



## FOR LANDS' SAKE

WINTER 2014

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CENTRAL ARIZONA LAND TRUST

VOL 14/NO.2



*Photo courtesy of Matt Turner*

### CALT Undertakes Accreditation

*By Matt Turner*

The Central Arizona Land Trust (CALT) has initiated the application process for accreditation through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTAC). LTAC was incorporated in April 2006 as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance to operate a land trust accreditation program to build and recognize strong land trusts, foster public confidence in land conservation and help ensure the long-term protection of land.

Accreditation provides public recognition of land trusts that are engaged in the long-term protection of the land in the public interest. It increases public awareness of, and confidence in, land trusts and land conservation.

The public is increasingly demanding accountability from government and nonprofit organizations, including land trusts. Independent accreditation provides the assurance of quality and permanence of land conservation the public and donors look for, and publicly recognizes a land trust's ability to protect important natural places and working lands forever.

Land trusts use the accreditation application process as a way to fine-tune their policies and streamline their operations. The Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission conducts an extensive review of the application and grants accreditation - and the right to use the accreditation seal - to land trusts that meet the practices.

The accreditation seal is a mark of distinction among the more than 1,700 land trusts across America. Being accredited helps a land trust to stand out, to say to landowners, funders and other supporters: "Invest in us. We have proven we are a strong, effective organization you can trust to conserve your land forever."

Applying for accreditation affords land trusts the opportunity to review and implement policies and procedures that help streamline operations and lead to more effective land conservation. Renewing accreditation fosters continuous improvement and enables organizations to confirm they are consistently following national standards and meeting current requirements.

CALT began the accreditation process over 2 years ago by demonstrating that we met LTAC eligibility and registration requirements. The next step of the accreditation process is the pre-application and final application. Both applications require thorough internal reviews of CALT's Standards and Practices, Policies, Bylaws and currently held Conservation Easements. CALT hopes to have the accreditation process completed by Fall 2015, and achieve accreditation by Winter 2015-16. If you want to learn more about the accreditation process, please visit the LTA Accreditation website at [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org).



LAND TRUST

Preserving Open Space in the Heart of Arizona

Mission

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

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 its supporters and the community.

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# President's Message



We are all fortunate to live in the Central Mountains of Arizona, the zone sandwiched between the Mogollon Rim and the Basin and Range province of the upper Sonoran Desert. Topography is the seasoning of our vistas. Mountains and valleys in all directions give our internal gyroscopes balance and reward us a reflective backdrop for the dramatic sunrises and sunsets that we all enjoy.

Most of us who grew up in Yavapai County in the 1950s were accustomed to seeing antelope (Pronghorn, *Antilocapra americana*) in almost all of the open spaces of our then rural environment. Obviously, that landscape has been modified substantially as the population of this largest of Arizona counties has surged over the last 50 years. Why do people find this such a desirable place to live? The climate is frequently cited as a prime factor but even more significant is the still rural scenery and the 'lifestyle' that many people associate with living in an essentially urban environment.

Antelope are increasingly becoming recognized as a true marker of the health of the ecosystem. Unfortunately, they require large tracts of open land to survive and maintain their genetic health. Indeed, in the last 20 years we have seen new highways cross their once contiguous range and isolate herds which are no longer able to move across the landscape. This fragmentation of habitat poses the greatest threat to the health and vitality of not only antelope but all large wildlife that relies on continuous and varied habitat to survive and thrive.

After an exceptionally robust summer monsoon, the grasslands have returned to many parts of Yavapai County. In many areas the perennial grasses are waist high and are heavily laden with abundant seed and feed in early Fall, as your pant legs will tell you after a short hike off of the beaten trails. The heavens have blessed the native animals with a deep cycle of sustenance; now our part in habitat preservation becomes even more important.

It is the mission of the Central Arizona Land Trust to assist willing landowners to preserve those vistas and work with other conservation-minded groups to find ways to modify and mitigate the effects of the increasing habitat fragmentation. Conservation easements are an effective way of maintaining habitat by removing certain private lands from development in perpetuity while legally retaining ownership and most agricultural uses. As a non-profit volunteer-based organization, we rely on our supporters to keep the programs moving. We thank you for your past and continued support.

