



Linda Ujifusa Board of Trustees, Chair

Dear Friends of Aquidneck Land Trust:

It has been a very exciting year for ALT. Since our last Annual Meeting, ALT has conserved additional priority watershed protection acres and now successfully stewards a total of 2,425 acres of open space for the lasting benefit of our community. In addition, I am thrilled to announce that in April 2013, the ALT Board unanimously voted to hire Mr. Charles ("Chuck") Allott as our new permanent Executive Director. Chuck, who served as ALT's Interim Executive Director since December 2012, is an attorney, long-time resident of Aquidneck Island, and one of ALT's founders and most active volunteers. His broad and deep knowledge of our community and land conservation has allowed him to accomplish an incredible amount during his short tenure. We are indeed fortunate to have Chuck lead ALT.

In the past year, the Board has focused on reviewing and improving our strategy to accomplish our mission. While we are pleased that there are several new conservation projects in the pipeline, as well as new education and outreach initiatives, it has become clear that there is much work left for ALT to accomplish and our pace must increase. There are 4,500 priority acres left to conserve on Aquidneck Island. If we continue at our average past rate of conservation, we will not complete our work for another 45 years. It is certain that these properties will not be available to conserve for that amount of time. As Chuck describes in his letter which follows, it is urgent that ALT act more quickly - we are making plans to do so – but we need your help.

It has been a great privilege to serve as Board Chair for the past two years. I want to express my deep appreciation for the dedication, vision, intelligence and kindness of ALT staff, volunteers, donors, land owners, and our public and private partners. We are blessed to live in a community where people care so deeply for their environment and each other.

Thank you.

Zinda Z Vyifusa



Dear ALT Friends and Supporters,

It has been an incredible privilege to serve as Interim Executive Director since December 2012 and permanent ED since April 2013. I am happy to report that ALT has continued to pursue aggressively its mission of protecting the drinking water, agriculture, recreation, scenic vistas and overall quality of life on Aquidneck Island. We conserved over 12 acres of priority watershed protection parcels in the last fiscal year and have multiple land conservation projects scheduled to close in the next few months. In addition, our Stewardship Fund received a very generous gift of approximately \$2.8 million dollars from the Marcella Clark McCormick Newport Trust that helps ensure ALT will continue to properly care for our 2429 acres of conserved property in perpetuity. We have also conducted a very successful education and outreach program, revamped our advancement strategy, and recruited many excellent volunteers, including our new class of trustees.

Despite our many successes, however, I must note that Aquidneck Island's ecosystem is at a tipping point. Studies have shown that if greater than 25% of a watershed is developed with impervious cover (rooftops, patios, driveways, parking lots and roads) water quality impacts can be so severe that it may not be possible to restore water quality to pre-existing conditions. Some of our drinking water watersheds are already well over that tipping point, but most are not yet there. Although the exact tipping points of other areas of conservation are not known, it is certainly fair to say that if we do not save more of the remaining priority farm land in Portsmouth and Middletown, we may lose the ability to provide adequate local, secure, and sustainable food sources to our island residents. Similarly, if we cannot conserve more of Newport's cultural, historic or recreational properties, many of which are now on the market, we may lose forever the multiple benefits these properties provide. The real estate market has slowed, but we know that it is only a matter of time before the next development boom on Aquidneck Island; the recently reported impending threat of rail service serves only to accelerate this development boom. Clearly, the need for land preservation has never been greater. In the next year, ALT will focus on protecting the ecosystems of Aquidneck Island because it is the most effective and least



Front row: Diana Britton, Charles B. Allott Back row: Courtney Huth, Sophia DeMaio, David A. Thalmann, Jessica Pohl

expensive way to protect the health and welfare of our island's residents. The goal of protecting open space has never been just about protecting luxuries for a few individuals, it has and always will be to create a green infrastructure that will protect the necessities that benefit us all — clean water, fresh food, recreation, and scenic vistas. More than ever before, the work of ALT matters. More than ever before, we ask for your generous help.

Thank you.

