



HIGHLANDS *Vision*

A Year of Change, Transition and Growth

Fiscal year 2007-2008 was an extremely important year in the growth and evolution of the Highlands Center for Natural History. It marked the organization's first full year in the new James Learning Center. It saw the departure of long-time and visionary Executive Director Nichole Trushell and the arrival of new Executive Director Dave Irvine from Ohio. It included the expansion of new programs and services and the continuation of a tradition of excellence.

Some of the highlights from the past year include:

- Another great year for the second and fourth grade school field trip program, with 61 classes and nearly 1,600 students attending;
- A full summer camp program—each week filled to capacity—with children romping and discovering our amazing forest;
- The addition of a fall Grow Native Plant Sale and most successful Spring Sale ever! These events continue to educate our community about the benefits of using native plants;
- Expansion of the Schoolyard Habitat Program to two new schools. Territorial Elementary in Chino Valley began its first full year in the program and a successful tax credit campaign raised more than \$23,000 to fund the program at Miller Valley School in Prescott for the 2008-2009 school year;
- The James Learning Center received a Gold rating from the U.S. Green Council LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) program. This is the only such building to achieve this rating in Yavapai County and one of only 12 in the entire State of Arizona;
- Thanks to the generosity of board members and individual donors we were able to “Burn the Note” of debt on the new building. HCNH is debt free!
- The Benson Family Store opened its doors



Photo by The Prescott Daily Courier/Matt Hinshaw
Former Executive Director Nicole Trushell, right, talks with current Executive Director Dave Irvine, left, at the February reception. Board Member Roger Brown, center, looks on.

- bringing a wonderful lineup of nature related products to the community;
- Volunteers committed more than 6,200 hours of service to programs, grounds, store and office. Volunteers continue to be the backbone of this organization;
- A successful launching of the Perennial Partners and Healthy Roots giving program to help sustain the ongoing operations of the Highlands Center;
- A sold-out Taste of Place fundraiser that educated participants about local wines, while raising money to support operations;
- The establishment of a successful Planned Giving Program to ensure the long-term sustainability of HCNH;

- And much more!

This edition of “Visions” will take a look back to celebrate the year that was and look ahead to expanding our efforts “to help children and adults discover the wonder of nature and become better caretakers of the land.” Thank you to everyone who gave of their time, talents and treasures to make this year possible!

Your continued support through memberships, donations and volunteerism will ensure that the Highlands Center for Natural History will touch even more lives in the year ahead helping learners of all ages appreciate, understand and preserve the Central Arizona Highlands.

A Message From the Board President

Greetings Fellow Nature Lovers,

Hard to believe, but we are quickly approaching the end of another year. It's been a busy one for everyone involved with the Highlands Center. The last year or so has definitely been a transitional period and will continue to be so for a while longer. We have now been in the James Learning Center for over a year and collectively we are still figuring out how to use it best.

The year had several highlights. We were able to "burn the note," meaning the James Learning Center is completely paid for! There are so many people who put forth so much effort and capital to make this possible, and I would like to thank you all. We are very fortunate because everyone associated with the Highlands Center is very passionate about our mission and cares very deeply about continuing to teach children and adults about the wonders of nature.

Unless you live in a cave, you know that Nichole Trushell, our former Executive Director, decided to leave the Highlands Center to pursue other interests. This was very tough for many of us. I love Nichole like family and it made me think twice about continuing my involvement, especially as board chair. Nichole took the Highlands Center from infancy to where



it is today, and we all owe her a ton of gratitude for that. She touched so many lives and it took us all by surprise when she decided to step down. Nichole, if you're reading this, I'm sorry to be carrying on like a baby!

I hope you all have had a chance to meet Dave Irvine. He is Nichole's successor. Dave was chosen from a field of more than 20 very qualified applicants and we consider ourselves lucky that he accepted our offer to come to Prescott. He comes

from the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio. He has an energetic and engaging personality. I am fully confident that Dave is the person who is going to help take the Highlands Center to the next level.

We had two successful native plant sales this year and we hope to expand on those next year. We had numerous educational programs on evenings and weekends throughout the year.

