



# THE CREEKSIDE ALMANAC

Prescott Creeks • Spring 2013 • Volume 19 Issue 1

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## Granite Creek Cleanup 2013

by Emelia Stone

I went to my first Granite Creek Cleanup when I was only nine. Even now, nine years later, I can still remember the excitement that went along with getting to spend the day playing in the creek and picking up trash. I stayed a volunteer at the Cleanup in this way for a few years, until I was old enough to man one of the booths. Ever since then I have gotten up earlier than most teenagers and spent the day of the Cleanup helping to set up then handing out the tee shirts or helping people register.



*Making a Difference by West Howland.*

A few years ago Prescott Creeks started having people bring some of the trash in that would be made into art, and it was an astonishing amount. The trash that I saw brought in to be made into art was only a portion of what was collected each year, and yet it amazes me how year after year tons of trash can be pulled from our little creeks.

This year as part of my senior project at Northpoint Expeditionary Learning Academy I am coordinating the Cleanup. I ask you to join me and many others on **Saturday, April 20, 2013 starting at 9 am at Granite Creek Park** to make our creeks, and our community, a better place for everyone. And be sure to tell our sponsors how much you appreciate their support for clean creeks.

### Granite Creek CleanUp 2013

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Prescott Creeks is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission to achieve healthy watersheds & clean waters in central Arizona for the benefit of people & wildlife through protection, restoration, education & advocacy.

## From the Executive Director



The other day I received a call from a long-time supporter who was attempting to identify one of the newly budding trees around her home. After much speculation, we agreed on a probable ID for the tree and chatted about spring and the wonders it brings. Amongst the frenetic spring dance of sunshine-snow-rain-warmth, the trees are budding while flowers emerge – all preparing for the new year.

Prescott Creeks typically attempts to keep pace with nature at this time of year. Spring sets a good example with lessons of reawakening and renewal. We are sticking with time-honored traditions, continuing work in progress, attempting to adapt to our changing world, and celebrating the people involved in working for healthy watersheds and clean waters.

2013 marks the 7th year for our coordination of the Granite Creek Cleanup with generous partner and sponsor support. Each year we introduce new elements to the event to encourage family and youth participation, and to teach about what goes in our waterways – both the good and the bad. Collected and sorted materials will contribute to the One Man's Treasure art event again.

Watershed conditions continue to be improved. New trail systems, supported with interpretive signage, represent another element of the restoration work at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. New projects are being pursued, as identified in the Watershed Improvement Plan (2012), ranging from biological stormwater treatment to rainwater catchment.

In this issue of *The Creekside Almanac* and at the Cleanup, we're launching a new Prescott Creeks Membership Campaign. Your support as a member of Prescott Creeks is essential to protection, restoration, education and advocacy efforts – all designed to make a difference in the community. Consider applying for a position on the Prescott Creeks Board of Directors. We are always looking for new energy and ideas. In February, Paula Cooperrider joined our Board and we are pleased to introduce her here.



## New Membership Program

We invite you to invest in clean water for central Arizona by becoming a member of Prescott Creeks. We believe one of the best things about our area is its beauty which is supported by healthy watersheds. When you join Prescott Creeks you make a difference. Your membership makes a difference to the birds and wildlife in Watson Woods, to understanding of pollutants in our waterways, to the regular involvement of students in their creeks. It also makes a difference by providing families and children protected areas and clean water, not only now, but for future generations. As part of our new membership program,



*Over the Hill Gang by Gregg Fell*

all members will receive a special Prescott Creeks decal, *The Creekside Almanac* newsletter, E-News updates, and invitations to events. Most importantly, as a member you have the satisfaction of knowing that you join with many others to protect local creeks, lakes and quality of life. See the back cover for our new membership form, and join us in making a difference.

## Board of Directors

Karen O'Neil – Board Chair  
Joel Hiller – Director  
Ed Lutz – Director  
Doug Bunch – Director  
Paula Cooperrider – Director  
Betty Siegfried – Director Emerita

## Staff

Michael Byrd – Executive Director  
Ann-Marie Benz – Outreach & Comm. Director  
Amanda Richardson – Watershed Coordinator  
Gregg Fell – Field Projects Coordinator  
Megan Dixon – Office Manager

## Supporting a Healthy Community

by Ann-Marie Benz & Emelia Stone

Dan Frank has been part of the Prescott Creeks team in a variety of ways for more than three years. He has been our health insurance provider, volunteer, and now for the second time, our main Granite Creek Cleanup sponsor. We've been lucky to find a business that we want to support, that also supports the work that we do.

