



The Creekside Almanac

A seasonal publication of Prescott Creeks Preservation Association

Autumn 2002



Volume 8 Issue 2

Are Prescott's Creeks Healthy?

by: Dan Jannone

The question "Are Prescott's creeks healthy?" is being asked again and again, but the information to accurately answer this question has yet to be explored in great detail. With funding from the **Yavapai County Community Foundation**, and the **River Network Watershed Assistance**

Grants program a partnership between Prescott Creeks Preservation Association (PCPA), the Open Space Alliance of Central Yavapai County, and the City of Prescott Trails & Open Space Division has been formed to address the health of the Granite Creek *Watershed* (the land that drains into Granite Creek). This partnership will design a monitoring plan to guide the community in answering questions about the health of our creeks. Once the answers begin to surface, we may initiate restoration efforts for areas deemed as "unhealthy", and we will continue to monitor for change.

The Upper Granite Creek Watershed Monitoring Planning effort will establish a protocol to monitor the conditions of the

watershed as well as determine what needs to be monitored in order to assess the health of the watershed. The Plan will build on the local interest and awareness developed in recent years, and will help Prescottonians understand how our watershed functions, what factors contribute to its overall health, and



Herpetological Technician, Matthew Spille, monitors the creeks for reptiles and amphibians which are indicator species for ecosystem health.

how watershed health is determined. Although previous watershed research has taken place with individual efforts, very little quantitative data is available for the whole system. Development of this plan with coalesce the information.

Much of this project's success depends on community

involvement. PCPA's Watershed Project Coordinator, Dan Jannone, is seeking public participation in all aspects of the plan. Volunteer opportunities exist for plan research, outreach, grant writing, and ultimately with plan implementation. The completed Plan will also identify local entities (such as, citizens, neighborhood CreekWatch groups, and science classes from local schools) to carry out monitoring activities. With participation in the actual field collection of important data, the community will gain a direct connection with the watershed in which they live. This connection will lead them to a greater understanding of how their actions can affect the health of the watershed!

Find out more about the project by visiting the Projects section of PCPA's website at www.prescottcreeks.org. If you'd like to participate in the development of *The Upper Granite Creek Watershed Monitoring Plan*, please contact Dan Jannone at 928-771-9258 or djannone@prescottcreeks.org.

end.

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A Note From the Editor...

For over ten years now, PCPA has been working to preserve, restore and celebrate the creeks of Prescott. We've done this with the help of our membership, countless volunteer's time and with funding from many, many grants! I think we've made some headway! Our lease with the City of Prescott formally protects Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. West Granite Creek Park was recently the site of a major revegetation effort and there are now groups representing six of Prescott's eight creeks within the Prescott CreekWatch Network! As Dan Jannone discusses in the cover article, we've partnered with the Open Space Alliance and the City

of Prescott to launch the Watershed Project—a new, and third, program area for PCPA.

As the title for this issue of *The Creekside Almanac* suggests, we are expanding our approach to the way in which we achieve our mission "...to protect the ecological integrity of Central Arizona's riparian systems..." Building on our strengths of managing site-specific projects, we are beginning to look at our work from a broader perspective—a *watershed* perspective. As we do this, we will look to you, our membership, for assistance and guidance. We want to know what is important to you as a member of our community and how you want to be involved.

While we've increased our programs and services, we've outgrown our home offices and our

ability to be the most effective from them. Consequently, in the coming year PCPA will open a local office in an effort to be more accessible to the community we serve. Our vision for this office includes a working and meeting location for the PCPA board of directors, staff, membership and volunteers; a resource library; an information center.

As we move from this year into the New Year, please renew your membership and remember that all donations beyond your membership dues are tax-deductible. Your involvement and support have contributed to our past successes. Please help PCPA influence the future of our creeks; our watershed; our community.

Creative Fundraising

LOCAL REAL ESTATE AGENT INITIATES FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

Charlie Scardino and his wife Maureen are, and have been, members of many local non-profit groups focusing on the arts, culture, conservation and public service. In addition, Charlie has actively participated in fundraising for such groups as Big Brothers and Big Sisters and the Smoki Museum.

Charlie recently developed a program, in conjunction with Prudential Foothills Real Estate, to couple his new real estate career with increased fundraising for the many organizations he supports.

Very simply put, Charlie will make a donation, at the closing of a real estate transaction, to any organization on his list. His clients get to select the organization of their choice.

So far, his list includes **Prescott Creeks Preservation Association**, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity, the YMCA, Tsunami on the Square, the Smoki Museum, New Horizons, the Highlands Center for Natural History and Yavapai Exceptional Industries.

