



Prescott Creekside E-News

December 2023

www.PrescottCreeks.org



The Western Terrestrial Garter Snake (*Thamnophis elegans*) is the most common snake found at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. The snake pictured here is nonvenomous and was encountered in Granite Creek Park. Note its orange tongue! Photo by Prescott Creeks.

Hello Friend,

Thank you for supporting Prescott Creeks! You are doing your part by protecting riparian areas, restoring wildlife habitats, controlling pollution, and improving water quality locally.

All these things inherently provide recreational opportunities and a tranquil break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life - things every community needs.

This year your support helped...

- Volunteers invest over 3,000 hours of their time to creeks and watersheds.
- People attend tours of local creeks. We invite you to join us for an upcoming tour!
- Make major and exciting achievements with partners. (Downtown, Glassford Hill, etc.)

Your donation to Prescott Creeks is an investment for future generations.

In the coming year, your support is essential to the Prescott Creeks mission of healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona. While Watson Woods Riparian Preserve will celebrate its 29th anniversary in 2024 – it is only a 'Preserve' through a 25-year lease with the City of Prescott. The City and Prescott Creeks are planning ahead to forever protect the riparian forest, its wildlife, and ecosystem services through a conservation easement.

You can help! **With your gift Prescott Creeks plans to secure \$26,000** to support the ambitious efforts described here. Your tax-deductible donations can be made securely online at **www.Prescottcreeks.org/Donate**.

Thank you to those who have already contributed this year!

[You can read the full annual support appeal letter on the Prescott Creeks website.](http://www.PrescottCreeks.org)

DONATE

- IN OTHER NEWS -

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve | January 15th, 2024 | 9 AM to Noon

Friends of the Verde River and the Prescott Creeks have partnered to coordinate a volunteer day at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve for [Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service](#). Once a sand and gravel pit, the 160 acres of unique cottonwood/willow gallery forest that make up Watson Woods along Granite Creek are being protected and restored by community members and visitors.

We invite you to join the restoration effort on January 15th.



MORE INFO

2024 Granite Creek Cleanup

Save the Date: April 20th | 8 AM to Noon

Prescott Creeks is excited to announce that the 2024 Granite Creek Cleanup will be co-located with the Earth Day Celebration in downtown Prescott this year! All the details remain to be determined, but we'll keep you posted as they come together.

Visit the [Granite Creek Cleanup webpage](#) to learn more about the event.

We're Accepting Applications...

...for individuals interested in serving on the [Prescott Creeks Board of Directors](#).

The Prescott Creeks Board of Directors is the volunteer group of people who oversee the activities of the organization and set policies consistent with its mission to achieve healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona for the benefit of people and wildlife through protection, restoration, education, and advocacy.

We'd love to have you share your talents.
Please [contact Prescott Creeks](#) for additional information.

Two Decades of Volunteer Service

Russell Fosha started volunteering with Prescott Creeks in 2004 and later completed a 10 week *Master Watershed Steward* course with through the University of Arizona Yavapai County Cooperative Extension. Becoming a Master Watershed Steward seemed to solidify the relationship. Since then Russ has worked in nearly every volunteer capacity with the organization - including sixteen (16!) years on the Prescott Creeks Board of Directors. At the

end of this calendar year, Russ will embark upon a well-earned retirement from the Board. We cannot begin to express our thanks for all Russ' leadership, guidance, comradery, and outright physical labor (at times) over the years. *Thank you!*



While he will no longer serve on the Board, Russ says he intends to continue volunteering with Prescott Creeks. You can read Russ' volunteer profile on the [Prescott Creeks website](#).

Thanks also go to everyone who has touched Prescott Creeks through the year. Whether you are a new volunteer or long-timer, a sustaining or one-time donor, a partner or event sponsor, you've made a difference in the community. Thank you for making it all possible.

Happy holidays from Prescott Creeks to you and your family.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Michael Byrd". The signature is fluid and stylized.

Michael Byrd, Executive Director

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.

Our Contact Information

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