Ground Truth



A Publication of the Diablo Trust – A Northern Arizona Collaborative Grassroots Land Management Team



The Diablo Trust is a 501(c)(3) land management team created in 1993 to promote the social, biological, and economic sustainability of 426,000 acres of intermingled federal, state, and private lands southeast of Flagstaff, AZ, by engaging in a collaborative stewardship process that is in harmony with the natural environment and the broader community.

The phrase "Learning from the land and sharing our knowledge, so there will always be a West" captures our mission.

Ground Truth is the publication of the Diablo Trust, mailed free-of-charge to everyone on our mailing list. If you would like to be added to or removed from the mailing list, please contact us at:

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Contributors are solely responsible for the content of their articles, and the opinions expressed in the articles, linked materials, and comments are not necessarily those of the Diablo Trust.

From Generation to Generation

Environmental values promoted by Diablo Trust didn't start with Kit, Bob, and Judy: conservation, biodiversity, and collaboration were taught from a young age by Jeremy D. Krones

TEXT



Continued on page 5

Ernest Chilson (Judy Prosser's father) and

Bat Article

by Jeremy D. Krones

Cowgirl Essay

by Sheila Carlson, Flying M Ranch

Continued on page 6

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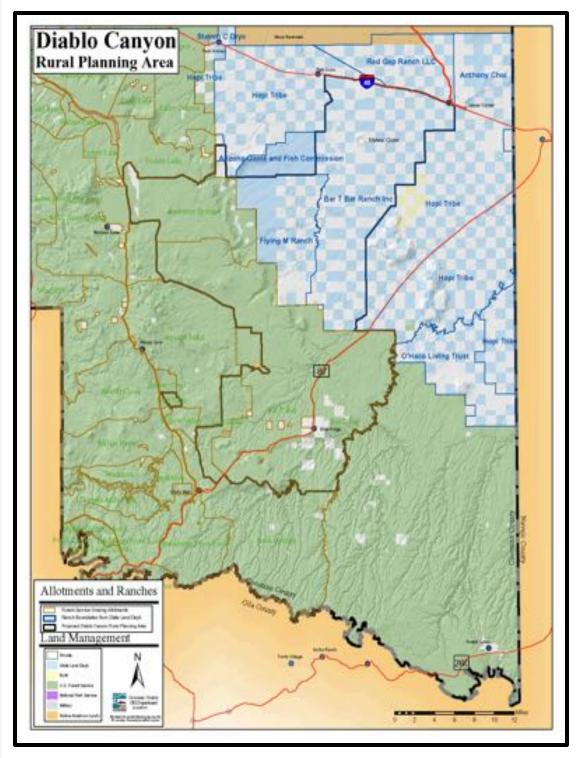






Where We Are

A map of the Diablo Trust land area: Flying M and Bar T Bar ranches



Locations In This Newsletter:

- **A** − Reed Lake Plots (Cattle, Carbon, Classroom, p1)
- **B** Research Exclosures (Cattle, Carbon, Classroom)
- **D** − Diablo Canyon (Golden Eagle Research, p1)
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- **F** 2016 Campout location (Office Notes, p3)
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President's Message

by Norm Lowe

TEXT



Office Notes

by Jeremy D. Krones

TEXT



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www.diablotrust.org/donate



Getting to Know . . . Jim Parks

Coconino County Supervisor, District 4

Jim Parks is a retired cowboy from Flagstaff, AZ. He is an Arizona native with ancestors arriving in the Tubac area from Spain about 1720. Jim's ancestors also came from Wales, Scotland, Ireland, England and some were native Papago or Tohono Oodam people in Southern Arizona.



Jim was born in Phoenix on October 11, 1949, the oldest of 3

children of Warren and Bette Parks, and has remained a resident of Arizona since birth. He came to Flagstaff in 1974, after serving 4 years in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Jim spent a couple of years studying at NAU, then became a working cowboy, and later a ranch manager, working on ranches all over Arizona during the next 38 years. Jim retired in 2015, after spending his last working years a Babbitt Ranches in Northern Arizona. Jim worked on the Bar T Bar Ranches in 1977, 1978, and 2012. He also did day work on the Flying M Ranch from 1990 to 2012.