Charles B. Allott, Executive Director

June B. allot

OCTOBER 2012

- Received a Rhody Preservation Award from Preserve Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission for ALT's Ocean Drive beautification project, which the organization completed with the visionary support of the Bilden family.
- Hosted the Grand Opening of ALT's new 5-mile segment of the Sakonnet Greenway Trail. Located on the western side of Mitchell's Lane in Middletown, the new segment connects to the previously built 5 +/- mile segment of the trail that runs from The Glen in Portsmouth south to the Newport National Golf Course land on the east side of Mitchell's Lane. ALT's Sakonnet Greenway Trail is now 10 +/- miles in length!
- Attended the national Land Trust Alliance Rally in Salt Lake City, Utah

NOVEMBER 2012

- Through the generosity of the Crump family, acquired a perpetual Conservation Easement, as part of ALT's Newport Conservation Initiative, on a strategic 3.76 +/- acre open space property situated within Newport's scenic Ocean Drive corridor and contiguous with other conserved lands and Gooseneck Cove.
- As part of our Conservation Speaker Series, Doctor Robert A. Carrellas, respected local physician and Aquidneck Land Trust Trustee, discussed nature as nurturer and various medical studies and initiatives that illustrate how protecting land helps protect our health.
- Hosted ALT's 5th annual Race for Open Space on the Sakonnet Greenway Trail.

FEBRUARY 2013

• Conducted ALT's 22nd Annual Meeting to a sold-out crowd at the Atlantic Beach Club in Middletown.

MARCH 2013

• Together with the Preservation Society of Newport County and several other partners, presented "Moving Beyond the Silo Mentality: Considering Cultural Landscapes, Design and Historic Preservation Together", in which Charles Birnbaum, founder and president of the Cultural Landscape Foundation, discussed the preservation of "cultural landscapes," which include historic sites, formally designed and vernacular landscapes.

APRIL 2013

- ALT's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to appoint Charles ("Chuck") Allott, Esq., to be the next Executive Director of the Aquidneck Land Trust.
- In collaboration with newportFILM and the Newport Tree Society, as part of ALT's Conservation Speaker Series, presented a screening of "Elemental", a documentary that enhances the "think globally, act locally" philosophy.
- Signed a Conservation Collaboration Agreement with Saint Michael's Country Day School, under which the entire school became members of ALT.
- Conducted a joint Earth Day cleanup with St. Michael's School staff and students in Albro Woods in Middletown.

MAY 2013

- At a ceremony in Providence attended by Governor Chaffee and Senator Shelden Whithouse, ALT was presented with the Chafee Conservation Leadership Award by the Environmental Council of Rhode Island and was also awarded a certificate of special congressional recognition from Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. The Leadership Award was in recognition of the 5-mile expansion of our Sakonnet Greenway Trail into Middletown.
- Awarded 14 grants, totaling \$7,000, to local conservation projects through ALT's Merritt Neighborhood Fund. Grant awards will be used to expand community gardens that provide food to local shelters, for the creation of a school community garden, to sustain a children's green classroom learning program, for the installation of irrigation for community and school gardens, for the installation of public access bike racks, and to plant and maintain trees and flowers at various locations on the Island.
- As part of ALT's Conservation Speaker Series, Meg Kerr gave a talk on Watershed Counts project indicators, summarizing the current condition of Narragansett Bay and its watershed, identifying successes and areas of concern for future management.
- Offered a Conservation Circle Trolley Tour of ALT conserved properties.
- Hosted the Annual Landowner Appreciation Party for landowners of ALT conserved lands.



