



## YOUR Land Trust Expands Service Area

By Jeanne Trupiano



Nearly thirty years ago, in 1989, the Central Arizona Land Trust (CALT) was founded to save the iconic scenic views of Thumb Butte. Today, the open space lying just beneath the ‘Thumb’ remains undeveloped open space because of the permanent conservation easement held by CALT that ensures lasting protection.

Now in our 28th year, CALT has decided to increase our capacity to work with landowners seeking lasting protection for family lands. Many landowners are facing big decisions in terms of whether to protect the land they love in perpetuity or go forward with development strategies, given pressing economic realities. Increasingly, we receive calls and letters from landowners all over northern Arizona wanting information about what is involved in conservation.

In response to this, in April, the Board of Directors approved the expansion of our service area to an even greater extent within the Central Highlands. This decision means that CALT will consider conservation projects in six counties, including Coconino, Navajo, Apache, Mohave, Gila, and, of course, Yavapai. (See map)

Our expanded service area formalizes the important work CALT is already actively engaged in this year. The scope of potential land protection projects before us is more diverse than ever.

Currently, CALT is working with landowners to protect riparian habitat and water resources along Oak Creek and the Agua Fria River, important migratory wildlife corridors in Coconino and Mohave counties, and historic ranchlands in Yavapai County.



With this decision to expand our service area, CALT needs your help to maintain our capacity to respond to conservation opportunities. One way you can guarantee that your dollars will work to directly protect cherished lands is by donating to CALT’s Blue Ribbon Fund. The sole purpose of this Fund is to guarantee conservation in perpetuity by assisting landowners who need financing to support transaction costs, such as appraisals and resource documentation reports, to complete their conservation agreements. For more information, please contact us at (928) 445-7790.

*When Jeanne is not out meeting with landowners she can be found trying to keep up with her husband, Mark, and their Aussie, Tony, hiking and fly-fishing in Arizona. A long-time conservation professional, Jeanne has been working to save land through permanent protection for her entire career. Jeanne has worked in Arizona and Colorado with private landowners who have successfully protected their lands with conservation easements. As project manager with CALT, Jeanne is eager to meet with landowners seeking more information about land protection tools and opportunities to make conservation a priority for future land use decisions.*

## 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.

P.O. Box 1050, Prescott, AZ 86302  
(928) 445-7790  
calt@centralazlandtrust.org  
www.centralazlandtrust.org

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# President's Message



WELCOME to spring in the Central Highlands – always anticipated, yet often unsettling with its unpredictable weather, predictable winds, and the chronic indecision it brings as to when the 'safe' planting date actually is. My money remains on Mother's Day, climate change notwithstanding.

Recently YOUR local land trust Board of Directors retreated to the delightful Little Thumb Butte B&B, on the rim of the Verde headwaters, to reflect on our core values (among other topics of the day). We decided that the following

about sums it all up:

*"We live here, we work here, and we are dedicated to the people and landscapes of north-central Arizona, as well as the culture of our communities and quality of life we all enjoy. We share a deep appreciation of those who have worked on the land and those who continue to do so today."*

The contributors to this issue of the CALT Newsletter For Land's Sake is reflective of perspectives on our statement of core values.

We hear from Rafael Routson De Grenade and Kanin Routson, accomplished young siblings who have crafted their own lives on the land, informed by science, travel and harvesting the wisdom of those who have come before them.

Amy Hale Auker lives and loves the ranching life, with husband, Gail Steiger. An award winning author and poet in her own right (*A Rightful Place, The Story is the Thing*), she is a keen observer of animal, plant, and humankind alike.

And this issue also brings you information about the national Land Trust Alliance, from our newest consultant, Åsa Björklund, native of Sweden. Åsa first joined our board last year, and, as we became more aware of her writing and publishing talents, we decided she should be paid for the many tasks she was willing to take on in our office and in the community.

Like all land trusts across the country, more than 1,000, we are fueled by your interest and support. If you enjoy this newsletter, have questions or would like to suggest a topic for future newsletters, please let us know!

Thanks again for being part of our almost three-decade-long effort to save the places we all love!

