

Our Mission:

The Rensselaer Plateau Alliance promotes and facilitates the protection of the Rensselaer Plateau's undeveloped and unfragmented forests. These possess many significant natural features and provide natural habitats for plants and animals; forest products, recreation and most important, water and air quality.

The Rensselaer Plateau is one of the largest and most ecologically intact native habitats in New York State. The preservation of this landscape for future generations is the vision of the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance.

The Rensselaer Plateau covers about 105,000 acres in the towns of Berlin, Brunswick, Grafton, Hoosick, Nassau, Petersburg, Pittstown, Poestenkill, Sand Lake and Stephentown. An escarpment steeply rising from the surrounding lower elevations marks the Plateau's boundary. The Plateau's relatively high elevations (1,000 – 1,800 feet) and cool climate, acidic soils, and its poor drainage contribute to plants, forests, and wetlands more similar to the Adirondacks than to the surrounding local area.

The boreal forest contains the headwaters of seven watersheds. Four drain into the Hudson River below the Troy Dam. Three of the northeast sections drain into the Hoosick River then into the Hudson River in Stillwater. Other waters feed the

Tomhannock Reservoir (the public water supply for much of the county).

The Plateau is estimated to be the fifth largest forested region in New York State. Its forests still exist in relatively large continuous blocks with few dividing roads. The Plateau's forests are valuable in cleaning air; provide clean water and ground water recharge. They also provide healthy habitat for many native plants and wildlife. The large unbroken forest is essential to the populations of fisher, bobcat, bear, moose, porcupine, hermit thrush, and black-throated blue warbler. Many birds are experiencing declining population numbers in the Northeast due in part to loss of large blocks of forest. Several plants found on the Plateau are found nowhere else in Rensselaer County.

The ecological distinctiveness of the Rensselaer Plateau has led it to be included in the **New York State's Open Space Plan**, and recognized as an important Bird Area by the *Audubon Society of New York*, and the focus of conservation efforts of the Rensselaer Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy.

Become a member:

You can support our efforts financially by becoming a supporting or alliance member or by joining as a participating member and becoming involved in the various projects on which we are working.

Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Inc.

Membership Application Form

- Yes, I would like to become a supporting member in the following category:
- | | |
|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life | \$1000 |
- Yes, our organization would like to become an alliance member, (\$100 suggested)
- I am interested in becoming a participating member. (no annual fee)
- I would like to make a one time (or additional) donation of \$_____.

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Enclosed is my check for _____

Mail to:

Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Inc.
1463 Plank Road
Petersburg, NY 12138.

At this time donations paid to the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Inc. are NOT tax deductible.

Projects we are currently working on include but are not limited to:

- Educating the public.
- Educating and informing local officials.
- Developing a regional conservation plan.
- Planning and developing a multiuse trail system
- Fundraising to support land conservation efforts
- Working with landowners to find creative ways to conserve land.

Classes of Membership

Supporting Members:

Supporting Members support us financially with an annual membership fee, and may vote on election of officers, by-laws changes and special referendums.

Participating Members:

We are governed not by a board of directors but by the full Governing Body of participating members. As a participating member you will have an equal say in the direction we take and our vision for the future.

Participating members pay no annual fee but have a volunteer obligation. To maintain status and voting rights a participating member must:

- *Have attended 7 regular meeting in the last 1 year period*

- *Or, have logged an average of 3 hours of volunteer time per month in the last 1 year period*
- *Or, a combination of the above where a meeting is the equivalent of 2 hours of volunteer time.*

Alliance Members:

Organizations may join as Alliance Members. Alliance Members may vote on all business with one vote if they send a representative to business meetings or vote by proxy.

Alliance Members (as of this printing):

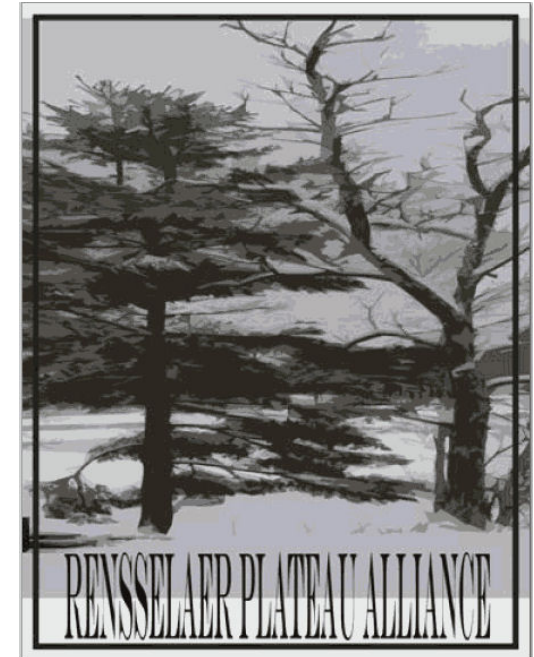
Rensselaer Land Trust
Friends of the Dyken Pond Center
Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center
Friends of Grafton Lakes State Park
Grafton Trail Riders
Mohawk – Hudson Cycling Club
The Nature Conservancy

For more information visit our web site at
www.rensselaerplateau.org or e-mail
info@rensselaerplateau.org

The Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Inc. is a New York State not-for-profit corporation. We are not yet a 501(c)(3) and therefore donations to us cannot be deducted from Federal Income Tax. With your continued support we will become a Federal 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.

Revised Oct 14, 2008

Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Inc.
A Vision of Recreation, Tourism
and Conservation.



Get Involved



Support Us