

ROUND THE BEND FARM

A CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY

ANNUAL REPORT ~ FISCAL YEAR 2018



LOVE

WE ARE A LIVING LABORATORY THAT CULTIVATES, EDUCATES, AND
EMPOWERS PEOPLE OF ALL AGES. WE ARE DEVOTED TO THE GLOBAL
PARADIGM SHIFT TOWARD HOPE AND ABUNDANCE BY VALUING
DIVERSITY, MODELING NATURE, AND REDEFINING WEALTH.

Community



Passion

Desa Van Laarhoven,
Nia Van Laarhoven
& Geoff Kinder

This year at Round the Bend Farm (RTB) has been nothing short of monumental. Our foundational years set the groundwork for our mission as **a living laboratory**. We've built not only a working farm and non-profit, but also a community. It's exciting to see how far we've come, thanks in part to many of you.

There is a tangible buzz about RTB; we feel it as RTB translates our mission into visible action. Since day one we've known that we had great work ahead of us. We knew that it would take incredible efforts to see this endeavor take hold. So for those of us on the inside, who work day in and out, it is incredibly humbling to receive affirmation and reminders from community members that our vision of creating a restorative community is coming to fruition.

It's hard to believe that just a year ago the Learning Center was little more than a shell. Today it is complete and pulses with life and possibility. Our team experiments in the kitchen, curriculum takes form in the offices, and beautiful, sustainable celebrations echo from the classroom. The Learning Center speaks through its mere presence, telling a story of the power of vision, collaboration, and a relentless need to question the way things are in search of the way things could be.

As the Learning Center comes alive, so does our educational programming. We've seen exciting growth in the breadth and depth of our offerings this year, as we host people of all ages to hands-on learning! We've even become an incubator for other educational initiatives, which brings tiny learners and teen workers into the farm community. We're seeing the seeds of our work sprout and blossom into projects that serve and support our community.

Seeds of all kinds have been planted just next door this year at RTB East. A year has passed since RTB formally acquired 55 acres of "Ocean View Farm".



LETTER FROM THE CO-VISIONARIES

As stewards of this storied land, we are acutely aware of its cultural and natural value. Over the last 14 months, we've begun to integrate this land into RTB's function and vision. In collaboration with Paradox Acres, Apponagansett Farm and Ashley's Produce, we work to enhance local access to nourishing food, while regenerating the land after decades of extractive agriculture. The potential for environmental, agricultural, and social impact at RTB East is vast.

As you will see in this report, much is stirring at RTB. And, as is our tendency at RTB, we hold our identity as **a living laboratory** close to our hearts and at the forefront of our minds as we plan. How do we remain relevant while staying true to our mission? How do we move the dial on the issues we care about, and make a lasting impact? We live it. We test new approaches, we ask the hard questions, and take small steps.

This report is not only an acknowledgment of the sheer determination this year of growth took, but of what our accomplishments portend. We are poised to take RTB to new heights—leveraging our collective vision and the opportunity to empower others to question, to awaken, and to act.

Love is an action. So is sustainability. So is social justice. As you dive into our second annual report, we invite you to reflect on this notion and ask yourselves: how can **my** actions serve what I wish to see in the world? We are excited to share our reflections and visions with you, as we endeavor to do the same.

WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE, DESA, GEOFF & NIA

TENETS

The RTB team strives to think and act by our guiding principles:



VALUING DIVERSITY

We believe that diversity is the key to nature's success. Diversity shapes our decisions and actions. We look not just to this day, this season, or even this year, but to the impact that our decisions will have for generations to come.



MODELING NATURE

On the land, nature leads. We look to nature as our role model in the creation, development, and implementation of restorative processes as they relate to food, farming and living.



REDEFINING WEALTH

We seek to create an environment where characteristics of a "wealthy" life are available to all: from good health and quality of life (which includes loving your work), to deepening connections to self, community and nature.



“

LEADERSHIP REQUIRES TWO THINGS: A VISION OF THE WORLD THAT DOES NOT YET EXIST AND THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE IT.”

~SIMON SINEK



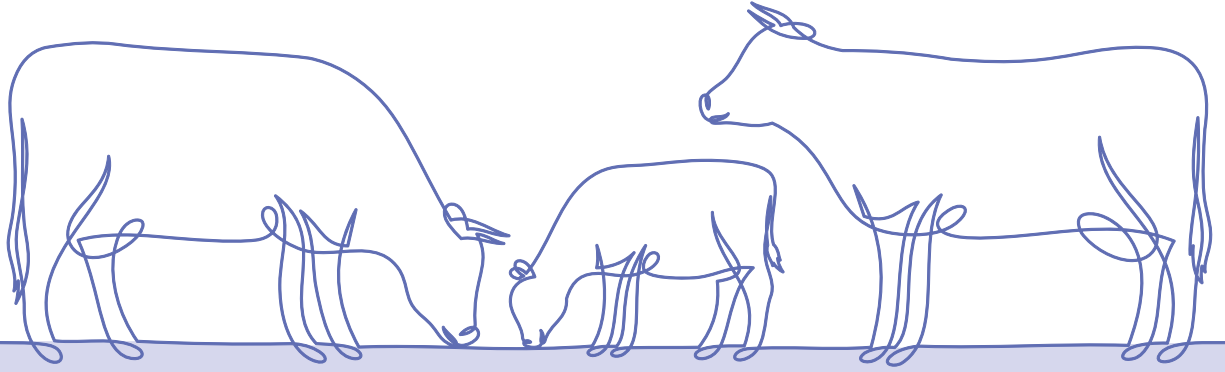


COMMUNITY IMPACT

Our **living laboratory** is a place where we experiment and learn, using this exploration as a point of connection and impact beyond RTB. Our relationships beyond the farm include partnerships with local schools, civic groups, and other non-profits.