JUNE 2013

- As part of Portsmouth's 375th Anniversary celebration and ALT's Walk & Talk series, Garry Plunkett led a walk in Oakland Forest, Aquidneck Island's old growth beech forest, to discuss the ecological history of Oakland forest and its context in the New England landscape.
- Offered a Conservation Circle Trolley Tour of ALT conserved properties.
- Hosted the Annual ALT Trustees and Advisors Meeting

JULY 2013

- \bullet Acquired a perpetual Conservation Easement from the Randall family on 11 +/- acres of Watershed and Habitat protection land, located next to other previously conserved lands and with the Maidford River running through it, on Berkeley Avenue in Middletown.
- Hosted our 11th Annual Golf Tournament at Newport National Golf Club.
- Hosted *Fiesta Verde 2013: A Midsummer Night's Dream* on the lawn of Chastellux, the Spencer family estate in Newport.
- Development Director Jessica Pohl appeared on WADK, Newport's talk radio station, to discuss ALT's mission and time-sensitive conservation work.

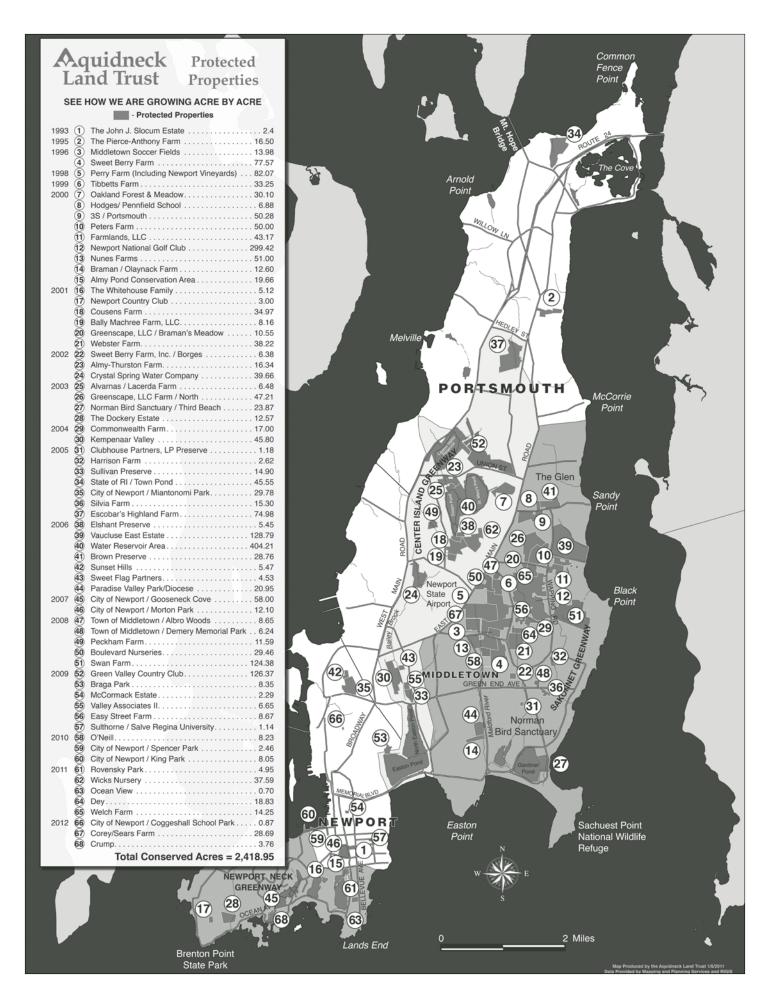
AUGUST 2013

- As part of ALT's Walk & Talk series, Renee Gamba, who works at planetariums in Providence and Middletown, led a guided moon walk along the Sakonnet Greenway Trail, where she introduced the summer night sky and pointed out celestial interactions, features, constellations, and related myths.
- Presented a Walk & Talk, led by Salve Regina University professor Jim Chace, about his work with his students on migratory bird research and bird banding along Bailey Brook.
- Offered a Conservation Circle Trolley Tour of ALT conserved properties.

