

Annual Report

2018



35 Years of Art, Education & Conservation

From the President's Desk

If you are reading this, chances are that you are either already familiar with the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History (RTPI) and its mission, or you were intrigued by this report and picked up a copy somewhere. Either way, I am very glad to know that you are interested in our work - and you are not alone. Over its 35 year history, RTPI has reached many people.

In 2018 alone, RTPI staff was in front of more than 12,000 people - visitors attending one of our exhibits or events in Jamestown, naturalists who enjoyed a guided nature walk, students who attended a school program somewhere in Western New York, fellow conservationists involved with our projects in Connecticut or Pennsylvania, and young scientists participating in workshops or supervised internships. At the same time, tens of thousands of people like you heard from us through print and social media.

Roger Tory Peterson's influence reached far beyond his birthplace of Jamestown, NY. His conservation work took him all over the planet, and his writings and art continue to inform and inspire many people worldwide (his 'A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America' alone sold well over 10 million copies!) RTPI aspires to continue Dr. Peterson's work throughout his area of interest, while maintaining a strong regional presence. Increasingly we are expanding our reach. In 2018, I proudly represented RTPI as a keynote speaker at conferences as far away as Seattle, Houston, and Costa Rica.

Our conservation efforts currently focus primarily on NY, PA, and CT, but some have a nation-wide scope. And you may be surprised to know that many of our familiar backyard birds spend more time in Central American rainforests than they do near your house - which is why some of our work takes us to such remote places. In early March, we were in Costa Rica to document the critical wintering grounds of "our" hummingbirds, orioles, warblers, and flycatchers. Our team of high school student researchers shared their new experiences in tropical biology and bird migration studies with two Jamestown Middle Schools through a live video feed directly from the rainforest!

Closer to home, our museum staff has prepared and hosted exhibits based on never-before-displayed materials from our Peterson archives, including original art from 'A Field Guide to Mexican Birds' and the book 'Penguins', as well as photographs and other items from Peterson's arctic explorations. This year, we have chosen a slightly different design for our annual report. In its new format, it will serve as a reference to help you learn about what happened at RTPI in the past year, but also guide you to events planned for 2019 and 2020. As always, our website (www.rtpi.org) is the best source for up-to-date information on everything RTPI, but I hope that you will keep this report around in to remind you of all the great things that are happening at RTPI.

Warmest wishes.

Twan Leenders

Twan Leenders
President/CEO

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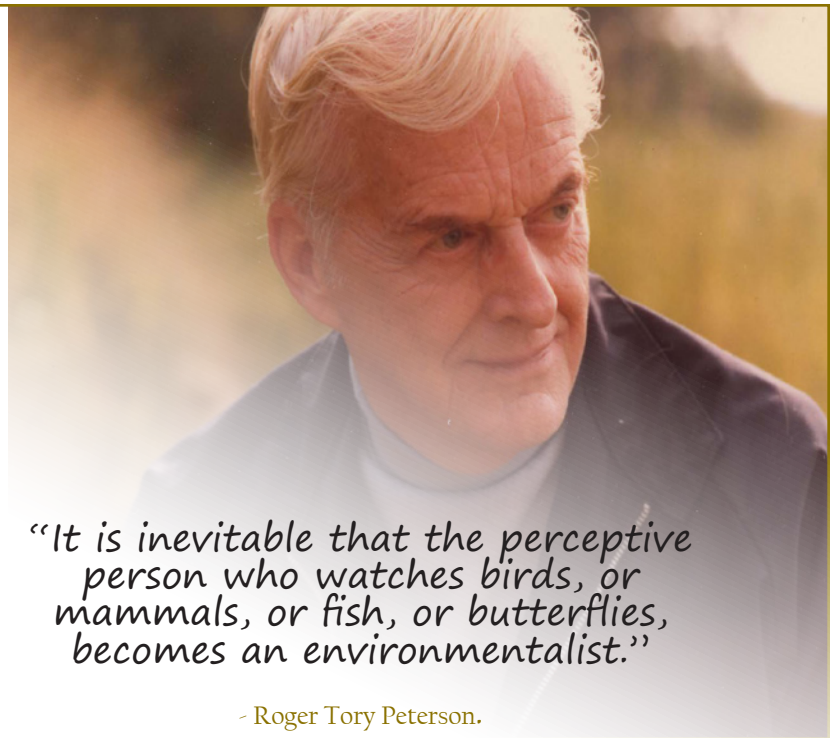


RTPI President Twan Leenders (L) with BBC TV Host and renowned naturalist Nigel Marvin (R) headlined the 4th International Herpetological Symposium in Costa Rica.

