OUR MISSION
To preserve and steward
Aquidneck Island’s open spaces
for the lasting
benefit of the
community, while
connecting
people with the land that defines
the island’s
natural character.

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Cover image: The Blue Garden, Newport
Millicent Harvey Photography
Dear ALT Friends,

We are very pleased to share details of our terrific 2018 fiscal year with you. Our many accomplishments are made possible by the extraordinary support of those who love Aquidneck Island as much as we do. Thank you for your enthusiasm, volunteer hours, financial contributions, and shared belief that the beauty of our island is worth preserving.

We have conserved three properties since our last annual meeting: the Warner parcel in Middletown, Little Creek Preserve in Portsmouth, and The Blue Garden in Newport. We hosted two open houses for Spruce Acres Farm in December and appreciated the many compliments on the work we have done there to create the island’s newest park. We have maintained and provided over 12 miles of free, publicly-accessible nature trails for our community, educated hundreds of local youth on the damage inflicted by various pollutants on our seven local drinking water reservoirs, introduced a way to connect farmers to available land via our new website, and provided free programming to hundreds of participants through our Walk & Talk series and special lectures. Our timeline on page four gives more detail on these and other successes.

At our annual meeting on February 7, 2019, we will welcome two new board members, Tim Brown and William Harvey, who will replace outgoing board members Taylor Rock and Mary Clare O’Grady. Many thanks to each of them for their expertise and dedication to ALT. Our board and committees contribute hundreds of hours each year to the direction and oversight of our organization, and our reputation for strong fiscal management and governance is a direct result of their deep commitment.

We look forward to another knockout year of conserving our precious – and dwindling – land and water resources, and we thank you very sincerely for your generous support. Our very best wishes to you and yours in 2019.

See you on the trail,

Charles B. Allott, Esq.
Executive Director

Nancy Jamison
Board Chair

From left to right: Alex Chuman (Stewardship Director), Gretchen Markert (Communications & Outreach Manager), Laura Freedman Pedrick (Development Director), Meghan Harris (Office Manager), Julia Colt (Development Assistant), Martha Curley (Finance Director), Chuck Allott (Executive Director)
**Milestones**

**The 15.28-acre Little Creek Preserve in Portsmouth was conserved by ALT in 2018.**

**OCTOBER 2017**
- ALT led a Moon Walk on the Sakonnet Greenway Trail. Hiking three miles by moonlight past vineyard, meadow, and woodland was a great way to spend a fall evening.
- Col. Joe McGraw, professor at the Naval War College, led a talk on the Battle of RI at the Memorial Tower in Miantonomi Park as part of ALT’s Conservation Speaker series.
- ALT staff led a watershed demonstration to students at All Saints Academy.
- Throughout the fall, ALT staff led tours of Little Creek Preserve.

**NOVEMBER 2017**
- ALT held its annual Race for Open Space 5K Run/Walk on the Sakonnet Greenway Trail. Over 250 participated.
- On November 17, Stewardship Director Alex Chuman facilitated a discussion at a Climate Resiliency conference, hosted by the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission.

**DECEMBER 2017**
- ALT donated two large Christmas trees from Spruce Acres. One lit up Newport City Hall and another decorated Storer Park in The Point neighborhood of Newport.
- ALT closed on its 78th conservation property, the Warner Preserve, a 5-acre parcel of wetland habitat on the Maidford River in Middletown. The parcel was donated by John and Deborah Warner.
JANUARY 2018

- ALT launched its new website, featuring a new sub-site called FarmLink Aquidneck. The farm site includes resources for local farmers and a land-link database that connects landowners willing to lease their lands with prospective farmers.
- ALT participated in the Newport Health Equity Zone visioning lab.

FEBRUARY 2018

- Our 27th Annual Meeting was held at the Atlantic Resort. More than 300 ALT members celebrated ALT’s achievements and we recognized the winners of the Sixteen on Center Art & Writing Contest.
- Using an interactive watershed model, ALT presented to six Thompson Middle School classes on watershed conservation and local water issues.
- With a grant from the Champlin Foundation, ALT purchased a new stewardship vehicle to help fulfill stewardship obligations on trails and properties. ALT also received funds for a new Field and Brush Cutter that will help clear trails and manage vegetation and invasive species on properties.
- ALT secured a significant Open Space grant from the RI Department of Environmental Management for over $150,000 towards the purchase of Little Creek Preserve.

