



**FRIENDS
OF ALTA**

**December 2025
Issue no. 32**

Board of Directors

Del Draper; UT, President
Jamie Stockham; UT, Vice President
Richard Thomas; UT, Treasurer
Stephanie Siegel; OR, Secretary
Susan Bush; UT
Margaret Bourke; UT
Paul Brooks; UT
Eva Chan; UT
John Guldner; UT
Janneke House; NY
Paul Moxley; UT

Advisory Committee

Ralph Becker; UT
Nicholas Besobrasov; CA, UT
Laura Briefer; UT
Margot & Fred Churchill; MA
Peter Corroon; UT
Cassie Dipppo; UT
Glenn Eurick; UT
Michael Goldstein, MD; CA
Craig Heimark; UT
John Holland; VT
Loren Kroenke; UT
Gloria Lee; UT
Skip Silloway; CA

Founders

Bill Levitt, (1917-2009)
Mimi Levitt (1943-2025)
Pat Shea, Legal Counsel

Friends of Alta

PO Box 8126
Alta, UT 84092

(801) 742-9719

info@friendsofalta.org
www.friendsofalta.org



Let It Snow

Greetings from the beautiful snowcapped mountains of Alta! The anticipation for the ski season is palpable as the visage changes from wildflowers and trails filled with hikers to mountains and parking lots filled with the smiling faces of family and friends who make the annual pilgrimage to experience the best skiing the world has to offer.

As we enter the final days of 2025, we reflect on the year that has been with an eye firmly fixed on the future.

Friends of Alta Turns 40

Friends of Alta hit an enormous milestone this year, turning 40! That means 40 years of standing on the front lines of protecting Alta's environment, heritage, and character for future generations. For a small nonprofit like ours, that is a remarkable achievement. We owe our longevity to the support of donors like you who believe in our work, and we are honored and humbled by your continued support.

Friends of Alta has been integral in preserving the Alta we all know and love over the past four decades, from helping the town of Alta prevent 400 time share units from being built along the bypass road in the 80's, donating \$90,000 to help save Bonanza Flats in 2016, donating \$41,250 to help protect the entrance to Little Cottonwood Canyon in 2020, or, most recently, filing a lawsuit to prevent the construction of the world's longest gondola in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Friends of Alta has met every challenge head on.

Saying Goodbye

This year saw the loss of our beloved cofounder, Mimi Levitt. The outpouring of kind words, stories, and memories of Mimi has been overwhelming in a beautiful and life affirming way. Chances are high that if you're reading this you have a Mimi story of your own (or several) that immediately comes to mind and brings a smile to your face. It takes a truly special person to make a lasting impact on the lives of so many people from so many different walks of life. Mimi had the unique ability to not only make you feel welcome and appreciated, but also a passion for Alta that made people care enough to want to listen, learn, and take action to protect it. Alta lost one of its most fierce protectors, but Mimi's incredible legacy will live on through the nonprofit she was so instrumental in founding and by the stories told by the countless Alta Lodge guests whose lives she touched. Thank you Mimi.



Photo by Mimi Levitt

The Great Land Grab

Utah, for all of its natural beauty, seems to elect a disproportionate number of politicians hell-bent on selling that beauty to the highest bidder. 2025 saw the most substantial threat to protected spaces in modern times, with the introduction of Senator Mike Lee's massive public lands sell-off proposal. Lee's proposal attempted to force the sale of up to 3 million acres of public land across eleven states, including Utah. This would have included both BLM and US Forest Service land, with places like Little Cottonwood Canyon and Moab among those in the possible crosshairs. Thanks to the outpouring of opposition to this proposal from individuals like you, it died a quick and unceremonious death. Senator Lee's bill was eerily similar to Rep. Jason Chaffetz's bill from 2017, which attempted to sell 3.3 million

acres of public land across 10 states. As long as well-connected people stand to make an unfathomable amount of money by forcing the sale of these lands, the threat will remain. Massive land grabs like those attempted by both Lee and Chaffetz will continue to take on new forms and be pursued with vigor by an emboldened majority under the administration of President Trump. They have shown us time and time again who they are and what they are after, and we have no choice but to believe them and face the reality of the situation. This isn't going away.

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it." – Robert Swan

The environment has never seen an enemy like Donald Trump. As I type this, more federal employees, responsible for the protection of the environment, are having their jobs terminated, with thousands more being furloughed. Protections continue to be lifted and funding for agencies and organizations tasked with protecting the environment continue to be reduced or eliminated. To say that this is a war on the environment is not hyperbole but the grim reality of what we are up against.

This is a true "Nobody is coming to save us" situation. If we want places like Alta and Little Cottonwood Canyon protected and preserved, it's entirely up to us to act. Now, more than ever, we must act. If you are able, please consider donating to Friends of Alta, an organization that has met every challenge Alta and Little Cottonwood Canyon have faced for the past 40 years. We are a small nonprofit but our commitment to Alta and our passion for the place we call "The Jewel of the Wasatch" is immeasurable. We stand with Alta, and we hope you will continue to stand with us.

For Bill, Mimi, and Alta.

Kody R. Fox
Executive Director



Summary of Summer

We were able to host and participate in a variety of events this past summer. Thank you to everyone who participated, and we hope to see you again next year!

Alta Gala:

The 2025 Alta Gala was another huge success! The Alta Gala is a collaborative fundraiser between Friends of Alta, Alta Community Enrichment, and Alta Historical Society to celebrate the arts, environment, and history of Alta. For the second year running, guests enjoyed the option of choosing between two fantastic party experiences. This year's gala featured the incredible sounds of the B-side Junkeez, who kept the dance floor packed all night long.

As in previous years, attendees had the exciting opportunity to win amazing prizes in our opportunity drawing. This year's prizes included a 2025/2026 Alta Ski Resort season pass and a heliskiing adventure for two with PowderBirds. A huge congratulations to Lani Kittredge, winner of the Heliskiing package for two, and Bryce North, who will be hitting the slopes with a brand-new Alta Ski Resort season pass! Thank you to everyone who attended and supported these vital organizations in Alta! Mark your calendars for April 3, 2026, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Alta Gala. More details coming soon with this unique Gala that you won't want to miss out on.



Bill Levitt Fellowship:

The Bill Levitt Fellowship is an annual, three-month opportunity where selected individuals join Friends of Alta to support conservation efforts in the Alta region. Inspired by Mayor Levitt's commitment to excellence, intelligence, and integrity in public

service, the fellowship blends these values with environmental stewardship aimed at protecting Alta's unique character and natural beauty.

