



**Friends of Alta**  
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Laura McIndoe,  
Executive Director  
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Dear Friends of Alta:

We would like to send you our best wishes this holiday season, and we hope you have the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. Typically we send one newsletter a year (in May), but this year we are compelled to send a second newsletter since so much has happened here in the last few months.

After 34 years of outstanding service to the Alta community, Mayor Levitt decided to retire and not run for reelection this November. We will miss Mayor Levitt's leadership of Alta. We thank him for his years of public service and his commendable efforts towards conservation of the Albion Basin.

The Town of Alta held a municipal election on November 8, 2005. As of this January, Tom Pollard will be Alta's new Mayor. Tom has 16 years of experience as a Town Councilmember, and supports the efforts to conserve land in the Albion Basin for open space and watershed protection purposes. Councilmembers Bill Lennon and Paul Moxley were reelected to each serve another four-year term. Congratulations to Tom, Bill and Paul!

Land acquisition for the protection of Alta's environment, including watershed protection and habitat preservation continues to be our main goal. This summer, Friends of Alta purchased another lot in the Albion Basin and recorded a conservation easement on it. We are currently managing conservation easements on 19 parcels of land. To maintain these conservation easements Friends of Alta has partnered with Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities.

The Albion Basin contains some of the most complex ecological systems found anywhere. Friends of Alta continues to collect scientific data for the Albion Basin to enrich our understanding of the complex ecology of the area. Information from the first phase of this project will be publicly available on our website late this winter. We continue to work with Westminster College and Utah State University for these projects, and recently formed a partnership with the University of Wisconsin to begin integration of hydrogeological data into the Eco-Geographical Studies. We hope to maintain a level of funding to grant long-term support for these studies.

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(Partial Listing)

Through education, we can all better understand our connections to the environment and natural resources, ultimately resulting in better stewardship of our natural areas. We hope that our scientific data collection can assist in educating students of all ages on the importance of Alta's environment. We also hope that by supporting local education programs, particularly those that use Alta as their learning laboratory, we will ensure that younger generations will love and protect Alta as much as we do. This is why Friends of Alta has stepped up its efforts to be engaged with local schools and teachers. In September we helped sponsor a 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Albion Basin for students from Escalante Elementary School (located in Salt Lake City). The field trip helped the fifth graders and their teachers fulfill part of their natural science curriculum. This summer Friends of Alta also sponsored the second of a three year Teacher Inservice program. The goal of the program is to familiarize local school teachers with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and its application as a teaching and learning tool. Many of the participants from the first Teacher Inservice have already incorporated GIS into their classrooms.

Friends of Alta is committed to supporting the people and organizations that enrich Alta's community. We provide annual grants to the Alta Historical Society, Alta Community Enrichment, Alta School, Little Cottonwood School, and the Friends of Utah Avalanche Center. We continue to support the Town of Alta in its Summer Booth and Recycling Programs. We also support the Town with its Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program. This program contributes a great technology to Alta's community, the Town of Alta, and other local government agencies.

Friends of Alta is delighted with our current programs, and the directions this organization is moving. We continue to take pride in our mission of protecting the Albion Basin. We thank you for your past support and hope you consider us this year when you decide on year-end donations. It is now possible to make your donations online.

Cordially,



Mimi Levitt

President, Friends of Alta

P.S. Please let us know if you would like to be recognized on our website as a donor, or if you would like to remain anonymous. You may contact us at 801.742.9719, [info@friendsofalta.org](mailto:info@friendsofalta.org), or simply attach a note to your donation.

*The Mission of Friends of Alta is to protect the environment of Alta, including watershed and wildlife habitat areas; to preserve Alta's unique character and heritage; and to encourage stewardship and sustainability of Alta's environment and community.*

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