



THE CREEKSIDE ALMANAC

Prescott Creeks • Autumn 2005 Issue • Volume 11 Issue 2

Wild & Scenic Film Festival A first for Prescott Creeks, and Prescott, Arizona

by Ann-Marie Heins

On the 15th of October, Prescott Creeks presented the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival at the Elks Opera House. The festival included nine films by independent film makers from around the world, and the award-winning films covered a broad range of topics from wildlife, to water quality issues, to extreme kayaking.

Starting at 3:00 pm, the afternoon show featured six family-friendly films. Bottle This was about our sometimes-erroneous impressions of bottled water and its multi-billion-dollar industry. Flip Flotsam took the viewer on a whimsical and sometimes endearing journey into the lifecycle of one of the world's most prevalent choices in footwear—flip-flops. Ride of the Mergansers follows the first days of hooded merganser ducklings; an experience rarely observed by humans. The people and culture of the whitewater river kayaking community were explored in Riversense. The largest oil spill in American history wasn't in Alaska—it was in New York City, on a waterway between Brooklyn and Queens called Newtown Creek. Invisible Creek is the story of this oil spill and the efforts a small group of students to learn about environmental issues on the creek. Closing the show was Ryan's Well, the story of Ryan Hreljac who has raised thousands

of dollars to improve the lives of his Ugandan pen pal Jimmy Akana, as well as Jimmy's family and friends.

To open the evening show, Ron Goldman of Page Springs Cellars (and Prescott Creeks volunteer from the early 1990s) joined the celebration and poured a selection of regionally produced wines. After an hour of sipping wine and visiting with friends old and new, the evening films began with Peaceable Kingdom. This film was a dramatic look at industrial farming. It was an eye-opening journey to the heart of this dramatic issue. This was followed by Free Radicals, a quirky cartoon filled with three Rocky Mountain cockroaches that entered the extreme ski "contest of a lifetime." The evening ended with Bigger Than Rodeo, a film made by, and for the die-hard kayaker. It had "the burliest waterfalls ever seen on video and the biggest aerial freestyle kayaking ever shot."

The first-ever environmental film festival in Prescott was well received by an audience of over 200. Prescott Creeks believes this festival is a positive community-based event and we plan to make many improvements next year. We look forward to new and exciting interactions with the community as we plan for the 2006 festival. We'll keep you posted! For pictures and more info you can go to: www.PrescottCreeks.org/filmfest.



Film Festival

From the President

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From the President...

As my doctoral program progressed toward completion, I felt more and more as though the wild waters of Grand Canyon were coursing through my head, heart, and soul. Each corridor along the Colorado mainstem and each nook and cranny of the tributaries I explored offered new perspectives on the Canyon's riparian areas and their role in the arid landscape. Floating the Canyon's length time and again, I came to know the flowing waters as an element that integrates the physical, biological and cultural stories of the landscape. This place-based trilogy revealed a spatial and temporal context of immense proportions that embodied the essence Grand Canyon.

Somewhere along the way, I realized that the same tenacious grace, power, and beauty that I experience with Grand Canyon's wild waters is also in Manzanita Creek that flows through my neighborhood. The same wisdom is there for the observant who purposefully, intentionally watches and listens to free flowing waters. Just as we become captivated by a candle flame or campfire, moving water in the smallest stream or a raging river can capture our imagination and carry us away to our subconscious world (Palmer 1994). To practice the art of listening is to let go of your preconceived agendas and focus on how the person you're with, or how the environment you're in, can change you; to ask yourself how and what you can learn from this person, place, or thing. That the wild waters of Grand Canyon can lure us into such listening is one nugget of wisdom they have to share.

On page four of this newsletter, we've excerpted a brief introduction to each chapter of my dissertation [Protecting Wild Waters in a Dry World](#).




Intern Update

Since the last issue of *The Creekside Almanac* was published, there have been some changes to our intern staff from Prescott College. Emily Ducat, our administrative Assistant from August 2004 - May 2005 moved to Idaho after her graduation earlier this year. We thank her for lightening the mood with her antics and wish her well in her future endeavours. Below, we'd like to introduce you to two new interns who have been working with us this year.

~MB

Ann-Marie Heins joined Prescott Creeks as Watershed Technician in March 2005. While she began as a volunteer monitoring the groundwater wells at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, we quickly recognized her talent and brought her on board as a work-study intern. Ann-Marie is currently a junior at Prescott College studying Sustainable Community Development with an emphasis on Watershed Management. When she is not at



school or working, she can usually be found dragging her family over a river and through the woods (but not necessarily to Grandmother's house), or playing at the wildlife rescue.