During the program, the fellow assists the Forest Service Rangers one day each week, helping to educate visitors about the Albion Basin's ecology and conservation needs. This hands-on experience fosters a deep connection between public process and environmental protection.

This year's fellow, Lucas Dann, contributed significantly to these goals. For an in-depth look at his accomplishments and experiences from this past summer, be sure to read Lucas's fellowship recap on page 7.

Wasatch Wildflower Festival:

Friends of Alta joined the 2025 Wasatch Wildflower Festival, hosted by the Alta Environmental Center and Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, for a fantastic day of celebration and outreach. This year's event was extra special as it also marked Friends of Alta's 40 years of dedication to the environment, we all love. Attendees enjoyed live music from the talented Ky and The Jellies, who played lively tunes that perfectly complemented the festive atmosphere. Alongside the music, visitors were treated to a selection of delicious snacks while learning about Friends of Alta's important work and what we have accomplished over the past 40 years. The festival offered a wonderful opportunity to connect with the public, share stories, and celebrate nature's beauty with wildflowers in full bloom. It was a memorable event that combined education, entertainment, and community spirit all in one beautiful setting.

Alta Kids Day:

Friends of Alta joined the fun again this year at Alta Kids Day with an exciting activity booth. Kids eagerly rolled up their sleeves to make wildflower seed bombs, enjoying the hands-on experience of mixing soil and seeds. Throughout the day, children had a blast throwing these seed bombs at various spots around Alta, helping to bring bursts of color and nature with Alta specific seed to the area. Alongside this lively activity, many children grabbed their copy of the new junior ranger books. Some young participants proudly earned their junior ranger badges by completing the activity book during the event. Overall, it was a joyful day

filled with learning, nature, and community spirit, inspiring kids to connect with the environment in a playful and meaningful way.



Volunteer Day:

Friends of Alta teamed up with the Alta Environmental Center to co-host two volunteer days focused on removing invasive weed plants near Snowpine Lodge. Volunteers collected numerous trash bags full of invasive species, which pose a serious threat to the local environment. Invasive weeds, like the large thistle that grew over five feet tall this year, crowd out native plants, reduce biodiversity, and impair habitats.

Both Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons, nearby, supply up to 60% of the Salt Lake Valley's drinking water. Invasive weeds worsen water quality by increasing erosion and disrupting natural filtration. By clearing these non-native plants, volunteers help restore healthy ecosystems and ensure native plants have space to thrive.

Beyond environmental benefits, these events bring the community together, demonstrating how teamwork can protect our green spaces and maintain Alta's natural beauty.

Memorial Tree Planting:

Each summer, Friends of Alta hosts a special day dedicated to planting trees in the Memorial Grove. This event offers people a meaningful way to honor loved ones by planting memorial trees. The trees used are carefully selected from those pulled from Alta, trees that would otherwise be removed due to their location. This way, they get a second chance to grow and bring beauty to the grove.

This year, we planted six new trees and replaced four that didn't survive the winter, welcoming wonderful families who chose to memorialize their loved ones in this lasting way. The event not only helps preserve nature but also creates a peaceful, living tribute that will grow and flourish over time, connecting memories with the enduring strength of trees.

Star Party:

We regret to inform you that our star party could not be held this year. Both the original date and the rescheduled event were cancelled due to unfavorable weather conditions. While this was disappointing, we are already planning to bring the star party back next year at Snowpine Lodge. To improve our chances of clear skies, we aim to host it earlier in September. Keep an eye out for updates and details in our upcoming Spring Newsletter. We appreciate your enthusiasm and hope to share a wonderful night under the stars with you soon!

Mine Tour:

We hosted our fourth annual Mine and Water Treatment Tour with Salt Lake County Service District. This year, Kasey Carpenter, General Manager of Salt Lake County Service Area 3, guided participants through an educational journey exploring the local mine and water treatment facilities. Attendees gained valuable insights into how mining operations and water treatment work together to protect our watershed. Unfortunately, due to increasing watershed protection measures, this may be the final tour we host with Kasey. That said, we are actively exploring new possibilities and hope to offer exciting tours again in summer 2026.

Alta Children's Center Hike:

This summer, we hosted our second annual education hike for youth from Alta Children's Center, making the event both fun and educational. Along the trail, the group explored and identified a variety of wildflowers, learning about the unique native plants that thrive in Little Cottonwood Canyon. This year, we added a creative twist: before the hike, participants made wildflower seed bombs using only native plant seeds. These seed bombs will help increase native plant populations in Alta, supporting the local ecosystem for years to come.

Overall, the day combined outdoor adventure with hands-on learning, inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards.

Friends of Alta Speaker Series:

The Friends of Alta Speaker Series celebrated its second annual season in 2025, offering four insightful educational lectures led by experts across diverse fields. The season began with Professor McKenzie Skiles presenting How Desert Dust Influences Snow Melt and Water Supply, shedding

light on how natural dust impacts mountain snowpack and water resources.

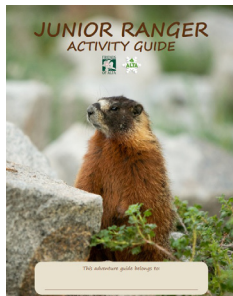
Next, Austin Green shared fascinating insights into wildlife migratory habits and trail cams, exploring animal movements and the role technology plays in tracking them. Laura Vernon followed with a timely talk on the Great Salt Lake: Decreases in Lake Level = Increases in Attention and Opportunity, discussing environmental changes and future prospects for this vital ecosystem.

The series concluded with a co-hosted event alongside Alta Community Enrichment featuring Professor David Bowling's engaging lecture, Fall Leaf Color—Why Does It Change?, revealing the science behind autumn's spectacular hues.

With positive feedback and great community interest, the Friends of Alta look forward to announcing a new lineup of four educational talks for 2026! All of these great educational talks are available to watch on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@friendsofalta

New Summer Junior Ranger Books

We have some exciting news this summer! Our Summer Junior Ranger books have been redesigned with a fresh, kid-friendly look while keeping much of the great content that kids love. The updated books now include more fun activities that engage young explorers and help them learn about nature and the environment in an interactive way. A big thank you goes to Anna Lee from the Alta Environmental Center for her fantastic work on the redesign. Thanks to this update, we've been able to share over 2,000 copies of the Summer Junior Ranger books with children throughout the summer.



