



Meet the Board

TOM ANDERSEN

Tom Andersen is a lifelong resident of Arizona and contributes his strong bond to the Sonoran Desert to the many years he's spent exploring its various canyons and mountains. He is the father of two sons, Dane and Drew who are both currently attending college. His professional experience stems from various construction endeavors, but mainly from many years as owner and operator of a custom cabinetry shop.

Tom's connection to the desert and dedication to its preservation has been apparent to Desert Foothills Land Trust from its inception in 1991 when he joined with a handful of others to form the organization. He feels fortunate to have worked with the originators of DFLT including the late Jack Houseknecht who he considers to be the founding father. "It was Jack who brought together a varied and loose knit group of people who were all concerned with the preservation of the Sonoran Desert, but were unsure about how to go about it," Tom stated. "At that time, I had been learning about the Trust for Public Lands while other people had been working with The Nature Conservancy. In Jack, we found a common goal and a way to achieve it."

In 1994 Tom and Dennis Loveless attended a Land Trust Alliance Conference in Asilomar, California as delegates for DFLT. As chairman of the Stewardship Committee he learned, among other things, about the importance and necessity of establishing and maintaining a fund for the care and ongoing stewardship of the properties DFLT was acquiring. "Acquisition of property without proper funding would be an abdication of our responsibility to future generations," was a statement made at the conference that inspired and stuck with Tom over the past 15 years as he has continued to serve as an exemplary Board Member and leader in the development of DFLT's stewardship program. Tom still serves on the Stewardship Committee and actively participates in stewardship projects.

As only Tom and a handful of others could summarize, "It has been very gratifying to see DFLT grow from a few passionate people sitting in someone's kitchen, talking about how to establish a conservation vehicle for the local desert, to the formidable, respected, and privately formed group that it is today."

Thank you, Tom, for your inspiration and nearly two decades of unparalleled dedication.



Board Of Directors:

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- Brad Kirschman, Vice President
- Gary Gerlach, Secretary
- Andrea Laufman, Treasurer
- Tom Andersen
- Nancy Crozier
- Shari Flatt
- John Hinchman
- Peter Kleis
- Ralph Mozilo
- John Thomas

Staff:

Stacy Fischer

Interim Executive Director
Conservation Director
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Mary Warren

Member Relations and
Operations Manager
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to consider
Desert Foothills
Land Trust
in your estate plans.

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

Inside this Issue:

- Dragonfly Trail
Page 1
- DFLT Calendar
Page 1
- President's Message
Page 2
- Sonoran Symphony
Page 3
- Join the FORCE
Page 3
- Meet the Board
Page 4

2009 DFLT Calendar

- July 1**
Saguaro Fruit Harvest at
PA Seitts @ Go John Canyon
- October 10**
FORCE Trail Ride
- October 17**
Birding Hike-Jewel of the Creek
- October 24**
DFLT & FORCE Hike-a-thon
- October 31**
Hike-The Preserve at the Cave
- November 7**
Hike-Wallace Lone Mountain
Preserve
- November 13,14,15**
FORCE Cave Creek Bike Festival
- November 14**
Hike-Saguaro Hill

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

DRAGONFLY TRAIL

A BEAUTIFUL CONNECTION
THE JEWEL AND SPUR CROSS

Early this year more than a dozen dedicated volunteers gathered at the creek, DFLT's Jewel of the Creek Preserve that is, to complete a loop trail that now connects Spur Cross to the Jewel. The project was lead by trail specialist Dennis Smith, owner of Northwest Woodland Services and DFLT conservation director Stacy Fischer. Under the instruction of Dennis, who donated his services to teach the art of building sustainable trails, volunteers completed the two new trails in the Jewel of the Creek over two Saturdays this past February. "A trail needs to be fun to walk, but the most important factor is that it be built properly so that it does not erode," Smith said. "Volunteers learned about the different grades that the soil can handle, how to build the trail so water runs off it, and many other factors to make sure that the trails are safe and maintenance costs are low." The volunteers used hand-tools to create the new trails, such as a McCloud (a hoe with a rake on the other side used for digging and cleaning), standard garden rakes, and a Pulaski (a hoe with an ax on the other side used for digging and chopping small roots). "We're very grateful to Dennis Smith, a renowned trail specialist, who donated his services to teach our volunteers how to build these sustainable trails," said Stacy Fischer. "Now the public has more options to enjoy both the Jewel of the Creek and Spur Cross."



