

# Land Trust Alliance

Prairie State Conservation Coalition

Starved Rock State Park Lodge

March 3, 2016



# Introductions



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# Introducing Andrew Bowman



- Andrew joined the Alliance as President on February 10
- Previously program director for the environment at Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
- Committed to improving the relevance, rate, resilience and rigor of land conservation in America
- Learn more about Andrew at [www.landtrustalliance.org/blog/introducing-andrew-bowman](http://www.landtrustalliance.org/blog/introducing-andrew-bowman)

# Introducing Andrew Bowman



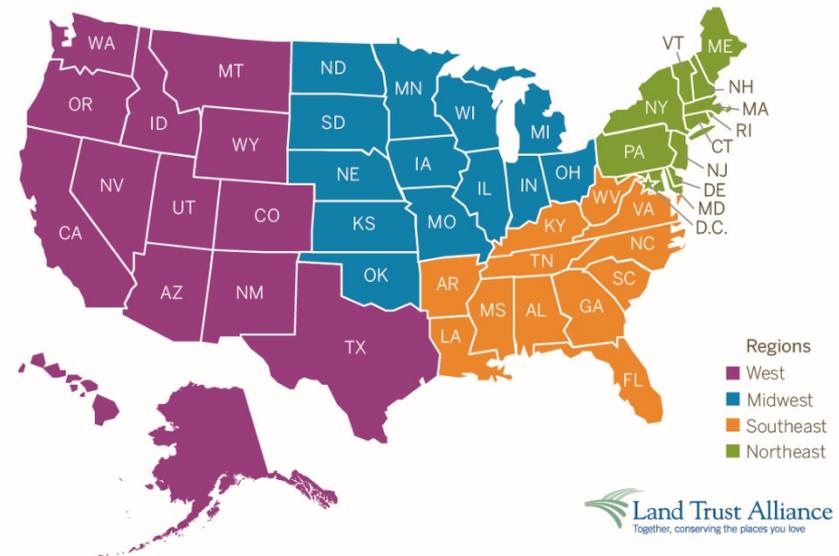
See the video at <https://youtu.be/ztQ4FIjGHlk>

# Community

## You and Our Friends Doing Important Work

- 1100 national members
- 170 Midwest members
- 26 Illinois members

Land Trust Alliance Regional Programs





LAND TRUST ALLIANCE  
.....  
2015 NATIONAL  
LAND TRUST  
**CENSUS**

**Add Your Voice** to Complete the Story



**SURVEY NOW OPEN**

## National Land Trust Census

The clock is ticking. Will you help?

Don't miss this opportunity to tell us how your land trust is conserving special places in your city, state and region. There are more than 1,700 land trusts nationwide, and no two are the same. Your land trust does important work every day. Make sure the unique contributions of your land trust are represented.

The Census only happens once every five years, so unless we hear from you soon, we'll still be using your 2010 data in the year 2020. *You still have a chance!*

Respond today at [www.lta.org/census](http://www.lta.org/census)

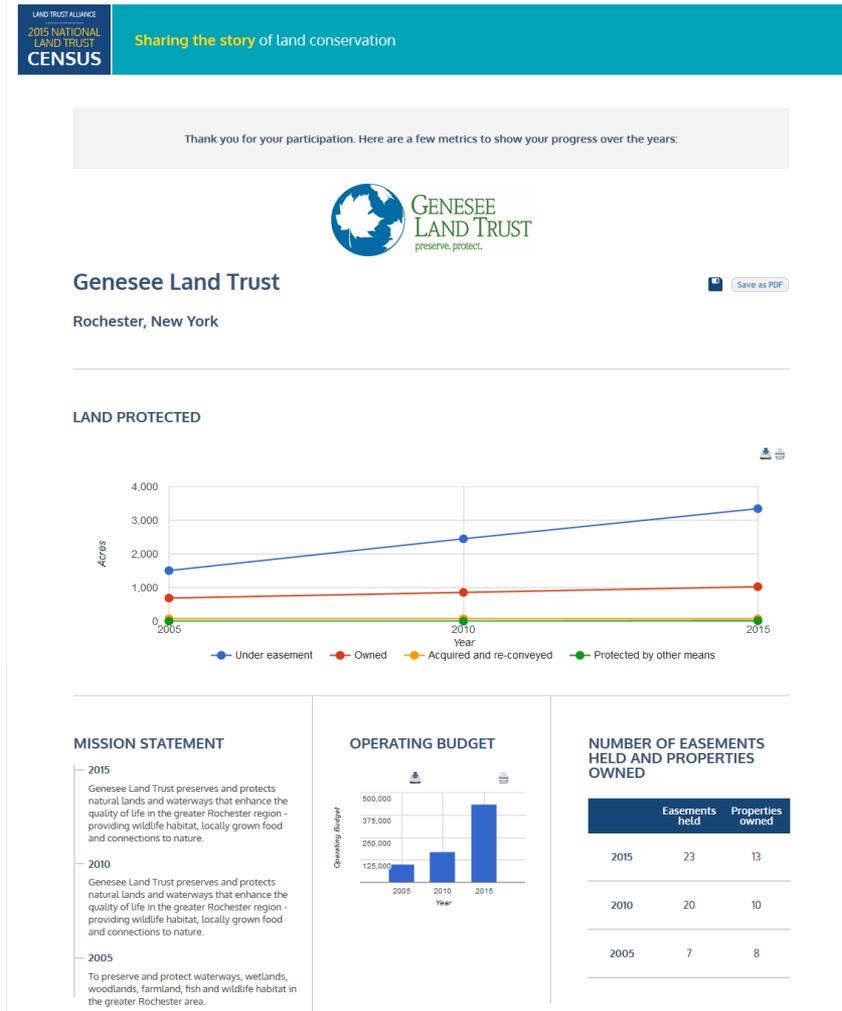
**Questions?** Email us at [census@lta.org](mailto:census@lta.org)  
or call (202) 638-4725.