And, as always, lots and lots of school children were able to come to the Center and discover the outdoors. Next year, our habitat program will expand to Washington Traditional Elementary.

The Highlands Center has the hardest working and most dedicated staff. I will only tell you that they do it because they believe in the mission of the Highlands Center and not only do they love nature, but also they love sharing it with others.

I would like to thank staff, docents, volunteers, members and donors for all that you do to help make the Highlands Center one of our favorite places. Please continue to believe in what we do and continue to help us in any way you can. We need your continued support. Let's make 2009 better than ever!

Chris Coleman
Board President HCNH

Staff Changes at the Highlands Center

Thank You Cindy

After six faithful years of service, at least three title changes and many, many changes of job duties, Cindy Scott left the staff of the Highlands Center to pursue new challenges. As of September 2008, she and her husband Stephen, purchased an heirloom seed company. Terroir Seeds LLC is the home of Underwood Gardens and Grandma's Garden Catalog.

Currently, Cindy runs this Internet and catalog-based business from her property in Chino Valley. She grows some of her seed selection in her greenhouse and works with growers all over the country. For more information, visit www.underwoodgardens.com.

"My six years at the Center was an amazing journey of growth both for the Center and for myself," Cindy said. "I would like to thank the wonderful staff and volunteers who I had the great pleasure of

working with over the years. They provided me a great learning experience and prepared me for owning my own business. I wish the best for the Center as it continues its important mission into the future."

Cindy will be remembered as a hard worker who wore so many different hats and filled so many roles as this organization went through an incredible growth spurt. She handled each new role and assignment with grace, competence and a smile—including her excellent work with the Grow Native! Plant Sales. We greatly appreciate all that she has given and wish her and Stephen the best in their new endeavor.

Welcome Sue

In September we also welcomed the arrival of Sue Craycraft to our staff as our new Director of Membership and Operations. Sue just recently relocated to the Dewey area from the Valley. Sue

comes to us with great experience from the Nature Conservancy of Arizona, where she held multiple positions including Office Operations Manager, Volunteer Manager and Administrative Coordinator of the Hassayampa River Preserve. She also has experience in real estate, retail and interior design. In this new role, she will oversee office volunteers, nature store management and membership recruitment and management. She will also assist with fundraising and development.

"I am really excited about being here because of the Center's mission to educate children and share the wonders of nature with them," Sue said. "I look forward to working with all members, volunteers and financial contributors who make this such a special and unique place. I feel like I have come home!"

We are excited to have Sue as part of the Highlands Center team!

Inspiring Young Nature Writers



By Joan Dukes, Highlands Center Docent, and Local Fourth Graders

It's a gorgeous autumn day in Prescott. The aspen leaves along the entrance to the Highlands Center are shimmering in the sun like thousands of gold coins.

On my last teaching day of this season, I get to work with the fourth graders from Primavera School. In the morning, I take a small group to journal under a giant, old alligator juniper matriarch. I am deeply touched by all the yummy words one young lady named Caroline discovers to describe the ecosystem she is observing.

Forest—Beautiful. Looks like a good year for water.

Bird—Couldn't see it, but loud, raspy call.

Grass—Tall, yellow, dry swishing in the wind.

Juniper—Tall, old, many branches covered with lichen.

Bee—Going from flower to flower. Buzzing.

Squirrel—Going round and round slowly up the tree.

Breeze—Swishing in my hair.

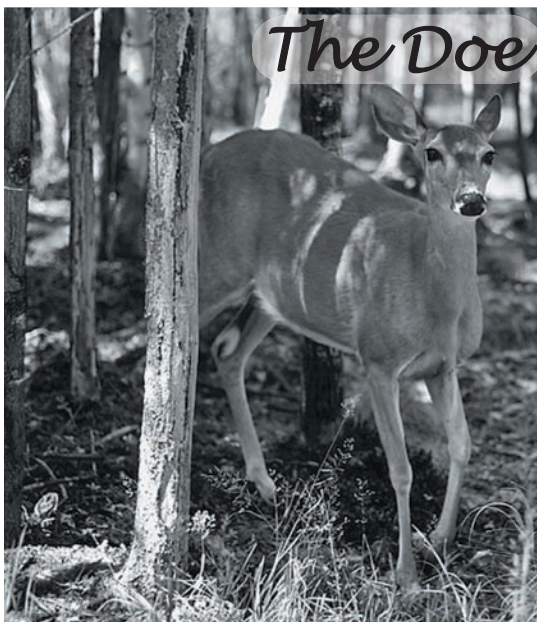
Later that day, Caroline's mother, Allison confided to me, "This is the best field trip I've been on and I've been on a lot."