Rebecca Ruffner  
President

*A native of the area, and lover of all things outdoors, Becky got involved with CALT in the mid-1990's through friends Harley Shaw and Patty Woodruff. She joined the CALT board to help Harley bring some governance structure to what was then a group of biologists who favored four-hour board meetings focused on "in the weeds scientific discussions". She has since been re-elected President several times and is still trying to bring greater governance structure to the CALT Board of Directors...stay tuned.*



# Conservation Agreements

## Where the Rubber Meets the Rocks

By Joe Trudeau



Conservation agreements (i.e., easements) have long been used as a tool to protect riparian, historic, wildlife, and other unique and highly valued ecosystems. Often, working landscapes – those that provide hay, beef, fruit, vegetables, or timber, for example – can benefit from a conservation easement by keeping the

land in crop production, permanently. The National Young Farmers Coalition explains that conservation agreements help keep farmland affordable and accessible to America's next crop of farm families. The Central Arizona Land Trust (CALT) holds an easement on such a ranch in Skull Valley, Seven Spears, formerly the W-Diamond Ranch.

But protecting land is sometimes about providing public access to recreation areas, too. The Payne/Granite Dells Conservation Easement (CE), in Prescott's Granite Dells, is an example of where CALT's conservation easement protects land for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, including the residents of the Prescott area and out-of-town visitors. This 28-acre parcel is part of the much larger – and growing – network of City of Prescott Natural Open Space lands surrounding Watson and Willow Lakes at the Granite Dells. The nearly 40 miles of trails that the City of Prescott has built and maintains in the Granite Dells attract a huge number of people: according to the Parks Department, almost 60,000 people last year entered the Granite Dells at just the Peavine Trailhead. Historically, most visitors have come for bird watching, fishing, dog walking, trail running, or a casual family stroll. But there's a growing user group going to the Granite Dells, including the Payne/Granite Dells CE – mountain bikers.

There's no denying it – mountain biking in the Granite Dells is hard. The terrain is like none other, featuring slickrock slabs, deep slot canyons, sheer cliffs, and stunning scenery – an unlikely backcountry experience smack in the middle of an area bustling with commerce. The riding is what us mountain bikers call “technical,” but the degree of technicality is in a league of its own, and the consequences of crashing can be very serious. The average mountain biker should not ride at the Granite Dells, the trails are simply too difficult and dangerous. Even the best riders you'll encounter in Granite Dells will still have to carry their bikes up, down or through an obstacle that is simply impossible to ride a bike on. That means that those

who do ride there are very unique individuals in search of a challenging mind-body-spirit athletic experience. And the Watson Dam Trail through the Payne/Granite Dells CE delivers on that experience with impossibly steep climbs, frightening descents, nasty rock gardens, and precipitous drop-offs. And that's just within the first few hundred feet!

While relatively few local bikers ride in the Granite Dells, the area's popularity is steadily increasing as bikes become more capable, riders become more skilled, and more people are attracted to mountain biking. In fact, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association, mountain biking was the 5th fastest growing sport in America in 2015, and Central Arizona is attracting many of those new riders to hot destinations like Prescott, Sedona and the Verde Valley. To get a sense of what mountain biking in Granite Dells is like, search for a video on YouTube. Or better yet, see the Watson Dam Trail firsthand! You can park off Granite Dells Road at the City of Prescott Trailhead at the Payne/Granite Dells Conservation



Image by Chris Hosking

Easement. Trail maps are available at [www.prescotttrails.com](http://www.prescotttrails.com). And bring your first aid kit; you might meet a guy like me who just took a tumble!

*CALT Board Member Joe Trudeau is a lifelong conservationist and mountain biker. Since writing this article, his good luck on Dells-style technical riding ended. He'll be writing one-handed for a while as his broken arm heals up.*

# The Land Trust Alliance

By Åsa Björklund



It was with great pride that we received accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance Commission in 2016. As one of only three land trusts in Arizona with this national designation, CALT is working to meet the highest standards for land protection. Accreditation is just one of the benefits of our membership in the Land Trust Alliance (LTA).

LTA, founded in 1982, is a nationwide advocacy organization that supports land trusts across America. With regional offices, LTA is always there with experienced staff to provide information and land conservation expertise to more than one thousand land trusts nationwide. For all those small and big questions that may come up in the conservation easement process, LTA offers straight answers. Additionally, LTA often provides financial support through grants to improve our strategic planning, communications, and capacity building—all necessary tools for an effective and efficiently run local land trust.

