

A MESSAGE FROM RICI PETERSON

by Rici Peterson, Development and Communications Director

I'm so very proud of the Trust staff and board. As part of our recent strategic planning (see board chair Jim Jenkins' article, page 4), we looked hard at our in-house board and staff talent and realized it's time to re-tool to accomplish our conservation goals. Toward that end, our three staff members collaborated in re-designing our jobs. And we had fun with it.

We knew that the Trust needed a highly-experienced conservation professional to lead us. As a community relations and communications person, I've long wanted to spend more time with our growing circle of Trust supporters and focus on forging more capacity for our work. At the same time, Charlie O'Leary, our wonderfully qualified conservation program director, had an interest in taking on more responsibility.

The results? I'm thrilled to retire as Executive Director, hand over leadership of the Trust to Charlie, and become the Trust's first Development and Communications Director. Melissa Houser, our talented office manager, has been promoted to Conservation and Development Coordinator, supporting both Charlie and myself. And we welcome Mary Pat Butler, our new part-time administrative assistant and a delightful go-getter. We're all quite happy and excited with these changes—and hope you will welcome us all in our new roles.

As always, we love to hear from you. Please drop us a line, join us at an event this year (see calendar, page 5) and give me a call to ask how you can help us secure the beauty of Santa Fe.



Development and Communications Director, SFCT



Nicole Rasmussen



Eric Swanson

A LEGACY OF CONSERVATION

by Charlie O'Leary, Executive Director

As new Executive Director for the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, I am reminded that, in order to effectively carry out our mission, we must honor our roots.

We were founded 16 years ago, when, in response to a threat of residential development on Atalaya Mountain, Dale Ball, Stewart Udall, the Santa Fe Community Foundation, Bill DeBuys, and others came together to organize the region's first land trust—a non-profit to legally hold and enforce conservation agreements in perpetuity. At last there was a qualified local resource for landowners wanting to leave a conservation legacy.

Today the Trust has created 75 landowner agreements, protecting more than 33,000 acres in northern New Mexico. Many of these lands are within Santa Fe city limits, helping maintain the natural and cultural character of our community.

continue on page 7

IN THIS ISSUE:

Rici Peterson, Charlie O'Leary page 1,7

Saving our Small Farms page 2

Stewart Udall, Conservation Plan page 3

Thinking Strategically page 4

Events Calendar page 5

Caring for our Trails page 6

Saving the Land page 8



Mitch Tillison

GREENING IS BETTER

By switching to our online newsletter, you're saving paper, ink, water, and energy. For every edition we don't print, we'll be saving:

1/5 of a tree

87.36 pounds of wood

128.45 gallons of water

13.63 pounds of landfill waste

211.76 BTUs of energy

Go to www.sfct.org and click on "subscribe" to set your newsletter delivery preferences.



Peter Ogilvie

SAVING OUR SMALL FARMS: Conservation Partnerships Help Family Farms in New Mexico

New Mexico's small family farms are in trouble and the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, in partnership with other groups, is doing something about it.

Nearly half of New Mexico's farms are tiny parcels of one to nine acres, representing a long tradition of family-owned lands. If you enjoy locally-grown organic fruit, vegetables, meats or dairy products, and/or shop at one of New Mexico's 50+ farmers markets, you too are part of this system.

But small-scale farming—and the land on which it's practiced—is experiencing hard times. Farming doesn't pay the bills (most farmers have second jobs) and farmers are aging, with the majority now in their 50s and 60s. Many New Mexico farmers, who tend to be 'land rich and cash poor,' can't afford to retire unless they sell their family land to developers. Or, if they leave the land to the kids, few among the younger generation choose to carry on the family tradition and end up selling the land instead. All of this adds up to New Mexico losing about four percent of our already-scarce farmland per year—and the trend is accelerating at an alarming rate.

The good news is that New Mexico offers financial incentives for landowners who voluntarily agree to place their land into permanent conservation status with a land trust. The farmer retains ownership and works the land as before; he or she can convert the state incentive into cash; and the land is forever protected from development—a win for everyone. Upon retirement, farmers whose kids are uninterested can sell the protected land to young farmers at affordable rates (many urban-raised, environmentally-conscious young people are choosing back-to-the-land farming as both a lifestyle and a profession—and they are looking for inexpensive startup land).