Jim's life has always been centered around agriculture, being the grandson and great-grandson of ranchers, and the son of a farmer, agriculture has always dominated his life. He served as President of the Coconino County Farm Bureau and Cattle Growers Association, former Chairman of Coconino Natural Resource Conservation District, and member of Arizona Farm Bureau board of directors.

Jim's wife, Vickie, is retired from Coconino County and he has a family of two daughters, their husbands, four grand-children and one great-grand-child.

Born in: Phoenix, AZ

Childhood Hero: Davy Crockett

<u>Current Hero</u>: Major Rick Spooner, USMC, Retired. Wounded in WWII, Korea, Vietnam

Favorite Hobbies: Fiddling, flying, hunting, shooting

<u>Favorite Western</u>: Junior Bonner <u>Favorite Western-wear item</u>: Hat

Currently Unrealized Life Dream: Restore my old Model T Ford

<u>Favorite Quotation</u>: "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."

- Mohandas K. Gandhi

Talk from the

by Judy Prosser

TEXT

From Generation to Generation (continued from page 1)

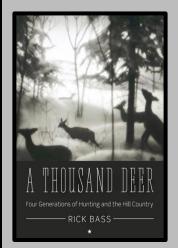
Bat Research (continued from page 1)

TEXT

Good Reads for the Western Life Book Club

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 27 @ 5:30PM



A Thousand Deer, by Rick Bass

Flagstaff Public Library

300 W. Aspen Ave Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Buy your book at Bright Lights Bookstore on N. San Francisco and get 10% off!

January Book Review by Patti Van Tuyl

Holding the Line: Women in the Great Arizona Mine Strike of 1983 by Barbara Kingsolver

Although not as well-known as her novels <u>Pigs in Heaven</u> or <u>The Bean Trees</u>, this non-fiction book by Barbara Kingsolver is a spellbinder, with strong characters and a compelling plot.

The story is based on Kingsolver's interviews with women who participated in strikes in Clifton, Morenci, and Ajo, Arizona, in 1983-85, during a protracted contract dispute between copper miners and their employer, the giant mining corporation, Phelps Dodge. Women interrupted their domestic lives to join the strikers' lines when their husbands were forbidden to, and evolved into a powerful force for resistance within their communities. Mining was about the only way the largely Latino population could earn a living in these small company-dominated towns, and the women's fight for justice in the mines was equally a struggle to preserve their homes and family lives. The strikers found little sympathy for their cause within Arizona. Strikers were harassed by local law enforcement and the governor deployed the National Guard on at least two occasions. The women reached out beyond the local union, however, and brought their cause to the attention of international unions. In the end, the strike failed and the unions were decertified. The strike and its outcome are now seen as one of the earliest successes in deliberate strikebreaking and, as such, are regarded as a signal event in U.S. labor history. We highly recommend this book.

February Book Review by Juane Heflin

Soldier Sister, Fly Home by Nancy Bo Flood

Classified as a children's book, <u>Soldier Sister, Fly Home</u> speaks to all ages. Set in northern Arizona and dedicated to the memory of Lori Piestewa, the first Native American woman to die while fighting overseas, a 13-year-old half-Navajo/half-white girl (Tess) struggles with her identity while coming to terms with life's unwanted changes. The talented author shows how internal conflicts vary dramatically when a person is young and contemplating the future, as compared to older adults who can reflect on the journey. Young readers will relate to Tess, who rebels against the seeming complacency of her elders, and older readers will empathize with her beloved shimá sání (Grandma), who sees the cycle of life repeating.

From the shocking Prologue to the moving ending, the book makes a lasting impression and will be brought back to memory each time we see a raven, a veteran, an older woman wearing colorful tennis shoes, a running stallion, or hear someone quote Emily Dickinson. The book discussion with the author was fascinating, and we clamored for a sequel. We highly recommended the book.