~New Events & Programs This Year~

Celebrating 40 Years of Friends of Alta

Friends of Alta proudly marked its 40th anniversary this year with a series of special events celebrating four decades of protecting the beautiful environment we all cherish. The festivities kicked off right after the annual Wildflower Festival with a lively birthday party, bringing together supporters and nature lovers alike.

Later, a more intimate celebration was held at

the historic Tanner Cabin, generously hosted by Nathan and Celine Sutherland. This private gathering honored key donors who have played an essential role in prioritizing Friends of Alta's mission over the years. Attendees also had the unique opportunity to tour nearby conservation easements, highlighting the vital impact of ongoing environmental protection efforts.

We were planning to wrap up this season's celebrations with a special Star Party at Snowpine Lodge—a fresh and exciting twist compared to previous years. This event promised more than just stargazing; guests were set to enjoy delicious food and live music in a cozy lodge setting. We hope to host this incredible event next year.



~Looking Forward~

Howie Garber Book Signing

Join Friends of Alta and friends for a unique and exciting event that goes beyond a typical book signing! Celebrate the wonders of Alta and Little Cottonwood Canyon that we all cherish with award winning photographer and author Howie Garber, who will be discussing his book *Alta and Little Cottonwood Canyon: Jewel of the Wasatch Mountains*.

This book is at once a call to action for locals and visitors alike, a history of Little Cottonwood Canyon, and a visual tour of this stunning landscape that receives more annual visitors than all five of Utah's National Parks combined. The resulting pages showcase the importance and fragility of this small canyon and why this "gem of the Wasatch" must be protected.

Joining Howie as our guest speaker is award-winning author and storyteller, Ayja Bounous. This event will be on December 1, 2025 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Salt Lake Public Library.

Chair's Message

The change of seasons at Alta is always a time for reflection. This summer was drier than normal, which somewhat reduced the wildflowers, yet at times and in certain locations the flowers were as stunning as ever. The yellows of June and July gave way to a profusion of purples, reds whites and other colors. Some of the more extravagant displays appeared on the more remote hiking trails. These trails tend to be less crowded, which with the number of visitors to Alta in the summer, is a real plus. The crowds that Alta attracts are a reminder that Alta is a special place and needs our attention to protect it from being loved to death.

Summer gave way to Fall, and despite the lack of water and muted colors in the lower Canyon, the Aspens were their usual spectacular yellows and, in some places, reds. As I write this on November 4th it is warm enough to hike in Albion Basin in a tee shirt. These are conditions that make skiers nervous, but experience tells us it can all change in a moment.

The change of seasons causes us to notice nature. The summer crowds cause us to reflect on how to manage growth so that the places that we hold dear will continue to be there for all who want the same experiences. I have frequented Alta since the early 1960s and have had the opportunity to closely observe the changes over the years and appreciate the fragility of this wild place. Piles of overturned sandy outcrops remain bare decades later, save for a few hardy fireweed plants. Places where Alta Ski Lifts has contoured the mountain to improve the skier's experience never seem to return to their original wild beauty. Crowds grow bigger every year. On beautiful Fall days, with the hikers and Oktober Fest attendees, parked cars stretch from Hellgate to nearly a mile below the White Pine trailhead. The pressures on this place will only increase as the population along the Wasatch Front grows. As friends of Alta, we must all do what we can to protect this wonderful and fragile place for all of us now and for the future. Please support us and help Friend of Alta carry on this mission

Del Draper

Friends of Alta Board Chair



Photo by Howie Garber

Exit Reflection

2025 Bill Levitt Fellow

As the summer comes to an end, the chlorophyll is withdrawn from the leaves of the trees of the Wasatch, and my duties as the Bill Levitt Fellow cease; I'm left with time to reflect on the summer and the hours spent hiking in the glacial-carved basin of Little Cottonwood Canyon known by the name Albion. This summer was my first introduction to the snowless terrain of Alta, and I can say with ease that it lives up to every expectation. Beautiful landscapes complemented by running streams, sprawling meadows, and flourishing wildlife underscore the magic of the basin.

My stewardship duties as BLF highlighted these characteristics through invasive weed pulling, monitoring conservation easements, and chatting with hikers alongside Naturalists with the Cottonwood Canyon Foundation, giving me a better understanding of what is at stake for this fragile alpine ecosystem. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to help care for this landscape and advocate for creatures who cannot speak for themselves, which has been a very fulfilling endeavor. Moose and Bears, Nutcrackers and Swallows, Potguts and Marmots, along with Juvenile Tiger Salamanders and our beloved Pikas, all call this place home, yet have no agency in the management of these lands. This is where we come in. Every action and inaction plays a role in the outcome of Albion Basin. In reality, every visitor is a steward of Alta and can help.

Stewardship is never a one-and-done deal. You can designate a canyon as a state forest and protected watershed, but it's people who care that allow these protections to come to fruition. This is what I believe makes Alta and Little Cottonwood stand out from other canyons in the Wasatch: the people. Had it not been for people who care, Alta would have remained a ghost town, barren of trees, as erosion accelerated and more toxins from the mining and logging era taint the valley's water supply. Luckily for us, this wasn't the case. A generation of stewards stepped up to help restore the basin to its former glory. Countless hours were poured into reforesting the area so that their children may enjoy the splendors

of nature.

And so, it is with the present that we must step up and continue the tradition of stewardship. Every piece of trash picked up, every wildflower left unpicked, and every footstep kept on the trail help us achieve this common goal. It was a pleasure to work alongside so many wonderful people with a shared passion for the outdoors and Alta. I was told during Albion Basin Ranger Training that the summer team here is a family, and it couldn't be more true. Families care for one another and take pride in their home; they listen, support, and protect what they love. This summer, I found that same sense of family in the people and in the land itself. Every day on the trail, every shared laugh or story, and every quiet moment watching the light move across the basin made me feel connected to something timeless. Caring for Alta began to feel less like a task and more like an act of love, one that ties you to the mountains, to the wildlife, and to the generations who came before and those who will come after. Leaving for the season is bittersweet, but I take comfort in knowing that family never really says goodbye to its home; we just find new ways to care for it. I'm reminded that caring for a place is not just about preservation; it's about belonging, responsibility, and love for the landscape that sustains us all.

