

Prescott Creekside E-News

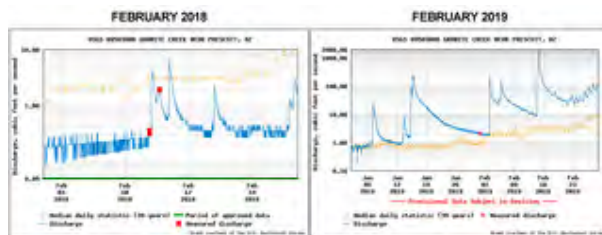
February 2019

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

The month of February this year was dramatically different than last year. It is with a strange sense of relief that many are appreciating the little bit of dryness we're experiencing at the moment. At Prescott Creeks we're always watching the [USGS gauging station](#) just upstream from Watson Woods Preserve to assess conditions. For February 2018 this gauge had an average discharge of 0.51 cfs ([cubic feet per second](#)) while this year the average discharge was 60.59 cfs. That's an almost 12,000% increase in water flowing in Granite Creek. The [image below](#) shows the discharge from the two periods in graphic form.

What this moisture, along with the precipitation we received in the second half of 2018, means (other than mud on the trails) is a desert bloom, full lakes and groundwater recharge, and hopefully a more successful season for nesting birds in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.



Granite Creek Cleanup

It's [Granite Creek Cleanup](#) time again! This family-friendly annual event has made a difference in the community since the 1980s. This year, we're looking to do our part with both trash and debris cleanup as well as several trail-related service projects. Pre-registration is now open at www.PrescottCreeks.org - Won't you join us?

The Cleanup would not be possible without the support of the [City of Prescott](#) and our many event sponsors. We are pleased to welcome [Mandalay Homes](#) as our primary sponsor in 2019. See the Business Supporter Spotlight to the right for more about Mandalay Homes.

As always, registered participants will receive a free t-shirt, along with snacks and coffee to boost their Cleanup energy. Contact [Prescott Creeks](#) with



Businesses Supporter Spotlight

Prescott Creeks is pleased to welcome [Mandalay Homes](#) as the primary sponsor for the 2019 Granite Creek Cleanup.



When asked why Mandalay Homes chose to sponsor the Cleanup this year they said: "Mandalay Homes is recognized as one of the most innovative new home builders in America. A 10-time winner of the DOE's award for innovation and an ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year two years in a row, Mandalay Homes has a passion for building homes that promote safety, health, comfort, style, reduced energy costs, and less environmental impact. Mandalay Homes has a focus on the surrounding area community and environment in which we build and we are happy to support such a beneficial cause such as the Granite Creek Cleanup."

Thanks for your support!

registration questions, or contact [Deb Pastor, Cleanup Coordinator](#), with sponsorship questions.



Miller Creek Public Bathrooms

If you traveled the downtown Greenways Trails during February, you might have noticed construction activities along the Miller Creek Trail at Madison Avenue. Prescott Creeks has installed a publicly accessible bathroom. The project is in partnership with the [Coalition for Compassion & Justice](#) (as landowner and manager), the [City of Prescott](#) (development and education assistance), and the [Butte Creek Restoration Council](#) at Prescott College (water quality monitoring). Funded through a [Water Quality Improvement Grant](#) from the AZ Department of Environmental Quality, the project aims to improve both creek health and community health. Lower Miller Creek has had some of the lowest water quality test results and was targeted for improvements by the Granite Creek Watershed Improvement Council in 2012 and again in 2015. While not yet fully operational and opened for use, we look forward to a grand-opening event soon. [Read more about the project.](#)



Household Hazardous Waste



The City of Prescott Solid Waste Division offers residents the opportunity to [safely dispose of unwanted household hazardous waste](#) (HHW) with its home collection service. Residents can sign up online for the service during the dates listed below. *Deadlines extended to March 8th due to February snow storms.*

IMPORTANT: Registration will be on a first-come, first-service basis. Collection is for residents with the City of Prescott's residential solid waste services.

Appointment Scheduling Opens:
February 13, 2019

Appointment Scheduling Closes:

March 1, 2019 or until filled

Opens Collection Date: March 4 to March 22, 2019

Secure your spot now!

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 more info.



central Arizona for the benefit of people and wildlife through protection, restoration, education and advocacy.

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Prescott Creekside E-News

June 2019

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

Well, we finally had to turn on the air conditioning in the office last week. With the unusually cool and wet spring, we were wondering if summer would ever arrive. Some of the benefit the watershed as seen for the winter and spring precipitation is continuous flow in the creeks since atleast late fall. And there is a tremendous spurt of green (and other colors if you look closely) happening out there. The watershed seems happy.



Doubting mariposa lily (*Calochortus ambiguus*)

Tilted Earth

The Tilted Earth Festival is coming to Page Springs Cellars in Cornville, AZ on June 21st and 22nd, 2019. Prescott Creeks, Friends of the Verde River, and Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters are working together again to host a [Silent Auction](#) on the vineyard's river-deck during the event. Our goal this year is to raise \$20,000 to support Kids and the Environment in Yavapai County. We are still seeking donations for the Tilted Earth Silent Auction; if you would like to make a donation, please contact Donations@Tilted-Earth.com or download a [Donation Packet](#).



Invasive Species Removal

[Managing invasive vegetation](#) in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and other restored riparian areas in our community is an important and ongoing activity. Invasive, non-native vegetation threatens natural diversity. Without vigilance species such as Siberian elm, Scotch thistle, common teasel, Dalmatian toadflax, salt cedar, and others could overtake desired native vegetation in the Preserve.



Volunteer crews will be in the field this summer working to avoid the scene in this image above. Scheduled dates are: Thursday June 13, *Friday* June 21, Thursdays from June 27 through August 15. 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).

Businesses Supporter Spotlight

[Page Springs Cellars](#) (PSC) creates wines that express the character of the Arizona landscape. From grape to bottle, their process is imbued with their belief that growing grapes, making wine,



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

Watson Woods Preserve & Partners

Would you believe it if I told you that [Watson Woods Riparian Preserve](#) was turning 24 this summer? It is. The City of Prescott Mayor and Council approved the renewable management lease creating the Preserve on July 27th, 1995. This lease, in effect, created a partnership between Prescott Creeks and the City which has spanned nearly two and a half decades and improved community assets by bringing other partners on board. Two notable partners over the years have included the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. They each provided technical expertise and funding for [restoration activities](#) in the Preserve. Community volunteers have also been an instrumental partner over the volunteers. Any success Prescott Creeks has had can only be claimed on behalf of the thousands of hours donated by dedicated community members. We couldn't do it without them! Thank you.



Prescott Creeks and the City of Prescott are looking to the future of Watson Woods Riparian Preserve with lease renewal, new partners, and plans for continued ecological improvements. If you'd like to be part of the process as a volunteer in the [field](#), as a member of the Prescott Creeks [Board of Directors](#), or helping out in the [office](#), please click one or more of the links above.

and raising a glass cultivates friendships and unites communities. They are a family and all are welcome. "Come, sip with us."



PAGE SPRINGS CELLARS

TRUST YOUR PALATE

Eric Glomski, Owner and Director of Winegrowing at Page Springs Cellars, has a deep connection with creeks. Not only is the PSC estate vineyard on the banks of Oak Creek, Eric has explored countless of Arizona's creeks and rivers and he served in a leadership capacity for Prescott Creeks for the better part of a decade. Page Springs Cellars has been a stalwart supporter of Prescott Creeks for almost two decades!

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 more info.



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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September 2019

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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](#).



PRESCOTT CREEKS
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 for more information.

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