



THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

RALLY 2012

Celebrating the Spirit of the Land

“The spirit of the land lies within each one of us,” said Michael Dowling, board chair of the Land Trust Alliance, as he welcomed everyone to Rally 2012: The National Land Conservation Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 29 - October 2.

RALLY BY THE NUMBERS



1,606
Participants

105
Workshops

25
Seminars

10
Field trips

“It’s an extraordinary thing for land conservation people who work in communities throughout the country to come to Rally and see they are not alone,” said Land Trust Alliance President Rand Wentworth. “We’re here and we’re powerful!”

Speaker Heidi Redd, president of Indian Creek Cattle Company, told the story of the Dugout Ranch, from its early history to its eventual protection, quoting a cowboy saying: “You gotta have sticking to.” Wentworth praised landowners like Redd, calling them “the hidden heroes of land conservation.”

Speaker M. Sanjayan, lead scientist of The Nature Conservancy, described how saving nature has less to do with policy or tactics or developing a new tool for conservation and more to do with “what lies in my heart and I suspect in your hearts as well. ... But the real challenge for us is how do we then convince all the other people, who will never think the way we do, that what we care so much about is actually worth saving?”

His advice is to engage people with empathy, listen with open hearts and be able to hear as much as we want to tell. “We must step back, look at the whole and break the exclusivity of our domain. Unless we do that, then our love for nature can’t help others value it.” •

VIEW THE LISTS OF THOSE WHO MADE RALLY HAPPEN, AS WELL AS FULL VERSIONS OF RALLY SPEECHES AT WWW.LTA.ORG/RALLYINREVIEW.



KIMBERLY SEESE

Peter Stein

Rally 2012 Award Winners

- The latest land trusts to achieve accreditation received recognition as they walked across the Opening Plenary stage. View the list of all 181 accredited land trusts on page 39.
- Kingsbury Browne Conservation Leadership Award and Kingsbury Browne Fellowship at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy: **Peter Stein**, managing director, The Lyme Timber Company, New Hampshire
- National Land Trust Excellence Award: **Leelanau Conservancy**, Michigan, and **Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy**, Michigan
- National Conservation Service Award: **Wade Martin**, senior vice president, The Martin-Rizzo Group at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, New Jersey
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Realty – National Land Protection Award: **The Trust for Public Land**
- President’s Award: **David Beaver**, National Program Manager, Land and Water Conservation Fund and Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C. •

A Young Rising Star



Tiffany White

TIFFANY WHITE'S PATH TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR position of Great Swamp Conservancy in Canastota, New York, provides a clear example of how grooming the next generation of conservation leaders works.

She first interned for the land trust in 2008. In 2009 she received a degree in conservation biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and continued to volunteer at the conservancy over the next two years. In 2011, she joined the board of directors as recording secretary, then, at the April 2012 meeting, was voted in as executive director. She is 26 years old.

"This job is like a dream," White told the *Oneida Daily Dispatch*. "It's so amazing that I can do this and share my love of nature. I feel like this is my purpose."

Great Swamp Conservancy has a strong educational component, offering guided wildlife hikes for area children on the trails around the nature center, as well as craft programs and guest speakers.

If anyone understands the value of getting young people on the land early, it's White. "We try to be hands-on and let them have fun," she says, remembering the profound impact nature education had on her when she was young. "I believe that the more you learn about nature, the more you will care about what happens to the earth. Here, we teach from experience. This is real life." (*Oneida Daily Dispatch*, 5/2/12)

The Land Trust Alliance and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation helped Great Swamp Conservancy hire its first paid, full-time executive director through a capacity grant made possible by the New York State Conservation Partnership Program, funded by New York's Environmental Protection Fund. •

Ear to the Ground

Sue Heffron won the drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card for taking the *Saving Land* reader survey. She is on the board of the newly accredited Kettle Moraine Land Trust. We are tallying the results of the survey and will make changes to *Saving Land* based on reader feedback. Thank you to all who took the survey. El Pomar Foundation's Awards for Excellence presentation ceremony named **Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust** as the state's outstanding nonprofit with the Julie and Spencer Penrose Award. Gathering Waters Conservancy announced **River Revitalization Foundation** as Land Trust of the Year during its 10th Annual Land Conservation Leadership Awards. The **Equine Land Conservation Resource** was honored by American Horse Publications as the recipient of its 11th Annual Equine Industry Vision Award. **Chris Sullivan** of Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy was a contestant on Jeopardy in the summer. Jennifer Jay, director of communications and engagement, said, "It was great fun having our Chris be a local celebrity!" **Dale Bonar** has retired as executive director of Hawaiian Islands Land Trust and is now a consultant with Solid Ground Consulting. **Douglas Parker** is the new president and CEO of the Land Trust of Napa County. The City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department has contracted **Kevin Brice**, former executive director of Triangle Land Conservancy, to serve as foundation administrator and executive director of the City of Oaks Foundation. **Chad Jemison** is the new executive director at Triangle Land Conservancy. Mass Audubon's Board of Directors voted unanimously to elect **Henry George Tepper** as the organization's new president. The Lower Merion Conservancy has named **Patty Thompson**, its conservation director, as executive director. **Pat Szarpa**, former executive director of the Western New York Land Conservancy now leads the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce. **Nancy Smith** has taken Szarpa's place as the new executive director. The **Brooklyn Queens Land Trust** accepted the Tohma Y. Faulkner 2012 Community Service Award during Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant annual neighborhood event. As we went to press we learned of the passing of **H. William (Bill) Sellers**, a pivotal figure in the land conservation movement. Look for a tribute in the next *Saving Land*. 🌿



Alliance board member Fred Rich (far right) hosted Brooklyn Queens Land Trust's board retreat at his residence.