

Arizona is blessed with diverse and natural environment

Gene Mt. News Blue 1983

The Arizona Nature Conservancy has undertaken a vital challenge in the area of land preservation and wildlife protection.

Arizona has been richly blessed with diverse natural lands sheltering a wide variety of remarkable life forms.

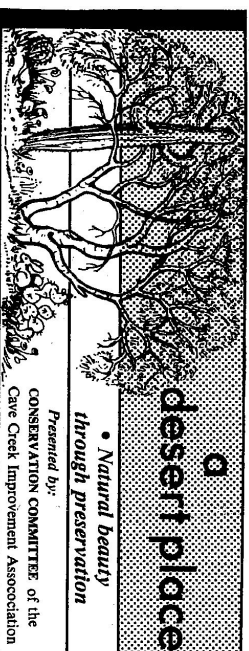
It is imperative that areas representative of this diversity be preserved for the future. These areas are living libraries, essential for scientific research and the study of natural history.

They are also indispensable as spiritual retreats from our hectic urban life.

Once destroyed, they can never be wholly restored and mankind is poorer for their loss.

The Arizona Nature Conservancy preserves land through private action by:

(1) Identifying ecologically significant natural areas that must be set aside:



a desert place
• Natural beauty through preservation

Presented by:
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE of the
Cave Creek Improvement Association

(2) Protecting the land, either through gift, outright purchase or by assisting or advising government agencies;

(3) Providing long-term stewardship for conservancy preserves using volunteers and staff;

(4) Striving to increase public awareness of the critical need to safeguard important natural areas.

Funds necessary for conservancy projects come from many sources: membership dues, individual contributions and be-

quests, foundation grants and corporate gifts.

Nationally, the nature conservancy has saved over 2 million acres of wildlands since 1951. No mean achievement.

Last year the Arizona chapter added over 51,000 acres to its preserve portfolio with a single new project — The Muleshoe Ranch in Southern Arizona.

Large sanctuary

This magnificent 81-square-mile sanctuary is home to several species of endangered native fish,

raptors such as black, zone-tailed and gray hawks, golden eagles and peregrine falcons and thriving mammal populations of bighorn sheep, black bear, mountain lion, whitetail and mule deer, javelina, bobcat, coatiundi and gray fox.

Muleshoe Ranch is a last refuge of its kind, a genetic treasury of endangered flora and fauna that could hold a key to man's future in agriculture or medicine.

It is an endangered United States ecosystem whose whole unique natural diversity has been preserved from the ravages of development for generations to come. A heartening accomplishment, indeed.

Disappearing

There are many Arizonans now troubled by the rapid disappearing of our desert-lands and their numerous forms of fascinating wildlife.

Therefore, as a member of the board of trustees of the Arizona Nature Conservancy, I earnestly recommend that they join this effective organization, with its thriving membership of over 5,000.

Further information and an application form can be obtained by writing to Box 2568, Carefree, Ariz. 85377 or calling Arizona Nature Conservancy at (602) 327-4478.

— Geoffrey Platts