

# FOR LANDS' SAKE



SPRING 2019

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CENTRAL ARIZONA LAND TRUST

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## Preserving a Living Jewel of the Arizona Central Highlands

By Eric Moore



**T**he acquisition and preservation of open space to protect critically endangered riparian habitats in the state of Arizona is essential to the conservation of wild birds dependent on these habitats.

The hobby of backyard bird feeding provides an excellent analogy of the importance of creating and preserving habitat with plant diversity. For example, if you were to feed only one type of seed in your yard—such as black oil sunflower seed—you would limit the variety of birds that would visit your feeder.

However, if you were to feed additional seed products, such as safflower, millet, peanut hearts, nyjer and sunflower chips, this wider variety of food would attract a wider variety of birds to your yard.

Just as providing a variety of seeds at a feeder attracts a wider variety of birds, preserving native habitat results in greater species richness. Plants act as a host for insects. Plants also produce food sources such as nectar, berries and seeds, and provide shelter and a place to rear young.

A habitat lacking plant diversity is limited in its ability to attract a variety of birds. By comparison, a mixed-use habitat—one that contains sources of flowing water, standing water, old-growth trees, areas with fields, and scrubby habitat—will result in much greater species richness.



Image by Kevin Cole



Image by Dick Daniels

The expression 'build it and they will come' is true not only for human behavior, but is true for nature as well—especially for wild birds. As I share information with individuals on what they can do to attract birds to their yard, my first recommendation is to create an inviting habitat.

We live in an age of rampant growth, resulting in wholesale habitat loss. Too often land development practices are akin to strip mining—where natural, undisturbed habitats are bulldozed to create residential and commercial properties.

I ask individuals, "If someone were to bulldoze down your home, could you live there anymore?" The obvious answer is no. The same is true for wild birds, as well as a host of other wildlife. When natural habits are destroyed and native plants are removed, the wild birds that once inhabited the area are displaced.

Now, more than ever, a long-term strategy to preserve natural, undisturbed habitats that provide a sustainable environment for birds is needed. Healthy, natural habitats provide food, water, shelter, and places to rear young.

CALT's ongoing effort to raise funds to preserve and protect Coldwater Farm in perpetuity is an excellent example of how a relatively small area, rich in diversity, can have a big impact on wild birds.

A diversity of birds is dependent on a habitat with a diversity of plants. Any place in Arizona with a perennial stream is a priceless jewel worth preserving, and Coldwater Farm is such a place, a jewel in the Arizona Central Highlands.

*Eric Moore is the owner of Jay's Bird Barn, Arizona Field Optics, and Hallmark, with two locations in northern Arizona – Prescott and Flagstaff. Eric has been an avid birder for over 50 years.*



## President's Message



Spring has sprung in the Central Highlands of Arizona! This issue of our newsletter, "For Lands' Sake," features news of our Spring Fling, a celebration of Coldwater Farm, to be held May 16, 5-8 pm at the Barn at Mortimer Farms in Dewey. Get your tickets now on the CALT website ([www.centralazlandtrust.org](http://www.centralazlandtrust.org)).

You won't want to miss this friendraiser for our newest conservation project on the Agua Fria River, just south of Mortimer's. The Spring Fling will feature delightful blue grass music by members of the Davis family band, Just 4 MAMA, as well as tasty appetizers, local beverages, and "must have" raffle prizes!

And our very own Eric Moore, of Jay's Bird Barn, will present a slide show on birding (of course!).

Also in this issue of YOUR land trust newsletter is a special article by Kathy McCraine, excerpted from her most recent book "*Orejana Outfit: Arizona's Historic O RO Ranch 1993 to 2013*". An award winning author, photographer, and native Prescottonian, Kathy McCraine describes the "ranch remuda" in the vernacular of the cowboy—how fresh horses are supplied at roundup time on one of the most iconic ranches in the west, in the northwest corner of Yavapai County.

The Central Arizona Land Trust, founded in 1989, is in its 30th year – three decades of saving the places you love for future generations. Our volunteer board is proud of our legacy and excited about our future as the only land trust in central and northern Arizona. This year we will add to our conservation properties not only Coldwater Farm on the Agua Fria, but also the Frontiere property at Rogers Lake in Coconino County.

A lovely tribute to my mother, Elisabeth Ruffner, also appears in this issue. Before she passed away at the age of 99 years and six months of age, I had asked her what in the world we should do to remember her, since she wanted no funeral or service of any kind. Lover of open space that she was, her response says it all: "Have a picnic when the weather is nice."

Sorry, Mom, but we are busy planning a few more things than just a picnic. On Sunday, May 26 at 3 pm, the Elks Opera House will host "Celebrate Elisabeth," an afternoon of song, memories and celebration. Check the website created in her honor ([rememberingelisabeth.com](http://rememberingelisabeth.com)) for more information. In Prescott June 12-14, the Arizona Historic Preservation Conference will honor Elisabeth with a perpetual award in her name to be given to a person in the conference's host city each year.

Then finally, in mid-September, to celebrate Elisabeth's 100th birthday, we will all have a picnic. Date and location will be announced in July, but all open space advocates are invited!

Becky Ruffner, President  
Central Arizona Land Trust

### 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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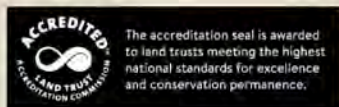
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# Remembering Elisabeth Ruffner

By CALT Board Members

The Central Arizona Land Trust (CALT), the Prescott community and many friends and family members lost a dear friend and champion when Elisabeth Ruffner moved on to her next great adventure on March 13, 2019. Elisabeth was a tireless force in support of her community. Her work included establishing the Yavapai Community Hospital and auxiliary, the Yavapai Heritage Foundation and restoration of the Bashford House, the Prescott Arts and Humanities Council, Friends

**“SHE WAS TIRELESS IN HER HISTORIC PRESERVATION EFFORTS STATEWIDE AND WAS APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER(...)”**

of the Prescott Public Library, the Elks Opera House Foundation and restoration of the Elks Theatre, and the Open Space Alliance.

