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# Prescott Creekside E-News

September 2019

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

One of the most rewarding aspects of working with Prescott Creeks is getting to spend time in the field with people. Watching, talking, working. It doesn't matter. Nearly every visit results in something that amazes. Just the other day, a group got to meet this awesome (scary?) [Banded Garden Spider \(\*Argiope trifasciata\*\)](#) as she dined on a grasshopper. While spiders are not everyone's "cup-of-tea," it was nice to see some wildlife thriving this summer. After such a wet winter, this summer has been quite a challenge for many of our native wildlife species.



## Monsoon? What Monsoon?

The US National Weather Service in Flagstaff, Arizona reported that August 2019 was among the warmest and driest on record for multiple northern Arizona locations. Prescott was listed as having the 2nd warmest August as measured at the airport and having the 6th driest precipitation ranking. On September 3rd Prescott was revised to the 10th driest based on the previous night's storms in the area. Regardless, it has been extremely dry for what we expect this time of year. Prescott Creeks volunteer Aaron Burrows compiled data from the NWS and Yavapai County rain gauges that puts the monsoon activity (or lack thereof) into perspective. Check out his [charts and summary](#) at the [Prescott Creeks website](#).



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Creeks • Connect • Community

## C.R.E.W.

Volunteers continue to meet Thursday mornings to work on invasive species control and removal at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Work will be from 8 AM until the group has had enough (usually about two hours). If you'd like to volunteer, [contact Prescott Creeks](#) to get on the mailing list with details (and possible date or time changes).

## State of the Verde River Conference

October 28-30th, Camp Verde, AZ. [Information & Registration](#). Begin your conference experience with a guided walk at Watson Woods Preserve, then participate in sessions, panels, and speakers addressing all manner of issues related to the Verde River.

## State § 404 Program Roadmap

ADEQ has drafted a [proposed Roadmap](#) outlining the pathway to Arizona's assumption of the CWA § 404 permitting program from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This Roadmap also serves as their vision for a State-administered § 404 program.

- [Learn about the Program](#)
- [Checkout the Roadmap](#)



## Desert Marigold School

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the group from [Desert Marigold School](#) who recently spent an afternoon with Prescott Creeks at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. In addition to adding paint to a very dry round-rail fence that badly needed the maintenance attention, the 50-strong group helped with invasive plant control and removal work. Non-native common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) and [periwinkle](#) (*Vinca major*) were removed from the Granite Creek floodplain. Look at the difference the group made on the vinca!



[Read why Prescott Creeks is removing this plant from the Preserve.](#) Once established, periwinkle forms a dense cover that prevents growth and establishment of other plant species (Stern 1973). Periwinkle lowers species diversity and disrupts native plant communities. Riparian zones, like Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, are particularly sensitive.

Follow Prescott Creeks on:



- [Attend an Informational Meeting](#)
- Feedback is due by October 4th.
- [Contact Prescott Creeks](#) directly for our involvement and perspective.

## Thank You!



[Tilted Earth 2019](#) Silent Auction raised \$20,000 to support kids and the environment! Thanks go out to our friends at [Page Springs Cellars](#), [Friends of the Verde River](#), and [Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters](#) for being great partners and supporters.

## Support Creeks in many ways:



[Membership](#)



[Volunteer](#)



[Donate](#)

## Board of Directors

Prescott Creeks is actively seeking new members to join the Board of Directors. [Contact Michael Byrd](#), the Prescott Creeks Executive Director for information.

You can make a difference by contributing in one of the ways above. Please visit [www.PrescottCreeks.org](http://www.PrescottCreeks.org) for more information.

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.

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