Photo left: A red-tailed hawk perched upon a juniper tree at RTB, carefully watching the folks at our monthly Open Farm Day.

Photo above: Aerial view of RTB.



EACH CONNECTION, EACH ACTION, IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CULTIVATE THE VITALITY OF OUR LOCAL ECOLOGY AND CULTURE.

OPEN FARM DAYS

Every third Saturday from April through December, Open Farm Days (OFDs) allow the RTB team to share their passion with visitors, and allow visitors to dig into the farm experience. From meat and herb sales, to beekeeping demos and sausage sampling, OFDs are integral to cultivating interest in RTB's mission. Through OFDs we hope visitors are inspired to create and invest in a more restorative community for all.

OFDs began as an effort to regularly bring people out to the farm. RTB Co-Visionary and Farm Manager Geoff Kinder desired transparency in our farming practices and operations, understanding the impact this could have beyond our limited operation. OFDs unfolded organically, gaining momentum as awareness and excitement grew. We've since evolved from the humble barn pop-up to a structured event at the Learning Center, offering a variety of vendors, products and experiences.

In addition to two farm tours, OFDs offer workshops for adults and children. As we move forward and reach more people, the team is working out metrics and methods for the greatest impact.

FARM TOURS

Farm tours are an intimate introduction to RTB's mission, vision, and farming practices. They provide an opportunity to showcase farm systems as they pertain to restorative living—modeling nature, zero-waste design and redefining wealth. The team learns from visitors' questions as well.

WE GAVE OVER 1,300 PEOPLE TOURS THIS YEAR.

Guided tours take place every Open Farm Day (OFD), and private tours take place (upon request) about once a week. In addition, school groups from kindergarten to college increasingly request farm tours. Making our work accessible and relevant to learners of all ages is critical to all that we do at RTB.

EVENTS

Exceptional event space within a working farm offers opportunities for experiential education. Those who choose RTB for their events are intentionally setting an example for more sustainable and ethical celebrations. Together, we are taking real steps toward evolving our culture of consumerism and waste. By investing in our community (for everything from libations to flowers) we are driving the local, regenerative economy while reducing our carbon footprint. And in doing so, we create a model that others can appreciate and aspire to.

LOCAL FARMS & FOOD ARTISANS WE COLLABORATED WITH AND PURCHASED FROM FOR OUR EVENTS:

Acushnet Creamery
Apponagansett Farm
Arruda's Dairy Farm
Ashley's Produce
Braley's Orchard
Brix Bounty Farm
Buzzards Bay Brewing
Carolyn's Sakonnet
Vineyards

Cervelli Farm
Decas Cranberry
Dirty Water Distillery
Equal Exchange
Eva's Garden
Foggy Notion
The Golden Robin
Hana's Honey
Heart Beets Farm

Ivory Silo Farm
Lost & Found Grains
Moby Dick Brewing Co.
Narragansett Creamery
Nettie's
Nilsa's Herbal
Teas & Botanicals
Ocean Spray
Paladar Kitchen

Paradox Acres
Riverview Farm
Shy Brothers Farm
Simpson Springs
Skinny Dip Farm
Weatherlow Farms
Westfield Farm
Westport Rivers
Vineyard & Winery
Winterbottom Farm

THE THORGER WEDDING

CASE STUDY | SEPTEMBER 2018

In the United States, the average wedding produces about 400 lbs of garbage and 63 tons of carbon (equal to driving approximately 150,000 miles in a car). The Thorger wedding produced just TWO bags (roughly 90% less) and drastically reduced their carbon footprint!



85%

of the beautiful
food was local.

Sourcing food locally minimized
the carbon footprint of dinner and
provided the freshest ingredients.



gallons of water
were saved with our
composting toilets.

For every flush of a
"normal" toilet, 2-7 gallons
of water is wasted.

Up to 80% of the 5.6 billion
stems of flowers sold in the
U.S. each year are imported
and grown with pesticides
and other toxic chemicals.



13

The flowers
were grown
organically
and only
traveled 13
miles to their
destination.

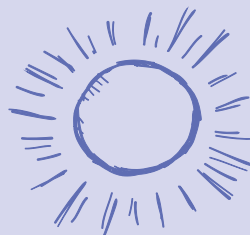


99%

of the drinks
were made using
ingredients from
within 45 miles of
the farm.

100%

Music, lights and
all electricity were
powered by the sun.



Cloth napkins
& hand towels
for everything



“

EVERYBODY IS A GENIUS. BUT IF YOU JUDGE A FISH BY ITS ABILITY TO CLIMB A TREE, IT WILL SPEND ITS WHOLE LIFE BELIEVING THAT IT IS STUPID.”

~ ALBERT EINSTEIN



EDUCATION



**16 DAY LONG
FIELD TRIPS FOR
351 YOUTH AND
45 ADULTS FROM
JAN-SEPT**

FIELD TRIPS & SERVICE LEARNING

Educational offerings allow us to connect and share with the community. And on a working farm the potential for hands-on learning and experiential discovery is limitless!