The bad news was that small-scale farmers were facing two barriers to participation in the state's conservation incentive program: the considerable up-front costs of placing land under a conservation agreement (which can take a year or more for a landowner to recapture through the state program); and the requirement for a farmer to provide evidence of a local government policy (such as a county resolution or ordinance) that explicitly recognizes the importance of small-scale local agriculture. Santa Fe, like most New Mexico counties, lacked such a policy, so our local farmers weren't able to participate in the state program.

Last summer, with the help of the Santa Fe Farmer's Market Institute, we formed a multi-partner, statewide task force of farming, legal, financial, and land trust interests called SALCI (**Small Agricultural Lands Conservation Initiative**) to address these problems.

Two successes so far:

- **Santa Fe County Resolution in Support of Food-Producing Lands**

This January, Santa Fe's Board of County Commissioners unanimously declared local small irrigated food-producing critically important to our community. This resolution "plows the way" for Santa Fe County's small farmers to qualify for state conservation incentives. SALCI is now promoting the resolution as a template for use by other counties.

- **Low-Cost Bridge Loans for Conservation Landowners**

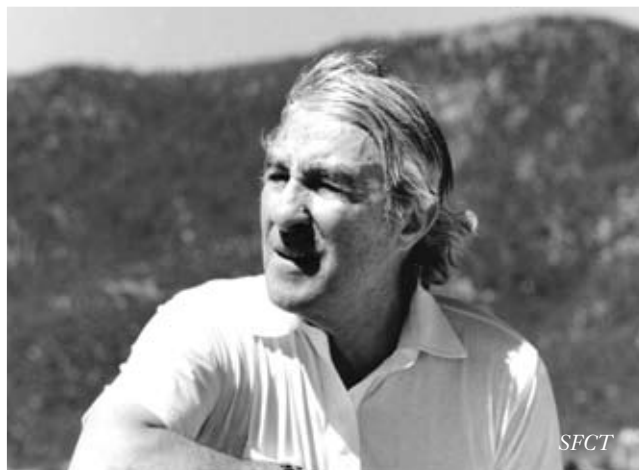
Working with the Permaculture Credit Union and the Permaculture Guild (PCU's non-profit friends organization), SALCI is piloting a low-cost loan program for qualifying farmers and other landowners. The loan will cover 75% of the costs of creating a voluntary conservation easement, bridging the financial gap for modest-income landowners. Within two years they must repay the loan with monies derived from the state conservation incentive program.

We'd like to thank the Santa Fe Community Foundation, whose support helped fund this partnership, along with County Commissioners Montoya and Holian for their strong support of the resolution. If you'd like to support the Trust's participation in this initiative please contact Rici Peterson at rici@sfct.org or 505-989-7019.

HONORING STEWART UDALL

We mourn the passing of Stewart Udall, former US Secretary of the Interior, on March 20. Stewart was an American icon—and, we're honored to say, also one of the founders of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust.

Stewart's family has asked those Americans who wish to honor his work to donate to the Trust in celebration of his life. We've added a special online donation button for this fund at www.sfct.org. If you prefer to send in a check, you may use the enclosed envelope. Just be sure to make a note in the memo line "Udall in memorium." And thank you for joining us in honoring this great American hero.



CONSERVATION PLAN

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust is committed to making significant contributions to land conservation and therefore must choose its protection efforts carefully. As a result of the Trust's recently completed strategic plan we have committed to taking an even closer look at where we do our conservation work.

This land conservation plan will help guide our decision-making process. By analyzing our current portfolio of conserved properties, studying existing city and county open space and trail plans, and identifying significant natural and cultural resources, the Trust will set its priorities based on this systematic approach.

This analysis will provide us with important information that will help make us more effective in conserving lands identified by public and private agencies and individuals dedicated to keeping northern New Mexico vital. Whether a working cattle ranch raising local beef, a small vegetable farmer producing food to sell at the farmer's markets or a landowner who wants to retire significant building rights on an iconic mountain, the conservation plan will help identify possible significant public benefits associated with the conservation of these types of projects. Our goal is that this new plan will help us be more strategic, make connections with various land conservation efforts currently playing out in our service area, and allow the Trust to act as a clearinghouse for land conservation information.

For more information on our Conservation Plan see www.sfct.org.



Alan Eckert



SFCT

THINKING STRATEGICALLY

By Jim Jenkins, Board Chair

Through the vision of past chair Terry Smith, and the diligent efforts of Executive Director Rici Peterson, the Santa Fe Conservation Trust has become even more respected and recognized in the local community. In tough economic times, the Trust continues to provide the guidance and security to land owners who seek to extend their love and respect for the land. While many non-profits are struggling to accomplish their mission, the Trust continues to maintain excellent financial health and looks forward to an optimistic future.

