Like many of you, the last year has given me a lot to think about. That such a huge disruption can change the very way we live our lives, what we cherish, and what we take for granted is profound. There can be forest fires raging across Australia, California, and even in Colorado, and most of us still go to work, go out for lunch, shop online, and watch TV.

But this pandemic changed things. It will someday hover in the background of our collective memory, but like many of you, I will never forget those anxiety-filled weeks where all I could do to calm myself was... go outside. Outside — in nature, in the mountains or canyons, in my backyard where I tended the most prolific garden ever — everything felt as it should. It felt right. As being outside in nature has always felt right.

And to a world in lockdown, nature is healing. It is freeing. It is life.

Nature has also become painfully overused. Our trails were flooded with souls like me looking for a little away time. Parks and open spaces took on new levels of importance. The idea of local food suddenly became about providing food. Climate-related disasters took on epic proportions. And we became painfully aware of the inequities in our society that mean that not everyone can enjoy the same access to nature and the healing it provides. Not everyone can work remotely from their garden patio. Not everyone is shielded from the effects of global outbreaks and environmental destruction. We must protect nature to protect ourselves.

So what is a little conservation organization to do about all this?

First, we take a deep breath and remember that this is long work. The ills and divisiveness unleashed last year will take healing. That will take time, but we can start with personal conversations and of course, time in nature. Each time you tend a flower, take a walk, or smell the sweet air of spring, you partake in the ancient process of renewal. Renewal defines nature. After a year of stress and disorientation, I am grateful for the reassurance and renewal I have experienced in my commitment to save a little bit of this place. Of nature and the healing, freedom, and life it gives. For everyone. I hope you too savor a renewed commitment to nature and each other.

Suzanne Stephens, Executive Director

A RENEWED COMMITMENT

A RENEWED COMMITMENT

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Suzanne Stephens, Executive Director

2020 BOARD
Gary Knaus, President
Jeannine Doremus, Vice President
Ellen Humble Dooly, Secretary
David Chase, Treasurer
Charles Bantis
Scott Hanley
Cynthia Jacobson

2020 STAFF
Curtis Kaufman
Amy Daley Krick
Scott Miller
Richard Shaw

Suzanne Stephens, Executive Director
Melissa Sumera, Operations Director
Dave Erickson, Stewardship Director
Erin Quinn, Conservation Director
Jeff Davlin, Philanthropy Director
Carly Bolliger, Communications Manager
Brian Hightower, Education Coordinator

AVLT Board of Directors and staff at a socially-distanced meeting at Strang Ranch.
A New Fund Brings New Opportunities to more Kids

Expanding outdoor education for the future of conservation

The 2020 change of perspective on education was profound. All schools and students struggled. All kids spent more time on screens. All kids faced new challenges and stress.

Last year, due to COVID-19, while all was quiet under the towering aspens at Chapin Wright Marble Basecamp, we at AVLT took time to focus on the future of outdoor learning on conserved land. The need was obvious, and with the community’s input, we are more committed than ever to investing in natural places for meaningful and equitable access to outdoor education.

Thanks to generous supporters, AVLT protected ‘Basecamp’ in 2016 for students to connect with nature and one another and have a special place to unplug, away from the cares of modern life. Ongoing community support and a generous grant from Great Outdoors Colorado will, together, allow us to expand access, free of charge, to local schools and nonprofit partners, growing the impact of Basecamp in the coming years.

Witnessing the profound impact the Basecamp experience has on kids of all backgrounds inspired a group of board members, led by our outgoing Board President, Gary Knaus, to launch AVLT’s Community Education Fund in 2020. The fund, which has already raised over $65,000, is dedicated to expanding outdoor education access and programs for more kids on conserved land and helping inspire the next generation of land stewards.

The more we invest in outdoor learning for all of our children now, the greater the dividend will be for the future of our land and community. We hope you join us in opening doors to more inclusive and equitable opportunities for all kids to connect with nature.