This year, RTB began providing regular school field trips with additional on-site workshops, directed by Education Manager, Nate Sander. From animal husbandry and vermiculture to tiny house living and permaculture, educational visits to RTB expose learners to new paradigms of living and exciting possibilities. Our four ‘tracks’ guide farm visitors along the following themes: Earth and Life Science, Engineering and Design, Farming and Agriculture, and RTB Passions. Each track offers opportunities for visitors to get their hands dirty and work alongside members of the team. Beginning with the farm tour as a foundation, field trips are a full- or half-day occasion to dig into the big picture.

RTB educational programming is based on a sliding scale to ensure that all students can experience the farm, regardless of economic means. Any amount paid above the baseline per-student-cost goes towards scholarships to those students in need.





RTB YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TEAM

With the support of the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board (GNBWIB), RTB hosted 9 young adults (16-18 years old) of diverse backgrounds for a 5-week work/learning program this summer. The first program of its kind at RTB, this experience offered an opportunity for marginalized youth from New Bedford to develop life skills working alongside the RTB team in permaculture, food preparation, herbal cultivation, farm management, land stewardship, and more.

Erik Andrade, a youth leadership development program manager, artist, and community organizer with vast experience working in pursuit of social and environmental justice, led the Youth Environmental Justice Team (YEJT). A fundamental piece of the YEJT was to support participants in

questioning and processing their own experiences in the context of social justice, equity vs. equality, oppression, privilege, and environmental justice. Workshops, visiting speakers, documentaries, and community discussions were integral to this holistic learning experience. They focused on topics such as local history of black and indigenous communities, climate change, water quality, gentrification, agro-ecology, disaster capitalism, farm labor movements, and personal goal setting.

The primary take-away from YEJT was an affirmation of the unaddressed traumas

and pressures young adults experience daily. In order to engage marginalized youth in sustainability and foster concern for climate change, basic needs must first be addressed. Baseline food, shelter, and emotional needs are not equitably available to all. The time at RTB offered a safe space to begin opening up and processing experiences of inequity and trauma. The major lesson learned here is more of a reminder: that RTB's work in redefining wealth and empowering people of all ages is critically important, even in our immediate community, and there is much work to be done.



ELEMENTS NATURE PROGRAM

This summer, RTB supported the emergence of yet another farm-based education initiative—one serving the tiniest of RTB community members. Elements Nature Program (ENP) ran a successful 8-week pilot of their outdoor, project-based learning program for 44 children from surrounding towns. Established by Rachel Medeiros and Cristy O'Brien, both mothers and educators themselves, ENP is an independent non-profit, offering an alternative option of schooling for local children ages 3-10 years old. Rachel & Cristy bring a nature-based, emergent educational experience that provides children and families of all socioeconomic backgrounds the opportunity to grow and learn in a collaborative learning community.

The relationship between ENP & RTB continues to evolve, guided by a shared dedication to redefining wealth for local families. It is an exciting new realm for RTB, to offer our site as an incubator for a like-minded organization. The ENP mission aligns with the philosophy of RTB by immersing children in nature, growing, harvesting and processing food, observing wildlife in its natural state, participating in basic animal chores and all the while instilling a strong love for themselves, others and nature. We are thrilled to support this important endeavor, the genesis of an inclusive and accessible educational experience for local children. ENP's first round of school-year programming has commenced this Fall 2018, and we look forward to seeing where their venture leads.



Each choice that we make on the farm seeks to enhance and promote life. We aim to exemplify a lifestyle that respects and consciously works with the environment, using the resources offered by nature to their “highest good”. We are deeply aware that we are a part of nature’s complex web of interdependence. In each choice that we make as a team, we consider: What is



the impact on nature? How can we use this resource to its full potential? And finally, how can we share these lessons with our community? Empowering others to make choices that are in line with their highest good is our ultimate goal as

A LIVING LABORATORY



OUR AGRIPRENEURS

INPUTS

Ashley's Produce
Compost

Paradox Acres
Organic "Waste"

Farm Community
Produce & Healthy Meat

Hana's Honey
Pollinators



Ashley's Produce
Produce

Nilsa's Herbal Teas & Botanicals
Teas, Medicine

Hana's Honey
Honey & Pollination

Farm Community
Labor, Compost

Paradox Acres
Nutritious Soil & Healthy Animals/Meat

OUTPUTS



ERIK
ANDRADE

GLENN
OLIVEIRA

DANIELLE
SMITH

ELLEN & DUNCAN
MCFARLAND

HEATHER
ZINE

THE TEAM

DESA VAN
LAARHOVEN

As the folks who “live it”, the RTB team deserves recognition. In testing our capacity to grow and ability to evolve, our team has risen to the occasion. They hold themselves to high standards as members of a restorative community, both on the farm and as they serve and learn in our greater community. And to those who support our endeavors, we have immense gratitude for Ellen McFarland (honorary board member and more) and our Board of Directors. Duncan McFarland, Nancy Dempze, Glenn Oliveira and Desa Van Laarhoven each put their whole hearts into championing our mission. They show up when it counts—sharing their skills and offering their guidance, engendering hope that what we envision is indeed possible.



SHAUN VAN
LAARHOVEN

BENOIT
AZAGOH-KOUADIO

HANNAH
WYLIE

TYLER SEE

NANCY DEMPZE

NATE
SANDER

NILSA
GARCIA-REY

♥
♥
NIA

GEOFF
KINDER

♥ BRIE

LEARNING CENTER

EST.
2017

Since last year, our beloved Learning Center has been completed! The beautiful frame of timber beams, live-edge trim, handcrafted roof tiles and stone provides the restorative environment which allows team members to brew new ideas in the cozy office spaces, and gather over meals and in meetings of all kinds in the inviting communal spaces.

