



TRUST

"In wildness lies the preservation of the world." Thoreau

The mission of *Trust* is to transmit the passion of the Desert Foothills Land Trust.

DFLT Dedicates P.A. Seitts Preserve at Go John Canyon

On March 26, more than 50 people gathered at Go John Canyon in Cave Creek to dedicate the 271-acre DFLT preserve in honor of Patricia Anne (P.A.) Seitts. The preserve will now be known as the P.A. Seitts Preserve at Go John Canyon. P.A. was a former executive director of the DFLT for many years and was a leading force in establishing the Arizona Preserve Initiative, which resulted in the preservation of much of the preserve now dedicated in her honor.

Many dignitaries spoke at the dedication, including Arizona Land Department Deputy Commissioner Richard Hubbard, APS Vice President Ed Fox, State Senator Carolyn Allen, Maria Baier of Valley Partnership and Cave Creek Mayor Vincent Francia. All spoke of having a close friendship with P.A. and of her unwavering and consistent dedication to land preservation.

"She was a force to be reckoned with as she set out to preserve the desert landscape," remarked Jacky Davis, board president for DFLT. Although the Arizona Preserve Initiative is currently stalled due to a legal challenge, Richard Hubbard proclaimed, "We at the State Land Department are committed to finding a solution to the API Problem."

Members of Seitts' family flew in from around the country to participate in the dedication and unveil the new stone plaque (generously donated by Anasazi Stone)

that proclaims the preserve in her name. The land itself seemed to be honoring its namesake with a spectacular show of wildflowers, the likes that have not been seen for many years. Guided tours of the preserve were held on the Legacy and Lou Menk trails and provided excellent displays of desert marigolds, carpets of magenta owl's clover, purple Arizona lupine and bright orange Mexican poppies, to name just a few.



Just Another Spectacular Sonoran Symphony

As the setting sun dipped behind Go John Mountain, fingers of light set ablaze the glittering rhinestones of the Calendar Cowgirls and dappled the hills that surround Rancho Mañana Golf Resort. A hush fell upon the crowd of nearly 800, as Bob Fox from Wild at Heart released a rehabilitated Great Horned Owl named Payson to return to the wild. Gracefully, Payson spread her wings and majestically flew off into the approaching night.



The Calendar Cowgirls were a huge hit!

Cowboy singer-poet Michael Martin Murphey and The Phoenix Symphony, under the baton of conductor Bob Moody, kept the crowd spellbound with traditional songs of the West including "Tumblin' Tumbleweeds," "Riders in the Sky" and, of course, the story of a pony named "Wildfire."

Breathtaking setting, delectable dining and captivating music all combined to make the 10th Anniversary Sonoran Symphony an unforgettable evening under the stars.

MESSAGE from the President

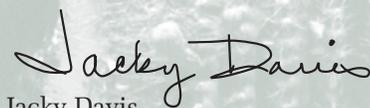
Dear Friends of DFLT,

One of our objectives in putting on a major event like the Sonoran Symphony is to give our supporters a lot of bang for their buck – to do everything we can to see that all our guests have a wonderful evening. And, after looking at the photos in this newsletter (and the hundreds more taken by board member/photographers Ron Siepman and Bernie Molaskey), we think we succeeded. Of course it's hard not to enjoy great company, food, and entertainment, especially when the cause is good and the weather and setting are spectacular.

But another goal, obviously, is to gain even more support for our cause. Desert Foothills Land Trust works proactively to preserve and protect sensitive land in the Sonoran Desert. We want to be recognized as an effective force for land and species preservation, and to do that we need your active and continued endorsement. By buying a ticket for the Sonoran Symphony and encouraging your friends to do the same, or by becoming a corporate sponsor, you are also recognizing and approving our mission and the work of our talented staff and dedicated volunteers, and for that we thank you. The Tenth Annual Sonoran Symphony was sold out, and that fact says a lot about the level of support for the cause of land preservation in this area.

Planning is already underway for next year's symphony, of course, and we know we have a lot to live up to. Next year it will be held on May 6, so plan accordingly. Although we may not be able to accommodate many more guests, we are always looking for additional corporate sponsors, so please let us know if you or anyone you know would like information about becoming one. It's a perfect way to demonstrate an appreciation for the desert and the folks who are working to preserve it. And we promise you you'll have a great evening.

Sincerely,



Jacky Davis
DFLT President

Sonoran Symphony Memories



One very happy cowboy!



Michael Martin Murphey



Dawn Hopkins declares the 10th Anniversary Sonoran Symphony a rousing success!



.. and a wonderful time was had by all!

2005 Stewardship Campaign

As reported to you in our last newsletter, our campaign to increase funds in the Goldwater Memorial Stewardship Fund to \$300,000 is underway. Thus far, we have received contributions of \$35,650, which increases the fund 24% from approximately \$148,000 when the campaign began.