SEPTEMBER 2013

- ALT's Stewardship Director, Sophia DeMaio, and the Preservation Society of Newport County's Director of Gardens and Grounds, Jeff Curtis, and led a tour of Newport's Rovensky Park, one of Aquidneck Island's oldest parks, as part of ALT's Walk & Talk series.
- Attended the national Land Trust Alliance Rally in New Orleans.
- Offered a Conservation Circle Trolley Tour of ALT conserved properties.
- Board completed and approved "strategy to 2017," a new strategy statement for ALT





LANDOWNER PARTNERS | 2013



ounded in 1990, the Land Trust's first conservation easement was placed on the historic Slocum estate on Bellevue Avenue. Since that time the Land trust has conserved over 2,000 acres with many landowners. We gratefully thank these very special individuals, families, businesses, neighborhood associations, municipalities, and other government agencies who have partnered with us to preserve and steward their land in perpetuity. Their vision for the future, and appreciation of the past, leave a legacy for all to enjoy.

Anonymous

Anonymous

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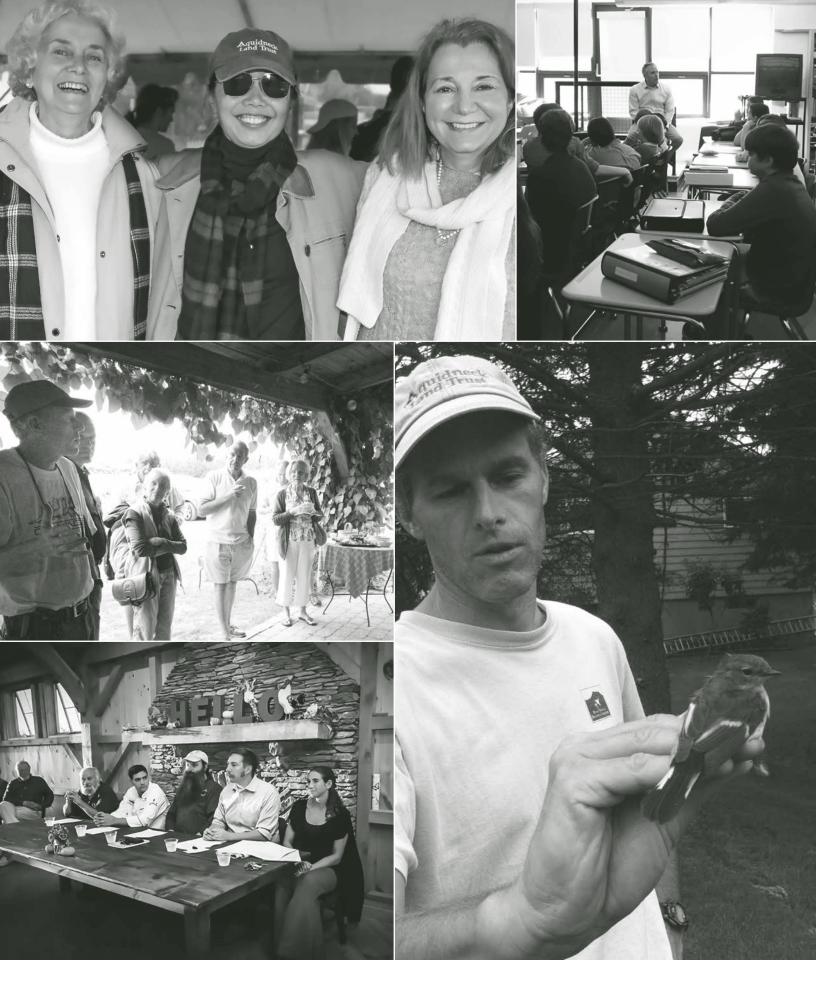
Mr. and Mrs. James Webster

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The Wicks Family



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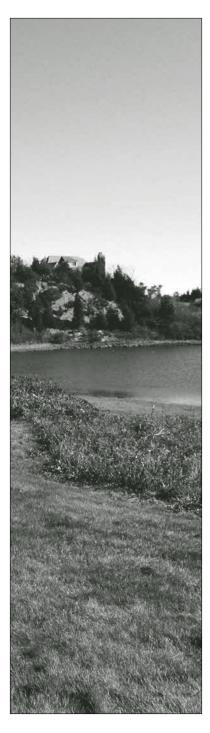






AQUIDNECK LAND TRUST FINANCIAL SUMMARY (UNAUDITED)

For the Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2013 $\,$



If you would like a copy of the Aquidneck Land Trust's Audited Financial Statements for the twelve months ended September 30, 2013, prepared by Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd. or information about the ways you can support the Aquidneck Land Trust, please contact David A. Thalmann, Director of Finance & Administration at (401) 849-2799 x 17 or email dthalmann@ailt.org.