Alicia Day joined Prescott Creeks as Administrative Assistant in October 2005. After receiving a Telecommunications and Astronomy degree from Bowling Green State University, she worked in those fields for several years. Alicia then decided that she'd rather be paddling a canoe or working with youth in an outdoor setting. This decision led her to Prescott College where she is a senior in their Adventure Education program. When she is not perfecting her academic paddle stroke or wrestling with the Prescott Creeks database, she can be found stargazing, canoeing (for pleasure), checking out the music scene or working on Zen methodologies.



Feel free to drop by our office at 119-A Grove Ave. in Prescott to say hello to these two, or any of the staff.



PRESCOTT CREEKS

PRESERVE RESTORE CELEBRATE

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Riparian

HOME

WHO WE ARE

CREEKSIDE VISITS

ORGANIZATION

OUTREACH

PROGRAMS

Prescott College
Workstudy Position
Available
[Watershed Tech](#)

Check out our NEW WEBSITE Features:

- Home Page
- Creek News
- Improved Navigation
- Creek Store
- Secure Online Payments

www.PrescottCreeks.org

Your Online Riparian Resource

by Napolian Stewart

If you've visited our website recently, you may have noticed that we've dropped the "Preservation Association" part of our name and completely eradicated the ever-confusing "PCPA" acronym. It was too long and sometimes confusing to folks, so we simplified it to a better-fitting "Prescott Creeks." To go with the new name we also updated all of our outreach materials. This included everything from our letterhead, business cards, logo, and especially our website.

For the first few years of our website's life, it served as an online brochure. While this is an important role, it did not maximize its full potential. The changes to the website presented a special challenge in that it needed to be almost totally redesigned (our name and logo appear on every page!).

It took the better part of a year to redesign, build and deploy our new site. We wanted to keep a familiar look and feel to the previous site while implementing new features that would make it a more usable and dynamic resource for you. After many planning meetings and brainstorming sessions we decided on the three main functions that we wanted the site to serve. These were 1) To provide creek-related information and educational resources readily-available to you, 2) To enable more

interaction with the community and 3) To give you the opportunity to directly support and contribute to the preservation, restoration and celebration of Prescott's creeks

Our new site now features a new **Home page** with lots of links to important Prescott Creeks' news and information. We also improved the navigational menus throughout the site. The new **site-search** feature allows you to quickly find the information you want. We also introduced the **Creek News** page, featuring picture galleries and news about our recent events and activities. Another exciting addition is the secure online **Creek Store** where you can purchase creek related merchandise (like our new organic cotton t-shirts) by credit card. We'll even ship it right to your door! The new **secure online payment** option also allows you make tax-deductible donations or join as a member using your credit card.

If you haven't already, we invite you to visit www.PrescottCreeks.org and check out all of the new features. Please let us know what you think. Your comments, ideas, corrections, additions, subtractions, are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

You can contact me by email at:
NStewart@PrescottCreeks.org



Protecting Wild Waters in a Dry World

by Joel C. Barnes, Ph.D.
(excerpt by Michael Byrd)

Chapter One – River Sojourns: The Colorado River system in and around Grand Canyon National Park is presented as the central case study for the societal significance of riparian areas in the American Southwest. The two central research questions for this project included: 1) “What is the definitive rationale for designation of the Colorado River and selected tributaries in the Grand Canyon Ecoregion as Wild and Scenic Rivers?”, and 2) “How can Wild and Scenic River (WSR) designation contribute to the conservation of aridland river systems and watersheds in the American Southwest?”

Chapter Two - History and Evolution of River Conservation in America: The literature review is continued, building upon the prior chapter through an in-depth exploration of the history of conservation in America with an eye toward the role and influence of rivers.

Chapter Three - Wild Waters of Grand Canyon: Begins with an overview of Grand Canyon from the perspective of its wild, free-flowing waters. I highlight the river related biocultural values of Grand Canyon, and review the historical and current status of legal protection provided to the resource values associated with the Colorado River and its tributaries in and adjacent to GCNP. This chapter also includes a succinct comparison of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon with other similar rivers and ecoregions in the country.

Chapter Four – The Wild and Scenic River Study Process: The three fundamental steps of a WSR study - eligibility, classification, and suitability - are explained in detail. I also explain the ways in which the WSR eligibility process and criteria were adapted to reflect the unique

attributes of Grand Canyon. Finally, I point out that, as a methodology, the case study approach aims to reach beyond the GCNP WSR Project to explore the second research question of how WSR designation can contribute to the conservation of aridland river systems and watersheds in the American Southwest.