Photo courtesy of Vic Schendel
PROTECTING WHAT MATTERS MOST

Creating a strategic conservation plan

Over the past 53 years, support for your local land trust has helped shape the landscape and character of our slice of Western Colorado. Yet record development pressure and potential impacts from a changing climate are increasing the urgency to protect more of these valley’s natural resources and community treasures. And as our community grows and diversifies, we need to help create opportunities for all people to connect to parks, trails, local agriculture, and nature.

In 2020, AVLT laid the groundwork for a 10-year Strategic Conservation Plan to ensure our work is as effective as possible. With your help, we have defined the next decade of conservation priorities.

By creating this plan, together, we can:

• Create a vision of conservation success for the next 10 years and beyond, making the case for conservation and for connecting community to nature.
• Prioritize projects based on data, community input, and partner expertise – with a focus on increasing resilience to climate change.
• Expand AVLT’s community-driven work, focusing on equity and expanding access to and resources for underrepresented community members.
• Foster enduring partnerships and collaborations with local governments and land management agencies who all play important roles in conservation.

Science-based and community-informed

This plan is not about protecting everything, but about protecting what matters most. Biodiversity, wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, riparian and wetland areas, and conservation data helped identify these priorities.

More significant than maps, charts, and numbers were the community members behind this plan. Feedback from our 2019 community outreach, Your Land Trust Listens, reached 550 people and helped shape this plan. Discussions last year included 23 interviews with towns and counties and 11 nonprofits from Aspen to Rifle. The community highlighted needs such as improving climate resilience, balancing the need for affordable housing with preservation of small-town character, and increasing our focus on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

We now have a guide for our work to be as effective as possible while balancing the needs of our community.

We look forward to sharing the full Strategic Conservation Plan with you and thank everyone who helped create this monumental roadmap for conservation and our community. A sneak peak of the plan’s goals:

To see the full Strategic Conservation Plan soon, join our email list at avlt.org
Community feedback in 2019 highlighted the need for a focus on conserving and caring for land to create accessible, equitable outdoor community spaces. This community need was magnified and escalated by the pandemic, and AVLT was fortunate to find the resources to step up.

Late last year, Great Outdoors Colorado awarded AVLT nearly $400,000 in order to improve five outdoor community spaces over the next two years. Chapin Wright Marble Basecamp, Marble Children’s Park, Silt River Preserve (and its Highwater Farm), and Carbondale’s Red Hill and Riverfront Park received funding for enhanced facilities to allow more students to learn outside and to relieve the increased pressure on outdoor places as result of COVID-19.

This generous support to help better connect our community to conserved land is transforming what it means to be a land trust and community partner in the face of the growing challenges. We are inspired by new ways to engage our community in the outdoors, and how we can collectively steward these special places that so many human and wild lives rely on now and will depend on for a healthy future.

Funded projects include:

1. **SILT RIVER PRESERVE**
   - Create outdoor classroom and interpretive signs, restore habitat and wetlands, maintain trails.

2. **HIGHWATER FARM**
   - Improve irrigation, heat greenhouse, install a high tunnel for tomatoes, and build classroom space.

3. **RED HILL RECREATION AREA**
   - Build shade structure, install picnic tables and interpretive signage, add restorative landscaping.

4. **RIVERFRONT PARK**
   - Construct natural outdoor classroom and expand ADA accessibility to the riverfront.

5. **MARBLE CHILDREN’S PARK**
   - Improve park infrastructure, update landscaping, define parking areas, and add signage.

6. **CHAPIN WRIGHT MARBLE BASECAMP**
   - Build primitive backcountry restrooms and group camping infrastructure to host more students.
Deep in the heart of the Thompson Divide, surrounded by public land, rests 406 acres of beautiful aspen groves, vibrant meadows, and critical wetland and riparian areas along a mile and a half of North Thompson Creek that will remain natural, forever.

Thanks to the strong partnership between Pitkin County and AVLT, TD Ranch will remain an iconic working landscape. The ranch was purchased by the County last year and protected by AVLT so that it may continue to be home to sustainable agriculture and diverse wildlife habitat for decades to come.

