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Prescott Creekside E-News

January 2016

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our recent year-end fundraising campaign. As a small nonprofit, we are increasingly dependent on memberships and donations from individuals like you to support the work we do in watershed restoration, preservation, and advocacy. We are aware, though, of the volume of solicitations many of you receive from nonprofits during the closing months of the year and, again, thank all of you who did respond with a donation and helped make our 2015 fall fundraising effort one of the more successful we've had in recent years.

Thanks to all of you, we look forward to a productive and rewarding year ahead restoring and preserving our waterways and building awareness and appreciation for the natural landscapes that help define this place we call home!

Post-storm Watson Lake Reservoir

Winter On The Creeks

This season has brought a return of winter, real winter, to Central and Northern Arizona. After the last few mild winters, we are once again seeing such things as winter

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Upcoming Events

Watson Woods Restoration Volunteer Event; Rescheduled due to winter weather, our cottonwood and willow "pole cutting" and planting prep day will be held Saturday January 16, 10:00AM-12:00PM.

Urban Creek Walk; Our popular walking tours along the Greenways Trail System and Granite Creek offer a unique view of our human and natural history along our waterways; Saturday January 30, 1:00-4:00PM.

Watch for more volunteer events, walks, and tours in the months ahead!

Prescott Farmers Market; Winter Schedule: Saturdays, 10:00AM-1:00PM, YRMC Pendleton Ctr, 930 Division Street.

Fourth Friday Art Walk; Friday January 22, 5:00PM.

2016 Prescott Chamber Annual Meeting and Healthy Prescott Business Awards; Thursday January 28, 4:00-6:30PM.

Business Supporter Highlight

storm warnings, school closings (and rescheduled Prescott Creeks tours and volunteer events), genuine snowpack at higher elevations, shoveling, and meltwater runoff. Our restored Watson Woods wetlands and riparian areas are filling and serving to filter what Granite Creek takes from the streets and culverts as the recent heavy, wet snows melt in the afternoon sun.

We are excited as we monitor the water quality in our local waterways, seeing the results of the efforts of the scores of volunteers who contributed to our stream restoration and urban natural landscape runoff management projects. These projects work to slow runoff flow, which can be excessive in these winter storms, and remove sediment and other pollutants. Results from monitoring at our Whipple Basin and Adult Center projects done through our recent winter storms, in fact, show reduced levels of sediment, *E. coli* bacteria, and other contaminants as runoff flow passes through these sites, leading to less pollutants moving downstream and reaching Watson Lake Reservoir and beyond.

Save the Date: Granite Creek Cleanup Just Around the Corner!

Mark your calendar: Prescott Creeks' annual Granite

We'd like to thank **The Old Sage Bookshop** for their support of Prescott Creeks. The Old Sage Bookshop is a small and mighty bookshop offering quality used books for the collector, the seeker, and the avid reader. Old Sage features most subjects, with an emphasis on Southwestern regional history and natural history, Native American, children's books, art, and fiction, with dedicated sections for mystery and science fiction/fantasy. Located among the specialty shops in St. Michael's Alley, 110 Montezuma in downtown Prescott, Old Sage invites you to call 928-776-1136 with your inquiries and stop in and browse through their collections in a classic bookshop atmosphere.

Our business supporters recognize how Prescott's distinct local businesses and our waterways and natural areas help build a dynamic community and a healthy local economy. Please visit our website for more information on The Old Sage Bookshop and our other business sponsors; and make sure to thank them for their support of healthy watersheds and clean waters.

As Prescott Creeks works to restore and preserve our waterways and surrounding natural areas and build awareness and support for the value they bring to our community, we'd like to ask you to consider becoming a supporting partner in our work. Visit our website to find information on becoming a member, making a donation, or volunteering on any number of projects.

Creek Cleanup is set for Saturday, April 23, 9:00-11:00AM! Watch our website and Facebook page for more information on this Prescott rite-of-spring family event. We look forward to seeing all of you for a morning of getting out and in it cleaning up, and just enjoying, our creeks and urban wild places.

Make sure you check the Prescott Creeks Calendar for updates on upcoming events, follow us on Twitter, and 'Like' our Facebook page to keep up on the goings on here at Prescott Creeks!

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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Prescott Creekside E-News

February 2016

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

The winter of 2015-2016 has shaped up to be a return of a "normal" Central Arizona winter. Several winter storms have left remarkable snowpack throughout the area. January mornings have seen temperatures reaching the single digits, leading to ice on Watson Woods wetlands and our staff keeping the fire stoked at the Prescott Creeks log cabin office. Seasonal daytime temperatures have resulted in gradual snowmelt feeding our creeks with consistent flow. Participants in our recent Urban Creeks Walk and other trail walkers and passersby in downtown Prescott have been treated to a babbling, clear Granite Creek lined by the early hints of buds on the trees. Make sure to get out and enjoy what winter offers in the wild places in and around Prescott.

Prescott Creeks Featured in Public Library Viewery Display

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Upcoming Events

Prescott Audubon Society-Highland Center Bird Walk: February 13, 9:00-11:00.

Collaborating to Create Great Arts Communities-Milagro Arts Center and Local First Arizona: February 23, 5:30-7:00.

Watson Woods Restoration Tour: February 27, 10:00-12:00

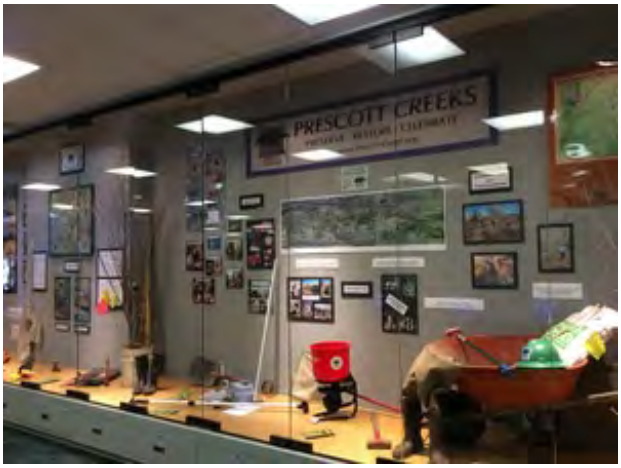
Green Infrastructure Tour: March 26, 10:00-12:00

Urban Creek Walk-Prescott Get Off the Couch: April 2.