Richard Yettman  
President

# CALT Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary With 50-Mile Feast

By Kate O'Conner-Masse

Getting up at 4am to pick delicate squash blossoms by headlamp; collecting fresh eggs from hens that spend their days not in cramped cages, but foraging in pasture; managing herds of cattle to restore and protect the range... another day in the lives of Yavapai County farmers and ranchers. It's mighty hard work, and while not necessarily financially lucrative, love of the land and commitment to the value of local food keep them going.

To ensure that we don't lose that way of life and its many benefits to the community, the Central Arizona Land Trust (CALT) hosted its 3rd annual 50-Mile Feast on Saturday, August 23rd. Ranching, farming and CALT are a natural fit. For 25 years, the land trust has worked at the invitation of landowners to create and manage conservation easements on family heritage property and working agricultural lands. Funds raised are used to maintain scenic views, functioning watersheds and wildlife habitat all over Central Arizona.

"The 50-Mile Feast is at the heart of our mission as a local land trust - celebrating and preserving the agricultural heritage of central Arizona for future generations. Enjoying the delicious bounty of our local farms, ranches, chefs, brewers and vintners reminds us that sustainable agriculture is vital to all communities" according to Rebecca Ruffner, a CALT board member.

The Feast began at Chino Valley Farms in 2011 as an end-of-season celebration for county farmers, ranchers, chefs, ag educators and local food enthusiasts. The following year, the farm decided to expand the event as a fundraiser for CALT to support its conservation mission. After a couple of years, the Feast outgrew the farm's ability to host it, so this year's celebration was held at Camp Willow Springs on Thumb Butte. It seemed especially fitting, since CALT was formed in 1989 in order to assist with a Thumb Butte conservation easement.

Planning for each year's Feast starts in the early spring, as skilled chefs develop a unique menu based on what farmers and ranchers are planting and raising. Guests at the Feast often are surprised to learn of the huge variety of agricultural products grown and produced within 50 miles of their table! This year, chef Molly Beverly and her staff utilized the best of what was in season in late August to create a unique and elegant meal, which was paired with delicious wines from Arizona Stronghold of Cottonwood and Painted Lady Vineyards of Skull Valley. This followed a social hour that featured tasty appetizers, plus luscious wine from Grand Canyon Winery of Williams, and hearty beer from Granite Mountain Brewing of Prescott. Live music, and silent and live auctions rounded out the evening. The starry night sky and cool August weather provided perfect reminders that we live in an amazing place, one worthy of preserving for future generations. We hope to see you at future CALT fundraisers!



*Photo courtesy of Matt Turner*

# Using Conservation Easements to Protect Wildlife

By J.D. Greenberg



Sometimes we take for granted the many natural treasures of Central Arizona. We assume the beautiful vistas and abundant wildlife always will be here. However, for those of us who have lived here for a while, we can see pronounced changes that cause concern. One of the most dramatic changes has been the disappearance of the Prescott Pronghorn herd. The Prescott Valley herd may follow suit quickly due to encroaching development. Pronghorn require open space for seasonal migration. When that is not available, the herds die off. Land fragmentation is the biggest obstacle to this migration whether generated by highway construction or housing projects.

How can we save the remaining Pronghorn herds in Central Arizona? Why are wildlife corridors so important? As has been demonstrated repeatedly, conservation easements help preserve natural open space for all of us to enjoy as well as critical wildlife corridors upon which many species, in addition to the Pronghorn, depend for their very existence.

On September 29, 2014, the Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization (CYMPO) held two public meetings at Prescott City Hall to discuss the Regional Transportation Plan for 2025 and 2040. It was announced that eventually many of the local highways will be expanded from two to six lanes. This increased traffic load will result in more motor vehicle collisions with animals. A 2008 Congressional study found that these animal-related collisions result in about

26,000 injuries and 200 human deaths annually. These events cost more than \$8.3 billion a year in vehicle repair, medical services, law enforcement time and other related expenses. The damages increase when larger animals are hit.

