



Dear Kate,

Traveling gives us a great (and rare) opportunity to stop and reflect. Being stuck in a plane, train or car, especially without cell service, leaves little else to do besides think about where we are, where we've been and where we are going.

My recent trips have taken me to New Orleans, California, New England and every Mid-Atlantic state. All that traveling has helped me see just how bright the future of conservation can be in our region. More money than ever before is available for protecting and restoring land. Strong state associations are successfully advocating for funding and supportive policies for land trusts. New state partnerships are forming where they have been absent.

To support all the great work you are doing, the Land Trust Alliance is lining up an exciting array of programming this fall. Next month's trainings feature [risk management](#), [climate's impacts on water quality](#) and [remote monitoring](#). And as I type this on Amtrak in southern Virginia, my colleagues and I are brainstorming new peer networks for metropolitan conservationists, stewardship staff and other members of our community. We are also planning more robust, place-based learning opportunities for land trusts throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Look for those to roll out in 2023.

As the still-changing leaves whiz by me, I cannot help but feel optimistic about the future of conservation in the Mid-Atlantic. Hope to see you on the road!



*Andrew*

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## Close to Home

### Climate change and water quality | Nov. 1 – Dec. 6

Land trusts already preserve land that protects fresh water and increases resilience to climate change. But is your organization being as effective at improving water quality and mitigating climate change impacts as it could be? In this short course, we'll examine the synergies between climate, water and land protection. We'll walk through a strategic process to focus your efforts and explore resources to guide and fund your work. Come discover the practical knowledge and concrete steps to make your land and water conservation work more effective. [Learn more and register.](#)

### Chesapeake Gateways grants open for 2023

The National Park Service-Chesapeake Office has opened its [Chesapeake Gateways grant opportunity](#). NPS welcomes proposals that advance equity, inclusion, accessibility and community engagement across two strategic themes: 1) Inclusive interpretive initiatives with an equity lens and 2) Resilient communities and landscapes through tourism, sustainability, conservation and local economies. Grant-writing support is available in November and the application deadline is Jan.30.

### Forever Maryland grants open

The State of Maryland, in partnership with Forever Maryland, provides nearly \$100,000 in annual [grants to land trusts](#). Grants are awarded under three categories: citizen stewardship, leadership and land trust capacity building. The application deadline is Nov. 15.

### INSR grants open for 2023

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is soliciting proposals for Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction grants to implement best management practices that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This solicitation includes both Partnership Grants for coordinated and collaborative partnerships that implement proven water quality improvement practices as well as new Infrastructure Grants for projects that implement natural, nature-based watershed restoration at scale. Prospective applicants must [consult with NFWF staff](#) by Nov. 3.

## Alliance Events & News

### Manage your organization's risk

To help manage your organization's risk, there are many free resources available from the Alliance! The Alliance is pleased to present our annual risk management webinar series, starting Nov. 10. Every year, these webinars

### Comment on the next *Requirements Manual*

Each year the Land Trust Accreditation Commission assesses whether the accreditation requirements are current and up-to-date with the issues that shape the land trust community. After consideration and review of the

help land trusts plan for risks, reduce the chance of unnecessary lawsuits and minimize the damage from legal challenges. TerraFirma members receive the TerraFirma risk management discount for the 2023 policy year for attending one webinar.

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## Remote Technology Advancements Webinar

Are remote technologies already in your land trust's toolkit or are you considering them? This technology can help with annual monitoring and more. Andy Carroll, a leading expert in remote technology, will take us through a deeper dive of this field. He will discuss expected advancements and applications in remote technologies for annual monitoring, restoration monitoring, climate change and more, taking participants beyond the basics.

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comments collected, the Commission is proposing a material change to four requirements. Please provide feedback on these changes using the Commission's anonymous questionnaire. The public comment period is open through Nov. 10.

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## Damage to preserves by trespassers increasing

TerraFirma has seen preserves face serious and expensive legal issues from deliberate tree cutting, bulldozing and construction — and at relatively the same rates as conservation easements. Read more about what happened recently when a land trust informed a neighbor that they were prohibited from cutting trees on the land trust's property and consider talking as a board about insuring your land trust's preserves through TerraFirma.

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## Featured Land Trust



WCT Watershed Protection Team sampling water chemistry at Ridley Creek / Photo courtesy of Willistown Conservation Trust

## Willistown Conservation Trust assesses, improves local water quality

The accredited [Willistown Conservation Trust](#) is making important contributions to water quality monitoring in southeast Pennsylvania. WCT conducted monthly monitoring visits at sample sites in three Delaware River tributaries over four years. Its [State of our Streams Report](#) identifies moderate impairments associated with elevated chlorides, nitrogen, phosphorus and temperature. The report also links the benefits of land protection to relatively higher water quality and offers other practical tips on how to support local waterways.



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