THE FOLLOWING FEW PAGES DEMONSTRATE THE DETAILS IN CREATING A RESTORATIVE LEARNING CENTER.

COTUIT SOLAR of Cape Cod installed the 49.8kW DC (39.6kW AC) PV system, which is capable of producing up to 66,000 kWhs of energy each year. Our three sub-arrays are “grid-tied” using Enphase M250 Microinverter, which means that on the days we produce more energy than we need, RTB is able to gain “credits” toward future use. This investment into solar energy should pay for itself within just seven years.

ENERGY



It's high time that we shift a paradigm of ever-increasing consumption to one of intentional reduction of use and need. At RTB we are relieved and humbled to have our electric needs supplied entirely by the sun. We further ally with the power of nature through the use of passive energy design, reducing overall energy consumption. Our orientation and design maximizes beautiful, natural lighting throughout the structure. Passive ventilation is another energy-efficient way to modify the indoor climate, using the fresh air adequately supplied by nature. Both passive light and ventilation are also extremely beneficial to human health, which was of primary concern in decision-making.

DOUBLE-STUDDED WALLS

are a simple, high-performance, lower-cost alternative to many other thick wall designs. This design uses basic and non-toxic construction materials, compared to other high R-value options. The twelve-inch gaps between walls are filled with rock wool insulation, creating an R-value of about 40.



DOUBLE AND TRIPLE-PANE WINDOWS

are super-insulated, creating a U-Value of .22 to .3, which translates to energy savings. By still allowing for natural light to enter the building, they encourage further energy savings through passive heating and lighting.



A GREENHOUSE made of glass and aluminum allows RTB to get a head start on producing enough food for the entire team with no need for fossil-fuel energy use. With maximum sun-exposure and doors that open into the office, the greenhouse also doubles as an ideal passive heating source.

“ DDD

THE GREATEST THREAT TO
OUR PLANET IS THE BELIEF THAT
SOMEONE ELSE WILL SAVE IT.”

DD

- ROBERT SWAN



THE EMERSON AVANT ECO FAN incorporates a super-efficient DC motor. Unlike traditional AC motors that use electricity to create a magnetic field, DC motors have their own built-in permanent magnets, and use three to five times less electricity. In keeping with our mission, we opted for wood blades instead of conventional plastic.

THE COOLBOT SYSTEM allowed RTB to build a custom walk-in, three-bay food cooling system, using simple AC units that allow for structural and functional flexibility, and the ability to switch units off when not in use. North-side orientation and extra-insulation also resulted in the most energy-efficient system possible.

HOT WATER HEAT PUMPS are two to three times more efficient than conventional electric resistance water heaters. These pumps use electricity to draw heat from the surrounding environment, instead of generating heat directly.

STRUCTURAL INSULATED PANELS (SIPS) are custom fabricated in factory, which results in shorter construction time and less waste. This highly-insulated (R-value 64) option allows for smaller heating and cooling systems, which was an optimal choice for the classroom, where high ceilings create the potential for high energy loss.



A CAST IRON WOOD STOVE crafted in Norway is the sole source of heat for the entire library. RTB intentionally chose this heat source; rather than passively turning a thermometer up, we opted to warm ourselves by actively connecting to our environment and our resource use. And as the only indoor wood stove on the farm, the fire place is a very special spot for connecting and gathering as a community.

HVAC heating was installed by New England Energy Concepts, Inc. of North Dighton, MA. The two-zone Mitsubishi Hyper Heat Ductless Mini split system (Model MXZ-C) has a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating (SEER) of 19, compared to the conventional average SEER of 14-16. The heat pumps used can deliver up to three times more heat energy to a building than the electric energy it consumes. Ultimately, this system allows RTB to heat off of the solar panels, a carbon-neutral energy expenditure.

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

We at RTB believe in conscious design, and decided that building predominantly with stone, wood and metal fit our ethos best. The team then worked to integrate natural materials wherever possible. Considerations such as southern orientation and architectural style allowed us to work with the elements and geography of the land, resulting in reduced energy consumption, enhanced functionality and overall low-maintenance. With our tenets guiding the design, the result is a building that celebrates diversity, models nature, and redefines wealth, by choosing materials that offer a synergy of strength, beauty, and sustainability.

In the attainment of high ideals, RTB Visionaries Desa Van Laarhoven, Geoff Kinder and Ellen McFarland led the way, along with Saltonstall Architects of Marion, MA. Head architect Will Saltonstall provided detailed designs based on RTB community needs and vision for future use, resulting in a final product to be proud of and learn from for generations.



THE KITCHEN & DINING SPACES were deliberately designed for optimal use, combining form and function with a community feel that has all the commercial kitchen amenities. The space will serve as an ideal area to preserve the bounty of seasonal harvest. Stainless steel and granite are two materials found here, chosen for their strength, durability and ease of maintenance. Used items that found a new home in this space include a steam kettle, double oven, three-bay sink, stainless steel prep/work tables and a commercial-grade oven.



ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER

played an important role in design, with the legacy of Southeastern MA being a major inspiration for building design and construction. From the single-story height and wood siding, to a pitched metal roof with overhang, we borrowed from the historic, place-based architecture that New England is known for.