At the valuable training sessions, webinars, and annual conference events, we become smarter about land protection and connect with other land trusts to share experiences and

ideas on how to make our work even better. For example, LTA has supported the establishment of the Arizona Land Trust Network that brings together the land trust community in Arizona for continuing education and collaboration.

LTA also works for landowners in our nation's capital to promote legislation that ensures that tax incentives remain in place for the donation of conservation easements. This tax incentive, that especially benefits farm and ranch owners, was very helpful to CALT's project in Skull Valley that resulted in the agricultural conservation easement protecting over 4,000 acres.

As our region continues to grow and develop, CALT, as an accredited land trust, will continue to work at the highest national standards of excellence through our partnership with LTA. In collaboration with our landowners and generous donors, we are always highly motivated to work as hard as we can to preserve Arizona's open space and varied landscapes. It's a mission that matters. For more information, go to: [www.landtrustalliance.org](http://www.landtrustalliance.org).

*After leaving her job with international development aid, Åsa resettled to Arizona and took up writing and photography. In her time off, she enjoys exploring Arizona's beautiful lands by foot, bike, and horse.*

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# Preserving Arizona's Legacy and Sense of Place through Edible Trees

Rafael de Grenade, PhD and Kanin Routson, PhD

**CALT works to protect land for future generations. One of the most important aspects of land protection is to ensure that we plan for the future of our beautiful and useful trees. Rafael de Grenade and her brother, Kanin Routson, are working to ensure the survival of edible trees.**

**E**dible trees are those that produce fruits, nuts, seeds and pods that can support people and wildlife and sustain our environment. Trees in people's yards, communities, orchards and open spaces create Arizona's Edible Forests. These trees stimulate the imagination, improve living conditions, reduce greenhouse gasses, build soil, clean air and water, provide nutritious food, and increase food security. They can also facilitate community interaction for long-term, inter-generational care of places and communities.

Local Prescott-area residents Kanin Routson and Rafael de Grenade are helping to preserve Arizona's heritage through their research and personal investment in promoting and planting edible trees.

Kanin's research has included collecting and genetically fingerprinting historic apple varieties across the Southwest; he has re-grafted historic apple trees for Slide Rock State Park, Capitol Reef National Monument, and other locations. His nursery and orchard now include over two thousand apple trees of 235 varieties. Rafael is growing several hundred native and nonnative walnut, cherry, apple, pear, quince, plum, apricot, and peach trees, as well as supporting a collection of 60 pomegranate varieties.

Kanin and Rafael are members of the Linking Arizona Edible Forests (LEAF) Network, a community-based initiative with

the mission to link people with the benefits of edible trees. The LEAF Network provides free information and teaching materials to support edible forests across Arizona. For more information, visit [leafnetworkaz.org](http://leafnetworkaz.org).



Arizona's legacy of open space preservation can be enhanced through restoring natural habitats with native tree and understory species for resident and migratory wildlife. By replanting historic orchards and celebrating trees, we help preserve Arizona history. Planting new forests of native and nonnative trees connects people with a sense of place and begins a future living legacy. Please join us in the initiative!

Kanin and Rafael will be among the presenters at the LEAF Network's Edible Trees for Central Arizona, a free conference, Saturday, September 16, 2017, at the Prescott Resort. For more information, sign up at <https://leafnetworkaz.org/event-2531363>, or email Rafael at [rdegrenade@gmail.com](mailto:rdegrenade@gmail.com).

*Rafael De Grenade and her brother, Kanin Routson, grew up in the foothills of the Santa Maria Mountains north of Prescott. Rafael began working at the Cross U Ranch at age 13 – riding, branding, shoeing horses, and gathering cows. She has traveled widely and her writing has been published in literary and scientific journals. Kanin Routson is a field biologist and orchardist whose research focused on arid lands resource sciences.*



## Announcing New Website and Logo

CALT is proud to announce that we have recently launched our brand-new website, a modern, well-structured and visually appealing platform: [www.centralazlandtrust.org](http://www.centralazlandtrust.org).

We will be posting regular updates there, so keep an eye out for news and upcoming events, as well as on our Facebook page. Our marketing endeavors don't end here; we have also created a new logo to capture our love for this region's lands. We hope you like it!

