



April 2023

Dear RLT member,

When I joined the RLT team as Executive Director in September 2022, I was welcomed in by a passionate group of people. The volunteers, members, staff, and board of directors impressed me with their exceptional care and commitment.

It's been an honor to learn about the organization's history and the good people who built it from the ground up. Founded in 1987 by Sage College professors, RLT has grown into a thriving community of folks like you wishing to protect our natural areas while we can. The land trust has amassed a portfolio of lands and easements, including beloved preserves throughout the County.

In making the decision to merge with RPA, the RLT board went through an admirable and forward-thinking process, driven by what's best for conservation in Rensselaer County. I enjoyed being part of this major decision and can't wait to see where it will lead.

**The special places conserved over the years by RLT will remain protected in perpetuity. Your favorite trails, and those you've yet to discover, aren't going anywhere. Programs such as the Tomhannock Rural Land Campaign, the Volunteer Trail Crew, and urban trail projects will keep going strong.**

I also want to let you know about some changes that I have made in my own life. For personal reasons, I resigned from my position at RLT as of March 31, 2023. This spring, I'm moving to the southern Adirondacks, fulfilling one of my dreams. I'll remember fondly the wonderful people and places I got to know during my six months with RLT. So much so, that I hope to see you out on the trails and at events with the new organization soon!

The RLT board of directors has made this decision with great care. I know for certain that they will steer this next chapter wisely. Should you have any questions along the way, please reach out to Bob Crowley at [crowleyrh@aol.com](mailto:crowleyrh@aol.com) or 518-659-5263.

As Bob said, "The founders and volunteers behind RLT have brought us this far. Now we need to make sure all this work can keep going for years to come."

My best wishes to you, the land, water, and wildlife of Rensselaer County.

Respectfully yours,

Deb Balliet  
Outgoing Executive Director, Rensselaer Land Trust