She was tireless in her historic preservation efforts statewide and was appointed by President Carter to serve as an advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Her work on the Rails-to-Trails program resulted in establishment of the Peavine and Iron King

trails, providing access to the Granite Dells area of Prescott and the grasslands associated with Prescott Valley. Thousands of local residents and visitors walk these trails each year.

Elisabeth was always interested in people as well as issues. Her ability to listen intently and offer support with considered responses helped many move along their personal or professional journey. She was always willing to make a thoughtful suggestion or offer to help people follow their dreams.

Elisabeth’s support of CALT spanned decades. She was always there, with her sharp mind, and open, smiling face, offering support and acknowledgement of the work CALT does. She will be missed by so many.



## CENTRAL ARIZONA LAND TRUST'S SPRING FLING

Music by Just 4 MAMA

Presentation by Eric Moore, Jay's Bird Barn

Join us for drinks and appetizers, live music, hayrides, and great raffle items

When: Thursday, May 16, 5-8 pm

Where: The Barn @ Mortimer Farms

Please RSVP by May 12. Email: [calt@centralazlandtrust.org](mailto:calt@centralazlandtrust.org)

Buy tickets online at [www.centralazlandtrust.org](http://www.centralazlandtrust.org)

\$10/adult, \$5/child

At the door: \$15/adult, \$5/child





# The O RO Ranch Remuda

The following is an excerpt from the book, *Orejana Outfit: Arizona's Historic O RO Ranch 1993 to 2013*, by Kathy McCraine

A remuda is defined as “a group of extra saddle horses kept as a supply of remounts.” The word comes from the Spanish word *remudar*, to exchange.

At the O RO Ranch, the remuda used for the spring and fall works at the wagon consisted of about 100 head of geldings. The wagon boss assigned eight horses to each cowboy, splitting each man's string between ground-covering “drive” horses for the long gathers in the morning, and more athletic “afternoon” horses for cow work and branding. If a cowboy had a reputation as a good bronc rider, he would likely be assigned a spoiled horse or two.

The RO's has always been known for their tough, agile, “cowy” horses. The ranch kept about 30 broodmares that foaled out on the range, where the colts adapted to the rocky terrain they would travel all their working lives. Camp men kept four horses year around that were part of their string on the wagon, and therefore had the better broke mounts for the works. The rest of the horses were only used the five months or so the wagon was out; then they were turned out the rest of the year on grass until time to “shoe up” for the next wagon. When they came in for the works, they were pretty fresh and some might have a tendency to buck.

At the wagon, catching the horses out of the remuda was almost like a ritual that was repeated three times a day: first thing in the morning, again when the wrangler brought fresh horses to wherever the crew was “nooned out” for lunch, and again in the evening when they caught the horses for the following day. There was almost a formality to the process, a kind of cowboy etiquette.



When the wrangler had the horses gathered, the wagon boss would shout, “Horses!” The men would spring to their feet and silently surround the herd, each man tossing the end of his rope to the man on his right until they formed a rope corral. As the horses milled and bunched up in a tight circle, each man would call out the name of the horse he had chosen to ride that day – “Circus, Creature, Rockmasher, Tadpole, Topgun, Pancho.” Houlihan loops would fly as the wagon boss and jigger boss caught each horse and led it out to its rider, who slipped a bridle over its head and remained in the circle.

When everybody had a horse, the wagon boss would ask, “Is everybody happy?” If there was no response, he would simply say, “Bueno,” and the day's work would begin. The fluidity and ease with which this simple act of catching horses unfolded was like poetry in motion, and all happened within minutes.

*Orejana Outfit* is available for \$34.95 at [www.kathymccraine.com](http://www.kathymccraine.com). Also on sale at these Prescott shops: Phippen Museum, Sharlot Hall Museum, Ogg's Hoga, and Old Stage Stop.







## Donors Make It Happen

\*\*\* Top Hands: \$250 and above

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\* Land Lovers: \$10-\$99

We would like to acknowledge the generous support of the following individuals. Thank you very much!

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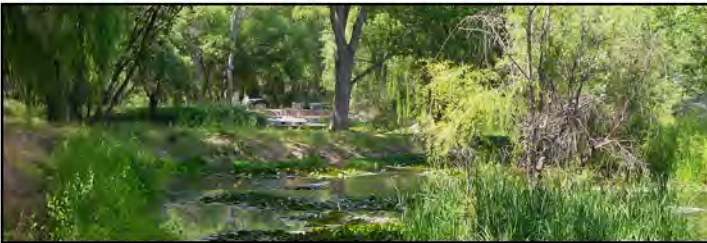


Image by Felipe Guerrero



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## Help Us Protect the Birds

In 2018 we kicked off the fundraising campaign to permanently protect the Coldwater Farm in Dewey-Humboldt. Recent field surveys have revealed that this amazing riparian oasis, along the Agua Fria River, is home to two of Arizona's native bird species, both federally listed as threatened and endangered. We have almost reached our fundraising goal: Only \$6,000 is still needed to cover the expenses of establishing a perpetual conservation easement. Help us across the finish line by donating today. Use this code, *It's for the Birds!*, on your check to designate that all funds are for Coldwater Farm. Thank you!

*The Central Arizona Land Trust is an Arizona nonprofit corporation and is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) and a qualifying organization under Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code for the acceptance of conservation easements. Donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.*

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