

Land Trust Alliance announces new CEO

By Amelia Davidson

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National conservation group Land Trust Alliance named a South Carolina land trust leader as its new CEO Thursday.

Ashley Demosthenes will take the reins of Land Trust Alliance in March. She has spent the past 10 years as CEO of Lowcountry Land Trust in Charleston, South Carolina, where she helped the organization reach a milestone of over 100,000 acres of land conserved.

Land Trust Alliance focuses on private land conservation, bringing together local and regional land trusts. It represents roughly 1,000 land trusts and affiliates, and over 6 million members.

In a statement on her appointment, Demosthenes heralded the Land Trust Alliance as “the connective tissue for land trusts across the nation.”

“Ashley’s selection was the product of a rigorous, expansive and inclusive process that included some of the most respected leaders from the land trust community, other conservation organizations and the federal government,” said David Calle, vice chair of the Land Trust Alliance board of directors.

“Ashley embodies a deep passion for private land conservation grounded in broad conservation experience and firsthand work with the Alliance, making her the ideal candidate to take over as Alliance CEO,” added Calle, who co-chaired the organization’s search committee.

Before joining Lowcountry Land Trust, Demosthenes spent 15 years with The Nature Conservancy in South Carolina. She is also the co-founder of the South Carolina Land Trust Network.

“I am very proud of the collaborative approach that has defined my success over the years. Establishing trust, building authentic relationships and leveraging partnerships will drive my work at the Alliance,” Demosthenes said.