

www.PrescottCreeks.org

NEWSLETTER OF PRESCOTT CREEKS

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Photo by K. Crocker

Harry the Heron by Lisa Morgan, an example of upcycled art from creek trash.

One Man's Treasure

Upcycled Art for the Creeks

Join Prescott Creeks at the beautiful, historic Granite Dells Resort to celebrate One Man's Treasure, September 23rd from 4 p.m.–6 p.m., with a community preview evening September 22nd from 4 p.m.–6 p.m.

Bid on art by professional and amateur artists featuring materials recovered during the Granite Creek Cleanup.

Every year tons of trash are removed from our creeks and lakes during the annual Granite Creek Cleanup. Last 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. Art by local students and Everybody's Place will be featured during the preview evening.

Spring Has Sprung in the Woods

By Gregg Fell

This has been a good winter in Watson Woods. Spring is shaping up to be just as productive, with two major projects planned:

First, we will be conducting invasive weed removal activities with the help of the Arizona State Land Department and the Yavapai Weed Management Area. We will be hand-pulling Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*) and Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) within select locations, with the goal of removing the individual plants before they flower and spread their seed.

Both of these plants reproduce solely by seed, and in fact, one individual plant can produce more than 20,000 seeds each year! So, removing these plants early in the year is critical, and we look forward to seeing the results of this event.

Second, we are designing a new interpretive trail system, which will hopefully be in place by summertime.



Photo by G. Fell

Littlest helper.

This will include a new trail loop complete with interpretive signs, brochures, and an updated kiosk area—perfect for education and quiet reflection.

We do plan to retain the “wild” qualities of Watson Woods, which is why this trail will be primitive and will leave much of the Preserve untouched, allowing the natural habitat to continue to flourish.

Granite Creek Cleanup

Saturday, April 21, 2012

9 - 11 am Starting at Granite Creek Park



Preserve * Restore * Celebrate * Create

For more information or to pre-register:

PrescottCreeks.org or (928)445-5669



From the Executive Director

It is an exciting time for all of us here at Prescott Creeks. This year the winter wet season was lackluster, but did provide our watersheds with a wonderful gift of snow late in the season. It was the “spring break snow storm” that is not all together uncommon for Prescott. While the melt-off for the storm was far quicker than we’d like, it was an important boost to the flow in our creeks, and critical for the wildlife dependent upon our local riparian areas. While the snow was a treat, we are all enjoying spring as it graces the landscape with color. I’m seeing nearly all shades of the rainbow peeping out of the grasses and rock crevices. It can be a bit of a treasure hunt for those who are so inclined.

Similarly, in this issue of *The Creekside Almanac* you’ll read about the upcoming Granite Creek Cleanup. We are expecting



a record-number of community members to join in the quest for trash and treasure along the creeks. Some think we’ll work ourselves out of a job, but after 20+ years of gathering up trash, this does

not seem to be a problem. Participants will again separate out treasures for artists of all stripes to convert into masterpieces that will be auctioned off in September at the One Man’s Treasure event.

The Cleanup, One Man’s Treasure, Watershed Planning (including design and distribution of the Creek Care Stewardship Guide), and the myriad of activities at

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve are all made possible by community volunteers and supporters. You can read about some of the people who are helping Prescott Creeks to accomplish its 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. We welcome Nancy Christie as a new member to our Board of Directors. Tina Blake is the most recent addition to our staff, and Kathy Wingert and Dan Frank share with us their backgrounds and motivations for supporting the work of Prescott Creeks.

We hope you’ll be inspired. We are.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Byrd".

Introducing...

Nancy Christie arrived in Prescott in September 2011, from New Hampshire. She joined the board in March 2012, to serve “an organization with a track record of success in protecting precious surface waters in the Granite Creek Watershed.” She has 40 years’ experience working for environmental nonprofits in both staff and board capacities.



Tina Blake, as office manager for Prescott Creeks, assists with the day-to-day business operations in support of our mission. Her background is from both government and nonprofit educational institutions serving to support events, special projects and fundraising.

Prescott Creeks

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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 Contributor a ‘Conversation’

By Tina Blake

Kathy Wingert has been an active contributor to Prescott Creeks for more than seven years. She donates monthly, knowing the funds are going to protect an important Prescott natural resource, our creeks. Every donation helps and finding a way to contribute regularly ensures sustainable income for nonprofits like Prescott Creeks.

Kathy also gives the gift of time. You can find her volunteering at the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve for different restoration projects throughout the year. And, she participates each year to collect data for an annual bird survey (the Watson and Willow Lake Ecosystem is considered an Important Bird Area, or IBA). Recently, she RSVP'd for the best event of the year: the Granite Creek Cleanup on April 21st.