I would like to thank all of the stewards of Alta, including the Alta Ski Resort summer crew, the Alta Environmental Center Team, my friends at the Cottonwood Canyon Foundation, and every curious visitor, all of whom were kind enough to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for this remarkable place. I'd also like to extend my deepest thanks to Kody and Tara at Friends of Alta for their guidance, encouragement, and trust throughout this fellowship. Their passion for protecting The Jewel of the Wasatch and its history has been both inspiring and contagious. Though the season is over, my connection to these mountains and this community will stay with me for years to come.

Thank you,
Lucas Dann
2025 Bill Levitt Fellow



Little Cottonwood Canyon Transportation Update

Legal and Election Update

In December 2023, FOA filed a lawsuit challenging the decision to build the world's longest gondola to reduce vehicle congestion into Little Cottonwood Canyon (LCC) to move wintertime patrons to Alta and Snowbird resorts. Last Spring, FOA filed a motion requesting the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) supplement the administrative record (AR) it previously filed. The AR is the basis from which the parties will argue that UDOT failed to comply with federal and state laws. FOA asked that UDOT add many additional materials into the AR. The motion was argued before US District Court Judge Tena Campbell on June 12, 2025. Specifically, FOA requested the AR be sent back to UDOT, to complete and resubmit the AR with materials involving individuals and agencies UDOT identified as being "significant contributors" to the EIS, such as US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS) and SWCA (a contractor to UDOT). These entities, and others, conducted and provided research to UDOT in analyzing, preparing and reaching conclusions in the draft and final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), as well as the Record of Decision (ROD). We still await Judge Campbell's ruling on that motion, with the litigation therefore "on-hold."

UDOT has stated it can not act to improve transportation in Little Cottonwood Canyon (LCC) due to the lawsuits. FOA disagrees with that position, firmly believing there are measures both inside and outside the EIS/ROD which could be implemented by UDOT, now. To that end, FOA, through our attorneys has been working with attorneys for the other plaintiffs (Sandy City, Salt Lake City, and Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy, and the non-profit, Save our Canyons), as well as counsel representing UDOT, to develop a mutually agreed stipulation allowing UDOT to pursue some transportation improvements, during the pendency of the litigation. To date there have been multiple rounds of written and oral communications. FOA is hopefully optimistic that an agreement can be reached and UDOT can and will proceed with some traffic improvements in LCC, while the litigation continues. To date, agreement has not been reached, though we await the next draft from UDOT.

Elections were held in many cities in Utah. Transportation in LCC was "on the ballot" in the portal communities of Sandy and Cottonwood Heights, as well as the town of Alta. Each of these mayor-elects strongly opposed the LCC gondola, and support low-cost, common sense solutions. Notably, the mayors of Salt Lake City and Alta, will continue to act as co-chairs of the Central Wasatch Commission (CWC), a non-governmental agency tasked with addressing transportation, economic viability, environmental sustainability and recreation stewardship. FOA has, and will continue to interact with these individuals, councils in those municipalities, and the CWC. We are optimistic together, our legal and legislative efforts are moved forward towards common-sense transportation solutions for LCC.

Margaret Bourke
Gondola Committee Chair



Little Cottonwood Canyon Transportation Update

Legislature Update

With the support of Lockhart Group, Friends of Alta continues to make meaningful progress toward sustainable transportation solutions for Little Cottonwood Canyon. This month, our focus has been advancing bus expansion, engaging the public, and building legislative momentum.

Advancing Bus Expansion

Expanding bus service—especially during peak hours—remains a top priority. Current state law restricts how funds from the Little Cottonwood Canyon Fund can be used, preventing investment in increased bus service. We are currently pursuing two strategies:

- **Statutory Change:** Actively meeting with key lawmakers to support and sponsor legislation that would allow more flexible use of funds.
- **Settlement Efforts:** Supporting negotiations that could free up resources for expanded mobility solutions.

Both approaches are gaining traction, with growing recognition among legislators and community leaders that expanded bus service is a smart, balanced solution.

Looking Ahead

We are proud of the progress made this month and grateful for your continued support. With many meetings scheduled, momentum is building toward transportation solutions that work for everyone who loves Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Zac Bramble
The Lockhart Group



Michael (Mimi) Muray Levitt (1943 - 2025)

A Tribute to Mimi Levitt

It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the passing of Mimi Muray Levitt, Friends of Alta's beloved co-founder.

Mimi was the heart of Friends of Alta, an organization she helped establish over 40 years ago alongside her husband and Alta's first Mayor, Bill Levitt, and their close friend, attorney Pat Shea. Originally known as the Alta Defense Fund, the organization was formed in response to a large time-sharing company attempting to build 400 units on the land located on the Bypass Road between Alta and Snowbird, which, if successful, would have dramatically altered the look and feel of the town forever. When Mayor Levitt was informed that the company was prepared to engage in a lengthy legal battle, intent on financially draining the Town of Alta, the trio recognized the urgent need for action.

The Alta Defense Fund was created to provide critical financial support during this challenging time, enabling the town to stand firm and ultimately succeed in the protracted legal fight against the time-sharing company, eventually leading to victory in Utah's Supreme Court. This historic triumph safeguarded the area for future generations, a cause that Mimi passionately championed throughout her life.

Mimi's profound affection for Alta's environment and contagious enthusiasm inspired many to appreciate the majestic beauty of the mountains that she held dear.

Her passion for the outdoors also shone through her diverse hobbies. Whether skiing the slopes of Alta, riding horses in Moab, or capturing the stunning landscapes and wildlife of Alta through her exceptional photography, Mimi lived each day as an adventure, deeply connected to nature.

Mimi made a lasting impression on everyone she encountered. Those lucky enough to spend time at the Alta Lodge over the years can attest to her incredible ability to turn casual acquaintances into lifelong friends. She had a remarkable gift for remembering the details of your life and always greeted you with warmth and a smile.

Mimi also never missed an opportunity to discuss the importance of preserving Alta's beautiful yet fragile environment, inspiring countless others to become involved with their time, money, or both. If you are

a longtime supporter of Friends of Alta, Mimi was likely the spark that lit the flame. Friends of Alta will continue to uphold the principles Mimi championed and foster the sense of community she helped cultivate.

Since Mimi's passing, many Friends of Alta supporters, former Alta Lodge employees, and Alta Lodge guests have paused to reflect on the lasting impact she made on their lives. A lovely thread connects the stories shared; families spanning multiple generations fondly remembering how their experiences at the Alta Lodge were intertwined with their affection for and interactions with Mimi. So many speak of how she created a warm and welcoming atmosphere that truly made the lodge feel like a second home. Heartfelt accounts come from those who viewed Mimi as a second mother or described her as the most remarkable boss they have ever had. Each of these treasured memories highlights the love and kindness she extended to everyone she encountered.