Dan has a long history of being involved with his community; from recycling programs in college, to cleaning up the section of creek that is along his daily walk to work. Today his main job is supporting healthy communities through making sure people have access to good, affordable health insurance. Through more than 20 years in insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield, Dan has helped small businesses, individuals and families to care for their health in a way that supports his beliefs in caring for community. He chose Blue Cross Blue Shield because he believes they are the best service he can provide; 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.

Sponsoring the Granite Creek Cleanup is just one piece of Dan's involvement as a volunteer. He also shows up for the event, last year bringing a whole group to clean up the section of creek with which he is most familiar. Seeing the creek every day, knowing its relationship to the rest of the area, and taking responsibility for making sure that it, and the rest of the creeks, are clean is very much just a part of who Dan is as a person.

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## Granite Creek's New Digs

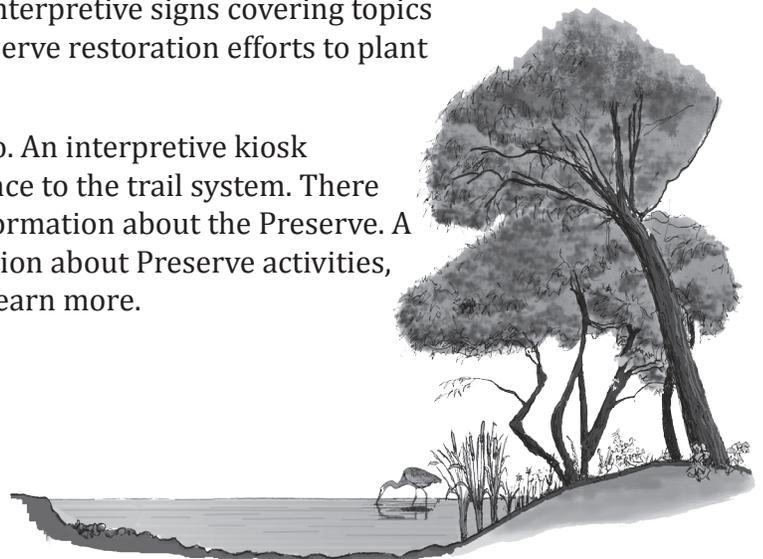
by Gregg Fell

If you like to explore the wild corners of urban Prescott, view wildlife, and/or want to learn about riparian areas and wetlands, then consider a visit to Watson Woods Riparian Preserve – the long-awaited interpretive trail system is now in place!

The Preserve now features over 2 miles of winding trails through cottonwood-willow forests and wetland meadows that provide views of both Granite Creek and the wildlife pond. Along the trail you will encounter over 25 interpretive signs covering topics ranging from riparian ecosystems to wildlife, Preserve restoration efforts to plant identification.

The Rosser St. entrance is slowly taking shape, too. An interpretive kiosk featuring a unique butterfly roof marks the entrance to the trail system. There you will find a trail map, brochures, and other information about the Preserve. A bulletin board there will contain current information about Preserve activities, ways you can contribute, get involved, or how to learn more.

We invite you to visit the Preserve and experience the trails. As a final element of the five-year restoration efforts, we hope the interpretive trails and signs will help tell the story at the Preserve. We look forward to hearing about your experience.



## New Member - Board of Directors



Paula Cooperrider, a resident of Arizona for forty years, moved permanently to Prescott from North Scottsdale in 2003. She and her family are dedicated hikers and explorers of the Arizona deserts and wilderness areas, and are dedicated to seeing that these natural wonders are preserved and protected. Professionally she is an independent designer and maker of studio furniture. She has a degree in English from Stanford University, and both a BFA in drawing and an MFA in woodworking from ASU. Her work has appeared in numerous exhibitions and publications. She brings to the Prescott Creeks Board the experience of over twenty years of leadership on non-profit boards in the arts, including the state board of Arizona Designer Craftsmen, the National Furniture Society, and the Yuma Symposium. She looks forward to being actively involved in helping to protect our local water resources.