Volunteers from Cactus Shadows High School blaze their way through the thick vegetation along the creek.

The trail can be accessed via the Harry Dalton Trail in the Jewel of the Creek Preserve or via the Spur Cross Trail in Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. The trail offers different options: hikers can start in the Jewel and loop back (1.5 miles) or they can continue on through and connect to the Spur Cross Trail (3 miles). A map of the new trail can be viewed on the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation website at the following link http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/spur_cross/pdf/2009_maps/trail-spur-cross-8x11dpi.pdf.



Above: DFLT stewards and volunteers work diligently so all can appreciate the view.

Right: A mountain lion caught using the new trail by a camera set up by the Spur Cross rangers.

Guided hikes have been popular and are lead by both DFLT and Spur Cross. DFLT hikes are offered in the spring and fall. Spur Cross offers hikes year-round. Check out www.dflt.org for our hike schedule and www.maricopa.gov/parks/spur_cross for Spur Cross' schedule. Jewel of the Creek Preserve is open and free to the public daily from sunrise to sunset . Please refer to our website or call our office 480 488-6131 for a list of preserve rules and directions. The rules are also posted at the preserve entrance.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Sue Clement, DFLT Board President

Dear Members,
Why spend time and money working with Desert Foothills Land Trust?

Because...if we are successful future generations will be able to experience the same abundant wildlife, remarkable vistas and rich cultural heritage that we do. To accomplish this vision in these tough economic times, organizations with common goals can effectively join together to make a difference. Working with partners to protect, preserve and steward sensitive lands and species of the fragile Sonoran Desert has been a major emphasis for us this year. Currently we have a huge project partnering with the Town of Cave Creek to ensure that more than 4000 acres of open space is protected. DFLT (Desert Foothills Land Trust) hopes to purchase up to 900 acres of this land with plans to keep it open for public access by mountain bikers, hikers and equestrians. Collaborative efforts with Maricopa County Parks and Northwest Trail

Woodland Services enabled us to open the popular new Dragonfly Trail that can be accessed through Spur Cross or the Jewel. Partnering with The Desert Awareness Committee has been rewarding to both organizations. Together we have made new friends and offered strong public programs including "Medicinal and Edible Plants" our latest program that was so popular we couldn't accommodate all interested and will be repeating it in the fall. We are also engaged in uniting our efforts with those of Black Mountain Conservancy. All of these partnerships are worth the time and effort to develop and provide better results for all of our supporters. Watch the papers and our website for details about these joint ventures and a future project with the Town of Carefree as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary.

We recently celebrated a symphony under the stars, our annual Sonoran Symphony fundraiser which was well executed due to the abilities of Committee Chair, Diane Low, an energetic Symphony Committee and the dedication of Silent Auction chairs, Elaine and John Thomas. Diane has agreed to head our fundraiser again next year and is currently signing on volunteers. At present, we're evaluating and con-

sidering how we might improve or change some aspects of the evening. If you have comments, ideas or want to volunteer please contact Mary at the office (480-488-6131.) If you are wondering what to do this summer, you're sure to find something that will be fun and worth your time.

I hope I have conveyed the idea that we are in a very active phase. Earlier this year DFLT announced a substantial addition to our preserve system and we are looking at other easements in addition to the land purchases I mentioned above. We have an aggressive business plan, an active Board of Directors, and a growing interest in committee membership. This combination has resulted in giant strides toward accomplishing our goals and mission.

We are currently in search of a new Executive Director to lead our efforts. Former Executive Director, Greg Gamble has left DFLT for a job offer with Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. Brad Kirschman, Board Vice President, is leading the search committee for a new Executive Director. Brad may be contacted at EDsearch@dfit.org.

Sue F. Clement

“Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries.”

Jimmy Carter

14TH ANNUAL SONORAN SYMPHONY

DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY TO A SYMPHONY AT SUNSET

The night was cool and the winds were forceful, but hundreds still came braving the elements to share good food, to hear great western music, to be in good company and to offer much needed support as DFLT celebrated 14 years of accomplishments in the preservation of the Sonoran Desert for future generations.