March Book Review by Jeremy D. Krones

The Rites of Autumn
by Dan O'Brien

A short but detailed and emotional book, The Rites of Autumn gives readers an insightful look into the world of falconry, through the eyes of the prolific writer, successful rancher, and avid environmentalist Dan O'Brien. We read another of O'Brien's books last June, Buffalo For the Broken Heart. While that memoir was both longer and more detailed with facts and figures concerning cattle, bison, and the "settling" of the West by European colonizers, The Rites of Autumn is a more personal tale of a man's relationship with a bird, his bird. From the first scene of O'Brien watching as a golden eagle picks off three newly-released peregrine falcons to the final summary of post-story events, readers travel the Continental Divide with O'Brien and Dolly, his adopted falcon, meeting occasional lovers, long-time friends, and strangers altogether.

Especially when paired with the Diablo Trust Day on the Land to the Vermilion Cliffs to see and learn about the California condors from a Peregrine Fund researcher, <u>The Rites of Autumn</u> is both a intriguing historical document and a valuable intellectual supplement to seeing first-hand the power of such amazing birds. We highly recommend this book.

For more book reviews and Book Club updates, please visit our website, www.diablotrust.org/book-club, contact the office: info@diablotrust.org or (928) 523-0588, or sign up for the club listserv at bit.ly/dtbookclub.

Thank You to Our AZ Gives Day Donors!

Diablo Trust is a donation-funded organization, and much of what we do couldn't be accomplished without contributions from our caring community. This year, Diablo Trust contributed all of its AZ Gives Day donations, \$1,195, to the Summer Agricultural Institute (SAI), a week-long intensive for grade-school educators to teach them how to better integrate agricultural literacy into their classrooms. Diablo Trust partners with SAI every year for a presentation, and wanted to do more to raise a generation of Arizonans who are attuned to the natural and agricultural worlds around them: just what Diablo Trust does in our own community. There is no cost to participate, but there is a fee to apply. Diablo Trust dedicated its AZ Gives Day donations to help the participating teachers with their application fees!

Anonymous (2) Sheila DeHaven Bryan Friedman Mary Gessay Alysa Greenberg Denise Hudson Barbara Jones Amanda Kapp Diana Kessler Jeremy Krones Paula Pluta Kate Radosevic Arnie Schlittenhart Ellen Vaughan Allie Weintraub Sarah Wilce



Money matters & your support makes a difference!



Day on the Land:
Sportsman & Recreation

Sat, June 24 • 09:00 - 2:00 Flying M Ranch Headquarters

Stay informed: www.diablotrust.org/calendar

Talk from the ____ (continued from page 4)



A Conversation About Conservation

A summary of the 2017 Diablo Trust Annual Meeting • Feb 17 • Flagstaff, AZ by Jeremy D. Krones

The 24th Annual Diablo Trust Meeting was on Friday, February 17th, at Thornager's on Kiltie Lane in Flagstaff. Over 50 people attended the meeting, ranging from agency officials to NAU students – it is through that type of diversity we were founded and continue to succeed in promoting collaborative land management and progressive cattle ranching.

The morning started with a welcome from Diablo Trust President Norm Lowe and then, as always, with introductions around the room. This is a Diablo Trust tradition that won't be quickly lost; despite how long it might take, knowing who else is in the room is vital to a strong and successful collaborative process.

Next were the Collaborators' Reports: updates from key players in the field of land and resource management in Diablo Country and throughout Northern Arizona. These updates cover past successes, future goals, and general news from the field, like calves born on the ranches or new technologies being tested for greater ease in land management (like new rain gauges).

A special award and gift of thanks was presented to Steve Cassady (AGFD) for his support of Diablo Trust and the ranches; so many of our goals could not be accomplished without his help and guidance.

The bulk of the Meeting was spent by the four featured presenters; not only did the presentations flow in fluid manner, but everyone in the room learned something, even if they were already familiar with the topic. Regardless of how much one might know about conservation in the Southwest, there is always more information to pick up, and these four wildlife experts taught us all.

First was Chris Parish, the director of the Condor Reintroduction Project for the Peregrine Fund. Chris focused his talk on his ongoing work to eliminate lead bullets from the hunting world in order to further stabilize and grow the California condor population, as well as a plethora of other wildlife who would be affected by the poisonous bullets. See page 12 for a summary of our March Day on the Land to the Vermilion Cliffs to see Chris and his team at work with the condors.

