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THE CREEKSIDE ALMANAC

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Understanding Your Creeks

by: Ann-Marie Benz



In an effort to gain a better understanding of the waterways in the Upper Granite Creek Watershed, Prescott Creeks has joined together with local, county, state and national entities to form the Upper Granite

Creek Watershed Improvement Council (WIC). Funding for the project is from ADEQ's grant program, which administers funds from the US Environmental Protection Agency for water quality improvement projects. Funds will be used for both planning and initial on-the-ground project that will be identified through the planning process.

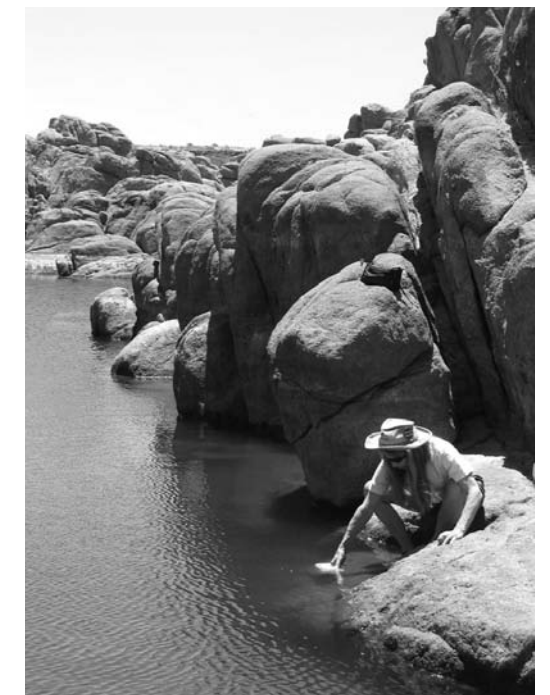
Creek Watershed Improvement Council (WIC).

Current WIC members include Yavapai County, City of Prescott, Prescott National Forest, the Arizona Department of Transportation and Prescott Creeks. Members representing additional stakeholder groups (including the educational and business communities, as well as citizens, property owners, and interested community members) are being sought.

With nearly \$300,000 in grant funding from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), this group will develop a Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP). Watershed planning is a new approach to protecting water quality that focuses on the whole watershed.

The planning process will include sharing information, physically surveying the waterways and surveying public opinion about the watershed, reviewing potential problem areas and developing possible solutions. This project is targeted at specific pollutants causing impairments within our watershed and at identifying projects to reduce pollutant loads from nonpoint sources. A plan will include all research and provide a strategy for achieving improved water quality in our creeks and lakes so that they meet or exceed the minimum standards.

After the plan provides the information needed to identify and prioritize water quality improvement projects critical to restoring water quality, an on-the ground project will be selected.



Doris Cellarius, Prescott Creeks Board Chair, collects a water quality sample at Watson Lake. Photo by Ann-Marie Benz.

There are many opportunities for community members to be involved in the planning process and the following project by working with the WIC, on the physical survey of the watershed, and with planning and implement the on-the-ground project.

If you would like to be involved with the planning process, please contact Ann-Marie Benz at (928) 445-5669 or AMBenz@PrescottCreeks.org

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Why Our Members
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Prescott Creeks
Members

Prescott Creeks

Board of Directors

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Karen O'Neil, Director

Joel Hiller, Director

Russell Fosha, Director

Jeff Low, Director

Betty Siegfried, Director Emerita

Staff

Michael Byrd, Executive Director,
Preserve Manager

Ann-Marie Benz, Watershed Program Coordinator

Interns

Renee Hoover, Outreach Coordination,
VISTA Member

Ian Thompson, IT Specialist

Amylee Thornhill, Outreach Assistant

Nathaniel Hoag, Website Manager, VISTA Member

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Community & Partners Have Lasting Impact

by: Renee Hoover

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve began 15 years ago with a vision of protecting and restoring a dwindling riparian forest. As managers of the preserve, Prescott Creeks has worked to enhance this “creekside” forests for current and future generations.

living environments. Community education and involvement are foundational components to the project success. For further information about the project or if you are interested in volunteering please contact Prescott Creeks by phone at (928) 445-5669 or by email at Volunteers@PrescottCreeks.org.



American Conservation Experience volunteers install “coir logs” as bank protection on a newly constructed Granite Creek channel. Photo by Prescott Creeks

Prescott Creeks has participated in many projects to accomplish these goals. The latest, and by far the largest, has been the Watson Woods Restoration Project. This five year project began in the winter of 2008 with the help of our many partners, volunteers and community supporters.

Since the project broke ground seven months ago, over 6,350 hours worth of service has been donated by volunteers. Volunteer support came from individuals and organizations within our local watershed and from around the world. The tasks these volunteers engaged in included the collection and planting of nearly 15,000 riparian tree and shrubs, spreading over 20 acres worth of native grass seed, and stabilization of 2,700 feet of the creek bank that was reconstructed as part of the restoration activities.

