

Vicki Preston, President & CEO

Vicki grew up in Northeast Ohio, near the shores of Lake Erie. Growing up surrounded by plentiful natural beauty instilled in her a passion for protecting the environment.

Vicki earned her B.S from The Ohio State University, with a double major in Environmental Science and Environmental Education & Communications.

She began her career working for the Soil and Water Conservation District where she managed many natural resource projects, performed construction site inspections for erosion and sediment control measures, ran the stream quality monitoring program, managed the GIS storm water outfall database for the County, and served on the Grand River Partnership steering committee. The partnerships made here lead her to become the Watershed & Land Protection Coordinator with Grand River Partners – a successful land trust working within the Grand River Watershed, a State designated Wild and Scenic River in northeast Ohio. There she wrote a comprehensive watershed conservation plan for the 92 mile long Grand River, which was approved and endorsed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The implementation of this plan led to thousands of acres of critical wildlife and riparian habitat land protection.

Before her love for the west brought her out to Arizona in the fall of 2010, Vicki served on the state board of the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, which was responsible for awarding millions of dollars in competitive grants for coastal lands conservation.

She is passionate about anything and everything to do with the outdoors including camping, hunting, kayaking, and fly fishing. Vicki joined the Desert Foothills Land Trust staff in December 2011 as the Conservation Director where she manages all land acquisition projects and stewards the nearly 1,000 acres permanently protected by the Land Trust. In late 2016, she additionally assumed the role as President & CEO and is proud to be a part of such an amazing group of dedicated members, volunteers, stewards, and supporters.

Brian Butler, Chair

For over 40 years, Brian Butler has represented clients in litigation. He has conducted jury trials, court trials, preliminary injunction hearings, arbitrations, and appeals in state and federal courts. For the past 18 years he has been listed as one of the best business litigators in The Best Lawyers in America, a book based on a survey of lawyers.

Mr. Butler has lectured on litigation topics for the State Bar of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin Law School, and business groups. His recent publications include co-authorship of The Wisconsin Fair Dealership Law, a treatise published by the State Bar of Wisconsin, and "Protection of Multi-Line Dealers by State Relationship Laws," published in the Franchise Law Journal.

Mr. Butler is a Master in the James E. Doyle Chapter of the American Inns of Court and belongs to the American, Wisconsin, and Dane County Bar Associations. He served as the law firm's managing partner. He is a former member of the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Regional Planning Commission, and serves as a big brother in Big Brothers and Sisters of Dane County.

Mr. Butler was recently selected for inclusion as a recommended litigator in the Chambers USA America's Leading Lawyers for Business directory (since 2010). He was also named a Wisconsin Super Lawyer in business litigation (since 2006) and Top 50 Wisconsin Super Lawyer (2006-2009, 2011). He has also been selected by peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America (since 1993). He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member of The Fellows of the Wisconsin Law Foundation.

John Crane, Vice-Chair

John, always an avid outdoorsman, fell in love with the unique Arizona environment. He has spent more than 25 years in Arizona, hiking our deserts and mountains, exploring Indian ruins and petroglyphs, and fly-fishing small Mogollon Rim and White Mountain creeks. He currently serves on the Carefree Town Council, heads the Carefree Foothills Homeowners' Association, and is an Arizona Site Steward, monitoring archaeological sites in the Cave Creek/Carefree area. John has resided in Carefree for more than 23 years.

John has a BS degree in Mathematics from Villanova University and an MS degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. After serving 7 years as a nuclear submarine officer, he entered the electronics field. For the past 18 years, as an independent businessman, he has served as a sales representative for Asian, European and US semiconductor material and equipment suppliers to customers in North America. Excited to bring his experience and passion to the Land Trust, John is anxious to help manage and preserve the desert.

Eileen Talty, Treasurer

Eileen Talty grew up in New Jersey, and has lived in Colorado for 40 years. She has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado, and is a retired CPA. Her experience in industry was focused primarily in hotel management, insurance and financial services.

She was Chief Financial Officer for Public Service Credit Union from 1991 until 2001. Prior to 1991, Eileen was a Controller with AIRCOA, a hotel management company. After semi retiring in

2001, Eileen joined her husband Joe at Talty Insurance until the agency was sold in 2008. Most recently, Eileen worked and volunteered for Cooking Matters, a nonprofit providing food skills education to low income families, managing the accounting and reporting for both state and private grants.

Since she began spending her winters in Carefree in 2009, she's volunteered with the Chapter 2 bookstore, the AARP senior tax return preparation program and most recently served as a steward with the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. After growing up in New Jersey with a limited exposure to the great outdoors, Eileen fell in love with hiking in Colorado, and has now come to also love and enjoy the beauty and variety of the Sonoran desert.

Richard Burns

Richard Burns discovered the beauty of the desert through his wife Liz, who was a University of Arizona student during the mid-60s. Indeed, they were attracted to Carefree because Liz said it reminded her of Tucson while she was going to school. Richard is not a hiker and actually spends most of his time simply enjoying the views as he plays golf or works.

He became interested in the Desert Foothills Land Trust through attendance at Sonoran Stars. However, Richard has been committed to the mission of the DFLT for many years, particularly when dealing with development issues. These development issues and our work with developers, obtaining of conservation easements, and acquisitions of new pristine properties are issues that he wants to be involved in.

