

Preserving the Nature of Alta

In Memoriam

Bill Levitt, 1917 - 2009

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Friends of Alta is a 501(c) (3) and donations are 100% tax-deductible.

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

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friendsofalta.org

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Printed on 100% recycled paper

Dear Friends,

As always, one of our primary goals is the acquisition of undeveloped privately owned lots in Albion Basin. Recently, we have had a couple of lot-owners contact FOA, indicating potential interest in selling to us, which means that land would then be protected in perpetuity through a conservation easement. These responses encourage and reward our efforts to proactively reach out to landowners on an annual basis. To date we have secured 21 conservation easements. Additionally, we have identified another 31 parcels in the subdivision areas of Albion Basin that we have placed a high priority on for conservation. Over the last 30 years our conservation efforts have been approached as a marathon, where we take advantage of positive steps forward but are not daunted when the pace slows down. We continue to stay focused on the finish line and each and every step that is necessary to get there cannot be underestimated.

But why? Thankfully, we often hear about the fulfilling experiences gained in this outdoor mecca and why Alta is so special to so many; we fulfill our mission in part, so that future generations can have similar opportunities. Additionally, Albion Basin provides valuable habitat at the heart of the central Wasatch Mountains for wildlife such as our famed summer moose population. We also take pride in working with a number of different partners to protect the headwaters of the Little Cottonwood Canyon watershed for our community. The Little Cottonwood Canyon watershed is the second largest culinary water source for the Salt Lake Valley; it supplies the Salt Lake City service area (including: Salt Lake City, unincorporated Salt Lake County and various cities) with 12-14% of their culinary water supply and Sandy City with 33% of their culinary water supply.

Since 2009, Friends of Alta has been supporting the Town of Alta in the Shrontz Estate's ongoing litigation against the Town and Salt Lake City regarding development of the 26 acre Patsey Marley Hill property. This litigation centers on the Estate's ability to serve the proposed subdivision with culinary water. The Shrontz Estate has given notice of readiness for trial. It is expected that Judge Kennedy will set a trial date for some time in early 2014. There are some unconfirmed reports Judge Kennedy may retire in January in which case a new judge from the Third District Court for the State of Utah would be appointed to replace Judge Kennedy. The unfortunate bottom line is that the Town will be in many more years of litigation and in need of financial aid.

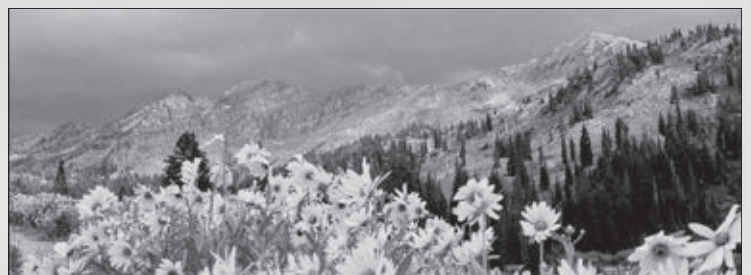
While more details of each program are inside our newsletter, here's a quick summary of the summer's events;

- Four volunteer invasive weed removal days
- Data collection for the phased hydrologic study of Albion Basin's wetlands
- Annual Memorial Tree and seedling planting
- Co-hosted the 2013 Alta Ecological Assessment Symposium

Your contribution to Friends of Alta is an important investment in Alta's landscape and community. We are committed to conserve lands that exhibit valuable view-sheds, watersheds, ecosystems, and wildlife habitat. We provide stewardship opportunities, education, and scientific research. In keeping with our founding, Friends of Alta supports the Town in its legal defense of zoning and ordinance regulations and pursue land acquisition opportunities. Your donations are vital to fund these programs and help sustain and replenish the Friends of Alta Conservation Fund. If you value Alta's open spaces and Friends of Alta's efforts, then please make a donation.

Cordially,

Mimi Levitt &
 Jen Clancy



~Alta is a State of Mind~



Financial Report

Below is Friends of Alta's financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. As the economy continues to slowly comeback, Friends of Alta is pleased to report we had a 15% increase in donations. We appreciate your support, trust and desire to participate in conservation and stewardship efforts benefitting Alta. Maintaining our Conservation Fund's balance has permitted us the opportunity to swiftly purchase available properties, such as the six acres purchased last fall. These lands are then preserved for watershed values, open space and wildlife habitat under our conservation easements. Our goal to replenish and grow the Conservation Fund has been met by closely working with the Conservation Fund's manager, Albion Financial. Increasing our fund's balance provides valuable investment income as well as the funds necessary to conserve land and help defend Alta's protective zoning regulations. We are encouraged that there will be more acquisitions and conservation easements within the current fiscal year. We hope that with your help and our other "friends" that we will continue to grow our Conservation Fund.

