Ways to Support FOA
Strut your stuff with FOA merchandise this summer! Stay protected from the sun with some FOA buffs and hats! We also have t-shirts, tank-tops and of course, Erni the ermine. All of these items are available at our office or online.

Mention the Friends of Alta Real Estate Advantage Program to broker Jim Williams and he will donate $1,000 to FOA from his commission with the closure of a real estate transaction. WilliamsRealtyUtah.com

Visit Friendsofalta.org/donate for more details and links to donate through AmazonSmile or Smith’s Community Rewards where your regular purchases support FOA.

Thank You Alta Shuttle!

On top of donating shuttles for the Alta Gala, Alta Shuttle donates 2% of all revenue from services to/from the Town of Alta during the winter season to FOA. We want to extend a special thanks to Alta Shuttle, Tom, the shuttle drivers, and Alta Shuttle’s patrons for supporting FOA. This past season they donated over $12,000. For more info visit Altashuttle.com.

Preserving the Nature of Alta

What a spectacular winter we had here at Alta! We hope you were able to enjoy the 520” of snowfall that blanketed the top of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Of course, every skier wants a little piece of Alta’s legendary powder snow. That proved to be true with numerous days where traffic was backed up for miles puttering up Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Attractive places like Alta do simply that - attract. This can be a blessing, fuel for our local businesses or a curse, drawing crowds that, as Onno likes to say “love Alta to death.” To the dismay of some, Alta is no longer a sleepy little town in the mountains. While many of us would like to stay isolated from the pressure associated with growth in the valleys, in order for Alta to control its own destiny, it’s increasingly important that FOA leadership play pivotal roles in the greater decisions being made for the Central Wasatch. This is why we have dedicated significant time and resources to Mountain Accord which is on the brink of its next chapter - the Central Wasatch Commission. Today’s decisions will achieve greater results in an environment that is increasingly affected by those within, so we must be champions for our cause.

Our regional efforts bolster what we do locally. FOA is continually trying to manage proposals in and around Alta, such as the proposed Summer Road construction, Alta Ski Area’s Master Development plan, a land swap between the ski area and the USFS, and much more. Our mission is to inform and engage in a wide array of land use proposals for Alta. While one proposal may not mean the end of the “Alta Experience,” we see these proposals as linked and the incremental creep concerns us.

With the turn of the season, come dreams of wildflowers billowing in the wind and glorious green summers at Alta. We have a jam-packed summer planned, filled with events for all to enjoy! Inside you will find a calendar including volunteer bird surveys, tree plantings, and Alta’s Kids Day. We hope you will come visit us this summer!

We are just $50,000 shy of our $229,000 contribution goal for our fiscal year ending in June. Please help us with a donation TODAY. Your contributions conserve Alta’s open spaces, protect the watershed, and preserve recreation opportunities.

Sincerely, Mimi Levitt & Jen Clancy
Save Bonanza Flat

FOA joined a coalition of 10 other nonprofits in an effort to save Bonanza Flat. Bonanza Flat is a 1,350 acre parcel of alpine recreational paradise. Though the land is privately held, it is an area that Wasatch Front and Wasatch Back residents have used for recreation for years and is the gateway to numerous trails, including the Wasatch Crest Trail. There has been no shortage of threats to this land in the past, with plans of golf courses and ski lifts plaguing the refuge and homes of moose, elk, black bear and Flammulated Owls. But today we are presented with the opportunity to preserve this land for future generations.

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Recent Successes

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• Albion/Wildcat base parking modification
• Tram from Germania Pass to the top of Mt. Baldy

Mount Baldy is one of Alta’s most iconic and visually stunning mountain peaks. The hike to the Baldy Chutes is a well-known rite of passage for Alta skiers. We want to encourage the USFS and Alta Ski Area to continue to find ways to minimize impacts and find alternatives to adding manmade structures to the skyline and iconic peaks like Baldy.

• GazEx or other equivalent technologies to replace artillery and avalauncher

For enhanced public safety reasons, we understand the effort to phase out military artillery and we support finding solutions with the least environmental impacts that meet public safety standards. However, we are disheartened by the visual impacts that manmade structures have.

