

A word from Central AZ Land Trusts new Program Director

In 1990, I participated in a multi-day, community-wide, environmental restoration on the east slope of Thumb Butte near Prescott. The restoration site, also known as “the Scar”, had been acquired by the City of Prescott, who placed a Conservation Easement (CE) on the property. CE’s must be held by a qualified land trust. CALT, in part, was born out of that requirement.

Little did I know, some 20 years later, I would be playing a major role in the stewardship of the Thumb Butte CE. It is not to say that it was entirely unpredictable. Since that time, my life has continued to revolve around activities associated with land protection and conservation in central Arizona.

Making a living in small town AZ, takes a multi-pronged approach. My work life has encompassed a variety of pursuits, that fall in line with my current role with CALT. Those pursuits include riparian restoration, leading NAU Exploritas and Yavapai College Edventures, photography and environmental consulting. This work has led to a closer relationship with CALT.

Direct involvement with CALT began in 2005, when I produced a baseline documentation report for the Payne Conservation Easement, and later, one for the W Diamond Ranch Easement: both held by CALT.

My predecessor, Jeanne Trupiano helped with the ins and outs of the CE process. She has a continuing role with CALT and keeps my head above water. CALT’s board of directors are also exceptional and a big thanks goes out to them as well.

Central Arizona landscapes are irreplaceable, scientifically and culturally, How people occupy and utilize the central Arizona landscape has always fascinated me. Landowners are the experts, and best able to place land trust options in overall context. My job is to engage with them: to inform, learn and take action where it makes sense..

Our upcoming Preservation of Agricultural Lands Workshops are a great way for us all to learn. Stay tuned for more information on these workshops. I believe it is of utmost importance that central Arizonans support long term protection of our cherished central Arizona landscapes.