



Meet the Board

GARY G. GERLACH

The Desert Foothills Land Trust is honored and excited to introduce one of the newest members of our Board of Directors, Gary G. Gerlach. Mr. Gerlach brings with him a wealth of professional and life experience and contagious enthusiasm. He shared with us his thoughts on his involvement with our organization, "I chose to involve myself in the Desert Foothills Land Trust for three reasons. The overarching motivation is the lure of the magical Sonoran desert landscape, and the desire to preserve some of its special places. Many of us are inspired to make a better backyard for our neighbors and ourselves. Furthermore, the Desert Foothills Land Trust enjoys a special asset -- a large and enthusiastic community following. And this asset is buttressed by something even more rare -- talented staff and management. These factors present that rare and unique opportunity, a chance for the Desert Foothills Land Trust and its friends to achieve something fun, meaningful, and everlasting."

Mr. Gerlach resides in Scottsdale and at Lake Tahoe in Incline Village, Nevada with his wife, Dr. Karen A. Connor. He has a professional background as a publisher, journalist, and lawyer with over thirty-five years of experience in the media. He is currently the President, a founder and a principal owner of New West Newspapers, Inc., in Carson City, Nevada. His vast previous newspaper experience includes 14 years as President and CEO of Partnership Press, Inc. in Ames, Iowa, 12 years at the Des Moines Register and Tribune Company serving on the Board of Directors as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the corporation, and 3 years as President and Publisher of The Des Moines Register newspaper. He also worked as a young editor and journalist at the Miami Herald, the New York Times, at Dow Jones & Co., and The National Observer.

Mr. Gerlach's legal background includes experience as a lawyer in Washington, D.C. at Arnold & Porter and as a Legal Assistant to a commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission. He is a member of the bars of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the District of Columbia and the State of Iowa.

A native of St. Ansgar, Iowa, Gary Gerlach graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, holds a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School and a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Mr. Gerlach and his family are building a scholarship fund in the University of Iowa's College of Nursing in honor of Gary's sister, Lu Ann, who died of leukemia in 1965. The fund has given scholarships annually in Lu Ann's name for 37 years. Gary and his long-time partner, Michael G. Gartner, founded the Iowa Journalism Institute in 1998 to award scholarships to young aspiring journalism students.

We welcome Mr. Gerlach to the Desert Foothills Land Trust where he holds the executive position of Secretary on our Board of Directors and graciously serves on the DFLT Fundraising Committee.



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"Working together to protect the Sonoran Desert for future generations."

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2008 Fall/ Winter Hike Schedule

- November 1**
P.A. Seitts at Go John Canyon
- November 8**
H.B. Wallace on Lone Mountain
- November 15**
The Jewel of the Creek
- November 29**
P.A. Seitts at Go John Canyon
- December 13**
New River Nature Reserve
- December 6**
The Cave
- December 20**
The Jewel of the Creek
- December 27**
H.B. Wallace on Lone Mountain

For more information or to make reservations please call the office at 480 488-6131 or email us at info@dflt.org.

THE JEWEL

DISCOVERING HIDDEN TREASURES

As a biodiversity gem the 27 acre Jewel of the Creek preserve is appropriately named. The Jewel offers a unique place to explore three distinct habitats; Sonoran Desert Upland, Mesquite Bosque and Riparian.

Riparian areas are essentially the narrow strips of land that border creeks, rivers or other bodies of water. Because of their proximity to water, plant species of riparian zones differ considerably from those of adjacent uplands. The Jewel is a great example of a riparian plant community exhibiting towering Fremont Cottonwood, Arizona Ash, Goodding's Willow, Arizona Sycamore and Arizona Walnut.

Although riparian areas may occupy only a small percentage of the area of a watershed, they represent an extremely important component of the overall ecosystem. This is especially true for arid-land watersheds. Riparian habitats are by far the rarest and most endangered places in Arizona. The Jewel of the Creek offers a year-round presence of water that supports a myriad of plants and animals, including Lowland Leopard Frogs (see page 3) Sonoran Mud Turtles and migratory birds. In early October two newly hatched Sonoran Mud Turtles, the first documented sighting in over seven years, were discovered in Cave Creek just south of the Jewel in Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area, an encouraging sign of reproduction which was until recently in question.