## *Pronghorn using wildlife crossing structure.*



*Photo courtesy of Jim Burrell, Wildlife Conservation Society*

Many animals, including deer, are active at dusk and dawn, when twilight reduces their visibility to predators, and to drivers, resulting in more collisions. One crucial fact locally is that the diurnal Pronghorn must deal with higher traffic volumes which result in higher mortality rates for both the Pronghorn and motorists. The toll on smaller animals goes largely uncounted and road death is a major threat to survival.



*Photo courtesy of Matt Turner*

What is the answer? Fortunately CYMPO may provide some of the solutions. It is a partnership of Chino Valley, City of Prescott, Prescott Valley, Yavapai County and the Arizona Department of Transportation that was established in June 2003. Its purpose is to cooperatively plan future transportation in Central Yavapai County to accommodate all needs including roads, highways, public transit and pathways for bicycles and pedestrians. All must be accomplished in conjunction with Federal law which requires mitigation of wildlife and land fragmentation in highway construction.

Yavapai County offers a prime opportunity to work cooperatively to create wildlife corridors through the means

of conservation easements. These easements could tie into existing and proposed trails and creek boundaries to form the corridors. In Wyoming, Pronghorn following the 6,000-year old “Path of the Pronghorn,” a federally protected migration corridor, are guided to overpasses that cross highways that dissect their range. Does our wildlife deserve any less?

The period for written public comment regarding the Regional Transportation Plan has ended. However, CYMPO holds regular meetings at which brief comments from the public are welcome. Mitigating land fragmentation, land conservation and wildlife preservation are worthy topics for comment.



*Photo courtesy of Matt Turner*

# Land Protection Requires Funds

By Patricia Bruneau-Gaber

Central Arizona Land Trust (CALT), like land trusts throughout the United States, helps conservation-minded landowners protect their land, not just during their lifetimes, but in perpetuity.

When a conservation easement is donated, landowners also make a donation to a special fund to ensure their wishes are carried out. The Stewardship Fund provides for yearly monitoring of the conservation easement and for protection of the land, as the landowners specified.

Over time, changes in land use and ownership are inevitable. Terms of the conservation easement could face challenges. CALT must have the financial capability to monitor, defend and enforce the terms of each easement in its trust.

Stewardship endowments for easement protection are pooled in a restricted fund and are used exclusively for monitoring and enforcement. The endowment funds are vital to the defense of protected lands.

Each conservation easement has an underlying stewardship endowment plan. When the easement is finalized, the endowment monies are placed in a restricted fund, with a separate accounting for each conservation easement. Qualified expenditures are restricted to monitoring, enforcement and activities directly related to the conservation easements. Interest income earned by the funds may be used as needed for general CALT operations.



*Photo courtesy of Matt Turner*

*If you would like to learn more about the Stewardship Fund, send an e-mail or give us a call. If you would like to make a donation to the fund, please specify which property (Thumb Butte, Boyle-DeBusk, Payne, or W Diamond) with your donation.*

# The Board Welcomes 2 New Directors

## *John Farmer*

John L. Farmer was born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana. He moved to Arizona to attend college in 1988, fell in love and decided to stay. He received his bachelor's degree in 1992 and went on to receive his Masters in Education in 2006. John worked as a dedicated educator for over twenty years. His love of teaching, academics, and research eventually attracted him to the financial services industry. He currently works as a financial advisor with the Taylor and Padgett Financial Group. When he is not with his family or in the office, he enjoys fishing, mountain biking, skiing, adventuring, cooking, and good conversation.



*John Farmer*

## *J.D. Greenberg*

J.D. Greenberg joined the CALT Board in November, 2014. She is a long-time resident of Arizona, having received her Bachelors of Arts and Masters of Science degrees from the University of Arizona. Since moving to Prescott in 2002, J.D. has been active with many local organizations including Prescott Creeks, the Highland Center for Natural History and the Open Space Alliance. She served as vice-president for the Open Space Alliance for two years, and was involved in discussions with the Arizona State Land Department regarding the purchase of Badger Mountain and Glassford Hill.