MARCH 2018

- ALT partnered with the Newport County YMCA to host a presentation on the new federal tax code, presented by David Matarese, CPA, of Corrigan Financial, Inc.
- Executive Director Chuck Allott and Stewardship Director Alex Chuman presented three workshops on land conservation at the annual RI Land and Water Summit, a gathering of over 300 local land trust and water professionals.
- ALT and Potter League for Animals sponsored a day-long board training focused on “How the Board Can Help in Fundraising.”
- ALT hosted the first of multiple volunteer orientation days for its Adopt-A-Trail program. This committed group monitors and helps manage 10+ miles of ALT trails.
- The Green Infrastructure Coalition, of which ALT is a member, began its homeowner grant program for stormwater improvements, encouraging use of rain barrels, rain gardens, and permeable pavement to improve water quality. This project is funded by the van Beuren Charitable Foundation.
- Four ALT staff attended the 2018 Land and Water Conservation Summit, held at the University of Rhode Island.

APRIL 2018

- Thanks to a generous sponsorship from The Roberts Group at Morgan Stanley, ALT partnered with Clean Ocean Access at a clean-up at Ft. Adams State Park to beautify the area in preparation for the Volvo Race.
- ALT and ACT co-hosted a speaker, Patricia Klindienst, who shared her stories about the cultural importance of community gardens, particularly
for immigrant communities. Over 100 attended the event, held at Salve Regina University.

- ALT participated in Portsmouth High School’s Earth Day celebration and spoke about ALT-conserved local trails and open spaces. Students also painted rain barrels and learned about other measures to reduce stormwater impacts.
- ALT partnered with the Town of Middletown for an Earth Day Clean-up at Middletown Valley. The site has been improved by the Town with walking paths and tree plantings.
- The ALT team taught watershed science to two classes at Middletown High School and the entire student body of The Pennfield School.
- Partnering with Clean Ocean Access and the Green Infrastructure Coalition and thanks to a grant from the RI Foundation, ALT hosted the first Aquidneck Island Rain Barrel Fest. 140 rain barrels were distributed.
- Throughout the spring and summer, ALT worked on improving the Spruce Acres property. The first phase included repair to outbuildings, gutter systems, and garage doors. The second phase involved trail and site improvements.

**MAY 2018**

- ALT’s Merritt Fund distributed more than $15,000 in small grants to 13 grassroots organizations for conservation projects ranging from community garden construction to tree plantings and tree management.
- Nick Perrotti of Portsmouth Troop 82 completed his Eagle Scout project by constructing a new trailhead kiosk at Spruce Acres. Throughout the spring and summer, Rogers students and ALT volunteers helped with projects at Spruce Acres.
- As a member of the Green Infrastructure Coalition, ALT organized and participated in a green infrastructure maintenance workshop for its partners.
- ALT’s stewardship department kicked off the 2018 conservation easement monitoring season. ALT monitors its 80+ conservation easements across 78 properties via annual site visits to ensure the terms in these agreements are being kept and the land remains as open space.

**JUNE 2018**

- ALT held its annual appreciation barbeque for landowners and volunteers at ALT-conserved Newport Vineyards.
- ALT held its first Trolley Tour of the season. Participants rode a vintage-style trolley bus to several conserved properties, followed by a stop at Sweet Berry Farm for complimentary refreshments.
- ALT held its 16th annual golf tournament at Newport National Golf Club. The fundraiser brought golfers together for a gorgeous day of play on an ALT-conserved property, raising $26,000 to support our land conservation efforts.
- ALT, the City of Newport, and the Newport Open Space Partnership kicked off another summer of opening the Memorial Tower at Miantonomi Park to the public. Thanks to the 1772 Foundation for their support!
• ALT welcomed two seasonal interns from Salve Regina University to assist in the stewardship and development departments.
• ALT announced the purchase of the 15.3-acre Little Creek Preserve. Located on Bramans Lane in Portsmouth, this property will include an extension of the Sakonnet Greenway Trail and provide excellent wildlife habitat.

JULY 2018

• ALT held its annual summer fundraiser, “Fiesta Verde,” at the beautiful Middletown property of Dr. Lewis Arnow. The theme was “Forever Farmland” and it raised funds for general operations, thanks to our extremely generous supporters. An additional $60,000 was pledged to support Phase 2 of Little Creek Preserve.

AUGUST 2018

• Thirty-five top donors attended an invitation-only Trolley Tour.
• A private ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at Spruce Acres to inaugurate The Gewirz Trail.

SEPTEMBER 2018

• Miantonomi Park offered its last Open Tower day of the season. Over 700 visitors climbed the tower this summer to enjoy the fantastic view visible from the top.
• Staff and volunteers planted 140 bird and pollinator-friendly native shrubs at the Sweet Flag property in Middletown.
• Dr. Jim Chace led his popular bird banding demonstration at the Sweet Flag property. He demonstrated how birds are caught, weighed, and inspected, and explained how the data is used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
• Our final Trolley Tour of the season was at full capacity, as another 35 members and visitors enjoyed a tour of conserved properties.