Business Supporter Highlight

The Whiskey Off-Road
PRESCOTT • ARIZONA
AN ENDURANCE MOUNTAIN BIKE EVENT

We'd like to thank **Epic Rides** for their support of Prescott Creeks. Proud organizer behind Prescott's **Whiskey Off-Road**, Epic Rides works to promote the simple joy of mountain biking and getting out in the remarkable landscapes of the Southwest and beyond. The 2016 Whiskey, coming April 29-May 1, promises once again to be an international showcase for the sport and our community. Epic Rides works to share their appreciation and stewardship for the natural areas and



Prescott Creeks volunteers and staff have been working hard preparing our Prescott Public Library Viewery Display. In what has become a yearly showcase for Prescott Creeks and its partners, this year's display features a feet-on-the ground view of the work of restoring and preserving watershed health.

The Prescott Creeks display can be seen at the Prescott Public Library through February. Find more on activities, events, and how to get involved and support our Prescott Public Library on their website.

Granite Creek Cleanup-Coming April 23!

The 2016 Granite Creek Cleanup is set for Saturday, April 23, 9:00-11:00AM. This year, as always, The Cleanup offers families, groups, and people of all ages an opportunity to get out as a community and connect with our creeks and waterways. Watch our website and Facebook posts for more information and early registration (coming soon).

See you out there on April 23!

communities in which the races take place, and supports local organizations working to better our environment and our quality of life.

More on Epic Rides events, including information and registration for the 2016 Whiskey Off-Road, at: EpicRides.com.

Our business supporters recognize how Prescott's distinct local businesses and our waterways and natural areas help build a dynamic community and a healthy local economy. Please visit our website for more information on Epic Rides and our other business sponsors; and make sure to thank them for their support of healthy watersheds and clean waters.

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Make sure you check the Prescott Creeks Calendar for updates on upcoming events, follow us on Twitter, and 'Like' our Facebook page to keep up on the goings on here at Prescott Creeks!

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Prescott Creekside E-News

March 2016

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Friend,

Spring is coming. Early greening and flowering trees, robins and spotted towhees singing their spring songs; all promise that despite the likely occasional cold front and snow flurry still ahead, it's time to get out and enjoy the Prescott area outdoors! Prescott Creeks has a number of events coming up to give those who might need some incentive to do just that. Tours of our green infrastructure project sites, urban creek walks, and the 2016 Granite Creek Cleanup offer fun, sharing, and some learning as icing on the cake for all ages.

Granite Creek Cleanup Coming Soon: Pre-Registration Open

The 2016 Granite Creek Cleanup is set for Saturday, April 23, 9:00-11:00AM. Our annual rite of spring event offers an opportunity to get out with your friends and neighbors and help clean up our local creeks and green places. Good not-so-clean fun for groups, families, kids of all ages...everyone!
Pre-registration recommended on our online registration page.

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Upcoming Events

Protecting Our Creeks: Why and How: Prescott Creeks' Michael Byrd and Guy Whol presenting at the March CWAG meeting; March 12, 10:00-12:00

Prescott Chamber of Commerce Monthly Mixer-Mountain Artists Guild: March 17, 5:00-6:30

Green Infrastructure Tour: March 26, 10:00-12:00 (see the recent *Daily Courier* piece on the importance of natural landscape design and green infrastructure in improving surface water quality)

Urban Creek Walk-Prescott Get Off the Couch: April 2

Business Supporter Highlight

We'd like to present and thank our **2016 Granite Creek Cleanup Primary Sponsor: DanoBoots.com.** Dan Frank Blue Cross-Blue Shield Insurance has been one of our past Cleanup Primary Sponsors. Dan is now sharing his appreciation for Prescott's creeks and green corridors, and his passion for fine-crafted Western footwear, though his new venture, Dano Boots. We thank

Join the Prescott Creeks Team: Your Time, Treasure, and Talent are Needed

Prescott Creeks is looking for prospective members for the Board of Directors. The growing organization is working to develop new projects and to engage citizens in protecting and restoring central Arizona watersheds. Individuals who bring skills and experience in fund-raising, connections with the business community, financial management and accounting, and leadership and board governance are especially needed. If you have an interest in and commitment to community-based organizations, support our mission, and have the time and energy to fully participate in Board meetings, serve on committees, and represent Prescott Creeks in the community, we would welcome an opportunity to talk with you about the possibility of having you serve our organization. For more information, please contact our office at 928-445-5669.

ongoing generous support for the Cleanup. Make sure to check the DanoBoots.com webpage for a full view of the quality crafted Western boots they have available.

Our business supporters recognize how Prescott's distinct local businesses and our waterways and natural areas help build a dynamic community and a healthy local economy. Please visit our website for more information on DanoBoots.com and our other business sponsors; and make sure to thank them for their support of healthy watersheds and clean waters.

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Prescott Creekside E-News

April 2016

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Hello {FIRST_NAME|Friend},

It's greening up in the Prescott area, and it is a busy time in the community, and a busy time for Prescott Creeks. We're working with a number of volunteer groups in our ongoing Watson Woods restoration; planting, seeding, and managing invasives. We've been conducting tours of our green infrastructure project sites and our urban Greenways Trail system, where one of our groups from Prescott College recently encountered a pair of wood ducks on Granite Creek right in front of a downtown business establishment. Take the time to get out and enjoy our creeks and natural areas in this season of mixed weather, and so much possibility!

It's Granite Creek Cleanup Time!

The **2016 Granite Creek Cleanup** is right around the corner. Join hundreds of your friends, neighbors, and fellow creeks enthusiasts on **Saturday, April 23, 9:00-11:00AM, at Granite Creek Park**, for a morning of getting out and cleaning up the waterways, woods, and natural places in our community. We've got a number of new business sponsors to help make sure we have everything to make the day a success.