~ Skip Silloway, Treasurer

Fiscal Year 2012 - 2013 Operating Budget

Revenue

Contributions	\$131,861.11
Fundraising Programs	\$14,887.05
Special Events: Alta Gala	\$8,535.15
Grant from RioTinto	\$5,000.00
Contributions to the Bill Levitt Fellowship	\$285.00
Total Revenue	\$160,568.31

Expenses

Operations: Insurance, Meetings, Training & Admin	\$30,068.79
Alta School & Utah Avalanche Center Support	\$2,392.83
Alta Community and Government Relations	\$32,746.88
Environmental Studies, Education, & Sustainability	\$42,299.35
Land Conservation: Research, Planning, Monitoring	\$29,127.90
Fundraising Events & Programs	\$28,670.37
Total Expenses	\$165,306.12

Operating Budget = (-\$4,737.81)

*Fundraising Programs: Alta Shuttle Donations, Alta Mid-Winter Study Group, Love Utah Give Utah, Memorial Tree Program & merchandise sales.

Conservation Fund

Investment Income	\$35,302.07
Direct Conservation Fund Contributions	\$5,946.41
Land: Acquisition, Sale, Easement	\$775.00
Town of Alta Zoning Regulation Support	<u>(-\$37,272.53)</u>
Market Value June 2013	\$834,369.30



Photo courtesy of Chris Cawley

Wasatch Summit

The Wasatch Summit program is a three to five year public process that seeks to identify issues and make critical transit decisions regarding the future of the Central Wasatch Mountains. The program will involve a holistic evaluation and collaborative approach to issues associated with transportation, land use, municipal watershed protection, environmental protection, wilderness designation, and economic opportunities within the Central Wasatch Region that includes the Wasatch Mountain terrain in Salt Lake, Summit, and Wasatch Counties. Our ED Jen has been serving on the Steering Committee for the last year as the organizational structure of this program has been developed and we feel good about the collaborative and inclusive nature of the process thus far. Additional information about this program can be found at: wasatchsummit.org



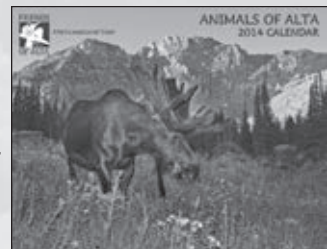
San Francisco Event Benefits Friends of Alta



It was great to have had an opportunity to mingle with our supporters in San Francisco. We would like to sincerely thank those who attended and generously donated along with the hard work of the planning committee. Friends of Alta netted \$5,700 which will be used to maintain our programs and mission goals. This unique opportunity to socialize with other Alta "friends," talk about "Water in the West," and learn more about FOA made for a memorable evening.

A Calendar and More

- Be inspired by the photos and learn about the animals



- Give as a gift or keep for yourself

- 100% of the revenue generated by this calendar supports the important work of Friends of Alta thanks to Mimi Levitt who donated the printing costs. It also introduces others to FOA!

Cost \$10.00-Order online:
<http://friendsofalta.org/support/merchandise>
 or email info@friendsofalta.org

Thanks to the photographers who generously donated their work

Bill Levitt Fellow - Chris Cawley

I arrived in Alta “for good” in the fall of 2005, already in love with the landscape and the recreation, but unaware of how to engage my lifelong orientation to politics, and to conversations about civic progress, in this tiny town. Feeling the need to be a contributing member of the larger community, I became an Alta ski patroller during the 2008-2009 ski season, thus fulfilling a prophecy foreseen by my parents when, as a child growing up in New Hampshire, I became obsessed with the movie *Ski Patrol*. If I might digress: *Ski Patrol* is a goofy fairytale about a fictitious ski area called “Snowy Peaks,” whose safety record is being sabotaged by a greedy developer. Although I did not realize it until recently, my *Ski Patrol* habit may have informed my own story more than I first knew: in catching a late night screening of the flick on cable TV, I was shocked to see vistas and landmarks that I’d once found so mesmerizing but which are now the backdrop of my daily life. *Ski Patrol* was filmed in Little Cottonwood Canyon!

