Members serve from each of eight regions in addition to the regulatory required Vermont resident member totaling nine persons.

**Pacific Coast:**
Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington

**Bob Neale (CA)** Stewardship Director, Sonoma Land Trust
bob@sonomalandtrust.org

Bob Neale is the Stewardship Director of Sonoma Land Trust where he oversees conservation easement stewardship activities, as well as fee land management and habitat restoration efforts. Over the past seventeen years he has led the growth of the stewardship department as Sonoma Land Trust has evolved from a local land trust of eight staff to a twenty-five person regional conservation leader focusing on landscape scale conservation and climate change impacts such as wildfire and loss of biodiversity. Before coming to Sonoma Land Trust, Bob worked with Sustainable Conservation streamlining the regulatory review process for farmers and ranchers implementing important restoration projects on their lands. He began his conservation career with Peninsula Open Space Trust more than 25 years ago, where he started as the receptionist and worked his way into conservation easement stewardship and then land management. He has a B.A. in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University.

From San Diego to Humboldt County, Bob has worked across a variety of habitats, both human and natural, collaborating with land owners, farmers and ranchers, agency personnel, scientists, neighbors, and of course land trust colleagues across the country. He loves nature intensely and understands that our success in conservation is dependent upon our success working with people. He has performed most aspects of conservation easement stewardship, developing the CE stewardship programs at POST and SLT and performing conservation easement review and revision, baseline drafting, easement monitoring, reporting, landowner relations, review and approval of requests for reserved rights, and violations and enforcement. Recently he led the successful response to a major violation that included seven years of litigation, a court trial, and two California Court of Appeals hearings, one of which resulted in a published decision supporting the defensibility of conservation easements. The land trust won on all the issues and was awarded damages, funds for restoration, and all legal costs. He has broad experience in managing fee lands, from drafting management plans, to cultural resource protection, infrastructure repair, riparian and natural resource restoration, and collaboration with neighbors and community partners to ensure ecosystem functioning across property boundaries. He currently manages six staff, and has played a leadership role in accreditation and re-accreditation for the organization. He has presented on a number of occasions at LTA Rally, California Council of Land Trusts, and other conferences.
Mountains & Plains:
Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming

James E. Rogers (ID) Board Member, Northern Prairies Land Trust
jrogers3@cobank.com

James E. Rogers is on the board of the Northern Prairies Land Trust in South Dakota. NPLT, with its staff of six, works to establish partnerships with landowners to provide protection for lands that are important for agriculture, forestry, fish and wildlife habitat and open space in both South Dakota and Nebraska. James spent his childhood fishing, camping, and earning his Eagle Scout badge in Nebraska, Missouri, Idaho and Pennsylvania. Born in Omaha, Nebraska, he graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a degree in Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife, from the Vermont Law School, cum laude, with a Masters in Environmental Law, and from the University of South Dakota School of Law. He was the Editor-in-Chief of the Great Plains Natural Resources Journal, in which he also had two articles published, then spent a year in Des Moines, IA, clerking for the Fifth Judicial District. He spent four years in Sioux Falls, SD, serving as the Underwriting Counsel for the Title Resource Network, First Dakota Title, focusing primarily on title insurance underwriting decisions. After a brief stint working as a Claims Attorney for LandAmerica, where he oversaw title insurance policy coverage determinations and case handling, he returned to the Title Resource Network as their General Counsel. In June of 2015, James accepted a position with CoBank, ACB, based in Greenwood Village, CO. Previously, as Senior Manager for Collateral, James oversaw the perfection and maintenance of the bank’s real and personal property collateral liens. Now as a Corporate Attorney, James directs all legal aspects of sophisticated commercial loan and other legal transactions. James is also a graduate of the School of Fly Fishing and The Leader’s Institute, and is a member of the board of the Cherry Creek Anglers Chapter of Trout Unlimited. James, along with his wife, Becky, son, Graydon, and daughter, Ellie, enjoy spending time in the Rocky Mountains, fly-fishing, skiing, and enjoying all that the mountains have to offer.

Western At-Large:
Cannot be from a state with a person currently on Members Committee serving the Pacific Coast or the Mountains & Plains.
AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, ID, IA, KS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NM, ND, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY

Meghann McKenna (MT), board member, Gallatin Valley Land Trust
meghann@mckenna-financial.com

Meghann is experienced in insurance, estate planning and financial services. She is active in many civic activities, including past president of the Board of Directors for Special Olympics Montana and current Member of the Board for the Gallatin Valley Land Trust. Meghann attended Montana State University, Bozeman and University of South Carolina, Columbia where she graduated with a degree in Business-Marketing.

