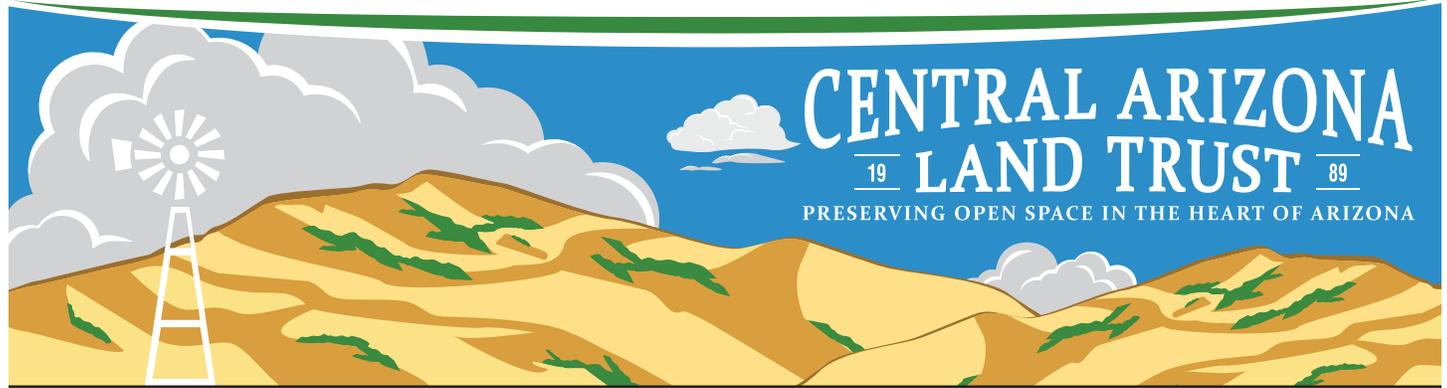


FOR LANDS' SAKE



WINTER 2020

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CENTRAL ARIZONA LAND TRUST

VOL 20 / NO. 2

Orme Ranch, Part II: Ranching Today

By Jeanne Trupiano

The Orme family has cared for and invested in the Orme Ranch, known as the Quarter Circle V Bar, since 1929. From the Great Depression, through World War II until today, four generations have been committed to keeping the Ranch in the family, in production, and as a natural setting for the Orme School. In our last issue of *For Lands' Sake*, we looked at the early history of the Orme Ranch. In this issue, we'll look at what it's like to be a rancher today and preparing the way to leave it to the next generation.



Enoch, DeDawn and Giles Malouff conducting the 2020 spring branding.

“As the fourth generation to grow up on the Ranch, I can say that conservation of the Ranch is important to all members of the Orme family. We care about protecting the Ranch from development and preserving the land and resources for future generations.”

Mallory Orme

to residential and commercial uses. For Arizona, the conversion of our agricultural lands means a further loss of our state's rural character, local food production, and wildlife habitat. Protecting agricultural lands has never been more important.

The conservation easement on Orme Ranch will ensure continued productivity of agricultural lands while permanently preserving holistic ranching practices and protecting a family-owned business.

The Orme Family practices a sustainable ranching philosophy grounded in their commitment to conserving

According to the Farmland Trust, the next 15 years will see 40% of America's agricultural lands transition to heirs or be sold off. This raises the specter that many farms and ranches will be converted from productive agriculture

water, preserving land, and respecting animals. Enoch Malouff, Ranch Manager since 2014, believes that successful land management also comes from conscientious stewardship of the diverse resources. From the wild grasslands, to the Ash Creek riparian corridor. Enoch and his wife DeDawn, both native Arizonans, work to produce natural grass-fed beef and farm products of exceptional quality.

Given the Ranch's location in the upper Sonoran Desert, sound water management is critical for continued productivity and sustainable land use. Orme Ranch conservation ethic informs ongoing water-smart technologies including laser-leveled fields, drip irrigation, windmill sourced water, and diversion and storage of natural springs. The Conservation Easement will provide permanent support for this ethic, with full protection for the land and water resources on the Ranch.

The next Orme generation is ready to accept the responsibility of caring for the land and guiding the Ranch into the future. The Orme Ranch Conservation Easement will provide invaluable support to this and future generations in this safeguarding effort. The Conservation Easement will not only provide sustaining benefits to the Ranch, but also to the larger community by supporting the future of production agriculture and rural character in Yavapai County. Keeping the land open and undeveloped will ensure that this beautiful, unfragmented landscape will continue to provide quality habitat and movement corridors for some of Arizona's most unique wildlife.