Perhaps, then, it was sealed in fate that I would come to serve as the Bill Levitt Fellow with Friends of Alta. Like the good guys in my beloved childhood movie who fought to protect their favorite place, FOA is an essential force in preserving what I love the most about *my* favorite place. The particulars of my service to the Alta community are not as obviously glamorous as what my early cinematic heroes were up to: hosting an information table at the Albion Base area every Friday initially seemed like less than appealing duty, but it provided a unique opportunity to talk with people about Alta, Little Cottonwood Canyon, the Wasatch Mountains, and challenges for conservation efforts in these places. As it turns out, I could talk to people about Alta all day, because I am so fascinated by this place. Removing invasive weeds was simple, hard work of the sort everybody should experience regularly, and prior to the hours I spent wrestling yellow sweet clover and curly dock, I hadn’t realized just how ubiquitous invasive species are in Alta, or how despite an impressive monitoring and removal program, the spread of invasive species threatens the amazing diversity of native plants for which Alta is famous. The assignment that seemed most exciting at the outset of the summer—production of a short video clip about Friends of Alta—has proven by far the most challenging, and I continue to work on that project as summer fades rapidly to winter. Over time, the Bill Levitt Fellowship has seemingly been a fluid opportunity, the particulars of which change each season it is offered, and with each individual who fills the position. In my case, the general experience I gained in working alongside Jen, Merebea, Celeste, Mimi, the Board of Directors, and the broad community of partners engaged in regional conservation initiatives in the Wasatch Front area has been critical for my understanding of my own interests and aptitudes, and that is priceless insight.

I have often wondered what my time in Alta will mean to me in the long run, and I’m reassured to learn that to really care about a place, and the community that loves it, is to have developed an identity, and that my identity in Alta gives me strength. Thank you to all who support the Bill Levitt Fellowship; it has literally been a dream come true!



Photo courtesy of Chris Cawley

Alta Summer Program: Preserving and Protecting Through Education

Thousands of people visited Alta's famed and beloved Albion Basin this summer to experience Mother Nature's beauty and she did not disappoint. Friends of Alta with the support of Rio Tinto continued to fund the Town of Alta's Summer Booth Program. Bill Levitt Fellow, Chris Cawley also served as a host in the Albion base area on Fridays answering questions and helping to share information about recreation opportunities and best practices for stewardship with visitors. The Cottonwood Canyons Foundation and the Alta Ski Area's Alta Environmental Center also provided hosts on weekends to offer information to visitors when booth personnel were busy. These contributions and Friends of Alta's partnership with other local stakeholders provides needed resources and education preserving this special area as an area for all to enjoy.

Tree and Seedling Plantings



Learning with the Leaf Pack



All photos this page courtesy of Chris Cawley

Hydrological Characterization of the Albion Basin Wetland Watershed

Dr. John D. Skalbeck of the Department of Geosciences at University of Wisconsin-Parkside has been conducting an eight year (2005-2013) hydrologic investigation of Little Cottonwood Canyon's headwaters in Albion Basin. The Albion Basin Wetland, yields useful data that is key to future land use planning and conservation. Base flow measurements collected during the late summer 2013 dry season in the eastern margin of Albion Basin, augment annual water level monitoring and water chemistry analysis done by Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County and various federal agencies to develop systematic wetland management conventions. This hydrologic study strongly suggests the present wetland areas studied are in a delicate balance. If disturbed by development, the present upper alpine ecosystem health of Albion Basin could easily skewer in a downward spiral. Friends of Alta and the Town of Alta will continue to work with government entities like the U.S. Forest Service, Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities to define means of conserving this vital watershed, both for ecosystem health and the sustainability of the watershed for downstream users.

This study has been funded by Friends of Alta.

Invasive Weed Removal Recap

Friends of Alta collaborates with the Alta Ski Area's Alta Environmental Center and Cottonwood Canyons Foundation to plan our collective approach to invasive weeds. Yes, the amazing wildflowers that splash Alta's slopes need our help. These weeds can be quite aggressive, so alongside our partners we work hard to remove them and keep them from spreading. This summer, Bill Levitt Fellow Chris Cawley lead our efforts to remove and monitor invasive weeds with the use of GPS equipment for better tracking and management of such efforts. Chris's work resulted in removing more than twenty 60 gallon bags of invasive weeds from Alta's landscape. His efforts complimented four volunteer removal events, which generated another 20 bags plus the additional removal efforts of our partners.