“

IN NATURE NOTHING EXISTS ALONE.”

- RACHEL CARSON

CONNECTOR ROOFS intentionally link the areas of the Learning Center, visually and functionally, requiring outdoor passage between rooms and a chance for people to connect with the natural environment around them.



WASTE & RECYCLING MATERIALS

The concept of “waste” does not exist in nature. What one organism leaves behind, another uses to create new life. A rotting tree creates a rich seed bed for the forest’s next generation. Everything exists in a synergetic, relational matrix. And at RTB, we seek to restore a way of life that honors this fact. A second life was bestowed upon so many materials and objects in their adoption by RTB. Materials that would have otherwise wound up in a landfill are now fully-functional and will be serving our community for years to come. By recycling materials, we reduce our footprint on the earth and educate the public on concrete ways that we might change our “throw-away” culture in pursuit of sustainability.



COMPOSTING TOILETS & WATERFREE URINAL both help to conserve massive amounts of water. The Phoenix Composting Toilet System, Model 201, installed by Conor Lally of Nutrient Networks of southcoast MA and Ben Goldberg, uses no water or chemicals, only flaked (local) pine shavings to support breakdown and inhibit odor. An electric fan and vent pipe are located on each unit to pull fresh air into the tank and remove gases and odors, leaving this system completely odorless. This system transforms human waste into a rich, well-stabilized soil that will be buried in the forest (away from wetlands, crops and foot traffic) under 6” of dirt to further breakdown. The Sloan Waterfree Urinal WES-1000 conserves up to 40,000 gallons of water per year, and does not require costly supply plumbing.



COMPOSTING TANKS SIT

BELOW FLOOR IN BASEMENT



“WASTE EQUALS FOOD, WHETHER IT’S FOOD FOR THE EARTH, OR FOR A CLOSED INDUSTRIAL CYCLE. WE MANUFACTURE PRODUCTS THAT GO FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE. WE WANT TO MANUFACTURE THEM FROM CRADLE TO CRADLE.”

- WILLIAM MCDONOUGH

INTERFACE CARPETS use modular tiles made from repurposed carpets to create beautiful patterns, secured with a minimal amount of organic glues. As tiles age, recycled tiles can replace them, reducing waste over time. Interface is committed to taking less from the environment, as their carbon footprint is nearly zero, and they continue to find new ways to be sustainable.



LANDFILL LINER SHINGLES were created through an experimental process, resulting in over 6,000 upcycled roof shingles, transforming unused local landfill liner into an essential resource. The project put to use an unwanted material and local labor.

BLUESTONE WALKWAY AND COURTYARD utilized attractive bluestone quarried in Pennsylvania. It was beautifully laid by Atlantic Landscape Design & Construction of Dartmouth, MA, owned by Peter Bullard, adding rural character and color to the building.

FIELDSTONE pulled during foundation work was used along with regionally-sourced supplements to craft beautiful retaining walls and other surfaces throughout the structure.

BUYING LOCAL

When we buy local, money remains in our community, empowering our neighbors to better the home that we all share. Local circulation of our financial resources is the lifeblood that revives industry, opportunity, creativity, and culture—all while reducing carbon consumption. It was thus imperative for RTB to invest in local labor and materials in the construction of the Learning Center.

MILROC HEIRLOOM FLOORS of Holliston, MA navigated the supply chain for us and helped us pick beautiful oak flooring. Although our oak flooring came from Pennsylvania, it was installed by Corea Flooring of Framingham, MA. We opted to use various lengths and widths of character grade white oak, thereby celebrating (rather than discarding) pieces with knots or other ‘blemishes’. This practice resulted in less waste and more diversity.