“We're grateful for the continued success of the Sonoran Symphony, the major fundraiser for our cause. We also continue to be awed by the dedication of those individuals, organizations and businesses that show their



Jeff Maurer and Valerie Watters find their groove on the dance floor.

passion for the preservation of open space by their attendance, in-kind donations and participation in our raffle and silent auction. It was truly an evening among friends,” commented Diane Low, Sonoran Symphony Committee Chair. This year the Committee added the “twist” of a dance floor which was generously sponsored by Carefree Physical Therapy. The silent auction headed by Elaine and John Thomas featured over 100 fabulous items donated by businesses, individuals and artists from the area and all around the country.

The dinner prepared by Tonto Bar & Grill was at its finest as was the setting under the stars on the driving range of Rancho Manana Golf Club. The Symphony of the Southwest and Cody Bryant's Riders of the Purple Sage did not disappoint as they performed the perfect western combination to please both listeners and dancers alike. Smiles from all, like stars, illuminated the dark skies.

As with all good things the 14th Annual Sonoran Symphony had to come to an end, but with the promise of a new



Ron and Mary Siepmann enjoy a cool Arizona evening and western music under the stars

beginning as DFLT starts plans for next year. Diane Low has agreed to again serve as committee chair for the 15th Annual Sonoran Symphony and has begun her search for volunteers with fresh ideas. About her first event Diane stated, “Chairing the Sonoran Symphony and attending the event for the first time this year was a wonderful experience. I had heard all the hype, that this was the best Cave Creek/Carefree event of the year and I was not disappointed.”

If you're interested in the planning of the 2010 event please contact Mary at the DFLT office at 480 488-6131.

Congratulations to DFLT's 14th Annual Sonoran Symphony Raffle Winners:

PRIZE	WINNER
\$1,000 Shopping Spree at Valerie's Furniture donated by Valerie's Furniture & Accents	Mike Graft
Phoenix Sports Package donated by The Phoenix Suns	Deb Maurer
A Nature Getaway Weekend donated by The Nature Conservancy of Arizona	Aron Fischer
Molina Fine Jewelers Men's and Ladies' Watches donated by Dottie Kobik, Monarch Events, Inc.	Al & Elisabeth Finch

JOIN THE FORCE

DFLT AND THE TOWN OF CAVE CREEK JOIN FORCES

FORCE: Friends Of Recreation, Conservation and the Environment.

Desert Foothills Land Trust has recently partnered with the Town of Cave Creek as fiduciary agent and supporter of their open space acquisition initiative.

For more than seven years the town of Cave Creek has been working with the state to acquire and preserve over 4,000 acres of State Trust Land. Much of this land is

adjacent to two County Parks- Cave Creek Regional Park and the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. The addition of this open space will form a wildlife and recreation corridor from the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve to the Tonto National Forest.

Approximately 230 acres of the State Trust Land to be acquired abuts DFLT's P.A. Seitts Preserve at Go John Canyon and would complete our original vision of a 500

acre preserve in Go John Canyon. The P.A. Seitts Preserve currently encompasses 271 acres and is open to the public from sunrise to sunset for use by hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. The preserve is also the location of our annual Saguaro Fruit Harvest scheduled for July 1, 2009. For more information about FORCE or the saguaro fruit harvest visit us at www.dfit.org.



Native Edibles and Medicinals: How You Can Benefit

True or False?

If you're suffering from a sore throat the Arizona native plants Jojoba, Buckwheat Bush and Globemallow could be a natural remedy.

It's true...and you can learn more.

Desert Foothills Land Trust (DFLT) and the Desert Awareness Committee (DAC) recently presented a free program at the Desert Foothills Library on the health benefits of native plants, tips on cooking with native edibles and using a solar oven. The program was held on May 7 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am and attended by a standing room only crowd of interested residents. The educational program was presented by medicinal expert Diane Vaszily, native edibles instructor Lynne Hoss and Stacy Fischer, DFLT conservation director. Due to the popularity of the program and the overwhelming response, DFLT and DAC are planning a repeat performance for those who were on the waiting list or unable to attend the first program. The program will again be offered free to the public on a first to register basis and will take place this fall. The date is yet to be determined and will be announced on our website at www.dfit.org where you can also find recipes and program information by clicking “Resources” then “Desert Awareness”.

To request an email notification once the program has been scheduled please contact us at info@dfit.org or 480 488-6131.

Join Now
www.dfit.org
 Or
 480 488-6131