We ask you to join us in this essential and historic effort to protect the Orme Ranch. Check out the Orme Ranch Forever webpage www.CentralAzLandTrust.org to view the video and read more about how you can be a part of this significant conservation effort in the Central Highlands.



Photo Credit Paul Orme

MISSION

The mission of the Central Arizona Land Trust is to preserve and protect open space, wildlife habitat, working agricultural lands, and the scenic and cultural values of north-central Arizona for future generations.

The Central Arizona Land Trust was founded in 1989 as a local private, non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization.

For Lands' Sake is a regular publication to inform and educate its supporters and the community.

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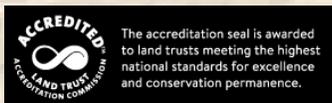
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President's Message



This issue of *For Land's Sake* reminds me of our founding fathers and mothers... it was Arlo Helgeson who named the CALT newsletter some 30 years ago, an early board member and dear soul, he was.

And just the other day I spoke to Harley Shaw, another early board member, now retired to New Mexico where he and his wife Patti helped start the Hillsboro Historical Society. Said Harley "after 120 years of existence, the town had a paucity of written history." Harley was president of the CALT board in the mid-1990s when he encouraged me to join, and promptly left town just after my election!

Our founding 'mother' Nancy Currier passed away recently in Idaho and as her obituary in the Daily Courier read "she made Prescott her home because she fell in love with its history and the beauty of its surrounding forests... she served as director for the Central Arizona Land Trust and was instrumental in the rehabilitation of the Thumb Butte scar."

In fact it was Nancy who called a meeting at her office on Cortez Street one Saturday in 1989 to discuss what could be done about the new 'scar' on the face of Thumb Butte. Within a few months CALT was incorporated as a land trust and a campaign was launched to raise funds to protect the viewshed in perpetuity.

Today our newsletter would make them all proud—with the outpouring of support from donors far and wide to fund a conservation easement on Orme Ranch, the iconic home of the Orme family since 1929, and the alma mater of high school students who've graduated from the world famous Orme School over the years.

Also reporting in is our intrepid conservation specialist, photographer, webmaster and natural history guide Matt Turner, who shares his experiences of travel throughout the west, in the time of Covid.

Board member and rancher Ken Jordan, recounts his challenges with the current drought which has meant dwindling feed and water for animals of every kind, as well as financial losses at market time.

Our newest board member Claire Bronson, no sooner landed on a Prescott hiking trail, than she was recruited to join YOUR local land trust, bringing to us her time and talent in communications. Thus, this very issue of *'For Land's Sake'* has been stewarded to press by her in her first month on the board!

As CALT approaches another important milestone in seeking re-accreditation by the national Land Trust Alliance, we encourage you, dear reader to comment on how well we are keeping 'the promise of perpetuity' as a land protection organization. (See announcement on page 4.) The national standards and practices that guide our operations are the assurance to you, our supporters and our partners of the soundness of each and every land protection transaction we enter into.

Last but not least, as always, CALT needs your support in the form of a cash gift, stock, or estate gift in order to continue saving the places we all love. Please give generously as the holidays approach and throughout the coming new year!

Becky Ruffner, President
Central Arizona Land Trust

Tales from Western Trails

By Matt Turner

From an early age, I have been drawn to the Intermountain Region of the American West. It's distinctive geology, flora, fauna, and peoples inspired a young mind to want to know more, and I have been on that quest ever since. As I have come to appreciate the region more, I also found that we must do our best to protect natural places with high ecological or scenic values. I try to do that in various ways, one of which is sharing my love and understanding of these landscapes with others through my work as a naturalist guide with Road Scholar and Natural Habitat Adventures.



