



# FOR LANDS' SAKE

FALL 2008

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CENTRAL ARIZONA LAND TRUST

VOL.5/NO.2

## Central Arizona Land Trust Holds Annual Meeting and Wide Open Spaces Award Presentation at Sharlot Hall Museum

by Becky Ruffner

A lively crowd of Yavapai County residents of all ages enjoyed over 120 Orme Ranch burgers cooked by Diana and Allen Kessler, along with beans, potato salad, and delicious fruit pies on the shady museum grounds at the annual meeting of the land trust Saturday, September 13.



*Kay and Dave Jenner. Photo by Matt Turner @2008*

Music was provided by Gail Steiger, Sara and Tim Crews, ranching stories with Bruce Fee, as folks gathered in the museum Amphitheater for the program.

President Steve Walker made the presentation of the 2008 Wide Open Spaces Award to Dave and Kay Jenner, owners of the W Diamond Ranch, Skull Valley. The Jenners recently donated a conservation easement on almost 4300 acres of their ranch to the Central Arizona Land Trust. Although family members will continue to live and work on the ranch, the easement protects the property from subdivision forever, maintaining the family's fifty-year ranching tradition.

*Continued on page 3*

CENTRAL ARIZONA



## LAND TRUST

*Preserving Open Space in the Heart of Arizona*

P.O. Box 1050  
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Prescott, AZ 86303  
(928) 445-7790  
www.centralazlandtrust.org

The Central Arizona Land Trust was founded in 1989 as a local private, non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.

For Lands' Sake is a regular publication to inform and educate the members and general public alike to the need for land protection and preservation.

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The mission of the Central Arizona Land Trust is to preserve and protect open space, wildlife habitat and the scenic and cultural values of Central Arizona for future generations.

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# President's Message



Dear Friends,

Preserving the grasslands and ranching heritage of the Arizona Central Highlands is at the core of the Central Arizona Land Trust (CALT) mission. Globally, grassland ecosystems are the least protected and most endangered. Because they present the fewest obstacles to development, they are usually the first to be subdivided. Despite these facts, here in Yavapai County we are blessed to have a significant portion of our grasslands still intact thanks to the long-standing stewardship by our ranching community. CALT wants to ensure these special lands remain wild. One of the ways we are going about that is through our upcoming workshop "Ranching in the Future," scheduled for Friday, December 12, 2008. This community workshop for rangeland preservation will be held at the Orme Ranch, outside Mayer, Arizona, and it will be a collaborative undertaking of the Yavapai County Community Foundation, Yavapai County Cooperative Extension and CALT.

Your Central Arizona Land Trust is made up of almost exclusively volunteer board members and advisors. As you can imagine, our operating budget is very small. We generally receive a few small grants for restricted program priorities each year; however, donations from members and others interested in supporting our mission are what allow us to operate. Other costs that are very difficult for CALT to absorb are the transaction expenses associated with perfecting a conservation easement on behalf of an interested land owner. To address this cost in the years ahead we have established a new Blue Ribbon Fund. As you finalize your charitable giving for the remainder of this tax year, I hope you will consider a gift to this Fund or directly to CALT to allow us to continue to protect the grasslands of Central Arizona.

Warmest regards,

Steve Walker  
President, Central Arizona Land Trust



*Photo by Matt Turner*

*Continued from page 1*



*Rebecca Ruffner & Steven Corey, Past President, Central Arizona Land Trust. -Photo by Matt Turner @2008*



*Tracy Corey, Yavapai Community Foundation, and Steve Walker, President, Central Arizona Land Trust. Photo by Matt Turner @2008*

Previous winners of the Wide Open Spaces Award were Sherman Payne, for protection of his family’s Granite Dells property dating back to the late 1800s, and Sam Steiger for his leadership in creating Prescott’s Open Space Acquisition program as mayor of the City of Prescott.

Special thanks to Sharlot Hall Museum staff, especially Gail Sission, Karen Churchill, Barry Masloff, and volunteer, Sylvia Neely.



