

Transition Habitat Conservancy Board of Directors  
November 2008

Bob Plank

Bob Plank was born in Santa Monica, California in 1928. He holds Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in English from Whittier College and the University of Connecticut, respectively, and a Juris Doctor degree from the Valley University School of Law. He worked as Program Manager for Lockheed Advanced Development Projects in Burbank for 34 years. After early retirement he practiced law for 13 years as *Of Counsel* in the Los Angeles offices of McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP where he represented major aerospace companies in contract disputes. Since retirement from McKenna, he confines his practice, *pro bono*, to the general counseling of selected IRS Section 501 (c) (3) scientific, educational, and environmental public benefit organizations and foundations. Bob was the Incorporator for the Transition Habitat Conservancy, assisted with the state and federal tax exempt status approval process, and continues to serve as a volunteer director. He remains an active member of The State Bar of California.

Tara Matthews

Tara was born and raised in Northern Oregon until the age of 13, when she came to the High Desert of California. A strong love of the outdoors was fostered in the Northwest, living in a cabin outside of Bend, Oregon. She still remembers the quiet days collecting deer antlers in her backyard, miles from any neighbors. After spending four years at New Mexico Military Institute and graduating high school, she decided against the Air Force Academy and instead studied Foreign Relations and Ecology in Norway and at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, Great Britain. Eventually, Tara transferred to the University of California at Santa Barbara and graduated from the Environmental Studies Program, concurrently completing the premed prerequisites for medical school. During her last year, she began her Masters of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine and graduated in 2004, took her State Boards in 2005, and opened practice the same year. In addition, Tara and her husband operate a small health food store in their local community and have one son. An organic living fanatic, and hybrid vehicle owner, her family is now looking into converting their home to solar energy. Tara is a member of Green Peace, the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Doctors without Borders, and is active in the formation of the Phelan/Pinon Hills Plan.

### Bertrand Bays

Bertrand Bays was born in Switzerland in 1942. Bert holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland. He worked as Product and Business Manager for DuPont for 8 years. Bert and his spouse now own and operate a successful language services business since 1989. He has climbed mountains all over Europe and visited many countries. Bert lived 5 years in Colombia, South America, where he camped often in very remote places. He always loved the wilderness and liked to photograph wildlife and the magnificent landscapes in Europe, South America, and the US (including Alaska and Hawaii). Bert is a member of many organizations, including the Sierra Club, Land Trust Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, Greenpeace, Defenders of Wildlife, Mojave Desert Land Trust and others. Bert has worked as a volunteer for the Transition Habitat Conservancy since its foundation, joins THC now as a director.

### Roberta Dewey

Roberta was born in Colton CA in 1930 and was raised in Arcadia, CA. She attended U. C. Davis and studied Animal Husbandry and graduated under the two year curriculum.

She and her husband Jack have three sons and eight grand children. Roberta and Jack lived in Cedar Pines Park, CA, for thirty seven years and moved to their current home in Pinon Hills in 1989. Roberta was an active mom participating in PTA during the boys school years, and was awarded the PTA Honorary Service Award. She was active as a church school teacher and church officer, and a 4-H leader. She worked for Rim of the World school district as an instructional aide for twenty years. After moving to Pinon Hills, she became a member of the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Volunteer Equestrian Patrol, served for ten years and is now retired from the patrol. Roberta has a great love of the mountains and deserts of southern California and a special fondness of the desert tortoise. She participated in the current San Bernardino County Phelan / Pinon Hills Community plan update. She is a member of the Pacific Crest Trail Association, the Back Country Horsemen of California, Rails to Trails, and the Horned Lizard Conservation Society. She is one of the founding members of the Transition Habitat Conservancy and serves as a volunteer on the board of directors.

## Jill Bays

Jill Bays was born in Glendale, California, in 1957, and has lived in the high desert of San Bernardino County since 1989. Jill holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Relations and Organizational Behavior from the University of San Francisco. She worked as an International Product Marketing Manager for DuPont for 15 years in the Electronic Materials Division. . She and her husband now own and operate a successful language services business that they started in 1989. Jill has always had a strong passion for conservation and especially wildlife conservation. She has studied desert reptiles for many years. She has photographed wildlife in the backcountry here in the lower 48 as well as and in Alaska. She participated in the San Bernardino County General Plan Update as member of the Phelan/Pinon Hills Community Plan. Because of her passion to preserve some of the scenic beauty and important wildlife habitat here in her community she and 4 others founded the Transition Habitat Conservancy which was incorporated in May 2005 and received 501 (c) (3) letter of determination in July of 2006. Jill serves as a volunteer director and volunteer officer.

## Carol Hill

Carol was born in Long Beach California in 1961 and spent most of her childhood in Orange County CA., where in those early years of Orange County there were a lot of orange groves and strawberry fields and much less traffic. As Orange County became more crowded Carol and her family moved to Lake Arrowhead CA. which is a mountain community located in San Bernardino, there she spent summers enjoying the beautiful lake surrounded by a pine tree forest and winters snow skiing at the local resorts. In 1983 Carol and Scott Hill married and moved to San Bernardino where she practiced cosmetology for 14 years. As her family grew Carol and Scott started looking for a place to raise their family. A place with plenty of room for recreation and open space. Carol and Scott moved to the High Desert in 1997 and have enjoyed teaching their children the beauty and importance of wildlife and nature on their many hikes through the desert. Carol was very involved raising two children she was a PTA member, a brownie leader, a girl scout leader, den Mother for the boy Scouts, Sunday school teacher, and team mom many times. While being a busy mom Carol also worked part time for Bert and Jill Bays.