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Prescott Creekside E-News

January 2017

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friends,

Happy New Year from Prescott Creeks! We wish all of you the very best for the year ahead, and beyond.

The closing days of 2016 brought heavy snow to Central and Northern Arizona. Rain and moderate temperatures have our creeks running at steady flows with the sustained snow pack in the higher elevations from where our creeks are fed.

The National Weather Service announced that 2016 was the ninth wettest year on record for the Prescott area. Most of that precipitation, though, fell in the form of rain. While rain, often coming in sudden monsoon bursts, quickly runs off and moves downstream, groundwater recharge and more consistent local stream flow is dependent on this kind of sustained snow pack providing meltwater through the spring.

The Prescott area historically has seen more regular and consistent snowfall, and snow pack, in the high country. Warmer, shorter winters and drought patterns over much of the last 15 years have resulted in challenges in water resource management across the West. For those of us who enjoy watching a rippling Granite Creek while sitting in a downtown coffee shop, or taking a Thumb Butte walk accompanied by a gurgling Miller Creek, let's just enjoy winter, and wish for more snow!

PRESCOTT CREEKS

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Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 2016 year-end appeal a success! With support from all of you who value our waterways and wild places, we're looking ahead to a productive 2017 restoring more of our creeks and riparian areas and building awareness and appreciation for the Prescott community's natural resources.

Upcoming Events

Citizens Water Advocacy Group Annual Meeting/Planning Retreat: Saturday, January 14, 10:00AM-2:30PM

CREW Volunteer Event: Thursday, January 19, 8:00-11:00AM

Urban Creek Walk: Saturday, January 28, 10:00-12:00; Join us for a guided tour along the downtown Greenways Trail, exploring Prescott's historical and contemporary connections to our waterways and green corridors.

Upcoming CREW volunteer events will take advantage of winter's dormant vegetation and (often) solid footing to get a jump on invasive weeds management. Keeping invasives in check allow native vegetation to take hold in our restored riparian areas.

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!

Urban Creek Walk Scheduled

The Prescott Creeks staff will be leading a guided Urban Creek Walk Saturday, January 28, beginning at 10:00AM.

Creeks Connect Community, and Prescott's history is no exception. Our community was built along our waterways. Our urban creeks and green corridors are a part of our quality of life and quality of place that we realize today. As we look to the future, economic and community development incorporating our natural landscapes and the opportunities they offer will help ensure a thriving, dynamic community of tomorrow.

Join us as we explore Prescott's rich social and natural history, and possibilities for the future, along our urban waters. Visit our webside for more information and to sign up for this popular event.

Do take the opportunities winter offers here in Central Arizona. Bundle up, slip your boots on, and enjoy the diversity of seasons...and take a friend along!

Annual Seasonal Cards Still Available

Prescott Creeks has a handful of what turned out to be our very popular 2016 Seasonal Greeting cards still available. The cards, featuring a winter Prescott area high country landscape, are blank inside, offering the opportunity to use them throughout the year. Packets of ten, at $10, are available at our Prescott Creeks log cabin office. Call us at 928-445-5669 to arrange pick-up.

Community Supporter Spotlight

We thank **Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation (GPUU)** for their support of Prescott Creeks' outreach activities in our community. GPUU invites you to share in their welcoming, inclusive tradition that actively promotes diversity and compassion within their congregation, and within the community we share. Sunday services at 10:00 offer opportunities to explore the possibilities of faith. For more on GPUU, please visit their website at www.prescottuu.org.

Please visit our website for more information on our Business and Community Supporters and to find out more on how your business or organization can be a part of the work and outreach we do.

Get Involved

Memberships and donations throughout the year are essential for our restoration, preservation, and outreach efforts. Visit our website where you can renew your membership, become a new member, or make a donation today.

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.

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.

Contact Us | **Phone: (928) 445-5669** | **Info@PrescottPreeks.org**

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Prescott Creekside E-News

February 2017

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Hello Friend,

Many of our friends and relatives outside of Arizona imagine we spend all our days basking in summer-like weather with towering saguaros providing a backdrop. Here in the high country of Central Arizona, some are surprised when they encounter snow, ice, and recent morning temp's in the low teens (above zero, that is).

Our snowpack has provided consistent moderate flows to our local streams. A walk along now-rippling Granite Creek downtown, Butte Creek on the Prescott College Campus, or Aspen Creek in the neighborhoods south of town can highlight just what these waterways add to our community. With your support to build awareness and appreciation and to sustain our work to restore and preserve these local resources, we can ensure they will be a part of our landscape for generations to come.

Granite Creek Cleanup: Save the Date!

This year's **Granite Creek Cleanup is scheduled for April 22, 2017**. Make sure to save the date for this annual community rite-of-spring celebration of our creeks and wild places!