Before the Covid pandemic, I spent close to 200 days a year in the field, with up to 40 guests per trip, traveling to our most cherished scenic spots throughout the Southwest, Colorado Plateau, and Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. A typical guided trip covers between 600 to 1,400 road miles with a duration of 7-12 days. A lot of ground, literally, is covered, and we have an opportunity to see and explore the immense landscapes of the West at a “Big Picture” level. This is not a concept that is easily understood for most guests, since they often come from urban environments. Sharing the 60,000 foot view of our beloved western landscapes provides an opportunity to broaden their perspective by tying together the geology, vegetation, and wildlife habitats over a vast landscape that may contain very diverse resources. The story of nature that I weave also involves identifying and explaining the ever-expanding human footprint and its impacts on untouched lands. For many of my guests, particularly for those who live in wooded areas, it can be a real eye-opener and, at times, disheartening, because they can relate to the loss of their own forests to make way for expanding development at



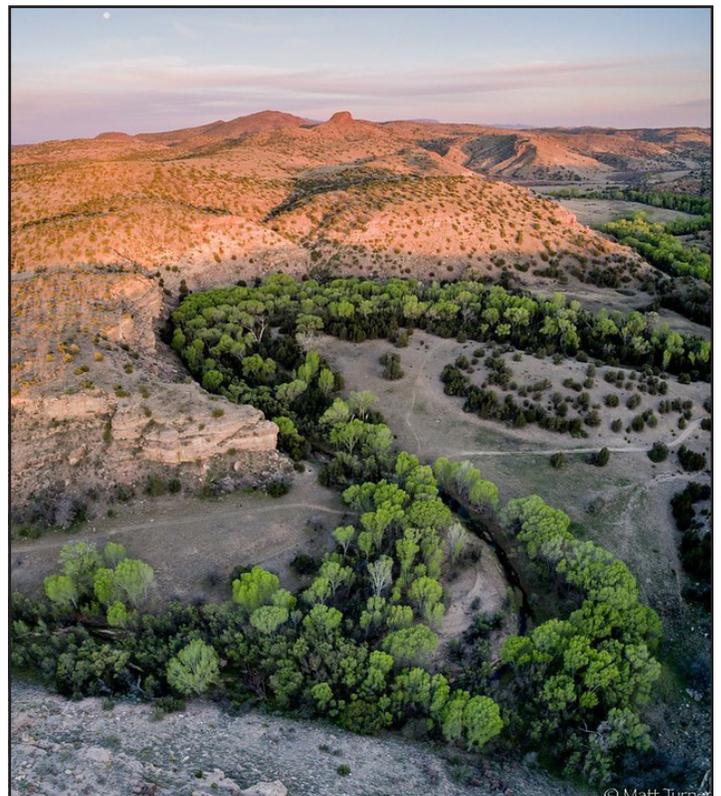
Matt Turner kneels in front of a group in Death Valley.

home. They can see how we are fragmenting the landscape, particularly with privately owned lands.

I am often asked how the natural world is impacted by the development at the interface of urban

“Dismayed by the ever-growing human footprint, my guests often want to know what can be done to grow more wisely.”

centers and public lands. I explain that this is where habitat fragmentation is most likely to occur and should be the focus of where land protection efforts can have positive impacts. Dismayed by the ever-growing human footprint, my guests often want to know what can be done to grow more wisely. I share with them that CALT and land trusts all across America are working tirelessly with private landowners to use conservation easements to minimize fragmentation of wildlife habitat, save water resources, and protect agricultural lands and significant natural and cultural resources. As a naturalist and guide, my part in regional land protection is learning what efforts are underway to provide conservation of the places we visit. Equipped with timely information, I let my guests know that they have a lot more influence on conservation than they might think. By supporting land protection efforts, by land trusts or similar conservation organizations, they can directly support measures to keep our beloved natural and cultural resources for future generations, in their own backyards and those they came to know on their journey half a world away.



© Matt Turner

How was my summer? HOT and DRY

By Ken Jordan

Some people have asked me about my summer, so I am writing a little about it. The fact that I have chosen to write may well indicate that the heat has already gotten to me. Writing is not my longsuit but here goes.

My name is Ken and I was born in Arizona a long time ago. Prescott was a little town of about 5,000 then. I have been in the ranching world over half my life and dearly love this land I live and work on, but about this summer: HOT and DRY. I will skip over the one heartbreak we all have shared and just say God bless all the first responders. Covid and fires are magnifying their important roles.

This has been the driest and hottest summer in my long memory. What does that mean on the land? My well is almost dry and I can only run the windmill every third day. Almost no grass has grown, ranchers are having to sell their calves early for lack of feed in hopes winter will bring rains to grow spring feed for the cow herd. Water holes and springs are drying up so ranchers are hauling water for both livestock and all wildlife. All life is concentrated on the few waters left along roads where water trucks can travel. There are practically no seeds for the

birds, not to mention hardly any insects for them. The brush is drying and losing its nutritional value. This spring, the oaks were covered in acorns that never matured, impacting the squirrels, chipmunks, deer and other wildlife that depend on them. I am wondering how many does will not breed this fall as a result.