Who We Are

Roger Tory Peterson (1908-1996)

Artist, author, and influential conservationist, Roger Tory Peterson was born, raised and inspired in Jamestown, New York. Peterson pioneered the modern age of nature study as a pastime with his breakthrough 1934 book *A Field Guide to the Birds*. Although birds were his great passion, his knowledge and influence reached far beyond birdwatching and far beyond North America. His contributions have helped educate generations about nature worldwide and helped spark the global modern day environmental movement. His legacy continues to inspire and educate millions of people.



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A Message From the Chairman

As chairman of RTPI's trustees, I am often asked two questions. What exactly does The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History do? And, why is a retired investment manager from Atlanta the board chair of a non-profit organization in Jamestown New York?

Most people know RTPI by its iconic building designed by famous New York architect Robert A. M. Stern and by the world class art exhibitions held there. But the Institute is much more than an art museum and many times "what we do" is not as visible to the general public as our activities in the arts.

Our mission is to foster an understanding, appreciation and protection of the natural world in the spirit of Dr. Peterson's many accomplishments as the leading naturalist of the 20th century. To accomplish our mission, we focus on three areas—art, education and conservation.

While many of our activities are concentrated near Jamestown, we are increasingly involved in education and conservation projects outside the local area. For example, we have teamed up with the Nature Conservancy and the US Forest Service to fight the Hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect species that is ravaging Hemlock trees in the Allegheny National Forest of New York as well as the southern Appalachian Mountains of the Carolinas. In Connecticut, we partner with the National Audubon Society to develop an environment management plan for DuPont's Stratford Point site, the largest privately owned tract of land along the Long Island Sound. These are but two examples of how RTPI is expanding its reach outside the confines of our home base.

The generosity of our individual donors, charitable foundations and corporations supports the Roger Tory Peterson Institute's work to carry on Roger Tory Peterson's legacy. In addition, RTPI has increased its emphasis on fee-for-service projects which can utilize the conservation and scientific skills of our President Dr. Twan Leenders and other staff.

Which brings me to that second question: Why is a guy from Atlanta the board chair of RTPI? The short answer is that I love nature art, and through it my desire to protect the living world has grown. I have witnessed first-hand the harm that Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is inflicting on the hemlock trees surrounding my property in North Carolina, and I recognize the potential for RTPI to use its talented staff to solve environmental challenges like this virtually anywhere on earth. What an honor it is for me to be affiliated with an organization that can satisfy my aesthetic interests as well as help solve some of the environmental issues that confront us all.

Best regards,



Bill Hackney
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

RTPI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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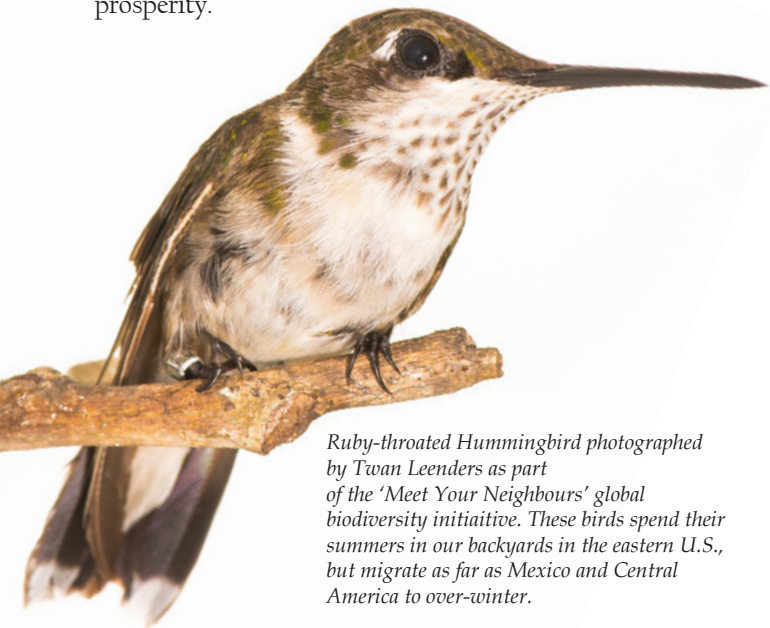
RTPI FOUNDATION

Mike Lyons
Chair

Warren Blanchard
Mary Blair
Bill Hackney
Tory Peterson
Lynne Reading
Linda Steckley

MISSION

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History is the only official institutional steward of Roger Tory Peterson's body of work and his enduring legacy. It is our mission to successfully foster understanding, appreciation and protection of the natural world in the spirit of Dr. Peterson's many accomplishments. By providing people with opportunities to engage in nature-focused art, education and conservation projects, we promote the study of natural history and its connections to human health and prosperity.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird photographed by Twan Leenders as part of the 'Meet Your Neighbours' global biodiversity initiative. These birds spend their summers in our backyards in the eastern U.S., but migrate as far as Mexico and Central America to over-winter.