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Upcoming Events

CREW Volunteer Event: Thursday, February 16, 8:00-11:00AM

Jay's Bird Barn Bird Walk-Goldwater Lake: Saturday, February 25, 8:00AM-12:00PM

CREW Volunteer Event: Thursday, March 2, 8:00-11:00AM

Upcoming CREW volunteer events offer opportunities to learn about and get involved in ongoing habitat restoration efforts in our community. With the onset of spring, activities will include invasive vegetation management, maintenance and restoration, and monitoring of restored sites.

Watson Woods Wetland in Autumn

Art at the Preserve: Healing the Human Bond with Nature Through Creative Arts

March 23-April 27; This Yavapai College

The 2017 Cleanup will feature an expanded offering of the traditional spring trash and debris pick-up along our creeks as well as restoration service projects and educational activities for all ages. Visit our website for more information and event early registration in the coming days.

Urban Creek Walk

Saturday, January 28, brought perfect Prescott winter weather for our Urban Creek Walk. Participants bundled up for the morning, and then shed a layer as the sun pushed temperatures into the 40's by the end of the tour.

Participants spent a leisurely morning looking for early spring growth on the native willows and invasive Siberian elm, and learning to tell the difference between them. Taking time beside an 1890's dam on Miller Creek, we found lessons in sedimentation and costs associated with water management still relevant today. Western bluebirds, hairy woodpeckers, and a host of other wintering birds kept us company while we stopped to notice ice and ripple formations on Granite Creek in the heart of downtown.

Urban Creek Walks offer opportunities to explore our rich social and natural history along our waterways. Watch our website and Facebook page for more of these and other tours and events in the days ahead.

Thanks to Ashley Darling for the artistic eye and photos from the day's walk.

Community Education program will utilize the setting of Watson Woods and offer participants a combination of environmental education, on-site service project participation, and healing exercises in the expressive arts. Visit the Yavapai College website for more information.

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 Spotlight

Prescott Creeks would like to thank **Cathy Trent State Farm Insurance** of Prescott for her support for the restoration, preservation, and outreach work we do. Located in Prescott since 2008, Cathy Trent brings thirty years of State Farm experience to serve her customers with all their insurance needs. As a member of our community, Cathy Trent State Farm Insurance recognizes the value our waterways and natural places contribute to the quality of life, and quality of place, we enjoy in the Prescott area. For more information, please visit their website at **cathytrent.com** .

Please visit our website for more information on our Business and Community Supporters and to find out more on how your business or organization can be a part of the preservation work and outreach we do.

Get Involved

Memberships and donations throughout the year are essential to our restoration, preservation, and outreach efforts. Visit our website where you can renew your membership, become a new member, or make a donation today.

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.

Take the time to get out and enjoy the opportunities our Prescott area outdoors offers...in all seasons...and make sure to take a kid along. Be sure to let us know what you find by sharing it on our Facebook page.

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

March 2017

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Hello Friend,

The storms we've experienced this winter have brought remarkable flows in Granite Creek. The sight of water overflowing its banks and braiding itself into the Watson Woods floodplain can seem intimidating. This flooding in places where it has historically occurred, like Watson Woods, however, is a critical part of restoring habitat and ecosystem functions to the watershed, and to our community.

Healthy floodplains, like that of the restored Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, are essential during periods of high flow. A creek or river dispersed over natural floodplain runs slower and with less force than when it is constricted into an unstable narrow channel, as we see in most developed areas. Slowing the creek allows for nutrients and sediment to settle before it reaches our lakes and reservoirs, where they only add to the pollutant levels in some of our impaired waterways.

Prescott Creeks continues to work to restore and protect our streams and wild places. Your donations and membership contributions are critical to ensure natural places like Watson Woods remain a vital part of our community.

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Upcoming Events

Art at the Preserve: Healing the Human Bond with Nature Through Creative Arts

March 23-April 27; This Yavapai College Community Education program will utilize the setting of Watson Woods and offer participants a combination of environmental education, on-site service project participation, and healing exercises in the expressive arts. Visit the Yavapai College website for more information.

Business Supporter Spotlight

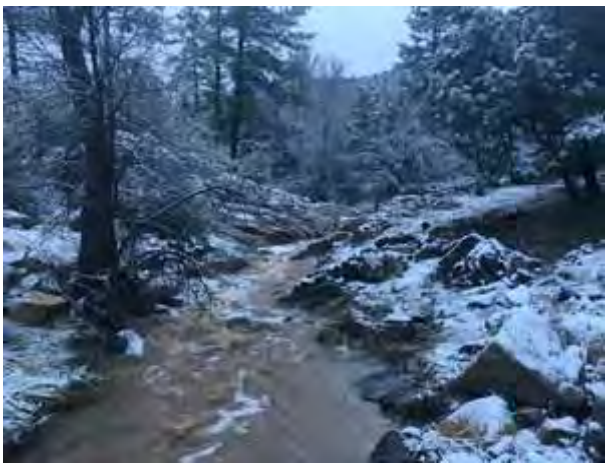
THE HIKE SHACK

Prescott Creeks would like to thank **The Hike Shack of Prescott** for their support for the restoration, preservation, and outreach work we do; and for all they do in our community. Whether you are a serious expedition hiker or just discovering what our local trails and crags offer, The Hike Shack of Prescott has the outdoor gear and assistance you need. Come in and

Granite Creek Cleanup Coming April 22!