*Sarah & Tim Crews. Photo by Matt Turner @2008*



### “Your Ranch Here” Raffle Winner Drawn at Yavapai Cattle Growers Annual Calf Sale and BBQ

The winning ticket for a large panoramic photo of ranchlands was drawn on September 29, at the Annual Calf Sale in Peoples Valley. Gene Polk, owner of the Spider Ranch, had purchased the winning ticket weeks before at the Annual Wide Open Spaces event.

The Spider Ranch, located northwest of Prescott, is a working cattle ranch with a rich history in one of the most remote areas in Yavapai County. The terrain is some of the most rugged and picturesque anywhere in the West, yet the mountainous rock piles hold some of the best cattle grazing available. Owners and Gene and Barb Polk plan to work with Turner to select the scene for the large panoramic photo, which will then be framed and presented to the Polk’s.

Matt Turner, local landscape photographer and ecologist, has donated his professional services to shoot the photo of the Spider Ranch that will be framed and presented to the Polk’s this season.

# Stewardship Corner: Scotch Thistle Wars

by Robert Pearson



*Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly using the flowering Scotch Thistle on Bochat's property. Note ID characteristic: winged stems  
All thistle photos by Robert Pearson*

Scotch Thistle (*Onopordum Sacanthium*) was first recorded in Yavapai County, in 1961. USDA/NRCS web site shows that it also occurs in Navajo and Apache Counties in Arizona. The same source indicates its presence in 37 of the lower 48 States and in most of Canada.

I first spotted it in Skull Valley (SV) in 1994. There was a large dense clump of these showy purple flowered thorny plants in the neighbor's pasture. It has since become well established in the bottom land soils in the

upper part of (SV), with a more scattered distribution in the rest of the valley. The moist fall of 2007, and slightly above normal precipitation during 2008, resulted in a banner year for the growth and spread of Scotch Thistle (ST) here in SV.

*Scotch Thistle Flower seed development examination series. Peavine Ranch Shop.*



It uses gravity, surface water and stream runoff, livestock, and other animals to spread the prolific seed crop from its numerous flower heads. Insects use the flowers, and birds eat the seeds. Seeds aren't completely digested as they pass through the birds digestive tract so some are thus planted into new areas by the birds. ST seldom grows on hillsides, nor does it do well on the edge of wetlands. Due to its very thorny nature, this plant receives almost no grazing pressure.

Two meetings were held in SV. Supervisor Carol Springer



*Scotch Thistle starting to shell out- note brown flower heads. Jesse Dennis (6'4") with upraised hand on opposite side of patch. North 5 acre tract of former Bochat's property.*

was able to provide a separate dumpster for the safe containment, and transport of the ST seed heads. Extension Agent, Jeff Schalaus, later, presented a program on ST management options. The plant, at its worst, can grow up to 12 feet tall in dense impenetrable stands and each plant can produce thousands of seed. ST reproduces only by seed. I am trying to encourage a community wide effort to contain, control, and reduce the presence of this plant in Yavapai County. For more information contact Robert Pearson at 442-3645.

The easiest and most effective control operations on ST are the removal of the plant soon after it germinates by digging. Spraying of the rosettes is also effective. These young ST plants growing under past years plant cover can be difficult to spot and may not be detected until they send up a flowering shoot. Where practicable, early spring mowing in heavily infested areas will help with detection, access and treatment.

In large field or pasture areas with a heavy infestation of ST, mowing before flowering, is helpful, but some cut buds and flower heads may still produce viable seed. In moist years, regrowth frequently produces new buds and flowers, and later



*September Rain moistened ST seed heads showing the closed flower behavior.*

germinating plants would call for additional mowing. On monocultures of dry mature dense stands of ST, a control burn may work under good burning conditions to reduce the seed supply. Unfortunately, ST also likes to grow under other tree cover. Some bulldozer land clearing was also undertaken this year to reduce both mesquite and ST.

