



# THE CREEKSIDE ALMANAC

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## ONE MAN'S TREASURE ART FOR CLEAN CREEKS

Help us to make a difference and make Prescott a more beautiful place for all of us by attending One Man's Treasure. Join us **September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4 – 7 p.m. at the Granite Dells Resort** for the second annual One Man's Treasure: an upcycled art show and auction and the most fun opportunity around to support clean creeks. An evening of hors d'oeuvres, wine, music and art will highlight a beautiful selection of art created from materials found in our creeks.

The art show and auction are our attempt to educate people about the amount and type of trash found in our local creeks and lakes and to support clean creeks. Last April, 650 people volunteered with the annual Granite Creek Cleanup, spending two hours to pull out 3 ½ Tons of trash. Of that, 1 ½ Tons was upcycled into art materials.

This year's art includes a variety of stunning pieces from local artists. One of the recent stars of the area, Fill the Recyclasaurus, will be for auction. Created by Royce and Juanita Carlson, Fill has been a bit of a celebrity around town. A huge variety of amazing talent will be represented from artists such as Rick Hartner, Brad DeVries, Leslee Oaks, and Lesley Aine McKeown. **Tickets are \$35 and available at [www.PrescottCreeks.org](http://www.PrescottCreeks.org) or at the event.**

A preview evening will be held September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4 - 6 p.m. highlighting art done by Everybody's Place and local students.



## From the Executive Director



*Bouteloua, Datura, Mirabilis, Heterotheca, Castilleja, Rosa, Eleocharis, Fallugia, Garrya, Opuntia, Panicum, and Typha* are Latin names I've been teaching my daughter recently. She's two and as we explore outside, she is invariably drawn to the plants that are in flower. It's been great fun to watch her in this sort of discovery and to learn from her perspective. And, it is a delight to

watch her brain and mouth attempt to wrap themselves around these new and unfamiliar words.

I could say the same of Prescott Creeks, recently. With two new members on the Board of Directors and one new staff member, Prescott Creeks is evolving. New people to the 20+ year old organization have a steep learning curve, yet they bring a fresh perspective from which all of the veterans of the organization (members, volunteers, the board, staff) can and will gain tremendous value. In May, one Board member and three staff attended the National River Rally and in August, I attended the Association of Fundraising Professionals Northern Arizona Conference. We are learning from each other how to make a difference for the creeks, the watershed, the community.

It is an exciting time. After many years of work with the Watershed Improvement Council (Prescott Creeks, working together with multiple watershed stakeholders), the Watershed Improvement Plan will be completed. From it, projects will be set in motion to control pollution entering our streams and lakes. At Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, we revel in the wildness that is at the same time inherent in, and returning to, the riparian area as a result of restoration. A milestone will soon be reached with the restoration work as monitoring is completed this fall.

Celebration is an important element that ties together the planning and restoration. On Sunday, September 23rd, please join us at the One Man's Treasure event to celebrate the transformation of trash collected during the annual creek cleanup into works of art. The creativity and vision employed in these transformations is truly amazing.



## Board of Directors

Karen O'Neil - Board Chair  
Doris Cellarius - Director  
Joel Hiller - Director  
Russell Fosha - Director  
Jeff Low - Director  
Nancy Christie—Director  
Ed Lutz – Director  
Doug Bunch - Director  
Betty Siegfried - Director Emerita

## Staff

Michael Byrd - Executive Director  
Ann-Marie Benz - Outreach & Communications Dir.  
Amanda Richardson - Watershed Program Coord.  
Gregg Fell - Field Projects Coordinator  
Megan Dixon - Office Manager

## New Board Members & Staff



Edward Lutz joins Prescott Creeks' board after a business career in financial services. The natural world has always been a great interest and that interest has influenced his travel to all the continents except Antarctica.



