



Lise Aangeenbrug Joins Alliance Board

Great Outdoors Colorado Executive Director **Lise Aangeenbrug** says her career in natural resources protection began 30 years ago in Kenya. “I recently returned there and was immediately struck by how much parts of that landscape look like the grasslands and Flint Hills of my childhood home in Kansas, as well as the prairies and mountains of my home for the last 20 years in Colorado.” She was overwhelmed by the changes to the Kenyan landscape, which made her appreciate how big a difference land trust work in Colorado has made over the past 20 years “to make sure we haven’t lost our parks and open spaces, wildlife habitats, river corridors and ranching heritage.”

The recent trip to Kenya, though, was about helping children with no resources get quality medical care. “It brought home to me very forcefully a belief that conservation will not be enduring unless our community connects conservation with people from all walks of life, particularly our increasingly urban population,” says Lise.

On her work on the Land Trust Alliance Board of Directors, she says, “I feel a real sense of urgency in what we all do every day to conserve special places. I look forward to working with the board and the immense network of landowners, land trusts and other potential conservation partners to find ways to best connect the dots between what we do, the land we protect and what protected land can provide for people now and for future generations.” •



Conservation Movement Loses Two Pioneers

Always a champion of conservation, and of diversifying the environmental movement, **Charles Jordan** led by example. After he became the first black city commissioner in Portland, he urged city departments to hire diverse candidates. In 1989, Charles became parks director of Portland, ushering in a time of growth of recreational facilities that benefited communities throughout the city. He died on April 4 at the age of 77.

During the latter part of his career, he led The Conservation Fund and joined the board of directors of the Land Trust Alliance. Fellow board member Glenn Lamb, executive director of Columbia Land Trust, pays tribute to Charles, saying, “How amazing it is that we knew and worked with him, however briefly. He inspires after he is gone. We will always be guided by his belief that we will only save our great places by involving people from every background. Instead of focusing on where we might have failed in the past, Charles maintained an energetic confidence in our ability to do better tomorrow. He was prone to calling the young people that he mentored his ‘brain trust,’ simultaneously giving them responsibility and confidence.”

The land trust movement felt another deep loss at the death of **Dennis Collins**, long-time land trust leader in the Northeast who attended every Land Trust Alliance Rally since they began.

A passionate outdoorsman and conservationist, Dennis transitioned mid-career to the land trust community, serving as executive director of the Berks County Conservancy and then as director of land preservation for the Wildlands Conservancy in Pennsylvania. After retiring to Norfolk, Connecticut, in 2003, he served on advisory boards for local land trusts and conservation organizations, receiving many awards for his leadership in promoting a regional approach to land conservation.

“Dennis was a true gentleman: a man of kindness, compassion and love of the land,” says Sylvia Bates, Alliance director of standards and research. “He was both a humble leader and an inspiration for those young land conservation professionals like me just starting out in the field. I will sincerely miss him.” •



Advocacy at its Best

If there is any doubt as to why advocacy matters to land conservation, just ask the Hutchinsons, whose ranch was saved by a mix of funding, including the Farm Bill.

“The conservation of the Hutchinson Ranch would not have been possible without the previous Farm Bill, and we are pleased that these conservation provisions remain as part of the newly passed legislation,” said rancher Art Hutchinson.

More than 150 years of Colorado ranching history and a part of its future were preserved in December when the Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT), in partnership with the Trust for Public Land, completed the protection of 650 acres of the Hutchinson Ranch in Chaffee County. Funding came from Great Outdoors Colorado, Chaffee County and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which administers the applicable Farm Bill funding.

Originally homesteaded in the 1860s by Joseph Hutchinson, the ranch has been passed down through six generations, making it the oldest family-owned ranch in the Upper Arkansas Valley.

The Hutchinson family worked to permanently protect nearly the entire ranch. The easement will allow them to transfer the operation of the ranch to the sixth generation of the family and will provide them with the financial resources they need to continue to work the land. Abby Hutchinson, granddaughter of the family’s patriarch, Wendell “Doc” Hutchinson, will continue to manage the ranch.

“We are excited to see the completion of this important project and to have been a part of helping the Hutchinson family achieve their conservation goals, including providing Abby with an opportunity to carry on the family’s rich ranching heritage,” said Chris West, CCALT executive director. “The project truly embodies the



Art, Wendell and Abby Hutchinson

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mission of CCALT, which is to protect Colorado’s agricultural land, heritage and families for future generations by conserving working rural landscapes.”

West praised the leadership of Senator Michael Bennet (CO), “who has been extraordinary in making the conservation programs in the Farm Bill work for ranchers and farmers,” he said. “Senator Bennet toured the ranch in 2012, and that experience helped him to understand how a conservation easement can be such a benefit to the land, a family and a community.”

Overheard

... at the Land Trust Alliance Southeast Assembly of Land Trusts in March:

“The Assembly was a great experience for the staff of the Land Trust for Tennessee. As a firm believer in the power of telling your story as the fastest way to gain supporters, the ‘Telling Your Land Trust’s Story and Measuring Its Impact’ seminar had me coming back to our team with confidence, new ideas and excitement. And I fell in love with other land trusts as I felt the connection with their breakthroughs and successfully delivered missions.”

—Caitlin Mello, Communications Manager
Land Trust for Tennessee

Ear to the Ground

Wesley Ward has stepped down from his post as vice president of land and community conservation at The Trustees of Reservations in Massachusetts, capping off three decades of accomplishments. As a legacy, The Trustees has established the Wesley T. Ward Fund, to be used when projects are just forming and in their most fragile state. The Trustees welcomes **Robert Warren** as managing director for conservation. Warren was most recently the director of protection and policy for the Massachusetts chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Marie Bostick has become the executive director of the Land Trust of North Alabama in Huntsville.

Colorado Open Lands welcomed new Community Outreach Director **Brandy Bertram**, who was named a Top 5 Young Professional in Colorado by *CoBiz Magazine* and one of *Denver Business Journal’s* 40 Under 40.