

## President's Message

Dear Friends in Conservation:

Your Central Arizona Land Trust (CALT) has been working diligently for 20 years to preserve the grasslands and ranching heritage of the Arizona Highlands. Thanks to our efforts and careful stewardship by our ranching community, Yavapai County still contains some of the largest and best tracts of intact grasslands remaining in the western United States.

Through our "Ranching in the Future" (RIF) workshops, which have been ongoing throughout 2009, we have provided ranchers and land managers with the latest tools to ensure their lands remain healthy and productive for generations to come. Thanks to a generous grant from the Yavapai County Community Foundation (YCCF), CALT's RIF workshops will continue through 2010. We are deeply grateful for YCCF's commitment to wild land conservation here in Yavapai County and beyond.

The RIF workshops have proven to be a great forum to discuss what landowners are doing, in Arizona and other western states, to protect and preserve large working landscapes while retaining private landownership. From CALT's point of view, this is the most rational way to maintain community viability while protecting our precious natural resources.

I want to offer a very special thanks to CALT Conservation Specialist Jeanne Trupiano for her dedicated service over the past two years. Jeanne has been invaluable to CALT, handling much of the field and office work with ease. Her conservation leadership and special touch with landowners will be sorely missed. We wish her well in her new assignment as Open Spaces Coordinator for Coconino County. I am very pleased to announce that Advisory Board member Mathew Turner will be taking over the reins from Jeanne. Matt is an outstanding biologist, naturalist and land protection specialist, and I know that I speak for the entire Board in welcoming him into his new CALT role.

With the year-end "Fundraising Season" in full swing, I hope you will consider a gift to CALT to allow us to continue to protect the grasslands of Central Arizona. We are a small organization with very limited operating budget, but we have a mission as grand as the wild lands of our Yavapai County.

Best Holiday Wishes,

Steve Walker