New Trustees Join RTPI Board

RTPI is very excited to welcome three new trustees onto our board in 2018.

♦ **Chris Anderson** is a Jamestown native and strong supporter of our community. Through his work as project manager in Marketing, Development & Internet/Ecommerce at The Resource Center, he helps create opportunities for underprivileged people in our community

♦ **Alberto Rey** is a renowned artist and distinguished professor at the State University of New York (SUNY). He lives and works in Fredonia, NY, and spends as much time as possible enjoying the area's bountiful waterways and natural beauty as an avid fly fisherman and certified fishing guide.

♦ **Erica Stanat** worked as an intern at RTPI during her college years, and we are pleased to welcome her back as a new board member. Erica has a distinguished career as an active duty member in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's (JAG). She is now a partner at the law firm of Harter, Secrest & Emery in Rochester.

VISION

RTPI provides a powerful synergy of **Art, Education and Conservation** that is positively focused on natural history and the environment. Our message is greatly amplified by the connections between these three organizational 'pillars' and the creative and innovative body of work by Dr. Peterson that advanced environmental awareness and protection throughout the 20th century. In this spirit we continue to develop and implement meaningful nature-oriented Art, Education, and Conservation initiatives that open people's eyes to the natural world around them, initiatives that are focused on place but are connected through a global framework.

About the RTPI Foundation

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1999 as a non-profit supporting organization, with the exclusive purpose "to benefit, perform functions for, or assist the purposes of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History."

The RTPI Foundation holds and manages board-designated, donor-designated, and permanently restricted funds that support the programs and mission of RTPI, under the oversight of the RTPI Foundation Board.

In Memoriam:

Bill Thompson, III (1962 – 2019)

At the time of writing this annual report, we received the heartbreaking news that former trustee and life-long friend of RTPI, Bill Thompson III, passed away after a short battle with cancer. 'BT3', or 'Bill of the Birds', as he was often called, was the editor/co-publisher of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, America's longest-running magazine for birders. He was an award-winning author of numerous books on birds and a prominent fixture at many birding events, trips, and festivals.

Bill was bestowed many well-deserved awards, by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the American Birding Association, and others who recognized his tireless efforts to encourage people, and especially kids, to go outside and enjoy birds and bird watching.

We've lost a dear friend and member of the RTPI family, but we also celebrate Bill's birding life - he is flying free now.



*Bill Thompson III
(photo by Julie Zickefoose)*

Art

2018 was a notable year for RTPI's galleries, as we brought new material from the Peterson Collections to life in a new exhibit. In April 2018, *Roger Tory Peterson: The Life, The Work, The Legacy* opened, and featuring never before seen original artwork and artifacts.



The exhibit 'Roger Tory Peterson; The Life, The Work, The Legacy' included newly framed original paintings completed for *Life* magazine in the 1940's, a military aircraft manual on loan from the National World War II Museum, a small-scale recreation of Roger's art studio, Roger's field guide workbooks, and a focus on Roger's book and film, 'Wild America'. Detail of 'Eastern Feeder Birds' by Roger Tory Peterson, shown above.

2018 Exhibit Highlights

Neil Rizos:

The Art of Exploration. This exhibit featured over fifty works of art depicting birds, and reflecting Neil Rizos' life-long exploration of art and nature. Rizos works in a variety of media, including bronze sculptures, paintings, drawings, pastels, etchings, lithographs and woodcuts. Rizos interacted with visitors, led gallery talks, and conducted workshops. Learn more about Rizos' at www.rizosart.com. (African Crowned Eagles by Neil Rizos, below)

