



The Anniversary Season

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ROGER TORY PETERSON INSTITUTE CELEBRATES COMMUNITY ROOTS
Partnership Project to Plant a Tree and Rededicate an Historic Marker**

Jamestown, NY – May 1, 2024 – The Roger Tory Peterson Institute celebrates its deep roots in Jamestown by planting a tree and rededicating an historic marker in front of Roger Tory Peterson’s boyhood home.

The event will take place on Friday, May 3 at 1 pm. Mayor Kimberly Ecklund will join representatives from RTPI and partner organizations in front of 16 Bowen Street.

The idea of planting trees in Roger’s old neighborhood grew out of an exhibition RTPI hosted last year. *Art that Matters to the Planet: Interconnectivity* featured artwork that explored the intimate connections among trees through their extensive root systems.

“The way trees communicate, nurture and support each other through their root systems is a perfect metaphor for the myriad ways people in our community are connected to each other,” said Arthur Pearson, RTPI’s CEO.

As part of its exhibition, RTPI raised funds for planting trees through the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation’s Renaissance Block Challenge. This neighborhood revitalization program encourages neighbors to collaborate on exterior curb appeal beautification improvements – including the planting of trees – in order to build confidence in Jamestown’s neighborhoods and inspire others to reinvest.

"Planting trees not only enriches our environment but also cultivates a deeper sense of community and connection. It's a privilege to contribute to the legacy of Roger Tory Peterson and nurture our neighborhoods for generations to come," said Frank Besse, JRC’s Executive Director. He continued, “Additionally, street trees promote pedestrian activity, and boost property values, fostering a healthier, more livable city for everyone.”

The funds raised by RTPI were generously matched by funds from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.

“Tree planting is a top priority for the Community Foundation,” said Tory Irgang, CRCF’s Executive Director. “We have a longstanding partnership with the City of Jamestown to maintain our urban forest and this collaboration is a terrific way to broaden that partnership.”

Dan Stone, Parks Manager and City Arborist for the City of Jamestown Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department, shared that the mayor and he are excited for the opportunity to partner with RTPI, JRC and CRCF to help beautify Roger's old neighborhood and the city with more trees – a great example why this year marks 43 years that The City of Jamestown has been named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Following the tree planting will be the unveiling of the refurbished historic marker, celebrating Roger Tory Peterson as “World Famous Naturalist” and “Father of Bird Watching.”

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About the Roger Tory Peterson Institute: 2024 marks the 90th anniversary of the publication of the first Peterson Field Guide and the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. Home to the largest collection of Peterson's original artwork, RTPI is the living embodiment of the Peterson Field Guide. Through art exhibitions and programs, RTPI illuminates the beauty of nature; challenges us to confront environmental issues of regional, national and global concern; and inspires us to preserve the earth's biodiversity – with a particular emphasis on the natural area wonders of Western New York. Plan your visit to RTPI today: RTPI.ORG.

About Chautauqua Region Community Foundation: The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation administers over 700 endowments in support of emerging community needs, charitable organizations and local students pursuing higher education. For more information visit www.crcfonline.org or contact Lisa Lynde, Donor Services Officer at 716-661-3390 or llynde@crcfonline.org

About Jamestown Renaissance Corporation: The Jamestown Renaissance Corporation is a non-profit and public-private partnership dedicated to revitalizing and enhancing Jamestown, New York. Through collaborative partnerships and innovative programs, the JRC creates a vibrant, thriving community that fosters economic growth, strengthens neighborhoods, and improves the quality of life for all residents. Information about the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation is available at <https://www.jamestownrenaissance.org/>.

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