On another day, Fiona's fabulous group—all the way from Bagdad Elementary School—wrote the beautiful poem at left together.

These are the experiences that create lasting memories and meaningful relationships with the natural world for both students and docents alike. Because of your support, these are experiences that the Highlands Center provides to the youth of Yavapai County.

Above, A fourth-grade nature writer composes a poem while observing the natural world during a school field trip to the Highlands Center.

Photo by Fiona Reid



The Doe

Seven girls and two boys hiking along the loop trail in the wilderness.

Someone saw something move! Who goes there? She glanced our way and wondered, "Can I escape if I need to?"

Her camouflaged color of brown and grey like soil. Her delicate legs held tension.

Ears—not too big, not too small—twitched to catch our sound.

And then she was gone. Vanished.

*Melted
Into the deep, quiet, peaceful forest.*

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You Highlands Center for Natural History Supporters

Donor Recognition 07/08
Gifts received from 7/1/07 to 6/30/08

The program of the Highlands Center for Natural History would not be possible without the generous support of so many. Your gifts keep the dream of providing children and adults with quality hands-on science activities focused on this unique biological place—the Central Arizona Highlands—alive and growing. These gifts also help to maintain our innovative building and the beautiful campus and trail system that so many enjoy. We recognize all the following:

Perennial Partners

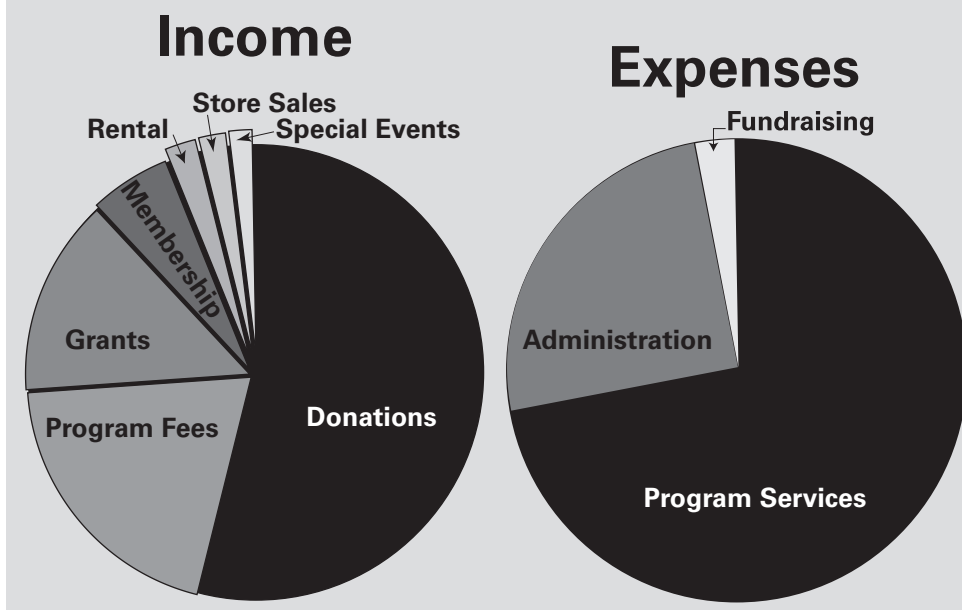
Perennial Partners support the mission of HCNH by making a three-year pledge of at least \$500 per year to the general operating fund. The support and growth of this group is essential to building a sustainable financial future for the Center.