Get your group, your family, and you out for what has

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Upcoming Events

In addition to the upcoming Cleanup and Post-Cleanup Celebration, you might be interested in:

- Fourth Friday Art Walk
- Earth Day on Courthouse Square

Business Supporter Highlight

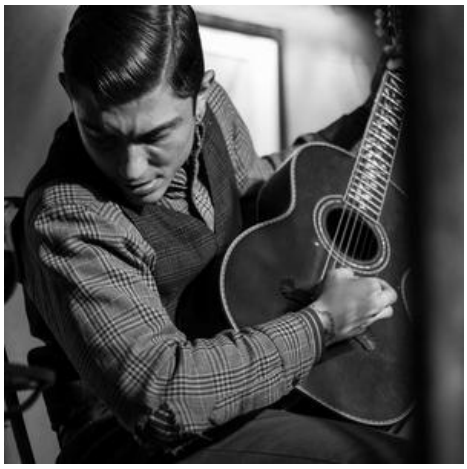
We'd like to thank our 2016 Granite Creek Cleanup Sponsors. We could not do it without them. Make sure to support these local businesses and organizations, and tell them 'Thanks... for all they do.'

- DanOBoots.com
- Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- MadShirtz
- Garden Brook Realty
- Country Bank
- KJZP-KJZA Prescott Public Radio
- El Gato Azul
- Solanos y Hermanos Coffee
- The Hike Shack

registration (helpful, but do just show up if you might be so moved) **on our online registration page**.

Post-Cleanup Celebration at Granite Mountain Brewing

After this year's cleanup, Prescott Creeks is hosting a **Post-Cleanup Celebration at Granite Mountain Brewing, Saturday April 23, 6:00-10:00PM**. It will have been a long day for many of us, but we'll be saving some energy to get together and enjoy good company, GMB's fine product, and the **music of Parker Smith** and Friends.



If you have not experienced Prescott's Parker Smith, you are in for a treat. Smith is an ol' time blues and backwater country craftsman. His music should draw you in, and just perhaps move you to get up and dance with your fellow Cleanup participants and assorted friends and neighbors.

Granite Mountain Brewing is donating $1 from every beverage purchase during this event to support Prescott Creeks in our efforts to build awareness and appreciation for our creeks and waters. Come on down April 23, and join us in celebrating this place we call home.

(Please Respectfully Note: Minors must be accompanied by a parent/guardian).

- Over the Hill Gang
- Prescott Audubon Society
- Sierra Club-Grand Canyon Chapter
- Jay's Bird Barn
- Fann Contracting
- Fann Environmental
- Alta Vista Garden Club
- Yavapai Firewise
- Granite Mountain Brewing
- Prescott College
- Northpoint Academy
- City of Prescott
- KEEN Footwear
- Bucket List Designs
- Manzanita Outfitters
- Rob Israel-Prescott's Green Realtor
- Nick's Feed Your Face
- APS
- True Value
- American Rivers
- Costco
- Your Local Safeway Stores

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Prescott Creekside E-News

May 2016

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

Granite Creek Cleanup is behind us and we're wrapping up the numbers for what turned out to be a beautiful spring day event. Spring is slowly pulling away from winter, with a few last gasps of cold rain and sleet. Flowering plants are coming into bloom, with drifts of cottonwood seed tufts forming in the streets with the strong spring winds in our region.

Prescott Creeks is busy with our volunteers in our ongoing restoration work. We've also got a few events coming up worth noting. Read on for more about what's going on here at Prescott Creeks.

A Cleanup Find Photo Credit: Peter Sherman

Granite Creek Cleanup a Big Success!

We must be doing something right. Saturday, April 23 came with a perfect bright, warm spring sunshine day, sandwiched between late winter-like storms. This year's Granite Creek Cleanup drew some 575 participants and over 30 volunteers. While participation was up, the amount of trash and discarded materials collected was down, totalling just over one ton of waste and recyclables collected and processed. Perhaps this is a sign of success. Our efforts just might be having an impact in both the conditions along our creeks and public awareness of how valuable our waterways and natural areas are.

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Upcoming Events

TILTED EARTH FESTIVAL

Page Springs Cellars and the City of Cottonwood have teamed up again for the 3rd Annual Tilted Earth Festival taking place June 16-18. A three-day celebration of culture, community and local economy, Tilted Earth highlights artisans in the fields of craft drink, food, music, and the fine arts. This year's stellar music lineup features Taj Mahal, Sister Sparrow and the Dirty Birds, Muddy Magnolias, and much more. Prescott Creeks and Yavapai Big Brothers and Sisters are working together as this year's TItled Earth Silent Auction organizers, and will be sharing the proceeds from this event. More at TiltedEarthFestival.com.

May 6: Parker Smith Goes Vinyl Fundraiser at Granite Mountain Brewing.

May 14: CWAG Low Water Use Landscapes Tour

May 21: Watson Woods Tour

May 26: Prescott Audubon Society Presents 'Beautiful Birds of Belize' with Eric Moore

Business Supporter Highlight

We've got more Cleanup pictures on our Facebook page. We hope to see everyone back for next year's Cleanup, with more activities and projects planned for the day.

Managing Invasive Species: A Critical Component of Restoration

Spring also brings the seasonal emergence of many of our invasive vegetation species. While some of these non-native 'weeds' are not much of a threat, many are proving to be so prolific and aggressive that they take over and dramatically degrade local and regional ecosystems. Invasives can bring changes in soil chemistry, diminish biodiversity and species richness, and cause a loss of wildlife habitat.

Prescott Creeks works with a number of conservation organizations, land managers, and regional agencies to manage the spread of invasives as part of our watershed restoration efforts. Throughout the year, but particularly during the periods of rapid growth in spring and summer, our staff and volunteers are actively involved in cutting and pulling common teasel (pictured above), tamarisk (or salt cedar), Siberian elm, a number of invasive thistle species, and other problematic non-native vegetation. Limiting the growth and spread of invasives gives native planting and seeding efforts, as well as natural vegetation processes, a chance to take hold and create healthy, functional ecosystems.

