renstrust.org](http://www.renstrust.org). The website features our new logo and focus on watershed protection. It will give us more opportunity to communicate with our valued members and supporters. Continue to watch for new stories and features as our development of the site unfolds.

***Executive Director's 2008 Annual Report continued from page 5***

## Capital Campaign

In October RLT launched a three-year, \$3,000,000 capital development campaign for the purpose of providing the base funding for a full-time staffed land trust organization that will serve the open space protection needs of Rensselaer County in the years to come. See page 2 of this newsletter for more details on the capital campaign.

As a professional land trust, we are obligated to provide the best management practices for our owned properties and have the financial resources to sustain and legally defend, in perpetuity, all of the conservation easements we hold.

RLT has grown from a small group of concerned and dedicated individuals trying to make a difference in the quality of life for the residents of Rensselaer County to a professionally recognized and accredited land trust following nationally accepted standards for operations and management. In the past three years, RLT has increased its land holdings in easements and ownership by over 40%, increasing interest in using conservation easements to protect property in Rensselaer County. Presently, RLT has a significant number of potential easement projects. But with only one part-time staff and some volunteer assistance, we can realistically only complete two or possibly three easements each year.

RLT also needs the funding to purchase an easement or property in those instances where a valuable property needs to be "saved" from development or foreclosure. In short, RLT needs to have a dedicated protection fund to step in when no other means of protection is available. The current public funding sources that have been traditionally used for this purpose are either drying up or disappearing completely which puts a further financial burden on local land trusts to carry out their mission. **WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT NOW IF RLT IS TO CONTINUE ITS IMPORTANT WORK IN RENESSLAER COUNTY.** Please consider making a donation to RLT in the next few months.

Your contributions and suggestions in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

# THANKS TO OUR 2008 DONORS

## **Watershed Circle**

Ann Bartlett  
Edwin & Patricia Cook  
Gerald & Shirley Dunn  
Bill & Liz Niemi  
Catherine Stevens

## **Land Steward**

Roger & Judy Armstrong  
Thomas Blandy  
William & Elsa Boyce  
Garrett & Kelly Brown  
Fran Egbert  
Robert & Sandra Hardt  
Robert McCarthy  
Brian Zweig

## **Advocate**

Herbert Page  
Kristina Younger

## **Sustaining**

Irving Stephens & Dorothy Barnes  
Sharon Bedford  
Sid & Doris Brown  
Anthony H. Garner  
Gail Landrigan  
Fred & Maren Stein

## **Supporting**

Mary Abbott  
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Patricia Aikens  
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Flora Fasoldt  
David L. & Patricia Flint  
Barbara Fox  
Stephen Fry  
Clark Galloway  
James Garrahan  
Rita Gavin  
Eva & Hughes Gemmill  
Lorraine & Charles Geragosian  
Richard & Sharon Gibbs  
Mary & F. Michael Hall  
Julie Hanson  
Sandra & Robert Hardt  
Phyllis Harrison  
John Heimke  
Laurel & Jim Higgins  
John E. Hinzelman  
Stanley & June Hmielenski Jr.  
Teresa & Bill Holliday  
Marcia K. Hopple  
Tim & Sarah Howard  
Lisa & Pierce Hoyt  
Jim & Fran Hyde  
Robert J. Hydorn  
Mary & Richard Jones  
Becky & Martin Kaiser  
Dylan Keenan  
Christina & John Kelly  
Walter Kersch  
Constance Kheel  
Knickerbocker Historical Society-  
Frank Knight  
Elizabeth Kogan  
Maynard & Doris Krug  
Nan F. Lance  
Hazel Landa  
David & Sabra Larkin  
Robert B. Leffler  
Douglas & Carol Leith  
Carl & Mary McDaniel

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Jean & Charles Sheviak  
Katrina Shindledecker &  
John Middlebrooks  
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John & Janice Smircich  
Freling Smith  
Dwight & Rachel Smith  
Barbara Smith  
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Yvonne & Darrell Welch  
Francis Welch  
Deb Winslow  
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Christine Young  
Sharon & Lewis Zankel





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The Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization with the mission of preserving the land and protecting the natural resources of Rensselaer County. The organization was founded in 1987 and incorporated in 1988. The RLT is managed by an all-volunteer board of directors. Its primary funding stream is memberships and donations. The organization uses strategies such as conservation easements, stewardship, and public education to achieve its mission. The organization has permanently protected over 550 acres of open space through conservation easements and title acquisition.

## Board of Directors

William Niemi, President  
Nick Conrad, Vice President  
Garrett Brown, Treasurer  
Michael Thompson, Communications  
Melissa Barry, Secretary

Carl Cipperly  
Francille Egbert  
James Garrahan  
Stacey Goldstein  
John Heimke  
Robert Ingalls  
John Munn

### *Executive Director*

John R. Middlebrooks

Christine Young, Of Counsel



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