



RELC NEWSLETTER

FALL 2008

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Robert Anderberg
Jonathan Blair
Mary Collins
Jac Conaway, Vice President
Hans Fetscherin
Peter Nelson
Zali Win, Secretary/Treasurer

To find out more about our organization and conservation easements, visit our website at www.relandconservancy.org

Our Generous Community

We thank our donors for their support of RELC. We appreciate your support and generosity.

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New Sign

If you pass by RELC's headquarters on County Route 6 near the bridge in Alligerville, you'll see our new sign. It's the RELC logo and it's clearly visible from the road. As people pass by we hope they will become more aware of our activities and our HQ location. The HQ building was generously donated by Virginia Schoonmaker, who also made a lasting effort to preserve that lovely streamside part of Alligerville by ensuring that 20 acres of adjacent farmland is protected in perpetuity through a conservation easement.

Annual Meeting

RELC's annual meeting of members and friends was held on May 3. Walter Levy, president, introduced the organization's board members: Floyd Lattin, vice president; Jac Conaway, treasurer; Zali Win, secretary; Bob Anderberg, Jonathan Blair, Jen Cairo, Mary Collins, Peter Nelson and Kathy Schulz. Keynote speaker Glenn Hoagland, executive director of the Mohonk Preserve, reviewed the long association of RELC and Mohonk Preserve and reminded us that our first easement, the Gorton/Farquhar farm in Stone Ridge, was made possible with Mohonk's assistance in 1988. Glenn stressed the need for collaboration for continued success in protecting and conserving our region's open space, farmland, forests, and waterways for future generations.

Since the annual meeting, Jen Cairo, Floyd Lattin, and Kathy Schulz have unfortunately resigned from our board. Floyd is now on the board of the Mohonk Preserve. Jen has moved to Oregon where she is a Manager in the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Kathy has moved to the Office of Legal Counsel at Yale University. We wish them well in their new endeavors—and will miss their friendly cooperation, practical advice, and hard work.

LTA Stewardship Grant

RELC is the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Land Trust Alliance to improve our monitoring and stewardship of easements. The grant will enable us to conduct more efficient and comprehensive monitoring of conservation easement properties.

Easement Monitoring Underway

We have three new volunteers assisting us with our conservation easement monitoring program: Brinton Baker, Noah Reiten, and Marko Shuhan have been working on visiting all 37 of our conservation easement properties as part of our annual monitoring program.

Rondout-Esopus Land Conservancy, Inc.

PO Box 144 • Accord, NY 12404 www.relandconservancy.org



Two workers, twelve supervisors

Tree and shrub planting DEC program “Trees for Tribes”

RELC is cooperating with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Under the guidance of Kevin Grieser, about 180 trees and shrubs were planted along the frontage on the Rondout Creek and around the perimeter of the RELC property in May.

Riparian (streamside) buffers are a major component of maintaining healthy streams and waterways. These buffers composed of trees, shrubs, and grasses, help to reduce pollution entering waterways by slowing down and filtering runoff, thus extending retention time. Buffers also help to reduce flooding and erosion by stabilizing shorelines and absorbing high velocity flows. In addition, they serve an important role for wildlife as a shoreline transition zone and travel corridor, not to mention increasing overall biodiversity and improving in-stream health.

Individual private property owners can participate in the program to learn more contact:

**Kevin Grieser, Riparian Buffer Coordinator,
NYS DEC - Hudson River Estuary Program, 21
South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12446,
Phone: (845)-256-3145.
Email: kagriese@gw.dec.state.ny.us**

Welcome Hans Fetscherin!

RELC is pleased to welcome Hans Fetscherin to our board. Hans will bring significant financial and administrative expertise. Hans and his wife reside in Accord in a home located in one of our first conservation easements.

Local Land Trust Consortium Conference November 2007 and the November 2008

On November 8, 2008 local land trusts sponsored their second conference “Preserving Your Land.” The aim of this half-day conference was to inform local property owners of the many ways that individuals and towns can protect land—and how they can benefit by doing so. The land trusts sponsors were: Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Esopus Creek Conservancy, Kingston Land Conservancy, Mohonk Preserve, Walkkill Valley Land Trust, Woodstock Land Conservancy, and, of course, the Rondout-Esopus Land Conservancy.

Workshop topics included Understanding Conservation Easements, Protecting Farmland and Working Forests, Financial Incentives, Your Land Protection Team, and Why Everyone Needs Land Protection.

Support for OSI’s work in the Route 209 corridor

RELC is working with the Open Space Institute’s initiative to protect agrarian lands in the Route 209 corridor. According to Robert Anderberg, OSI’s general counsel and RELC board member, OSI is developing a strategic plan to protect farmland and open space in the Rondout Valley. OSI has already protected more than 25,000 acres in the Hudson Valley and is now actively procuring conservation and agricultural easements in the Rondout Valley and along the Shawangunk Ridge. RELC supports this initiative through coordinated efforts and shared resources.

Call for volunteers

We are actively seeking volunteers for our board and working committees. If you have a desire to work to protect open space and have time to commit, please contact any of our board members about working as a volunteer for RELC or you can email us at info@relandconservancy.com or call Walter Levy at 845.626.3140.

Thanks

Thanks to Art Markle, who regularly mows the field surrounding RELC’s HQ building and helps us with maintaining the premises. We would also like to thank everyone who has helped to make 2008 a good year by joining in our activities, and contributing time and financial support.

Become a member of RELC today

RELC is supported primarily by membership dues and gifts from members and friends. If you haven’t already done so, we encourage you to renew your membership. Memberships are also a great gift for friends, family and neighbors!