As I write this, I'm reminded of a famous quote from Maya Angelou, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

- Kody Fox
Friends of Alta Executive Director



Michael (Mimi) Muray Levitt (1943 - 2025)

~Memories of Mimi~

I am deeply grateful for Mimi's guidance and presence in my life. This is my Mimi story.

I first met Mimi as a new "tron" at the Alta Lodge, freshly graduated with a degree in Wildlife Management and eager to learn to ski powder. I had moved to Alta the year after the Olympics, taking a friend's advice to work in the dining room at the Lodge because of its amazing ski schedule and the promise of good well balanced meals for employees. That decision turned out to be one of the most important of my life. Not only did I fall in love with skiing again, but I also had a front-row seat to watch Mimi share her love of Alta with family, guests, and friends. As an Alta youngster, I was intrigued by Mimi, a tough, beautiful mountain woman, that ran the lodge and seemed to have an agenda and a good time.

Both Bill and Mimi were welcoming and intentional in their interactions with guests and staff at the Alta Lodge. In the dining room especially, they helped guests and employees feel part of something bigger. What might have seemed like small gestures, greeting people, sharing updates about Alta, even raising awareness about development pressures, left a lasting impression. Their style of connection was grounding and inviting. Many dining room conversations flowed easily from stories of an epic ski run to thoughtful discussions about protecting Alta's environment, linked together by the ways in which we connect with nature. Unlike many other ski areas that emphasized lodging and amenities, Alta's charm lay in its relative lack of development and beautiful open spaces. For many of us, Alta became part of our identity and our story, drawing people back year after year, generation after generation. Through Mimi, I began to understand Alta not only as a place with the "greatest snow on earth" but as a community and landscape worth protecting and cherishing.

In 1981, Bill and Mimi founded the Alta Defense Fund, which later grew into Friends of Alta (FOA), with Mimi guiding its work for more than 20 years. Eventually, Laura Briefer was hired as the first

Executive Director, and in 2005, I came on board. At first, I split my time between the Lodge and FOA, which gave me the unique opportunity to get to know many of the guests while also working with Mimi to share and grow FOA's mission. Over the next 14 years, I had the privilege of working side by side with Mimi as FOA expanded from a legal defense fund into a well-rounded land trust. Under her direction, our work grew to include conservation projects, school programs, wetland and bird studies, and hands-on stewardship of the land. Mimi's appetite for conservation was insatiable. She was not content to simply serve as a figurehead, she was deeply engaged in every aspect of the organization, from big-picture strategy to the smallest details.



What always impressed me was Mimi's clarity about her strengths and her boldness in drawing others in. If she saw a person with skills or a passion for Alta that could benefit the organization, she found a way to connect with them and bring them into the fold. Her determination was matched by a remarkable memory. I learned from her constantly, about fundraising, about building relationships, and most importantly, about telling the story of Alta in a way that inspired others to care and join in.

Mimi strongly believed the work of Friends of Alta had to reach beyond our small corner of the Wasatch. She wanted the Board of Directors and Advisory Committee to reflect people from across the country, ensuring that Alta's voice carried far and wide. She also gave generously of herself, sharing her photography of Alta's wildflowers, wildlife, and landscapes so that others could discover their own connection to this place.

I will always treasure the meals and ski runs I shared with Mimi as we worked together to promote Friends of Alta. We certainly had fun, but it was more often hard and tireless work. She embodied passion, generosity, and vision. For me, she was both mentor and determined leader. Her influence shaped not only the organization but also my own life, and I will forever be grateful.

- Jen Clancy,
Friends of Alta Executive Director (2005-2018)

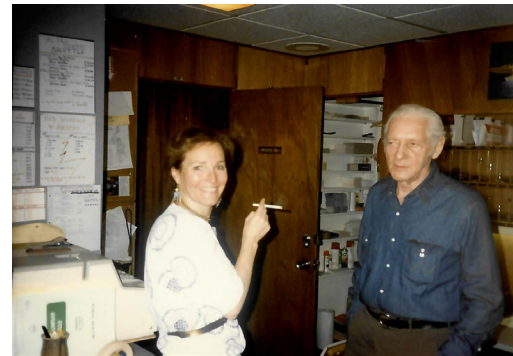
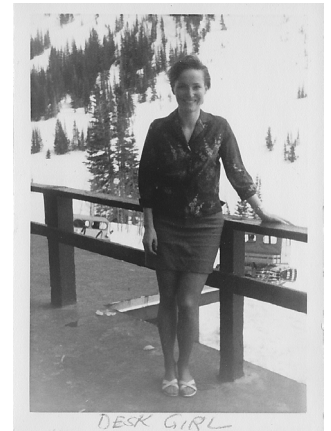
Michael (Mimi) Muray Levitt (1943 - 2025)

~For Mimi~

Mimi had passion, courage, and was a staunch protector of Alta and the Albion Basin. I worked with her from 2002 through 2007 in my role as the Friends of Alta Executive Director. She had an admirable ability in raising awareness of the threats of land and water speculation in the Albion Basin and in gathering support to ensure the watershed of Little Cottonwood Creek was protected. Nearly 500,000 people in the Salt Lake Valley have access to clean, reliable water. Mimi played an important role in protecting this water supply for current and future generations of Utahns.

Mimi and Bill were mentors at a time when I was early in my career. I will never forget our strategic breakfast and lunch conversations at the Alta Lodge. Mimi's fierce support of protecting the critical landscape of Alta is her legacy. Her generosity towards my family and me was unparalleled. I am forever grateful for her inspiration and her influence on my life.