Be assured that Thom Hulen's crew will apply income from these funds constructively. Maintaining these beautiful preserves is essential.

We will continue to contact potential donors during the balance of 2005. Please consider a generous contribution to the fund, enabling us to generate enough income to achieve our mission for stewardship.

Ted Bosler, 2005 Stewardship Campaign Chair

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Conservation Director	Thom Hulen
Office Manager	Kay Vargas



As usual, the spring was very busy for DFLT staff and board members. It was with great satisfaction and emotion that we dedicated and re-named the P.A. Seitts Preserve at Go John Canyon (see Bernie Molaskey's article in this issue of the *Trust*). A large contingent of P.A.'s family was able to attend which made the event all the more rewarding for all involved. Although the day was cold and windy to begin with, it turned out to be warm and radiant with everyone reveling in the efforts of DFLT (and particularly P.A.'s tenacity) in protecting this precious resource in perpetuity. A particularly touching moment came when my wife Theresa and I drove in just as the sun was peeking over the hills. The tent and chairs were in place but none of the guests had arrived. There, perched on the peak of the tent was a stunning sight – an adult Harris' Hawk that appeared to be surveying the scene. My wife and I got out of the truck slowly and were able to approach the bird closely. As we stood there transfixed, the bird looked at us, blinked once (or was it a wink), rose majestically into the air, circled twice and then disappeared silently up Cave Creek Wash. The scientist in me ascribed the behavior to early morning hunting activities and mild curiosity; the humanist in me was confident that P.A. was looking down on the event with satisfaction and perhaps a bit of impatience as if to say, "It's great we were able to save this small piece but there's a lot more work to do – get busy!"

We had another great Sonoran Symphony! The 10th anniversary of our signature event had record attendance and record net revenues. I want to especially thank all of our sponsors for their generous support of this, our primary fundraising event. We also had great raffle prizes this year that included a stunning diamond ring from Molina Fine Jewelers, a week's vacation at Board Member Ron Seipmann's house in Aspen, Colorado, a shopping spree at Razmataz, and a drive and ride package from Legends Cadillac. Michael Martin Murphey and the Phoenix Symphony gave rousing performances of Michael's classic cowboy and western songs, and another Great Horned Owl was released back into the wild by Wild at Heart. Again, thanks to all of you who have made this event such a successful event both for the community and for DFLT.

Although summer is usually a slow time for us, this summer, staff will be hard at work finishing up our Comprehensive Conservation Plan. This plan will be crucial to the conservation efforts of DFLT for the next five years. We also hope to see a new grassroots level initiative to achieve lasting State Trust Land reform, something we had hoped would take place long before now. Look for more on this in the fall.

We're having a little fun with fundraising this summer as well. I hope you enjoy the humor behind our "No Sweat" event and learn a bit about the extremes of heat and drought. There's no reason why fundraising can't be fun and informative. Have a great summer!

Self-Guided Nature Trail Planned

The Terravita Desert Appreciation Group is working over the summer to prepare a self-guided nature trail in Terravita to introduce residents and their guests to the Sonoran Desert and the wide variety of plants and animals it sustains. It has been a long term goal for members of this group, working in cooperation with the Desert Awareness Committee of the Desert Foothills Land Trust, to increase awareness of the beauty and diversity of the Sonoran Desert by creating such a trail.

Desert Discovery Day, presented by the Terravita Desert Appreciation Group in April, featured a trail walk which was led by professional naturalist Steve Jones and trained docents. This two-mile walk, which utilizes a portion of the existing fourteen-mile Terravita Trail System, is designed to enhance residents' appreciation of plants indigenous to the Sonoran Desert. It includes washes, and by implication at least, birds, small mammals, rodents and other desert dwellers.

Plant names and descriptions of desert characteristics and features will be on permanent markers along the trail.

Before her death, Janet Law, a Terravita resident since 1994 and an active member of the Terravita Desert Appreciation Group and the Desert Awareness Committee, had been planning Desert Discovery Day at Terravita. One of the features was the docent-guided Trail Walk. Janet was eager for others to learn about the desert and all of the beauty and wonders it holds. She had also worked effectively on the 2005 revision and reprinting of *The Fragile Desert* which was recently published by the Desert Awareness Committee. It would undoubtedly please Janet to know that the interpretive trail she had dreamed of will soon become a reality. The Terravita Desert Appreciation Group is grateful for Janet's inspiration that propelled the implementation of this self-guided nature trail.

Upon learning of this proposal one Terravita resident generously committed \$500 to launch this project. Friends and family members have also sent gifts. Tax deductible contributions to help fund the signs and trail guide may be made to the Desert Awareness Committee, PO Box 4861, Cave Creek AZ 85327-4861. The Desert Awareness Committee is the educational branch of DFLT. For further information call Gretchen Mills, 480 595-9591.



