

Hello Friend,

Welcome to June. It is undeniable: 2018 has been dry and warm! Fire season started early. Fire restrictions were first imposed mid-April, and vast swaths of public land were closed in May to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfire. According to the National Phenology Network, [spring came early](#) in much of Arizona, though there was limited green-up in cool-season grasses and wildflowers throughout central Arizona. We've seen the effects of this lack of precipitation in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and upstream throughout the Granite Creek Watershed.



Normally green and wet cattails looking crispy in Granite Creek.

While it's hard to complain about the persistence of sunny days, our landscapes are parched and the drought effects everything that lives off the land. From the monitoring efforts of an amazing group of volunteers, American Kestrels have served Prescott Creeks as an indicator of the stress imposed on local wildlife. From volunteer observations, we know that there are two or three pairs of kestrels living in the Preserve, but eggs have not been laid in any of the three [nest boxes in the Preserve](#). Last year around this time, there were fifteen eggs total in these boxes. Dave Frechette, the Prescott Audubon Society volunteer spearheading this project, has suggested that this may be due to the sparse population of grasshoppers, a critical food source for



PRESCOTT CREEKS
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Upcoming Events

[CREW Volunteer Events](#)

Thursday, June 7th 8:00 - 11:00 AM

Thursday, June 21st 8:00 - 11:00 AM

[Jay's Bird Barn - Bird Walks](#)

Thursday, June 7th 7:00 - 11:00 AM

Saturday, June 16th 7:00 - 11:00 AM

Wednesday, June 20th 7:00 - 11:00 AM

Thursday, June 28th 7:00 - 11:00 AM

[Prescott Audubon Society - Bird Walk](#)

Saturday, June 9th 7:30 - 9:30 AM

[Highland's Center: Insights to the Outdoors](#)

Saturday, June 9th 9:00 AM - 12 Noon

[Highland's Center: Shakespeare in the Pines](#)

Friday, June 15th & 23rd 6:00 PM

Saturday, June 16th & 22nd 6:00 PM

[Tilted Earth Festival: Schuerman Dinner](#)

Friday, June 22nd 7:00 - 10:00 PM

[Tilted Earth Festival](#)

Saturday, June 23rd 5:30 PM - 12:00 Midnight

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our little falcons. From what we have seen, it seems likely that the birds are aware they do not have the resources to raise young in these conditions and may even be challenged to find enough food for themselves.

Prescott Creeks and local birders have also been seeing [Common Black Hawks](#), which have nested in Watson Woods Preserve for the past several years. However, like the kestrels, we have not yet seen any nesting activity. Black hawks are an obligate riparian species, requiring mature gallery forests to nest and sourcing much of their prey from streams. Granite Creek dried earlier than normal, and it is likely that the black hawks are having trouble finding sufficient food to risk trying to rear young. The adult birds' diligence will help keep them alive until monsoons, when well-earned rains will bring new growth and a fresh supply of food. If they make it that far, they will have another chance at raising a clutch of chicks next year.



Kestrels "changing guard" in 2017

[Tilted Earth Festival](#)

Prescott Creeks is again honored to be a part of the [Tilted Earth Festival](#). Prescott Creeks and Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters, along with a new beneficiary, Friends of the Verde River, are joining forces again in 2018 to host a [silent auction](#) at the Tilted Earth Festival. The festival and auction will be held on June 22nd and 23rd at [Page Springs Cellars](#) in Cornville, AZ. Our goal this year is to raise \$20,000 to support Kids and the Environment in Yavapai County. We are currently seeking donations for the Tilted Earth Silent Auction; if you would like to make a donation, please contact Donations@TiltedEarthFestival.com or download a [Donation Packet](#).



PAGE SPRINGS CELLARS

TRUST YOUR PALATE

[Page Springs Cellars](#) states a goal to create delicious wines that express the unique character of the landscape. Eric Glomski, Page Springs Cellars Owner and Director of Winegrowing, has a deep connection with creeks. In addition to the Page Springs Cellars estate vineyard being on the banks of Oak Creek, Eric explored nearly all of the creeks on the Prescott National Forest as an ecologist and later served as the President of the Prescott Creeks Board of Directors for several years in the mid 1990's. Since 2004, Page Springs Cellars has been a stalwart supporter of Prescott Creeks.

Support Creeks in many ways:



[Membership](#)



[Volunteer](#)



[Donate](#)

You can make a difference by contributing in one of the ways above. Please visit www.PrescottCreeks.org for additional information.

**Water Quality Monitoring:
Gone to the Dogs**



A few volunteer slots are open for the [Festival](#) and for the [Silent Auction](#). Please click the links above to volunteer.



Golden retriever Kenna, and her handler Laura Symonds, of Environmental Canine Services, LLC, take a break from water quality monitoring on Miller Creek. ADEQ, the UofA, Prescott Creeks, and the Butte Creek Restoration Council teamed up to investigate potential pollutant sources with the help of Kenna's trained nose. [Read more here...](#)



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

[Contact Us](#) | Phone: (928) 445-5669 | Info@PrescottCreeks.org

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