This year's **Granite Creek Cleanup is scheduled for April 22, 2017**. This annual community rite-of-spring event brings out over 500 of our friends and neighbors to clean up and celebrate our creeks and wild places !

With increased participation the last few years, this year's Cleanup will feature an expanded offering of the traditional spring trash and debris pick-up along our creeks as well as restoration service projects and educational activities for all ages. Watch our web page for early online registration coming soon.



Recent storms have made for some remarkable scenes along all our creeks and washes. It's up to us,to make sure our waterways and wild places remain a part of our community for generations to come.

browse, and catch up on what the Prescott outdoors offers people of all ages and experience. Visit their website at azhikeshack.com for more information.

Please make sure to stop in and support our local business members and Granite Creek Cleanup sponsors, and thank them for being involved in making our community a better place to live, work, and play!

Please visit our website for more information on our Business and Community Supporters and to find out more on how your business or organization can be a part of the preservation and outreach work we do.

Get Involved

Memberships and donations throughout the year are essential for our restoration, preservation, and outreach efforts. Visit our website where you can renew your membership, become a new member, or make a donation today.

There are opportunities for volunteers to help on a number of projects, including our ongoing restoration work in the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Watch our calendar, "Like" us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter for upcoming events and activities.

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

April 2017

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Hello Friend,

We're heading into the busy month of April here at Prescott Creeks. Granite Creek Cleanup is right around the corner-April 22! Spring green-up offers a showcase for 27 years of community preservation and restoration efforts in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Willows and cottonwoods planted by our volunteers are leafing out and spreading in the restored Preserve. Commmon Black Hawks, Lucy's Warblers, Cliff Swallows, and other bird species dependent on our green corridors are returning and setting up their nests.

Granite Creek Cleanup! Register Today.

Early registration for the Granite Creek Cleanup will get you, your family, and your group quickly through the check-in the morning of the event, and out to explore, clean up, and restore our waterways. NEW this year: Choose from one of six different activities that will make a difference.

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Granite Creek Cleanup-April 22!

This annual community rite-of-spring event brings out over 500 of our friends and neighbors to clean up and explore our creeks and wild places! Cleanup and restoration activities for all ages. Participants get t-shirts and snacks, treats, and coffee from our generous Cleanup sponsors...along with the satisfaction of being a part of cleaning up our creeks and green spaces.

This year's Cleanup will feature an expanded offering of the traditional spring trash and debris pick-up along our creeks as well as restoration service projects in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, along our Greenways Tails, and other locations in our community. **Go online today to register** yourself, your family, and your group. We'll see you April 22!

Thanks to Our Cleanup Sponsors!

As the Granite Creek Cleanup continues to grow, we could not do it without the support of our business and organizational sponsors. Make sure to thank them for their support for this annual community event that makes a difference!

GRANITE CREEK CLEANUP 2017

Sign up, select a Cleanup activity, and get your group members' t-shirt sizes in...and we'll have everything waiting for you on April 22nd!

Contact us with questions.

Arizona Gives Day

Your support is needed, now more than ever, to ensure our waterways and natural places remain a vital part of our community for all to enjoy. **Your contributions have a bigger impact when you participate in Arizona Gives Day**, a statewide day of collective giving celebrating the organizations working to make our community a better place to live, work, and play.

Prescott Creeks is one of several area nonprofits you'll find when you **go online, find your cause**, and be a part of this day of giving! Your contributions stay in your, and our, community. Make it count when you contribute during **Arizona Gives Day, April 4**.

Cleanup sponsors to date include:

- Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe
- Unisource Energy Services
- Granite Peak UU Congregation
- City of Prescott
- Mile Hi Animal Hospital/rRun-a-Muk
- Fann Environmental
- Prescott True Value
- Country Bank
- Fann Contracting
- DanO.com Boots
- The Hike Shack
- Jay's Bird Barn
- Lamb Nissan
- Open Space Alliance
- Over the Hill Gang
- Yavapai Group-Sierra Club
- El Gato Azul
- SW Property Sales and Leasing
- Solanos y Hermanos Coffee
- Manzanita Outdoors
- MadShirtz
- Arizona's Hometown Radio Group
- Prescott College
- Nick's Feed Your Face
- Big O Tires
- 2 Mamas Pizza

Get Involved

There are opportunities for volunteers to help on a number of projects, including our ongoing restoration work in the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Watch our calendar, "Like" us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter for upcoming events and activities.