MadShirtz.com

Full Service Printing

We'd like to thank MadShirtz of Prescott for their support of Prescott Creeks. Prescott Creeks has been relying on MadShirtz for putting together and producing our popular Granite Creek Cleanup t-shirts since 2012. Jason and the MadShirtz staff are dedicated to quality design and customer service in not only t-shirts, but offer full-service custom printing for stickers, cards, signs and banners, and more. Striving to keep their production local, MadShirtz can help get your ideas turned into quality imaging for your club, organization, event, or business. Visit their website for more information on MadShirtz services.

Visit our website for information on membership opportunities and how Prescott Creeks can promote your business or organization.

Thanks Again to all our 2016 Cleanup Sponsors!

As Prescott Creeks works to restore and preserve our waterways and surrounding natural areas and build awareness for the value they bring to our community, we'd like to ask you to consider becoming a supporting partner in our work. Visit our website to find information on becoming a member, making a donation, or volunteering on any number of projects.

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Prescott Creekside E-News

June 2016

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

Well, it got hot. As we sweat, we're thinking of some of the Preserve's residents and their new families. The Common Black Hawks are believed to have a successful nest for a 5th year in the Preserve. We're watching a few hummingbird nests and, as you'll read down to the right in the next column, Watson Woods has a Vermillion Flycatcher nest. Woot! All signs that our feathered friends seem to like the areas along Granite Creek at are being protected and restored.

Tilted Earth Festival

Hopefully you've heard and know about the Tilted Earth Festival by now. If not, you should know that it is coming up! It takes place June 16-18. That's in two weeks. We'd also like you to know that Prescott Creeks and Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters have teamed up to host a Silent Auction at the Festival. 100% of the proceeds from the silent auction will benefit kids and the environment in Yavapai County.

Tilted Earth Festival was founded in 2014 by Eric Gmomski, Owner/Director at Page Springs Cellars and a past President of Prescott Creeks during the mid-1990s. In Eric's words, "the Festival was created to foster the growth of culture, community and the economy in the great Verde Valley of Arizona. Tilted strives to accomplish these goals by tilling the “soils” on and around the Summer Solstice each year by producing the Tilted Earth Festival. The “seeds” will be sown in this soil by the hands of attending artisans from the fields of craft drink, food, music and fine arts. After planting, the fields will be “watered” by the local

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Upcoming Events

June 5:
Verde River Clean-Up Day

June 11:
Jay's Bird Barn Walk at Granite Basin

June 16-18:
Tilted Earth Festival

June 25:
Jay's Bird Barn Walk at Stricklin Park
Verde River Polinator Habitat Restoration

June 29:
Cuckoos on the Upper Verde River IBA

June 30:
Jay's Bird Barn Walk at Apen Creek

Check the Prescott Creeks Calendar for updates on upcoming events, follow us on Twitter, and 'Like' our Facebook page to keep up on the goings on here at Prescott Creeks!

Notes from the Field

Volunteers with the Prescott Audubon Society continues to monitor Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and the birdlife found there. Primary focus is on changes resulting from channel and floodplain restoration work that took place between 2009 and 2013. The most recent monitoring trip turned up a male and female Vermillion flycatcher's on a nest. Notable as the first occurence since monitoring began in 2008!

Business Supporter Highlight

Dede Erceg, founder of Garden Brook Realty, first discovered the pleasures of living in Northern Arizona as a student attending Embry Riddle

community – Arizonans from far-and-wide, and eventually people from all over the country and world. The cultural and economic fruit grown and harvested from this effort will strengthen our people, our families, our community, and our economy."

Follow the links to find out more about the music line up, food and drink and/or tickets at this all-ages event. Watch for more info on the silent auction here.

Families in Nature Research

Prescott Creeks has been coordinating with Fran Haynes, a graduate student at Prescott College to learn more about family time spent in nature. Her exploration of this topic needs your help! Fran is looking for interested families that have children 7 years and older that are interested in participating in the project. Families can be single parent families, blended families, foster families, etc! The project consists of several nature events at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve that will include a family led nature scavenger hunt, fun drawing and writing activities and a questionnaire. Snacks will be provided and participating families will receive a gift bag in appreciation for their valuable time! Each participating child will also receive a nature explorer patch!

The events days are: June 4th, June 18th, June 25th, or July 9th and run from 2-4pm at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. The great news is that

Aeronautical University in Prescott. It didn't take long for Dede and her husband, John, to discover the extraordinary advantages of living in Northern Arizona. They fell in love with the clean air and small town atmosphere of Prescott and decided make Prescott their permanent home.

While attending Embry-Riddle, started an 18 year career with Safeway. During that time, she and her husband put every extra dollar they earned into real estate, investing in Prescott and the surrounding area while raising their two young daughters Angela and Heather.

In 2003, Dede decided to change careers and follow in the footsteps of her father, a successful real estate professional doing business for 30 years in the San Francisco Bay Area and Northern California. She promptly secured her Arizona Real Estate license and went on to obtain her Arizona Broker's license. She wanted to share her personal success in real estate with others.

Dede and Prescott Creeks connected through her role as a member of the Alta Vista Garden Club. Dede quickly stepped up to support Prescott Creeks and the Granite Creek Cleanup as well as signing Garden Brook Realty on as a Business member.

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interested families only have to sign up for one event! If interested, you can sign up for an event on the project website. It is going to be a blast! She hopes to see you there!

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July 2016

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Hello Friend,

Spotty, early monsoon rains just teased much of the landscape in the Prescott area. The remarkably dry conditions stress wildlife and vegetation, and increase water demands for those trying to get their gardens through to a more consistent rain season. The shelter offered by our threatened wooded riparian areas becomes critical for many of our local animal species.
As we watch our creeks and intermittent pools dry up, waiting for those rains, let it be a reminder for us not to take these resources for granted. Through restoration, preservation, and building awareness for our water and riparian resources will we ensure they remain a vital part of our landscape, and our community.

Tilted Earth Silent Auction a Success

Thanks to all the businesses, artists, volunteers, and others who helped make the Titled Earth Festival Silent Auction a success. Prescott Creeks teamed with Yavapai Big Brothers and Sisters to put on the silent auction at this year's celebration of music, wine, art, of community, and of place. With the generous contributions from area businesses, such as Prescott's Gray Dog Guitars (donating a guitar signed by blues legend and festival headliner Taj Mahal, pictured here), among so many others, the Silent Auction has raised over $13,000 to date to support the work of Prescott Creeks and Yavapai Big Brothers and Sisters.