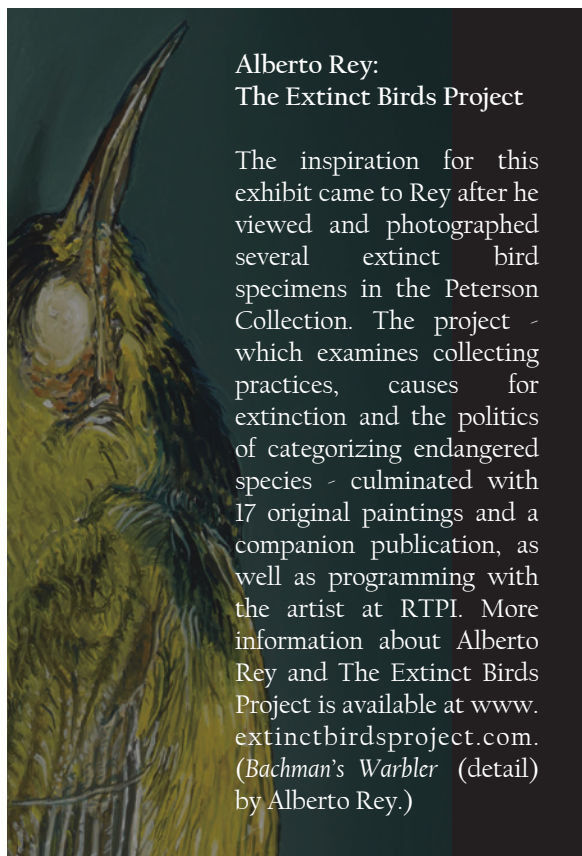


Nature's Birds, Bats and Pollinators:
by Sandra Rothenberg

Sandra Rothenberg believes that photography can reveal details in nature that might otherwise be missed. Each exquisite piece in Sandra's exhibition was available for purchase, and she generously donated all proceeds to RTPI's Art, Conservation, and Education programming. (Meadow Lark photo by Sandra Rothenberg, above).

Alberto Rey:
The Extinct Birds Project

The inspiration for this exhibit came to Rey after he viewed and photographed several extinct bird specimens in the Peterson Collection. The project - which examines collecting practices, causes for extinction and the politics of categorizing endangered species - culminated with 17 original paintings and a companion publication, as well as programming with the artist at RTPI. More information about Alberto Rey and The Extinct Birds Project is available at www.extinctbirdsproject.com. (Bachman's Warbler (detail) by Alberto Rey.)



Roger Tory Peterson; The Life, The work, The Legacy

In April 2018, we opened a new exhibit that focused solely on Roger Tory Peterson's contributions which have educated generations about nature worldwide; the knowledge and passion that he shared helped spark the global modern-day environmental movement, and his legacy continues to inspire and inform. The exhibit featured pieces that are exclusively from RTPI's archives, and

occupied all of RTPI's first and second floor galleries. The show revealed never before exhibited original works from the Peterson Collection, along with unique artifacts and memorabilia that showcased various areas of Roger Tory Peterson's life and work. Each gallery told a 'story' from Roger's life and extensive career. We were excited to share these treasures from our special collections with the public, and are looking forward to showcasing more of Roger's work and life accomplishments through a new kind of visitor experience at our facility going forward.



Image credit: Photograph by Hal H. Harrison, Martinsburg, WV, 1949, Houghton Mifflin Company.

2019 Exhibits



Roger Tory Peterson's Penguins: In early 2019 RTPI unveiled an exhibit featuring Peterson's beloved penguins depicted through original black and white illustrations and photography. Peterson gave a personal view of his favorite family of birds when he published his book 'Penguins' in 1979. The book includes photographic essays and 137 original illustrations. Also included in the exhibition are personal artifacts used by Peterson and original correspondence regarding the completion of 'Penguins'. (Adelie Penguins photographed by Peterson, left.)

Ned Smith Center Collection: May 18 – September 22, 2019

RTPI's galleries will feature breathtaking original works and artifacts from the collections of the Ned Smith Center for Nature & Art beginning on May 18, 2019. E. Stanley "Ned" Smith was born Oct. 9, 1919 in Millersburg, Pa., a small town on the Susquehanna River north of Harrisburg. A self-trained artist and naturalist, in his 46-year career he created thousands of astonishingly accurate drawings and paintings of wildlife for books, magazines and other publications, as well as dozens of limited-edition prints. For more information about the Ned Smith Center, please visit www.nedsmithcenter.org. Events during this exhibit period will be announced soon, including an opening reception and programming featuring staff from the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art.

Guy Coheleach Traveling Exhibit: October 5, 2019 – January 19, 2020

RTPI is pleased to host wildlife artist Guy Coheleach's acclaimed traveling exhibition this fall, beginning October 5th. Featuring approximately 50 original works, the exhibition includes new pieces created in the last five years. A Master Signature Member of the Society of Animal Artists (SAA), Coheleach's paintings have received the SAA's Award of Excellence eight times and their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012. His works have been exhibited in the National Collection of Fine Art, the Royal Ontario Museum, the White House, Washington D.C.'s Corcoran Gallery, Norton Gallery, and the Newark Museum, among others. For more information about Guy Coheleach and his work visit www.guycoheleachart.com/ the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art.