I called Kathy and asked her three simple questions to find out “who supports” Prescott Creeks.

Why do you choose to support Prescott Creeks?

She cares about the outdoors and its healthy habitats.

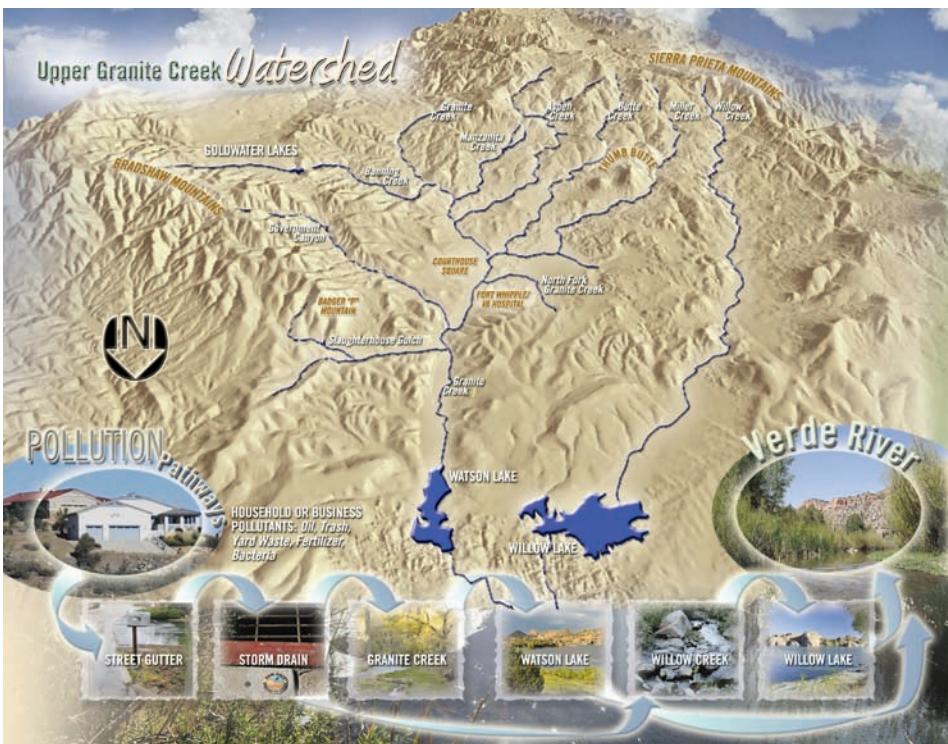
What are your favorite community activities?

Birding, hiking and exercising.

What is one ideal change you hope to see for future generations?

I want my grandchildren’s generation and future generations to be able to appreciate open space and the outdoors. Hence, why I find supporting Prescott Creeks very important.

THANK YOU—Kathy and all other contributors with “a passion for the outdoors.” You make a difference!



Creek Care Guide Available at: U of A Cooperative Extension, City of Prescott – City Hall, Public Works, Yavapai County Flood Control District, Highlands Center, Prescott Chamber of Commerce, Chino Valley library, Prescott library, Prescott Valley library, Manzanita Outfitters, Hike Shack, Jay's Bird Barn, and Eco 3 Oil Change

Dan Frank

Insuring the Future of Our Creeks

This year, the Granite Creek Cleanup has a new champion in the form of our primary sponsor, Dan Frank.

Dan is an authorized Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona broker.

Although not new to being a Prescott Creeks supporter, this is Dan’s first year stepping up as the main supporter of the Cleanup. Dan’s support comes from his interest in environmental stewardship, and particularly in recycling that dates back to his days in college in Oregon.

There, he was exposed to the idea of well-established recycling centers; where everything is sorted, organized, and recycled. After having grown up in Phoenix and relocating a few places around the country for school and work, Dan moved to Prescott 13 years ago. Awestruck by the beauty of the place, he is enamored with so many different colors and the amazing sunsets.

His favorite trail takes him around Watson Lake and shows off the best of our area’s water, rocks, and wildlife.

Dan is not only a supporter; he is

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Prescott Creeks’ health insurance agent. He’s been an agent for more than 20 years, with the last 13 in Prescott.

He chooses to represent Blue Cross because they are by far the largest, most accepted network in the region.

He supports their practices because they consistently prove to be a steady, stable company that provides the best support for his customers and the best pay and timely services for the local providers. Although the majority of his customers are small businesses, like Prescott Creeks, he also handles individuals and larger businesses.



Membership Form

All membership fees are annual

Individual/Family \$25

Institutional \$50
(Nonprofit, Educational
& Membership Organizations)

Corporate \$100
(Business and For Profit)

Payment 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 annual 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 _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP _____ Email _____

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

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