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

May 2017

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Hello Friend,

Spring moves on toward summer here in Central Arizona; with hot, dry days, drifts of Cottonwood seed clusters in the streets and walkways, and returning summer nesting birds. With its multiple habitats, Watson Woods Riparian Preserve is a showcase for a wide variety of birds, including returning Summer Tanagers (recently caught with the the camera below).

Prescott Creeks is proud of our restoration efforts of the last 27 years as Black Hawks, a species of special concern dependent on riparian woods, have again returned to nest in the Preserve this spring. Our Kestrel nest box project, in partnership with Prescott Audubon Society, has three boxes occupied, with fifteen eggs between them. Thanks to the support of our volunteers, members, and contributors, we're looking ahead to expand our restoration work in the Preserve and improve water quality throughout our watershed.

Granite Creek Cleanup a Success!

The 2017 Granite Creek Cleanup, held April 22, brought 550 of our friends and neighbors out to clean up our creeks and green spaces. Volunteers removed 2.7 tons of litter and debris from our waterways and

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Upcoming Events

Groundwater Film Screening and Discussion: Wednesday, May 17, 7:00-9:00

CREW Volunteer Activity: Thursday, May 18, 8:00-11:00AM

Thanks to Our 2017 Cleanup Sponsors!

Please make sure to thank our generous Cleanup sponsors-for all they do in our community! We could

surrounding natural areas, including 32 tires and 280 pounds of recyclables. Thanks to all of our volunteer participants, event support crew, and sponsors for making this year's Cleanup a success.

Tilted Earth Festival: June 24

Prescott Creeks is honored once again to be a part of the Tilted Earth Festival. This year's celebration of wine, music, and community takes place June 24 at Page Springs Cellars. We're in for a real treat with don't-miss music headliners The London Souls and Shinyribs.

Prescott Creeks is looking for items for the auction taking place at the festival. If you've got a high-quality item you would like to donate; perhaps a nice dining experience at a local establishment, a fine original piece of art, or time at your vacation getaway, please get in touch with us at: Donations@TiltedEarthFestival.com. Auction proceeds go to support kids and the environment in

not do it without them.

Visit our website for information on how your business or organization can become a supporting partner in our restoration and outreach efforts throughout the year.

Get Involved

Prescott Creeks relies on memberships and contributions from people, like you, who appreciate our local waterways and wild places. Your contributions support our restoration and education and outreach activities, and ensure our creeks and green spaces remain a part of our community for all to enjoy.

There are opportunities for volunteers to help on a number of projects, including our ongoing restoration work in the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. Watch our calendar, "Like" us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter for upcoming events and activities.

our community!

Visit the festival website for more information and advance ticket sales.

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Prescott Creekside E-News

June 2017

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

The late spring cold snaps are now behind us. As the hot, dry days of early summer pass, we'll be watching the skies, waiting for signs of the monsoon rains that will fill our intermittent stream beds and bring our second green-up season. These weeks of often-dry creeks and parched earth here in central Arizona serve as a reminder to not take our water resources for granted.

Our community is set in a remarkable landscape. Let's work together to make sure our waterways and natural spaces endure for the next generations to enjoy, and thrive.

Volunteers Restore Creeks

Volunteers have been busy managing invasive vegetation in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and other restored riparian areas in our community. With invasives kept in-check during the spring season, there has been notable spread and growth this year in planted willows and other native species critical for healthy riparian and wetland ecosystems.

Join your friends and neighbors in our **public CREW (Conservation, Restoration, and Education in our Watershed) volunteer activities**. For information on our next CREW event, taking place June 15, and beyond, please check our Events calendar at PrescottCreeks.org/upcoming-events.

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Upcoming Events

CREW Volunteer Activity: Thursday, June 15 8:00-11:00AM

Jay's Bird Barn-Guided Watson Woods Bird Walk: Thursday, June 22, 7:00-11:00AM.

TILTED EARTH FESTIVAL

Tilted Earth Festival: June 24

Prescott Creeks is honored to be a part of the Tilted Earth Festival, taking place June 24 at Page Springs Cellars. What was once a Page Springs anniversary event, Tilted Earth has grown to become a vehicle to bring wine, food, and music together in a celebration of community. This year's music lineup includes

Members Make a Difference

We rely more and more on the support of Prescott Creeks members as we look ahead to our next phase of restoration and preservation in our community. As we approach a new fiscal year, we are reaching out to you with an invitation to **become a Prescott Creeks member today at: PrescottCreeks.org/membership**. Your membership contributions make the difference in achieving healthy watersheds and clean waters in central Arizona for the benefit of people and wildlife!

headliners The London Souls and Shinyribs. Prescott Creeks is teaming up with Yavapai Big Brothers and Sisters to organize the Festival's silent auction, from which all proceeds will go to support kids and the environment in our communities. For more on the 2017 Tilted Earth Festival, visit **TiltedEarthFestival.com**.

