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↑ Staff of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island celebrate achieving first-time accreditation at Rally.



↑ A collection of conservation stamps circa 1960.

SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM

CONSERVATION THEN AND NOW

By **MELISSA KALVESTRAND**

In a recent effort to clean my basement, I came across boxes of old stamps inherited from my grandfather. Finding a series of 4-cent stamps from about 1960 that showcased forest, water, soil and range conservation made me think about how conservation is defined today.

Conservation is about healthy forests, clean water, healthy food, connectivity, change and ensuring the next generation of conservationists.

At Rally, we celebrated 13 newly accredited land trusts whose stories illustrate what it means to be a land trust practicing conservation today.

- **New England Forestry Foundation (MA)** protects over 1.2 million acres of land, including 150 community forests totaling 40,000 acres that are open to the public. These forests offer recreation and a chance to see sustainable forestry in action.
- **The Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust (NY)** acquires properties for remediation and protection to improve and protect water quality and provide critical public access to water and waterfront.
- **The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy's (NY)** LakeScapes program provides annual assistance to help implement stormwater best management practices.
- **Lower Nehalem Community Trust (OR)** transformed a portion of its Alder Creek Farm into a community garden. Volunteers harvest and donate over 1,000 pounds of produce to local organizations to address food scarcity.
- **La Plata Open Space Conservancy (CO)** has launched an equitable land access working group to better understand

barriers that exist for farmers to access land and how to support the next generation of farmers.

- **North Central Conservancy Trust (WI)** transformed a 60-year-old ranger station into an office and Land Conservation Center. As part of its renovations, it invested in improving energy efficiencies and sustainability.
- **Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (PA)** is one of the oldest small watershed organizations in the country. Its recent merger with The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County solidified its focus on land preservation.
- **Oregon Desert Land Trust (OR)** and its partners acquired the 16,000-acre Trout Creek Ranch and over 500,000 acres of grazing permits to help connect more than 1 million conservation acres of climate-resilient habitat.
- **Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy (MI)** and its partners established a 2,700-acre Superior Greenway. The conservancy's office is in the heart of the greenway and serves as both a visitor center and organic community garden.
- **Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust (ME)** created the #WEOUTSIDE program with the Maine Association for New Americans to bring asylum seekers from Angola, with a focus on youth ages 13 to 25, to experience the outdoors.
- **Audubon Society of Rhode Island's (RI)** Nature Center and Aquarium receives nearly 25,000 visitors each year, and its Environmental Education for Urban Schools Initiative provides free field experiences for approximately 3,000 students each year.
- **Manada Conservancy's (PA)** annual public presentation series seeks to make lasting change by having the public support and understand why conservation and restoration are so important.
- **Berks Nature's (PA)** The Nature Place is much more than an office headquarters. It is home to a summer eco-camp, a preschool and school field trips, and is a place to walk your dog and let your kids run free in the Nature Play Zone.

Congratulations to these 13 organizations who help shape and grow the definition of what conservation means! ☺

LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

An independent program of the Land Trust Alliance

landtrustaccreditation.org

76 LAND TRUSTS ACHIEVE ACCREDITATION RENEWAL

Renewal helps strengthen the foundation of a land trust—it's an investment in your policies, procedures and core infrastructure that is critical to ensuring your land trust is meeting the promise of perpetuity. At Rally, we recognized 76 renewed land trusts. These land trusts are based in 31 states and one territory, and together protect over 24 million acres.

- Adirondack Land Trust (NY)
- Agricultural Stewardship Association (NY) ♦
- Arizona Land and Water Trust (AZ) ♦
- Bainbridge Island Land Trust (WA) ♦
- Bayou Land Conservancy (TX) ♦
- Bear-Paw Regional Greenways (NH)
- Big Sur Land Trust (CA) ♦
- Blue Hill Heritage Trust (ME) ♦
- Blue Ridge Conservancy (NC) ♦
- Bluegrass Land Conservancy (KY) ♦
- Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust (ME) ♦
- Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust (WV) ♦
- Cardinal Land Conservancy (OH)
- Cazenovia Preservation Foundation (NY)
- Central Indiana Land Trust (IN) ♦
- Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (PA)
- Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (WA) ♦
- Chippewa Watershed Conservancy (MI)*
- Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico) ♦
- Crested Butte Land Trust (CO) ♦
- Davidson Lands Conservancy (NC)
- Douglas Land Conservancy (CO) ♦
- Fallbrook Land Conservancy (CA)
- Flathead Land Trust (MT) ♦
- Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (NJ)
- Galveston Bay Foundation (TX) ♦
- Genesee Land Trust (NY) ♦
- Geneva Lake Conservancy (WI)
- Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas (TX) ♦
- Greenwich Land Trust (CT) ♦
- Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust (NC) ♦
- Inland Northwest Land Conservancy (WA)
- Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (AK) ♦
- Kennebec Land Trust (ME)
- Kettle Moraine Land Trust (WI) ♦
- Keweenaw Land Trust (MI)
- Land Conservancy of Adams County (PA) ♦
- Land Conservancy of West Michigan (MI) ♦
- Land Trust of North Alabama (AL) ♦
- Lord Berkeley Conservation Trust (SC)
- Lowcountry Land Trust (SC) ♦
- Lower Shore Land Trust (MD)
- Mahoosuc Land Trust (ME) ♦
- Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (NY) ♦
- Mohonk Preserve (NY) ♦
- Mother Lode Land Trust (CA)
- Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust (MA) ♦
- New Canaan Land Trust (CT)
- New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJ) ♦
- New River Land Trust (VA) ♦
- North Florida Land Trust (FL)
- Northcoast Regional Land Trust (CA) ♦
- Openlands (IL) ♦
- Ozark Land Trust (MO)
- Prairie Land Conservancy (IL)
- Putnam County Land Trust - Save Open Spaces (NY)
- Raritan Headwaters Association (NJ)
- San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (CA) ♦
- South Jersey Land & Water Trust (NJ)
- Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (NH) ♦
- Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (OR) ♦
- Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance (WI)
- Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (MI) ♦
- Squam Lakes Conservation Society (NH) ♦
- Sudbury Valley Trustees (MA) ♦
- Sycamore Land Trust (IN)
- Tar River Land Conservancy (NC) ♦
- Texas Agricultural Land Trust (TX) ♦
- The Nature Conservancy (National) ♦
- The Prairie Enthusiasts (WI)
- Truckee Donner Land Trust (CA) ♦
- Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy (MI)
- Vermont Land Trust (VT) ♦
- Walthour-Moss Foundation (NC)
- Wildlands Conservancy (PA)
- Winchester Land Trust (CT)

List as of September 2024.

♦ Denotes second renewal

MEISSA KALVESTRAND is executive director of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.