TILECRAFT

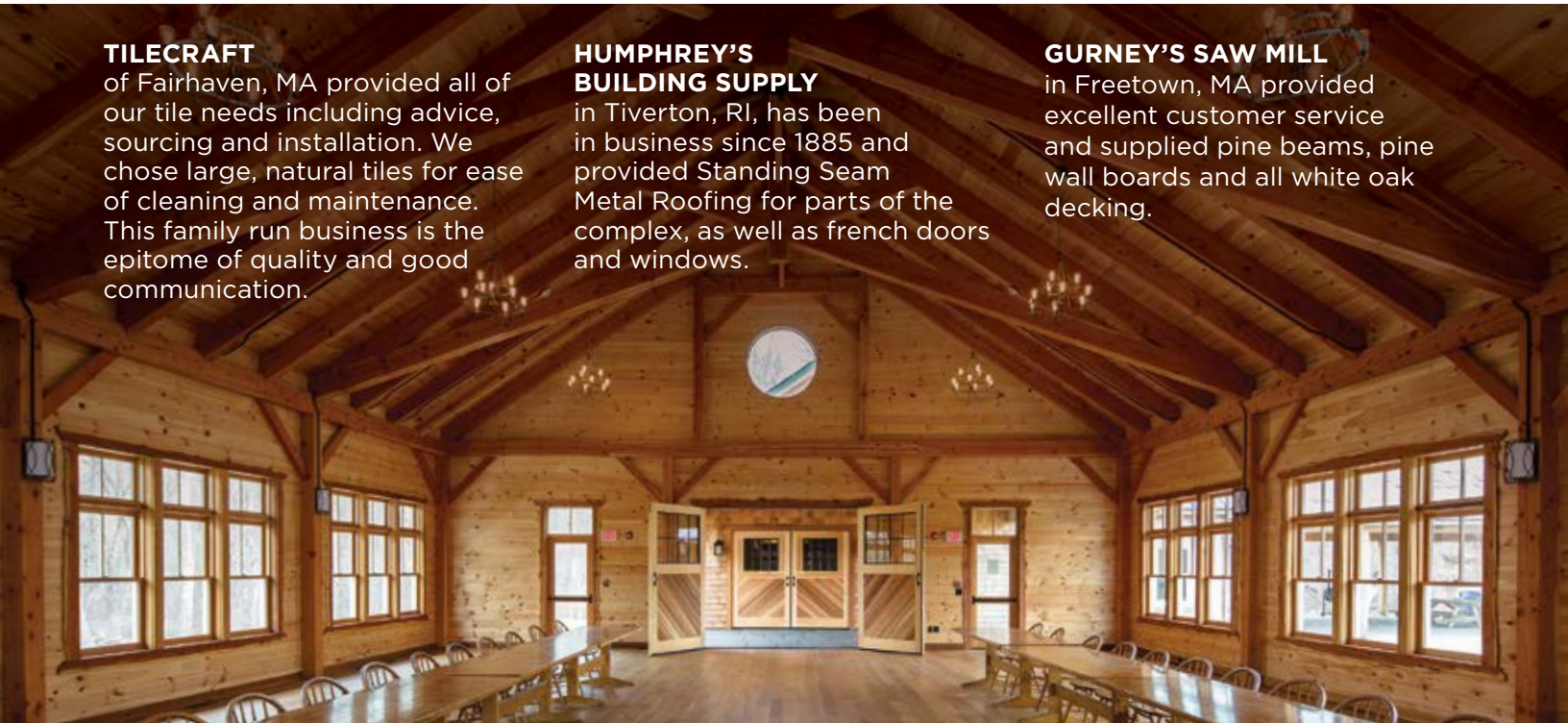
of Fairhaven, MA provided all of our tile needs including advice, sourcing and installation. We chose large, natural tiles for ease of cleaning and maintenance. This family run business is the epitome of quality and good communication.

HUMPHREY’S BUILDING SUPPLY

in Tiverton, RI, has been in business since 1885 and provided Standing Seam Metal Roofing for parts of the complex, as well as french doors and windows.

GURNEY’S SAW MILL

in Freetown, MA provided excellent customer service and supplied pine beams, pine wall boards and all white oak decking.



WOOD

With the utmost respect for the trees that inhabit the RTB property, and the role that trees play in ecology, human health and culture, RTB set out to use wood to its “highest good” throughout the Learning Center. This means integrating a tree in its fullest possible form. To this end, grand whole-tree support pillars grace the courtyard. Hand-crafted accents from trees felled from the building site, such as red oak trusses and cedar and oak knee braces, offer integrity and elegance. As for the surrounding mature trees, they were carefully integrated in the site design, as yet another gesture of reverence and respect.

PINE WALL BOARDS use an abundance of materials that smell and look beautiful and will decompose naturally, instead of the conventional, manufactured materials that are a major culprit of off-gassing and carbon pollution.

LIVE-EDGE TRIM shows the beauty and “imperfections” of wood and reduces waste. Teammate Tyler See milled, planed and sanded most of this wood on-site, allowing us to celebrate the use of juniper/red cedar, sassafras, red oak, and black cherry trees felled on the property and from the surrounding community.

POST & BEAM CLASSROOM utilized one of the oldest forms of construction, as this holistic building approach maintains the integrity of the wood and can last for many generations. The strong joints made possible by traditional techniques create a frame that can withstand even the strongest New England storms. The Learning Center’s framing is a stand-out architectural feature and teaching tool for visitors, thanks to design and construction by South County Post & Beam of West Kingston, RI.

RED CEDAR EXTERIOR SIDING is one of the most durable, renewable materials for this purpose. We chose red cedar for its water-resistant and anti-fungal qualities, making it a safe and non-toxic siding solution.

HEALTHY SPACES >>>

From stains and paints to insulation and flooring, the impact that toxic products have on the human body and the environment is astounding. The “cheap” price that society pays for common construction materials ignores countless externalities. But there are options—small choices add up and these impacts are preventable. At RTB we choose clean air and clean water, we choose products that model nature’s intelligence, look beautiful, and challenge outdated norms. Rather than choosing toxic products that are ubiquitous and cheap, RTB invests in a healthier and more environmentally-conscious future, for the benefit of the earth and all its inhabitants.

“

IN OUR EVERY DELIBERATION, WE MUST CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF OUR DECISIONS ON THE NEXT SEVEN GENERATIONS.”

- GREAT LAW OF THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY



HERITAGE NATURAL FINISHES for wood are perfect for high-quality natural building, and are made primarily of orange oil, tung oil, linseed, pine resin and beeswax. All Heritage Oil Finishes are non-toxic, biodegradable, and sustainable. They utilize no heavy metals or drying agents, and because of this, they penetrate deeper than other finishes.

NO-VOC PAINTS “Natura” by Benjamin Moore eliminated harmful volatile chemicals that paints often off-gas, making the most environmentally- and human-friendly option for use on our building ceilings.

METAL ROOFING lasts 40-70 years, as compared to conventional asphalt roofing, which lasts only 12-20 years and is made with toxic materials.