Tom Mackin, the Diablo Trust Wildlife Committee Chair, then gave a short presentation on what conservation means to different people, and how it is executed in the community and on the land. While not going too in-depth, Tom framed the concept of 'conservation' very well for those in the audience who might not have been as familiar with conservation and environmental work as others.

A newcomer to Diablo Trust, Randy Babb, the Watchable Willdife Program Manager for AGFD, presented on what are commonly called "watchable wildlife," as opposed to game animals. The former category includes bats, rabbits, rodents, insectivores like the desert shrew, and small carnivores like foxes. This presentation received



Laura Jo West, Supervisor of the Coconino National Forest, giving an update on forest projects and goals.

the most positive reactions from the audience, who enjoyed learning about the unique coloration of jackrabbits or the vicious habits of desert mice.

The final presenter was AGFD Region II Supervisor Craig McMullen. Craig gave a summary of the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation. This historic model, developed over decades by many influential people around the turn of the last century, is used as an effective and successful way to enhance the efforts of conservationists of all stripes.

The last event of the morning was a Q&A session with the four presenters. Most of the exchange concerned the presence of lead in hunting and fishing. Other questions included whether the "watchable wildlife" Randy discusse or rere welcomed on the ranches, and what people could do to promote conservation if they weren't already intimately engaged on the land.

In short: the animals are appreciated and allowed, but not always 'welcomed' as friends (just ask the prairie dogs), and supporting both local and national conservation groups is probably the best way to support conservation.

Diablo Trust is one of those organizations – a group dedicated to education, collaboration, and conservation. This Annual Meeting was a great example of what we support and promote in the community.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and see you on the land!



Chris Parish of the Peregrine Fund presenting on the reduction of lead bullets in the hunting community and the impacts on the small but growing Calfornia Condor population in Northern Arizona.

Cowgirl Essay (continued from page 1)



From the Calendar:

Spring 2017 Events

Day on the Land: Condor Conservation March 25th

The first Day on the Land of 2017 saw nearly 50 people who made the two-hour drive from Flagstaff to the Lees Ferry Lodge, located at the base of the Paria Plateau, in the shadow of the Vermilion Cliffs. The group of citizen scientists, NAU and FUSD employees, Sierra Club and Audubon Society members, and many others gathered around 9:30 to meet Chris Parish, the Director of the Peregrine Fund's Condor Reintroduction Project. Chris runs the center on the Cliffs, breeding, researching, and reintroducing the California condor into the wild (read more about Chris on page 10).

After the regular group introductions, we drove to Navajo Bridge, the twin crossings across the Colorado River, upstream of the Grand Canyon. There we saw two California condors sitting on the trusses of the vehicle bridge, as we stood on the pedestrian bridge with our cameras, binoculars, and spotting scopes. Chris gave a short lecture on the history, biology, and threats to the massive, ancient birds. With a wingspan of 9.5 feet, it might be understand-

able that these birds coexisted with the megafauna of the Pleistocene Epoch (Ice Age), between 2,600,000 and 11,000 years ago.

It was cloudy and cold for most of the morning, but right as we were about to go back to the cars for lunch, the clouds parted and the wind picked up: a perfect combination for the two condors we were observing to open their wings and fly! They flew under the bridge to a rock outcropping (see photo: opposite page, bottom left).

After lunch the group drove back to Lees Ferry Lodge to take a tour of the "Barn," the Peregrine Fund's research facility. Chris' crew performs surgeries and other rehabilitation for the birds here.

This Day on the Land was a unique one — not only was it not on either ranche, but it also showed participants a side of conservation not usually seen by the public: collaboration to improve the state of endangered species *in the wild*. We hope to have more trips like this one in the future, to see wildlife on the ranches or travel to visit another group and see their conservation at work.

Rust from the Range



We found this at an old sheepcamp on the Bar T Bar by Diablo Canyon. It has about a two-inch diameter, is perfectly circular, and even with the rust the middle piece is loose enough to move around. We published it last issue but didn't say what it was. But now, we will!

It's a cinch buckle!