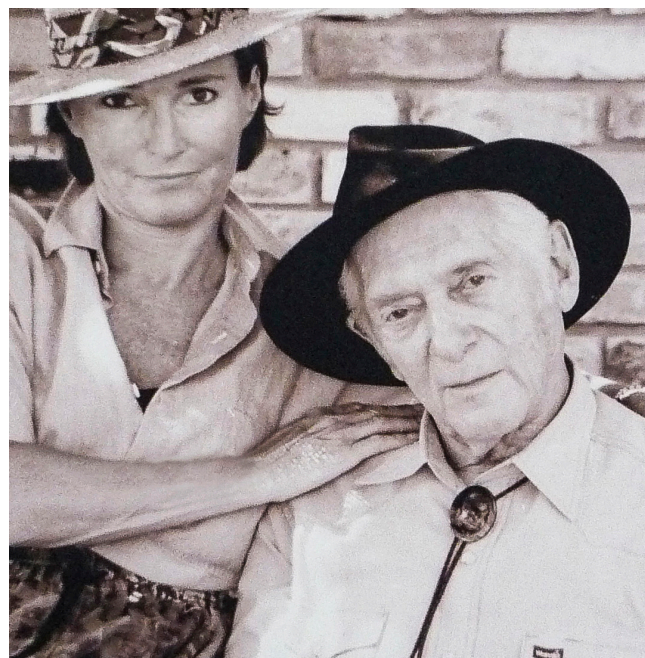
- Laura Briefer
Freinds of Alta Executive Director (2002-2007)



June 30, 2025 Annual Report

Contributions ¹	\$168,078
Contributions to Bill Levitt Fellowship	\$5,000
Business Sponsors	\$14,504
Merchandise	\$27,083
Grants	\$9,500
Special Events ²	\$15,968
Total Revenue	\$241,035
Operations ³	\$197,323
Environmental Education, Studies & Sustainability ⁴	25,148
Land Conservation ⁵	\$4,120
Gondola Expenses ⁶	\$82,332
Revenue Generating Programs ⁷	\$4,290
Conservation Fund Management Fees	\$0
Total Expenses	\$313,821
Conservation Fund Market Value on 6/30/2025	\$1,395,948

1. Individual Contributions, Love Utah Give Utah, Memorial Tree Program
2. Alta Gala
3. Employee Salary, Employee Benefits, Office Rent, Office Supplies
4. Alta Summer Booth Grant, Alta Summer Host Program, Summer Stewardship Programs, Wetland Study, Alta Bird Study, GIS Mapping
5. Conservation Easement Monitoring, Insurance, GIS Mapping, Conservation Resources & Planning, Land Trust Alliance
6. Lawyer Fees & Lobbyist Fees
7. Event Expenses, Marketing, Merchandise Purchase



Bill and Mimi Levitt



The Alta Way of Life

"I tell people who come here: 'You're an Alta person now. When the world gets to be too much and you feel like you have to flee, you just come to the bottom of the canyon. We'll have your name on a list, we'll close the gates, we'll point the avalanche guns down the canyon. The bad guys won't come up after you.'" -Bill Levitt

As Bill Levitt said in his quote above, Alta is a special place - a place to make home or just to escape the stress of everyday life.

Thank you for your help in protecting the environment, preserving the unique character and heritage, and encouraging stewardship and sustainability in the area.

Donations are always welcome to help Friends of Alta continue to protect the area we all love and stop those who want to develop our beautiful home.

Ways To Support Friends of Alta

Holiday Sale

The Friends of Alta's annual holiday sale is officially underway, running from November 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. This is the perfect chance to score the biggest savings of the year, with most merchandise available at 25% off. Whether you're searching for thoughtful gifts for family and friends or treating yourself, you'll find amazing deals across a wide variety of items. Best of all, every purchase supports Friends of Alta, helping this valued nonprofit continue its important work throughout the year. Don't miss this festive opportunity to save big while giving back to the community during the holiday season. Shop early to get the best selection and make your holidays truly special! Purchase your items today at www.friendsofalta.org/shop



\$75



\$75



\$22.50



\$18.75

Giving Tuesday

Save the date for this year's Giving Tuesday on December 2, 2025! This year, your support is even more powerful thanks to an exciting community match of \$2,950. That means every dollar you donate to protect our beloved Alta will be doubled, doubling your impact on preserving the environment we all cherish.

Giving Tuesday is a global day of generosity, and we're thrilled to be part of this movement. By joining us, you help fund vital conservation efforts that safeguard Alta's natural beauty and wildlife. Together, we can make a real difference—turning your gift into twice as much protection for the places we love.

Mark your calendar, spread the word, and be ready to give. Let's unite as a community to protect Alta's environment for generations to come! Find ways to donate at www.friendsofalta.org/donate

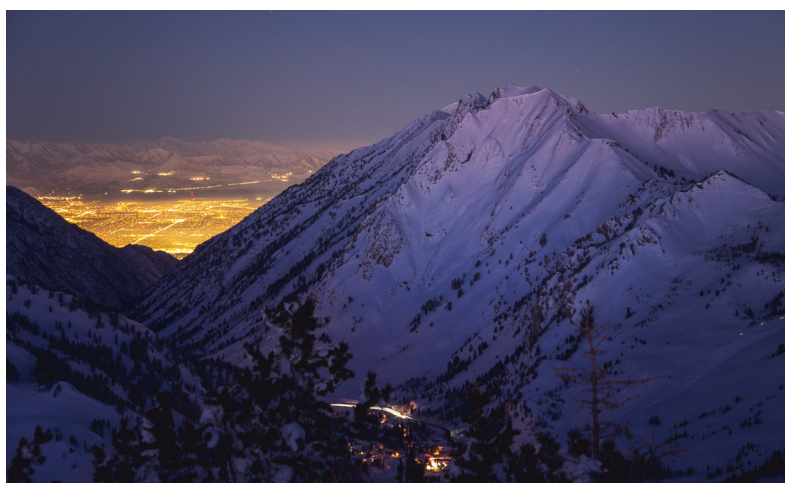


Photo by Jason Luther



The mission of Friends of Alta is to protect the environment of Alta, including watershed and wildlife habitat areas; to preserve Alta's unique character and heritage; and to encourage stewardship and sustainability of Alta's environment and community.

Merchandise and Donations

Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program and make your contributions to FOA go twice as far! We have a variety of FOA merchandise ready for the holiday season that would make perfect gifts. Check out our 2026 calendar, Howie Garber book, Alta Ski Resort Trail Map Blanket and more!



Alta Shuttle donates 2% of all services to/from the Town of Alta during the winter season to FOA. Special thanks to Alta Shuttle, Tom, the shuttle drivers, and Alta Shuttle's patrons for supporting FOA.
Altashuttle.com



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.



Alta Gala Save The Date

The Alta Gala will be Friday, April 3, 2026 at Snowpine Lodge again this year. Updates will be posted at altagala.org

Friends of Alta is a 501(c)(3) organization, donations are 100% tax-deductible.