Stewardship of DFLT's preserves is always on my mind in the summer when the weeds are high and dry. As you all know, the threat of wildfire is high this year and even if the monsoons show up this threat will be looming over the land for sometime. Weed growth has been so phenomenal this year that I have been forced to reevaluate my ideas on vegetation management. In the meantime, I will carry two fire extinguishers in my truck just to ease my mind.

DFLT, in partnership with the Desert Botanical Garden and the Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona, was awarded a

Healthy Forest grant to remove salt cedar from private land along Cave Creek Wash. The project will commence this fall when temperatures drop to more comfortable levels. There will be an announcement in September seeking volunteers.

A floristic survey of all of DFLT's preserves has been underway for the past year. The results are impressive. Sometime in the fall the results will be available on DFLT's website. I encountered delphinium and blue flax for the first time this year at the P.A. Seitts Preserve. Hopefully the monsoons will encourage additional plants this summer. I have just about worn out my plant field guide looking up plants I'd never seen before or seen so long ago I'd forgotten what they looked like.

In April the DFLT, in partnership with Arizona State University, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area, Tonto National Forest and Desert Fishes Council, reintroduced native longfin dace fish into Cave Creek at the Jewel of the Creek Preserve. During the last several weeks the longfin dace have been seen on numerous occasions.

Lowland leopard frog populations are booming this year along Cave Creek. Frogs in all morphs can be seen at the Jewel and Watt Preserves. Having preserves in the Cave Creek area where animals like the lowland leopard frog can survive and even thrive is a testament to the good work the DFLT is doing by preserving and conserving land and other natural resources. We should be proud of ourselves.

Internship with DFLT Team a Great Experience!

Everybody knows me as Thom's SLAVE but my real name is Monica Valeria Martinez Ortega and I'm from Guadalajara, Mexico. I'm 23 years old and a student at the Universidad de Guadalajara studying Eco-tourism. I had the opportunity to do my internship in Arizona in a program with Scottsdale Community College, where they decided that I would work with the Desert Foothills Land Trust. To me this was something very interesting because I had the opportunity to work with the Conservation Director Mr. Thom Hulen.

My duties with DFLT were to help Mr. Thom with everything, even to cut grass and pick up trash at the preserves. I didn't mind because it was fun and I had the opportunity to see a lot of the wildlife in the desert. Maybe to a lot of you seeing a rattlesnake or a scorpion even a jackrabbit is something of every day, but to me it was something great and neat, and very exciting and emotional. One of my goals was to be able to see a rattlesnake before I went home, and I did! On Thursday March 24, 2005 I saw a rattlesnake just a couple of feet away from me. It was very neat and great to be able to see it, so I decided to

name my new little friend. I knew it was going to be the first and last time I would see it, so I named it "PABLITO."

The next day I met another new friend. His name was "JUANITO," a scorpion. But he left after two days. I believe he was a boy because you all know that is a typical guy thing to leave with out notice. But that is ok. I still have the jackrabbits and the squirrels.

After being in the desert for three months it's a great feeling, not just because I am outside, but because I learned how the wildlife live and how they survive. The most important thing is appreciating NATURE, and seeing what she (nature) can do. I'm enjoying my internship every minute and every second because it's something that I'm going to take with me for my whole life.

One of the best things I saw during my internship was the deer. I had the opportunity to see a mama deer with her baby deer (they were so cute) and a great-blue heron in her nest. Near the heron's nest there was also a raven's nest with two babies.

I enjoyed very much learning about birds. To be able to listen to them and

be able to identify the different species was very fun, because I had to pay a lot of attention when they were singing or calling their mates. I fell in love with the way cardinals look and sing. They are so cute. But the cutest birds, because of the funny way they walk are the Gambel Quails. To me, they walk with their butts up and very fast.

At the office, it was a little different because I was working all the time on the computer that I borrowed from Mr. Mike Rigney, the executive director, or helping Kay Vargas to fold clothes or take pictures during the events that we had. I enjoyed being in the office with everybody. They were nice and very funny. We laughed and had a good time at all times.

The last thing I have to say is that I really enjoyed being part of the DFLT team for three months and that I am taking good memories. Thank you to all of you and like Mr. Hulen said, I'm taking pictures and memories, but I'm leaving footprints.



No Sweat Fundraiser And Trivia Contest

There you are ... somewhere in beautiful, cool, green Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado or anyplace else where the dominant landscape color is not tan. You're probably sipping ice cold, fresh squeezed lemonade, sitting on the porch, listening to the cool breeze as it rustles through the trees and thinking fondly about those poor unfortunate or merely misguided souls who are doomed to spend the summer in Arizona. Sure, they say it's a dry heat, but how many times does one have to repeat that mantra to believe it actually makes a difference when the thermometer hasn't dropped below triple digits in weeks and folks actually talk about 105 degrees as a "cooling trend"??



