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Upcoming Stewardship and Outreach Events
Volunteer Weedpulls and Trail Restoration Efforts
Visit friendsofalta.org/stewardship for more information and to register

Bird Walk with Tracy Aviary: August - Date TBD

FOA Memorial Tree Planting: Friday, September 11th
Contact us to plant a tree in memory of a loved one

Downtown SLC Farmers Market: FOA will be staffing a booth on these Saturdays: 6/13, 6/27, 8/1 & 10/3 - Please stop by and say hello!

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Birds of Alta

Preserving the Nature of Alta

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Sincerely, Mimi Levitt & Jen Clancy
...Litigation Update continued from page 2

Some of the defendants in the FOA/SLC case are encouraging third parties to convince the Department of Natural Resources and its Land Ombudsman to rule that there have been “takings” of private land by the Town of Alta. The allegation is false, but misleads the public about the government’s actions. As to public opinion, that is where FOA plays an extremely important role in informing the public about the importance of conserving and protecting our watershed. Your support and donations are as critical as ever.

Find more information on our website under: Programs – Current Issues.

Meet Cassie Levitt Dippo, FOA Board Member

I’ve always considered Alta my home, though when looked objectively through the years, I’ve spent a good portion of my living elsewhere. Subjectively, it is a different story. My earliest memories of Alta stretch back to the late 1950’s and early 60’s when all my winter holidays and summers were spent in Alta (we moved permanently to Alta in 1965). My family would arrive in Salt Lake City after a very long (plane) ride from New York City. Half asleep I would be bundled into the backseat of the Alta Lodge vehicle – the “Black Mariah”. It was always night when we arrived and the city lights would fade as we drove up Little Cottonwood Canyon. My parents would have me up a parks before setting out, as we would transfer to a snowcat for the last leg of our journey to our house. The fresh air and snow crystals would swirl around my face and up my nose, and then it would be morning.

I would awaken in my warm bed, then climb up the stairs to see what the day would have in store for me. There would be a Clark’s Nutcracker pecking at some suet on the porch railing, a Stellar’s Jay might land a few feet away and the Mountain Chickadees would be calling to each other in the trees. I would have to squat as I looked out the window. It was so bright. The sun reflecting off the vast expanse of powder covered alpine meadows, casting a glittering glow on the soft, untouched snow. The survey provides data that backs up our positions as we seek to influence the MA program based on our shared community values.

Alta is a world famous destination, and the proposed train and tunnel threaten our community’s character by turning Alta and LCC into a thoroughfare. FOA encourages safe and reliable transit to and from our community, and we support the installation of an enhanced bus system. FOA is dedicated to preserving the “Alta Experience” characterized by stunning backdrops such as Mt. Superior, Wolverine, Devil’s Castle and Baldy; high alpine ecosystems blanketed with 200+ species of wildflowers, powder snow, aspen and spruce forests; opportunities for first people; and a chance to view moose, pika and other wildlife for generations to come.

Litigation Against the State Engineer by Pat Shea: A hearing on Defendant Haik’s motion to dismiss was held before Judge Stone on May 12th. The cases of Salt Lake City (SLC) and FOA against the State Engineer have been consolidated, but the FOA case alleges different causes of action - degradation in stream flow and view shed motions - the motion to dismiss and to require the State Engineer to prepare a lengthy report. Next step will be discovery, with SLC taking the lead. Most believe litigation is resolved in the Court Room and that is generally true. The Judge or Jury does make a ruling, but in this case there are two additional forums, other government jurisdictions where decisions can be made and public opinion.
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Mountain Accord

Mountain Accord (MA) is a comprehensive regional planning effort that addresses issues and goals for the environment, transportation, economy, and recreation. Some of the focal points of the MA comment, MA’s Executive Committee is reviewing and revising the proposed Blueprint that was released in February. There are also several task forces working to recommend federal land designations, public/private land management, and adaptive management plan for the Blueprint. We are especially encouraged by the effort to develop a framework for assessing and monitoring the environmental health of Alta and the rest of the study area.

> Watershed Protection
> Conserving our remaining open spaces - Albion Basin
> Preserving iconic scenic views - Mt Superior & Devil’s Castle
> Wildlife Habitat
> Preserving the unique character of our location and small town feel
> Maintaining the current balance between resort and human powered recreation
> Preserving a variety of recreation opportunities
> Summer Trail Connectivity
> Base area development per the existing Town of Alta water contract with the SLC Dept. of Public Utilities
> Safe, affordable, responsible, efficient and flexible transit
> Using the existing road corridor - Highway 210, a Utah Scenic Byway

For more information on our positions and the Mountain Accord program, visit our website or mountainaccord.com

friendsofalta.org

Litigation Update continued from page 2

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