Friends' Donations: Fiscal Year July 2012 through June 2013

Thanks to those who donated but wished to remain anonymous. We apologize for any misspellings or omissions but please let us know.

COLUMBINE: \$1,000+

Alta Shuttle
George Armantrout
Sam Bailey
Pam & Bob Beck
Fred M. Bering
Nick & Ellen Besobrasov
The Byrne Family
Trish & Bob Cypher
Judith & Murray Danforth
Chuck & Marna Davis
Donna Dean
Gwen and Austin Fragomen
Roxane Googin
Bill & Shannon Gordon
Suzanne & Richard Kayne
Peg & Michael Kramer
Karl Krieger
Mimi Levitt
Michael Moritz & Harriet Heyman
Jonathan and Judy Nelson
Frederick Paine
Paul V Profeta
Susan Rennau
Joan & Lynn Seppala
Elfriede Shane
Stuart & Molly Silloway
Bill & Carolyn Stutt
Richard & Susan Thomas

ALPINE SHOOTING STAR: \$500-999

Black Diamond Equipment
Briggs Family
Rudy Bunzl
Peter, Will, & Jenn D'Agostino
Marcus & Cassie Dippo
Nick & Courtney Gibbs
Anne & Paul Grand
John H Holland Jr.
Austin & Felicity Forbes Hoyt
Charley Marshall MD & Rosa Marshall
Carl, Wayne & Clinton McKinzie
Chris & Sue Mikell
John and Bonnie Morgan
Dr. Donn & Janet Mosser
"Uncle Ed" Ohm
Patagonia & Alta Ski Shop
Nicholas Platt
Purjes Foundation
Richard and Sheila Schlesinger
Thomas G Schueller
Tom & Diana Sutter
Jack W Swenson
Lois Swick
Brinkley Thorne
Win & Terry Warren
Ted Wilson & Holly Mullen
Eleanor & Fred Winston
John and Joan Worries

INDIAN PAINTBRUSH:\$100-\$499

The Ablowitz Family
Albany Home for Unwed Skiers
Steven S Armour
Eleanor & Bob Anderson
Bill & Sue Bahary
Brad Barber & Tina West
Erik & Cathy Bayer
Bruce & Judy Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Benedict
Mr. Perry Benson, Jr.
Tom Berggren
David & Sandra Berler
Doug, Diane, & Heather Bledsoe
Pete & Ruth Bleyler
Eugene L Bliss

Jo Blum
Hanley P Bodek
Jackie Brody
Janet M Carpenter
Charlie & Penny Carroll
Kurt & Deborah Christiansen
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Beverly C Compton Jr
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Cliff Curry
Gregg & Sheridan Davis
Sam Dippo
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Pete Gibbs
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Peter & Jane Goedecke
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Marita Hart
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Gloria Lee and Hank Gifford
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Dale Lindquist
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John & Megan Martinelli
Brian R Matas
Carl, Wayne & Clinton McKinzie
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Dorothy & Elihu Modlin
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Martin E Rich
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Bill Sargent
Robert Scheuer
Drs. Robert & Franziska Schoenfeld
Jim Schultz
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Carl & Sharon Spaulding
Jane & Steve Springer
Kirk Thomas
The Nature Conservancy in Utah
Marvin Van Dilla
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John & Carolyn Van Sciver
Naomi S Wain
Neff Walker
Mark Ward
Jack Weidenbach
Joan D Wheeler
Williams Realty
Mrs. Samuel D Williams
David Zanick
Charlie Zelle

LUPINE: \$1-\$99

David Agler
D. Alberico
Judy & Dadla Berlfein
Hal Berlfein
Ed Blaney
The Blower Family
Kenyon C Bolton III
Kathy Bray
Sanford Carter
Percy Chubb
Margot & Fred Churchill
Jennifer Clancy
Anne E Cramer
Merebea M Danforth
Anne, Margaret & Michael Davis
John N Eldridge
Jock Glidden
Pamela E & Richard Hanrahan
John Horvitz
Dr. Harry Jacob
Betty Johanna
Anne Garrels & Vint Lawrence
Sarah McCloskey
Stephen & Corey McGrath
Charlie Merriman
Robert E Miller
Tom Nash
Rosie O'Grady & Ruby
Prior L Parker MD
Charles H Quinn
Bruce & Piper Remington
Jan Sargent
Dick Schatten
Patrick A Shea
Leslie and Michael Tate
Nancy & Mort Thalheimer Jr
Penny Young

