Prescott Creekside E-News

September 2020

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

These last few days in Prescott have brought some sense of relief. Although the 2020 monsoon never really materialized, the 30 degree drop in temperatures was a welcomed change. Despite the lack of flow in the creeks Prescott Creeks has continued to keep focused on its mission to achieve healthy watershed and clean waters largely through preservation and education efforts. You can read below about a few of the items in our view and those supporting Prescott Creeks. Please note the opportunities to <u>lend</u> <u>your support to Prescott Creeks</u>. It is through donations from people like you, that improvement to our local waterways are possible.

2020 Monsoon Excerpted from Aaron Burrows

As of September 1st, the 2020 Monsoon season continued to be a disappointment across Yavapai County and much of the State of Arizona. Even as dry as what July 2020 was, August of this year has turned out to be even drier for many of the fifty-five monitored weather sites across Yavapai County.



There are two official National Weather Service rain gauges within the City of Prescott. Having only recorded a total of 2.08 inches of rain this July/August, the Sundog Ranch Road rain gauge saw the driest two-month period of July/August since 1978 and the third driest over the past 75 years. Only July/August in the years of 1944 and 1978 were drier. The 2.08 inches of rain received at this site through August 31st is only about 36% of the 30-year average of 5.80 inches for the two-month period of July/August. [The Prescott Creeks office – approximately ¼ mile west of the Sundog Ranch Road rain gauge recorded 0.77" during the period between June 1 and August 31, 2020.]

Read the full assessment of the 2020 Monsoon by Aaron Burrows at the Prescott Creeks website.

Hands-On Watershed Learning

In 2008, Prescott Creeks had an idea for a hands-on watershed learning tool. What we envisioned is commonly known as a stream



Help Creeks Thrive



Many of the conservation activities, community events, and on-the-ground work that connects you to Prescott Creeks have been subdued or cancelled due to COVID-19. 2020 has been a challenging year to secure support for healthy watersheds and clean waters. <u>With your donation</u>, we can reach our \$5,000 goal to help make up some of the difference resulting from the pandemic! Thank you if you have already donated.

DONATE

Your support through the end of September will count toward the effort and <u>contribute to</u> <u>protecting and restoring</u> our creeks, rivers, wetlands, and lakes.

Sponsor Spotlight



We appreciate those who in great faith sponsored the twice cancelled Granite Creek Cleanup (due to COVID-19) and in greater support of our

table. Imagine a tilted shallow rectangular box, half filled with sand, with a hose in it to make a "river." Ours ended up being 8 feet wide by 12 feet long mounted on a trailer! We call it Rambling River.



Rambling River offers a unique teaching tool to demonstrate principles and practices that affect water quality and watershed and stream health. It helps Prescott Creeks realize its goals and objectives in outreach and education – important strategies to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona. Rambling River is a tool accessible to ages 8 through 98 (based on size) and everyone reacts the same – no matter age or understanding everyone is willing to listen for about two minutes before getting hands-on constructing a dam or widening the river to see what happens!



The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality supported the vision we had for teaching people about watersheds with a grant. The grant funding covered creation/construction of Rambling River and we've operated it only several times per year to high acclaim. We've done so without formal curricula, though. It could do so much more.

A local collaborator has expressed interest in using Rambling River to teach kids, and about developing formal educational models for it. This will allow those interacting with the stream table to learn in the context of State educational standards. And this would make Rambling River more accessible to our local educators! There may be opportunities for your involvement. If you are interested in participating with Rambling River (developing curricula, presenting, helping with upkeep and maintenance, or some other way), please <u>reach out to Prescott Creeks</u> and we'll make sure to keep you in the loop as plans develop. mission, subsequently turned those funds into donations. These contributions are essential to caring for our local watershed. Thank you for standing by Prescott Creeks!

2020 Cleanup Premier Sponsor: Mandalay Homes, Champion Sponsor: MI Windows & Doors, Arizona Eco Development, Major Sponsor: Salt River Project, Stewardship Sponsors: Greater Prescott Outdoors Fund, Posey Nash, Highlands Center for Natural History, Interior Logic, Supporting Sponsors: Lamb Chevrolet, Fann Contracting, Fann Environmental, Alta Vista Garden Club, Jay's Bird Barn, Bike Prescott, Country Bank-Mohave State Bank, and Cleanup Friends: Great Expectations Business Services, Prescott Audubon Society, Two Mamas' Gourmet Pizzeria, and Prescott True Value Hardware. Learn more about Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #3600 in the September Sponsor Spotlight on the Prescott Creeks website.



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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