Joel Barnes (left) and Prescott College student Blake Lowrey eradicating salt cedar on a 2004 research trip along the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon.

Chapter Five - Implications on the Conservation of Wild River Systems & Watersheds of the American Southwest: Presents the GCNP WSR Database in its entirety; including 50 river segments total, four segments of the Colorado River mainstem plus 46 tributaries. These riverine resources embrace a broad spectrum of interconnected values that represent the physical, biological, and cultural stories of Grand Canyon’s landscape. The cumulative and synergistic nature within and among these three realms is highlighted.

Chapter Six - The Future of Wild Rivers & Watersheds of the American Southwest: Introduces the issues pertaining to WSR suitability of the proposed Grand Canyon waterways. A suitability study examines the benefits and impacts of designation, and evaluates whether this is indeed the best management alternative. The chapter lays the groundwork for the Park to conduct a more in-depth suitability analysis and sets the stage to revisit the second primary research question; “How can WSR designation contribute to the conservation of aridland river systems and watersheds in the American Southwest?” In this light, the discussion concludes by exploring the broader sociopolitical, biocultural, conservation, and philosophical dimensions of how western society chooses to use and protect river systems, particularly in the American Southwest.

Restoration Continues at Watson Woods

by Michael Byrd

The year 2005 has been a busy year for Prescott Creeks at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve as we continued with our restoration project funded by the Arizona Water Production Fund Commission. As part of this multi-year project, we had two aerial photographs (winter & summer) taken and generated detailed topographic information that our consulting engineers will use as part of their studies. A preliminary review of the data from a repeat of our 1997 vegetation survey indicates that there has been much growth and that native grasses are beginning to reclaim significant acreage. We also worked with Jacob Crade, a graduating senior at Prescott College to identify, locate, and eradicate noxious weeds at the Preserve.

In addition to Prescott Creeks' studies at the Preserve, we hosted two hands-on field trips this year. As part of the Keep Prescott Beautiful-Granite Creek Clean Up in early May, Prescott Creeks staff and volunteers worked all morning with 85 honor students from Prescott High School to clean up tons of trash (literally) carried in by the big storm at the end of 2004. And just last month, we hosted a service project for 65 students from the Arizona chapter of SkillsUSA three-day leadership camp held in Prescott. The students worked with representatives from Prescott Creeks, the City of Prescott, and Prescott National Forest to remove Scotch thistle, common teasel, Dalmatian toadflax and spotted knapweed from Watson Woods. Thanks to everyone who has been involved.



At left: Winter aerial photograph showing Watson Woods Riparian Preserve in center with Prescott Lakes to the west and the City of Prescott Waste Water Treatment Plant to the east.

Below: SkillsUSA student holding a freshly dug up noxious weed - common teasel.

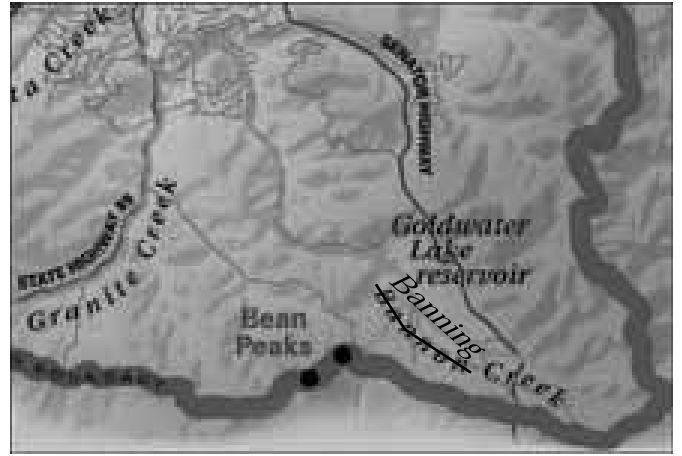


Changing Name in Mid-Stream

by Michael Byrd

A few years ago, it was brought to our attention that we had an incorrect creek name on Prescott Creeks' maps and signs. How could this be? We'd referenced the most current names and checked many resources, but a few Prescott Creeks supporters were vehement in their assertion that Banning Creek was mislabeled as Bannon. To get to the bottom of the issue, we coordinated with Lisa Nau and Jim Jensen (both Prescott CreekWatch Network members) who spent untold hours combing through the Sharlot Hall Museum archives and attending meetings in search of evidence to document the case. It was originally thought that the change from the predominantly used Bannon Creek had occurred in 1947 when the USGS topographic maps were updated, but their research showed both names on earlier, as well as later maps. After nearly a year's worth of work, Lisa and Jim accumulated enough documentation to take the Bannon/Banning Creek case to the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names.