Funding support from Great Outdoors Colorado and AVLT donors helped with Pitkin County’s purchase of this remarkable historic homestead. This follows decades of collaboration between Pitkin County and AVLT that has protected several treasured public open spaces like North Star Preserve, Sky Mountain Park, and the Redstone Coke Ovens.

Whether for public access, wildlife habitat, ranchland protection, or river restoration, partnerships like this help to multiply our collective impact and protect more vital land and water for the benefit of wildlife and our community.
THANK YOU, DONORS!
You turn ideas into reality
We would simply not exist without you. It really is you who protects what we love most about this special place where we live. Thank you for preserving our wild lands, working lands, and community treasures in Western Colorado.

JOIN AVL T’S STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE
Are you ready to take your conservation commitment to the next level? Join us!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Founders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold Leaf</td>
<td>($25,000 - $99,999)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver Leaf</td>
<td>($10,000 - $24,999)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bronze Leaf</td>
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<td>Aspen Leaf</td>
<td>($1,000 - $4,999)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(levels based on annual giving)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Gave for last 5 consecutive years
- Gave for last 10 consecutive years
- Gave for last 15 consecutive years
- Gave for last 20+ consecutive years

We apologize for any misprints or omissions. Please contact avlt@avlt.org for any corrections.

2020 STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

(1/1/2020 through 1/1/2021)

**Founders**
- ($100,000 & over)
- Anonymous (2)

**Gold Leaf**
- ($25,000 - $99,999)
- BF Foundation, Community Education Fund
- Dee Blue Dancr Row Charitable Advisory Fund, Coffman Ranch
- Susan & Fred Lodge
- John & Laurie McBride

**Silver Leaf**
- ($10,000 - $24,999)
- Alpine Bank
- First Western Trust
- Jim Campbell & Sandy Jackson
- Keep It Colorado
- Randy & Ann Lipton
- Gerry Pace

**Bronze Leaf**
- ($5,000 - $9,999)
- Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Aspen Snowmass Sotheby’s International Realty
- David & Kathy Chase
- Jeannie & Andrew Doremas, in memory of John Doremas
- Matt & Ellen Debi
- Eric & Elizabeth Feder
- Parvis & Linda Frans Family Fund, Community Education Fund
- Lacy & Erin Fywood
- Richard Goodwin
- Curtis & Jill Kaufman
- Gary & Jill Knaus, Community Education Fund
- Land Trust Alliance

- Quinn Family Charitable Foundation, John & Betti Quinn
- Remnick Foundation, Stewart & Lynda Remnick
- Mary & Patrick Scanlan
- Seligman Family Foundation, Spring Valley Ranches
- One Purr, Jill Suffer
- Solaham Amini, M.D. Endowment Fund

**Aspen Leaf**
- ($3,000 - $4,999)
- Alpenglow Foundation, John & Laurel Catto
- Beardsley Family Foundation, from The Deavers Foundation
- Randy & Abby Brinon
- Carrie Brooker
- Brooke & Carol Peterson Advised Fund
- Dan Brombaugh
- John & Jackie Buckbaun
- Kay Buckbaun
- Kate Bulkey & Ross Bullock
- Martha Cushman & Steve Mills
- Charlie Cole
- Sally Cole
- Conservation Law, P.C.
- Anne Cooke & Steve Pfeiffer
- Carol Craig
- Lee & Donna Dale
- DSM Design Corporation
- Andrew & Ashley Emmons
- Eakin Family Advised Fund
- Bill Fales & Marci Perry
- Elizabeth Ferguson Foundation
- Garfield & Hecht P.C.
- Jeff & Susan Handwerk
- Eric & Karen Haase, Haase R3 Fund
- Stanley Hoffberger
- Cindi Jacobson & Michael Haugle
- John Oakes Family Charitable Fund, in loving memory of John & Bette Oakes
- Samantha Johnston, in memory of Kelly A. Johnston, Sr.

