

# Alliance Welcomes New Director and Board Member



SCOTT MACEWEN

**E**lizabeth Ward has joined the Land Trust Alliance as our new communications director effective January 13. “Elizabeth has had a distinguished career in communications and her experience is a perfect fit for implementing our new strategic communications plan,” said Alliance President Rand Wentworth. Elizabeth was previously an editor with Time-Life Books and executive director of AOL’s online learning services, and served as a marketing director for The Nature Conservancy for the past 10 years.

Rob Aldrich has changed positions from communications director to the newly created position of director of community conservation. “I’m looking forward to working with land trusts to make land conservation more inclusive by listening to the community, building lasting relationships and connecting people to the land,” he said. “Let’s have more conservation for more people!”

## Elizabeth Hagood Joins Alliance Board

“I go to the tidal creeks and rivers of the lowcountry of South Carolina for solace, rejuvenation, stress relief and just plain enjoyment,” says new Land Trust Alliance board member Elizabeth Hagood. “I love nothing more than to hop on my paddle board with my dog, Chuck, and paddle up the winding creeks through the marsh. Within minutes, the stress and strain of the world are washed away and I am immersed in the beauty and wonder of this mystical land and sea scape. Usually we paddle for hours without seeing another soul, but we welcome the companionship of the occasional dolphin who swims alongside us on still, quiet mornings...or the seasonal shrimp who jump onto our paddle board like popcorn from the sea!”

Elizabeth was the first executive director of Lowcountry Open Land Trust from 1989 to 1994 and is currently in the position again. She is active in numerous community organizations, and in 2008, the governor awarded her the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina’s highest civilian award.

“I look forward to serving on the Alliance board with such a stellar group of conservation leaders from other parts of the country who bring their unique brands of conservation passion to the table. Learning from and exchanging ideas with this group of accomplished individuals in advancement of our conservation mission excites me most.” •



MARGARET P. BLACKMER

Top: Elizabeth Ward with daughter Annika and son Colin  
Bottom: Elizabeth Hagood

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## Celebrating the Link Between Land and Art

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Virginia’s Blue Ridge Land Conservancy has partnered with the O. Winston Link Museum in Roanoke to offer a regional photography competition that celebrates the marriage of land preservation with the visual arts.

The 2013 “Land+Link” competition, which completed its third year last fall, has received hundreds of entries since its inception, ranging from professional photographers in the open division to young children with point-and-shoot or disposable film cameras in the youth category. The subject matter is loosely restricted to southwest Virginia, and themes have ranged from “Nature’s Gift” to “Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue,” alluding to the ancient Blue Ridge Mountains and the relatively new impact of humans on the landscape.

“The idea in the beginning was to bring together seemingly disparate groups of people: those who support the arts, and those who support land conservation,” said Blue Ridge Land Conservancy Executive Director David Perry. “We wanted to show arts patrons that

the natural world is truly Mother Nature's permanent exhibit, and to show those with a passion for the environment that the photographic arts are a wonderful way to express and capture that passion."

A panel of local celebrities and photographers judge the entries each year, and framed prints of the overall winners are auctioned off at a closing reception at the museum. Winners are also featured in the local bi-weekly newspaper as well as on the cover of the conservancy's quarterly magazine. A special People's Choice award winner is selected through an online vote. In 2013, organizers added workshops that got photographers out onto conserved properties, where early-morning lighting and a rare chance to visit beautiful, privately owned lands drew eager participants.

For more information, visit [www.blueridgelandconservancy.org](http://www.blueridgelandconservancy.org).

## The Artist as Conservationist

Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) in California will be holding its 17th annual Ranches & Rolling Hills Landscape Art Show and Sale benefiting farmland preservation in May. Since its inception, the weekend-long celebration of paintings depicting the West Marin countryside



In the People's Choice Winner of Blue Ridge Land Conservancy's photo contest, David Reep captures the beauty of the rural character that defines southwestern Virginia, where the conservancy works to protect the splendor of these farms and wild places.

has raised more than \$1 million to protect working farms and ranches.

Each year, acclaimed artists from Marin County and Santa Barbara's Oak Group fan out across MALT-protected lands to capture on canvas many of the farms, ranches, livestock, hills and waterways that compose West Marin's pastoral landscape. The area remains much the same as it did when farmers and ranchers settled it 150 years ago, due in large part to MALT's work.

In 2008, MALT honored artists and family farmers through the book, *Ranches & Rolling Hills: Art of West Marin—A Land in Trust*, containing more than 135 full-color works of art selected from the first 10 years of the show. "The artists are dedicated to helping preserve the land that inspires their art," says former associate director and the book's creator Elisabeth Ptak in the preface. "They believe art can act as an agent of change." •

## Ear to the Ground

- After 27 years with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Vice President **Paul Doscher** has retired. He will continue to be involved in the land trust's efforts in a part-time role as a senior advisor.
- LandPaths (CA) Executive Director **Craig Anderson** was recognized by Bay Nature Institute and Magazine as a "Local Hero" for his community-based conservation work.
- **Kathleen Ackley** left Capitol Land Trust in Washington to become the first executive director of Wallowa Land Trust in Oregon.
- The Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts named **Greg Yankee** as executive director.
- **Lori Ensinger** was named the new president of Westchester Land Trust in New York.
- Hill Country Land Trust in Texas recently hired its first executive director, **Martha Zeiher**.
- Executive Director **George Cofer**, of Hill Country Conservancy (also in Texas), was honored with the Keep Austin Beautiful Dennis Hobbs Individual Achievement Award.
- Stowe Land Trust in Vermont has hired **Caitrin Maloney** as its new executive director.
- **Ann Cole**, executive director of the Mendocino Land Trust in California, received the Advocate of the Year award from the Conservation Lands Foundation.
- **Peggy Horner** is the new executive director of Ozark Regional Land Trust in Missouri.
- **Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust** (CO) won an El Pomar Foundation Award for Excellence in Civic and Community Issues.
- **Lisa Vernegaard** is the new executive director of Sudbury Valley Trustees, succeeding **Ron McAdow**, who stepped down after 10 years of successful leadership at the Massachusetts land trust.
- Northern Virginia Conservation Trust has a new executive director, **Peggy Stevens**, formerly executive director of the Westport Land Conservation Trust in Massachusetts.
- In late 2013, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, reached a milestone of 100,000 acres of farmland preserved through the combined efforts of the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board and **Lancaster Farmland Trust**. 🌿