# Boyle/DeBusk Conservation Easement-A Hidden Gem

By Matt Turner

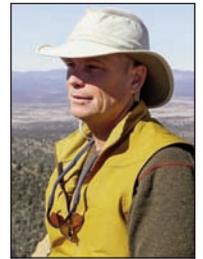
The 9.7-acre Boyle DeBusk Conservation Easement is an ecologically diverse and scenic natural area located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of downtown Prescott, AZ. The property was originally acquired by Helen Marie Boyle and Wesley DeBusk in the 1950's. The couple donated the entire property, including the family cabin, to the City of Prescott in 2002. A conservation easement was conveyed by the City of Prescott in 2003 and is now part of the City's Public Open Space holdings.



The conservation easement can be accessed via Limberlost Lane and Clubhouse Drive by driving on US Highway 89 (White Spar Road) south from downtown Prescott.

Pine-oak woodland is the prevalent vegetation community across the conservation easement. Contiguous stands of Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), a common tree species with this community type, provides abundant shade for hikers who wish to avoid summertime heat. Another prominent vegetation community is interior chaparral, which is found on south-facing aspects and higher portions of the conservation easement. An intermittent stream located on the southern

portion of the conservation easement provides enough water to support riparian vegetation, including red willow (*Salix laevigata*), which is a common over story plant. Another notable species, scouring rush horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*), dominates areas where soils are permanently saturated.



Several hiking trails meander through the conservation easement, providing recreational opportunities for the surrounding Mountain Club subdivision. A scenic primary trail of moderate difficulty is accessed at the end of Limberlost Lane. It runs southeastward to the southern part of the conservation easement and parallels, in part, a portion of the riparian area.

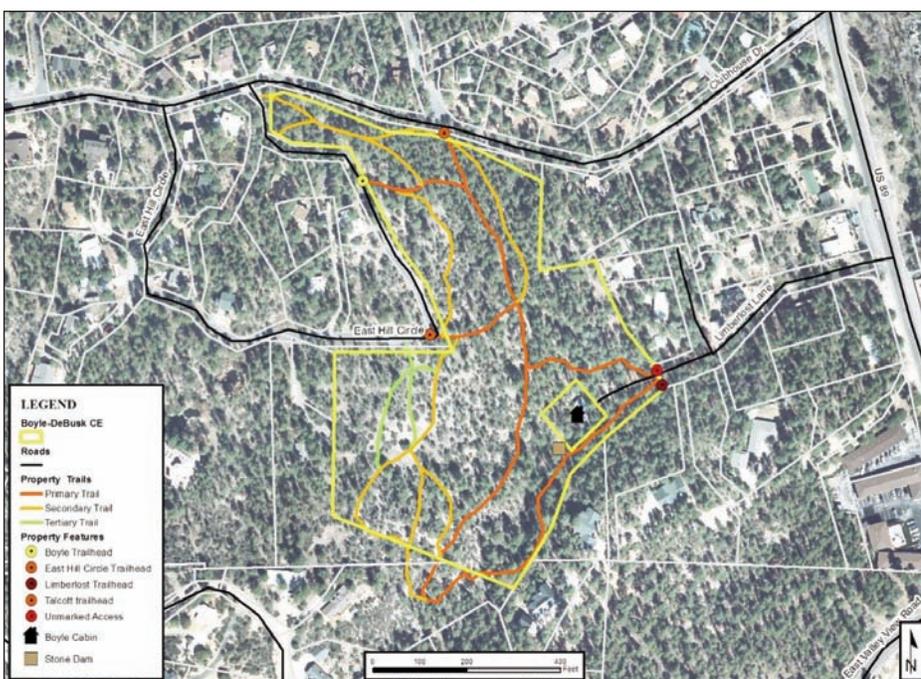
A new primary trail (Talcott Trailhead) was created by the City of Prescott in July 2013 to direct hikers onto properly designated trails vs. unwanted social trails. It also originates at the end of Limberlost Lane and travels northwestward, where it intersects a well-used north to south trail transecting the property. The prominent north to south trailhead is located on the south side of Clubhouse Drive.