Almost \$1.5 million dollars in funding was provided by Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission, the City of Prescott and private donations. Natural Channel Design, Inc. based in Flagstaff, AZ and Prescott’s own Fann Environmental brought technical expertise to the project.

The Watson Woods Riparian Preserve Restoration Project is a habitat restoration and water quality improvement project. The goals of the project are to restore a more natural flow pattern for Granite Creek as it travels through the Preserve, reestablish existing habitats, create additional habitat and to monitor the effect these changes have on the living and non-



Heavy equipment operated by Fann Contracting excavating new Granite Creek channels during March 2009. Photo by Michael Byrd.

Volunteer Spotlight: Carol Carriere

After moving in the fall of 2007, Carol Carriere jumped head first into volunteering in her new community of Prescott, Arizona. By the end of 2007, Carol was well known by Prescott Creeks as a volunteer who wanted to help in whatever way she could. Her hard work and dedication to each task presented proved itself to be vital to the Prescott Creeks field activities and the behind the scenes work in the office to support them.

Carol has contributed an estimated 300 hours of volunteer service with Prescott Creeks. When asked what has motivated her to continue volunteering she replied, "Mainly I come back because I believe in the work that Prescott Creeks is doing. They are a valuable and vital resource for the Prescott community. Plus Prescott Creeks is a great group to volunteer for. They are lots of fun to work with and they really appreciate the volunteers."



Carol Carriere at Watson Woods Preserve trimming willow cuttings to be planted along Granite Creek. Photo by: Michael Byrd

Call for Directors



Prescott Creeks is seeking committed and energetic individuals to serve on its Board of Directors for two-year terms. Service on the Prescott Creeks Board is an excellent opportunity to contribute your skills,

share your vision with a dynamic group and contribute to positive community change.

The Prescott Creeks Directors are responsible for ensuring fiscally sound programs and operations for the organization by working with the staff and volunteers to provide leadership, advice, and direction

If you'd like to find out more, please contact us and we'll share more information about the important role Directors play in the protection, restoration and celebration of our creeks. (928) 445-5669 or Info@PrescottCreeks.org



Get to Know the Upper Granite Creek Watershed

- A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place. (Source: US EPA)
- The Granite Creeks Watershed is a headwater to the Verde River
- Encompasses approximately 36,000 acres, or 56.25 square miles
- Ranges from 5,000 feet to 7,110 feet in elevation
- Includes nine named creeks that are 60 linear miles (Aspen, Banning, Butte, Granite, Manzanita, Miller, North Fork of Granite, Spence, and Willow)
- And four lakes
 - o Watson Lake: 70 acres surface area, 3,700 acre feet capacity.
 - o Willow Lake has a surface area of 489 acres and holds 3,600 acre feet.
 - o Upper and Lower Goldwater Lakes. The Upper Lake is approximately 15 acres.
- Two water bodies are listed as "impaired" by the EPA. Granite Creek is listed for low dissolved oxygen. Watson Lake is listed for low dissolved oxygen, high pH, and high nutrients. An "impaired" designation means that the water-body is not meeting its minimum water quality level.

See Understanding Your Creeks for more information on upcoming water quality projects.

From the Executive Director



As this issue of *The Creekside Almanac* goes to press, the summer rains are showing promise. Not only does the rain bring us all relief from the near 100°F temperatures, it also makes

our creeks flow again. Granite Creek has flowed twice in as many days. Flows in the creek fill our lakes – locally prized for their scenic beauty and recreational opportunities.

Reading this issue you will learn how caring for our creeks is bringing the community together. Prescott Creeks has been hard at work preparing project plans, securing funding and then physically doing the work out in the field. I believe all of these efforts are an important addition to the unparalleled quality of life we all enjoy here in the Upper Granite Creek Watershed. We are all passionate about protecting it.

Almost two decades of leadership by Prescott Creeks led the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission to invest a combined \$2 million into efforts to improve creekside habitats, educate citizens and develop long-term plans for sustainable water quality. The restoration of Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and our new project to plan for watershed improvements featured here are two significant examples of the progress Prescott Creeks is making for the area.

None of this would have been possible without the direct support of our community. During the past year, we've seen volunteer participation in projects and events at levels beyond compare. Read on and you will 'meet' some of the people making it happen. If, as you read their stories, you find yourself inspired to get involved, or to become *more involved*, please contact us and share your ideas. We'd love to hear them.

All my best,

Michael Byrd
Executive Director
Preserve Manager

Yavapai County VISTA Program



Nathaniel Hoag

Our VISTA member, Renee Hoover, completed her year of volunteer service in July and made a significant impact in the community during that time. 1100 volunteers served for about 6,600 hours from July 2008 – July 2009. Wow! While Renee heads back to school this fall, we will continue our partnership

with the addition of another VISTA member.

