

# RALLY 2009

## Honoring Great Work during Hard Times

“We could not be more thrilled to have you here in our community as we all learn together about how we’re going to protect some of our most special places, how we mobilize citizen advocates to be able to do the job right, and how we understand the power of thoughtful, comprehensive planning,” said Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) to the crowd at the welcoming dinner of Rally 2009: the National Land Conservation Conference held in Portland, Oregon, in October. Congressman Blumenauer, a lifelong Portland resident, is a leading voice for land conservation on the House Ways and Means Committee.

Rep. Blumenauer’s address was just one of the many highlights of the 22nd Rally. The premiere training event of the Land Trust Alliance, this year’s Rally offered 1,700 participants 127 workshops, 31 seminars, 11 featured sessions, 10 field trips and five speakers, all touting the “how” and “why” of protecting private land in America.

Conservationists from around the country, including 577 first-timers and nine people who have been to all 22 Rallies, as well as representatives from Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Australia, China and Chile, gathered in Portland to learn from some of the best presenters available to the land trust community.

### Amazing Speakers

Rep. Blumenauer had good company as a speaker at Rally. Also appearing were authors Gary Ferguson and Michael Shellenberger, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Will Shafroth, and Alliance President Rand Wentworth.

Gary Ferguson shared the moving story of how natural places helped him begin to heal after the death of his wife of 25 years. “I know on a very very personal level the power of the places you are saving... Because of your work, there are still places to catch us when we fall.”

Michael Shellenberger spoke about our “risk society,” and the implications for the land conservation movement of moving away from risk toward resilience. Shellenberger said that in conserving the land there is “a path to our own salvation,” and made a call for us to do whatever it takes to get kids active and families outdoors, to partner with each other, and to advocate for policies for conservation.

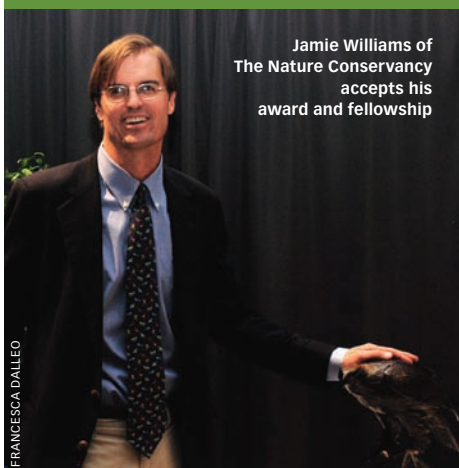
Will Shafroth, who comes from an extensive land trust background, explained that “While these times are tough, they are also times of great opportunity for conservation,” and how we have “a president and secretary of interior devoted to the cause of conservation.”

Rand Wentworth told the touching story of Nancy Russell, a pioneer for the Columbia River Gorge, who spent her life following her heart to protect a special place

### And the Winner Is...

Rally also features time to recognize the talented conservationists and land trusts that make a significant impact in their communities.

The Alliance congratulates these award winners:



Jamie Williams of The Nature Conservancy accepts his award and fellowship

- The latest accredited land trusts received recognition. View the complete list on page 39.

- KINGSBURY BROWNE CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AWARD AND KINGSBURY BROWNE FELLOWSHIP AT THE LINCOLN INSTITUTE OF LAND POLICY: **Jamie Williams** (pictured at left), Northern Rockies Initiative Director, The Nature Conservancy, Colorado

- LAND TRUST EXCELLENCE AWARD: **Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests**, New Hampshire

- CONSERVATION SERVICE AWARD: **Dr. Howard Corwin**, volunteer for the Greater Lovell Land Trust, Maine

- U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, DIVISION OF REALTY – NATIONAL LAND PROTECTION AWARD: **The Nature Conservancy’s Southeast Region**



FRANCESCA DALLEO

Durante un evento especial para los asistentes internacionales al Rally, Rand Wentworth (segunda fila, al centro) hizo entrega de un galardón a Federico Ringeling (quien sostiene la placa) y a otros, incluido personal de The Nature Conservancy, en reconocimiento por la creación del primer land trust en Chile, denominado Corporación Bosques de Zapallar.

“Because of your work, there are still places to catch us when we fall.”

— GARY FERGUSON

she held dear. “All of us here are lifted up by the same wild winds, the spirit of the mountains, and the lives of those who have gone before.” [Read the full speech online at [www.lta.org/rallyinreview](http://www.lta.org/rallyinreview) or see pgs. 5–7 for an excerpted version.]

### The Workshops and Seminars

If the speakers are the heart of Rally, then the workshops and seminars are the brain, full of practical information land trust board members, staff and other conservation professionals need to do their jobs well.

Want to know about appraisals, selecting projects, grant writing and title review? All were seminar topics, along with many more. And with 127 workshops, Rallygoers had plenty to choose from among the 17 subject matter tracks, from “biodiversity” to “working lands.”

### Looking Ahead

Several Rally speakers mentioned the challenges of 2009 and those still to come. Rep. Blumenauer, who is championing conservation funding in Congress, said, “Getting this right is absolutely essential for the future of the planet. You are helping to save the world.”

### Heartfelt Thanks

To Rally benefactors, supporters, speakers, scholarship providers, field trip leaders, regional reception hosts, faculty, host committee, awards committee, program committee, and participants: the Land Trust Alliance extends its heartfelt thanks. View the lists of Rally supporters and committees at [www.lta.org/learning/rally](http://www.lta.org/learning/rally). To hear any of the Rally speeches or to watch the plenary videos, go to [www.lta.org/rallyinreview](http://www.lta.org/rallyinreview). •

## Mike Dennis Retires from TNC

ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2009, the “Mike Dennis Era” ended at The Nature Conservancy. For more than 34 years, Mike worked with, in his words, “so many dedicated conservationists on thousands of conservation projects protecting millions of acres of land.”

In addition to his TNC work, Mike says “I have continued to expand my role as a conservation advisor and ambassador, currently serving my 20th year as a board member of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, seven-plus years as a Land Trust Alliance board member and four years of service on the boards of the Conservation Law Center and Cuenca los Ojos. I also served for the past 15 years as technical advisor to the Malpai Borderlands Group and more recently as an advisor to The Ranchers Stewardship Alliance.”

Mike will continue as a volunteer for TNC and as a board member or advisor for the groups he currently serves. He will also be setting up an entity that will provide conservation advice and counsel.

But we hope he’ll take a little time off for fly fishing. •

### THANKS TO ACCREDITATION COMMISSIONERS

THE LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION COMMISSION AND THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE thank the following commissioners for volunteering so much of their time in the first few years of the Commission’s existence:

**MARC SMILEY, JENNIFER LORENZ, PETER STEIN AND KAT IMHOFF.** •

## Ear to the Land

**Rob Etgen**, executive director of Eastern Shore Land Conservancy in Maryland, was named the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Conservationist of the Year... President Obama has announced the nomination of **Harris Sherman**, head of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, as USDA undersecretary for natural resources and environment... The Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts welcomes **John Swartout** to the organization. Swartout is the former executive director of the lottery-funded Great Outdoors Colorado Trust... **Mark Shaffer** will leave the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation in early January after six years. He says, “I like to think that between us, we’ve started something big, the fruits of which are just beginning to appear.” •