

# Alliance Welcomes NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In January the Land Trust Alliance welcomed five new board members, and said goodbye to four departing members.



**GRAHAM CHISHOLM**, vice president and executive director of Audubon California, directs Audubon's largest state program, leading a network of

48 local chapters, 45 staff, 10 Audubon sanctuaries and centers and more than 150,000 California supporters and activists. Graham played a leading role in negotiating the Tejon Ranch Conservation and Land-Use Agreement, a landmark deal reached in 2008 to protect 375 square miles of some of California's most spectacular wild lands, and currently serves as board chair of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy.



**JAMESON FRENCH**, whose family has been in the hardwood industry since the late 19th century, is the CEO of Northland Forest Products, Inc,

a hardwood lumber processor, exporter and distributor headquartered in New Hampshire but with operations in Virginia. Jamey serves as a board member of the New Hampshire Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the National Wild-

life Federation Action Fund, the Quebec Labrador Foundation and Berwick Academy. He is currently chair of the Tuckernuck Land Trust (MA) and past chair of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.



**LAURA A. JOHNSON** became president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1999. Prior to joining the Society she served as the division

vice president, Northeast Division, of The Nature Conservancy, culminating a 16-year career with TNC that began in 1982 with a position as a staff attorney. Laura was an associate with Palmer & Dodge in Boston before beginning her career at TNC. She serves as a trustee of the Century Funds in Boston and is a member of the Corporation of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.

**FREDERIC RICH** is a partner of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, an international law firm based in New York. He is head of the firm's Global Project Finance and Development Group, and was until recently co-head of the firm's corporate

practice. Fred is the long-time chairman of Scenic Hudson Land Trust, and also serves on the board of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, both now accredited. He chairs the Environmental Leaders Group in New York State, a coalition of environmental, land conservation, environmental justice and parks groups that work together on issues of policy and funding.

As CEO of ING U.S. Retirement Services, **CATHERINE SMITH** leads one of the largest defined contribution plan managers in the U.S. with approximately \$277 billion in assets under management and administration. Prior to assuming this role in 2008, Catherine was CEO of ING's U.S. Insurance businesses. She serves on the board of Outward Bound, Connecticut Fund for the Environment and The Trust for Public Land's Connecticut Advisory Council.

The Alliance says thank you and farewell to four departing board members: Peter Hausmann, Peter Welles, Maryanne Tagney-Jones and Susan Traylor Lykes. Both Peters and Maryanne will now join the National Council. •

TO SEE OUR BOARD MEMBERS' COMPLETE BIOS, GO TO [WWW.LTA.ORG/ABOUT/WHO-WE-ARE/PEOPLE/BOARD](http://WWW.LTA.ORG/ABOUT/WHO-WE-ARE/PEOPLE/BOARD).

## Land Conservation Loses Long-time Advocate

**R**alph Philip Hanes, Jr. (Phil) died on January 16 at the age of 84. Phil worked tirelessly for land conservation, including saving part of Mount Mitchell in North Carolina, establishing a National Audubon Society sanctuary at Pine Island and co-founding the North Carolina Nature Conservancy and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. In addition to protecting their own farm in southwest Virginia, Phil and his wife, Charlotte, acquired and protected thousands of acres along the New River. The Hanes joined the Land Trust Alliance's National Council in 2008. A tribute in the *News & Observer* said, "Phil truly loved people and was at his best when leading the charge for those causes in which he believed." •

## Partnership Turns Tragedy to Triumph



The low-temperature fire on Lookout Mountain, once under control, only burned briars and underbrush.

**T**respassing campers left the mile-long, 140-acre top of High Point ablaze for days last November, but the fire on the highest point on Lookout Mountain, owned by the Lula Lake Land Trust in Georgia, was quickly contained by the Georgia Forestry Commission. Only briars and underbrush burned.

"Super dry conditions this fall made it unsafe, and we were very lucky that the fire did not get into the crowns of the trees," said Bobby Davenport, development director of the land trust. "The Georgia Forestry Commission knows what they are doing, and they were on the scene double-quick."

"This event is a wonderful demonstration of our partnership with the State of Georgia, which often goes unsung in providing security and protection of life and property," said Davenport. "We're constantly searching for innovative partnerships that expand the availability of land trust resources, and simultaneously provide a safe and well-managed outdoor venue for the land trust's activities."

Much of the bulldozer work to contain the fire opened up new possibilities for trails around the eastern side of High Point. "We are able to seize opportunities because the land trust owns the land around High Point, and we have a small army of volunteers who have shown great enthusiasm for developing the recreational potential there," said Katherine Eddins, executive director. •

## Protected Ranch Feeds New Governor

**M**ike and Cathy McNeil produce grass-fed beef on their conserved ranch in the San Luis Valley in Colorado (also home to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar). Cathy, who is one of the founders of the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, explained recently on Facebook how her beef came to be served at the inaugural dinner of new Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper. "Last summer, I was standing in our booth at the Crested Butte Farmers' Market when then mayor and gubernatorial candidate, John Hickenlooper, walked up to the booth and introduced himself. We talked for quite a while and I was impressed with his understanding of Colorado's rural issues. When we said our goodbyes, he told me that if he won the election he would serve our beef at his inaugural dinner. He stayed true to his word, and we delivered 184 pounds of Diamond F Brand Beef Brisket to Denver for the dinner." •

## HAPPY 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

to the Arctic Wildlife Refuge!

Watch a video celebrating this special place at <http://arctic.fws.gov/50th.htm>.

## Ear to the Ground

Time to catch up on what's happening in the conservation community! If you have an item for "Ear to the Ground," please send to [editor@lta.org](mailto:editor@lta.org).

After 24 years as president, C.E.O. and executive director of Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), **Audrey Rust** has announced she will retire on July 1, 2011. The board of directors named Walter T. Moore, currently executive vice president, to succeed her. Under her leadership, the Palo Alto-based land trust has worked in partnership with public agencies and private property owners to save 53,000 acres of local open space out of the total 64,000 acres POST has preserved since its founding in 1977. ...This July **Jim Lentowski** will celebrate 40 years with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation in Massachusetts as executive director. Jim says he was the first employee whose "office" was a closet/storage room. "I'm just a guy who goes to work each day who is lucky enough to be paid to do what he has always been passionate about." ...**James Duff**, executive director of the Brandywine Conservancy since 1976, and director of the Brandywine River Museum, has announced that he will retire by the end of 2011. ...Employees with the Land Trust Alliance can apply for a sabbatical after seven years of employment. In May and June, *Saving Land's* editor, **Christina Soto**, will be taking her sabbatical. In her absence, the Alliance will produce a "best of" *Saving Land* digital edition to be released on June 15, in place of the Summer issue. Alliance members will still receive the four print issues that they are due. 🍀