In this tradition of looking forward, the Trust’s Board determined to devote time specifically to look at where we have been and where we are going. Times are changing, and with change comes many unknown challenges. To respond, we needed to ask not ‘Are we doing things right?’ but rather ‘Are we doing the right things?’

In December 2009, members of the Board met in an in-depth strategic planning retreat to address that question. We were greatly helped by grants from McCune Charitable Trust, the Santa Fe Community Foundation, our staff, and Shelli Bischoff-Turner, an organizational consultant with a conservation focus. In preparation, we had valuable input from conservation leaders, landowners and other community advocates. Together, members of the Board renewed our commitment to the core mission of the Trust as the local land trust. With that as our focus, we arrived at some clear decisions for future direction. We are confident that this retooling of our energies will strengthen our efforts to protect the beauty of the land, trails and skies around us.

Our staff has reorganized to carry out our renewed commitment, and is developing a conservation plan (see page 7). Over the next several months, you’ll see us strengthening our stewardship of the land. We will be building bridges to smaller agricultural communities. We will work with large landholders to demonstrate the benefits of a balance between achieving financial return and protecting large tracts of open space. And we will look increasingly to the community around us as we seek both opportunities and guidance.

Come with us on our journey!

NEW STATE SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION

Recently Governor Richardson signed into law SB 186, a landmark conservation bill known as the Natural Heritage Conservation Act. This legislation recognizes the importance of preserving New Mexico’s special places by funding conservation easements and land restoration efforts.

For more information see www.sfct.org.



Edward Schepps

THANK YOU

Last fall volunteer pilot Richard Hoover of LightHawk donated flight time and the use of his plane to help the Trust with several important conservation easement monitoring missions. We applaud his services, which allowed us to gather critical information on some of our large and remote conservation lands. Further partnership with LightHawk continues this year. Congratulations to Shelley Robinson and Tom Buscher, Trust supporters and winners of our *Blue Skies over New Mexico* contest. Shelley and Tom will accompany us on our next working flight with Lighthawk.

EVENTS 2010

For details and tickets on all events see sfct.org and click on "Events"

4th Annual Santa Fe River Festival

June 5, 2010, 10 am - 2 pm

Santa Fe River Downtown/ DeVargas Park

The Santa Fe Watershed Alliance's River Festival is a chance to come down, have fun and learn about the Santa Fe River, rivers and watersheds, and how they can be part of making their habitat a better place to live for all living things.

Star Party

June 12, 2010, 7:30 pm - 11:00 pm

Join us for a mid-summer star party at the Galisteo Basin Preserve! Bring your own picnic to enjoy as you take in the spectacular views of the southern Galisteo Basin.

BBQ Star Party

Aug 21, 2010, 7pm - 11 pm

Join us for a BBQ picnic, music, and a summer star party at the Galisteo Basin Preserve! Santa Fe's Cowgirl BBQ will provide a delicious buffet dinner, which will taste even better eaten on straw bales at sunset while overlooking the southern Galisteo Basin.

Udall Environmental Award Dinner

Sept 12, 2010

This benefit dinner, now in its ninth year and always a sellout, has become a premier Santa Fe affair! By tradition, it is hosted in the enchanting garden courtyard of the historic National Park Service building on Old Santa Fe Trail.

Evening Star Train

October 1, 2010, 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm

Join us for a very special evening: a sunset train ride to the Galisteo Basin, casual supper on-board, and a telescope party featuring local astronomers to help you explore the moons of Jupiter, the Veil Nebula, the Milky Way tracking from horizon to horizon, and more!

The Trust's Annual Meeting

December 2, 2010, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Location will be published on our website as the date approaches.

For tickets and information on events go to www.sfct.org or phone 505-989-7019.



Alan Eckert

THANK YOU

Rassmuson Design is a design studio that creates corporate identities, websites, marketing and sales materials, advertising programs, and catalogue and book designs for a range of commercial and non-profit organizations. For clear and provocative design solutions call 505-603-5266 or visit rassmusondesign.com.