GROWING FOOD, SAVING WILDLIFE

Record Ranch’s natural wildlife habitat, agricultural productivity, and scenic vistas were forever protected last year thanks to the Fulton family and generous donor support.

This historic, multi-generational Divide Creek ranch overlooks an expanse of rolling, open ranchlands bordered by the Grand Hogback, the foothills of Battlement Mesa, and the steep foothills and ridges rising toward the Grand Mesa and the Elk Mountains. Record Ranch is an important part of the Divide Creek network of remaining working ranches and borders West Divide Creek and public land. It also provides winter range and is part of a migration corridor for elk, mule deer, and black bears. Thank you to the area’s landowners that are leaving a legacy to our community’s ranching future.

44,000 acres protected through AVL T
2020 SUPPORTERS
(1/1/2020 through 1/1/2021)

Aspen Leaf cont.

Kiryle Foundation,
Kyle & Kirsten Johnstone

Cil Klamper

Yvonne Klausmann

Tommy Latonov & Eva Malanowski

Rob & Erika Leavitt

Mike & Laura Kaplan Advised Fund

Meloney & Adam Lewis Advised Fund

Craig & Esther Navias

James & Henley Peterson

Carly Porter & Doug Tully

Richard & Marianne Kipper Foundation

Sally Salon & Duncan Barber

Katie Soden & Janet Earley

Sturgasser Advised Fund

Kim Strang

Target Circle

The Murray Foundation

The Premier Foundation, Inc.

Amy & Doug Thron

Title Company of the Rockies, Inc.

donation on behalf of Charles Bantis

Brad & Liz Tucker

Peter & Robin Van Domelen

Andy Wissner

Wild Woods Foundation, Janet McAlpin,

Anne McMartin & David Goodby

Mary & Hugh Wise

Fred Wooden

ZG-Chicks Advised Fund

Sally Grange

Scott Hardley

Larry Harvey

Mark & Karen Hestדm

Bill & Kathy Higberg

Cassidy Honey

Kristen Henry

Paul Hoormann & Judith Stinson

Bratton & Lindsey Jones

Lisa Wellness Center

Tom & Carolyn Mastes

Carol Pustnak

Leo & Cynthia Price

Ken & Donna Riley

Gina & Donna Rossetti

Barb & Richard Shaw

Kalli & Travis Sinclair

Bill Spence & Sue Edelen

John & Eleanor Spence,
in honor of Gabe Spencer

Roesch & Linda St Antoin, Haue R3 Fund

Scott & Tamara Stout

Edward Sullivan

Sunrise Solar

The Archis Foundation

The Brady Foundation Inc.

The Rockwood Charitable Trust, Bruce Lee,
in honor of John Louden Lee

Trace & Glen Lamer Family Fund

Protector Supporters
($250-$499)