Education

Insects, birds and plants throughout our city inspired young Roger Tory Peterson to observe and record their likenesses and differences, learn their identities, and sketch out what made each so unique. The encouragement of his seventh grade teacher, Ms. Blanche Hornbeck, and his own drive to explore the natural world at a young age set the tone for Peterson's illustrious career. In this age of 'Nature Deficit Disorder,' RTPI staff continues the critically important work of inspiring children (and adults) to open their eyes to backyard nature and to connect with the natural world in life-changing ways.



Students from Silver Creek, NY, arrive at RTPI for a fun-filled day of nature-themed activities.

RTPI at Chautauqua Institution's Boys & Girls Club

During the summer of 2018, RTPI staff led a week-long series of activities for Chautauqua Institution's Boys and Girls Club Plus, centered on the Institution's 'Urban Ecosystem'. Participating youth explored the various habitats that comprise the Institution's grounds and the species that reside there. Students kept field journals, learned how to use Peterson field guides to identify plants and animals, and explored the area's 'wildest' corners. Due to the popularity of RTPI's programming, we will be leading campers at Chautauqua Institution on new natural history adventures during the summer of 2019.



Jamestown's 'Hundred Acre Lot' (now known as 'College Park', adjacent to RTPI) was once young Roger Tory Peterson's stomping grounds. The park received a historical marker to commemorate how, through fundraising by Jamestown school teachers and students, this small forest was preserved to become one of the first school parks in the nation in 1916. Jamestown Mayor Sam Teresi, JCC President Daniel DeMarte and other luminaries reveal the sign that bears the motto "preserved by generations that are and for those that are to be."

Exploring Jamestown's Wild Side

RTPI staff regularly offer guided nature walks, bird banding programs, and other natural history-focused programs at a variety of locations throughout the greater Jamestown area. The public is always welcome to share in our excitement over the beautiful natural treasures that we uncover throughout the area.



RTPI President Twan Leenders leads a nature walk through Chadakoin Park

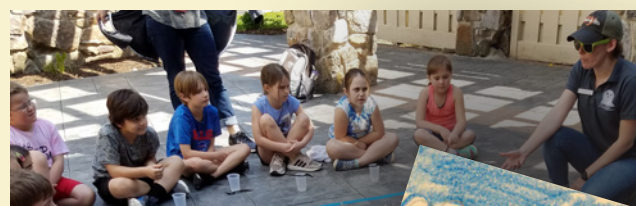


RTPI's Hands-On Approach to Teaching and Learning

RTPI is collaborating with the Audubon Community Nature Center and other local partners to provide hands-on nature programs for Jamestown Public Schools' inaugural LEAP (Learning, Enrichment and Academic Progress) program. Throughout the summer of 2019, groups of JPS students will take field trips to RTPI where they will learn about Roger Tory Peterson, tour our galleries and nature trails, and participate in educational activities. RTPI staff will also lead students on neighborhood nature walks from their schools to nearby public parks where they will learn about the nature that thrives in their own backyard through guided exploration. Additional information about RTPI's schools programs can be found at <https://rtpi.org/education/school-groups/>.



RTPI educators interact with the public in many settings – from art exploration in the classroom, to nature study in Jamestown's urban ecosystem, to migratory bird banding in the Costa Rican rainforest.



Connecting People with Art & Nature 12,000x

In 2018, RTPI's in-house and offsite natural history and nature art-focused programs reached more than 12,300 people! All of these programs are mission-driven, and inspired by Roger Tory Peterson's work and legacy. Programs are available for all ages. We are expanding work with our region's youth through environmental education programs for local schools and summer camps.

Nature play at RTPI



A natural playscape, similar to those being constructed at RTPI

An updated management plan for the wooded area surrounding RTPI's facility will include room for expanded butterfly and pollinator gardens, as well as exciting new natural playscapes - installations created from natural materials that create opportunities for local youth to reap the benefits associated with unstructured outdoor play and healthy outdoor activities. Site preparations have begun already and we are excited to develop these playscapes in 2019. Construction design is being done in collaboration with experts from the Audubon Community Nature Center. This project is made possible through support from the Jessie Smith Darrah Fund and the Cummins Foundation.

Conservation

RTPI conservation staff works with a variety of local, regional and national partners to find ways to balance economic and ecological needs. Our projects in natural areas often focus on the early detection of invasive species - non-native plants and pests that can have a disastrous impact on the environment and often also have a tremendous economic impact if not addressed quickly and adequately. In more developed areas, RTPI staff works to bring nature back into people's lives by identifying opportunities to promote and develop wildlife habitat and functional green spaces in ways that support local economies, such as through improved stormwater management, recreational opportunities, or better climate resiliency. Regardless of the location, RTPI always works where people and nature interact.



Project Wild America Youth Ambassadors survey native bees and other important pollinators in a Jamestown city park to assess the area's nature value.