Paper Tiger offers eco-friendly business cards, brochures, posters and more, using soy and indigo inks, recycled paper and a production process that minimizes waste. Please contact Robert@ptig.com, call 505-983-2839 or visit ptig.com



Alan Eckert

Donors Jan - Mar 2010*

David and Margaret Alexander
Jonathan & Kathleen Altman Foundation
Andy and Kitty Ault
John and Elizabeth Baxter
Evelyn Brack Measeles & Larwin Measeles
Bob and Connie Bright
Peter and Honey Chapin
Commonweal Conservancy
Jill Cooper and Tom Udall
Susan & Chuck Cover
Bill Cowles
Gail Dobish & Maris Veidemanis
James Duncan, Jr.
Pam and Kevin Egan
Elaine Finley-Caruana
Viola Fisher
Gretchen Guard
Peter Hagen & Lindsay Faulkner Hagen
Hajoca Corporation,
Elspeth Hilbert
David & Lucia Hilton
Richard Hughes and Clare Rhoades
Jim and Ann Jenkins
Bill and Denise Johnson
Raymond Jones
Anonymous
Jim Leonard and Story Reed Leonard
Jane Lipman
Lucy Lippard
Steve Lipscomb and Miranda Viscoli
Gayle & Marilyn Manges
Jill Markstein
Norma McCallan and Robert McKee, Jr.
McCune Charitable Foundation
James and Patricia McGrath Morris
New Mexico Tax Credit Alliance
Edward and Melanie Ranney
REI
Steve and Connie Robinson
Donald & Sally Romig
Patsie Ross
Pamela Roy and Mark Winne
Santa Fe Community Foundation
Chuck and Norma Scott
Marion Seymour
Terry Smith and Susan Munroe
William Thompson and Patricia Muldoon
Bruce Throne and Tracy Juechter
Mary Toll
Trust for Public Land
Fred Turner
Colin and Firth Waldon
Bob Ward
Robert & Glee Wenzel
Michael and Mary Lou Williams

In Memory of Stewart Udall

Susan Fiering
Iona Klein and Robert Spitz
Congressman & Mrs. John Tanner
Chloe Walling
Inderjit Kaur
Daniel Inouye
Janie and George Bingham

CARING FOR OUR TRAILS

After two years of incubation at the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe (trailsallianceofsantafe.org) has fledged! Now a self-supporting all-volunteer group, this well-trained collection of trail stewards is dedicated to:

- Maintaining and building sustainable trails
- Promoting and practicing trail user education, etiquette, and respect
- Supporting land management agencies
- Providing information about area trails and trail resources, and
- Promoting the benefits and importance of trails to the community.

We send big kudos to Susan Spinell, whose two-year Trails Coordinator position at the Trust ended in December. Susan's efforts helped us form, train, and deploy this highly successful volunteer team.

Here at the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, we remain a strong advocate for public trails as part of our core mission, including negotiating trail rights with landowners to construct new trails and helping increase public access to trails where appropriate.

Current Trails Alliance partners include the Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails Division, the City of Santa Fe, and the non-profits Commonweal Conservancy and Santa Fe Conservation Trust. They expect other partners to join in as the summer of trail work ramps up. Please visit the Trails Alliance website (trailsallianceofsantafe.org) to see a calendar of activities and projects. One highlight is a visit by the International Mountain Bicycling Association to Santa Fe to train trail stewards and raise awareness about the popular sport of mountain biking.

Margaret Alexander

Trust board member and trail volunteer

SFCT Board of Directors 2010

Executive Committee

Jim Jenkins, Board Chair
Bob Pierce, Treasurer
Connie Bright, Vice Chair
Tom Simons, Secretary
Elizabeth Baxter, At-Large

Margaret Alexander
Andy Ault

Murray Brott

Jill Cooper Udall
Bill Cowles
David Henderson
Brad Holian
Richard Hughes
Jim Leonard
Terry Smith

Advisory Board Member

Janie Bingham
Craig Barnes
Chris Larsen

Staff

Charlie O'Leary
Rici Peterson
Melissa Houser
Mary Pat Butler

WELCOME NEW SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST BOARD MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome Murray Brott, Richard Hughes, and Brad Holian as our newest board members and to honor our 2010 Executive Committee: Jim Jenkins, Board Chair; Connie Bright, vice chair; Bob Pierce, Treasurer; Tom Simons, Secretary; and Elizabeth Baxter, At-Large.

Please see www.sfct.org and click on "About" to read up on our board members' backgrounds and interests.

**We strive for accuracy. If we have overlooked your gift please let us know.*

Story continued from front

A LEGACY OF CONSERVATION

by Charlie O'Leary, Executive Director

Whether it's ensuring an iconic hilltop will never be built upon, preserving wildlife habitat, or construction of a favorite trail that inspires us to get out and enjoy the fresh air, the Trust has quietly—and with the help of many dedicated private landowners and supporters—helped keep this city different.

