

Saving Land Welcomes New Editorial Board

In the Land Trust Alliance's history there have been many iterations of first a newsletter, then a journal and now a magazine. During *Exchange's* long history, it was often guided by many experts in the form of an editorial board, and we extend our thanks to the people who served on those boards. For a brief period, *Saving Land* has been without an editorial board...until now. Meet the new board members who will lend their expertise, from fundraising to diversity to technical issues, to make the magazine the best it can be.



SYLVIA BATES rejoined the Land Trust Alliance in 2006 as the director of Standards and Research. Sylvia leads the Alliance's work on *Land Trust Standards and Practices*, land trust assessments, the new training curriculum for standards and practices and other cutting-edge issues. She has more than 20 years of experience in land conservation, including eight years as an independent consultant and real estate broker, assisting land trusts, landowners and public agencies with land conservation projects and related initiatives, easement stewardship and organizational development issues. From 1989 to 1997, she worked at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the last four years as director of land protection.

VIRGINIA BEACH is a writer and editor in Charleston and authored the book *Medway*, a social and natural history of a South Carolina plantation. She was born in Richmond, graduated from the University of Virginia and served with the Peace Corps in Kenya for two years. Virginia met her husband, Dana Beach, in New York City while working for Little Brown publishers. Through a shared love of birdwatching, Virginia and Dana (a native of South Carolina) developed a lifelong passion for the natural world and settled in Charleston, where they founded the Coastal Conservation League and have raised two children.

DAVID BINGHAM, president and a founder of the Salem Land Trust in Connecticut, is a retired OB-GYN (BA-Yale, MD-Columbia). He writes articles on wildlife for the local newspaper, and sits on numerous local and state boards, including Sierra, Audubon, and the League of Conservation Voters. David is a 30-year member of the Salem Planning and Zoning Commission. He "farms for biodiversity" on inherited family land protected by an easement. David says that he learned at the knee of the late Dr. Richard Goodwin (a founder of The Nature



Conservancy) that government regulations are not as powerful or secure as committed ownership in assuring proper land stewardship.

MARCELO BONTA speaks and writes passionately about his broad vision of diversifying the environmental movement to audiences around the U.S. He is the founder of the Environmental Professionals of Color and the Center for Diversity & the Environment (www.environmentaldiversity.org), where he works with leaders and environmental institutions to strategically diversify their operations. Marcelo serves on the Portland/Multnomah Sustainable Development Commission, Orion Grassroots Network Advisory Board, and the Land Trust Alliance Diversity Task Force. His work has been inspired by his two daughters. Their laughter, joy, honesty and multi-racial make-up provide him with hope that the world will be a better and more inclusive place by the time they are adults.

STORY CLARK is a consultant specializing in land conservation strategy and finance. She has worked in land conservation and land use planning for over 30 years in association with a number of

Upon joining the editorial board,
Marc Smiley remarked on how he'd come full circle:
"I was the first editor of *Exchange*."

land trusts, foundations and government agencies. Story also serves on a number of local, national and international boards or advisory boards, and recently retired from the boards of the Land Trust Alliance and the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences at Duke University. Story is a frequent speaker and instructor at land conservation organizations and conferences. She lives with her husband and two daughters on their family ranch in Wilson, Wyoming.

ERNEST COOK is a senior vice-president and director of conservation for the Trust for Public Land, a national land conservation organization. In that position, he oversees planning and GIS services, government relations and conservation finance, urban parks programs, and real estate. Earlier at TPL, Ernest served as regional director for the Midwest and New England regions. He holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard and a Masters in Public Administration from the Wagner School of New York University.

JANE A. DIFLEY was named president/forester of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests in 1996. She is the fourth president/forester to lead the organization since it was founded in 1901. She was the executive director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council, and also worked for 10 years at the American Forest Foundation, departing as vice president of Forestry Programs and national director of the American Tree Farm System. Jane was elected president of the Society of American Foresters, the first woman to be elected to this post. Jane is on the board of the New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits, Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund and the Merrimack County Savings Bank.