Business Member Spotlight: The Beastro

We'd like to welcome our newest Business Member: **The Beastro: Art, Music & Philanthropy House** in Prescott. The Beastro offers music, arts, and a unique event venue with a cozy atmosphere. With their backyard literally opening up to Granite Creek and the urban trails system, The Beastro affirms the connections between our creeks and green corridors, our arts environment, and a dynamic, thriving community.

Make sure to stop in and thank **our Business Members** for all they do in our community!

Visit our website for information on how your business or organization can support the restoration and preservation of our creeks and natural spaces.

Watch our calendar, "Like" us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter for upcoming events and activities.

Thanks to all who have **taken the step to support** preserving our creeks and wild places!

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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July 2017

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Hello Friend,

The **Tilted Earth Festival Silent Auction** raised over $10,000 for Prescott Creeks and Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters, with 100% of the auction proceeds going to support kids and the environment in Yavapai County! We'd like to thank all the local businesses and artists who contributed auction items and everyone who bid and took home something from the event; and to Page Springs Cellars for putting on and including our organizations so generously in this annual celebration of wine, music, and community.

There are a **number of Silent Auction items still available and offered online at** [Tilted Earth Festival - Extended Silent Auction](). Items available include original art, dining and entertainment packages, fine wine, and more. Please take a moment to browse the offerings. You might just find something that spikes your interest, at what will likely be a remarkable bargain. Remember, all auction proceeds support the work of Prescott Creeks and Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters in our communities.

Watson Woods Success Stories: Nesting Raptors

Staff, volunteers, and partner organizations have been monitoring activity at six raptor nest sites in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. The Common Black Hawks nesting in Watson Woods the last few years have been joined this year by Cooper's Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, and American Kestrels.

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Upcoming Events

CREW Volunteer Activity: Thursday, July 6 8:00-11:00AM

CREW Volunteer Activity: Thursday, July 20 8:00-11:00AM

Natural History Book Club: *The Lost Art of Reading Nature's Signs:* Friday, July 21

CREW Volunteer Activity: Thursday, August 3 8:00-11:00AM

CWAG City Candidate Water Forum: Saturday, Aug 5

Business Member Spotlight:

Great Expectations Business Services

GREAT EXPECTATIONS
BUSINESS SERVICES, LLC

Prescott Creeks thanks Great Expectations Business Services, LLC for their support, and for all they do in our community. Great Expectations provides accounting services to our local nonprofits and small businesses, working with them to ensure their resources can be utilized to their fullest to help make Prescott a better place for all. Great Expectations takes pride in personal service, working on-site directly with boards, directors, and owners to enable them to direct their business decisions with current and accurate reporting.

Please contact Prescott Creeks for more

Prescott Creeks partnered with Prescott Audubon in a kestrel nest box program last fall and winter, with three boxes occupied and showing nesting activity this summer. In June, under the careful supervision of AZ Game and Fish Department wildlife experts, staff and volunteers assisted in banding kestrel nestlings.

The remarkable raptor nesting activity is another indicator that our restoration efforts are paying off. We could not do it without the membership contributions and donations of those who value the waterways and green spaces in our community.

You can read more about birds of prey nesting in Watson Woods at our website.

information on Great Expectations Business Services, LLC.

Make sure to thank our business and organizational members for all they do in our community.

Visit our website for information on how your business or organization can be a part of restoring and preserving the creeks and natural places that add so much to Prescott's quality of life, and quality of place.

Watch our calendar, "Like" us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter for upcoming events and activities.

Thanks to all who have taken the step to support preserving our creeks and wild places!

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 2017

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

The summer monsoon season is here. Recent regular afternoon storms are bringing much-needed rains, but also hail, jarring lightning, and severe flash-flooding in some areas. With the rains comes a second green-up season in the central Arizona high desert. The new growth and flowering brings a noticeable boost in insect activity, with mosquitoes and swarming flying beetles at times moving people indoors at dusk.

Photo Credit: Denise & Rob Gibbs

Late July and August also bring the first wave of monarch butterflies to the area. The scientific community has only recently understood the complex migration patterns of monarchs in the Southwest. Thanks to the tagging and monitoring efforts of volunteer citizen scientists with Southwest Monarch Study, we are learning that the monarchs emerging during the summer will be joined by the main migrations in the fall and fly to their wintering grounds in Mexico, California, and lower elevations in Arizona.

Please visit our website for more on monarch migrations, regional tagging programs, upcoming volunteer opportunities in milkweed planting, and how you can turn your yard and garden into critical monarch habitat.

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Only 3 Days Left: Auction Ends July 31

The Tilted Earth Silent Auction continues online through Monday, July 31. Help support restoring and preserving our local waterways and wild places, while getting a bargain on local and regional dining, escape, and recreation packages, fine wines, original art, and more! All proceeds benefit Prescott Creeks and Yavapai Big Brothers and Sisters.