Collaborations

Aquidneck Land Trust partners with organizations to support clean water, working farmlands, accessible parks and trails, scenic viewsheds, effectively managed wildlife habitat, and smart environmental policy.

Coyote Smarts: www.coyotesmarts.org
Green Infrastructure Coalition: www.greeninfrastructure.org
Island Waters: aquidneckplanning.org/projects/257/
Scenic Aquidneck: www.scenicaquidneck.org
Newport Open Space Partnership: www.newportopenspace.org
HEZ/Women’s Resource Center: newportthealthequity.com
total conserved acres: 2,595.67
Landowner Partners

Founded 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 2,599 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 priceless legacy for all to enjoy.


Green Island Society

You can help protect and conserve Aquidneck Island for future generations by making a planned gift to Aquidneck Land Trust. Please let us know if you have included ALT in your estate plan so that we can welcome you to the Green Island Society. We honor this society throughout the year and thank its members for their generosity and foresight. Together, we can protect this beautiful island.

Thank you to our Green Island Society members:

Andy Arkway*  Dennis Bristow  Beth Everett*  Michele Foster  John* and Joanne Gorman  Bruce Hoitt*  Nancy Jamison  Paul and Beverly Kelly  Roger and Sandra King  Sanne Kure-Jensen  Marcella Clark McCormack*  William Mershon*  Jim and Jane Moore  Drs. Christopher Pargellis and Denice Spero  Don and Meg Steiner  Sheila Reilly  Marjorie Ward*

Leaving a legacy to protect the island we love.  *DECEASED

For more information, contact Laura Freedman Pedrick at lpedrick@ailt.org or 401.849.2799, ext. 18.
The Blue Garden

The Blue Garden, a historic Newport property designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., was placed under permanent conservation easement by ALT in December 2018. The 3.68-acre property will remain under the ownership and care of the Hamilton Family Charitable Trust, which donated the easement, and the garden will function as it has since its restoration in 2014. It is the 80th property conserved by ALT since its founding in 1990 and brings the total conserved acreage on the island to 2,599.35 acres.

Originally designed for Newport residents Arthur Curtiss James and his wife, Harriet Parsons James, the Blue Garden was unveiled in 1913 in a celebratory event that was chronicled in newspapers and magazines throughout the country. After the owners’ deaths in 1941, the garden fell into disrepair. The James’ mansion on the property was destroyed by fire in 1967 and later demolished, the land subdivided into lots and sold. In 2012, Newport philanthropist and horticulturist Dorrance Hamilton, who had purchased the property, hired Providence-based Parker Construction and Cambridge-based Reed Hilderbrand Landscape Architecture and other consultants to recreate the garden from archival material. Today, groups and individuals associated with garden design, landscape architecture, horticulture or historic preservation may request a tour; information is on the Blue Garden website (www.thebluegarden.org/visiting).
Spruce Acres Opens to the Public

Aquidneck Island’s newest park opened in December 2018 and is already a popular spot for nature lovers, dog walkers, bird watchers and visitors of all ages. The 22.67-acre property was purchased and conserved by ALT in July 2017 with the help of over 500 donations from enthusiastic supporters. Staff members and over 100 volunteers spent months clearing trails, painting and cleaning outbuildings, creating trail signage, managing the installation of an environmentally-friendly parking lot and new curb cut, and installing map kiosks.

Open dawn till dusk daily, the new park features the 1.5-mile Gewirz Trail and the 19th-century Loebs Barn, which was dedicated in honor of Edith Shaw Safe Loebs at the property’s open house in December. Check our website soon for information about community gardens at Spruce Acres.

Bride and Groom Donate to Land Trust

ALT was delighted to receive an email last summer from Piper Michol Chapman and Tyler Hundley, Boston residents planning their upcoming Newport wedding, who wanted to make a donation in honor of their guests. We shared details on current projects and the couple quickly decided to support our campaign to improve Little Creek Preserve. Their generous contribution will help fund the new birdwatching boardwalk, planned for 2019.

When asked what prompted their gift, Piper explained, “Tyler and I wanted to forego the typical “wedding favor” and offer something more meaningful to our guests. I was born and raised in Middletown and have always appreciated the natural beauty and landscape of our town and island. Tyler immediately found his own appreciation for the land and through the desire to preserve and show admiration to the place we’ve grown to love, we opted to make a donation on behalf of our 150 wedding guests. In each place setting, we included a small printout of the history of ALT and a blurb on the donation. We had quite a few people compliment us on this idea and many found this gift to be far more thoughtful than a physical item. Tyler and I feel honored to have contributed to ALT in the very small way we could.”

