



THE CREEKSIDE ALMANAC

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Thank you to our GCCU sponsors!



Watson Woods Summer Invasive Species Removal

Emelia Stone

I was lucky enough to get to spend three days volunteering and getting to know three girls from the LEAF program. The LEAF program takes teenagers from environmentally conscious high schools and for a month they get to volunteer on different environmental projects.



On the first day at Watson Woods Jay, Selena, Melissa, The LEAF Girls and I explored the Woods and learned about what projects were going on and about Watson Woods. While on our exploration we also learned about different types of trees and plants, and how to identify them. We stopped at the pond and we were surprised by a yipping sound then a splash. Confused we asked Jay, Prescott Creeks Field Project Coordinator and our Watson Woods guide, what the strange sound was and he had to explain that it was bullfrogs – an invasive species.

The first day went by fast, so on the second day we really got down to business pulling invasive species of plants. The girls were really hard workers, which I was sort of surprised at; even when it started raining they relentlessly pulled up the two invasive species that we were working on, Dalmatian Toad Flax and Spotted Knap Weed. Between working I got more of a chance to talk to the girls, I was so surprised when I asked them what was the biggest difference between NYC and Prescott and they said that here people say hi and wave. They explained how in NYC when you pass someone on the street you look at your shoes and say nothing; the concept of not saying hi to people on the street and not knowing your neighbors was so alien to me.

On the last day that the girls were here we decided to take it easy and go on a hike through the Woods up to Watson Lake. While hiking we saw hundreds of little quarter-sized frogs looking for water. That was a big distraction to our hike, since we all had to stop and catch at least one. Jay explained that these were native frogs unlike the ones we saw at the pond. I was sad to see the girls go; I had gotten to know and really like them. We had many fun times exploring and working in the Woods. I hope they get the chance to come back to Prescott and visit.

Emelia is a junior at Northpoint Expeditionary Learning Academy who volunteers with Prescott Creeks on a regular basis. She spent part of her summer enjoying invasive species removal at

From the Executive Director

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. John Wesley Powell, scientist geographer, put it best when he said that a watershed is:



"that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community."

As Prescott Creeks looks to the future, we are thinking in terms of the watershed as a whole system. We've been

beyond pleased with the progress made by the Granite Creek Watershed Improvement Council. The model of stakeholder involvement holds tremendous power for transformation of our community, our watershed. With the current economy and with local, state, and national government grid-lock, now is an important time for stakeholders, community members and leaders, to rally together to plan for and implement sustainable policies for our future. As Mr. Powell suggested over 130 years ago, the watershed is the way to do this.

Caring for our landscape is first about awareness, then about appreciation, and finally about individual action. Inside this issue of *The Creekside Almanac* you'll read about Our *One Man's Treasure* event in September. It is all about awareness of the trash that finds its way into our creek system, about transformation of that trash into art. So far the results are remarkable. Emilia Stone writes about her appreciation for experiences in "the nature" with new friends at Watson Woods and about taking action to make some positive changes. We're working on a *Creek Care Guide* that will give everyone tools to participate in making our watershed a better place. We'd love to hear your ideas about these topics, so don't ever hesitate to call us with your thoughts.



Prescott Creeks

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Introducing...

Gregg Fell joined Prescott Creeks as the new Field Project Coordinator at the end of August. He follows in the position from Jay Crocker who oversaw much of the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve restoration before retiring.

As the Field Projects Coordinator for Prescott Creeks, Gregg will be responsible for the ongoing development, implementation, and management of Watson Woods' projects as well as additional riparian restoration Prescott Creeks undertakes. He will be working with volunteers and students to further enhance public awareness of Prescott's important aquatic ecosystems.



Born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Gregg has worked in many of the wetland systems in the Gulf Coast and Mississippi River Floodplain. He is looking forward to using his experience in a subtropical setting as a benefit to Prescott, where the need to protect our water resources is increasing every day.

Prescott Creeks is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission to promote, protect and celebrate the ecological integrity of riparian systems and associated wetlands in the central Arizona watersheds through conservation, restoration and education.

Creek Care: *Your* Stewardship Guide to the Granite Creek Watershed

Amanda Richardson, Watershed Program Coordinator

For over two years, the Granite Creek Watershed Improvement Council has been studying the water quality impairments in our local creeks and reservoirs. While the issue is complex, we know that our water quality problems are primarily the result of non-point source pollution, meaning that the pollution is coming from many, diffuse sources. People's day-to-day activities can contribute sediment, pet or livestock waste, lawn clippings, fertilizers, pesticides, detergents and other pollutants can wash into our creeks and lakes through untreated storm drains. While the problem of NPS is cumulative, so are the solutions.



For this reason, the Watershed Improvement Council is developing a Creek Care Guide for residents of the Granite Creek Watershed. This guide will outline basic practices that everyone can implement around their homes and businesses to protect our watershed from non-point source pollution. It will cover topics such as: Creek Stewardship; Storm Sewer vs. Sanitary Sewer; Pollution Pathways; Yard and Pasture Maintenance; Drainage; Erosion Prevention; Stream banks, Riparian Areas, and Native Vegetation; Septic Maintenance; and Local Codes, Ordinances, and Permitting. This booklet will provide a guide to creek-friendly practices that will help keep our creeks and lakes healthy, starting at a home or business.

Every resident of the watershed can make a positive impact to water quality - with a few simple steps, we can protect the watershed while boosting the economic and ecological values of our properties. Look for the guide in late 2011/ early 2012!



We couldn't have done it without our sponsors:



One Man's Treasure: Upcycled Art at the Historic Granite Dells Resort

Join Prescott Creeks at the beautiful, historic Granite Dells Resort to celebrate "One Man's Treasure," September 18th from 4 - 7 pm. Bid on art by professional and amateur artists featuring materials recovered during the Granite Creek Cleanup. Enjoy home brew from Granite Mountain Brewing's head brewer, hors d'oeuvres, and a spectacular view while supporting cleaning up the creeks.

The Granite Dells Resort, once a draw for movie making, stars, and those wanting to be seen, is located among the rocks of the Dells. At one time it contained a swimming hole, dance hall, snack bar, and various types of entertainment. As the backdrop for Tom Mix films and other movies, such as *Leave Her to Heaven*, the Resort built a reputation for its unique combination of stunning granite boulders, blue skies, large cottonwoods, and the flowing Granite Creek. It's an important location in the history of our area and an apt location to celebrate our creeks by helping to support the Creeks.

Every year tons of trash are removed from our creeks and lakes during the annual Granite Creek Cleanup. This year alone 10 tons were pulled out. *One Man's Treasure* highlights art made from pieces removed during the Cleanup, with funds going to support the creeks.

Tickets are \$35 and available at our office, our website - PrescottCreeks.org or EventBrite.com.



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In addition to my yearly membership dues I would like to make a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ to Prescott Creeks. The total amount I would like to contribute to Prescott Creeks is \$ _____.

All contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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Thank you for your on-going support!

Please make corrections below. For questions, concerns or comments please contact Prescott Creeks at (928) 445-5669 or Info@PrescottCreeks.org.

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