Donate today at friendsofalta.org/donate

FOA Memorial Tree Planting

Each summer Friends of Alta hosts a day of planting trees for people interested in planting a memorial tree in honor of a loved one. Please contact us if you would like to join us for our 2026 planting. More details at www.friendsofalta.org/memorial-tree-planting

Follow us on social media for updates



FOA Partners



Salt Lake Ranger District of the UWC NFS

Alta Historical Society



Friends of Alta Becoming An Accredited Land Trust

Stakeholder Notification/Public Notice

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Friends of Alta is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs.

Why do we want to become certified:

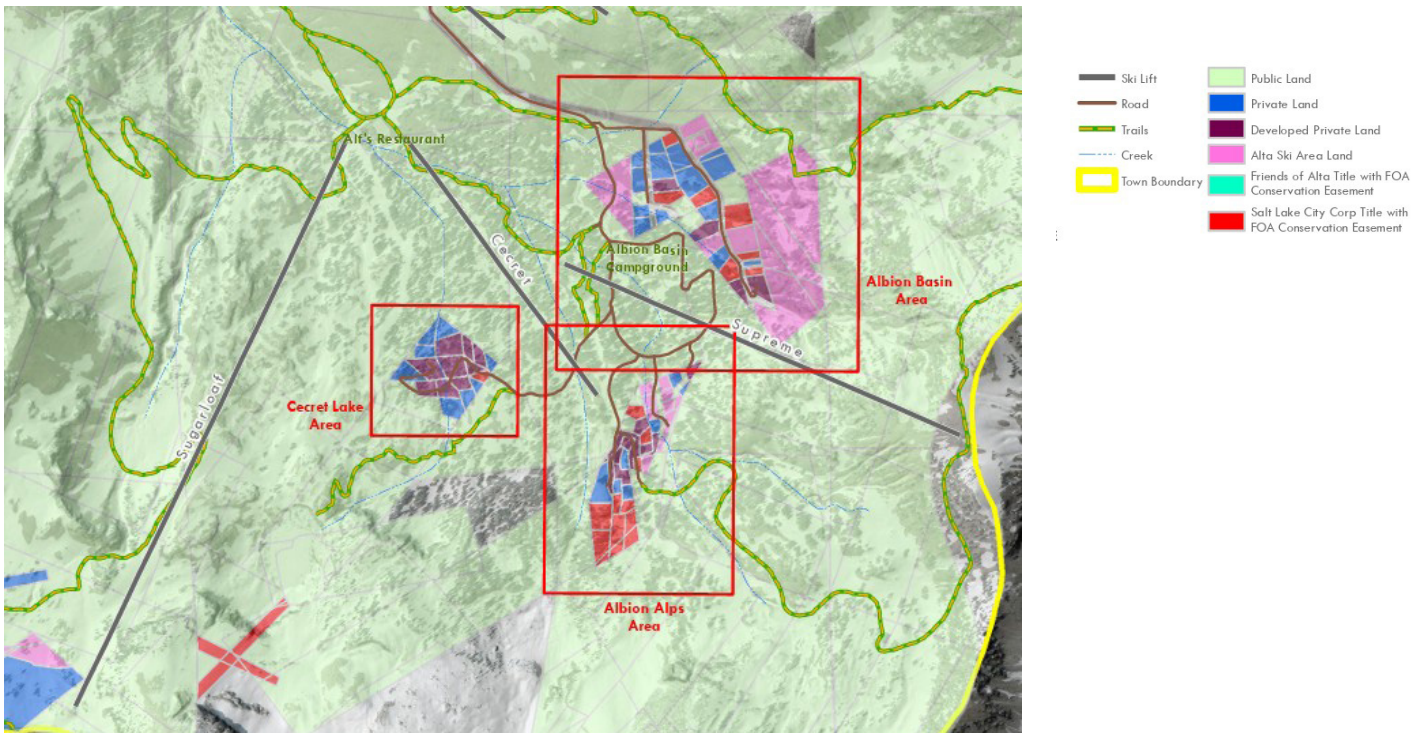
Becoming a certified (accredited) land trust is crucial because it assures the public of the organization's commitment to ethical practices, financial responsibility, and the lasting protection of conserved lands. This accreditation means that we meet the highest national standards, demonstrating transparency and trustworthiness. For donors, landowners, and government partners, certification offers confidence that conservation efforts will endure over time and resources will be managed wisely. In short, being an accredited land trust builds essential credibility and fosters strong relationships, ensuring that valuable natural areas are preserved for future generations.

Public Input:

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Friends of Alta complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments, 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on Friends of Alta's application will be most useful by **June 12, 2026**



Thank You For Your Support

Friends' Donations: Fiscal Year July 2024 through June 2025

We deeply appreciate the support of all our contributors. It is our policy to only list people who have provided permission. Please accept our sincere apology for any errors or omissions. To be added to this list or make corrections email info@friendsofalta.org.

Pearly Everlasting \$2,500+

Doniger, Michael
Herman,
Matthew
Hutsinpiller,
Molly
Levitt, Mimi
Nelson, Jonathan
Robosson,
Gwendolyn
Thomas, Richard
& Susan
Wile, Jerome

Columbine \$1,000-\$2,499

Byrne, John
Corroon, Peter &
Amy
Danforth, Murray
& Judith
Diesel, Brooks
Harris, Hilary
and Ben
Horne, Thomas
Chad
James, Kay &
Daryl
Levitt, Toby &
Heather
Lowenstein,
Martha Jones &
Marc
Mallett, Daniel &
Marie Claire
Ged
Richard A. &
James F.
Corroon
Foundation
Schlesinger, John
Christophe
Schlesinger,
Richard &
Sheila
Silloway, Skip &
Molly
Snyderman
Family Fund
The Limerick
Charitable
Trust
The Longview
Foundation
(Fred & Eleanor
Winston)
Trockman, Anne
& Daniel
Wilson, Andrew

Alpine Shooting Star \$500-\$999

Besobrasov,
Nicholas &
Ellen
Blum, Joanne
Branch, Skip
Chardack,
Michael & Beth
Christiansen,
Kurt & Deborah
Churchill, Margot
& Fred
Dippo, Marcus &
Cassie
Draper, Del &
Mary
Earl, Jane & Greg
Eurick, Glenn
Frankel, Pauline
& Donald
Googin, Kent
Winterholler &
Roxane
Hotaling, Bruce
& Bibi
Iversen, Marta
Porter, Louisa C.
Roberts,
Marguerite H
Siggins, Olga
Sinsheimer,
Warren & Carol
The Blum Family
Foundation
Weems, Koko &
Mike
Whalen, Jeffrey &
Stephanie
Siegel