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Upcoming Events

U of AZ Extension Monsoon Madness Plant and Yard Sale; July 9, 7:30AM-12:30PM.

Cuckoos on the Upper Verde River; July 13.

Volunteer Activity-Watson Woods Restoration; July 21, 8:00-11:00AM.

Prescott Chamber of Commerce Mixer at Highlands Center for Natural History; July 21, 5:00-6:30.

Check the Prescott Creeks Calendar for updates on upcoming events, follow us on Twitter, and 'Like' our Facebook page to keep up on the goings on here at Prescott Creeks!

Volunteer Recognition

Prescott Creeks recently recognized the work of some of our dedicated volunteers at our Annual Meeting Social and Volunteer Recognition event. We rely on the efforts of so many in the work we do. This year, we took a moment to thank a few volunteers that stand out, each in their own way:

- Jim Gomon
- Anne-Marie Read
- Decision Point Center (staff pictured below)

Auction Bidding Still Open

With the outstanding support we've received from our auction contributors, Prescott Creeks is giving everyone an opportunity to browse and bid on auction items online. Take a moment to browse what are some pretty good bargains on the fine items, including works by local and regional artists, dining and hotel/resort accomodations right here at home and around the state, classes and instruction opportunities, vacation packages, and more...and make a bid online.

Volunteer Activities-Watson Woods

Prescott Creeks is holding volunteer activities in creeks and riparian restoration Thursday mornings, July 21 and August 4. Summer is a critical time to stay on top of invasive vegetation species management in restored areas such as the Riparian Preserve here at Watson Woods and others throughout our watershed. Through the work of our volunteers cutting and pulling aggressive invasive vegetation, native plants, both those that have come on their own and those planted in our ongoing restoration efforts (including the new growth on our willow plantings pictured above), have a good chance to take hold and establish themselves in these restored local ecosystems. Visit our website for more information and sign up for these events.

Business Supporter Highlight

PSC

PAGE SPRINGS CELLARS

TRUST YOUR PALATE

Long-time Prescott Creeks supporter Page Springs Cellars is a family owned vineyard and winery crafting fine Arizona Wines tucked into the rolling landscape overlooking pristine Oak Creek. Page Springs Cellars Arizona winery offers finely crafted wines, gourmet food selections, and breathtaking views. Visit their tasting room, located 15 minutes south of Sedona, for a sample of their fine wines, distinct food selections, and a unique retreat among the vineyards, Oak Creek, and surrounding hills.
Page Springs Cellars serves as a model for stewardship, generously giving to a number of community-based organizations and hosting festivals and events.

Our business and community supporters recognize how our local and regional businesses, community organizations, and our waterways and natural areas are part of dynamic, thriving communities and healthy local economies. Please make sure to thank them for their support of healthy watersheds and clean waters.

As Prescott Creeks works to restore and preserve our waterways and surrounding natural areas and build awareness for the value they bring to our community, we'd like to ask you to consider becoming a supporting partner in our work. Visit our website to find information on becoming a member, making a donation, or volunteering on any number of projects.

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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Prescott Creekside E-News

August 2016

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

Late arriving monsoon moisture has led to welcome, but problematic in some places, rains. These seasonal deluges make for some stunning scenes; all part of the many faces of Prescott. They also bring home the case for infrastructure and landscape design practices that manage and slow runoff, reducing pollutants carried by these flows reaching our waterways.

The rains, though, are restoring groundwater and some flow to our creeks, greening up our gardens and wild places, and bringing relief to drought-stressed wildlife. Get out and enjoy the changing skies and landscape.

Prescott Creeks CREW

Our twice-a-month volunteer activities are growing in popularity and in results. So popular, in fact, we've given our 1st and 3rd Thursday morning events a name: Prescott Creeks CREW-Conservation, Restoration, and Education in our Watershed. Each morning will include orientation to our restoration work and volunteer project ativities ranging from invasive vegetation management and planting, to stream bank stabilization and trail and interpretive sign maintenance.

Join us. Bring your family and friends. Meet new friends who share an appreciation for our creeks and natural places. More information and sign-

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Upcoming Events

Citizens Water Advisory Group Candidate Forum-Water Issues; August 6, 10:00AM-12:00PM

Jay's Bird Barn Bird Walk-Granite Basin; August 11, 7:00-11:00AM

CREW Volunteer Project-Aspen Creek; August 18, 8:00-11:00AM

Family Story Time-Prescott Public Library; August 20, 10:00-11:30AM

Restored Urban Wetlands-Green Infrastructure Tour; August 21, 1:00-3:00PM

Highlands Nature Festival; September 2-4 (Including Prescott Creeks-led Urban Creeks Walk September 3)

Fall BBQ Celebration!

Mark your calendars-Prescott Creeks will be celebrating our creeks and wild places with a Fall Barbecue Saturday, September 24. Our 2015 25th Anniversary barbecue event drew a good crowd for an afternoon with friends and fellow Creeks supporters, good food, and opportunities to learn more about the flora and fauna of adjacent Watson Woods. We're doing it again, and you're invited! Watch our website and Facebook page for more details ahead.

Check the Prescott Creeks Calendar for updates on upcoming events, follow us on Twitter, and 'Like' our Facebook page to keep up on the goings on here at Prescott Creeks!

up on our Events feature on our website.

Urban Wetlands Tour Scheduled

With the rains, our restoration project sites at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, Whipple Basin, and the Prescott Adult Center are greening up and offering a good glimpse of how these landscape design models work to improve water quality in the area. The native wetlands vegetation, both voluntary and planted, have taken hold and are making for unique habitat right in the heart of the city.

Our tours focus on different creeks and riparian areas, and different Prescott Creeks restoration project sites, each month. Join us Sunday, August 21, for a tour of our restored urban wetlands and green infrastructure sites in the Prescott community. More information and sign-up on our website.