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Onno Wieringa, Alta Ski Area General Manager and founder of the Alta Environmental Center (AEC) is retiring after 29 years. There are many examples of environmental mindfulness such as the development of AEC that we would like to thank Onno for. We look forward to developing relationships with the new General Manager, Mike Maughan and Operations Manager, Greg Bell, since we are all in the business of protecting the Alta we know and love.

Recent Successes

• Replacement of Albion and Sunnyside lifts
• Replacement of Wildcat lift
• Flora lift from bottom of Sugarbowl to the top of Collins lift

To minimize visual impacts from manmade structures on the ridgeline we request that the top terminal be located below the ridgeline.
• Supreme terrain work
• Alf’s restaurant building addition
• Watson Shelter building addition
• Construct an equipment storage facility
• Lake restoration at top of Glory Hole

Our largest concern centers on the lack of summer trail plans. A trail plan must be incorporated to protect the vegetation.

Alta is a State of Mind | 7
State Engineer Litigation Success

After three years in court, we won the case against the State Engineer’s decision to allow a transfer of water from Sandy to Albion Basin! Judge Stone overturned the State Engineers approval and the point of diversion will not be transferred to Albion Basin - a huge win for the Central Wasatch, and West. Judge Stone issued a noteworthy, well-reasoned opinion granting our motion to dismiss all of the defendants’ counter-claims and more importantly, he granted the most important motion for summary judgment. The defendants, importantly, he granted the most important reasoned opinion granting our motion to dismiss - a huge win for us, the Central Wasatch, and district of SL and Sandy, and Sandy their water rights for failure to apply said water diversion will not be transferred to Albion Basin! Judge Stone overturned a transfer for a point of diversion from Sandy against the State Engineer’s decision to allow uphill to Albion Basin! Judge Stone overturned a transfer for a point of diversion from Sandy against the State Engineer’s decision to allow.

Bill Levitt Fellow - Annie Smart

Alta has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. When I was young, my parents passed on their love for Alta by taking my brother and me for summer hikes and picnics in Albion Basin and winter skiing, starting out on Sunnyside. I learned to ski the mountain in the Alta Youth Program with kids that are now lifelong friends. Alta is where I made my first powder turns, learned to identify wild flowers, saw my first moose, and where I was able to find my passion for adventure. Now that I am an adult, I go to Alta to feel a sense of peace and to get away from the buzz of the city, as I’m sure many of us do.

I feel very fortunate to have been awarded the Bill Levitt Fellowship this winter and to be given the opportunity to help preserve and protect this special place, to work with Jen Clancy, meet Board members and other supporters who are passionate about Alta. This opportunity has fostered a deeper connection to the spirit of Alta by broadening my view of the delicate ecological balance and enriching my understanding of the efforts it took to preserve and defend these open spaces. From learning to recognize many different species of birds on the monthly bird surveys, to helping in our efforts to save Bonanza Flats, working for Friends of Alta has broadened my education and pushed my own limits as an environmentalist and conservationist, and fueled my passion for skiing. Campaigning on behalf of FOA was empowering; to spread a mission I believe in led me to meet many people with whom I share common values and who I was able to inspire to aid in Alta’s defense.

Alta has a spirit – you can hear it in the Pine Grosbeak’s song, see it in the painted meadows of Albion Basin, and feel it in the wind along Devil’s Castle; she is alive and awe inspiring, but we mustn’t take her for granted. She has been shaped by the countless individuals who have brought a sense of place and community, but she would not be here if they had not stood their ground to protect her. I am humbled and honored to have worked alongside many of these inspiring people. This experience has sealed my bond to Alta. Help us protect Alta’s spirit and sense of place so that future generations can continue to experience the magic of this wonderland, where you can renew your soul and spirit.

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So I’m not actually from Utah. I got here 44 years ago to visit my big brother, then in graduate school. I’d planned to stay two weeks but got distracted. There was a woman. And then a business. And then an entire life. And all along there has been Alta.