Jim Armstrong & Sharon Sturges

Amy & Justin Barrow

Syd & Mary Baxter

Michael Behrendt & Fre Casuar

Gary & Rose Benson,
in honor of Nate & Julie Woodland

Eugene & Priska Berkelheimer

Thomas & Sallie Bernard

Alan Bercheny

Mark & Amy Bercheny

Jill & Michael Briggs

Gene & Jerry Burkh

Tom & Judy Cardamone,
in memory of Hal Clark

Ann & Anna Utter

Debbie & Gabe Collins

John & Susan Castle

Mac Canningham,
in memory of John Dorenus

David & Leslie Marcus Foundation

Andy & Brian Davies

Billy Damitza,
in memory of John Dorenus

Brandy Drake

Carol Duell,
in memory of Hal Clark

Bob & Nancy Emerson

Barbara Frete

Maries & Tony Fosaro

Peter & Barbara Gay

Laura Hansen

Bill & Leslee Harriman

Richard Hatfield, Matt Hatfield, & Sharyl Hatfield,
in honor of Jack Hatfield

Adelle Haue, Haue R3 Fund

Brian & Heather Hipona

Carl & Phil Holstein

Glenn Horn & Alice Davis

Judy & Nick Hunter

Wayne & Jo Ives

Elyse & Kenny Joseph,
in honor of Sally Akin

Valerie & Reanes Kelly

Michael Kendeked & Gail Minner

Kimbell Family Fund

Gary & Jill Kinaus

Norma Lavan

Laurie Leeb

Henry Lord

Amaro & Judy Lovins

Howie & Nora Mallery

Lisa Markalunas

Jordan & Zac Matthews

Tim & Donna McFlynn

Tom & Cindy Melberg

Tom & Debra Morton

David Myler

Leslie & Bill Neveu

Plumeria Family Foundation,
Elizabeth Stewart

Christie & Kirk Peckrand

Gina Pulcher

Don Price

Kelley & Mark Purnell

ROOM FOR WILDLIFE

Last year, Jill Soffer generously donated a conservation easement on 161 acres on the east side of Spring Park Reservoir in Missouri Heights, forever protecting this vital wildlife habitat.

This special place for deer, elk, grouse, and waterfowl borders the reservoir and public land, making it a key wildlife corridor for big game and critical bird habitat. The reservoir is designated as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society and is one of 54 areas on the Colorado Birding Trail. This donation removes four platted and approved building lots while protecting potential for productive agriculture. Many thanks to Jill for making her conservation vision a reality!
2020 SUPPORTERS

Protector Supporters cont.

John & Lois Rehl
RJ Pajudwacks

Monroe & Arthur Rothman,
Lathrop Straub Memorial Fund,
in honor of Mike Lathrop Straub
Ron & Lisa Speaker

Suzanne & Jeff Stephens

John Stickney & Lee Beck
Bill Steiling

Tripp & Gabriella Stotro

Les Hurlatseg Tragedian

The Strathdee Foundation

Bijl & Patty Neweiser

Jan & Kirk Williams

Pathfinder Supporters

[$100-$249]
Marcella Ach
Leanne Acuff

Jo Anne Ahrens
Anonymous (2)

Cris Strang, Jr.
& Josh Hilsowski

Carol Bayles
Elizabeth Barkin

David Boehm
Ted & Julie Bolter

Skip Bohlerstein & Donna Fisher

Tom Berthaume & Cherryl Kachenmeister,

Skip Behrhorst & Donna Fisher

Ted & Julie Behar

David Becher

Jo Anne Ahrens

Leanne Acuff

Marcella Ach

Pathfinder Supporters

[$100-$249]
Jan & Kirk Williams

The Strathdee Foundation

Lois Harlamert Teegarden

Bill Stirling

John Stickney & Lee Beck

in memory of Mike & Lathrop Strang

Lathrop Strang Memorial Fund

Maureen & Arthur Rothman,
RJ Paddywacks

Community Education Fund

Sandy & Peter Johnson,
Ann Johnson

Vinh Hua

Joe Herbst & Linda Vitti

Kristen Henry,
George Hendrix

in memory of Jack Hatfield

Doug & Susan Perley

Diane & pajjovich Grover

Evan & Florence Gaff

Anders Guthausen & Katie Schweizer

Hannah & Marielle Hamilton

Scott Hanley,
in memory of John Doremus

Kris McGray & Trisha Wynn

Bill Stirling

John Stickney & Lee Beck

in honor of Julie Kupecz

in memory of Jack Hatfield

in memory of Julie Kupecz


($50-$99)
Paul D'Amato & Beth Cashdan

Susan Cooze

George Hendrix

Mark & Denise Carswell

Sandy Smith

Marty Silverstein & Kathy Webb

Susann Siebert

Carolyn & Dick Shohet

Melissa Shennan

Barbara Schomaker

Mike Sawyer

Karen Schon,""
Thank you to everyone who joined AVLT’s Harvest Picnic! While we missed celebrating conservation in-person with you, we hope you were able to safely enjoy a great meal with good company in your favorite special place (or backyard). Your continued support in this challenging year was deeply appreciated.