In 2018, RTPI collaborated with the Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance (CLWMA) to host hands-on training sessions for interested volunteers and to develop outreach materials that allow the public to detect and report any suspected new aquatic invasive plants in Chautauqua Lake. Funding

for this project was provided from the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, through the generous support of Senator Catharine Young. The County of Chautauqua provided support in the form of a pass-through grant to the Alliance. Luckily, no new

invasive plant threats were identified in 2018; training, outreach and monitoring efforts will continue in 2019.

Similar work on economically significant pests, particularly the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), has been a main thrust of our conservation department for years. RTPI was recently awarded a

contract from The Nature Conservancy, in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service, to lead HWA monitoring, observer training, and community outreach efforts on the High Allegheny Plateau in Pennsylvania. Either on land or in the water, when it comes to new invasive species, early detection is key!

The most effective way to prevent the spread of economically significant invasive species is through early detection. If new pests, such as this Eurasian Water Chestnut, become established in Chautauqua Lake and its watershed, the impact on the lake's ecology as well as the area's fisheries and tourism industry would be profound. Locating such threats and quickly mobilizing an appropriate response is critical.

Help us fight invasive species and “go native”

Healthy and biologically diverse habitats, comprised of a rich mix of native species, are far less likely to be impacted by invasive pests than impoverished habitats that have lost their native biodiversity. Using native plant species in gardens, parks, and other open spaces helps ward off invasives and has the added benefit far that less chemical help (fertilizers, pesticides) is needed. Even converting a small portion of your yard to native species (many of which are spectacularly beautiful!), and holding off on using pesticides, will bring you butterflies, birds, and other joys!

Monarch butterfly on Swamp Milkweed

Native plants provide myriad benefits to the landscape and offer food and shelter to insects, birds, and other wildlife.





PWA students study rare turtles in the Chadakoin River, and other important urban wildlife found in the Jamestown area

Project Wild America Youth Ambassadors explore urban nature and educate public

Each summer, RTPI's Project Wild America (PWA) Youth Ambassadors Program - now entering its fifth year - gives area high school and college students an opportunity to work alongside RTPI biologists investigating and monitoring local species and habitats, and raising public awareness of our region's unique natural assets, while at the same time gaining practical job skills. Since the program began, PWA students have

identified and documented over a hundred different species, contributed their data to local and state entities where it can be used to inform conservation and development efforts, and enthusiastically shared their findings with the public through community events, public programs, and social media outlets. RTPI has received an abundance of positive feedback regarding this successful program, and a number of program

participants have gone on to pursue environmental career paths! This program was supported by grants from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation and the Holmberg Foundation in 2018; the KeyBank Foundation has agreed to underwrite the program in 2019. Learn more about the PWA Youth Ambassadors from the students' perspectives at www.projectwildamerica.org

RTPI leads efforts to develop a conservation management plan for Stratford Point, an important Long Island Sound conservation area.

Led by RTPI staff, biologists from Audubon Connecticut, Sacred Heart University, and other partners are working to update the coastal habitat management plan for Stratford Point, the largest privately held coastal property along the Long Island Sound shore of Connecticut. The previous management plan for this conservation area was produced in 2011 by RTPI's Twan Leenders and Scott Kruitbosch (both then

employed by the Connecticut Audubon Society). Several novel conservation management and environmental remediation efforts have been piloted at Stratford Point in the past decades. The new plan will review these efforts and provide guidance for owners and managers of other coastal sites on best management practices applicable to such complex ecosystems.



Rows of 'reef balls' form an experimental storm barrier along the shoreline of Stratford Point, CT. This artificial reef provides physical protection for the site's eroding shoreline and creates opportunities for shellfish to recolonize the area.

Mapping Jamestown's Chadakoin River to promote its recreational use



RTPI is working with the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) and the Gebbie Foundation to survey the Chadakoin River connecting Chautauqua Lake with downtown Jamestown. RTPI is involved in several research and restoration projects along the Chadakoin. This new project focuses on mapping the depth of the river to identify potential hazards or impediments between McCrea Point Park

and downtown. Findings will explore whether it's feasible for small watercraft, kayaks, electric pontoons and other low-impact vessels to travel from Chautauqua Lake into Jamestown, reaching as far as the National Comedy Center and nearby restaurants. Near Jamestown, the Chadakoin traverses extensive wetland homes to bald eagles, waterfowl, and many other kinds of wildlife, providing opportunities for recreational activities.

Using sonar technology, RTPI staff is generating an underwater map of the river to identify areas of conservation value, as well as areas that can be utilized safely for recreational activities such as fishing and boating.

Special Events

2019-2020 Calendar

Adult Art Classes: Spring/Summer 2019
Courses in various media led by professional artists.