But don't worry about us desert rats! The folks at DFLT are here to take the sweat out of summer for everyone! Y'all just sit back and enjoy that lemonade while Mike, Thom and Kay do the sweatin' for ya. It's no sweat, really. We even went up to Saguaro Hill and held a Sweat T-Shirt Contest, so you wouldn't have to. **All you need to do to participate is to send us a donation.** Now how easy is that? No sweat, right? And just to make sure you don't have to deal with any pesky rivulets of perspiration, we'll send a cool, practical DFLT "No Sweat" bandana to everyone who sends in a donation of \$50 or more, while supplies last! After all, preserving the beautiful, fragile Sonoran Desert is no sweat, isn't it? And remember that old adage: men sweat, women perspire, but ladies "glow."

Now, for those of you who are so inclined, we've prepared a trivia contest about heat and humidity (or lack thereof). Send your answers to DFLT, Attn: Kay at P.O. Box 4861, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 or email kvargas@dflt.org. The winner(s) will be announced (along with the answers) in the Fall newsletter.

No Sweat Trivia Contest: *So, how much do you know about heat and weather - really??*

- The highest temperature ever recorded in Phoenix was:
 - 122 on June 26, 1990
 - 118 during Menopause, the Musical
 - 127 on July 7, 1973
 - 119 on May 9, 1942
- Between 1896 and 2000 the earliest first occurrence of 100 degree heat in Phoenix was:
 - February 14, 1912
 - April 23, 1949
 - March 26, 1988
 - May 3, 1997
- The coldest temperature on record in Phoenix was:
 - 20 degrees on March 12, 1948
 - 19 degrees on January 11, 1925
 - 0 degrees inside the Goettl Air Conditioning Plant
 - 16 degrees on January 7, 1913
- The average number of 100 degree or higher days in Phoenix is:
 - 89
 - too darn many
 - 48
 - 99
- The greatest number of 100 degree or higher days ever recorded in Phoenix is:
 - 150 every year
 - 90 in 1915
 - 126 in 1998
 - 143 in 1989
- True or false? The summer of 1995 was so hot that, at the end of August, methane emitted within big bales of freshly-cut hay in Missouri began spontaneously combusting.
- The world's hottest temperature of 136 degrees was recorded on September 13, 1922 in:
 - Death Valley, CA
 - Al Aziziyah, Libya
 - United States Senate Building during a filibuster
 - Alice Springs, AU
- True or false? In Glasgow, Montana the temperature rose 26 degrees in fifteen minutes on September 9, 1994.
- The highest temperature (134 degrees) in the United States was recorded on July 10, 1913 where?
 - Yuma, Arizona
 - Las Vegas, Nevada
 - Death Valley, CA
 - Inside a Hatch chile
- The highest recorded temperature in Arizona is 128 degrees. Where was it?
 - Sheriff Joe Arpaio's Tent City
 - Gila Bend
 - Lake Havasu
 - Yuma
- True or false? The Atacama Desert in Chile is right next to the Pacific Ocean, but it gets only 1 cm of rain (0.3 inches) a year.
- True or false? A desert must be a hot place to qualify as a desert.
- True or false? Can you fry an egg on the sidewalk?
- True or false? In a light colored car, with the windows cracked, on a 93 degree day, the temperature inside the car will rise to 125 degrees within 20 minutes and to nearly 140 degrees within 40 minutes.
- True or false? Pavement (asphalt) surface temperatures hit nearly 180 degrees in the summer in Arizona.
- Men suffer heat stroke more often than women do because:
 - They sweat more than women do.
 - They usually drink less water.
 - They more often work outside
 - Because it's a guy thing
 - All of the above except D
- Every city has some sunny days, some more than most. Which of these average number of sunny days per year is NOT correct?

A. Green Bay, WI	85
B. Yuma, AZ	242
C. Minneapolis, MN	95
D. Detroit, MI	75
F. Springfield, MO	115
G. Phoenix, AZ	211
H. Miami, FL	120

Bonus Points: Name three song titles and three movie titles with hot, heat or summer in the title.



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The "Cave Creek Complex" fire, which burned over 243,000 acres of Sonoran Desert in the Tonto National Forest, has finally been contained, and we're extremely grateful that none of our preserves were burned. This is thanks to some amazing work by fire-fighting crews. Though the fire came within a mile of the New River Reserve and two miles of Cottonwood Canyon Preserve, it was turned back in time. Historically fire has been infrequent and limited in the desert, but the presence of non-native grasses has changed the dynamics in this habitat. Dealing with this fact requires extra vigilance from all of us.