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## New Vision and Mission Guide Prescott Creeks

As part of our ongoing internal planning and development, the Prescott Creeks Board of Directors and staff have revised guiding statements for the organization. The vision and mission statements inform organizational strategy, policy, and program direction.

The **Vision** of Prescott Creeks is for a central Arizona with healthy watersheds and clean waters, including water suitable for swimming in the creeks and lakes of the Granite Creek Watershed.

The **Mission** of Prescott Creeks is to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona for the benefit of people and wildlife through protection, restoration, education and advocacy.

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## In Memory

Early in March, Prescott lost one of the founding members of Prescott Creeks Preservation Association. Betty Siegfried, along with her cohorts Bette Bridgewater and Jay Eby, decided that Prescott needed a river-walk, similar to San Antonio's, so they incorporated Prescott Creeks Preservation Association on March 8th, 1990. In coordination with Keep Prescott Beautiful, the City, creek-side landowners, and many community partners, Prescott Creeks (under Betty's leadership) coordinated the construction of a nature trail along Granite Creek. The initial trail, now part of Prescott's Greenways Trail System, grew to become a 1.5-mile network of trails that provide alternative travel routes and an immersive nature-experience in the heart of Prescott. As a Director Emeritus on the Prescott Creeks Board, Betty continued to be involved in meaningful ways throughout her life. She would often drop by the office with a magazine she thought the staff should read, or she would share her many ideas for projects and activities – always with her infamous wry sense of humor. Her enthusiasm and dedication will be missed.



# Preventing Nonpoint Source Pollution through Rainwater Capture

by Amanda Richardson

For many years, Prescott Creeks has been raising awareness about the water quality impairments in the Granite Creek Watershed, excess nutrients and bacteria that can have negative impacts on aquatic ecosystems, wildlife, recreation, tourism, and, perhaps, human health. These pollutants come from many diffuse sources – both natural and human-made – and are referred to as nonpoint source (NPS). NPS is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. When it rains or snows, runoff from roofs, streets, lawns, parking lots, golf courses, parks, and other impervious (hard) surfaces in our urban and suburban areas carry NPS from those surfaces to the nearest waterway, resulting in algal blooms in the lakes and high bacteria concentrations in our creeks. Examples of NPS are: excess fertilizers from agricultural lands and residential areas; oil, grease and toxic chemicals; sediment from construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding stream banks; bacteria and nutrients from pet wastes, livestock, or wastewater; and atmospheric deposition.

While NPS pollution is common in developed watersheds, it is complex to mitigate because there is no singular problem area or source. However, preventing polluted runoff from entering our waterways will help improve water quality in our creeks and lakes. This can be done through rainwater harvesting – both passive and active. Rainwater harvesting is the practice of capturing, diverting, and storing rainwater for plant irrigation or other outdoor (or indoor) uses. Active harvesting systems, such as cisterns and barrels, have storage or transport capacity for use at a later time. Passive harvesting systems rely on micro-topography to direct water from downspouts or hard surfaces towards depressions in the landscape where water will infiltrate the soil and benefit landscape plants (i.e., rain gardens). Both active and passive harvesting systems capture the rain that could become polluted runoff.

Rainwater harvesting is commonly encouraged because it contributes to water conservation goals by reducing municipal water consumption for outdoor uses, especially in our semi-arid climate. It also promotes a return to the natural hydrologic cycle by allowing water that could become runoff to soak into the ground either immediately (passive) or at a later time (active). Rainwater harvesting contributes to multiple water conservation and sustainability goals – a win-win. Additional tips on how to protect water quality can be found in *Creek Care: Your Stewardship Guide to the Granite Creek Watershed*, available at Prescott Creeks (physically and online) as well as other locations in Prescott.

Learn more about the benefits of rainwater harvesting:

*City of Prescott Water Conservation:* <http://www.cityofprescott.net/services/water/conservation.php>

*Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape Use:* [ag.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1344.pdf](http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1344.pdf)

*Rain Scaping:* [www.rainscaping.org](http://www.rainscaping.org)



# Membership Form

NL-1302

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

Please mail this form and payment to: **Prescott Creeks, PO Box 3004, Prescott, AZ 86302.**



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