Anonymous (4)
William and Sharon Arnold
Tom and Lois Benson
Roger and Jan Brown
Joan Dukes
Kristi and Dale Edwards
Fred & Bonnie Forte
Cindy Foss
Joel and Debra Hiller
Dave Irvine and Mary Claire Oberst
Donald and Elaine Jordan
Joan Klein
Charles and Karma LeRoy
William and Jane Kowalewski
Albert and Eunice Lovejoy
Jodi Padgett
Sharon and Dan Petz
Sandra Pickens
Dr. Steve and Janeth Dow
Beryl Rae
Faith Roelofs and Charles Dann
Don and Annette Schiller
Raymond Sigafos
Steven Walker and Denise Brussard-Walker
Everett and Lenora Warnock
Daniel Wasserman and Carol Russell

Other Donations Over \$500

Anonymous (2)
Joanne Ericsson
Nancy and David Maurer
James and Harriet Neal
Prescott Sunup Rotary Foundation

What comes in and where it goes



Unity Church of Prescott
Benjamin and Danielle Tuttle

Healthy Roots Members

Healthy Roots members make a monthly donation of at least \$10 per month that is withdrawn directly from a checking account or charged to a credit card. Healthy Roots members help to provide a consistent flow of income to sustain our operations.

Charles Ables
Bill Banit
Janet and Daniel Cassetta
Frances Christian
John and Nancy Clark
Christy and Chick Hastings
Anthony and Mary Krzysik
Ellen Lillquist
Georgene Lockwood
Alice Maish Long
Drs. Dan and Nita Morris
Patti Olson
Jodi Padgett
William and Joan Preston
Pamela and Richard Tetreault
Nichole Trushell
Mary Trevor and Toni Kaus
Carol and Ed Wright

Grants & Foundations

Anonymous (1)
Arizona Community Foundation

Coca Cola Foundation
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation
Salt River Project
United Way of Yavapai County
Yavapai County Forest Project Funding
Yavapai Country Community Foundation

Burn The Note Capital Campaign

Anonymous (1)
Dan and Sally Campbell
Tony and Carolyn Cardoni
John and Nancy Clark
Joan Dukes
Kristi Edwards
James and Anita Fleming
Harold James Family Trust
James and Helen Kipp
Drs. Dan and Nita Morris
James and Harriet Neal
Karen O'Neil
Jodi Padgett
Daniel and Sharon Petz
Don and Annette Schiller
Sir Speedy

Endowment Contributions

Anonymous (1)
In Honor of Nichole Trushell
Richard and Sandra Cummings
Henry and Linda Dahlberg

See Thank You, page 5

Your \$200 Tax Credit Donation: Priceless

By Lisa Packard

What can you buy in education for \$200? A handful of textbooks? A bulletin board? A desk?

The \$200 (or \$400 per couple) tax credit contributions our members gave to Miller Valley School last year collectively bought an outstanding outdoor learning experience for every student in the school. The \$200 donations from more than 80 Highlands Center members bought:

- professional development training for teachers in hands-on science instruction;
- leadership for creating a native plant garden in what was once a dusty parking lot;
- 18 hours of outdoor science instruction for every student;
- A 200-page curriculum tailored to Miller Valley's campus that will carry the program well into the future.

Moreover, each \$200 tax credit contribution attracted the enthusiasm and support of parents and community members. The dollars grew exponentially. The principal sought a \$500 grant to purchase native plants. The PTO donated nearly \$2,000 for garden tools, drip irrigation and other landscape materials. The Alta Vista