TILTED EARTH FESTIVAL SILENT AUCTION
BENEFITING KIDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Thanks to All-Silent Auction a Success!

Thanks to all the volunteers, contributors, and those of you who bid on Tilted Earth Silent Auction items. This year's silent and online auction helped raise over $16,000 for kids and the environment in Yavapai County!

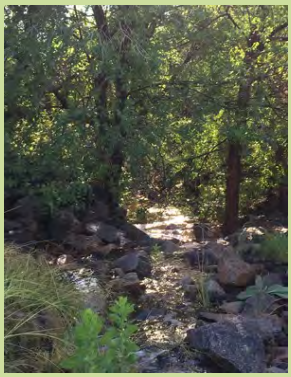
Business Supporter Highlight

Country Bank
A Division of Mohave State Bank

We would like to thank Country Bank for their ongoing support of Prescott Creeks and its outreach activities and events. Country Bank is a full service bank that takes pride in its connections to the community, local decision making, and friendly "can-do" approach to serving all its clients. A generous supporter of Prescott Creeks events such as the annual Granite Creek Cleanup, Country Bank understands the importance of building awareness and appreciation for the local waterways and natural places that add so much to our quality of life, and quality of place.

Our business and community supporters recognize how our local businesses, community organizations, and our waterways and natural areas are part of dynamic, thriving communities and healthy local economies. Please make sure to thank them for their support of healthy watersheds and clean waters.

As Prescott Creeks restores and preserves our waterways and surrounding natural areas and builds awareness for the value they bring to our community, please take a moment and become a supporting partner in our work. Visit our website to find information on becoming a member, making a donation, or volunteering on any number of projects.



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Prescott Creekside E-News

September 2016

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Hello Friend,

Restored sections of Granite Creek and surrounding riparian floodplain in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve are doing just what they are meant to do in this late, and in some places record, monsoon season.

Restored natural streambanks and floodplains disperse and distribute high flows, thus distributing their impact over a wider area and reducing damage found in more concentrated artificial stream beds. Restored vegetation features help stabilize and hold the soil. Wetlands filled by these intermittent wild flows enhance groundwater restoration and filtration of sediment and pollutants.

It all makes for some amazing viewing, too.

American Conservation Experience

American Conservation Experience (ACE) recently

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Upcoming Events

Jay's Bird Barn Bird Walk-Willow Lake; Guided bird walk around Willow Lake and surrounding fields and riparian forest; Friday, September 9, 7:00-11:00AM

CWAG Presents "Viva la Verde" Film and discussion; Saturday, September 10, 10:00AM-12:00PM

Prescott Creeks CREW Volunteer Event; Thursday, September 15, 8:00-11:00AM

Prescott 10th Annual Social Pow-Wow; September 23-25.

Call for Photos

Prescott Creeks will once again be offering our popular Seasonal Cards, featuring winter scenes showcasing our landscape and community. We are currently soliciting photos from area artists for our Seasonal Card Photo Contest. We are asking photographers of all ages and experience levels to send us your winter season images. We will select one entry, maybe more, to be featured on these cards that will be sent with pride to friends and relatives across the country and around the world.

Send your photos to News@PrescottCreeks.org, Attention Seasonal Card Photos.

spent a week working with Prescott Creeks to eradicate Salt Cedar (tamarisk) in Watson Woods. ACE offers young people ages 18-25 interested in a conservation or land management career to explore their interests, learn practical field skills, and develop confidence as emerging leaders in the field of conservation. ACE crews have annually contributed in Prescott Creeks invasive vegetation management efforts.

This year, we focused our efforts with the ACE crew on removing Salt Cedar, or tamarisk, that has recently propagated in the Watson Woods Preserve. Once widely thought to not be a threat in the higher elevations of the Prescott area, this invasive from North Africa and the Middle East has taken hold, and is starting to take over, parts of our local watershed.

The hot and dry 2016 spring and early summer offered ideal conditions for Salt Cedar to spread. Extending their root structure to outcompete native vegetation, Salt Cedar has become a primary shoreline and riparian plant species throughout much of the Colorado River Basin. Through the work of the ACE crew and volunteers from the community, we hope to keep it in check in our region, allowing native plants and trees to establish themselves in restored areas.

Prescott Creeks, as leaseholders and managers for the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve with the City of Prescott, will continue building awareness and support in our long-term commitment in this community resource. Look for more in the weeks and months ahead as we look at the future, and how this community treasure will continue to be a part of our changing landscape.

Check the Prescott Creeks Calendar for updates on upcoming events, follow us on Twitter, and 'Like' our Facebook page to keep up on the goings on here at Prescott Creeks!

Business Supporter Highlight

Prescott Creeks would like to thank Fann Environmental for their generous support for our restoration and outreach work in preserving our local and regional watersheds. A long-time business sponsor of our annual Granite Creek Cleanup, Fann Environmental has also been a critical partner in our Watson Woods Riparian Preserve restoration and planting efforts. Throughout our restoration work, Fann Environmental has provided equipment and labor for the extensive projects that have led to Watson Woods and Granite Creek being restored to a functional and aesthetic waterway and riparian retreat.

Fann Environmental, LLC offers planning, regulatory permitting, operation, maintenance, and design services, and construction of wastewater treatment plants and water distribution facilities. Fann Environmental is an active community partner in addressing the watershed health and water quality issues of our community.

Our business and community supporters recognize how our local businesses, community organizations, and our waterways and natural areas are part of dynamic, thriving communities and healthy local economies. Please make sure to thank them for their support of healthy watersheds and clean waters.

As Prescott Creeks restores and preserves our waterways and surrounding natural areas and builds awareness for the value they bring to our community, please take a moment to become a supporting partner in our work. Visit our website to find information on becoming a member, making a donation, or volunteering on any number of projects.

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Prescott Creekside E-News

October 2016

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Hello Friend,

Fall is in the air. Crisp, clear mornings. Brilliant afternoon skies here in the Arizona high country. Leaves turning among the willows and cottonwoods. Seasonal changes among the birds at the reservoirs, woods, and at our feeders. Putting that second blanket on the bed; but still keeping the window open a crack at night. 'Good sleeping weather, as some with northern roots might offer.