Upcoming Events

CREW Volunteer Activity-Transplanting Milkweed: Thursday, August 3 8:00-11:00AM

CWAG City Candidate Water Forum: Saturday, Aug 5 10:00AM-12:00PM

CREW Volunteer Activity: Thursday, August 17 8:00-11:00AM

Reaching Out to Local Businesses

Click on image for a better view of the freshly-laid monarch egg in this horsetail milkweed...and video of monarch laying the egg in a Prescott area monarch-friendly garden. Photo Credit: Suzanne Yoder

Watson Woods Construction Update

Part of the City of Prescott's long-term infrastructure plans is a needed upgrade of the wastewater treatment system, which includes moving treatment from the Sundog Wastewater Treatment Plant to a facility near the airport. The current phase of the project involves installing a new wastewater line crossing Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.

The original plan to cross Watson Woods was to excavate a trench for the new pipeline, which would have required removing mature native trees and digging straight through the creek bed in the restored riparian preserve. Prescott Creeks worked with receptive City staff and their partner contractor to arrive on a revised plan that included horizontal drilling under Granite Creek, allowing us to minimize surface disturbance. Prescott Creeks will continue to work with the City after project completion to revegetate disturbed areas with native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees.

We're inviting local businesses and organizations to show their commitment to our waterways and green corridors as vital parts of a dynamic, thriving community. Whether your customers, clients, and staff enjoy a view of a flowing creek and healthy riparian forest right outside your windows, or you are simply aware of the value our natural landscapes offer our community, we encourage you to consider becoming a Prescott Creeks Business Member today!

Find out the benefits of becoming a Business Member by visiting our website or calling 928-445-5669...and be recognized as a partner in restoring and preserving the creeks and natural places that add so much to Prescott's remarkable quality of place.

Watch our calendar, "Like" us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter for upcoming events and activities.

Thanks to all who have taken the step to support preserving our creeks and wild places!

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

September 2017

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

September brings the first hints of fall to Central Arizona. The last monsoon-pattern rains will soon be displaced by more organized seasonal storms from the west. Temperatures will dip to the add-a-blanket range at night, while still holding to Arizona-style heat during the days. We'll start seeing the first fall colors, and bird and butterfly migrations will be building toward their peaks.

After the rains we've seen this summer, autumn continues to show the success of our restoration efforts in Watson Woods and other project sites in our community. Willow plantings of the last few years have seen remarkable growth and distribution. Recent milkweed transplants appear to be taking well in their new environment. Cattails are becoming more and more dense in the Whipple Basin site, creating a genuine wetland habitat in the heart of one of the busiest traffic areas in our community.

Volunteers Make It Happen

We could not see these kinds of successes without the support of our members, donors, and many volunteers who lend a hand with our ongoing projects. Our regulary scheduled CREW (Conservation, Restoration, and Education in our Watershed) volunteer events offer opportunities for all to get involved in the hands-on work of restoring and maintaining our creeks, wetlands, and natural corridors in our community.

PRESCOTT CREEKS

Creeks • Connect • Community

Upcoming Events

CREW Volunteer Activity: Thursday, September 7 8:00-11:00AM

CWAG Answers Your Water Questions: Saturday, September 9 10:00AM-12:00PM

CREW Volunteer Activity: Thursday, September 21 8:00-11:00AM

'Tis Art Gallery Fall Photography Exhibit Reception: Friday, September 22 5:00-8:00PM

Businesses Spporter Spotlight

Jay's Bird Barn

We'd like to thank Jay's Bird Barn for their continuing support of Prescott Creeks, and for all they do for nonprofits in our community. With store locations in Prescott, Sedona, and Flagstaff, Jay's Bird Barn offers quality birdseed, feeders, binoculars and spotting scopes, and a variety of resources, gifts, and cards for the nature enthusiast. Jay's knowledgable staff will be able to help with your birding and birdfeeding questions, and get you equipped with exactly what you need. Make sure

CREW events mix habitat improvement projects with learning about watershed and riparian restoration in our region. Volunteer activities vary from planting, erosion control, monitoring restoration project sites, to managing invasive vegetation to give our native plantings the chance to grow and spread. Volunteer efforts result in the increasingly healthy creeks, riparian woodlands, and wetlands we see today.

For more on upcoming volunteer activities, please visit our website at PrescottCreeks.org.

to thank them for their support for Prescott Creeks next time you find yourself in their store.

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Prescott Creekside E-News

October 2017

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

Even though it has seemed dry for some time now, the past weekend represented the end of the 2017 North American Monsoon Season. In spite of the recent lack of precipitation, Prescott was reported to have had the 3rd wettest in the past 10 years and the 7th wettest in the past 30 years. Cool nights, with smoke in the air are a sign that it is October. All of the creeks are changing into their fall costumes an offering a wonderful show for close observers.

