

Preserving the Nature of Alta

In Memoriam

Bill Levitt, 1917 - 2009

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Dear Friends:

This newsletter is dedicated to William H. (Bill) Levitt, his foresight, accomplishments, determination and leadership to sustain Alta's environment and community for future generations. In December, Bill died at the Alta Lodge.

As a long standing Advisor to Friends of Alta (FOA), Bill was an integral part of its founding and directional course over the past 30 years. His presence with FOA was important in many ways, and influenced his wife and FOA's President, Mimi. Over the years through their many roles in Alta's community and beyond, Bill and Mimi have helped to shape many of the partnerships with which FOA is still connected and grateful for.

Bill was born on February 18, 1917 and spent his early years in New York. He started skiing in the 1950's and came to Alta in the 1954. After several years and a new found love of this area, Bill purchased the Alta Lodge in 1959. In 1971 Bill became the first elected President of the newly incorporated Town of Alta. When the Utah legislature changed the title from President to Mayor, Bill became the first elected mayor for the Town of Alta, and served in this position for 34 consecutive years. During this time, he also served as President of the Utah League of Cities and Towns; chairman of the Governor's Council on Community Affairs; Chairman of the Wasatch Front Regional Council; President of the Salt Lake Council of Governments; member of the Governor's Wilderness Committee; municipal representative on the State Air Quality Board; chair of the Public Safety Committee of the Salt Lake Council of Governments. Bill also served as President of the Utah Ski Association.

Bill's focus was drawn to preserving Albion Basin early in his career as Mayor. He faced many challenges to the town's restrictive zoning regulations. Bill stuck to his guns though and, with the help of the Alta Defense Fund (which later became Friends of Alta), the Town of Alta has been successful in defending its protective ordinances. Paul Thompson, former Town of Alta attorney wrote in a recent letter to Mimi: "he had an amazing talent for working with other politicians and government officials. I don't know anyone who did not respect him for his hard work and the sacrifices he made for the benefit not only of Alta but for all of Utah's Municipalities."

Bill's priority was never his own enrichment, it was always community, nature, open spaces and people. Friends of Alta will continue to walk the Bill Levitt walk and do our best to protect the environment of Alta, preserve its unique character and heritage, and encourage stewardship and sustainability because it is the right thing to do. We thank all of our many contributors from all over the world that have been in one way or another touched by Alta and all that this little mountain town has to offer.

As Bill liked to say - we are here to save one small part of one small canyon.

Jennifer Clancy, Executive Director



Photo courtesy of Lee Cohen



Alta is a State of Mind



Photo courtesy of Dobber/Peak Photo

Friends of Alta Annual Spring Meeting

Every year sometime in early April FOA hosts its annual public meeting. This year the underlying theme was partnerships, and how rooted they are to Little Cottonwood Canyon stakeholders. Presentations were given by FOA, the Town of Alta, Alta Ski Area and the Alta Environmental Center, the US Forest Service, Salt Lake City Public Utilities and local photographer Lee Cohen. The major topics of discussion included by were not limited to: bark beetle infestation rates and various efforts to minimize tree deaths in Alta, the current wilderness legislation as sponsored by Jim Matheson and potential effects the legislation could have locally in Alta, Salt Lake County's Wasatch Canyon's Master Plan update, and the Shrontz Estate's lawsuit against the Town of Alta and Salt Lake City.

Patsey Marley Hill Subdivision

For the last couple years Friends of Alta has been updating you on the status of an application by the Estate of JoAnne L Shrontz (Estate) for a 10 lot subdivision for the Patsey Marley hillside (an area along the seasonal Albion Basin Road). This past November the Alta Town Council unanimously denied approval of the Patsey Marley Subdivision application based on the lack of compliance with ordinance requirements that included: culinary and firefighting water to and through the site, utility easements, emergency medical access, parking, and accurate net developable acreage related to natural waterway setbacks.

Prior to the town's denial of the application the Estate filed with the State of Utah Ombudsman for an opinion regarding the Town's determination of natural waterways on their property. In March the Ombudsman replied with a favorable opinion to the Town that they had properly followed their process for determining natural waterways. The determination of natural waterways has an effect on the Estate's application because it is used to calculate net developable acreage which is used to determine the number of lots available; less net developable acreage means less lots. At this time the Estate has filed a complaint with the third judicial district court in Salt Lake County that names not only the Town of Alta but also Salt Lake City as defendants. Contributions to FOA are greatly appreciated and necessary to help the town uphold their process.

Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow: Updating the 1989 Wasatch Canyons Master Plan www.wasatchcanyons.slco.org

This spring, Envision Utah facilitated the third and final round of public open houses focusing on transportation, recreation, protection of open spaces and potential development for currently undeveloped lands in all seven of the eastern canyons in unincorporated Salt Lake County. The Wasatch Canyons Master Plan guides land use policy, decisions, and ordinances for these canyons. The results of this process will include recommendations for updating policies and best practices for implementation of those updates to the County's Master Plan. This focus area within Salt Lake County currently supplies 50-60% of the county's culinary water supply and will become more and more critical as populations grow and with the uncertainty of other water resources.

Dear Mimi:

How much you and Bill have given to us over the many years. We are terribly sad for your loss and wish to express our deepest sorrow. Bill was Alta. The two go hand in hand. He made his living from the Alta Canyon, but he also saw the need to protect the very resources that give others so much enjoyment. It is not often that we recognize in our lives the importance of a total environment. Bill recognized it and went out to protect it. It takes a certain kind of person to be willing to go up against organizations that seem to have endless dollars and move with few restrictions. Bill, and now you have found ways to fight back and keep Alta as Bill wished it to be.

Bonnie & John Morgan

Friends of Alta has received Donations In Memory of:



Gene Huber
William H Levitt*
Frank Menendez
Timothy Paine
Tom Ruppert

**Donations in memory of Bill Levitt have been placed in an unrestricted fund until the Board of Directors determines how and for what specific purposes these funds will be used.*



2009 Calendar Year Contributions

Friends of Alta would like to thank everyone who has supported our mission over the years. In addition to the people listed here we would like to thank all those who wanted to remain anonymous. We apologize for any misspellings or omissions, please notify us if either has happened or if you would like to be added to this list at info@friendsofalta.org. Thank you!

COLUMBINE \$1,000 +

Alta Shuttle
George Armantrout
Sam Bailey
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Black Diamond Equipment
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Goldminer's Daughter Lodge
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LUPINE \$0 - 99

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Albion Financial Group
Alta Community Enrichment (A.C.E)
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Alta Marshalls Office
Alta's Rustler Lodge
Alta Ski Area
Alta Shuttle
The Alta Store & David Davenport
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Howie Garber
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Xmission



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.

Friends of Alta Summer Activities

For more information please visit
www.friendsofalta.org

Celebration of Life: William H (Bill) Levitt

July 14, 2010

Symposium: August 24, 2010 at the SLC Library

In light of it being an election year, this year's symposium is a candidates forum where political candidates for the office of the United States Senate, United States Congress, 2nd Congressional District, and Utah Governor will be invited to address the symposium on five questions relating to water and watershed management.

Volunteer Programs:

Tree Planting with Alta Environmental Center
Invasive Weed Pulls with Cottonwood Canyons Foundation

Hydrologic Investigations of the Albion Basin.

Ongoing data collection in three alpine wetlands of Albion Basin.

Conservation Easement Monitoring Program

Annual inspections and documentation of all properties FOA holds conservation easements on.

Looking for Gift Ideas?



visit
www.friendsofalta.org/support/merchandise

We have t shirts, socks and stickers
Proceeds support FOA's mission

Alta Gala

2010 Stellar Award Recipients

Titus Case, Alta Ski Area

Liam Fitzgerald, Utah Dept of Transportation

Al Soucie, U.S. Forest Service

For their leadership and excellence in snow safety programs in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The Alta Gala is an annual fundraiser for Friend of Alta, Alta Community Enrichment and the Alta Historical Society.



Alta Community Emissions Reduction Campaign

Friends of Alta continues to partner with the Town of Alta, Alta Environmental Center, and Alta Community Enrichment to encourage the reduction of emissions put into our air by joining up with Salt Lake City's Idle Free campaign. This spring special Alta idle free signs were created and posted in high use idling areas around Alta. Our next project is to install an outside outlet at the Alta Medical Clinic for ambulance services so they don't have to idle but can maintain proper protocol. Show your commitment to reducing greenhouse gases by picking up a free idle free sticker at the Alta Ski Area's main office, the post office, or the Alta Town office.



Friends of Alta Real Estate Advantage Program

801.244.6444 800.584.7705
www.williamsrealtyutah.com

Mention this program to broker Jim Williams and he will donate \$1,000 to Friends of Alta from his commission with the successful closure of any real estate transaction in Utah or Idaho. This program will not affect the closing price of the buyer or seller. Please help spread the word about this unique program and its benefits to FOA. A special thank you to everyone who has supported FOA through this program over the last couple of years.

ALTA SHUTTLE

For All Your Transportation Needs
1-866-274-0225
www.altashuttle.com

Alta Shuttle continued to donate 2% of all shuttle services to and from the town of Alta to Friends of Alta during the 2009/2010 ski season. This was the third season in a row that Alta Shuttle made this commitment as a way to give back to Alta's community.

Thanks again to Alta Shuttle, Tom, the customers, and all the shuttle drivers who support the mission of Friends of Alta.