Ned Smith Exhibition:
May 18-September 22, 2019
www.nedsmithcenter.org

Art After 5: Summer/Fall 2019
Enjoy tours of our world-class art exhibits accompanied by live music, refreshments, and friends.

Wild America Nature Festival: July 27-28, 2019
Celebrate nature via a juried-entry fine nature art and craft show and competition; a local food cook-off competition; and classes, workshops, music, and talks by well-known speakers and artists. www.wildamericafest.com

RTPI 35th Anniversary Celebration:
August 3rd, 2019
Join us for a special gathering as we reflect on 35 years of Art, Education and Conservation.

Guy Coheleach Traveling Exhibition:
October 5, 2019 – January 19, 2020
<https://www.guycoheleachart.com/>

Holiday Open House: December 7, 2019
Visitors to this seasonal event enjoy free admission to our galleries, prize drawings, and refreshments in celebration of Julmarknad - Swedish Market Day.

Stefan Savides Exhibition, Birds in Bronze:
March 27 – June 28, 2020
<https://www.stefansavides.com/>

Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour: April 7, 2020
Each year RTPI brings the spirit of outdoor adventure and mountain culture to the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts in Jamestown by hosting the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour.

Salamander Saturday: May 2, 2020
This awareness-raising celebration of all things slimy features salamander themed activities for all ages.

Thomas D. Mangelsen: A Life in the Wild:
July 15 – August 15, 2020
<https://www.mangelsen.com/museum>

Please visit our website and Facebook page for complete, up-to-date information on RTPI's exhibits and programs.



Wild America Nature Festival

The second annual Roger Tory Peterson Wild America Festival, jointly hosted with Panama Rocks Scenic Park, took place on July 28-29, 2018. Some 3,500

visitors enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere, locally sourced food, music, and nature art.

National best-selling author Jennifer Ackerman, renowned animal show host Jeff Musial, Roger Tory Peterson's son Lee Peterson, live bird of prey demonstrations, and more, provided education, fascination, and entertainment for visitors of all ages throughout the weekend.



The schedule for our 3rd Wild America Nature Festival, to be held at Panama Rocks on July 27-28, 2019, is filling up fast. Nature photographer and native pollinator expert Clay Bolt, has been confirmed already and other featured guests will continue to be added. For up to date information on the festival, please visit wildamericafest.com



With a Little Help from Our Friends...

We were able to carry out some special projects in 2018 that helped local wildlife and supported RTPI's mission.

Birds, with their energy and beauty, bring joy to the human spirit, and Sherry Propheter enjoyed birdwatching every day. In 2018, Sherry's family made a caring gesture in her memory; they established the Sherill Propheter Bird Feeding Endowment Fund. This gift has made possible a beautiful new bird-feeding station at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, and it will provide permanent funding to supply bird seed for the station. Furthermore, the fund will perpetually support

the efforts of RTPI to reach out to a nature-curious public – young and old – in new and creative ways. When viewing the bird feeding station from the windows in RTPI's library, visitors will see a plaque that reads, "In memory of our mother, watching the birds feed through her kitchen window", adorned with an image of Roger Tory Peterson's Cardinals, one of Sherry's favorite birds. We and the birds are grateful for this generous gift.



This minivan was donated to RTPI by the estate of Eleanor B. Franks and will support our summer education programs and traveling exhibit needs.

A new home for our Hellbenders

In May of 2017, the Buffalo Zoo transferred two Eastern Hellbender salamanders to RTPI as ambassadors for this threatened species. Soon after they arrived, RTPI staff identified the need to upgrade their habitat in order to provide them with more room to grow in the coming years, and to better facilitate opportunities for public interaction. Thanks to several generous donors and a successful fundraising campaign, Oneka and Tweeg were able to move into their new home during the fall of 2018.



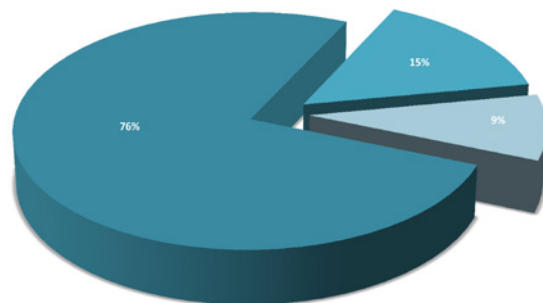
End-of-year financials for Fiscal Year 2018

Total Revenue	\$1,010,586
Total Expenses	\$854,742
Net Assets End of Period - RTPI	\$6,638,668

Net Assets - RTPI Foundation: \$1,440,057
(49.1% permanently restricted)

Designated funds held by Chautauqua Region Community Foundation to benefit RTPI: \$1,226,615
(100% permanently restricted)

Consolidated Statement of Functional Expenses:



● Program Services ● Management & General ● Development & Membership

RTPI's audited financial statements and IRS-Form 990 are available on our website at www.rtpi.org/about/accountability and are updated annually.