Richard did both his undergraduate work (political science and journalism) and law school at University of Michigan. Richard is General Counsel and Vice President of Business Affairs for Morgan Murphy Media, an owner of radio and television stations primarily in Wisconsin and Washington. He was also in private practice in Duluth, Minnesota for 35 years. At that time, he worked with his current company, but also did estate planning and tax work.

He was a founder of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation and subsequently its chair, a board member and former chair of the United Way of Greater Duluth, and a board member and former chair of Miller Dwan Medical Center. He currently serves on the University of Michigan Law School Alumni Relations and Development Committee and has been involved with development and planned giving work with the Valley of the Sun United Way.

Mary Ghrist James

Mary grew up in the Midwest and quickly acquired a love of nature and the outdoors. As a young girl, she spent time with her family hiking the Colorado Rockies and later as a teenager canoeing the lakes of Western Ontario, Canada.

Upon graduating from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Education, Special Needs Child Endorsement, Mary lived on both U.S. coasts working primarily in real estate (land title &

mortgage banking). Leaving real estate for a job with Tiffany & Co. in its diamond office in New York City, Mary explored the natural settings of the marine and the Eastern Woodlands regions.

Eventually, Mary returned to Des Moines, IA for marriage and children. With two daughters of her own and five stepchildren, she spent her time as a full-time mother, as an elementary school and community volunteer and as the wife of a multi-company business owner.

Conservation and habitat restoration have always been a focal part of Mary's interests and support. Gardening, prairie restoration and now desert preservation remain front and center in her life.

After moving to Arizona 5 years ago, Mary found Desert Foothills Land Trust to be one of her main passions. Along with this, Mary works at a nursery and continues to learn about the flora of the desert region. Additionally, Mary is a part of a women's educational organization, P.E.O., and is a member of the Arizona Pilots Association. She also volunteers with the Cave Creek Museum & Cactus Shadows High School PTO.

Reg Monachino

Born and raised in New York City, Reg attended and graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from L'Université d'Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

His service in the Military included active duty in 1963-64, honorable discharge 1st Lt. Infantry. After 35 years in Banking and Brokerage on Wall St., he retired to Arizona in 1999. In 2004 he and his wife build a house in Cave Creek.

His first involvement in the Town of Cave Creek Government was as a member of the Fire Options Committee in 2008. Reg was also appointed to the Planning Commission in 2009 and served as Vice Chairman in 2011-12. After a brief holiday, he was re-appointed to the Commission in 2017. Reg is also served as a charter member of the Water Advisory Committee from 2008 to 2010 and ultimately became Chairman. Reg was elected to Town Council in 2013 and served until 2015.

Reg is currently President of the Desert Creek HOA and also serve on the Board of Wild At Heart and the Cave Creek Museum, and volunteers at several not for profit organizations in Town.

William Oelman

Raised in Dayton, Ohio, Bill is a graduate of Princeton University and Northwestern Business School. He was the founder and president of a technology consulting and systems Integration Company where he worked for 35 years until the company was sold.

While living in a suburb of Chicago with his wife, Sue, and 2 children Bill was active in several not-for-profit organizations that provided support for the Chicago public school system. He also served as board president of a large suburban school district.

Currently, Bill is a board member of the Cave Creek Museum and the Boulder North Homeowners Association. He has been an active volunteer for the Land Trust enjoying leading hikes and relating the interesting history of the Desert Foothills. Bill believes in and supports the mission of the Desert Foothills Land Trust

Gregory Taylor Schutz

Greg received his BA and MBA at The University of Wisconsin.

He spent three years as a financial analyst on the East Coast, then to Racine, Wisconsin and Johnson Wax (AKA SC Johnson) in Control, market research, strategy, brand and category management. He spent five years in Europe including postings in London, Budapest, and Prague. He was then recruited to Emerson Electric and managed one of their companies which was acquired by Robert Bosch, the German company located in Stuttgart. Greg managed another Division of Robert Bosch and served on their Worldwide Power Tool Accessories Board until retiring at 60, as required by the Robert Bosch Leader Group contract. Following retirement, Greg has done various strategy consulting work and served on various not-for-profit boards, most recently as President of the Owners Association Boulders Scottsdale.

Greg spent two school summers working for the Wisconsin Conservation Department (now Department of Natural Resources) in Forestry and Game Management. In the 1970s, he and his wife Nancy became members of the John Muir Chapter of The Sierra Club and have been members ever since.

Greg and Nancy spend 7 months of the year in Arizona, the rest in Wisconsin and traveling.

Patti S. Townsend

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

My first introduction to Desert Foothills Land Trust was through my 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 me, to the importance of stewardship of the Sonoran Desert.

After studying economics and accounting at Montana State University in Bozeman. My love of nature and financial needs drew me outside to work construction. It was then I found my true love, dirt and hydraulics. While working as a highway contractor I bought a 1974 International dump truck and Case 680G backhoe to earn extra money on the weekends. Soon after, I founded Pace Construction Inc. As President and operator, my company was successful working throughout the western United States, Canada and Russia. Pace Construction, Inc. specialized in underground utility installation, maintenance, testing and rehabilitation. I sold my company in 2006 for the freedom to spend more time in Arizona and travel.