Hand removal of buds and seed-heads is labor intensive but effective on small patches. After flowers start turning brown and start casting their seeds, one has to be careful to avoid scattering

*Scott's Thistle: april rosette Note whitish colored center. in my pasture- prior to removal. Peavine Ranch, Skull Valley, AZ*



# CALT introduces new Advisory Board members



**G**ordon Berghold has resided in Prescott, AZ since 2005. He is a Certified General Real Estate Appraiser in California and Arizona. During his extensive career, Gordon has gained specialized experience working with conservation easement valuation. He has also donated his time and talent to serving land trusts.

In California, Gordon served as a board member to the Three Rivers Land Trust and currently is an advisor to the Sequoia Riverlands in Visalia.



**M**att Turner has lived in the American Southwest since 1982 and currently resides in Prescott, Arizona. Matt works as an ecological consultant, where he specializes in baseline inventory reports, which are integral to conservation easements. In addition, he currently works for NAU Elderhostel and Yavapai College

Adventures as a field guide and is involved with the business of restoration ecology. His past work has been centered on field ecology and Geographical Information Systems.



**A**s a registered land surveyor, Jim Cristea brings much expertise to our land-based organization. Since becoming registered in 1982, his career has spanned work in the public and private sectors where he managed land departments and survey operations. Jim has been active in the Professional Land Surveyors Association serving as treasurer and president.

He has also served on committees for the Arizona Board of Technical Registration and the National Society of Professionals. In 2004, he was named Surveyor of the Year. Jim and his wife Jozette reside in Prescott.



**C**onstance Pinney is a business advisor, economist and certified public accountant and has been an active member of the business community for more than 35 years. Her professional experience encompasses business, government and agriculture. She is a Certified Forensic Accountant and Certified Forensic Consultant by the

American College of Forensic Examiners International. Her areas of expertise include real estate-related tax matters, including issues such as easements and eminent domain, and agricultural economics and taxation. Constance resides in Prescott.

## Funding Awarded for Ranchland Preservation

We are pleased to announce that the Yavapai County Community Foundation has awarded \$3,500 from the Environmental Fund to provide partial support for a series of outreach events entitled, "Ranching in the Future: Community Workshops for Ranchland Preservation". In addition, CALT will be partnering with the Arizona Cooperative Extension Service to provide a broader array of topics of interest to agricultural landowners. The first "**Ranching in the Future**" workshop will be on **Friday, December 12** at the Orme School (located near Mayer in Yavapai County) from 10:00am until 2:30pm. This kick-off event and those to follow will provide speakers with areas of expertise including: agricultural agreements for land preservation, estate planning, tax implications, appraisals, rural land use planning, range management and other timely issues. All workshops include lunch and refreshments at no cost to the participants. Seating is limited so please RSVP by Monday, December 8 by calling (928) 445-7790 or by email to erikg@ag.arizona.edu.

*Scotch Thistle continued*



*58 bags of Scotch Thistle seed heads. Container provided through the County Supervisor's Office, to contain & transport Scotch Thistle seed heads to the County Landfill near Dewey, AZ*

the seed. (The literature states that seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 30 years.) Plant behavior, following a rain, helps avoid this scattering in that the flower heads temporarily close, with the bracts enclosing the loose seed. They open back up as they dry. Five acres were thus treated this summer. Fifty eight garbage bags of buds and seed heads were collected and transported to the landfill. Plants were removed and stacked nearby to facilitate follow-up monitoring and treatment. This area didn't lend itself to other treatments due to the riparian and mesquite canopy over most of the acreage.

I want to thank all those land owners and managers and individuals in the SV area who participated in this effort to contain, control and reduce the presence of Scotch Thistle in our beautiful valley. Keep up the good work, the battle has just begun. A special Thanks, to Yavapai County and various government and private agencies and their personnel who advised, encouraged and supported this effort.