Charlie has spent a lifetime working with people and organizations, and he stands by his motto: "Integrity Counts." Charlie is very excited about community participation in this program. Email Charlie (cscardino@hotmail.com), or he can be reached at 928-778-3400 ext. 233, if you'd like to participate. Please let him know you read about his program here and let him know that you support Prescott Creeks Preservation Association.

Thanks, Charlie!

PCPA



Beer Tasting!

& Raffle

What? A fun event with 60 different BEERS.

Why? Have fun & support PCPA.

Where? Smoki Museum. 147 N. Arizona St.
East of Ken Lindley Field

When? Fri, November 22nd, 2003. 7-9:30 p.m.



For Tickets Please Contact:

Liquor Barn 445-1521
PCPA Michael Byrd 776-4490 or
Joel Barnes 778-2090 ext. 2206
Greater Prescott Jaycees 776-1726

Event Tickets: \$15 In Advance/\$20 At the Door

Raffle Tickets: \$1 ea. or \$5 for 7 tickets

CreekWatch Network Installs Watershed Signs!

by: Joel Barnes

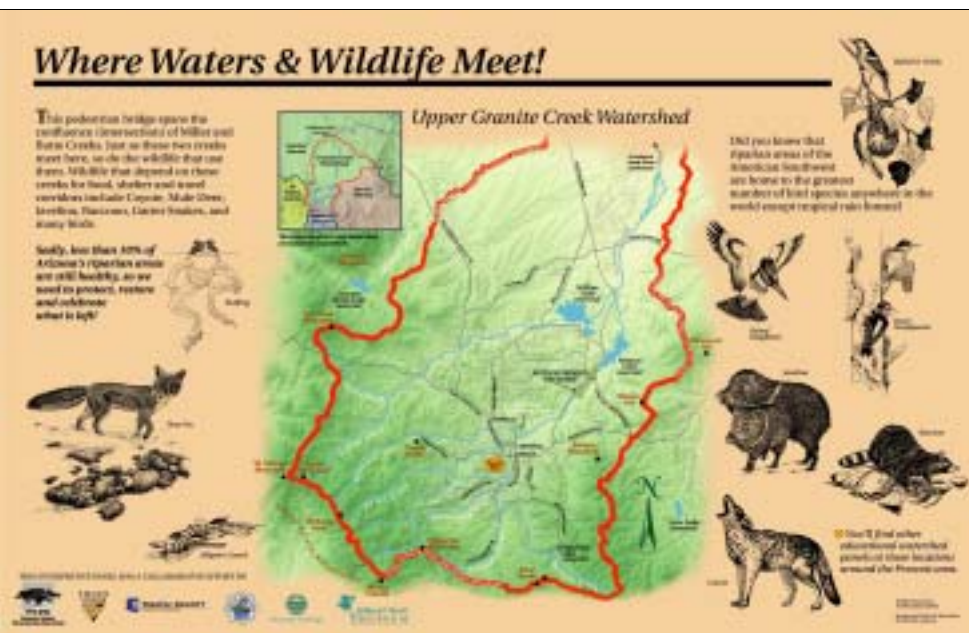
Since the 1980's, PCPA has helped the community of Prescott to protect, restore and celebrate its creeks and riparian areas. Our very first project focused on the section of Granite Creek between Goodwin and Gurley Streets. A number of years later the City of Prescott honored us as stewards of the newly established Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, and more recently, the Prescott CreekWatch Network has refocused our efforts once again on the Downtown Greenways and other neighborhood creeks.

About a year and a half ago, PCPA resurrected a project that had been on our "to do list" for quite some time. We wanted to design and install educational panels along our riparian greenways to help the people of Prescott strengthen their sense of place and to help locals and tourists alike to appreciate the rich natural and cultural history of Prescott. The panels can also help people learn to appreciate and understand the importance of our local creeks and watershed.

Thanks to a grant from the Yavapai County Environmental Fund of the Yavapai County Community Foundation and the Arizona Community

Foundation, PCPA began to collaborate with a rich cross section of the Prescott community. This local collaboration was one of the most rewarding aspects of the project – it's been an exciting team effort. PCPA Volunteer Emily Talmage assisted with project research and implementation, Eric Smith and Rudy Litka from the City of Prescott's Trails & Open Space Division, Tim Smothers and Dale Anderson with the City's GIS Department, Amanda Summers with Triad Designs, Zackery Zdinak with Life Drawing and Education in Flagstaff, Walt Anderson and everyone at Prescott College, an individual donor who prefers anonymity, and Michael Wurtz and Norm Tessman of Sharlot Hall Museum have each donated their time and expertise at critical points during this project. We would like to acknowledge the generosity of each and every one of these individuals and organizations. PCPA is very lucky indeed to have friends and partners like you! Your contributions were a key factor in the quality of these educational panels. They exceed our highest expectations.