Doug Bunch joins Prescott Creeks' board after teaching Sciences at Prescott High School as well as adult education classes. He enjoys hiking along our Creeks and feels a responsibility to assist in taking care of them for generations to come.



As the Office Manager for Prescott Creeks, Megan takes care of the operational and administrative needs of the organization. Her background is in biology, education, ecological design, and business management.

## Wild Woods

By Gregg Fell

The Monsoon Season has been kind to Watson Woods and has provided much needed nourishment and moisture for our trees, wildlife, restoration areas, and the creek! The changes have been dramatic: an area that contained a dry creek bed and wetlands, parched leaves, and very hot conditions, is now a lush, green, and humid (yes, humid!) forested ecosystem. Granite Creek is not only flowing in its main channel, but has overflowed into many “braided” channels that deliver water throughout the Preserve, creating extremely valuable seasonal wetlands and pools.

Seasonal wetlands and pools have a very high ecological value when compared to their size and period of time they are flooded. They contain a variety of unique plants, invertebrates, and other organic material such as algae, fungi, and bacteria; all of which provide an extremely valuable food sources for insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals. These animal species depend on seasonal wetlands and pools, whether they are migrating through the area, providing food for their young, or simply seeking relief from the hot summer sun. Watson Woods is truly a wild place that is unique to the area and is improving every season, thanks to the help of our members, donors, and volunteers. Please continue to help when you can, as new benefits to our watershed are being realized every day...We appreciate your support!



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## New Board Chair

by Doris Cellarius

On July 23, 2012, the Prescott Creeks Board of Directors appointed Karen O’Neil as their new Chair. She succeeds Doris Cellarius, who chaired the Board for four years.



Karen has been a member of Prescott Creeks Board of Directors since 2004. She has served in many capacities such as our Development Committee and as leader of our Watson Woods Bird Surveys, which engage Prescott Creeks and Prescott Audubon volunteers in regular bird counts that track the recovery the area due to our restoration work. Watson Woods is an area designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by National Audubon because of its importance as a riparian area for both migratory birds and nesting birds. Karen is a member of Prescott Audubon and a past President of Arizona Audubon Council.

Karen has been an explorer of wild places since childhood and her love of nature has carried her to interesting places around the world.

Karen is enthusiastic about the many new things that are happening at Prescott Creeks, which recently joined the Prescott Chamber of Commerce and welcomed three new Board members.

## The Heart of Watershed Improvement Planning: Best Management Practices (BMPs)

By Amanda Richardson

For over 2.5 years, the Granite Creek Watershed Improvement Council (WIC) has been gathering and analyzing data, studying the watershed, and planning for water quality improvements.

In the final Plan, the WIC will recommend specific projects and practices to address nutrient and bacteria pollution in the watershed. These recommendations are generally geared towards minimizing impervious areas, slowing stormwater, reducing pollution sources, and establishing protected areas. It is critical to integrate these principles into municipal operations and ordinances and formalize a civic commitment to watershed protection by project partners. BMP projects will range from on-the-ground physical installations, such as bioretention basins, filter strips, swales, rain gardens, and infiltration basins, to education and outreach projects like creek signs, interpretive signs, storm drain markers, campaigns to address specific behaviors like picking up dog waste, illicit discharges to storm drains, septic maintenance, etc.

The goal is implementation of these projects by the WIC and project partners as funding becomes available. Ideally, a local sustainable funding mechanism will be developed to support the implementation of the Watershed Improvement Plan.



# Membership Form

- Individuals / Family \$25/year
- Institutional (Non-Profit, Educational & Membership Organizations) \$50/year
- Corporate (Business & For-Profit Entities) \$100/year

Payment Method:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Make payable to Prescott Creeks)

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Credit Card #

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Exp. date

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CVV Code

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Signature

*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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Cell Phone

**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](mailto:Info@PrescottCreeks.org).

Please mail this form to:  
Prescott Creeks, PO Box 3004, Prescott, AZ 86302

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