## JOIN US

### For a *Ranching in the Future* Workshop

Covering  
Estate Planning, Land Protection Options  
& Planning and Zoning Issues

Friday, December 12, 2008  
Orme School

Arizona Cooperative Extension and Central Arizona Land Trust  
PRESENT

**“Ranching in the Future”**  
**Workshop for Ranchland Preservation**  
Friday, December 12, 2008  
10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Lou Alford Room, Orme School, Mayer

#### Itinerary

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 10:00-10:05 a.m.      | <b>Welcome</b> – <i>Paul Orme</i> , Orme Ranch  |
| 10:05-10:10 a.m.      | <b>Cooperative Extension’s Interest In a New Ranching Workshop Series</b> – <i>Erik Glenn</i> , Community Resource Development, Arizona Cooperative Extension   |
| 10:10-10:30 a.m.      | <b>Agricultural Easements</b> – <i>Jeanne Trupiano</i> , Central Arizona Land Trust (CALT)  |
| 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | <b>Estate Planning Options, Tax Implications and Appraisals</b> – <i>Michael Mongini</i> , Attorney at Law, Hufford, Horstman, Mongini, Parnell & Tucker, PC; <i>Constance Pinney</i> , CPA, Cr.F.A., C.F.C.; and <i>Gordon Bergthold</i> , Certified General Appraiser |
| 12:30-1:00 p.m.       | <b>Lunch (Provided)</b>   |
| 1:00-1:45 p.m.        | <b>An Introduction to Planning &amp; Zoning</b> – <i>Bill Towler</i> , Coconino County Planning Department  |
| 1:45-2:30 p.m.        | <b>Rural Planning Areas</b> – <i>Bill Towler</i> , Coconino County Planning Department; and <i>Mandy Metzger</i> , Diablo Trust and Flying M Ranch  |

We hope you will join us for this informative workshop that is designed to help ranching families keep their operations in production long into the future.

Lunch will be provided, and there is no cost to attend. **Please RSVP your attendance no later than Dec. 8** by calling 928-445-7790 or emailing [erikg@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:erikg@ag.arizona.edu).

This workshop is the first in a series for the Community Outreach Program for Ranchland Preservation made possible with the partial funding provided by the Yavapai County Community Foundation.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, James A. Christenson, Director, Cooperative Extension, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, The University of Arizona. The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation in its programs and activities.

# Thank You Members and Supporters!

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BMA Architects, Planners, and Landscape Architects  
Jane Cook  
Judy Clapp  
Law Offices of Hufford, Horstman, Mongini,  
Parnell, & Tucker  
Law Offices of Paul R. Orme

## Special Partners in Protection (\$250-\$499)

Doug Hulmes  
Rebecca Ruffner  
Matt Turner

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Margaret & Larry Baker  
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## Wide Open Space Event Contributors

### Donation of Artistic Talents

Gail Steiger  
Bruce Fee  
Tim & Sarah Crews

### Donation of Goods & Services

Bridget Reynolds-Graphic Design  
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Bruce Hardwick-Advertising  
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Jube's Firehouse BBQ-Catering  
Steven & Traci Corey-Picnic Supplies  
Orme Ranch Grassfed Beef for Burgers  
Steve Blair-Picnic Foods  
Pangea Bakery-Delicious Fruit Pies

### Volunteers for Member Services

Sami Frazier  
Bridget Reynolds  
Katherine Di Lucido

## Annual Appeal 2008

The 2008 Annual Appeal is underway and we need your support. CALT wants to ensure that we can respond to each and every landowner seeking land protection options and provide the necessary education and outreach programs throughout our region. Your financial contribution directly supports our work to preserve those natural features that define our part of the American West. Please consider becoming a new member, renewing your membership, or making a donation in memory of a loved one. Your donation can be mailed directly (using the enclosed envelope) or made online at [www.centralazlandtrust.org](http://www.centralazlandtrust.org). In both cases, please remember to include your email address so that you can receive our *new* email newsletter that will bring you timely news and event information in between editions of *For Lands' Sake*.

If you have already donated this year, we want to let you know how much we appreciate your support. THANK YOU!

CENTRAL ARIZONA



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*Preserving Open Space in the Heart of Arizona*

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Since 1989



*Happy Holidays*  
*from the Central Arizona Land Trust*  
*[www.centralazlandtrust.org](http://www.centralazlandtrust.org)*

*Photo by Walt Anderson*