Perhaps my favorite season at Alta is late summer. There are few people about, the wildlife is more visible, the Clark’s Nutcrackers are in full voice, and fall migration has begun, with hawks passing high overhead. It’s a wonderful time to treasure the place.

My background is in management, with organizational and entrepreneurial experience with both for-profit and nonprofit groups. I’ve been involved in (more often than not deeply entangled in) the initiation and startup of several organizations including a bookstore, three philanthropic foundations, a summer stock theater company, an archival and record keeping service, a citywide volunteer tree care program, and a biotechnology company. By rough count, I’ve served as a director of more than twenty nonprofit organizations. Most recently, I chaired the boards of both Western Resource Advocates, which works regionally to protect the West’s land, air, and water (no small task), and Wasatch Community Gardens, which works to empower people of all ages and incomes to grow and eat healthy food.

A Westerner by choice, I was born and raised in England, moved to the United States at the age of 18, received a Master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Utah and, for reasons that are sometimes unclear to me, live in Salt Lake City.

Bird Study

It’s breeding bird season and with Tracy Aviary’s leadership, Jen and volunteers are tuning up on bird ID skills and getting ready for early morning surveys. This is the third season of breeding bird surveys conducted. The newest addition to the study is a nest box citizen science project. We deployed 20 song bird and 20 owl boxes around Alta that were built by community members this winter at an ACE event.

The Snowpine Lodge

The Snowpine Lodge is closing its doors for the next 18 or so months for a major renovation. With financing secured, site plans are still being modified in order to meet TOA zoning ordinances for a building permit.
**2017 Summer Event Schedule**

Escape the heat of the valley and come visit us up here at Alta! These dates are subject to change, visit friendsofalta.org/events for up to date event information.

**June**
- 22 - Weed Pull 9am - 12pm
- 24 - Town of Alta Restoration Day 8am - 3pm
- 30 - Summer Road Opens

**July**
- 8 - Alta Ski Area Clean Up 8am - 12pm
- 20 - Weed Pull 9am - 12pm
- 21 - Owl Prowl with HawkWatch 8pm - 10:30pm
- 29 - Wasatch Wildflower Festival at Alta

**August**
- 2 - Alta Ski Area Tree Planting 8am - 1pm
- 5 - Weed Pull 9am - 12pm
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- 17 - Weed Pull 9am - 12pm
- 19 - Bird Talk & Walk 8:30am -11:30am

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**Wetland Study by Dr. John Skalbeck**

Hydrologic studies of the Albion Basin have been conducted since 2006 to characterize the potential source water for the wetland areas. Annual monitoring at 4 wetland areas (Albion Basin Fen, Catherine’s Pass, Collins/Sugarloaf, Patsy Marley) consists of collecting: hourly water levels using pressure transducers and periodic water levels using an electronic sounder; infield water parameters (temperature, pH, electrical conductivity); and water samples from piezometers, springs, surface water, and snow submitted for laboratory chemical analysis of major cations and anions. Spring and surface water flow surveys were conducted annually from 2013 to 2016. Inflow and outflow measurements provide an estimate of the total water volume needed to support each wetland area and the annual variation of groundwater contribution. The studies indicate the higher elevation wetland areas at Catherine’s Pass and Collins/Sugarloaf are supported primarily by groundwater while the Albion Basin Fen wetland area (centrally located within the basin) is supported by surface water and groundwater. The data suggest these wetland areas exist within a delicate balance of surface and groundwater flow that originates primarily from the annual snowpack. These studies have been useful for evaluation of water diversions within the basin and assessing the effects of climate change on the watershed. FOA works with the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and Dr. Skalbeck on this study.

**Bill & Mimi Levitt Legacy Circle**

The Levitt Legacy Circle is our planned giving program. It is a means of uniting the generous people who have included FOA in their estate planning. Bill and Mimi helped found FOA in 1981 and each in their own way, served as guiding lights for FOA. By making a bequest to FOA, you will leave a legacy of outdoor recreation and watershed protection that your family and future generations can continue to enjoy.