If your business is interested in supporting local land and water conservation, please contact Jeff Davlyn at jeff@avlt.org.

A sincere thanks to Aspen Snowmass Sotheby’s International Realty for their ongoing support and impactful commitment to conservation and our community. This company recognizes the relationship between development and conservation and our valley’s need for balance.

“Without AVLT’s conservation work, so much of the valley’s land will be developed and gone forever. We’ve all seen changes in open land that we took for granted. We were complacent thinking it would stay undeveloped. We know we can’t conserve it all, but AVLT has proven that there is plenty more that can and should be protected.”

- Ernie Fyrwald, Partner
LEAVE A LEGACY

Your forever impact can help ensure the places you love will forever sustain future generations, both human and wild. In uncertain times it is important to protect what you value most. By planning a gift to AVLT, you can protect the clean water, open lands, wildlife, and culture of today for tomorrow. Leaving a conservation legacy is one of the best ways to make a meaningful and lasting impact. Some of your options include:

• Leave a simple bequest through your will.
• Designate a gift through your life insurance plan or retirement account.
• Donate a gift of real estate that can be conserved or sold to benefit conservation.

To learn more about how you can invest in the future of our valleys, contact Jeff Davlyn at jeff@avlt.org.

ASPEN VALLEY LAND TRUST
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the year ending December 31, 2020 (based on audited financial statements)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<td>$6,921,444</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Amount held on behalf of BLM and Highwater Farm

YOU ARE INVESTING IN FUTURE GENERATIONS

Aspen Valley Land Trust is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect the special places and open spaces of the Roaring Fork and Colorado River valleys for wildlife, agriculture, and community, forever.

10 public parks owned by AVLT

Printed on recycled paper.
SAVING A PIECE OF THE PAST FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE

Right now, one of the last great ranches on the Roaring Fork River needs your help

After 65 years of caring for 141 acres of fertile ranchland along the Roaring Fork River, Rex and JoAnn Coffman knew it was time to retire from ranch life as they prepared to turn 90. **Having raised three children and countless cattle on this patch of ground, the Coffmans are as much a part of this land as the deer, herons, and cottonwoods that thrive on the river’s edge.**

As the Coffmans are part of this land, the land is part of their history, family, and identity. Having worked with AVLT to conserve a piece of the ranch years before, they reached out and conversations started about how they want to see the whole ranch saved and protected forever. Before long, a vision was coming together – one of food systems and wildlife thriving together, a rich ranching history helping shape the next generation of land stewards, and opportunities for the whole community to connect with the land and with each other in nature.

Soon enough, AVLT was under contract to purchase the beloved Carbondale ranch, while granting Rex and Jo a life tenancy in their home. Many thanks to Great Outdoors Colorado, Pitkin County, and Garfield County for leading this campaign with their incredibly important financial commitments in 2020 and for the Coffman family for their reduced price, AVLT is underway to close in late summer 2021. **This purchase will kick off the fundraising needed to make the community vision for this ranch come to life.**

These partners understand the community and biological treasure at risk. A local ecologist called Coffman Ranch “One of the most, if not the most, important properties along the middle Roaring Fork River.”

You will find inspiration anywhere you look on the ranch, and what you cannot miss is the love and history behind the emerald green pastures and the remarkable natural riverfront that runs three-quarters of a mile along Gold Medal waters, with 35 acres of wetlands and a thriving riparian corridor providing critical habitat for many species of wildlife and native plants.

With valuable senior water rights, the opportunities to restore and expand wetland habitat gives this project added importance in the face of a changing climate and diminishing water quality and supply. **The potential for community engagement, access, outdoor learning, and for the next generation of farmers and ranchers now relies on the community to shape and support a vision for conservation here and throughout Western Colorado.**

As this project unfolds, stay tuned for more about this one-of-a-kind ranch and how you can help guide and support the future of conservation in our community. For updates, see [avlt.org/coffman](http://avlt.org/coffman).
The purpose of conservation: The greatest good to the greatest number of people for the longest time.

- Gifford Pinchot