

FOR BOARD MEMBERS:

Start with the Basics



For the guidebooks, go to www.lta.org/publications.

A Proposal to Strengthen Our Amendment Practices

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS are written to last forever, but circumstances change over time. While land trusts agree that amending conservation easements is a serious business that should not be undertaken lightly, legal advisors do not always agree about the constraints on easement amendment. Learn about an Alliance proposal to strengthen Practice 11I Amendments, of *Land Trust Standards and Practices* to ensure that amendment decisions fulfill both conservation and ethical obligations. We would like your feedback. Go to www.lta.org/learning/sp/amendment-proposal. •

Are you new to the world of land trust boards? Start here, with the definitive guidelines for all land trusts: *Land Trust Standards and Practices* (www.lta.org/learning/sp/land-trust-standards-and-practices).

Land Trust Standards and Practices are guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust, which is run legally, ethically and in the public interest, and conducts a sound program of land transactions and stewardship.

The Land Trust Alliance originally developed the standards and practices in 1989 at the urging of land trusts, which believe a strong land trust community depends on the credibility and effectiveness of all its members.

The Alliance currently requires all of its land trust members to adopt *Land Trust Standards and Practices*. To find out how a land trust can complete the adoption process go to www.lta.org/learning/sp/steps-to-adopt-land-trust-standards-and-practices.

To apply for accreditation, a land trust must first adopt *Land Trust Standards and Practices* and complete an assessment against the full *Land Trust Standards and Practices*. To learn more about accreditation, go to www.landtrustaccreditation.org. •

Websites Specific to Nonprofit Board Members

BoardSource, the definitive go-to resource for nonprofit boards, offers the bestselling *Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards* and the Governance Series of books. Visit www.boardsource.org.

For board members who don't have a lot of time to spare, check out www.compasspoint.org/boardcafe for, as the site says, newsletters for nonprofit boards that are "short enough to read over a cup of coffee." •

Perusing Online Materials

DOWNLOAD FOR FREE Independent Sector's *Principles Workbook: Steering Your Board Toward Good Governance and Ethical Practice* at www.independentsector.org/publications.

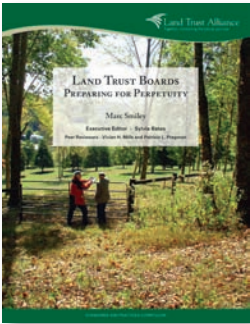
Developed in partnership with BoardSource, the Principles Workbook provides further support for nonprofits, foundations and corporate

giving programs committed to examining and improving their governance practices.

The workbook distills the core concepts in each of the 33 principles identified by the Panel on the Nonprofit Sector, and suggests points for board and staff to discuss about their current practices. Land Trust Alliance President Rand Wentworth sat on the panel to help develop this resource, and the prin-

ciples are modeled on *Land Trust Standards and Practices*.

Another free download of interest to board members comes from the Urban Institute, www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411659_midsize_nonprofits.pdf. Their Survey of Nonprofit Governance produced the paper, "Boards of Midsize Nonprofits: Their Needs and Challenges." •



One Book Stands Alone

CONSULTANT MARC SMILEY'S list of affiliations is long and impressive but ultimately he is an expert on nonprofit boards. His Standards and Practices Curriculum book, *Land Trust Boards: Preparing for Perpetuity*, should be on every land trust board member's shelf.

"The job of governing is fundamental to an organization's health and survival," writes Marc. "When it is done well—when the board takes its governing role seriously and carries it out conscientiously—the organization tends to reflect self-confidence and vigor in virtually all that it does. It moves purposefully to fulfill its mission." •

FIND IT AT WWW.LTA.ORG/PUBLICATIONS.

Board Members: Don't Skip this Conference

RALLY: THE NATIONAL LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE, provides the definitive training ground for any board member, whether new or veteran. This year's conference in Hartford, Connecticut on October 2–5 will feature many courses specifically aimed at board members. See the ad on page 13.

If you can't make it to the big conference, go to one of our regional conferences for training in a more intimate learning atmosphere. Dates and locations for 2011 will be announced in late fall. •

Learning Made Easy



ONE OF THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE'S NEWEST RESOURCES sprang from a desire to get as much information to as many conservationists as efficiently and easily as possible. Thus was born the Standards and Practices Curriculum, which is available online, in print and in person. There are online resources such as The Learning Center [<http://learningcenter.lta.org>], webinars, course materials; soft-bound books; and in-person trainings on key subjects every land trust board member should learn about:

- Acquiring Land and Conservation Easements
- Avoiding Conflicts of Interest and Running an Ethical Land Trust
- Building the Foundation for Fundraising Success
- Caring for Land Trust Properties
- Conservation Easement Drafting and Documentation
- Conservation Easement Stewardship
- Determining Stewardship Costs & Raising and Managing Dedicated Funds
- Evaluating and Selecting Conservation Projects
- Financial Management of Land Trusts (*coming soon*)
- Land Trust Boards: Preparing for Perpetuity
- Managing Conservation Easements in Perpetuity
- Nonprofit Law and Recordkeeping for Land Trusts (Vols. I and II)
- Mission, Planning and Capacity
- Selling and Transferring Land and Conservation Easements
- Tax Benefits & Appraisals of Conservation Projects

Written by top conservation experts, each course underwent a rigorous review and pilot process to ensure land trusts have an authoritative resource on private land conservation.

All Standards and Practices Curriculum materials are accessible and easy-to-use. They contain practical tips and step-by-step plans for implementing the training in your land trust. They are a thorough and handy reference for when your notes from last month's or last year's trainings become a mystery you can't unlock. Go to www.lta.org/learning/curriculum for detailed information.

Look for an article on The Learning Center in the next *Saving Land* and go here to view many more of the Alliance's learning opportunities: www.lta.org/learning. 🍂