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2010

Annual Report



The mission of the Texas Agricultural Land Trust is to help Texans conserve their agricultural lands, wildlife habitats, and/or natural resources, and to enhance and sustain the long-term stewardship of private lands for the benefit of all Texans.

CREATED FOR LANDOWNERS BY LANDOWNERS

December 20, 2010

Dear TALT Supporter:

2010 has been an exciting and productive year for the Texas Agricultural Land Trust as plans to expand our organization have taken root. In addition to hiring our first full-time staff, we were able to implement our Outreach and Development Program, which is designed to establish long-term fiscal sustainability while communicating the need to conserve Texas' rural lands and vital natural resources.

Mindful of the current economic climate, the TALT Board has been conservative in its approach to adding staff. Funding commitments totaling \$1.5 million allowed TALT to build organizational capacity in 2010. Having served as part-time executive director for the past three years, Blair Fitzsimons became TALT's first full-time employee in October. She was soon followed by Jenna Osborn, who serves as Development and Communications Manager. Additionally, TALT will hire a Director of Land Stewardship in early 2011. With full-time staff in place, TALT is focused on establishing a strong foundation, with the implementation of best practices for fiscal management and transacting conservation easements.

In 2010, TALT held two seminars in San Antonio and Fort Worth, featuring Steve Small, the country's leading authority on conservation easements. The popularity of these events, both of which sold out with waiting lists, demonstrated the unease over estate taxes among landowners. As we plan additional workshops in 2011, we will endeavor to meet the needs of Texas landowners as they wrestle with strategies to conserve their land and pass it on to future generations.

Perhaps most important of all our accomplishments, over the past three years TALT has had the privilege to partner with dedicated landowners to conserve almost 100,000 acres of agricultural lands, thus making TALT one of the largest land trusts in Texas. Achieved in such a short time, these easements range from the Panhandle to the Trans Pecos to South Texas, and permanently protect some of Texas' most valuable agricultural lands and wildlife habitats for future generations to enjoy.

We are proud of our progress in 2010 and since our founding. All Texans – rural and urban— are impacted by the loss of rural land to development and fragmentation, a loss that threatens sources of food and drinking water, scenic open spaces, and the privately-managed natural habitat upon which a vibrant wildlife-recreation industry depends. As we move into 2011, TALT will strive to ensure that farmers, ranchers, and landowners have the knowledge and tools to help them protect and conserve these important rural lands and pass them down to future generations.

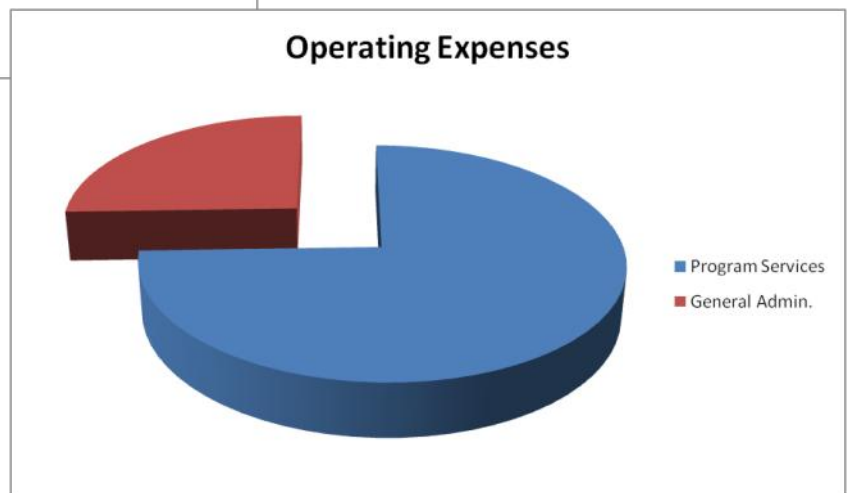
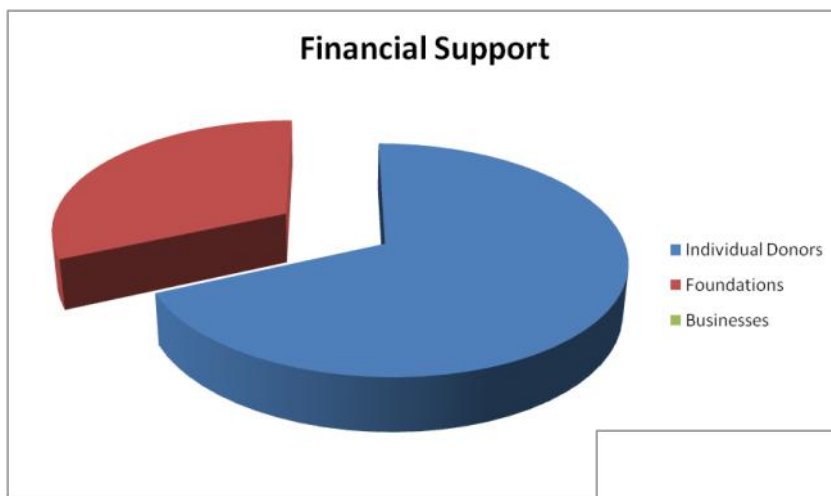
The success TALT has enjoyed to date would not be possible without your interest and involvement. With your support, we will have the capacity and tools to move forward in our efforts to encourage the conservation of agricultural lands and to provide information to interested and willing landowners about agricultural easements.

Thank you again, and we look forward to a productive 2011.

Blair C. Fitzsimons
Executive Director

Financial Overview

The Texas Agricultural Land Trust takes pride in our fiscal responsibility and conservative approach to building an organization. To date we've accepted conservation easements on 98,618 acres of agricultural lands. According to TALT's audited financial statement, as of December 31, 2009, total net assets were \$590,051. Total support and revenue equaled \$287,737, while expenses totaled \$202,086. In 2010, TALT initiated a five-year fundraising campaign to build capacity and operational sustainability. To date, TALT has raised \$1,708,767 in pledges towards its 5-year goal of \$2,710,000.





Protect, Conserve, Pass On

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Executive Director

Photos right: Steve Small presenting in San Antonio and posing with TALT Executive Director, Blair Fitzsimons

All agricultural photos © David Langford

Saving Family
Lands
Seminars
with
Steve Small



With the help of our generous supporters, we launched our 2010 Outreach Campaign with the Ft. Worth and San Antonio “Saving Family Lands Seminars” with tax expert Steve Small.

Stephen J. Small is the nation’s leading authority on private land protection options and the resulting federal benefits and estate planning advantages.

Mr. Small helped to write and implement the federal tax code sections that address conservation easements and how they may reduce federal tax burdens. Today he assists landowners and their advisors with ways to protect valued family lands, including preparing for the next generation of ownership.

Both events sold out, with a total of 180 people in attendance!