Prescott Creeks staff and volunteers are busy planting and seeding restored areas along several of our local waterways. We've got a number of volunteer events scheduled in the month ahead taking advantage of the fall days and setting a base for new growth in the spring. Read on for more about these volunteer events and other happenings at Prescott Creeks.

Milkweed for Monarchs Planting: Watson Woods

Prescott Creeks has received 300 young milkweed plants from Signature Botanica ready to be planted in Watson Woods. We're holding a Milkweed for Monarchs Planting Day October 12, 9:30-11:30AM. It's Fall Break in our local schools, and this will be a great way to get the whole family out and pitching in for monarch butterfly recovery efforts.

Milkweed is essential for restoring diminished monarch

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Upcoming Events

CREW Volunteer Event-Aspen Creek: Thursday, October 6, 8:00-11:00AM

Milkweed Planting-Watson Woods: Wednesday, October 12, 9:30-11:30AM

CREW Volunteer Event-Watson Woods: Thursday, October 20, 8:00-11:00AM

Jay's Bird Barn Bird Walk-Watson Woods: Friday, October 21, 8:00AM-12:00PM

Youth CREW Volunteer Event-Watson Woods: Wednesday, October 26, 4:00-6:00PM

Call for Photos

Calling on all those photographically inclined: Prescott Creeks is asking for your photos of Prescott area scenes in winter to be featured on our upcoming Seasonal Cards. We will be selecting one entry, maybe more, to be featured on these cards that will be sent with pride to friends and relatives across the country and around the world. Gift cards for area dining and retail establishments awarded for the top three images selected.

More information, including image specification

butterfly populations throughout their home and migratory territory. Prescott Creeks is working with Southwest Monarch Study in restoring habitat and monitoring monarch numbers as they pass through our area. You'll be able to see the results of your efforts on this volunteer event when you watch monarchs fluttering among stands of milkweed on a walk through restored areas of Watson Woods in the years ahead.

Visit our website for this and other volunteer events scheduled through the fall.

Prescott Creeks Teaming with Native Plant Society in Vegetation Monitoring

Prescott Creeks is partnering with AZ Native Plant Society-Prescott in monitoring vegetation recovery and invasive species levels in our restored natural areas in the Prescott area. Aspiring citizen scientist volunteers are invited to participate in monitoring activities scheduled for October 14 and 20. Training provided for those who would like to build on their interest and curiosity in the natural places in and around our community.

Facebook Following Reaches 1,000

As a small nonprofit organization, you helped us reach a notable milestone in our outreach efforts. This last month, you got us over the 1,000 mark in our Facebook page "likes." In these days of sometimes fleeting attention generated through electronic media, Prescott Creeks strives to offer timely and informative items to build awareness and keep you up on Prescott Creeks activities, watershed health issues, and community

requirements and submission forms, on our website.

Check the Prescott Creeks Calendar for updates on upcoming events, follow us on Twitter, and 'Like' our Facebook page to keep up on the goings on here at Prescott Creeks!

Business Supporter Highlight

Prescott Creeks thanks the Doug Bunch Group at Realty One Group-Mountain Desert for their support and their commitment to the quality of life, and quality of place, we share here in the Prescott area. A former Prescott High School teacher and coach, Doug's connection and investment in our community shows in his team's dedication to service and integrity. The Doug Bunch Group brings a diverse range of expertise in representing both buyers and sellers in all facets of real estate transactions. Setting the standard for excellence in the Real Estate business, the Doug Bunch Group is confident you will be satisfied with the unique and innovative strategies they can offer.

We thank the Doug Bunch Group for their long-term support and involvement with Prescott Creeks and the work of preserving our water resources and natural areas. Please visit our website for more information on the Doug Bunch Group and our other business supporters.

Our business and community supporters recognize how our local businesses, community organizations, and our waterways and natural areas are part of dynamic, thriving communities and healthy local economies. Please make sure to thank them for their support of healthy watersheds and clean waters.

As Prescott Creeks restores and preserves our waterways and surrounding natural areas and builds awareness for the value they bring to our community, please take a moment to become a supporting partner in our work. Visit our website to find information on becoming a member, making a donation, or volunteering on any number of projects.

engagement in and with our natural landscapes. Sometimes, we just encounter something worth sharing, like our neighbor gopher snake seen here, in the wilds surrounding our office at the edge of Watson Woods.

Take a moment to follow us on Facebook, and do, please, share the pictures and stories you gather among our creeks and natural places.

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Prescott Creekside E-News

November 2016

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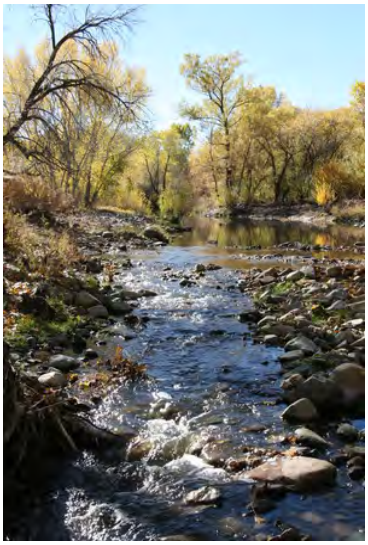
Hello Friend,

The changing seasons bring out some of the best in central Arizona landscapes, both big and small. Prescott Creeks is watching the results of the restoration and preservation work of the last twenty-five years, with wetlands, riparian forest, and functioning streams offering natural urban retreats and critical habitat for migrating and resident wildlife.



Autumn offers wonderful opportunities to explore our local wild places. Getting out with family and friends is a great way to enjoy what the Prescott area's natural places offer.

A Community Effort: Your Support Is Vital

While the physical work of watershed and habitat restoration has been funded by grants and wetland mitigation programs, Prescott Creeks relies on memberships and donations from people like you to support outreach, education, and volunteer activities. Activities and campaigns offered to build awareness and appreciation for our waterways and natural places are critical for the long-term preservation of our community's natural resources and landscapes. From tours and volunteer activities in Watson Woods Preserve and our urban waters greenways, to working in the community in planning and developing projects demonstrating natural landscape and runoff management design, Prescott Creeks depends on your support to build on these efforts and ensure our creeks and urban wild places remain a part of our landscape, and our lives, for generations to come.