Showey Goldeneye \$250-\$499

Anonymous (1)
Atiyeh, Carrie
Benson, Perry
Berch, Barbara
Drake & Eileen
Bloom, Marsha
Bouyoucos, Carol
Boyden, Jon &
Amy Penechar
Chan, Eva
Cook, Lauren
Dean, Donna
Dunlea, Barbara
& John
Fox, Kody
Friedman, Randel

Goedecke, Jane &
Peter
Hatch, Whitney &
Elizabeth
Henn, Sarah
Horowitz, Mark
Kowalczyk,
Walter
North, Laurence
Paisley, Ted &
Tricia Petzold
Prosek, Tom
Reinertsen, John
& Kayce
Rennau, Susan
Ritschel, Kim
Sheehan, Steven
Smith, Sidney &
Lucy
Stibolt, Thomas
& Elizabeth
Brenner
Sutherland,
Nathan & Celine
Browning
Thompson, Tad &
Sue
Vitatoe, Shane
Waller, Karolee
Weiss, Jerome F
Zimmerman, Guy
& Mary

Indian Paintbrush \$100-\$249

Anonymous (3)
Allen, Elizabeth
& Craig Blouin
Allred, Suzanne
Ammon, Helmut
& Sandra
Annis, Joe
Berggren, Tom &
Lydia
Bleyler, Peter &
Ruth
Bolton III,
Kenyon C. "Tim"
Carmichael,
Chuck & Barie
Curry, Clifford
Danforth,
Merebea M.
Davidson,
Marjorie E
Garber, Howie
Gordon,
Shannon
Greenwood, John

Hayes,
Christopher
Heatley, Penny
Hoyt, Coleman
Keys, Camille
Kinney, Carolyn
Kobe, Kit
Kroger
Levitt, John
Levitt, Kathy
Maag, Marlene
Mcgowan, Mark
Mcomber,
Virginia G
Metcalf, Peter &
Kathleen
Metzner, Evyan
Mills, Joan &
Dennis
Noonan, Molly
Paterson, Joel G
Perlman, David &
Wolf, Jackie
Ranellone,
Michael
Robinson, Alexa
Rozelle, Janet &
Frederick
Schultz, James
Shaw, Brian &
Lisa
Shorter, Bill &
Meri
Silloway III,
Stuart
Simonson,
Stephanie
Stewart & Joan
Ogden Fund
Stockham, Jamie
Verrochi, Matt
White, Andy
Zywicki, Suzanne

Lupine \$1-\$99

Adams, John
Agler, David
Bartlit, Lisa
Bedford, Alicia
Beth Conway
Bevacqua, Bruce
Bevacqua, Paula
Blackhurst,
Mercedes
Blauvelt, Pieter
Boire, Veronic
Burton, Jeffrey
Butler, Garrett
Castell, Kevin
Clancy, Jennifer L

Clemons, Nikki
Coleman, Cook &
Heather
Connally, Challis
Damman,
Michael
de Freitas,
Patrick & Lynn
Diebolt, Kent
Estey, Colby
Evans, Nat
Fillerup, Natalie
Fleisch, Michael
Goneau, Tim
Graham, Monica
Grant, Cameron
Gratz, William
Green, Nayra
Hackworth,
Oscar
Hall, Dylan
Harrington,
Alison
Heilweil, Victor
Hoffman, Robert
& Carolyn
Huff, Nathan
Johnstone,
Vanessa
Karls, John
Kaufman, Peter
Keller, Greg
Kelley, London
Kertesz, Rob
Kleberg, Tio &
Janell
Lambert, Hilary
Langley, Drake
Larsen, Tom
Ledesma, Carson
LeDuc, Jessica
Levin, Sebastien
Levitt, Dr. Emma
Viki
Levitt, Sara
Lohnes, John
Macey, Kayden
Magnuson,
Bonnie
Manson, Brooke
Marshall, Justine
Mcgrath, Brian
McGrath,
Elizabeth
McKinnon, Hana
Melton, Jennifer
Mickelsen,
Joshua
Moody, Joseph
Morin, Tara
Motley, Jessica
Mraz, Maria

Thank You For Your Support

Friends' Donations: Fiscal Year July 2024 through June 2025

We deeply appreciate the support of all our contributors. It is our policy to only list people who have provided permission. Please accept our sincere apology for any errors or omissions. To be added to this list or make corrections email info@friendsofalta.org.

Muller, Aubrey
Murdock, Rhett
Murray, Sophia
Nalwasky, Cassidy
Ney, Paige
Noorda, Kenneth
Paris, Paul
Paterson, Danielle
Phillipson, Alan
Preston, Desiree
Quisenberry, David
Richardson, David
Richter, Daniel
Rinn, Bri
Rosten, Liam
Russell, Tripp
Schneggenburger,
Mark & Vivian
Schow, Steve
Shea, Pat & Debbie
Smith, Brooke
Smith, Tanya
Spaulding, Carl
St. Andre, Mark
Sterrett, Carolyn
Thomsen, Zach
Tongue, Ryan
Topham, Melanie
Turner, Victoria
Tyburczy, Katie
Wade, Ian
Walters, Wendy
Wegrowski, Ashley
Yeo, Sara
Zimmer, Tony

Business Sponsors

Alta Lodge
Alta Shuttle
American
Endowment
Foundation
Central Wasatch
Commission
Cirque Series
Crankstart
Foundation
DKJ- David
Kelby Johnson
Memorial
Goldminer's
Daughter
Lodge
Patagonia
Smith's
Community
Rewards
The Front
Climbing Gym

The Limerick
Charitable
Trust
Vanguard
Charitable
Endowment
Williams Matching
Gift Program

In-kind Contributors

Please visit
our website at:
[friendsofalta.org/
partnerships/](http://friendsofalta.org/partnerships/)

FOA Membership:

Our Membership Program offers a convenient way to support Friends of Alta in our efforts to protect and preserve Alta's unique environment, heritage, and character. We are driven by conservation values that bind our ever-growing Friends of Alta family. Your membership contributions generate reliable income to fund our important conservation and educational programs. This allows our team to focus more on our work and less on fundraising.

In addition to supporting our programs, our membership tiers also include perks such as access to member events, a Friends of Alta calendar, a member refrigerator magnet, priority enrollment for specific FOA events, and discounts on FOA merchandise. For more information visit: www.friendsofalta.org/membership-information



Photo by Lee Cohen