I have gained a new companion through all this HOT and DRY. A “yearling” roadrunner has joined us in our yard and shop area. He or she joins the work being done as I air up a low tire and change the oil in the pickup. He comes every day and hangs around to cheer on the day’s work and get a bite to eat. I love having a happy helper and know that he and this old rancher are eternal optimists knowing we are one day closer to moisture.



Ken surveys his windmill during this hot and dry summer

Finding Hope in Difficult Times

By Claire Bronson

As new residents of Arizona, the access to nature is what brought us here. I marvel at the number of trails that surround this area. Seeing pronghorn antelope along Hwy 89 still amazes me. The contrast between the stunning beauty of this place and the high pressure of development in this region is obvious. As a Florida native, I’ve witnessed what is lost when open lands, often productive agricultural lands, are given up without careful forethought about what we are truly losing. Growth is inevitable as more people want sunnier climates and I find myself concerned about the “how” of this pressure. When the opportunity came to join the CALT board, it didn’t take me long to say “yes”. Meeting the current board members



reminded me of why I love the conservation community: they demonstrated the same smart, dedicated, and positive traits I’d seen in my professional conservation career. The chance to focus on something positive during this Covid time is uplifting. And the opportunity to contribute in some small way to the future of our region’s open space, ranching and farming traditions, and water resources by volunteering through CALT is life affirming. It gives me hope for the future, our future, in this beautiful region of Arizona.

Public Notice for CALT’s Renewal of Accreditation

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Central Arizona Land Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for renewal of accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant’s policies and programs. **The accreditation seal offers the assurance that a land trust can keep the promise of perpetuity and that it is worthy of the public trust.** So, accreditation strengthens both individual land trusts and America’s land conservation movement.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed,

written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Central Arizona Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on Central Arizona Land Trust’s application will be most useful by February 28, 2021.

Donors Make It Happen

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**Partners in Protection: \$100 - \$249
*Land Lovers: \$10 - \$99

We thank our generous donors for their support. All donors who made contributions to CALT from May to October 2020 are acknowledged in the following list.

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Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival Dedication: Todd Kamps

You Too Can Leave a Legacy

The work of the Central Arizona Land Trust (CALT) is **perpetual in nature**, which means we must ensure that the organization remains strong and our efforts to protect the lands under conservation easements are robust and lasting.

In partnership with private landowners and public agencies, CALT is dedicated to conserving the landscapes we love and the resources that depend on a healthy environment. CALT's work is actually legacy building to ensure that our lands and resources remain open and healthy for future generations to enjoy.

A planned gift to the Central Arizona Land Trust is a flexible and creative way to give charitably while meeting your personal, family, or financial goals. Creating a legacy gift can be an especially meaningful way to help CALT continue to permanently conserve lands in central and northern Arizona to retain open space containing agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, precious water resources and more. Your future gift will provide foundational support to ensure that conserved lands are protected, and additional lands are brought under conservation. Your individual impact cannot be overestimated. No matter your financial circumstances



and charitable goals, there are planned giving options available to meet your needs.

To participate call (928) 445-7790 and we will help you and your advisor establish your future gift.



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We cannot make these projects happen without the support of donors like you. If you believe in preserving open space—whether for wildlife habitat, recreation, ranching, or farming—please consider making a gift today. Every dollar you give will help us to permanently protect more of the places you love.

Please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website (www.centralazlandtrust.org) to make your gift today. And thank you so much for taking an active role in your central and northern Arizona community—today and for generations to come!



New Deduction Available

The CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act, passed in May 2020, is designed to lessen the impact of the economic downturn on non-profit charitable organizations, such as the Central Arizona Land Trust.

This act allows up to \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 for a married couple) in annual charitable contributions. This is available only to people who take the standard deduction (for taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions). It is an “above the line” adjustment to income that will reduce a donor’s adjusted gross income (AGI), and thereby reduce taxable income.

Please consider making your donation today! Our work to save the places you love continues every day. Our beautiful open spaces are the best antidote to stay mentally and physically healthy, so please help CALT stay healthy with your CARES donation today!

Preserving the Land You Love, in the Heart of Arizona, since 1989
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