To join the Levitt Legacy Circle please inform FOA that you have named “FRIENDS OF ALTA, INC.” as a beneficiary in your will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy (remittance form available under the donate tab on our website). Planned gifts can help you meet your philanthropic goals and offer potential tax benefits, while helping FOA with long term financial planning.

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- Sam Bailey
- Laurie Bernard
- Nick & Ellen Besobrasov
- The Byrne Family
- Kurt & Deborah Christiansen
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- Ben & Hillary Harris

**Columbine $500 – $1000**
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Pika by John Blumenkamp

Alta Kid’s Day Buttons

Bill and Mimi in front of Devil’s Castle

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- Albion/Wildcat base parking modification
- Tram from Germania Pass to the top of Mt. Baldy
- Mount Baldy is one of Alta’s most iconic and visually stunning mountain peaks. The hike to ski the Baldy Chutes is a well-known rite of passage for Alta skiers. We want to encourage the USFS and Alta Ski Area to continue to find ways to minimize impacts and find alternatives to adding manmade structures to the skyline and iconic peaks like Baldy.
- GaZEx or other equivalent technologies to replace artillery and avalauncher

In February, 2017 the USFS issued a decision memo in favor of the Supreme lift replacement and Cecret lift removal with criteria based on FOA comments. Our comments also resulted in a realignment to avoid the Albion Fen, the largest wetland in Albion Basin. Disassembly of the existing lifts has begun. We are paying close attention to site plans for the lift towers so that new infrastructure stays out of the Albion Fen.
Ways to Support FOA
Strut your stuff with FOA merchandise this summer! Stay protected from the sun with some FOA buffs and hats! We also have t-shirts, tank-tops and of course, Erni the ermine. All of these items are available at our office or online.

Mention the Friends of Alta Real Estate Advantage Program to broker Jim Williams and he will donate $1,000 to FOA from his commission with the closure of a real estate transaction. WilliamsRealtyUtah.com

Visit FriendsOfAlta.org/donate for more details and links to donate through AmazonSmile or Smith’s Community Rewards where your regular purchases support FOA.

Thank You Alta Shuttle!
On top of donating shuttles for the Alta Gala, Alta Shuttle donates 2% of all revenue from services to/from the Town of Alta during the winter season to FOA. We want to extend a special thanks to Alta Shuttle, Tom, the shuttle drivers, and Alta Shuttle’s patrons for supporting FOA. This past season they donated over $12,000. For more info visit Altashuttle.com.

Preserving the Nature of Alta
What a spectacular winter we had here at Alta! We hope you were able to enjoy the 520” of snowfall that blanketed the top of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Of course, every skier wants a little piece of Alta’s legendary powder snow. That proved to be true with numerous days where traffic was backed up for miles putting up Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Attractive places like Alta do simply that - attract. This can be a blessing, fuel for our local businesses or a curse, drawing crowds that, as Onno likes to say “love Alta to death.” To the dismay of some, Alta is no longer a sleepy little town in the mountains. While many of us would like to stay isolated from the pressure associated with growth in the valleys, in order for Alta to control its own destiny, it’s increasingly important that FOA leadership play pivotal roles in the greater decisions being made for the Central Wasatch. This is why we have dedicated significant time and resources to Mountain Accord which is on the brink of its next chapter – the Central Wasatch Commission. Today’s decisions will achieve greater results in an environment that is increasingly affected by those decisions.

With the turn of the season, come dreams of wildflowers blooming in the wind and glorious green summers at Alta. We have a jam-packed calendar including volunteer bird surveys, tree plantings, and Alta’s Kids Summer planned, filled with events for all to enjoy! Inside you will find a jam-packed summer planned, filled with events for all to enjoy! We hope you were able to enjoy the 520” of snowfall that blanketed the top of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Of course, every skier wants a little piece of Alta’s legendary powder snow. That proved to be true with numerous days where traffic was backed up for miles putting up Little Cottonwood Canyon.

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We are just $50,000 shy of our $229,000 contribution goal for our fiscal year ending in June. Please help us with a donation TODAY. Your contributions conserve Alta’s open spaces, protect the watershed, and preserve recreation opportunities.

Sincerely, Mimi Levitt & Jen Clancy