She is also a Member Agent of The Nautilus Group®, a service of New York Life Insurance Company and a resource for estate conservation and business succession ideas that is made available to a limited number of subscribing member agents. Meghann has earned numerous industry and company achievements, including a Qualifying Member of the Million Dollar Round Table and 2017 President’s Council Member of New York Life Insurance Company.
Meghann is based out of Bozeman and can be found on a nice day with her dog Roger hiking around the Gallatin Valley.

**Great Lakes:**

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin

**Robert Owen (OH) General Counsel, Western Reserve Land Conservancy**  
rowen@wrlandconservancy.org

Bob Owen has served as General Counsel for Western Reserve Land Conservancy since September 2011 and has been a member of the Land Conservancy’s legal staff since April 2006. During his time at the Land Conservancy, Bob has worked on over 400 conservation real estate transactions ranging in scope from straightforward individual conservation easement donations to complex, multi-million dollar acquisitions involving public and private sector parties and often combining state and federal grant funding with private philanthropic dollars. As General Counsel, Bob is responsible for the oversight and management of the Land Conservancy’s in-house legal department and provides guidance and counsel to the Land Conservancy’s leadership and staff on legal matters affecting the organization, such as violation resolution, litigation management, corporate governance, insurance, employment practices, and other matters involving risk management and avoidance. Bob’s leadership as a member of the Land Conservancy’s Land Trust Accreditation Team lead to the organization’s successful bid for accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in August of 2019. Bob is a member of the Land Conservancy’s senior management team and serves as the organization’s Assistant Secretary.

In addition to his extensive experience in conservation, real property, and non-profit law, as an associate in the Cleveland, Ohio office of Taft, Stettinius and Hollister, Bob focused much of his practice in the areas of real estate and municipal law, leading him to serve a local northeast Ohio community as both its assistant law director and prosecutor for over six years. As such, Bob is well versed in matters involving municipal and public sector clients.

Bob served as a member of the Land Trust Alliance’s Conservation Defense Advisory Council (CDAC) from 2014 through 2018. Bob also served on the executive committee of the Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts (COLT), a statewide land conservation advocacy and education group, from 2007-2014 and served as its President from 2012-2014. He graduated from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and obtained his Bachelor degree in Business Administration from Hiram College. Bob is a lifelong resident of northeastern Ohio and currently lives in Newbury Township, Ohio with his wife Gina.

**Atlantic Coast:**

Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia

**Jeff Swinehart (PA) President and CEO, Lancaster Farmland Trust**  
jswinehart@lancasterfarmlandtrust.org

Jeff Swinehart is the President and CEO of the Lancaster Farmland Trust and previously was the Deputy Director since 2006. With 18 years of land trust experience, Jeff focuses upon the preservation of Lancaster County’s agricultural land resources principally through the acquisition and stewardship of conservation easements. He has expertise in easement
acquisition and defense, stewardship, water quality initiatives, grant management, and outreach to culturally diverse communities.

During his tenure, Jeff and his team have built Lancaster Farmland Trust’s easement portfolio to nearly 500 easements and 30,000 acres, which is the largest easement portfolio in Pennsylvania. He is also responsible for supervision of the Trust’s Stewardship and Municipal Outreach programs, and is actively engaged in the fundraising, general administration, strategic planning and community relations efforts of the Trust.

Jeff is a member of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association Policy Committee, serves as Vice-Chairman of the Manheim Township Planning Commission, and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Lancaster Clean Water Partners.

Jeff graduated with a Master’s degree in Public Administration from the Pennsylvania State University and has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography, plus minors in Geology and Regional Planning from Mansfield University.

As a lifelong resident of Lancaster County, Jeff spent his childhood in the southern end of the county enjoying the rural way of life and working on a family owned dairy farm. He currently resides in suburban Manheim Township with his wife and two children. Jeff enjoys hunting, fishing, gardening, preparing gourmet meals, be active in his son’s Cub Scout Pack, and visiting family in northern PA and the Finger Lakes region of NY.

**Northern New England:**

Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont

**Jane Arbuckle** (ME) Director of Stewardship, Maine Coast Heritage Trust
jarbuckle@mcht.org

Jane has been Stewardship Director since the 1990’s when the organization decided to create a stewardship program. Her responsibilities involve managing all fee lands (150+ preserves) and conservation easements (300+) acquired by the Trust, including enforcement and other legal issues associated with both, as well as working with land acquisition staff on conservation planning, easement drafting and pre-acquisition issues. In order to achieve MCHT’s community-based goals, she and her staff have also developed a broad portfolio of outreach activities to increase relevance and benefits of these lands to their communities. She has developed policies and practices to guide the organization’s growing portfolio and created a 20+ person department to carry out its responsibilities. During this period, she also served as the President of the New Gloucester Preservation Trust and then as co-founder and President of the Royal River Conservation Trust, which was the result of merging five local organizations.