The center of each of the six panels is essentially the same, and features a full color map of the Upper Granite Creek Watershed. The map details Granite Creek, all eight of its named tributaries, and the high peaks and ridges that form the watershed boundaries. Wrapped around the watershed map, each panel features a unique perspective on the ecology and stewardship of our creeks. The text is complimented with graphics of riparian flora and fauna.



This interpretive panel can be found at the north end of the Lincoln St. bridge. Among other images, it features beautiful drawings donated by Flagstaff artist Zackery Zdinak.

You can see the panels at the following locations: Granite Creek at Gurley Street (next to Coffee Roasters), the north end of the new Lincoln Street Pedestrian Bridge over the confluence of Miller and Butte Creeks, at West Granite Creek Park, the main Granite Creek Park, and along the Peavine Trail next to the Watson Woods Preserve entrance.

end.

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve—Year In Review

by: Michael Byrd

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The Creekside Almanac....

....is published
seasonally

Staff/Editor/Publisher

Michael Byrd
Preserve Manager



Most of the year at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve was spent attending to and learning about the nearly 2000 new plantings from last winter's revegetation project. All summer long, volunteer and Master Watershed Steward, Bill Comstock helped PCPA monitor and maintain the irrigation systems for all the plantings with weekly visits. Thanks go out to Bill for all his hard work—especially during the very hot months!! In July we hosted a 4-hour workday that involved nearly 100 students from the Upward Bound program at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and about 20 PCPA volunteers. The order of the day was to install barbed-wire fencing, pull weeds competing with the new plantings, and collect trash at the Preserve. A special thanks goes out to Mary Wagner at ERAU for helping pull the event together!

Demand for environmental education at the Preserve is growing. In addition to the educational aspects of the planting project, we hosted over twelve groups at the Preserve this year. Groups have varied in size from the large Upward Bound group to just a few individuals. Ages varied from six year-olds to 60 and over! Groups attending tours and educational events included Ecology classes from Prescott College and ERAU, four sets of day-campers from the Heritage Park Zoo, two Skyview School classes, the 2002 Master Watershed Steward class, the Citizen's Water Advocacy Group, and the staff and Commissioners from the Arizona Water Protection Fund (major grant donors for our work at the Preserve).

With all the help and interest from the community, we've had a great year at the Preserve. End of the season monitoring for the planting project indicates very few losses and growth that exceeded our expectations! If you haven't been to Watson Woods recently, let me recommend it as a great location for an autumn walk!

end.



Red willows (*Salix laevigata*) just after planting. March 2002.



Red willows (*Salix laevigata*) after one growing season. October 2002.

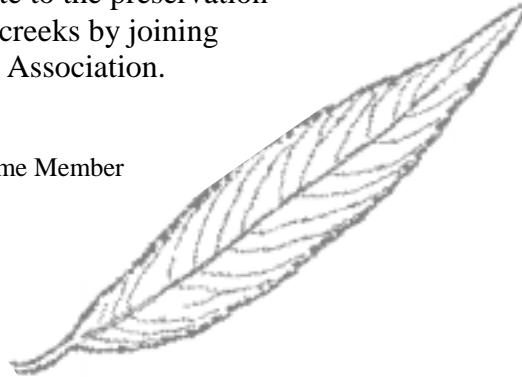
The photos above demonstrate the vigorous growth of these plants during just one season. Cottonwoods and willows that were planted as "pole-cuttings" during the winter, have grown into small trees. Photographic monitoring will continue in future years to document changes at Watson Woods and to help assess the success of the Tree Planting 2002 project!

The Membership Page

Yes, I would like to contribute to the preservation and restoration of Prescott's creeks by joining Prescott Creeks Preservation Association.

Membership Categories

- Forest (\$1000+) Lifetime Member
- Tree (\$100+)
- Root (\$50)
- Seed (\$25)
- Soil (\$10)
- Pollen (Volunteer — 24 Hours per year)



Date: _____

I have donated an additional _____ to Prescott Creeks Preservation Association.

Name _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ Email _____

Please send this application to: **PCPA, P.O. Box 3004, Prescott, AZ 86302.**

Your financial and volunteer supported is greatly appreciated.

All donations beyond your membership dues are tax-deductible.

02AUCSA

Our Membership...

PCPA is a local non-profit organization striving to bring the community of Prescott together to help preserve Prescott's riparian communities. Education and grassroots networking are essential to our mission. Membership fees are based on a sliding scale, depending on how you can contribute. We have six groups; pollen, soil, seed, root, tree, and forest. Each signifies a different level of support. Members will receive our seasonal newsletter The Creekside Almanac.



P.O. Box 3004
Prescott, AZ 86302

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This issue...

Broadening Our Perspective