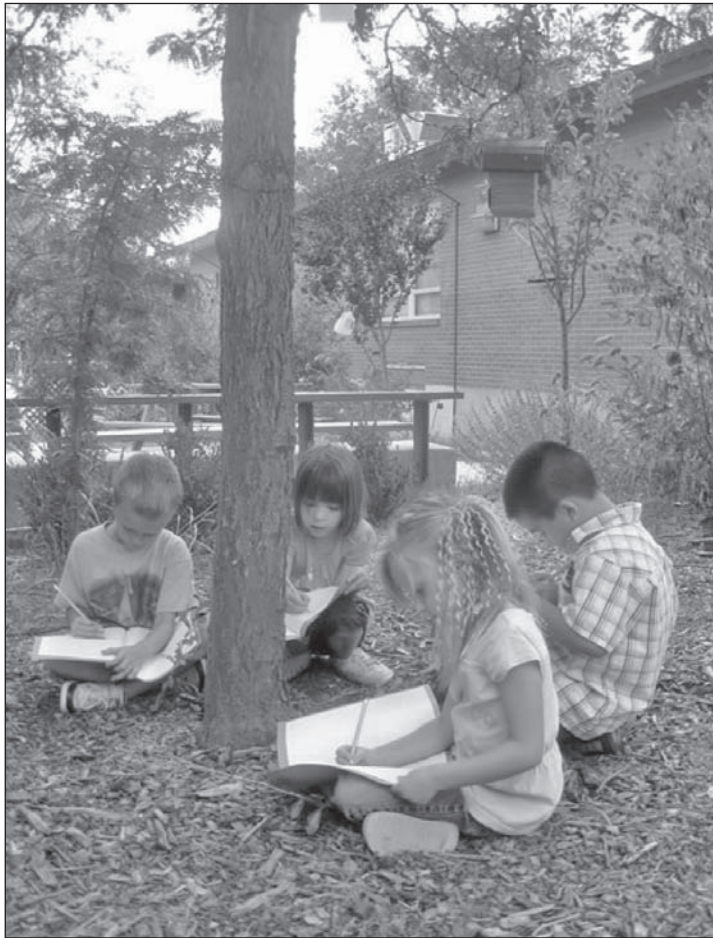


Photo by Larry Frolich

Students at Miller Valley Elementary School in Prescott participate in Habitat Class that is made possible by 2007 tax credit donations from friends of the Highlands Center.

Garden Club is paying for materials to build student benches, which will be built by Prescott High School carpentry students.

A parent is currently seeking additional grant funding to improve the garden spaces. Prescott Alternative Transportation's Safe Routes to Schools Program is seeking funding to paint a "Green School" mural.

Enthusiasm and funding grow. One year ago, just a few Miller Valley teachers were using a struggling garden space for classroom instruction. Now, under the Highlands Center's direction, an entire staff of 16 teachers is using a revitalized and expanded garden space. Check out the school's Web site (www.prescott.k12.az.us/mv) to view the impact the Habitat Program has made for Miller Valley, the lowest-income school in Prescott.

This holiday season, as you compare prices, consider how far a \$200 tax credit contribution would go at Washington Traditional School, our next Habitat Program site. If you would like to contribute, call the Highland's Center office by the end of the calendar year to inquire how.

The cost of six science textbooks? \$200. The cost of a 3' x 6' bulletin board for a classroom?

\$200. The wonder on a second grader's face when she discovers a praying mantis egg case? Priceless.

Thank you *continued from page 4*

Joan Dukes
Eileen Ferguson
Haley Construction
Dave Irvine and Mary Claire Oberst
Tony and Mary Krzysik
Albert and Eunice Lovejoy

Gary and Kim Kelley
Wallace Naegele
Sylvia Neely
Ron Thomas
Dave and Alisa Wheeler

Suzanna McDougal

Thank you to the 600 individual, family and donor members that space limitations make it impossible to recognize by name!

Thank you to all who contributed to the Miller Valley Tax Credit Campaign that raised more than \$23,000 to support our habitat garden program!

Thank you to all those who use the Safeway E-scrip program on behalf of HCNH. Your support help raise more than \$5,400 last year!

Thank you the to HCNH volunteers who contributed more than 6,200 hours of service, which—at the Arizona hourly value for volunteers of \$18.17 per hour—equates to almost \$114,000 worth of donated time!

Juniper Fund

The Juniper Fund provides scholarships to needy children to attend programs at the Center.

James and Anita Fleming
In Memory of Gen Mitchell
Barb Collins
Joan Dukes
Christy and Chick Hastings
William Healey

Memorial Bench

In memory of Karen Borthwick
Daughter/Mother Book Club of Prescott

In-Kind

Ann Haver-Allen
Dick Cummings (library resources)
Ecological by Design
Integrity Business Solutions
Tony and Mary Krzysik (library resources)
Sand Creek Images LLC

Betty Griggs Creates Charitable Gift Annuity

“Highlands Center for Natural History is very important,” said Betty Griggs. “It is vital to get kids out, and that is one of the reasons I love the Center.”

