



# Mojave Desert Land Trust

## NEWSLETTER - Fall/Winter 2010

### From the Desk of the President

Mindy Kaufman

#### We Did It!

Quail Mountain has been saved for future generations to enjoy.

There were times during these past 18 months of the Mojave Desert Land Trusts' Campaign to save 955 acres on Quail Mountain that we thought we would never see the finish line. Obstacles would appear out of nowhere and obscure the mission.

It was a combination of pure will and determination by our staff, board and our faithful membership that finally got us to where we are today. 955 acres richer and a whole lot wiser about the process of preserving and protecting land. Along the way we also made some strong partners in land preservation.

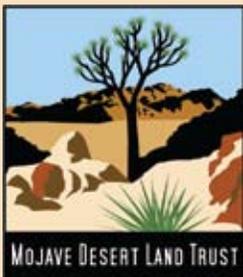


The Board of Directors of the Mojave Desert Land Trust is proud to celebrate this victory for the Mojave Desert with our loyal members, supporters, hard-working staff, consultants, land stewards, The Department of the Navy, The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, and Copper Mountain College, our partners in preserving the Mojave Desert. It is with tremendous gratitude that we thank you all for your steadfast dedication to this worthwhile cause.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Mojave Desert Land Trust I would also like to extend our gratitude to Nancy Karl our Executive Director for doing an extraordinary job of connecting all the dots on this campaign. Your dedication to our members and supporters and your ability to work with our new partners is both inspiring and humbling. We are deeply grateful for all of your hard work and fierce determination in seeing this project to its conclusion.

As this campaign winds down and the end of 2010 approaches we will be re-grouping and planning for 2011. We will of course be keeping you posted on our progress. With the wind at our backs, and your support, we look forward to future successes for the Mojave Desert.

Thank you!



### A friendly reminder to renew your annual membership if you haven't already done so!

#### Member Benefits include:

- The opportunity to preserve large natural areas of the Mojave Desert
- A periodic newsletter with Land Trust updates and news
- Members-only desert tours and hikes
- Educational and Stewardship program activities
- Invitations to Land Trust parties and events
- The knowledge that the quality of our air, water and scenic views will be protected for future generations

- \$25 Regular
- \$50 Supporter
- \$75 Associate
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$150 Patron
- \$250 Benefactor
- \$500 Steward
- \$1000 Guardian
- Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities!

Send us your email address to receive invitations to special events, hikes and our newsletter! Renew your membership online at [www.mojavedesertlandtrust.org](http://www.mojavedesertlandtrust.org)

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### Mojave Desert Land Trust

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From the Executive Director  
Nancy Karl



Dear Friends,

We're all breathing that sigh of relief that comes when a project has been successfully completed! There aren't enough words to thank the many people who worked on the Quail Mountain Project. This was a very successful team effort by the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, the Land Trust staff and board, Joshua Tree National Park, Copper Mountain College and our valued members. Thank you ALL!

Several people invested herculean efforts into this project:

Mindy Kaufman, President of MDLT, supervised every aspect of this 2-year campaign, while also overseeing all of the land trust's work, programs, compliance, and board. The woman deserves a medal and a relaxing vacation! Instead, she's traveling with me to the annual Land Trust Alliance conference to take seminars on accreditation for MDLT. That's dedication! Mindy, you're amazing. Thank you so very much.

Curt Sauer, Superintendent of Joshua Tree National Park, carried the baton for two years on this project, opened doors from Joshua Tree to Washington DC to bring support to the effort. And it worked. Now, after 35 years of service to the National Park Service, Curt announced his retirement. For the past 7 years, his integrity, sincerity and tireless work within the Morongo Basin have been an inspiration to those who've had the good fortune to work with him. His legacy in the Park Service, and for the basin, is filled with cooperative partnerships, preservation of critical lands, regional/community planning, and generous support that reaches well beyond the boundaries of the park. CONGRATULATIONS Curt! Well done!

Jim Ricker, Marlana Brown, Ellen McCully and Bob Johnson at the marine base worked hard to create the five-year partnership between MCAGCC and MDLT and made sure that we made it through the nine levels of approval to ink the deal. Kudos to a great team of people.