Preserve Infrastructure

You might have noticed the construction at Hwy 89 and Prescott Lakes Parkway over the last several months. This project is the first phase of a much needed overhaul of Prescott's aging sewer system. During this project, the City has worked with Prescott Creeks to minimize disturbance within the Preserve. The originally planned open-trench across Granite Creek and its floodplain changed a Horizontal Directional Drill approach to bore under the creek which would avoid bulldozing mature cottonwood trees that were home to a family of nesting Black Hawks. It also prevented direct impact to the Granite Creek channel. As the project comes to a close in the Preserve, disturbed areas have been seeded and Prescott Creeks will plant slopes and other areas with volunteers to restore the area to pre-project conditions. Read the full story of the project and/or sign up to volunteer here.

PRESCOTT CREEKS

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Upcoming Events

Bird Watching with Jay's Bird Barn:
Friday, October 6th 8:00-12 Noon
Friday, October 13th 8:00-12 Noon
Thursday, October 19th 8:00-12 Noon
Thursday, October 26th 8:00-12 Noon

WCCR Adaptive Mgmt & Water Webinar:
Monday, October 9th 12 Noon-1:15 PM
PNF Fire & Forest Mgmt Presentation:
Wednesday, October 11th 6:00-8:00 PM
AZ Native Plant Society Meeting:
Thursday, October 12th 6:30-8:30 PM
CWAG Deep Well Ranch Water Impact Mtg:
Saturday, October 14th 8:00 AM-12 Noon
Prescott Creeks Volunteer CREW:
Thursday, October 19th 8:00-11:00 AM
Natural History Institute Book Club:
Friday, October 20th 9:00-11:00 AM
AZ Native Plant Society Field Trip:
Saturday, October 21st 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Prescott Audubon Society Mtg:
Thursday, October 26th 7:00-9:00 PM
Prescott Creeks Autumn Preserve Tour:
Saturday, October 28th 9:00-11:00 AM

Businesses Supporter Spotlight

Art in Nature

In early August this year Denise Incao, local artist and Mater of Arts student, offered a multi-day program at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve to help people explore through art and experience their personal relationships to nature. Field trips with Prescott Creeks and Hopi artist Filmer Kewanyama were coupled with service work to help participants gain a first-hand understanding of the Preserve, its history and the connection people have with the place. Incao said 'the Preserve is a wild and wonderful treasure in our community. Once degraded by humans and now is healing with the help of humans. Read the full story of Art in Nature here.

We'd like to thank Manzanita Outfitters for supporting Prescott Creeks since 20019. Manzanita's mission is to provide the Prescott area with a selection of high quality products, a knowledgeable & friendly staff of experts, & to give back both to non-profit community partners. They strive to provide a welcoming environment and an enjoyable experience for each and every customer, outfitting your spirit of adventure with quality gear and apparel that is right for you – at the right price, too!

Businesses and organizations can show their commitment to local waters by joining Prescott Creeks as a Business Member. Learn how you can join.

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.

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Prescott Creekside E-News

November 2017

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Friend,

October 2017 was reported to be the driest October in Prescott during the record of 118 years. I believe my audible response was “Yikes!” when I read this. In context to our report of the past monsoon season being one of the wettest, it’s a bit confusing to understand what’s happening with the weather that impacts the waters of local creeks and lakes. The upshot is that things are looking great at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve! It’s dry, but great.

You Make A Difference

Fall is that time of year when Prescott Creeks takes stock of all the successes during the preceding seasons. Did the on-the-ground work meet goals, what have we learned, and who has contributed to make it happen? The support of members, volunteers, partners, funders and friends like you made possible the restoration of riparian habitat in Watson Woods Riparian Preserve and the improvement of water quality throughout the Granite Creek Watershed. The coming year holds the promise of long-term protection at the Preserve, a new public bathroom along Miller Creek, expanded stewardship opportunities at the Granite Creek Cleanup, and new opportunities with new and existing partners. You make all this possible. Watch for the Prescott Creeks year-end appeal in your mailbox, or click here to see options to make a contribution today.

PRESCOTT CREEKS

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Upcoming Events

Jay's Bird Barn - Bird Walks
Thursday, Nov. 9th, 8-12 Noon
Wednesday, Nov. 15th, 8 AM-4 PM
Wednesday, Nov. 29th, 8-12 Noon
Prescott Audubon - Bird Walk
Saturday, Nov. 11th, 9-11 AM
CWAG / Friends of the Verde River
Saturday, Nov. 11th, 10-12 Noon
CREW Volunteer Event
Thursday, Nov. 16th, 8-11 AM
NHI - Natural History of Galls
Thursday, Nov. 16th, 7-8:30 PM
Natural History Institute - Book Club
Friday, Nov. 17th, 9-11 AM
Watson Woods Late Autumn Tour
Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 9-11 AM

Business Supporter Spotlight

QualityPlastics
Different by Design™

Achieving healthy watersheds and clean waters wouldn’t happen without

Saltcedar In Watson Woods

Saltcedar (Tamarix spp.), or tamarisk, is a large exotic shrub that has spread rapidly throughout the rivers and streams of the southwestern U.S., taking over areas normally dominated by willows. It thrives in disturbed areas, which are a majority of regional riparian corridors. It can also alter native ecosystems and harm biotic communities.

