

New Board Member Biographies

Diane Low is a resident of Cave Creek and a native Arizonan. She recently retired from the Arizona Attorney General's Office after 32 years of service. Diane is an avid hiker who started her involvement with the Land Trust by completing stewardship training. She volunteered for the 2009 Sonoran Symphony and was persuaded to Chair the Committee even though she had never attended the event. She has also agreed to Chair the 2010 event. Diane is married and has two adult sons and a granddaughter who

are also involved with Land Trust volunteer work. Diane joined the Board in 2009 filling an unfulfilled term.

Patrick (Pat) O'Brien and his wife Andrea Markowitz moved to the Desert Foothills in 2002 from their previous home in Baltimore. They became active in land use and open space preservation because they recognized that the Desert Foothills is a unique gem. Pat was on the Board of Directors of BMC and a member of the Cave Creek Board of Adjustments. He retired from Random House as a

manager in the IT department and from the Maryland Air National Guard as a C-130 pilot. He and Andrea now live in the Sonoran Desert foothills in Maricopa County. Pat joined the Board following the BMC merger and has been nominated to a full term for election at the Annual Meeting.

Pat Patterson is a Certified Performance Technologist and President of Agilis Consulting Group. Prior to forming Agilis Consulting, Pat worked for Motorola and Alexander Consulting Group. During her 15 years in

Arizona, Pat has been a Big Sister with the Valley Big Brothers and Big Sisters and has worked with various animal rescue organizations. After moving to Carefree in 2004, she served as a member of the Black Mountain Conservancy (BMC) Board. Pat is an enthusiastic supporter of efforts to protect and preserve the beautiful Sonoran Desert. Pat joined the Board following the BMC merger and has been nominated to a full term for election at the Annual Meeting.

CONSERVATION DESERVES MORE THAN 2%*



EARTH FRIENDS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION*

SUPPORT OUR CHALLENGE

Please help us receive this significant, renewed CHALLENGE GRANT supporting the critical work of Desert Foothills Land Trust

Our goal is to raise \$150,000 by September 30, 2010

*Conservation only receives 2% of all charitable giving. Most people believe it deserves more. (Source: Giving USA)

Please join us for the
Desert Foothills Land Trust
Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 ♦ 7:00-8:30 pm

Foothills Community Foundation,
Holland Community Center
34250 N. 60th Street, Bldg. B, Scottsdale, AZ 85266

State Land Commissioner Maria Baier will speak about State Trust Land reform.

Refreshments will be served

Working together to protect the Sonoran Desert for future generations.

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Mary Warren, *Member Relations & Operations Manager*

Upcoming Events

Jan. 27, 7:00 pm -
DFLT Annual Meeting

Foothills Community
Foundation Holland Center

January 23 Hike:

Sierra Vista Sanctuary

February 6 Hike:

Jewel of the Creek

February 13 Hike:

Preserve at the Cave

February 19 Hike:

Sierra Vista Sanctuary

February 20 Hike:

Wallace Lone Mountain

April 17-Birding Event

Help us celebrate the IBA -
see website for info

April 24 - Sonoran Stars

See page 2 for information

(Hike details and registration at
www.dflt.org)



Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Land Trust Supporters,

I have recently stepped into the role of Executive

Director for Desert Foothills Land Trust, and it is great to be here! I am honored to have been entrusted with this position, and am grateful to the Land Trust's hard-working and committed Board of Directors for this opportunity. I am also grateful to our wonderful staff, Stacy Fischer and Mary Warren, for their assistance during this period of transition. The Land Trust clearly has a strong base of support and deep roots in our community.

You will see in this report that despite the difficult economic environment and a period be-

ing short-staffed, we have had an exciting year. We are gearing up for even more conservation activity in 2010. Our work is perpetual and we cannot wait for economic recovery before continuing our progress. We will see many periods of economic decline and rebound, all while maintaining our commitment to be good stewards of our preserves and working hard to protect more land.

During these challenging times, the cycles of nature remind us of the land's importance in our lives and communities. I hope you will help us celebrate that importance at one of our hikes, at our annual meeting, or at our largest fundraiser, Sonoran

Stars (formerly Sonoran Symphony) in April. Many of our preserves are also open to the public, and you are invited to enjoy these wonderful properties you help protect.

I'd love to hear your thoughts about our work. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or comments - we are your land trust, and we want to hear from you. And if you haven't already, please consider joining us as a member or volunteer so that we can most effectively continue our important land conservation mission.

With thanks,

Sonia Perillo

Sonia Perillo
Executive Director

Land Conservation Update

The beginning of FY09 added our largest land gift, the 80-acre Sierra Vista Sanctuary, a beautiful area of upland Sonoran desert and Willow Springs wash. Please join us for a visit.