Christa Cranston, Marketing Manager, and Leslie Nyquist, Administrative Assistant, coordinated fundraising events, printed materials, mailings and communications too numerous to count. Their work is never easy and always outstanding. We're very lucky to have them on our team.

My sincere thanks to those who gave beyond the call to donate art, photographs, presentations, event facilities, funding and their valuable time. You are the champions of conservation.

Please take a little time to take a hike and enjoy the great outdoors this fall season and give yourself a pat on the back for saving our beautiful natural areas.

All the best,

Nancy Karl Executive Director



## MDLT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MANY OF OUR MEMBERS HAVE ASKED WHERE WE GET THE BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK THAT ADORNS OUR WEBSITE AND OUR PRINTED MATERIALS. THE FOUR TALENTED LAND TRUST MEMBERS CHRONICLED BELOW HAVE EACH BEEN GIVING OF THEIR TALENTS TO THE LAND TRUST OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, EACH SAVING LAND IN THEIR OWN UNIQUE WAYS. WE THANK THEM WHOLEHEARTEDLY FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS AND ARE PROUD TO SPOTLIGHT THEM IN THIS ISSUE.



**Drew Reese** has lived and worked in Joshua Tree for 10 years. His landscape photography adorns our web site, and appears on most of our promotional materials and brochures. As a long time supporter, Drew has always been willing to help the Land Trust by donating his amazing photography for use in any and all of our promotional materials. His keen eye seizes the magic of the desert in its purest state. You can see Drew's love for the land he photographs come through in his remarkable images. [www.drewreese.com](http://www.drewreese.com)

**Diane Best** also lives and works in Joshua Tree. Her panorama paintings appear on our website at the bottom of each page, and in our Land Trust brochure. Diane is a big supporter of land conservation. Her work explores the wide open spaces of the Mojave Desert. You can see in her paintings her love of the desert and its spectacular vistas, places that are so important for the Land Trust to save. Her work captures the majesty of the desertscape in deep and magical ways. [www.dianebest.com](http://www.dianebest.com)



**David McChesney** is also a long time Joshua Tree resident. David photographs the wildlife of the Mojave Desert and around the world in its natural setting. David has donated many of his animal related photos for use on our website, but most of you know him for the fabulous visual presentations, complete with music, that he has done for us at Land Trust gatherings. His moving slideshows of the animals of the Mojave Desert pull at your heart strings. The innocence and serene beauty of the critters, large and small, that he captures in his photographs is truly a sight to behold. [www.outmywindows.com](http://www.outmywindows.com).



Mojave Desert Land Trust would like to extend a *Big Thank You* to **Antje Strom** our graphic and web site designer for pulling it all together. She is the person responsible for the distinct look and feel of our web site, our logo and for all of our promotional materials. Antje, thank you for making us look so good. [www.cyberspike.com](http://www.cyberspike.com)



## MDLT LAND STEWARDSHIP EVENT SCHEDULE SEASON 2010 - 2011

- **November 13th** (Saturday) - Nolina Peak Restoration Project in Joshua Tree
- **December 11th** (Saturday) - Quail Mountain Cleanup and Restoration Project, Joshua Tree
- **January 22nd** (Saturday) - Quail Mountain Restoration Project in Joshua Tree
- **February 26th & 27th** (Saturday & Sunday) - Lanfair Restoration Project in Mojave National Preserve
- **March 26th & 27th** (Saturday & Sunday) - Lanfair Restoration Project in Mojave National Preserve
- **April 23rd** (Saturday) - Quail Mountain Restoration Project in Joshua Tree
- **May 21st** (Saturday) - Quail Mountain Restoration Project in Joshua Tree
- **June 18th** (Saturday) - Land Stewards Appreciation Day

To help protect these and other wild lands, sign up for our land stewardship program.

