A Greener, Cleaner and More Beautiful Prescott with Green Infrastructure

By Franklin Dekker

As Prescott has grown, so has the amount of impervious surfaces like roofs, sidewalks and streets. When it rains we rely on standard “grey infrastructure” to send runoff quickly to gutters and pipes that lead to our creeks and lakes. Un fortunately this system is not working for the water quality of our creeks and lakes. Excess nutrients, motor oil and e-coli from our yards, streets, pets, lawns, and septic systems are all washed into our creeks. This pollution is contributing to the water quality impairment listing of Watson Lake and Granite Creek. Prescott Creeks however, has a vision for how we can improve water quality, beautify our streets, and lower the cost of managing our stormwaters and it’s called “Green Infrastructure.”

Green Infrastructure is defined as a broad term for features that rely on natural processes such as soil, water, and plants to provide ecosystem services such as clean air, clean water, and temperature regulation. Green Infrastructure encompasses existing forests and green spaces as well as constructed bio-retention features such as rain gardens, wetlands, and filter strips. The power of green infrastructure to improve water quality is best when it is implemented throughout a watershed so more water can be slowed and filtered to minimize the negative effects of impervious surfaces. It could look like numerous rain gardens at peoples homes collecting and treating water from roofs and bio-swales or green parking lot islands to clean water collected on pavement.

Many other cities have already turned to green infrastructure as the best management strategy to deal with their stormwater, including Tucson, AZ. In 2013, Tucson amended their city wide development plan to focus on green infrastructure.

All publicly funded street projects (continued on page 5)
Prescott Creeks worked with the City on two green infrastructure projects this year. They both were fully tested by the summer rains. Volunteers helped put in native plants and irrigation. They also performed initial maintenance on the projects. Hopefully these projects will inspire the thinking of residents and public officials.

While we all wait for the State of Arizona’s Pollution Reduction Plan, we are confident that projects embracing natural processes are the right direction. They are economically and aesthetically advantageous. Prescott Creeks wants to help the community explore solutions. Everyone can make improvements. Small projects sometimes make a big difference.

In this issue of The Creekside Almanac you’ll find more information about green infrastructure. This page features introductions to some of the people at Prescott Creeks. We’ve also provided a “spotlight” for one of our business members. Together we can achieve a healthy watershed with clean water.

New Board Members

Suzanne Morse moved to Prescott after living in Australia for 14 years. She chose Prescott due to its close proximity to many diverse wilderness areas and to complete a degree at Prescott College in Sustainable Community Development with a focus in Human Development. She brings to Board over 25 years’ experience as a senior business professional with significant international experience, providing strategic leadership development, community outreach, sales and delivery to global organizations working in both the private and government sectors.

Brent Roberts is the newest addition to Prescott Creeks’ board of directors. A former math instructor at Yavapai College, Roberts earned his Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Master of Arts in the Teaching of Mathematics from Northern Arizona University.

Brent originally became involved with Prescott Creeks through the Granite Creeks Cleanup and Yavapai College’s Service Learning Program, where he placed hundreds of college students as volunteers throughout the Prescott community.

New Staff Member

Bryan is an Arizona native. After receiving an Anthropology degree from the U of A, he worked 18 years in the print publishing industry. Most recently, he was the Director of Publications for a non-profit bird-watching organization. He looks forward to work towards making a difference in the preservation and restoration of Watson Woods while working with Prescott Creeks.
If you didn’t attend the One Man’s Treasure auction event on May 3rd at the Crossroads Center on the Prescott College campus, you missed something extra special: gourmet hors d’oeuvres by Chef Mark Montague, wine donated by Page Springs Cellars, and a record breaking art auction. Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, all items which reached or exceeded their retail value were met dollar for dollar. That, coupled with the donation of exceptionally fine art items by local artists and the talented auctioneering of Randy Oaks, inspired serious competition among the bidders. According to leaders in the Prescott art gallery community, the 2014 One Man’s Treasure was the most successful charity art auction ever held in Prescott.

Now that you know what you missed, make doubly sure that you are on hand for the next One Man’s Treasure. Prescott Creeks is very pleased to announce that Prescott College is returning as our partner, and the event will again take place in the Cross Roads Center on campus, on Friday, May 22, 2015.

THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL ONE MAN’S TREASURE COMMITTEE 2014:

Sharon Arnold
Joel Barnes
Ann-Marie Benz
Nita Carlson
Jen Chandler
Paula Cooperrider
Patti Crouse
Matthew Einsohn
Patricia Hils
Jean Lutz
Ron Miller
Sheri Miller
Leslee Oaks
Debra Owen
Kelly Paradis
Llynda Peters
Lois Richardson
Marjory Sente
Marie Smith

Artists Rick Hartner, Royce Carlson, and Leslee Oaks

Artists Mary Schulte and Jody Skjei

Anticipation by Lesley Aine McKeown

Bird Feeder by Rick Hartner

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BUSINESS MEMBER PROFILE – KELLER WILLIAMS CHECK REALTY

As Business Members, Keller Williams Check Realty is supportive of the work Prescott Creeks does because they consider our local creeks and mountain lakes a huge asset to our community. “Green” building techniques are becoming more and more popular, and Keller Williams Check Realty is working to educate area buyers and sellers about the benefits of healthy creeks; both to our ecology as well as long term economics. The Doug Bunch Group at Keller Williams specifically highlights Prescott Creeks’ projects when working with clients. They encourage their clients to embrace the great outdoors by becoming members, donating, and participating in our many activities. To hear more about their involvement, you can reach the Doug Bunch Group at DougBunchGroup.com.

BUSINESS MEMBERS FALL 2014

Business members support local creeks, riparian habitat and surface water quality. As a Prescott Creeks member, make yourself aware of businesses that share with you the importance of achieving a healthy watershed and maintaining clean waters in central Arizona. As you patronize these businesses, be sure to identify yourself as a member of Prescott Creeks and thank them for their continued support.

You, too, can support your local creeks by becoming a member. See the back page for our membership form, or join online using our secure form at Support.PrescottCreeks.org/membership.

- CNN Mortgage
- Commun I.T.
- Country Bank
- Daniel T. Frank, Inc. - BCBS of AZ
- Erie & Associates
- Haley Construction
- Hassaverde Ent., LLC
- Hoskin Ryan Consultants, Inc
- Jay’s Bird Barn
- Keller Williams Check Realty
- Napper Law Firm
- Nick’s Feed Your Face
- Old Sage Bookshop

- Page Springs Cellars
- Prescott Audubon Society
- Prescott College
- Quality Plastics of Prescott, Inc.
- Ron Sands
- Salt River Project
- Shannon Himes
- Soulmate’s Ultra Running Events, LLC
- SpringHill Suites Marriott
- U of A Cooperative Extension
- ‘Tis Gallery
- Yavapai Trails Association
now have a water retention requirement to use green infrastructure design to offset the flow and pollution from new or redeveloped street work. They also provide incentives for private citizens to implement green infrastructure on their own property and even in city right of way areas. For the cost of a hole drilled in a curb, some plants and a little garden work many Tucson residents are creating beautiful rain gardens in the barren areas between their sidewalk and street. What could your yard or street look like with green infrastructure? Prescott Creeks is excited to help Prescott residents find out.

The benefits of green infrastructure also go beyond water quality improvement and include benefits such as, being more economical than grey infrastructure, beautifying urban areas, reduces flooding, provides habitat for wildlife and increases groundwater recharge. Green infrastructure can also be good for our water supply problems by reducing water consumption with less thirsty rain gardens, increasing groundwater recharge and potentially reducing water imports. Portland, OR has even gotten creative with their green infrastructure and residents there incorporate functional works of art that now attract tourists on walking tours of the most popular sites. In many ways green infrastructure makes sense for Prescott, which is why Prescott Creeks will continue to advocate for more projects and continue to provide education on what you can do. We hope to have more learning workshops on green infrastructure and rain gardens soon.
Membership Form

Select Your Membership Level:
☐ $35 – Friend: Give printed materials and other educational information to the community.
☐ $50 – Explorer: Support ongoing conservation activities such as monitoring water quality.
☐ $100 – Guardian: Maintain our ongoing work at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.
☐ $250 – Advocate: Provide for presentations to local decisionmakers, community groups and schools.
☐ $500 – Conservator: Contribute toward long-term planning for healthy watersheds in central Arizona.
☐ $_____/month – Sustaining Member: Build a stronger, more powerful watershed organization by giving monthly ($10 min).
☐ $100 – Business Member: Demonstrate your support for healthy watersheds and clean waters.

Payment Method: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Check (Make payable to Prescott Creeks)
Credit Card #: ____________________________ Exp. Date: _______________ CCV Code: ____________________________

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.

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: ____________
Email Address: _______________________________________
Home Phone: ____________________ Cell Phone: ____________

Thank you for your ongoing support!
For questions, concerns or comments, please contact Prescott Creeks at (928) 445-5669 or Info@PrescottCreeks.org.
Please mail this form and payment to: Prescott Creeks, PO Box 3004, Prescott, AZ 86302.