Next time you see a saddle, take a look at the straps (called a cinch or girth) that go underneath the horse's abdomen (called the barrel). These straps secure the saddle to the horse. While everything changes with time, today's buckles are still very similar to ones like this one.

Did you get it right?

Plant Spotting



http://www.swbiodiversity.org/seinet

Common Name: Fendler's flatsedge

Scientific Name:Cyperus fendlerianus

Family: Cyperaceae

Duration: *Perennial*

Ecology:

Found in clearings and along meadows in pine forests & juniper woodlands, 2,000-6,000 ft; flowers from July-September

On the Ground with Diablo Trust

Visit <u>www.diablotrust.org</u> or our Facebook page for more pictures. Articles about some events are on page 10.

FRSG Monitoring: March 21-31, 2017



Jackie Thomas, the AZ State Land Department Flagstaff Range Resource Area Manager



 $\label{eq:Kit Metzger} \mbox{(Flying M Ranch), Joey Dahms (NRCS), Jackie Thomas (ASLD), and Gus the Dog}$



Steve Cassady (AGFD) observes the forage on Raymond Wildlife Area

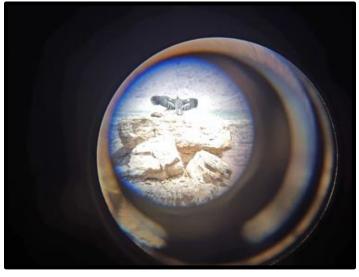
Day on the Land: March 25, 2017



Nearly 50 people came out from all over Northern Arizona to the Vermilion Cliffs for a day of conservation biology, sighseeing, and bird-watching!



Chris Parish, Director of the Peregrine Fund's Condor Reintroduction Project at the Vermilion Cliffs, explains the basic biology of the California condor.



A California condor sunning on a rock, as seen through a spotting scope on Navajo Bridge.

Photo by Denise Hudson.



A few participants overlooking the Colorado River at Badger Point, across the highway from Lees Ferry Lodge and the Vermilion Cliffs.

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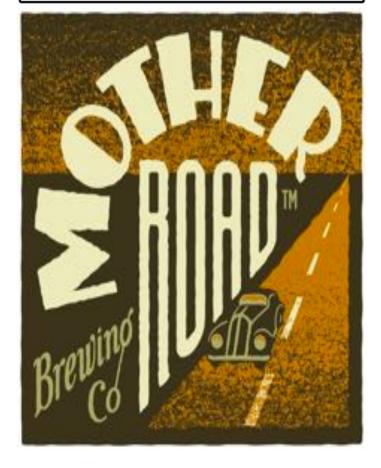






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"Learning from the land and sharing our knowledge . . . So there will always be a West"

Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 24: Sportsman & Recreation Day on the Land • 9:00AM - 2:00PM • Flying M Ranch

Tuesday, June 27: <u>Book Club</u> • 5:30PM - 6:30PM • Flagstaff Public Library, 300 W. Aspen Ave, Flagstaff *A Thousand Deer: Four Generations of Hunting and the Hill Country*, by Rick Bass

Tuesday, July 25: <u>Book Club</u> • 5:30PM - 6:30PM • Flagstaff Public Library, 300 W. Aspen Ave, Flagstaff *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Tuesday, August 22: <u>Book Club</u> • 5:30PM - 6:30PM • Flagstaff Public Library, 300 W. Aspen Ave, Flagstaff *Claiming Ground*, by Laura Bell

Sat-Sun, August 19-20: Annual Camp-Out • 9:30AM Saturday - 2:00PM Sunday • Yaeger Lake, Flying M Ranch

Tuesday, September 26: <u>Book Club</u> • 5:30PM • Flagstaff Public Library, 300 W. Aspen Ave, Flagstaff Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman, by Miriam Horn

Tuesday, October 24: <u>Book Club</u> • 5:30PM - 6:30PM • Flagstaff Public Library, 300 W. Aspen Ave, Flagstaff *Finding Everett Ruess*, by David Roberts

If you have suggestions for events, books, films, presentations, or field trips, please do not hesitate to contact us!

For further information on these and other events, please email info@diablotrust.org or call (928) 523-0588. Please also visit our website, **http://www.diablotrust.org/calendar**, for more details on these and future events.