JANE ELLEN HAMILTON, an attorney and consultant for numerous land trusts across the U.S., negotiates conservation easements and assists land trusts with the establishment and enhancement of conservation easement and easement stewardship programs, and in preparing for land trust accreditation. She is a member of the Land Trust Alliance's Conservation Defense Advisory Council and a senior faculty member for the Alliance, presenting at Rally, regional conferences and through webinars. Jane Ellen also regularly presents at other land conservation conferences

and teaches continuing legal education courses related to land conservation around the country. She is the author of two Standards and Practices Curriculum courses and a contributor to a third.

KRISTOPHER KROUSE is executive director of Shirley Heinze Land Trust, an organization preserving and restoring natural areas in the southern Lake Michigan watershed of Indiana since 1981. Kris has an Environmental Science degree and an M.B.A. Prior to starting at Shirley Heinze Land Trust in 2005, Kris worked as a project manager in the environmental consulting and remediation fields. He has written a Voiced column for *Saving Land*.

JAMES N. LEVITT is director of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest and a fellow at the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School. A resident of Belmont, Massachusetts, he writes and lectures widely in the United States and internationally on innovation in the field of land and biodiversity conservation. Jim is a graduate of the Yale School of Management and serves as a director of several conservation organizations. He loves to hike and kayak with his family near their wooded property, protected with a conservation easement, in Sullivan, Maine.

LARRY ORMAN is the executive director of GreenInfo Network (www.greeninfo.org), a nonprofit technology consulting organization whose mission is to assist public interest organizations in the use of computer mapping and related information technology. Before founding GreenInfo Network in 1996, Larry was for 19 years the executive director of Greenbelt Alliance, the Bay Area's leading land conservation and urban planning nonprofit organization. He is also the board chair for Bay Nature Institute and a board member of The Martis Fund.

ANDY PITZ, vice president of Strategic Policy & Planning at Natural Lands Trust, has been with NLT for over 20 years, overseeing the preparation and execution of strategic plans, protection programs, and stewardship plans for hundreds of projects. He has also been active with the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, as founding board member and president. Concerned about the impact of climate change on his land trust work

(and his children's lives), Andy has been researching the relationship between land conservation and climate change for the past several years. He has made over 40 climate change presentations, usually to land conservation audiences.

ILLENE ROGGENSACK is the owner of Third Sector Innovations, based in Colorado, providing services and training in organizational and fund development, marketing/promotions and market research, planning and governance/management. Illene has worked as a nonprofit executive director, fundraising director, board member, volunteer and consultant for nearly 25 years. She holds a BA in journalism/business, is an MBA and a Certified Fund Raising Executive. As an active volunteer, Illene is past president for the Colorado Association of Nonprofit Organizations and past president of the Grand Junction Lions Club. She is a long-time and frequent trainer at Rally and Alliance regional conferences.

MARC SMILEY is the manager of Solid Ground Consulting Group, a group of land trust leaders working together to bring wild success to groups that care about the land. Marc has presented at Alliance workshops and over 20 Rally conferences, and has written two of the Standards and Practices Curriculum publications. Marc was a founding commissioner for the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. He got started in conservation as the first editor of *Exchange*, the precursor to *Saving Land*. Marc has been an executive director for several conservation organizations and served on several land trust boards; he is currently a trustee with the Columbia Land Trust in Vancouver, Washington.

RAND WENTWORTH is president of the Land Trust Alliance. Prior to joining the Alliance in 2002, he was vice president of the Trust for Public Land and founding director of its Atlanta office. Previously, Rand was president of a commercial real estate development company. A graduate of Yale University, Rand holds an MBA in finance from Cornell University. The Atlanta Regional Commission presented him with its Visionary Regional Leadership Award and the Urban Land Institute recognized him with its Community Leadership Award. Morehouse College honored Rand for expanding the Martin Luther King Jr. National Park in downtown Atlanta. 🌱