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, a gold-level Guidestar participant, is committed to fiscal transparency



The Roger Tory Peterson Institute Honor Roll of Donors

Donations, grants and bequests provide critical support for RTPI's financial stability. Your contributions make possible the programs you read about in this report. We hope you are excited to see the impact your gifts have made! This list includes individuals, foundations and organizations that made gifts of \$100 or more to RTPI in 2018.

2018 DONORS

\$100,000 - 150,000

Elizabeth Hoffmann

The Lenna Foundation

\$50,000 - 99,999

Chautauqua Region Community Foundation

\$25,000 - 49,999

Mr. William R. Hackney, III

KeyBank

\$10,000 - 24,999

Carnahan-Jackson Foundation

Holmberg Foundation, Inc.

The Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation

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The Walter & Elizabeth Hoffmann Nature Education Fund



Elizabeth (Betty) Hoffman, Scott Gustafson and RTPI's Linda Pierce during a visit to Betty's home in Michigan.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hoffmann of Charlevoix, Michigan has generously created a new endowment fund to help RTPI carry on Roger Tory Peterson's legacy of nature education for students and teachers.

A lifelong resident of northern Michigan, Betty was an elementary school teacher during her 45-year career. Betty's husband Wally was a dentist and together they had a large farm, "Tooth Acres", much of which has now become part of the Little Traverse Conservancy. Whenever Betty taught fourth grade students, she would form a Junior Audubon Club for her pupils, just as Roger Tory Peterson's teacher did when he was a young student, which allowed her to take the classes outside to do hands on nature study. Betty has donated materials from the clubs to the Roger Tory Peterson Archives, and has chosen to honor her late husband by creating this education fund to carry on the goals she shared with Roger Tory Peterson.

The annual proceeds from the Walter and Elizabeth Hoffmann Nature Education Fund will support RTPI programs that work with students and teachers, both in the classroom and in the field. Thank you to the Hoffmanns!

Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History

311 Curtis Street, Jamestown NY 14701
716.665.2473
www.rtpi.org



About the Roger Tory Peterson Institute

In 1984, the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History was founded in Peterson's home of Jamestown, New York, as an educational institution—the sole organization charged by Peterson with preserving his lifetime body of work and making it available to the world for educational purposes. RTPi holds a Permanent Charter from the New York State Education Department and is a 501(c)3 non-profit institution. As the steward of Roger Tory Peterson's legacy, RTPi connects people with nature through art, education and conservation.



RTPi Turns 35!

This year we mark a milestone in our journey together – 35 years of promoting the study of natural history. We are celebrating throughout 2019 with events, exhibits, giveaways, special giving opportunities, some surprises, and “35 Stories”; a collection of ideas, memories, experiences, and more, that make our journey together special...things from the past, some happening right now, and some yet to come.

Support: You Can Help

RTPi is successful because of your involvement, and your financial support gives us the strong foundation needed to expand Peterson's legacy into the future. Please donate today; it will truly make a difference. To make a gift, click the 'Donate Now' button on our website at www.rtpi.org, or call Linda Pierce, Director of Development, at 716.665.2473 x226, or email lpierce@rtpi.org.

Peterson Annual Fund

Gifts to the Peterson Fund, RTPi's annual giving program, provide unrestricted operating support to help RTPi accomplish its mission to educate and keep Peterson's legacy alive by connecting people with nature through art, education and conservation.



Ways to Include RTPi In Your Estate Plans

You can leave a legacy of your own or honor a loved one through wills, charitable gift annuities and charitable trusts, and become part of the Peterson Legacy Society. Its members have chosen to support the mission and work of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute through a lasting gift.

One of the simplest ways to make a gift is through your will or trust. However, there are many other ways you can support RTPi. Because of the complexity of estate planning, it is important that your attorney and tax consultant be involved in structuring your estate. For more information, please contact RTPi's Development Department at 716-665-2473, ext. 226 or email: lpierce@rtpi.org

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Our website, blog, Facebook page, and Instagram feed are the primary outlets for information and updates on our many programs and activities. You can find links to all of these outlets on our website at www.rtpi.org—'like' us on Facebook or subscribe to free email updates on our website.

About the cover: Local high school students admire and attempt to identify a Song Sparrow, captured by RTPi Conservation Technician, Elyse Henshaw, as part of a hands-on educational conservation program.