Previously, Jane worked for Maine Audubon as the Director of Wildlife Programs for 8 years. She has been involved with seabird research and restoration for many years, and is one of the founders of the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group. Over the years, she helped create Maine’s Nongame Wildlife Tax Check-off, and served on the State Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee, The Baxter Park Scientific Advisory Committee, and the Forester Licensing Board. Jane has a BS in Biology and an MS in Marine Zoology. This team takes care of conserved land from Kittery to Lubec, including over 120 public preserves.
New England:
Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island

Brendan Annett (MA) Vice President, Watershed Protection, Buzzards Bay Coalition
(508) 999-6363, annett@savebuzzardsbay.org

Brendan oversees all the organization’s land conservation and stewardship activities as well as habitat restoration projects. His career in land conservation, management and stewardship extends 25 years. Brendan received his master’s degree in biology from the Boston University Marine Program in Woods Hole where he focused on and published research on conservation biology of watersheds in New York and Southern New England. He also has a B.S. in Natural Resource Management, with a minor in Business Administration, from the University of Vermont. Brendan was formerly the manager of the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. He came to this field from a background in on the ground land management and stewardship. The Coalition works in direct partnership with other local and regional land trusts, towns, state and federal agencies and private landowners to protect and manage conservation land around the Bay. Brendan and his team manage 53 conservation restrictions/easements totaling over 2600 acres, in addition to eight fee owned reserves ranging from busy urban settings, suburban and rural to wild island settings which gives him a wide range of experience with a host of conservation land stewardship challenges. Brendan has led Buzzards Bay Coalition through land trust accreditation and renewal and Terrafirma membership from inception. He has been a board member of the Barnstable Land Trust, where he continues to be active on their Land Protection Committee and is currently a member of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Sea Grant Advisory Group. Brendan has long been active in the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition where he is currently active on the Conservation Restriction Committee, he is a member of the Massachusetts State Resilient Lands Initiative Steering Committee, and for the past decade has been a primary organizer of the Southeastern Massachusetts Land Trust Convocation, an annual conference that provides networking and training opportunities for land trust and conservation commission staff, board members and volunteers.

South East:
Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee

Emily Parish (TN) Vice President, The Land Trust for Tennessee
EParish@landtrusttn.org

As Vice President of The Land Trust for Tennessee, Emily Parish oversees the organization’s conservation and stewardship program which includes projects led by ten staff in the two offices. Emily joined The Land Trust as a Land Protection Assistant in 2004, and as the longest tenured member of the team, she has been instrumental in protecting more than 120,000 acres across Tennessee. She graduated from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee magna cum laude with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies and Spanish, and summa cum laude with a Master’s in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School.

Over the years, Emily has represented The Land Trust for Tennessee on the Tennessee Preservation Trust’s Board of Directors, the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association’s Board of Directors, the NRCS State Technical Committee, Greater Nashville Regional Council’s Environmental Roundtable, and was a founding member of the Tennessee Farmland Legacy
Partnership. She successfully led the organization through accreditation (2010) and subsequent renewals (2015, 2020), and led the research and development of The Land Trust’s strategic conservation plan, Forever Tennessee, which launched in 2019. She was as a member of the Land Trust Alliance’s Standards and Practices Advisory Team, and currently serves on the 2023 Advanced Legal Symposium planning committee and as an alumni member of the Alliance’s Conservation Defense Advisory Council. Emily is nationally recognized expert and regularly presents on topics relating to conservation easements and stewardship at Alliance events including Rally, regional conferences, the Advanced Legal Symposium, and webinars.

Emily is a National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) graduate who’s hiked three 15,000-foot mountains. Outside of work, Emily serves on the PTO for her daughters’ elementary school. On the weekends, she can be found lifting weights or enjoying time outside with her husband and two daughters.

Vermont Statutory Resident: Sandy Hauserman
Sandy is a former reinsurance intermediary and environmental attorney with 30 years’ experience in the insurance and reinsurance industry. He has substantial experience in many areas of the Property and Casualty business including sales, marketing, account management, negotiating contracts, underwriting, and providing internal legal advice. His experience also includes creating & managing start-up companies, drafting reinsurance contracts, overseeing accounting and claims activity, and monitoring regulatory matters. Sandy was the Senior Vice President/Reinsurance Intermediary with Guy Carpenter & Company, Inc. (Marsh and McLennan Companies, Inc.) for ten years. Sandy has his Juris Doctor cum Laude from Pace University School of Law and a Masters of Studies in Environmental Law, Summa cum Laude from Vermont Law School. He is an ARIAS, U.S. Certified Arbitrator, and Senior Counsel to Nanotech Risk Management, a consulting company providing analysis for understanding the risks and opportunities created by products made with nanotechnology.