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Albion Financial Group
Alta Community Enrichment
Alta Lodge
Alta Shuttle
Alta Ski Area & Alta Environmental Center
The Alta Store & David Davenport
John Blumenkamp
Lee Cohen
Cottonwood Canyons Foundation
Eide Bailly LLP
Fishpond & Lilypond
Howie Garber
Randhir Jhamb
Mimi Muray Levitt
mediumRAREchefs
Porcupine Pub & Grille
Printer's Inc.
PROBAR
The Shallow Shaft Restaurant
Trader Joes
Tree Utah
Uinta Brewing
Vitamin Water
Wasatch Powder House
XMission



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2013 Summary Alta Ecological Assessment Symposium

This symposium was comprised of a gathering of local scientists and land managers. It was an important step in creating a framework for a more advanced database, the contents of which will be structured around the need to provide local land-use authorities the information they need in order to create sound policies that consider thoughtful development alongside watershed protection, wildlife habitat preservation, and open space conservation. We were fortunate to enjoy a keynote address by Uintah-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Supervisor Dave Whittekiend, and discussion facilitated by Joan Degiorgio of the Alta Planning Commission and The Nature Conservancy. Thanks to everyone who came to Alta for the meeting; we look forward to the development of this project and the other creative partnership opportunities that were discussed during the symposium.



THANKS again to **Alta Shuttle**, Tom, the customers, and all the shuttle drivers who support the mission of Friends of Alta and give back to Alta's community. Alta Shuttle continues to donate 2% of all shuttle services to and from the town of Alta to Friends of Alta during the ski season.

Leverage Your Gift Giving

Teton Trail Photography supports Friends of Alta. Local nature photographer John Blumenkamp donates 50% of the net proceeds from the online Albion Basin Gallery to Friends of Alta.

John-blumenkamp.artistwebsites.com/
art/all/albion+basin/all



Real Estate Advantage Program Benefitting FOA

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. **You can help Friends of Alta by spreading the word about this unique program and its benefits.**



Meet Board Member John Holland



After 8 years of teaching middle school science in Yorktown Heights NY I was granted a sabbatical in 1976 to pursue a master's degree in environmental curriculum design at the University of Utah. I also worked at the Alta Lodge part time during the ski season. During this time I met environmental law professor, Lee Kapaloski, who was representing Robert Redford in his efforts to prevent the degradation of canyonlands with the push to build large scale coal fired energy plants. Along with Edward Abbey and a few others they eventually succeeded.

Another independent study class connected me to Little Cottonwood Canyon. My whole class enjoyed a memorable dinner discussion at the Alta Lodge with host Mayor Bill Levitt who instilled a sense of urgency on potential development impacts on the Town of Alta.

After returning home I set about writing grants to train teachers in different aspects of environmental studies. Partnering with Teatown Lake Reservation and its director, Rod Christie, a unit of courses was developed. One of the courses, called the Leaf Pack Program, trained teachers to examine the biological and physical parameters of local streams. In my case, the students would present their findings to their local town council on a regular basis. Occasionally, we would be on the opposite side of developers in sensitive watershed areas. In part because of the information provided by the students, the town council began setting aside linear parks along stream corridors as a buffer to development. A somewhat happy medium was reached.

Fast forward to Friends of Alta 2011. With a generous donation from Richard and Sheila Schlesinger, and my then service on the Advisory Committee, Friends of Alta was able to purchase watershed studies equipment and guide Alta's one room schoolhouse in conducting their own Leaf Pack experiments. This was the third fall that students did their research. I've enjoyed hearing from participants who shared their excitement about what they found. Hopefully, this program will continue for years to come.

In addition to having a career in teaching I'm the founder of Green Mountain Running Camp in Lyndonville Vt. This past summer... our 39th... we hosted 760 runners over three weeks. Nike has been our sponsor for 35 years and we are proud of the fact that 11 of our former campers/staffers work for the company. Four former campers/staffers are Olympians and have worked for us over the years. As a runner/coach I benefitted greatly from training in Alta during the marathon phase of my running career.

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