J.D. also is a member of the Westerners Prescott Corral, Slow Food Prescott, the Smoki Museum, the Phippen Museum, Sharlot Hall Museum, and volunteers for Animal Disaster Services. She is passionate about preserving open space and protecting native wildlife.

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## Donors Make It Happen

### *Recent Donors Include:*

#### **TOP HANDS**

Four-Four Foundation  
Eugene O'Conner  
Kate O'Conner Masse  
Diana Kessler  
Richard Ach

#### **PARTNERS IN PROTECTION**

J.D. Greenberg

#### **LAND LOVERS**

Irvin Rosen  
Brad Newman  
Richard & Carol Yetman

\*\*\*Top Hands \$250 and above

\*\* Partners in Protection \$100-\$249

\* Land Lovers \$10-\$99

CALT, as a 501(c) 3 charitable organization, can accept donations of all types of assets. Additionally, CALT can accept donations of land that may not be appropriate for a conservation easement, but can be re-sold to benefit our general expenses, programs, and land preservation efforts. Please call our office for more information at (928) 445-7790.

## Wish List

### **Office Supplies and Equipment**

Paper, pens and printer ink are always welcome. Also needed: Dinnerware and place settings for 100 for the next 50-Mile Feast.

### **Books for Central Arizona Land Trust Lending Library**

\$25 will buy 5 copies of *Conservation Options: A Landowner's Guide*

\$50 will buy 1 set of

*Preserving Family Lands: Book I –*

*Essential Tax Strategies for the Landowner*

*Preserving Family Lands: Book II –*

*More Strategies for the Future*

*Preserving Family Lands: Book III –*

*New Tax Rules and Strategies and a Checklist*

\$100 will buy 3 copies of *Saving the Ranch:*

*Conservation Easement Design in the West*

### **Volunteers**

Do you have a few hours a month to help with light clerical work, grantwriting, event planning, and public relations? Call (928) 445-7790.

CENTRAL ARIZONA



LAND TRUST

*Preserving Open Space in the Heart of Arizona*

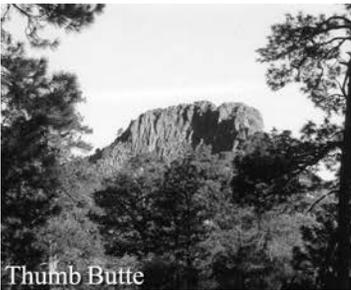
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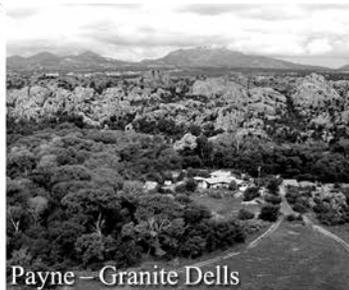
### *CALT Lands in Trust*



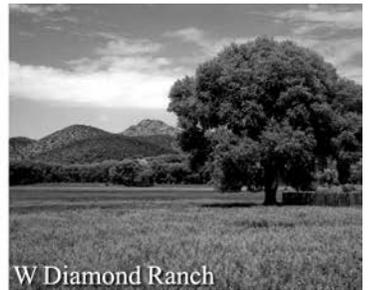
Thumb Butte



Boyle-DeBusk



Payne - Granite Dells



W Diamond Ranch

CENTRAL ARIZONA



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the enclosed membership  
envelope or:*

*Online at  
[www.centralazlandtrust.org](http://www.centralazlandtrust.org)*

*Call us at (928) 445-7790*

## Become a Partner in Protection

The Central Arizona Land Trust is dependent on your continued support to the mission of preserving and protecting open space throughout Central Arizona.

Please remember CALT for charitable gifts or estate planning. Your gift works directly to benefit land preservation this year and into the future. As a qualified 501(c)(3) gifts to the Central Arizona Land Trust are tax deductible. Please visit the CALT website to explore options for donations and planned giving.

*Preserving Western Lands Since 1989. All donations are tax deductible.*