Contact Mizuki Seita at 760-366-0542 or email [Mizseita@gmail.com](mailto:Mizseita@gmail.com)

### PARTICIPATE!

**Land Acquisition Fund** – MDLT's primary goal is to acquire land with conservation values. When you donate to the land acquisition fund, your donation is combined with other acquisition funds for the sole purpose of buying the sensitive habitats and wildlife corridors in the Mojave Desert. A small percentage (15%) is applied to administrative costs to research, assess and negotiate with landowners to complete the transaction. A donation of \$100 will set aside \$85 for the cost of the land and \$15 for the administrative costs.

**Stewardship** – MDLT is required to monitor the land we acquire, even after it's conveyed to a federal agency for long-term management. This ensures the land will remain untouched in perpetuity. MDLT trains volunteers who enjoy hiking in the desert to monitor our lands. We provide maps, oversight, cameras, GPS units and a monitoring form for land stewards to complete that provides us with information needed to be proper land stewards. Land stewards also learn techniques to restore desert habitat when impacts such as illegal roads need to be reversed. When you donate funds, tools, or your time, you are restoring the desert's natural places.

**Operating** – Your membership dollars enable us to respond to the many concerns facing the ecosystems of the Mojave Desert – climate change, renewable energy installations, and other developments. Working with partners toward mutual conservation goals enables us to extend our work toward greater preservation of desert lands. Staying current with ecological changes and scientific research is key to our ability to fulfill our mission. We strategically and efficiently utilize your donations. Your continued support is needed to maintain this work, locally and throughout the Mojave Desert.

**Membership this holiday season** – A gift membership this holiday season for your friends and family is a great way to save land and let your voice be heard for preservation of our sensitive and beautiful natural areas. Building our membership creates continuity in our work and extends our outreach to those who care about the desert's preservation. MDLT's web site has easy links to give a gift membership. We will send both you and the recipient a letter acknowledging your gift with a large magnet as a thank you.



You were able to hear from our executive director and our president about the closing of the Quail Mountain project, but there are some dedicated employees of the Mojave Desert Land Trust that put their all into this campaign and we thought you would want to hear from them as well...

From Leslie Nyquist, Administrative Assistant:

“When I started working for the Land Trust in late 2008, I felt lucky to have joined such a great organization with a mission that is dear to my heart. But I had no idea how really lucky I was. What a thrill it has been to see this project go from an “if only we could” idea to a full grown campaign and ultimately to success! I’m in awe of the hard work and determination of Nancy Karl, our executive director, and the MDLT staff and board. Most of all, I’m touched by the incredible outpouring of support that has come from our community, our members throughout the nation, our volunteers and land stewards, and all of our partners in this acquisition. Thank you, thank you, thank you!”



From Christa Cranston, Marketing Manager:

“I’m still in awe that we did it! The beauty of this is that WE did it. It really shows what a small and devoted community can accomplish with a big heart. Hearing your words of support, whether you live here or in the surrounding area or in another state/county- it all meant so much. You all gave what you could financially or with your time as a volunteer or land steward, every one of you made a difference. Thank you all for your encouragement through all of this, for the new friendships that were formed and the visions that we all share... it is a lovely reminder as to why I made Joshua Tree home.”



From Mizuki Seita, Land Stewardship Specialist (Shelton Douthit Consulting):

“The acquisition of the 955-acre Quail Mountain Project is exciting news! As the field crew for MDLT, we have had the opportunity to travel to very remote parts of the Mojave National Preserve, Joshua Tree National Park, and several Bureau of Land Management Wilderness areas. While it is great to visit and help protect those special places in the California desert, it is extremely rewarding to help protect valuable land that is literally in our backyard. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Morongo Basin community to experience conservation in action. Your contributions to this process have been invaluable, and now we must shift our energy towards being great stewards to this newly protected land. Please join us on the third Saturday of each month to work on restoration work, trail maintenance, and clean-up efforts with fellow land stewards. We did it! Now our stewardship efforts on the Quail Mountain Project must continue and we need your help. For more information about volunteer opportunities with MDLT please contact Mizuki Seita at 760-366-0542 or email at [Mizseita@gmail.com](mailto:Mizseita@gmail.com).





## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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