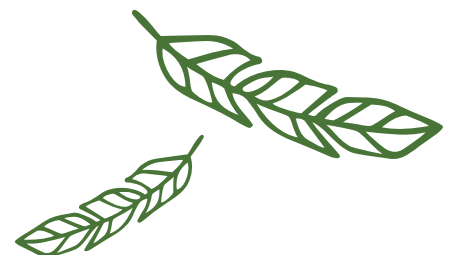
HAND-CRAFTED CEDAR BATHROOM STALLS avoided the use of traditional toxic plastic or metal, both of which are easily damaged and not easily fixed. These stalls are made from red cedar which is a renewable resource, naturally water-resistant and easily repairable, with no harmful off-gassing.



ROCKWOOL INSULATION is more sustainable and longer-lasting than commonly used cellulose. It resists mold, mildew, fungus, moisture, fire, and rodents. It’s produced with natural stones (60% recycled) which don’t off-gas harmful chemicals, and offers an R-value of 4.13 per inch, and STC ratings as high as 69.

ETHERNET avoids exposure to the electromagnetic frequencies emitted by wireless internet, which scientific studies have linked to sleep disturbance, reproductive dysfunction, and possibly cancer. RTB believes that disconnecting from our devices is not only healthy, but also important for our relationships and mental well-being.

DARK SKY OUTDOOR LIGHTING diminishes light pollution, maintaining the important human experience of the subtle sights and glow of the night. For this reason, “Dark Sky” lighting has been used to provide the necessary illumination, without impeding views of the stars and night critters!



BUDGET

FISCAL YEAR 2018 (OCT 1, 2017 - SEPT 30, 2018)



Revenue:

Programs - Unrestricted	\$490,395	100%
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$490,395	100%

Expenditures:

Farming Program	\$200,218	42%
Educational Program	\$143,936	30%
Administrative	\$117,637	25%
Fundraising	\$15,908	3%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$477,699	100.0%

DONORS

CONTRIBUTORS:

Almeida's True Value
Erik Andrade
Atlantic Landscape
Margie & Michael Baldwin
Beveridge & Diamond, PC
Bromley Charitable Trust
Peter & Dana Bullard
Buzzards Bay Brewing
Rudy Cabrera
Christopher & Margaret Campbell
Bob Chamberlain
Derek Christianson
Civil & Environmental Consultants
Sheree Clifton
Emilia Dahlin
Warren Dahlin, Jr
Stephen DaSilva
Nancy Dempze
Debbi DePina
Dirty Water Distillery
Elements Nature Program
Equal Exchange
Fidelity Charitable DAF
Marybeth Follis
Jon Fuller
Nilsa Garcia-Rey
Tom & Jody Gill
Betsy Grant
Ted & Jackie Halunen
The Harrop Family
Walter & Gloria Healey
Everett Hoagland
Alonzo Jason
Debbie Kinder
Geoff Kinder
Erik Kowalski/EDK Studio
Mark & Heather Kowieski
MA Audubon Society
at Allens Pond Sanctuary
Tina Maa

Gregg & Darlene Medeiros
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Erica Scott
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Stonehill College
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Shaun Van Laarhoven
Kathy Volterra
Sallena Williams
Marcy Wintrub
Yawkey Foundation



DONOR SPOTLIGHT Yawkey Foundation

RTB is grateful for the support of all our donors, and for the trusting relationships that we're cultivating. This year we'd like to highlight a donor that goes above and beyond for RTB: the Yawkey Foundation. Yawkey grants are made to "non-profit organizations that make significant and positive impacts on the quality of life for children, families, and the underserved in New England and Georgetown County, South Carolina."

We are honored that the Yawkey Foundation chose to once again invest in RTB this year. It is thanks to the commitment of like-minded organizations such as Yawkey that we are able to continue our work in educating and empowering people of all ages, from all backgrounds. Thank you for your continued support of our mission and trust in our vision.

LOOKING AHEAD

WE STEP INTO THE NEXT CHAPTER WITH EXCITEMENT AND WONDER, KNOWING THAT THE LIVING ORGANISM OF RTB IS APT TO EVOLVE IN WAYS UNEXPECTED AND EXTRAORDINARY. IF ANY SPHERE OF OUR WORK HOLDS THE MOST POTENTIAL AND MYSTERY, IT WOULD BE RTB EAST. AS WE WORK TO RETURN THAT LAND TO A STATE OF HEALTHY PRODUCTION, WE LOOK AHEAD TO ITS LIFE IN THE CONTEXT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION.

This landmark expansion of RTB East, adding 55 acres in August 2017, aims to foster greater diversity in our community: of people, perspectives, initiatives, and biology. Above all, opportunity for historically disenfranchised peoples is a priority, as we consider ways of cultivating stability for these farmers.

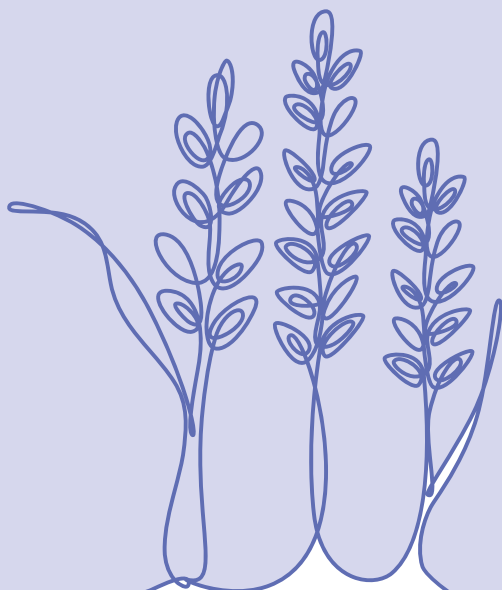
The primacy of stable and suitable living options is undeniable. After several years in use, our tiny houses have completed their life cycle for our residential teammates. This experiment allowed our team to put down roots on the farm, while trying out communal living. But as RTB evolves and our team settles in, it's clear that options for residency need to evolve, too. For current and future team members, long-term housing is the next step.

