



## Patti Townsend

Through a series of fortunate events, her infectious love of the desert and its people drew her to Desert Foothills Land Trust. Starting at the age of eleven, she became a full-fledged snowbird migrating from Montana. Her cousins Ozzy and Juanita Foster abated this cultural shock. They took her under their wing and nearly every weekend they explored the desert in search of ancient Indian ruins and petroglyphs, all the while Ozzy entertained her with stories of folklore and the native civilizations. Her love of nature, which stemmed from those adventures never, stopped growing.

Her first introduction to Desert Hills Land Trust was through her stepfather Louis W. Menk, a great proponent and advocate of DFLT. His whole-hearted support of the Land Trust introduced and garnered many more supporters, including her, to the importance of stewardship of the Sonoran Desert.

After studying economics and accounting at Montana State University in Bozeman, her love of nature and financial needs drew her outside to work construction. It was then she found her true love - dirt and hydraulics. While working as a highway contractor she bought a 1974 International dump truck and Case 680G backhoe to earn extra money on the weekends. Soon after, she founded Pace Construction Inc. As President and operator, her company was successful working throughout the western United States, Canada and Russia. Pace

Construction, Inc. specialized in underground utility installation, maintenance, testing and rehabilitation. She sold her company in 2006 for the freedom to spend more time in Arizona and travel.

During her time on the board of the Yellowstone Art Museum, she filled various positions including Marketing Director, Development Director and Sponsorship Coordinator. She enjoyed the challenge of raising community awareness, obtaining funds for various exhibitions and educational opportunities. Her affiliation with the Yellowstone Art Museum started in 1990 serving on the Annual Art Action Committee, which led to a position on the Board for 14 years.

She feels she has had the best of both worlds living in Montana and Arizona. Either on horseback or on foot she continues exploring and enjoying the beautiful great outdoors. She is thrilled to join forces with DFLT to protect our Sonoran Desert for generations to come.