Other trailheads are located on East Hill Circle Dr. (Boyle and East Hill Circle Trailheads). All signed trailheads adjacent the conservation easement have limited parking. The City of Prescott maintains adequate signage at all trailheads and has provided a dog-waste bag station at the Limberlost Trailhead.

The driveway accessing the property and parking adjacent to the Boyle DeBusk Cabin is restricted to City of Prescott personnel.

The Boyle DeBusk Conservation Easement is a testament of how conservation-minded landowners find ways to permanently protect their beloved lands. Enjoy your visit and contact CALT with any questions about conservation easements or open space.

*When not guiding throughout the Southwest, you might find Matt in the field, photographing southwestern landscapes or working diligently on CALT-related projects. See his work at [terraimagery.myportfolio.com](http://terraimagery.myportfolio.com).*



# See You at the Barn

By Amy Hale Auker



Amy Hale Auker's poems reflect her deep appreciation of the ranching way of life in central Arizona. When she is not working as a cowboy for the Spider Ranch in Yavapai County, Amy performs poetry and speaks to groups around the country. As the author of *Rightful Place*, Amy was the 2012 WILLA winner for creative non-fiction. She is also the author of *Winter of Beauty* and the 2015 WILLA finalist, *The Story Is the Thing*, both novels published by Pen-L Publishing.

*See you at the barn,  
is what you give me  
as you turn left and I turn right  
along the ribbon of cedar posts and  
barbed wire  
stretched tight.  
Up and down canyons, along ridges,  
I make crooked the straight  
in deference to equine muscles  
and slick rock.*

*My brain plays traitor to my heart  
badgers me with  
litanies and lists and ledgers and logic  
costs and calendars and clocks,  
tick tock.  
Those things we have misnamed "real."  
I spur my horse faster.*

*But this rough ride can't be rushed,  
and reality reclaims its right to what is  
really real,*

*and thank god,  
I can see again.*

*Rocks in layers with pebble aprons,  
as if they were waterfalls,  
and they will be when the water falls.  
Dead trees posed among the living,  
as if they were paintings,  
and they will be when the artist brings her  
brushes.  
Bright pink bear scat  
laden with prickly pear seeds,  
Deer as silent explosions out of shadows,  
rising above to stand as solid sculptures,  
watching.*

*Tick tock becomes hoof fall and heartbeat,  
hoof fall quickening when quinine quivers  
with quail whirrr  
and my heartbeat betrays me when I see  
the bright green rattlesnake with  
velvet tail and pale buttons,  
coiled tight, head flat,  
ready to strike,  
and he does not buzzz.*

*A hawk is my sailing silent companion  
until he cries, friendly lonely from the air.  
A fragile inchworm rests on my sleeve.  
Fat green acorns wear tight-knit caps for fall.*



*Songbirds weave in and out of the  
bushes,  
and I become one of them  
as I weave with words and with wire.*

*And so the hours  
do not pass,  
for I refuse to claim them  
or name them as such.  
When I turn toward home,  
I vow that when I remember,  
I will not give time nor day nor task,  
but rather, will say  
"I remember that moment  
when I was alive."*

*See you at the barn.*

We would like to acknowledge the generous support of the following individuals and the people they would like to honor and remember. As we say at CALT, it takes a village to save the land and we couldn't do it without your help.

Thank you very much!



## In Honor of:

"In honor of two of our friends, Chris and James." Patrick Tullman.  
"In honor of Rebecca Ruffner." Chelly Tyler Herren.  
"In honor of Rebecca Ruffner." Elisabeth Ruffner.  
"In honor of Elisabeth Ruffner." Sam and Leigh Downing.

## In Memory of:

"In memory of Edwin M. Thormodsen." Linda (Martha) Smith.  
"In memory of John U. Hays." Jim and Myra Musgrove.  
"In memory of Ann Elder Schleicher." Ted and Cynthia Schleicher.  
"In memory of Bill Fain." Scott and Nancy Helfinstine.  
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## Become a Partner in Protection

The Central Arizona Land Trust is an Arizona nonprofit corporation and is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) and a qualifying organization under Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code for the acceptance of conservation easements. Please visit our website for information on charitable gifts and estate planning. We depend on the continued generosity of our donors to accomplish our mission of preserving and protecting open space throughout Central Arizona.

*Preserving Western Lands Since 1989.*