The board acknowledges the implications for equity and access in this initiative. The surrounding cost of living is exorbitant, prohibitive for even experienced farmers. Constructing humble homes in line with RTB's values redefines wealth for our community. We create the opportunity for farmers to live interdependently, allowing for a modest income because their basic needs are met. We see this stability fostering creativity, ingenuity, and success for a diverse new generation of farmers and educators.

From RTB East, we turn our gaze to the big picture. Our ultimate goals as a center for restorative community are big. We continue to take steps, patiently, intentionally, in the right direction, learning from our mistakes every step of the way. We're creating models that can be replicated beyond RTB, but part of moving the dial is getting more people involved, whether that means new farmers coming to live and work at RTB, or inspiring neighbors near and far. We're confident that as we remain open, we will remain relevant, while still grounded in our mission. We will create lasting impact that responds to changing times.

Thank you, dear reader, for all of your support and for adding to our restorative journey.

♡
Desa





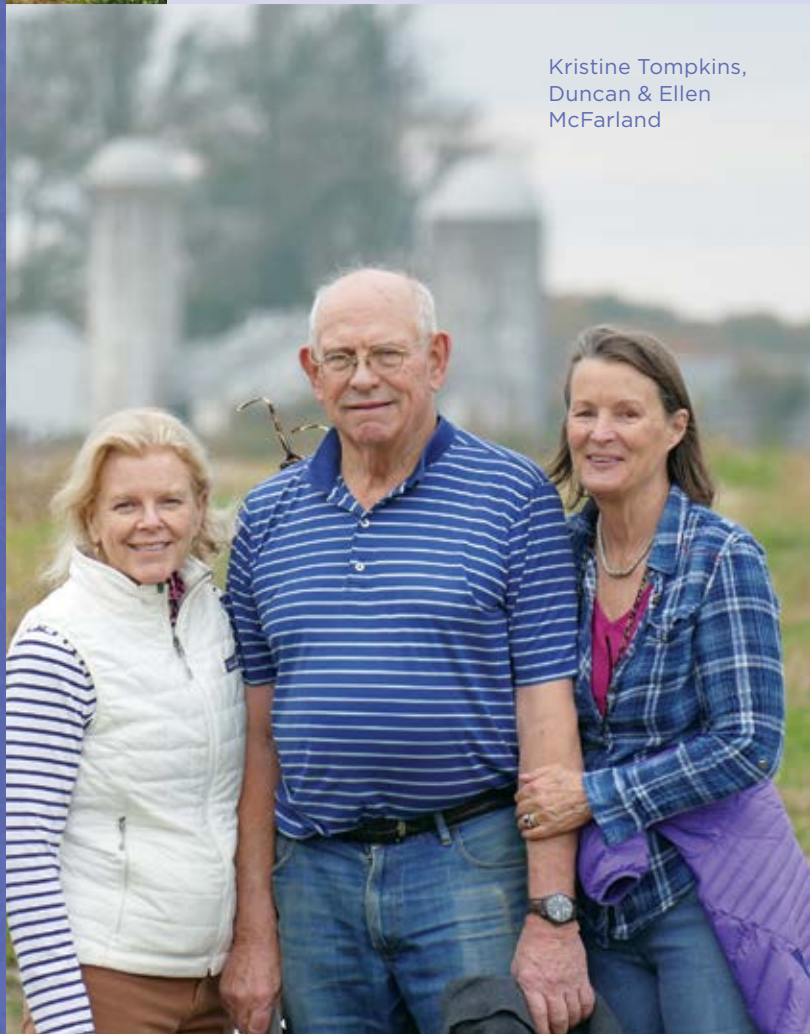
The former CEO of Patagonia and wife of Esprit and North Face founder Doug Tompkins, Kristine Tompkins' life work is to walk her talk: to invest her resources thoughtfully. Doug & Kris Tompkins purchased more than 2 million acres of wilderness in Chile and Argentina to conserve and regenerate. As wildlife and flora return, Kris looks ahead to returning this land to the government, under conservation restrictions, for the enjoyment of all living beings. Ellen & Duncan McFarland have long supported the Tompkins' work, and we at RTB have been lucky to absorb some of Kris' passion and wisdom during her visits to the farm.

“

AS MY HUSBAND, DOUGLAS TOMPKINS, SAID MANY YEARS AGO, 'IF WE DON'T GET AGRICULTURE RIGHT WE CAN KISS EVERYTHING ELSE GOODBYE'. SMALL SCALE, REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE THAT IS CONNECTED TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES IS THE MEASURE BY WHICH ALL AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE MEASURED TODAY. ROUND THE BEND FARM IS A MODEL TOWARD WHICH WE SHOULD ALL GO IF OUR GOALS ARE HEALTHY SOILS, HEALTHY HAPPY LIVESTOCK, CLEAN AND NOURISHING FOOD AND AN ENGAGED NETWORK OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES."

- KRISTINE M. TOMPKINS

Kristine Tompkins,
Duncan & Ellen
McFarland





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