



Board Expands by Two More

“I’ve always loved the outdoors,” says **Cary Leptuck**, a new Land Trust Alliance board member, “and I’ve seen too many beautiful places being developed or spoiled. I am driven most by wanting to preserve those places for the generations to follow—especially my eight grandchildren and their children and *all* future generations.”

Cary’s concern for land conservation and community and regional planning led him to a position on the board of the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust in South-eastern Pennsylvania in 2004, where he has been president since 2006. Retired after 40 years in health care management, he has also served as a commissioner of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission since 2008, where his experience with accreditation in health care has been invaluable.

Cary looks forward to serving on the Alliance board, saying, “The Alliance has such an impressive record of influencing and shaping federal and other governmental policy, and I hope to be able to aid that effort, as much still needs to be done. I also have a particular interest in helping land trust boards grow and strengthen their abilities to deal with the challenges yet to come.”

Steve Rosenberg, who also has recently joined the Alliance board, says he looks forward to “learning from my new colleagues and working with them to clear the path for more land trusts to reach their full potential.”

Steve says inspiration for his work as executive director of Scenic Hudson Land Trust in New York comes from “just having the good fortune to be able to conserve land. But what inspires me most is seeing how people who already have a connection to the land work together to save those places that matter to them, and how conserving land can help to instill a land ethic in those who haven’t had that kind of connection before.”

“The Hudson Valley region where I live and work is magnificent—so rich with stories,” says Steve. “It has former industrial sites transformed into waterfront parks, family farms supplying New York City with fresh food and pristine preserves providing habitat to wildlife and inspiration to people. Every region has its special places that imprint the people who experience them, and it’s the essential character of those places that we need to save.” •



ROBERT RODRIGUEZ JR.

Ear to the Ground

George “Mac” McCarthy, an economist at the Ford Foundation dedicated to improving conditions in metropolitan areas worldwide, has been named the fifth president of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

Cliff Chapman is the new executive director of Central Indiana Land Trust. Capitol Land Trust in Washington welcomed new Executive Director **Amanda Reed**.

After eight years as executive director of Downeast Lakes Land Trust in Maine, **Mark Berry** has left to become president of the Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park.

Jon Leibowitz has recently been promoted to executive director at the Montezuma Land Conservancy in Colorado.

Robert Ramsay is Georgia Conservancy’s new president. Shasta Land Trust in California welcomed **Anne Murphy** as its new executive director.

Andrew Waters, the executive director of the Spartanburg Area Conservancy, has been named the director of the South Carolina Land Trust Network.



George “Mac” McCarthy



Amanda Reed



Andrew Waters

Rebecca Jewett, former executive director of the Rocky Mountain Field Institute, is now the executive director of the Palmer Land Trust in Colorado. Former executive director **Scott Campbell** left to begin his fellowship at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design. He is one of only nine individuals from around the world selected to become a 2014–2015 Harvard Loeb Fellow.

West Virginia Land Trust celebrates its 20th year in 2014.

Sheffield Land Trust in Massachusetts celebrated 25 years in June. In May the **Scenic Rivers Land Trust** in Maryland celebrated 25 years.

Ozark Regional Land Trust in Missouri celebrated 30 years in May.

To recognize its 40th anniversary, the **Mattapoissett Land Trust** in Massachusetts created a monument listing the 10 men and women who founded the trust in 1974.



CPL. ALI AZIMI, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, MCAGCC

On April 22, Earth Day, the community came together to clean up a beautiful stretch of desert protected by the Mojave Desert Land Trust.

A Rare Wonder Brings a Community Together

It pays to have good neighbors. More than 90 active duty Marines and their families from the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in 29 Palms assisted the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) in an Earth Day cleanup on a 647-acre preserved parcel in Joshua Tree, California.

Lance Corporal Jonathan Smith participated in the event with his wife and 5-year-old daughter, saying, “We had the opportunity to volunteer in the community as a family. My daughter had a great time!”

MDLT’s service area encompasses the eastern Mojave Desert, reaching from Death Valley National Park to the Mexico border. The region includes three national parks, 45 Bureau of Land Management Wilderness areas, several major population centers and five military installations, thus the great turnout at the cleanup.

The California Desert stretches across 29 million acres, or 28% of California’s landmass. Home to rare plants and magnificent creatures, it is a place of scenic wonder and tremendous biological diversity. But in the fast-growing area, many plants are threatened or endangered, star-filled night skies are impacted by light

pollution, wildlife habitat is fragmented and wildlife corridors are disrupted by development.

Danielle Segura, executive director of Mojave Desert Land Trust, says they are very grateful for the help at the event. “MDLT and The Trust for Public Land are proud of the acquisition of Section 33, funded by the 29 Palms Marine Base, the Wildlife Conservation Board and donations to MDLT’s Wildlife Linkage Campaign. But much of Section 33 has been compromised by dumping. More than 41 tons of debris was initially removed, followed by more than 1,800 pounds at this event.”

“The cleanup gave participants a meaningful way to celebrate Earth Day, enjoy the great outdoors and meet other conservation-minded people,” says Segura.

Elda Newton, a military spouse and the leader of a local Girl Scout troop, participated in the cleanup with several girls from her troop and their parents. “I think it’s so important to encourage the girls to give back whenever they can,” said Newton. “This event was a great opportunity to put that into practice.”