In February, volunteers created the Jewel of the Creek portion of the Dragonfly Trail, linking us to Spur Cross. This trail offers two loop options - 1.5 miles that travels along the creek and 3 miles that connects the Dragonfly Trail with the Spur Cross Trail.

In March we entered into a partnership with the Town of Cave Creek to protect 4,000 acres of open space. The FORCE (Friends of Recreation, Conservation and the Environment) campaign will create a recreation and conservation corridor through Cave Creek from the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve to the Tonto National Forest.

After years of bird surveys and data collection, the Cave Creek Ecosystem has been identified as the 37th Audu-

bon Important Bird Area (IBA) in Arizona. This IBA includes five of DFLT's properties, - The Jewel of the Creek, Cottonwood Canyon Bosque, Yucca Crossing, PA Seitts at Go John Canyon and Desert Enclave. This IBA contains three species of concern - Abert's Towhee, Gilded Flicker and Elf Owl.

Finally, our merger with Black Mountain Conservancy this fall added another 4.5 acres to our preserve system, bringing us to a total of 620 acres now under protection.

Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

It has been an exciting and busy year for your Land Trust! We are pleased to welcome Sonia Perillo as our Executive Director, the result of hundreds of hours by our search team headed by Brad Kirschman, helped by Shari Flatt, Nancy Crozier, and the executive committee of our board. Our staff, Interim Director Stacy Fischer and Mary Warren, continued to move the organization forward through the transition period. We hope you'll attend an event or stop by the office to meet Sonia!

This was a year of partnership for us—first with the Town of Cave Creek on the F.O.R.C.E. project described on the cover of this report. Additionally, Black Mountain Conservancy merged with us in September, bringing greater unity and efficiency to local

conservation. Coordination with the Desert Awareness Committee, Desert Foothills Library, Arizona Audubon and other organizations enabled us to multiply our outreach.

We applied for accreditation through the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission. This rigorous evaluation process has resulted in stronger policies, strategies and standards of operation. We appreciate the hundreds of hours the staff, board and volunteers, Jacky Davis and Diane Low, have given and will continue to give.

2009 was certainly a tough year for fundraising for nearly all nonprofits, and your Land Trust was no exception. We had an operating budget deficit of more than \$33,000 for the year and tapped our reserves to maintain our momentum. Much of that deficit was due to the difficult eco-

nomical environment coupled with being short-staffed in fundraising. Yet, we protected two additional parcels of land, one being the largest donation in our history. Legal expenses, title insurance and other transaction costs were monies well spent. The Land Trust's work is perpetual—we have solid funding available for our land stewardship obligations. We have streamlined our expense budget, have active and engaged volunteers, and are running efficiently. Sonia and the board are identifying new sources of revenue and opportunities to engage the community in supporting important conservation work. Please join us in these efforts!

With thanks,

Sue F. Clement

Sue Clement, President

Fiscal Year 2009 Financial Report

Excerpt from audited Financial Statements for FY 2009 (10/1/08 - 9/30/09)

General Operating Revenue

Annual Fund/Membership	\$ 69,756
Special Events	\$157,994
General Contributions	\$ 58,531
Other Income	\$ 6,364
Conservation Projects	\$ 16,202
Total Revenue	\$308,847

General Operating Expenses

Compensation	\$146,397
Professional Services	\$ 45,911*
Organizational Expenses	\$ 98,985*
Occupancy	\$ 17,667
Stewardship and Property Exp.	\$ 24,185
Other Expenses	\$ 9,355
Total Expenses	\$342,500

*includes some Sonoran Symphony expenses

Assets

Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 421,966
Investments	\$ 260,942
Land Holdings	\$8,384,380
Other Assets	\$ 15,494
Total Assets	\$9,082,782

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ 396,282
Temporarily restricted	\$ 282,682
Permanently restricted	\$8,433,818
Total Net Assets	\$9,082,782

Other Notes

- Find the latest news and information on our website! www.dflt.org
- Contact Mary at 480.488.6131 or mwarren@dflt.org to join our e-mail list... And don't forget to become a Facebook fan!
- Link your Basha's Thank You card to **Group ID #29060** and 1% of the value of your purchases will go to Desert Foothills Land Trust!

Donors

Our members, event sponsors and donors gave generously in 2008 and 2009 to support the Land Trust, and we thank them for their contributions!

Saguaro - \$5,000+

Eleanore and Vaughn Beals
Richard and Elizabeth Burns
Carefree Physical Therapy,
Cynthia Driskell
Sue and Philip Clement
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation
Getz Foundation
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Michael and Margy McCormick
Sissy Wastcoat
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Ironwood - \$2,500+

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Ocotillo - \$1,000+

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Cresote - \$50+

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Our work is simply not possible without the help of wonderful and committed volunteers. The Board of Directors, Stewards, Docents, event and mailing assistants and other volunteers are crucial and we are grateful to each of them!

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