**Deadline is**  
**March 31st**

# New this year:

- 40% fewer questions
- Online dashboard comparing key metrics from your land trust's 2015/ 2010/ 2005 Census data
- Community conservation—tell us a story of your land trust's community impact in words and photos

Sample dashboard used with permission of Genesee Land Trust (NY)





Excellence • Trust • Permanence

# Excellence

## Implementing Standards & Practices

342 Accredited Land Trusts Nationwide

- 77% of conserved land

36 Accredited Land Trusts in Midwest

- 9 Renewal of Accreditation (5 yrs.)\*

3 in Illinois (soon to double):

- Lake Forest Open Lands Association\*
- Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation
- Openlands



# 2017 Applications

First Time	Round 1	Round 2
Pre-application Due	January 24	June 21
Application Due	April 13	September 21

Renewal	Round 1	Round 2
Pre-application Due	April 4	September 12
Application Due	June 6	November 16

First-time  
registration opens  
May 2016

# Accreditation Guidance

## Upcoming Commission Webinars:

- *Voices of Experience (First-Time)*  
**April 28** | 2-3pm CT
- *2016 Requirements Manual Revisions*  
**May 19** | 2-3pm CT

[www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/  
online-training-opportunities](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/online-training-opportunities)

# *Land Trust Standards and Practices*

## Goals of 2016-17 Revisions Process

- Engage all land trusts in work of pursuing excellence and continuous improvement
- Make S&P accessible for entire land trust community
- Update to reflect changes in legal and operational environment
- Ensure alignment with accreditation, Terrafirma and other resources and tools

Projected Timing	Tasks
Fall 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board approval of final plan</li> <li>• Announce process</li> <li>• Preparation of S&amp;P discussion draft</li> </ul>
January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board approval of SAT</li> </ul>
Winter 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAT starts its work</li> <li>• S&amp;P discussion draft released for high-level feedback</li> <li>• Preparation for spring dialogues</li> </ul>
Spring-summer 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community participation process               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-person and online</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Fall 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synthesis of results</li> <li>• More public input, if necessary</li> <li>• Final draft prepared</li> </ul>
<b>February or June 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board approval of revised S&amp;P!</b></li> <li>• <b>Implementation phase begins</b></li> </ul>

# S&P Discussion Draft 3/1/16

- **12-standards framework essentially sound**
- **More readable and streamlined document**
  - Focuses on practices that apply *broadly* to land trust *community*
  - Improves clarity, reduces redundancy
  - Organizes the practices into elements

# S&P Discussion Draft

- **Designed as online resource**
  - Clearly highlights those items that lead to accreditation
  - Linked to Alliance resources, narratives and requirements

# New Approach!

- Current approach

5B. Accountability to Donors. The land trust is accountable to its donors and provides written acknowledgement of gifts as required by law, ensures that donor funds are used as specified, keeps accurate records, honors donor privacy concerns and advises donors to seek independent legal and financial advice for substantial gifts.

- Fresh approach

B. Accountability to Donors

1. Provide accurate and truthful solicitation materials and other communications to donors and the public
2. Classify all funds as unrestricted, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted as identified in written communications with, or as directed in writing by, the donor
3. Provide timely written acknowledgment of all gifts, including land and conservation easements, as required by law
4. Comply with the donor's written restrictions for all gifts
5. Have a written policy or procedure to ensure donor privacy concerns are honored

# Community Input Process

We're revising the ground rules – add your \$0.50!

- Visit

[www.landtrustalliance.org/topics/standards-and-practices/standards-and-practices-revision](http://www.landtrustalliance.org/topics/standards-and-practices/standards-and-practices-revision)

- Download the discussion draft
- Sign up for the webinar: **April 21** | 1-2pm CT

# Community Input

More is better – add your \$0.50!