Thank you, Piper and Tyler, for your generous and creative donation!
Financial Summary (unaudited*) for the Twelve Months Ending September 30, 2018

SUPPORT & REVENUE (for General Operating purposes)
Grants $341,440
Donations & appeals 175,487
Membership dues & other income 66,199
Net special events income 137,859
Net Investment income (available for general operation purposes) 70,713

TOTAL EXPENSES
Program Expenses
Land Acquisition & Conservation Easements 163,536
Stewardship 145,428
Membership & Education 125,711
Management & General 316,961
Fundraising 148,367
Expenses not associated with General Operations (146,770)

EXPENSES for General Operating purposes $753,233

SUPPORT & REVENUE (not available for General Operating purposes)
Grants $41,415
Donations & appeals 6,972
In-kind contributions (conserved parcel & equipment) 307,800
Net Investment income (not available for general operation purposes) 468,843
Donations & Grants for Little Creek Preserve acquisition & improvements 422,388

SUPPORT & REVENUE other than General Operating 1,247,418

EXPENSES other than General Operating (146,770)

NET INCOME not available for General Operating purposes $1,100,648

TOTAL NET INCOME (Increase in Net Assets) $1,139,113

NET ASSETS, beginning of the fiscal year $14,084,672

NET ASSETS, end of the fiscal year $15,223,785

Land (owned in fee) $6,323,732
Land Preservation Fund 5,838
Stewardship Endowment Funds 7,361,221
Legal Defense Fund 173,291
Other Temporarily Restricted Funds 131,588
Merritt Neighborhood Fund 143,999
Spruce Acres & Little Creek Capital Improvement Funds 243,389
General Operating Fund 377,187
Property & Equipment 463,540

TOTAL NET ASSETS $15,223,785

*If you would like a copy of the Aquidneck Land Trust’s Audited Financial Statements for the twelve months ended September 30, 2018, prepared by Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd., please contact Martha Curley, Finance Director at (401) 367-4547 or email mcurley@alt.org.
By the Numbers Fiscal Year 2018

WATERSHEDS
41 Properties within drinking watersheds protected
21% Of land within drinking watersheds protected
140 Rain barrels distributed

EDUCATION
300 Students learned about watersheds
1,200 Attended ‘Walk & Talk’ and Conservation Speaker series

AGRICULTURE
1,124 Acres of farmland protected
33 Projects with farmland
100% Of ALT-owned farmland is leased

ALT OFFICE
7 Staff

CONSERVATION
2,595.67 ACRES CONSERVED 1990-2018
79 CONSERVED PROPERTIES 1990-2018
20.28 ACRES CONSERVED in 2018
10.6% OF AQUIDNECK ISLAND CONSERVED BY ALT CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

RECREATION
835 Acres of recreational land protected
35 Public access properties
2 Golf courses protected
17 Parks protected
12 Miles of free public trail maintained

STEWARDSHIP
140 Native trees & shrubs planted
90 Conservation easement monitoring site visits
3 New trailhead kiosks built
25 Adopt-a-trail volunteers
1.5 Miles of new trail at Spruce Acres
Philanthropic Support

Our heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the Aquidneck Land Trust during this fiscal year, which concluded on September 30, 2018.

$100,000 and above
William R. Mershon Trust
RI Dept. of Environmental Management

$50,000 to $99,999
Prince Charitable Trusts
van Beuren Charitable Foundation

$25,000 to $49,999
EJMP Fund for Philanthropy
The Gruben Charitable Foundation
Dwight and Susan Sippelre

$10,000 to $24,999
1772 Foundation
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Champlin Foundation
Dr. Arthur Daily
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Bernard and Sarah Gewirz
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Katrina Heron
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Jackie Hole
James and Tereis Hubbard
Kathy and Pierre Irving
Kasischke Family
Carla and Charles Kenahan
Mary F. Kesson

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Kathleen Prestidge
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John W. and Peggy Richmond
Peter Richtmyer
Peter and Kim Robey
Marie Robinson
Baley Rochefort
Taylor T. Rock
Robert Rose
Kenneth and Janice Rose
Arthur and Denise Rossi
Ann Rossman
Kaity Ryan and Tom Hodgkins
Susan Ryan and Matt Bodah
Sally S. Sadler
Victor Sawicki
Kenneth and Tia Scigulinsky
Carol Scott
Robert and Virginia Searle
Ruth T. Sears
Seaside Garden Club
Carolyn Sedgwick
Phyllis Seaba
Christopher Semonelli
Trish and Robert Seward
John F. and Pat Sheehan
Thomas and Cheyllyn Sheehan
Edwin and Dorothy Sheffield
Gay Sheffield
Edward Sherman
Onida Sherman
Sophia Sibbles
Leonard and Prudence Silvia
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Raymond and Susan Tellier
George and Sibihan Thurston
Beverly Tiffault
Joseph and Leslie Tomaino
Christopher G. Tompsett
Toohey Family
Lynne Torrey
Robert and Elizabeth Trainor
Carol Lynn Trocki
Mary Jo Valdes and Dave Davis
Edward and Laurel Valen
Rosalie Valen
Daniel Valente
Kristin Van Wagner
Anton Vasak
Viking Tours of Newport
Noah Walcott
George and Phyllis Walker
Kelly and Lisa Walker
Jessica Walsh
Roger and Eileen Warburton
Brien and Helen Welch
Leanne and J.T. West
Glenn and Elizabeth Whisler
Jeanne M. Whitehead
Sharelynn W. Williams
Evamaria Williams
Shawan Williams and Andrew MacKeith
Jean Wilson and Andre Levesque
Alyce Wright
Peter and Betty Wright
Lawrence Zevon
Christina Zoppel

**Tribute Gifts**

In Honor of Charles Clarkson
Seaside Garden Club

In Honor of Julia Coll
Aidan Coll
James Coll

In Honor of Nicole Cordiliko
Katherine and Mike Cucuzza
Cristina Cordiliko
George and JoAnne Galdo

In Honor of Glenn and Kim Darden
Sam and Janis Brous
Randy and Beth Gideon
James and Teresa Hubbard

In Honor of Lilly Dick
Alexander Gee

In Honor of Nancy Evans
The Richard Foundation

In Honor of Emily Fowler
Jack F. Fowler and Judy Chambliss

In Honor of Laura Freedman Pedrick
Rabbi Marc and Jacqueline Mandel
Ian and Elizabeth McEvily

In Honor of Kathyn Gray
Scott and Susan Fox
Warren and Linda Gray
Patrick Gray
Rufus and Polly Meadows

In Honor of Steve Leslie
Paul and Renee Taleywsky

In Honor of Marion Mariner
The Richard Foundation

In Honor of Philip Moloney
Elizabeth A. Moloney

In Honor of Aggie and Tom Perkins
Paul and Joni Jabiansky

In Honor of Kaity Ryan
Trudy Coxe

In Honor of Ben, Caitlin, and
Evie Snyderacker
Nathaniel and Sarah Bruhn

In Honor of Meg and Don Steiner
Sandra Craig

In Honor of George Thurston
Barbara Carnes

In Honor of Peter Twombly
Katherine Franke

In Honor of Edward Valen
Anonymous
Peter Faeber
Laura Jack
Cynthia Long-Raterson
Caryn Palmer
Bridget Pelliccet
Sally Pontarelli
Susan Spencer
Laurel Valen
Rosalie Valen
Ginny Valen

In Memory of Edythe Anthony
Eric Sjoblom

In Memory of Jean L. Babcock
Anonymous (2)

In Memory of Ronald Dick
Frank and Betsy Ray

In Memory of John Gorman
Mary Ellen Aldrich
George Ambelang
Dianne Beauleieu
Todd Bowling
W. R. Brown
Douglas Devnew
Katherine DiSabato
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Dennis and Ann Garrity
Alexa Gold
David Gorman
Dick and Claire Gorman
Richard Gorman
Patricia Keenan
Richard and Leslie Marx
Ken Mikulski
Michael and Linda Monahan
Raymond Sheehan
Raymond and Susan Tellier

In Memory of Norman and Gillian Hall
Gayle D. Amos

In Memory of Jean Lopiano
Kenneth and Janice Rose

In Memory of Edward and Helen McLyman
Heather and William Burgess

In Memory of Frederick Prince
Jonathan and Bettie Pardee

In Memory of Patricia Reilly
Lois and Tom Doyle
Kathleen Prestidge

In Memory of Alexander Simmons
John Armor

ALT makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please accept our apology for any inaccuracies.
Thank you to our sponsors and loyal supporters!

Helping the community is always a smart investment. Rockland Trust is proud to support Aquidneck Land Trust.

Colleen Gouveia Moulton
401.454.1718
Colleen.GouveiaMoulton@Rocklandtrust.com

Lawrence S. Wagner, CFP®, CFA
401.273.4093
Lawrence.Wagner@Rocklandtrust.com

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There's power in working together.
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