As a result of our recently completed strategic plan, we have made a commitment to stay true to our conservation mission as THE local land trust for Santa Fe and surrounding communities by collaborating with public and private partners.

Keeping the character: smart choices in land use

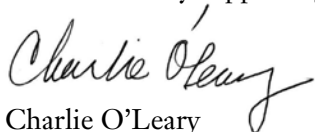
There is no disputing the fact that as our country becomes more homogenized through big box stores and fast-food chain restaurants, it's the land and its people that distinguish one place from another. Often, short-term thinking and the immediate need to grow our personal and collective cash economies drive us to consider our pocketbooks first and our land second. The Santa Fe Conservation Trust is dedicated to helping landowners see that these two considerations, rather than being mutually exclusive, are irrefutably entwined.

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust does not advocate anti-development policies, but instead supports New Mexicans in living with and on the land by standing up for smart land use choices. Too often our society's primary land use involves scraping the soil, carving away hills, and pouring concrete to build new structures without fully appreciating the intrinsic benefits of natural lands. This is not an attack on development, but rather a resounding appreciation of the long-term benefits of clean water, fertile soil and fresh air.

We provide tools for community conservation

My charge at the Trust is to clearly articulate strategies that provide a multitude of options for landowners who wish to participate fully in community conservation. We don't pretend to have all the answers when it comes to balancing all the choices landowners face, but as a qualified land trust, we do provide a unique set of tools. From providing habitat for wildlife, to creating a demonstration area for land restoration practices, to providing trails that meander through neighborhoods to connect us more deeply with nature, we provide ways for landowners to pass their legacy from generation to generation.

I look forward to working with you to carry on the work that Secretary Udall helped inspire, and hope you'll join me in dedicating some of your resources to creating a legacy of New Mexico's natural lands by supporting the Santa Fe Conservation Trust.



Charlie O'Leary
Executive Director



Alan Eckert

NEEDED: Color Digital Photocopier/Scanner

We are going digital! As part of the SFCT Strategic Plan, we are applying for Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Accreditation and need to digitize our Conservation Easement Library. We need a high-quality Color Digital Photocopier/Scanner. If you have one to donate, or wish to make a gift toward the "Photocopier/Scanner Fund," please contact us at 505-989-7019.



SFCT



Kirt Kempter



Santa Fe Conservation Trust earth LINES

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
SANTA FE, NM
PERMIT NO. 361

PO Box 23985, Santa Fe, NM 87502
Return Service Requested

NEW LEAF PAPER®

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS STATEMENT of using post-consumer waste fiber vs. virgin fiber

Santa Fe Conservation Trust saved the following resources by using New Leaf Reincarnation Matte, made with 50% recycled fiber and 30% post-consumer waste, elemental chlorine free, and manufactured with electricity that is offset with Green-e® certified renewable energy certificates:

trees	water	energy	solid waste	greenhouse gases
1 fully grown	352 gallons	0.2 million BTU	21 pounds	73 pounds

Calculations based on research by Environmental Defense Fund and other members of the Paper Task Force.

www.newleafpaper.com



The Santa Fe Conservation Trust is dedicated to preserving the spirit of place among the communities of northern New Mexico by protecting open spaces and critical wildlife habitat, by creating trails, and by protecting the traditional landscapes of our diverse cultures.



Mitch Ellison

WE CAN SAVE THE LAND YOU LOVE. BUT WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

We need your support to protect the land, rivers and trails of northern New Mexico. Our 2010 budget—almost \$300,000—is largely dependent on gifts from individuals. Please help by using the enclosed envelope to send in your gift. Even better, save a stamp by giving online at www.sfct.org.

Save a Tree—and Receive a Discount on Fly Fishing or Garden Planning!

Want to reduce your carbon footprint and save a tree? **Switch to our online newsletter!** Just go to www.sfct.org and click on “Subscribe.” As a thank-you, we’ll email you discount coupons good for 10% off at The Reel Life and Partners with Nature, a local landscape design firm.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over half the rivers in America are too polluted to drink—largely due to contamination from urban-related activities on the land the rivers drain.

About 50% of our drinking water comes from surface water—rain and snowmelt that’s captured in rivers and reservoirs. Santa Fe’s water supplies are clean and high-quality because our precipitation drains land that is largely open, natural, and free of urban contaminants. By protecting natural lands in and around our communities, the Santa Fe Conservation Trust helps protect our water supplies now and into the future.