- Provide input now through September 15
  - In-person at select spring conferences & sessions
  - Comment on each practice online using Ethelo (coming very soon)
  - Email Sylvia Bates at [sandp@lta.org](mailto:sandp@lta.org)



## We Did It –Victory at Last!

- Enhanced Tax Incentive signed into law  
December 18, 2015
- Retroactive to  
January 1, 2015
- Permanent



Handout -download brochure at  
[www.landtrustalliance.org/taxonomy/term/121](http://www.landtrustalliance.org/taxonomy/term/121)

 LAND TRUST ALLIANCE  
**AMBASSADORS**



[www.lta.org/ambassadors](http://www.lta.org/ambassadors)

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE  
**AMBASSADORS**



# Celebrating Together



# together

*A Campaign for the Land*

Over the past five years this campaign has funded the transformation of the entire land trust community and enabled significant accomplishments for land conservation.

## INCREASE the pace of land conservation



\$700 million+

over 10 years for the purchase of easements on farm and ranch lands in the 2014 Farm Bill



383 bipartisan votes

in Congress to make the tax incentive for easement donations permanent

## IMPROVE the quality of land conservation

317  
accredited  
land trusts



Nearly  
5,000  
land trust leaders strengthened by trainings,  
coaching and other resources in 2015

75%

of conserved land now held  
by accredited land trusts

## ENSURE the permanence of land conservation

90% of acres

under conservation easement now either  
held by TerraFirma members or organizations  
capable of self-insuring



100%

success rate in court for TerraFirma

## +++ TOGETHER, OUR SUCCESS+++

\$40.1 million\*  
raised



\$17.7 million  
invested in strengthening land trusts



50 million acres  
of land conserved by land trusts

\* As of January 2016



[www.lta.org/ambassadors](http://www.lta.org/ambassadors)

Policy Impacts Everything, Including Us

678 Capitol Hill meetings during  
Alliance Advocacy Days 2012 - 2014

*April 11 to 13, 2016 ~ Alliance Advocacy Days*

*~ Please join us ~*



2016 LAND TRUST ALLIANCE  
**ADVOCACY DAYS**  
APRIL 11-13 | WASHINGTON, DC



**Official deadline was March 1  
there's still time – register today!**

**Find travel and first-timer tips at  
[www.landtrustalliance.org/issues-action/  
tools-tips/advocacy-days](http://www.landtrustalliance.org/issues-action/tools-tips/advocacy-days)**



## Policy Webinars

- *Advocacy for Board Members*

**May 3, 2016** | 1-2pm CT

[www.landtrustalliance.org/  
webinar/advocacy-board-  
members](http://www.landtrustalliance.org/webinar/advocacy-board-members)

- *Election Year Advocacy – Opportunities & Pitfalls*

**June 28, 2016** | 1-2pm CT

[www.landtrustalliance.org/webinar/  
election-year-advocacy-opportunities-and-pitfalls](http://www.landtrustalliance.org/webinar/election-year-advocacy-opportunities-and-pitfalls)

# Trainings / Webinars

## *Alliance Webinar 2016 Calendar*

- [Handout: www.lta.org/webinars](http://www.lta.org/webinars)

## *Midwest Ask-an-Expert Calls*

- *Invest an hour with your colleagues*

## *Rally 2016 Minneapolis!*

# Trainings / Webinars

## *Alliance Webinar 2016 Calendar*

- [www.lta.org/webinars](http://www.lta.org/webinars)

## *Midwest Ask-an-Expert Calls*

- Sign up by sending an email to [midwest@lta.org](mailto:midwest@lta.org)
- 11:00-12:00 Central (12:00-1:00 Eastern)
- Friday, March 18 – 20 signed up (~50-80)

# Midwest Ask-an-Expert Calls

Tentative 2016 Schedule

**MARCH 18 – *Universal Access Trails: Fun for Everyone***  
**(Larry Knutson)**

**MAY 6 – Innovative Outdoor  
Recreation Programs**  
**(Chris Bunch, Zak Branigan)**

**JUNE 3 – Planned Giving**  
**(Mary J. Foley)**



# Midwest Ask-an-Expert Calls

Tentative 2016 Schedule



AUG 5 – The Spiritual Value of  
Land Conservation

SEP 9 – Completing and Updating  
Baseline Documentation Reports

OCT 7 – Doing Performance Reviews  
the Right Way (Sarah Naperala)



LAND TRUST ALLIANCE  
RALLY  
2016

National Land Conservation Conference | October 28-30 | Minneapolis, MN

Renew, Connect, Together

Registration opens June 3 at [alliancerally.org](http://alliancerally.org)

*Be There: October 28-30 Minneapolis*

*Scholarships for Chicagoland Land Trusts  
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation*