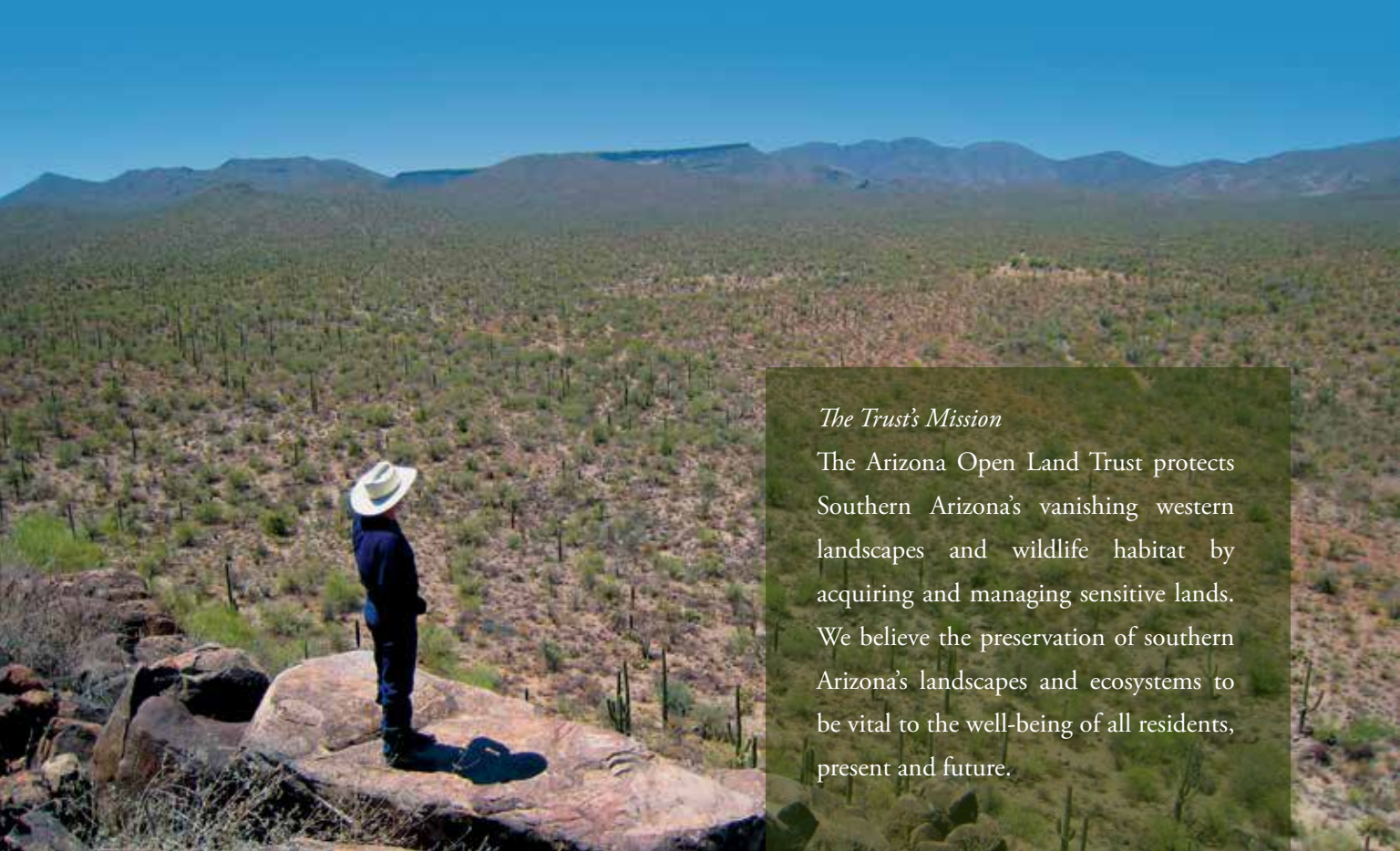


*Celebrating 30 Years of
Land Conservation*





The Trust's Mission

The Arizona Open Land Trust protects Southern Arizona's vanishing western landscapes and wildlife habitat by acquiring and managing sensitive lands. We believe the preservation of southern Arizona's landscapes and ecosystems to be vital to the well-being of all residents, present and future.

Arizona Open Land Trust Annual Report 2007

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From the Director



I recently had the great pleasure of having lunch with a long-time supporter of the Arizona Open Land Trust. As we talked, she recalled childhood family trips each winter from her home in Connecticut to a

Santa Cruz County dude ranch. From her first glimpse of the desert, she was enchanted with the wide open spaces and the unfamiliar plants and animals she discovered. She said that being captivated by southern Arizona never waned for her; many years later she returned to establish her winter home in Tucson.

For the past 30 years the complex beauty and richness of southern Arizona has driven the Trust's conservation work. Just this past year the Trust partnered with agencies and landowners to grow our protection programs threefold.

Beginning in October, we initiated our "Ranching into the Future" workshop series with The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. The workshops have stimulated strong interest among members of the ranching community who seek methods to protect working ranches and farms in perpetuity.

Last fall the Trust launched its Desert Rivers and Riparian Heritage Initiative to provide reliable information about water rights for landowners and conservation partners in Arizona. We are happy to announce that we are hiring a full-time staff person to work exclusively in this program area.

Finally, in June of this year, we expanded our land protection portfolio by partnering with Pima County to protect nearly 300 acres of riparian canyon habitat in the Tortolita Mountains.

While there is much more to be done, there is also cause for real hope. In southern Arizona today, ranchers, government agencies and conservationists are working together as never before. Old barriers between these groups are giving way to collaboration and a shared vision: building a healthy and prosperous relationship between local agriculture, biodiversity, our water resources and our cultural history.

As we look back on the past year – and the Trust's 30 years of conservation work – we are grateful to be able to count on loyal conservation partners like you. By supporting this crucial work, you have played an important role in the Trust's successes.

Thank you for your continued partnership!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diana Freshwater".

Diana Freshwater, Executive Director

Filling The Gap By Alex Hobson

When ten Tucsonans gathered on December 15, 1978 to create the Arizona Open Land Trust, their intent was, according to founding member Richard Duffield, to fill a gap that existed in land protection efforts in the Tucson area. “We wanted to create an organization to hold conservation easements along riparian areas coming out of the Catalinas.” Duffield said. “We thought there were local areas worthy of preservation that wouldn’t meet the stricter standards of The Nature Conservancy.”

In addition to Duffield, the original board members were Dennis M. Breen, III; Walter Chaffee; Mary Peace Douglas; Ed McCullough; Thomas W. Pew, Jr.; Sol Resnick; John M. Rice; Reyn Voevodsky; and Suzanne M. Wilson.

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Although these organizers were interested in having a land trust ready to hold easements locally, their Articles of Incorporation described a larger vision – that of coordinating efforts to preserve open space and wildlife habitat on a statewide basis, including by the use of easements.

From the beginning, however, these goals were hampered by a lack of financial resources. The Trust remained, for many years, largely a volunteer board waiting for an opportunity to come along but pushing forward with critical projects.

“One of the early things we did was to get behind the effort to pass legislation that would govern conservation easements in Arizona. This happened in 1985,” recalled Patsy Waterfall, one of the Trust’s early board members.

Doug Koppinger, a local environmentalist, served as a volunteer executive director during most of the 1990s and succeeded in negotiating the first two donations of conservation easements.

The patience and persistence of the board paid off. As the year 2000 approached, Pima County expressed interest in partnering with the Trust to work with landowners on acquisitions of properties under the County’s Open-Space Bond and the Trust’s future executive director, Diana Freshwater, was looking for a new career.

Fortunately, Diana, an independent urban planning consultant, had both foresight and an entrepreneurial spirit. She was willing to lead an expanded board into new projects with Pima County, the Arizona Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, while deferring a full-time salary until her revenue-raising efforts bore fruit.

As a member of the Trust’s Board since 1985, I saw Diana Freshwater’s becoming involved and the addition of some new board members really launch the Trust as a revitalized and growing organization. Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry, and members of the Board of Supervisors who were familiar with us, recognized the Trust as a local and capable alternative to working with nationally-based conservation organizations. As a result, Pima County asked the Trust to work with landowners in the County and try to secure land purchases for long-term public preservation.

What worked for Pima County and private

landowners was the Trust's "honest broker" position in these transactions. We were always intent on being open and transparent about the Trust's role both with landowners and with the County. Landowners like working with us because we are responsive in a timely way and sensitive to their concerns about their land. We continue to enjoy partnerships with both Pima County and the landowners we have worked with over the years.

The Trust's reputation has spread to the ranching community in southern Arizona. Now with a four-member staff and a very active board, the Trust reaches out to all of southern Arizona, partnering with other organizations to provide educational programs for landowners and to secure funding for rural conservation easements.

Arizona Open Land Trust's accomplishments have been recognized nationally and locally by the Land Trust Alliance, Sunset Magazine, Arizona Republic and others. Preservation of open space, wildlife habitat and water resources is more urgent than ever and the Trust has grown so that it can effectively take on these tasks in cooperation with other groups and organizations in the region.

From Top, clockwise: *Christine Conte, Diana Freshwater and Jeff Hampton Visit at a Trust Event; Jeff Hampton Gives a Presentation; Bayard Auchincloss and Rose Ronstadt; Trust Founder Patsy Waterfall Shares a Table with Guests at Santa Lucia ; Peggy Rowley Talks of Partnering with the Land Trust; and Chuck Huckelberry Speaks of Land Conservation in southern Arizona.* (All photos Arizona Open Land Trust)



Whitewater Draw

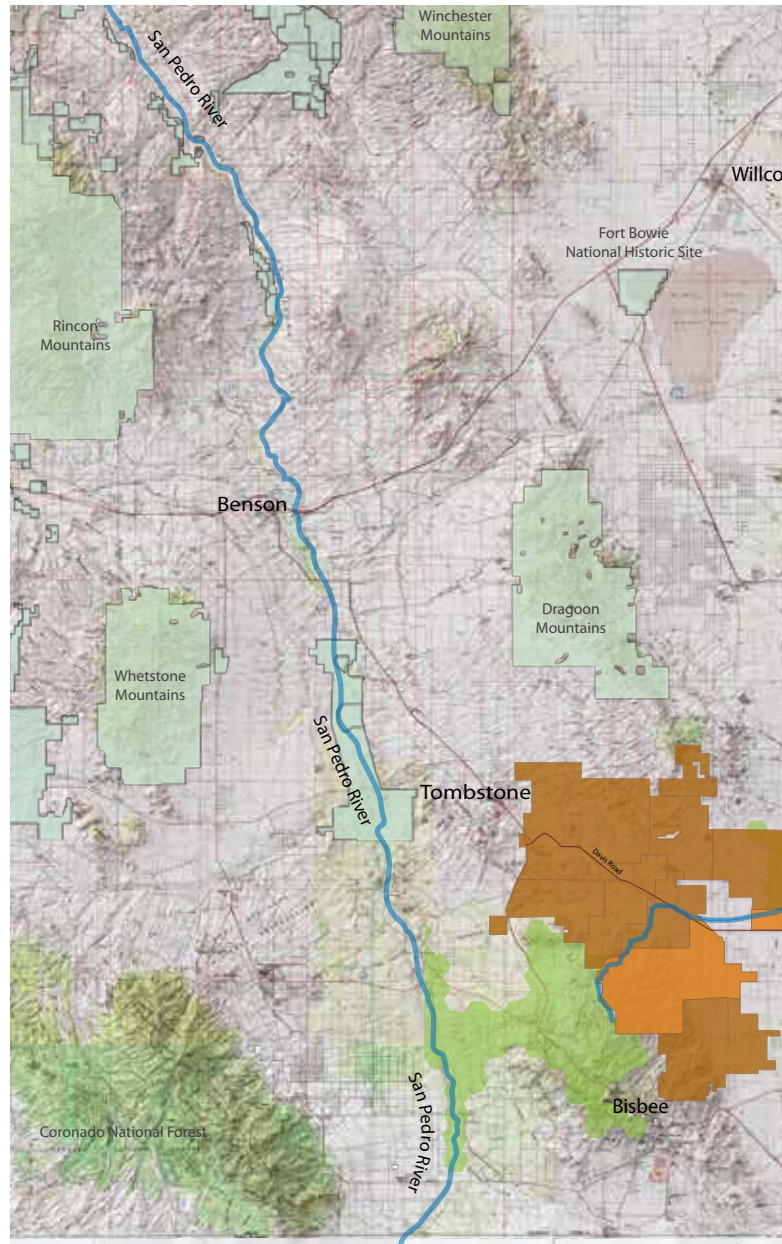
The Whitewater Draw, like the San Pedro River to the west and the Gila River to the north, is widely known for its rich biodiversity and sweeping views. It includes large tracts of both private and state land in ranching and farming and it provides important wildlife habitat, including one of the few remaining contiguous wildlife movement corridors in the region. The Draw is a winter stopover for more than 100 migratory waterfowl, including Sandhill cranes, mallards, pintails, gadwalls, Wilson's snipes, various teal species, and Mexican ducks. The Draw also boasts Gambel's and scaled quail, and both mourning doves and white-wing doves.



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Today, many landowners along the Whitewater Draw are under mounting pressure to sell the ranches and farms that may have been in their families for generations. This typically leads to rangeland being split into 36-acre ranchettes, with inevitable fragmentation of contiguous landscapes that have always provided necessary wildlife habitat.

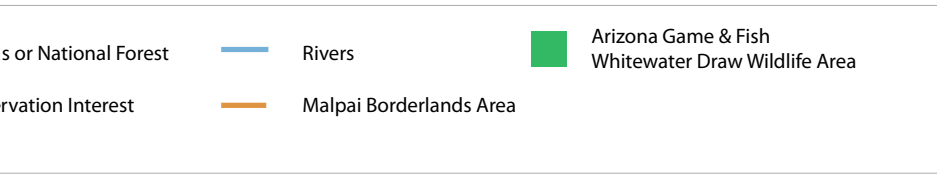
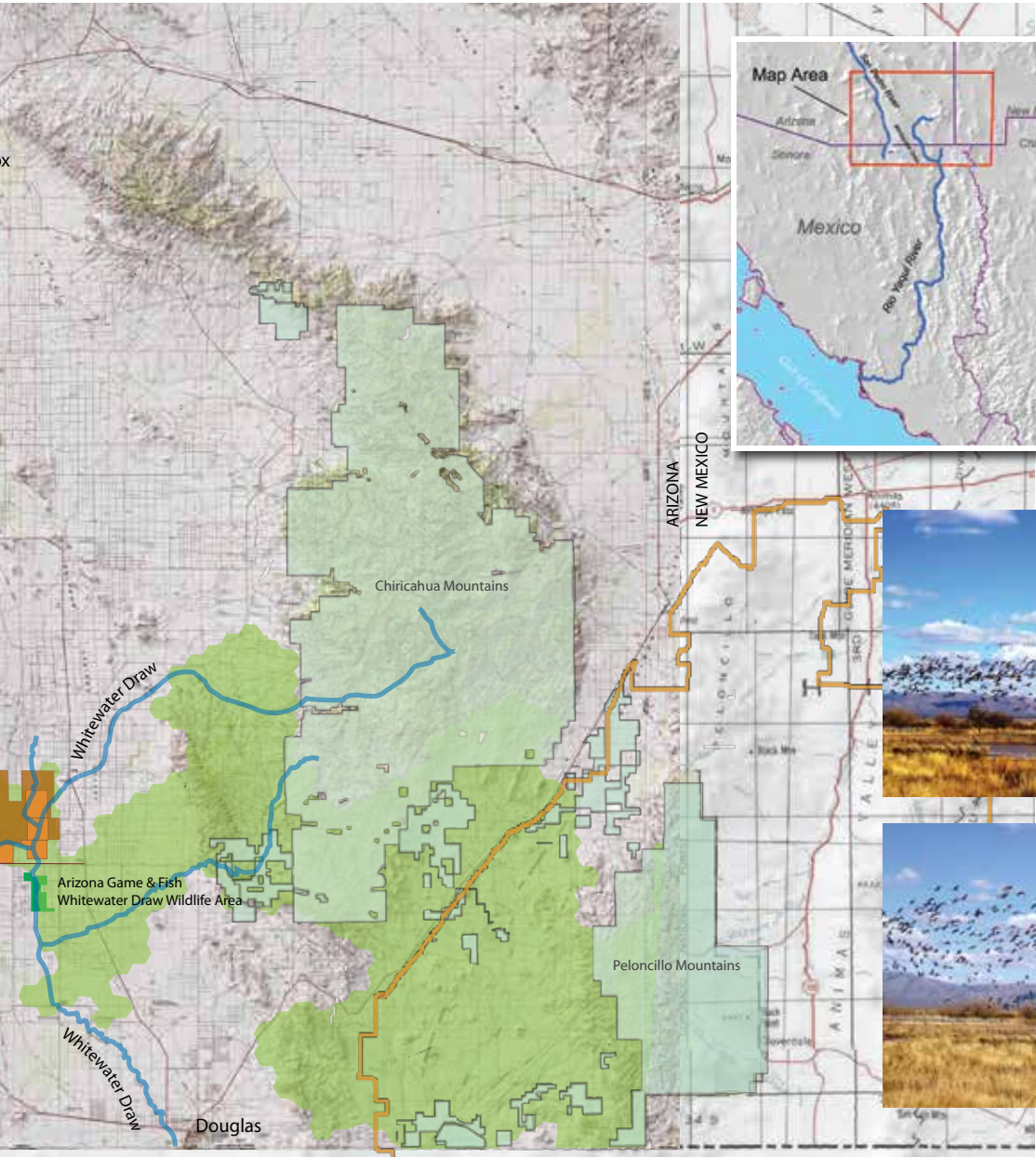


Sandhill Cranes at the Whitewater Draw, William Wilkes



-  Potential Ranch Protection Projects
-  Current Projects

-  Protected Area
-  Areas of Conservation



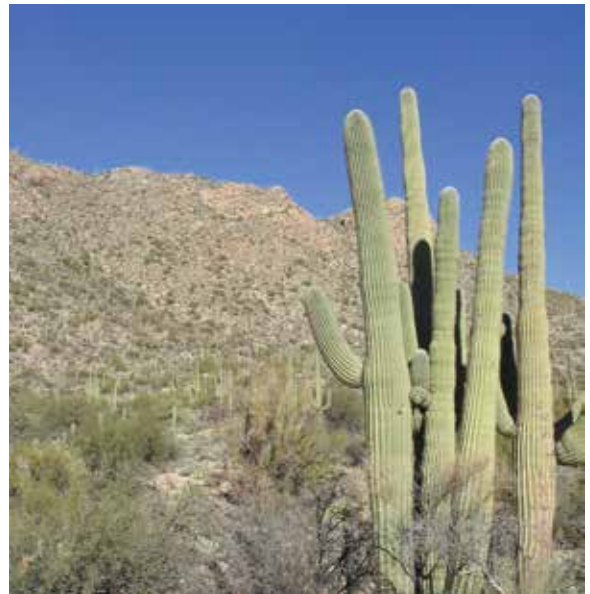
Newly Protected Lands

This year the Trust continued its work on several critical land conservation projects. Two completed projects are the protection of a significant parcel in *Cochie Canyon* and the *Leal property* – both valuable additions to Pima County’s conservation portfolio.

The 290-acre *Cochie Canyon* property, located in the Tortolita Mountains, contains several large and small washes that provide wildlife movement corridors and serve important hydrological functions, as well as sensitive habitat for numerous vulnerable species, including the Allen’s big-eared bat, the Arizona shrew, Swainson’s hawk, western burrowing owl, and lowland leopard frog.

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The *Leal property* is a 62-acre riparian area in the floodplain of the Brawley Wash, just west of Saguaro National Park West. Purchased by Pima County through the Flood-Prone Land Acquisition Program, protecting this property will improve water quality and enhance ground water recharge, as well as preserve natural flood-plain habitat. This project is especially important as the Brawley Wash provides the last and best opportunity for large-scale riparian habitat restoration in eastern Pima County.





Cocoraque Butte

An in-holding within the boundaries of the Ironwood Forest National Monument, the *Cocoraque Butte* is a spectacular archaeological landmark, located on a private ranch immediately adjacent to the Tohono O'odham Nation in Avra Valley, just west of Tucson.

Hundreds of ancient Hohokam petroglyphs are etched into the dark brown boulders across the Butte. The age of the petroglyphs spans two thousand years or more and the images include geometric shapes, abstract forms, fluid lines, insects, animals, plants and human figures.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1975, the Butte is not currently a protected site. With support from the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Trust has been working with Pima County and the landowner to preserve the historical and cultural uniqueness of the Cocoraque Butte for future generations.

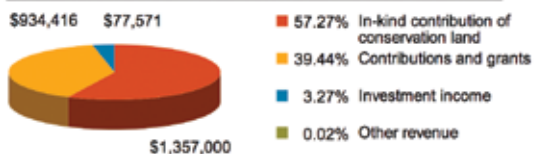
Photos, Far left: *A Gila Woodpecker Feeding on the Flowers of the Giant Saguaro Cactus; Cochie Canyon*, Kerry Baldwin, Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation.

Left: *Jose Enriquez & Joseph Enriquez at Cocoraque Butte, Petroglyphs at Cocoraque Butte*, T. J. Ferguson, Anthropological Research, L.L.C.

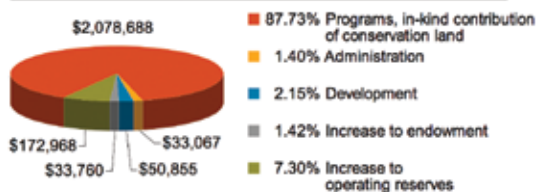
Financials

In 2007 the Trust attracted new supporters to our mission and doubled the number of foundation grants over those received in 2006. Increased revenues allowed us to grow our conservation programs, ensuring greater successes in 2008 and beyond.

Sources



Uses



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Statement of Financial Condition September 30, 2007 and 2006

	2007	2006
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 123,282	\$ 45,846
Investments	689,101	564,129
Land held for conservation	1,357,000	-
Property and equipment, net	8,912	3,972
Other assets	3,909	3,819
	\$ 2,182,204	\$ 617,766

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 5,014	\$ 4,074
Accrued expenses	9,594	9,509
Deferred revenue	27,406	27,721
	42,014	41,304

Net Assets:

Unrestricted	1,825,017	350,659
Temporarily restricted	201,087	145,477
Permanently restricted	114,086	80,326
	\$ 2,140,190	\$ 576,462
	\$ 2,182,204	\$ 617,766

The Trust's Board

Jeff Hampton, President	Charlotte Hanson
Chuck Pettis, Secretary	Alex Hobson
Britt Simmons, Treasurer	Pat Lopez, III
Nick Buckelew	Bill Roe
Christine Conte	Bill Shaw
Les Corey	Henry Wallace
Fred Frelinghuysen	

The Trust's Staff

Diana Freshwater, Executive Director
 Liz Petterson, Projects Manager
 Dan Moxley, Development Associate
 Katharine Hanna, Staff Assistant
 Dustin Garrick, Special Projects

Conservation Partners

Gifts of \$1,000 or more

Briggs and Patricia Ackert
Bayard Auchincloss and Rose Ronstadt
Arch and Laura Brown
Jim and Vicki Click
Mary Hope Dillon
David and Mary Ann Elwood
Frederick Frelinghuysen and Mary Voyatzis
David and Diana Freshwater
Charlotte Hanson, In memory of Thor Hanson
Bill and Char Johnson
Nancy and Robert Johnson
Pat and Marilou Lopez
Frank and Janet Marcus
George Meyer and Maria Semple
Will Murray
Ted and Sandra Notz, In memory of Elinor Trostel Notz and Kranz Notz
Chuck and Pat Pettis
Kate Piper, In memory of Betty Nash
Jessica Richter, In memory of Max Siegel
Louise Nash Robbins
Bill and Alice Roe
Curtis Scaife
Phil and Joanne Von Blon
Charles and Elizabeth Zukoski

Gifts of \$100 to \$999

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Frank Bangs, Jr.
Denise Barnes
Richard and Deborah Baxter
Jean-Paul Bierny and Chris Tanz
Patti and David Bradley
Nick and Laurie Buckelew
Lorene Calder
Kent and Liz Campbell
Harris Choate
Tom and Debbie Collazo
Les and Bonnie Corey
Penny and Cliff Crutchfield
Wayne and Dorothy Delvin
John and Patty Doerr
Mary Peace Douglas
Richard and Mary Rose Duffield
Frances Epsen, In memory of Thor Hanson
Bette and Gerard Ervin
Barton and Beth Faber
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Dustin and Heather Garrick
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Aline Goodman

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Sally Greenleaf
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Matt Heinz
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Fritz and Gayle Jandrey
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Jane Kroehl
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George and Linda Vensel
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Patsy Waterfall
Frances and William Werner
Robert and Kathleen Winder
Reese and Nancy Woodling
Anne Yoshino and William Grimes

Gifts to \$99

William Adler
John and Susanne Alcock
Dabney and Katherine Altaffer
Curtis and Elspeth Anderson
Anonymous, On behalf of Mary Gillmore
John and Nora Ayres
Mary Ellen Barnes
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