In September, we will welcome Nathaniel Hoag to Prescott Creeks where he will spend the following year working to redesign the Prescott Creeks website to serve you better. Nathaniel comes to us from Dedham, Massachusetts, holds environmental education degrees from the University of Vermont and from Antioch University New England (bachelors and masters respectively). When asked why Nathaniel volunteers he responded: "It's personally uplifting to engage in projects that foster and communicate community connectivity, sustainability, and social justice." Prescott Creeks is excited to have Nathaniel joining our efforts to protect, restore and celebrate our creeks.

Save the date –



Member Open House

On Sunday 30 August 2009, Prescott Creeks will host an open house for current dues-paying members.

Details are still coming together but we look forward to seeing our members at the Prescott Creeks offices on Grove Ave. in Prescott. Lite refreshments will be served.

Current members will be notified directly.

If you are not a member yet, or if your membership needs renewal, please see the enclosed membership form or visit our website. Not sure as to your membership standing? Just give us a call and we will advise you.

Why Members Are So Important To Prescott Creeks

Members are a key ingredient to the work of Prescott Creeks. It is members who make it possible for Prescott Creeks to apply for grant funding, support restoration projects, and serve the community in other ways. We invite you to join citizens who live along our creeks, staff and students at local colleges, and many others who enjoy visiting Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, by becoming a dues-paying member of Prescott Creeks.

Membership benefits include:

- Invitations to special events.
- Announcements of events and opportunities to volunteer.
- 1-year subscription to, and recognition in, *The Creekside Almanac*
- The Upper Granite Creek Watershed Map, suitable for framing
- A 25% discount to events and selected merchandise from the Creeks Store
- Watershed information and brochures
- The knowledge that you are making a difference in your watershed.

Prescott Creeks Members

Richard Ach, Ann Alexander, Appletree Household, Arnold Household, Marcia W. Barkelew, Lisa Barnes, Rob Behnke, Bennan Household, Patricia M. Bevolo, Ann Bickford, Blind Brothers, Bowers Household, Bragg Household,Carolynn B. Bryan, Brian Bucholtz, Byrd Household, Capsule Connection, Carol A. Carriere, Cellarius Household, Carol Cook, Lois Cowing, Crew Household, Henry Dahlberg, Dickinson Household, De Rhoads Dolan, Joan Dukes, Russell Fosha, Lily M. Gannon, Gomez Household, James & Sandra Green, Betty Griggs, Hehlen Household, Bianca Hernandez, Laurel Herrmann, Hiller Household, Katharine Hirsch, Doug Hulmes, Jay's Bird Barn, Jo Ann Johnson Household, Donald Jordan, Jim Kendall, Francis Kraps, Krauskopf Household, Krzysik Household, Debbie Kuhnke, Lanning Household, LaVoie Household, Mary Layman, Lora Lopas, Low Household, Dale Maas, May Household, McGillicuddy & Estrada Household, Layne Middleton, Warren Miller, Karyl Moore, Morriston Household, Chuck Nagy, Newton Household, Nordstrom Household, Peter A. Norum, Karen O'Neil, Paradise Household, Parry Household, Pauwels Household, Pranter Household, Beryl Rae, Reading Household, Reid-McKee Household, Roberts Household, Faith Roelofs, Donald T. Roth, Ronald & Rebecca Rubin, Sandy Scrimgeour, Robert A. Serocki, Shriver Household, Simmons Household, Ronald Smith, Ann Lynnette Stainbrook, Stewart Household, Anastatia Taylor, Clark Tenney, Norm Tessman, Ann L. Tingley, Trushell & Morgan Household, Matthew Turner, Walker & Bussart-Walker Household, Walters & Brugger Household, Winkelman & Golden Household, Yetman Household, John Zambrano (As of 09 July 2009).



Membership Form

<input type="checkbox"/> Individuals/Family	\$25/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional <small>(Non-Profit, Educational & Membership Organizations)</small>	\$50/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate <small>(Business & For Profit)</small>	\$100/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership	\$1000

Payment Method: VISA MasterCard American Express Discover Check in the amount of \$ _____
(Make payable to Prescott Creeks)

Credit Card # _____ Exp.Date _____ CVV Code _____

Signature _____

In addition to my yearly membership dues, I would like to make a tax deductible donation of \$ _____ to Prescott Creeks.
All contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Thank you for your on-going support!

For questions, concerns or comments, contact Prescott Creeks at (928) 445-5669 or Info@PrescottCreeks.org.
Mail this form to: Prescott Creeks, P.O. Box 3004, Prescott, AZ 86302