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:

PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE	
Grant	\$ 168,602
Donations and Appeals	141,175
Membership Dues	72,871
Special Events, net of direct benefit costs	99,700
Investment income	203,587
Subtotal	\$ 685,935
Net Assets released from restrictions:	
Satisfaction of program restrictions	\$ 2,227,439
Satisfaction of program restrictions	<u>Ψ 2,227,±33</u>
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$ 2,913,374
EXPENSES	
Program Services:	
Land Acquisition	\$ 101,543
Stewardship	\$ 269,778
Conservation Easements	2,038,760
Membership and Education	107,535
Total Program Services	\$ 2,517,616
Support Services:	
Management and General Operations	\$ 252,471
Fundraising	116,841
Total Support Services	\$ 369,312
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,886,928
TOTAL CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ 26,446
CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:	
Investment income	\$ 218,884
Unappropriated earnings on permanently restricted net assets	21,445
Donations of conservation easements	1,850,000
Grants	267,500
Net assets released from restrictions	(2,227,439)
Total changes in temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 142,992
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 169,438
NET ASSETS, beginning of the fiscal year	\$ 7,569,253
NET ASSETS, end of the fiscal year	\$ 7,738,691
Land Preservation Fund	\$ 2,733,714
Merritt Neighborhood Endowment Fund	81,986
Legal Defense Fund	377,685
Stewardship Endowment Fund	3,575,665
General Operating Fund	969,641
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 7,738,691

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FISCAL YEAR 2013

he Board of Trustees is deeply grateful to the hundreds of individuals, families, businesses, organizations, foundations, government entities, and landowners who generously support our work each year. The Aquidneck Land Trust strives to offer creative, flexible, respectful and convenient methods to enlist lasting philanthropic support. Membership dues, targeted appeals and campaigns, specials events, planned gifts and bequests, in-kind goods and services, and donations of land and conservation easements all enable those who treasure Aquidneck Island to participate in the work of ALT. Our heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the Aquidneck Land Trust during this fiscal year, which concluded on September 30, 2013.

\$50,000+

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By remembering ALT in their wills or other planned gift vehicles, members of the Green Island Society create living legacies that demonstrate their love of and concern for the future of Aquidneck Island.

If you are interested in a planned gift benefiting ALT, we would be honored to work with you and your advisors to carry out your wishes. For more information, contact ALT's Development Director, Jessica Pohl, at 401-849-2799 ext. 18.

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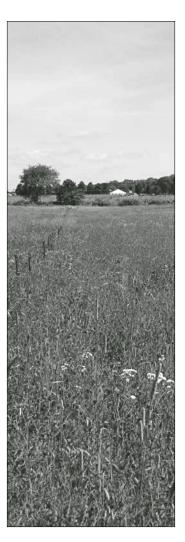
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The Board of Trustees thanks retiring Board Members for their outstanding dedication and support.





OUR MISSION

"Preserving the Island's open spaces and natural character for the lasting benefit of our community."

OUR VALUES

The Aquidneck Land Trust believes that we must take a holistic approach to land conservation if we are to help our island community achieve a sustainable future. Therefore, ALT works to protect a number of natural resource types that we depend upon as a species (wildlife habitat, agricultural land, water resource areas, outdoor recreational space, scenic vistas, etc.). In this work, ALT is guided by its values: Integrity; Environmental Consciousness; Embracing Community as a Partner; Respect and Stewardship of the Land; and Volunteerism. ALT was founded as a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization in 1990.

 $The \ Aquidneck \ Land \ Trust \ preserves \ the \ Island's \ open \ spaces \ and \ natural \ character \ for \ the \ lasting \ benefit \ of \ our \ community.$