In 2016, Prescott Creeks engaged in a watershed-wide habitat enhancement project removing invasive plants, including saltcedar. Over 350 saltcedars were removed from Watson Woods. Notably, the Yavapai County Adult Probation Community Restitution Program volunteered to help. For the past two years, these probation crews have demonstrated a strong work ethic and dedication to giving back to the Prescott community. Over the last several months they have contributed 250 hours of labor, valued at $6,000, toward the disposal of 10,000 pounds of cut saltcedar limbs from the Preserve. Read the full story here. (Note: A Prescott Creeks volunteer is pictured above, not a probation crew member.)

the support of Business Members like Quality Plastics. They bring dedication to quality and environmental conservation into all they do and have over 45 years of experience tooling for plastic parts and containers. Quality Plastics is proud to be an active and contributing member of the local community.

Businesses and organizations can show their commitment to local waters by joining Prescott Creeks as a Business Member. Learn how you can join.

Support Creeks in many ways:

Membership

Volunteer

Donate

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December 2017

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Hello Friend,

Your support has protected a threatened riparian area, restored important wildlife habitats, and improved impaired surface water quality in the Granite Creek Watershed. Thank you! We truly couldn't have done it without you.

While on-the-ground projects are largely funded by grants, most grants require a match of up to 50% – your donations are essential to securing funding. Your donations contribute to project development, implementation, and performance monitoring.

Your investment in Prescott Creeks provides a strong foundation and is a catalyst for new opportunities.

Next year, Prescott Creeks will work with over 25 partners to protect and restore riparian habitats while addressing watershed impairments. Installing a public bathroom on Miller Creek to improve water quality and securing long-term protection for the Watson Woods Preserve top the list in 2018. You can help ensure these projects succeed. With your donations we plan to secure at least $21,000 of the unfunded portion of these projects. Won't you help us to bridge the gap?

You can make your year-end tax-deductible contributions to the creeks securely online at www.PrescottCreeks.org/Donate

PRESCOTT CREEKS

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Upcoming Events

Acker Night - TONIGHT
Friday, Dec. 8th, 5-8:30 PM
Jay's Bird Barn - Bird Walk
Thursday, Dec. 14th 8-12 Noon
Saturday, Dec. 23rd 8-12 Noon
Natural History Institute - Book Club
Friday, Dec. 15th 9-11 AM
C.R.E.W. Volunteer Event
Thursday, Dec. 21st 8-11 AM
Prescott Creeks Offices Closed
Monday - Tuesday Dec. 25th - 26th
New Year's Eve Boot Drop
Sunday, Dec. 31st 8 PM - 12:30 AM

Businesses Supporter Spotlight

El Gato Azul World Bistro

Located on the left bank of Granite Creek just downstream of Goodwin St., El Gato Azul is a steadfast supporter of Prescott Creeks. Offering a casual, yet sophisticated atmosphere, El Gato Azul is a great place to meet friends and hosts a Happy Hour from 3 – 6 pm. Whether dining on their covered outdoor patio,

Biodiversity and Invasive Plants

Nature loves diversity. A walk through a healthy central Arizonan streamside corridor would reveal a rich forest composed of around a dozen species of trees, plus numerous shrubs and grasses. Each of these plants provides unique physical structure and resources to wildlife, allowing wild critters to specialize in their food sources and nesting behavior.

Prescott's riparian forests are dominated by Siberian elm, which is capable of rapid growth in the most marginal soils and can tolerate severe drought. Early each spring, before native trees are even flowering, mature Siberian elms drop thousands of half-inch round, winged seeds. This allows the Siberian elms to colonize disturbed riparian areas and grasslands. These disturbed areas are in the greatest need of robust, diverse habitat, but instead are converted into near-monocultures.

As a part of its mission, Prescott Creeks invests substantial effort into management of invasive plant species. Our regular semi-monthly volunteer C.R.E.W. events have most recently focused on removal of Siberian elm from Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, and we have seen compelling results without using herbicides.

If you'd like to help improve habitat in the Prescott area, please consider volunteering with Prescott Creeks. We'd love to have you join us.

creekside, or at the bar… you'll surely feel at home.

Proprietor Barry Barbe has always been enthusiastic about lending a hand for special events, a sponsorship, or hosting a Creek Tour group. And not just for Prescott Creeks - El Gato Azul is known to be involved in many community efforts through the year. Thanks Barry. Stop in and let them know that you support Prescott Creeks too.

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