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Annual Seasonal Cards Available Soon

Thanks to all who submitted photo images for consideration for our annual Prescott Seasonal Greeting Cards. We've selected this winter Prescott landscape: "Sierra Prieta Fresh Snow," by local photographer Aaron Burrows to be featured on the popular seasonal greeting cards.

Prescott Creeks' annual Seasonal Greeting Cards will be available, in packs of ten for $10, at the local retailers and community organizations listed below by November 14. Proceeds from card sales go to restore and preserve the waterways and wild places in and around our community.

- Prescott Chamber of Commerce
- Granite Mountain Outfitters
- Jay's Bird Barn
- Peregrine Book Company
- Hike Shack
- Ian Russell Gallery
- Watters Garden Center
- Old Sage Bookshop
- Manzanita Outfitters
- Prescott Creeks

You are invited to be a part of that vision and make a contribution during our upcoming Fall Appeal. As the end of the year approaches, we rely on your tax-deductible contributions to sustain the work ahead. Look for upcoming Appeal notices, or visit our website and make a donation today.

Watch for more outlets carrying Seasonal Greeting Cards in the days ahead.

Upcoming Events

CREW Volunteer Event: Location TBD; Thursday, November 17, 8:00-11:00AM

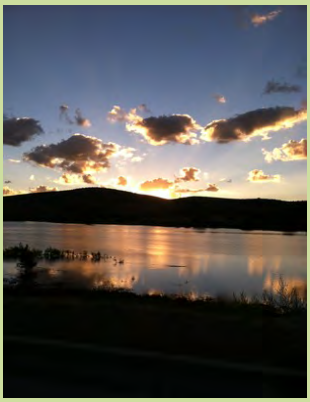
CREW Volunteer Event-Watson Woods: Thursday, December 1, 8:00-11:00AM; Placing Monarch Way Station signs

Jay's Bird Barn Bird Walk-Watson Lake Reservoir: Friday, December 2, 8:00AM-12:00PM

Check the Prescott Creeks Calendar for updates on upcoming events, follow us on Twitter, and 'Like' our Facebook page to keep up on the goings on here at Prescott Creeks!

Get Involved

Memberships and donations from supporters like you have made twenty-five years of watershed restoration and preservation possible. Please take a moment to join us and renew your membership, become a new member, or make a donation.



Visit our website for more information on getting involved. There are opportunites for volunteers to help on a number of projects.

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December 2016

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Hello {FIRST_NAME|Friend},

The first ice forms on the shallow wetland pools. Genuine cold fronts bring gray skies, flurries, and the first winter storms. Bundle up for a walk through Watson Woods. Step off on a side path to one of the wetland ponds. Approach the pool quietly, and you may catch a glimpse of a belted kingfisher or a great blue heron lingering with the still open water. Hooded mergansers stopping by on their migration dive for minnows and snails.

We are fortunate to have these little treasures of wild places right here in the heart of our community. It is critical that we utilize some foresight and restore and preserve these natural landscapes as our community continues to expand.

Prescott Creeks relies on contributions from people like you to support outreach, education, and program activies such as wildlife habitat restoration and monitoring.

Please consider making a year-end tax-deductible donation to sustain the work ahead.

PRESCOTT CREEKS

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Annual Seasonal Cards Now Available

Prescott Creeks' annual Seasonal Greeting Cards are available, in packs of ten for $10, at the local retailers and community organizations listed below. This year's cards feature a winter Prescott landscape: "Sierra Prieta Fresh Snow," by local photographer Aaron Burrows.

Proceeds from card sales go to restore and preserve the waterways and wild places in and around our community.

Stop in and pick up cards at these local businesses...and thank them for their support for our waterways and natural places:

- Prescott Chamber of Commerce
- Granite Mountain Outfitters
- Jay's Bird Barn
- Peregrine Book Company
- Hike Shack
- Ian Russell Gallery
- Watters Garden Center
- Old Sage Bookshop
- Manzanita Outfitters
- Mortimer Nursery
- Prescott Creeks

Upcoming Events

Look for Appeal notices in your mail, or visit our website and make a donation today.

Teaming Up for Wood Duck Recovery

Restored riparian areas of the Upper Granite Creek Watershed offer nesting habitat for many species of birds, among them the wood duck (*Aix sponsa)*. After numbers fell through the 1900's, wood duck populations are on the rise nationally as a result of habitat restoration, hunting regulation, and public awareness. In the arid Southwest, wood ducks rely on dwindling riparian areas, such as Watson Woods, for habitat and nesting.

Prescott Audubon Society and Prescott Creeks are collaborating to install nesting boxes to boost wood duck nesting success in local riparian areas. As snow flurries fell, we recently looked ahead to spring, surveying potential locations. The restored wetlands in the Watson Woods Preserve and less disturbed sites near Willow Lake will provide ideal habitat for wood duck broods to be reared on.

Get out this holiday season, and keep an eye out for an occasional wintering wood duck in wooded wetlands and ponds.

Acker Night: Friday, December 9, 5:30-8:30 (Look for Prescott Creeks Seasonal Cards at downtown businesses noted below while you're out for this Prescott tradition)

CREW Volunteer Event: Thursday, December 15, 8:00-11:00AM

CREW Volunteer Event:Thursday, January 5, 8:00-11:00AM

Tentative CREW projects include installing signs for Watson Woods monarch waystations and working on wood duck nesting box installation.

Check the Prescott Creeks Calendar for updates on upcoming events, follow us on Twitter, and 'Like' our Facebook page to keep up on the goings on here at Prescott Creeks!

Get Involved

Memberships and donations from supporters like you have made twenty-five years of watershed restoration and preservation possible. Please take a moment to join us and renew your membership, become a new member, or make a donation.

Visit our website for more information on getting involved. There are opportunites for volunteers to help on a number of projects, including our regularly scheduled CREW (Conservation, Restoration, Education for our Watersheds) Volunteer Activities.

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