When Betty was in fourth grade, she moved with her parents to a farmhouse in Vermont, where she grew up close to nature. “There were lots of woods and wildlife like deer and birds—it was a kid’s heaven,” she said. “Children need a connection with nature, to enjoy this gorgeous world filled with beautiful things.”

In consultation with her financial advisor and active HCNH board member Jodi Padgett, CFP, Betty established a charitable gift annuity in June through the Arizona/Yavapai County Community Foundation. She named the Highlands Center for Natural History as the beneficiary.

A gift annuity creates a fixed, permanent stream of income for the donor and a beneficiary based on a standard rate agreed to at the beginning of the contract.

The standard rate is based on the age of the income recipients and is generally derived from a table published by the American Council of Gift Annuities. Betty, who is in her 70s, received a 7.8 percent payout rate.

“In these trying times, it is wonderful to have a solid investment return,” according to Betty. “The charitable deduction was also a terrific thing to have.”

Tax benefits generated by the gift annuity may include an income tax deduction, avoidance of capital gain tax on the sale of an appreciated asset and reduction of estate taxes.

Income from the gift annuity is taxable, but a portion of the income may be income tax free (varies by asset).

The gift annuity is not a trust, but



Photo by Traci Corey

Betty Griggs, pictured above, is the Highlands Center’s newest Legacy Circle member.

a contract between the donor and the nonprofit organization. At the death of the income recipients, the amount remaining from the gift annuity will be used to strengthen the nonprofit’s programs or endowment.

Charitable gift annuities are easy to establish, requiring a gift of only \$25,000, and are administered through the Arizona/

Yavapai Community Foundation for the enduring benefit of Highlands Center for Natural History. What a great way to support the Center beyond a lifetime!

Please contact Executive Director Dave Irvine or Board Members Jodi Padgett or Kristi Edwards to learn more about supporting the Center through gift planning.

Congress Extends Charitable Planning Opportunity

The Highlands Center for Natural History can help turn your individual retirement accounts (IRAs) into tax-saving charitable gifts.

Temporary tax benefits now allow American seniors to make the gift of a lifetime by giving all or a portion of their IRA to charities like HCNH without paying federal income taxes. Here’s how:

If you are age 70½ or older, you can give up to \$100,000 in 2008 and an additional \$100,000 in 2009 from your IRA. Your

spouse can give an equal amount from his or her IRA.

The charitable gift of IRA assets may satisfy your minimum annual distribution requirement.

You must direct your IRA custodian to transfer the funds directly to HCNH for you to enjoy this special tax treatment.

This opportunity is ideal for donors who do not itemize deductions on their income tax return, and for whom deductions phase out due to income limitations.

When passed to your heirs, IRA assets are subject to taxes reaching as high as 80 percent. Gifting those assets to charity saves your family this significant tax burden and leaves a personal legacy of caring for your community.

To learn more about this limited-time opportunity or the many other ways HCNH can help you, please contact Executive Director Dave Irvine by phone at (928) 776-9550, or fax at (928) 776-9630 or e-mail to dirvine@highlandscenter.org.

Volunteer **FOCUS**

For the past two years, Ann Haver-Allen has provided pro bono editing and graphic services to the Highlands Center for Natural History designing all our publications, brochures and newsletters. Last year, Ann contributed hundreds of hours of service to the Center.

Her excellent work on our behalf has recently been recognized by her professional peers. She received two awards of excellence in the 2008 American Graphic Design competition. One award recognizes the Parties With A Purpose poster promoting the June 20, 2008, Taste of Place fundraiser.

The second award recognizes the Gardening for Butterflies, Bees, Birds and You pamphlet, which is available for purchase in the Benson Family Nature Store.

"We are so blessed to have such a talented volunteer like Ann to design so many of our publications," states Dave Irvine, Executive Director of Highlands Center. "Her expertise has helped our publications to meet a high standard of excellence that the public expects today and these awards affirm the talent that we benefit from on a regular basis."