Another significant sighting occurred October 12 at the Jewel during a bird banding class. The class lead by Mike Rigney was attended by volunteers from Hassayampa River Preserve and members of DFLT. An American Redstart, which is rarely spotted in our area, was caught and banded during the class. The Redstart is a neotropical migrant, which summers in the eastern and northern U.S. and Canada. It winters in Mexico, Central America and South America and is only spotted in Arizona during migration. Other birds banded include a Yellow Rumped Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Orange Crowned Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Albert's Towhee, House Wren, Lesser Goldfinch, and Red-Naped Sapsucker. The Jewel of the Creek is one of 30 Important Bird Areas (IBA's) identified by Audubon Arizona. IBA's call attention to those places in Arizona most important to birds and engage citizens in conservation at these sites.



A young Sonoran Mud Turtle, *Kinosternon sonoriense*, discovered south of the Jewel in Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area.



The American Redstart discovered at the Jewel, October 12 2008

It is a beautiful time of the year to get out and discover what the Sonoran Desert and the Jewel of the Creek have to offer. Enjoy!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



vation strategy. Today we have a clear map of priorities showing our highest, high, and medium priority interests in both private and State Trust Lands. There is a colored map available illustrating these priorities. Drop by our office, or call 480-488-6131 or e-mail mwarren@dflt.org and we will be happy to

Dear Members,

Thank you for sharing our mission to protect, preserve, and steward sensitive land and species for the survival of our desert. Our mission is difficult, but if we are successful, future residents will be blessed as we are to live in communities in which the abundant natural areas, remarkable views and our rich cultural heritage are protected forever. Yes, they too can learn flower pots are attractive to javelina and fall asleep to the familiar lullabies of a great horned owl or local pack of coyotes.

In our protection of land we have never been a reactive group, always countering specific threats. Instead, from our beginnings in 1991 we have been interested and worked on a long-term conser-

give you one.

We can also provide you with information on the lands we own and the easements we hold, by description of their conservation value and how to visit them.

We continue to be successful only because hundreds of you step up to help each year. Some of you donate land. Most become members by donating money or stock. There are groups of docents and stewards who take our training classes and lead nature walks or check to see that conservation values are intact on our preserves. DFLT is always looking for and counts on new volunteers for projects such as our new online Holiday Auction (<http://www.dflt.cmarket.com>) and Sonoran Symphony event. Donating items or selling tick-

ets to events is another way a member may contribute. Mary Warren, Member Relations and Operations Manager, welcomes office helpers. Anyone who would donate a half day or a full day per week would be especially appreciated. Sharing skills like website design and management or trail sign construction are immediate needs and offer other ways in which to volunteer. People come to us with unique ideas of how to help; initiative has always been honored with us. In summary, your help is absolutely critical to the success of our mission – your continued help in any way or ways you choose.

Each of us have seen naturally beautiful places turned into generic overdeveloped areas. A recent trip to Los Angeles pointed that out to me. Let's keep up our efforts. This is not the time to relax.

Sue F. Clement

President

“We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.”

-Marian Wright Edelman

DFLT LAUNCHES ON-LINE AUCTION

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SIMPLIFIED

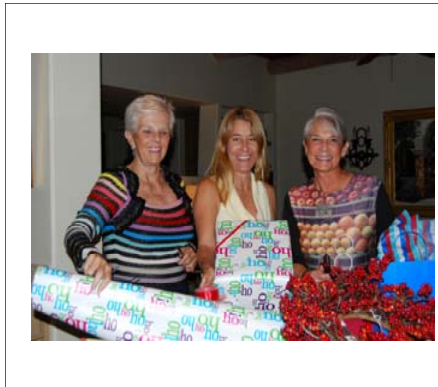
We're excited to announce the launch of a new seasonal fundraiser: The DFLT Online Holiday Shopping Auction. The silent auction will offer an opportunity for our members and the general public to do their Holiday shopping and at the same time support Desert Foothills Land Trust in its mission to preserve the fragile Sonoran desert.