The American Graphic Design awards

Gardening for Butterflies, Bees, Birds, and You
By Faith Reelofs, 2007

Your Special Spot
Pick a spot that you would love to spend quiet time in. Build around your existing mature trees and shrubs that will provide shelter and resting places for butterflies and a nook with shade for you.
Add the landscape features you enjoy, such as fencing to frame the garden or provide support for climbing plants, sunny rocks for butterflies and birds to rest on, a bench for you and a friend, and of course, a source of water for the plants, birds and insects.
Remember to add a shallow, gravel-filled puddle for the butterflies.

Pick Your Plants
Although butterflies are attracted to masses of white, pink, purple and yellow flowers. They are not too fussy about nectar sources, but they do need landing platforms.
Moths usually fly at night and are attracted to white flowers and sweet fragrances.
Hummingbirds are especially attracted to orange-, red- and blue-flowering plants.
Butterflies, moths and hummingbirds can reach nectar in deep flower tubes so choose some plants especially for them.
Select plants of varying height and blooming periods to supply accessible nectar throughout the growing season.
Remember to add your favorite color or something from your childhood.

honor outstanding new work of all kinds across all media: print and collateral, advertising and sales promotion, packaging and point-of-purchase, Internet and interactive design, broadcast and motion graphics, corporate identity and logos.

Since 1963 Graphic Design USA, sponsor of the American Graphic Design Awards, has been the news magazine

A Taste of Place
Friday, June 20, 6 p.m.

Join Eric Glomski, local winemaker and ecologist from Page Springs Cellars, for an evening of great wine tasting and flours d'oeuvres. Eric will treat us to his own handcrafted wines and explain how the *terroir*—a French term referring to the particular character of a given vineyard, or even a small part of that vineyard—is expressed in the wine. Loosely translated, *terroir* expresses "a sense of place," the embodiment of certain qualities and special characteristics that the geography bestows upon the very essence of the wine. At its core is the assumption that the land from which the grapes are grown imparts a unique quality that is specific to that place.

\$50 per person or \$90 per couple
SPACE IS LIMITED
Call
(928) 776-9550
for tickets to this Highlands Center fundraiser

Highlands Center for Natural History WITH A PURPOSE

for graphic designers and other creative professionals.

Haver-Allen is founder of Prescott-based AHA Creative Ink, which provides writing, editing and design services. She is also editor and publisher of *Earth Odyssey*, an educational guide to sustainability and spiritual well-being.

We congratulate Ann on this recognition and gratefully thank her for her many hours of service on behalf of the Highlands Center.

Yes I can help!

_____ Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of \$ _____ to help children and adults discover the wonders of nature and become wise caretakers of the land.

Please send me additional information on:

- _____ Becoming a Perennial Partner
- _____ Joining the Healthy Roots Program
- _____ Making an Arizona Tax credit donation for a Habitat program at Washington Traditional School
- _____ Converting an IRA or stock gift into a tax deductible donation
- _____ Including the Highlands Center as beneficiary of a charitable gift annuity or in my estate plan

Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Return to: Highlands Center for Natural History, 1375 S. Walker Road, Prescott, Arizona 86303

Thank You for your continued support!!!

Benson Family Nature Store



Gifts for your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews!

Be sure to visit the Benson Family Nature Store at the Highlands Center for Natural History for nature-related holiday gift items and gift baskets for all ages. The Nature Store has inspiring educational toys, books and unique natural history related items, as well as NEW t-shirt designs, long sleeved shirts, outerwear and hiking items.

While you shop for family and friends, consider a purchase for a disadvantaged child. Bring your donation of canned goods for the Yavapai Food Bank through Dec. 20.

The Benson Family Nature Store is located at the Highlands Center, 1375 Walker Road, Prescott. (928) 776-9550



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Highlands Center for Natural History

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Highlands Vision is published three times a year by the Highlands Center for Natural History.

Mission Statement

The Highlands Center for Natural History helps children and adults discover the wonders of nature and become wise caretakers of the land. We believe that everyone has a fundamental need to connect with the natural world. This connection is fostered by the Center through outdoor science education based on observation and discovery of the Central Arizona Highlands.



ANN HAVER-ALLEN, *Vision* designer

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