The kick-off for the online auction will begin the day after Thanksgiving (November 28) and continue through the next 10 days, closing on December 8 at 11:59 PM. This is an easy way to get your Christmas or Hanukah shopping done without leaving home, facing crowds, or paying sales taxes. For a \$4 wrapping fee in addition to the cost of regular ground UPS shipping your items can be gift wrapped and shipped for you. It's sure to be a guilt-free and easy Holiday Shopping experience!

On the Holiday auction website you'll be able to find gifts for your husband, wife, friend, child or grandchild, and favorite teacher or helper. There's truly something for everyone! Available

items will include and range anywhere from trips to Cancun and Ecuador, to collectables, sportswear, books, and toys. Our auction will include unique and special items discovered by our committee members and donated by the members, local businesses and DFLT supporters from across the country.

To ensure the success of our fundraiser we depend on and still need the support of the community through item donations, volunteers to collect items or assistance in simply spreading the word and "bringing" as many people to our auction website as possible. Please feel free to visit the website anytime at <http://dflt.cmarket.com> to check out the items available, make donations or sign up family and friends to receive email news about the auction. As always DFLT welcomes all volunteers and there is still time to join the team. If you'd



Committee members June Warren, Julie Sallee and Sarah Williams are ready to wrap your gifts.

like to help, feel free to call the office at 480 488-6131.

Our Silent Auction Committee aka "The Most Fun Committee Ever" thanks you in advance for your generosity and enthusiastic involvement. Committee members include: Lindy Andersen, Sherry Andrew, Jacky Davis, Phil and Sue Clement, Andrea Laufman, Marilyn Norehad, Robin Marcus Razowsky, Julie Sallee, John and Elaine Thomas, June Warren, Paulette White, and Sarah Williams.

Save the Date!
DFLT's 14th Annual
Sonoran Symphony
At Rancho Manana Golf Club
April 25, 2009!

Bashas' Shop & Give Program Returns

It's easy to support us every time you buy groceries at Bashas'.

- 1) Link your Thank You Card to our Group ID Number (just once at the beginning of the program) at any checkout. Our Group ID Number is **29060**.
- 2) From September 1, 2008—March 31, 2009, be sure that your Thank You Card is scanned every time you shop at Bashas'.
- 3) Bashas' designates a portion of your purchases back to us at the end of the program.

Raise funds for us at absolutely no cost to you!

For more information about the program please visit www.bashas.com/charity

Formerly Bashas' "Thanks a Million" Program

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE LOWLAND LEOPARD FROG

The Lowland Leopard Frog, *Rana yavapaiensis*, has brown to green skin with spots on its back, and yellow skin on the bottom. The legs are striped. **Habitat:** This species is generally restricted to permanent waters below elevations of 3,000 feet. It is found in small to medium streams, and occurs in small springs, stock ponds, and occasionally in large rivers. Populations typically occur in aquatic systems with surrounding desert scrub, semi-

desert grassland, or evergreen woodland.

Range: The Lowland Leopard Frog is found in drainages of the lower Colorado River and its tributaries in Nevada, Arizona, extreme northeast Baja California, and northern Sonora. **Reproduction:** *R. yavapaiensis* breeds February through April, and depending on conditions, sometimes in the fall. Eggs hatch in 3 to 18 days and tadpoles from winter - spring eggs usually

transform into frogs in

June - August of the same year.

Diet: The frog feeds on small insects. As a tadpole, it feeds on algae, plant tissue, and small insects.

Status: The Lowland Leopard Frog is a state candidate for threatened species in Arizona and is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Species of Concern.



Lowland Leopard Frog discovered at the Jewel October 12 this year.