State Board staff confirmed the research and determined that there was significant evidence to take the case to the Board for consideration in April. On the 21st day of that month, the Board officially, and unanimously, "approved the spelling change of Banning Creek from Bannon Creek." From there, the issue was forwarded to and approved by the United States Board on Geographic Names in June this year. Banning Creek's official information can be found online at <http://geonames.usgs.gov>. Thanks go out to Lisa and Jim for their hard work; this important correction would not have occurred without it. Look for the new Banning Creek sign installed by the Yavapai County Public Works Department next time you drive up Senator Hwy!



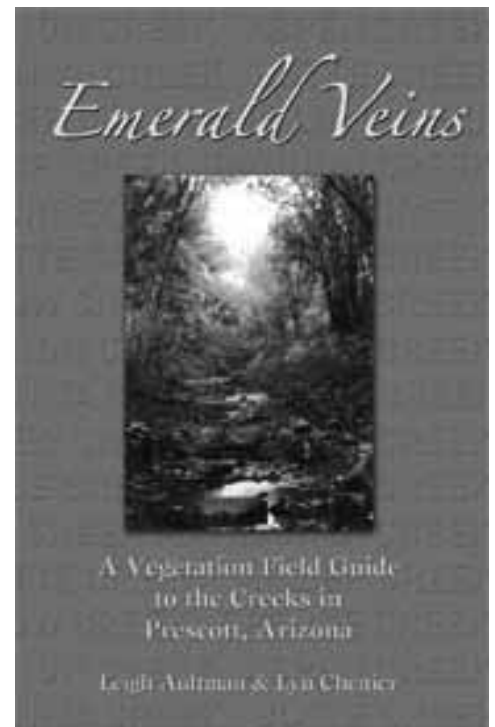
EMERALD VEINS

A NEW FIELD GUIDE TO THE PLANTS OF PRESCOTT'S CREEKS

"One way to become acquainted with your local stream system is to get out in it. Identifying some of your favorite plants will establish a long-term relationship with the local creeks and instill a sense of place. Riparian areas are rich with plants to observe and learn about. This guide will aid in the basic, non-technical identification of the more common plants along the creeks in the Prescott area. Included in the guide are trees, shrubs, and herbs of native, non-native, and naturalized species. Grasses, sedges, and rushes have been excluded at this point due to time constraints and lack of identification skill. This field guide includes treatments and at least one illustration for each of the forty-nine riparian species" included in the guide.

Prescott College students (and Prescott Creeks volunteers) Leigh Aultman and Lyn Chenier got the idea for developing this guide "from the simple fact that one did not exist" as they were attempting to learn the local riparian flora. Their determination and hard work resulted in an indispensable tool for the layperson wanting to get better acquainted with our creekside plants.

Emerald Veins is available from Prescott Creeks at our Creek Store for \$10. [www.PrescottCreeks.org/Creek Store](http://www.PrescottCreeks.org/Creek%20Store), or by calling (928) 445-5669.





Volunteers...

To the right, you will find a request for your volunteer help. I cannot overstate the importance of volunteers to our creekside work; simply put, volunteers are the backbone of the preservation, restoration and celebration of Prescott's creeks.

In addition to assisting with tasks that range from collecting water quality data to serving popcorn at our film festival, from digging noxious weeds to sticking labels for a mailing, and everything else you can imagine, volunteers are a great source of inspiration for our mission.

I'd like to thank all of Prescott Creeks' many volunteers from 2005. Our successes would not be great without your dedication and enthusiasm. Together we accomplished great things for our watershed. On behalf of everyone at Prescott Creeks, *Thank you.*

-Michael Byrd

YOU CAN HELP !

Prescott Creeks is a community-based not-for-profit organization of passionate members and community volunteers. To participate in the preservation, restoration and celebration of our many creeks, you can volunteer with *Prescott Creeks!*

In fact, we are searching for a coordinator for our 2006 presentation of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival. You can contact Ann-Marie Heins at (928) 445-5669 for more information.

Or you can volunteer for one of the following tasks:

- Help with the CreekWatch Network
- Historic Creek Research
- Monitor Groundwater Wells
- Monitor Irrigation Systems
- Help with Membership
- Volunteer in the Office
- Work on the Website
- Weed *Busting!*



More information about each volunteer position is available at www.PrescottCreeks.org. If none of these positions fit your fancy, contact us and let us know what you like to do. Chances are, we can use your talents!

Our Wish List...

- Map stand for the office
- Curtains & area rugs for the office
- 19" flat screen monitors (2)
- TV & DVD/VHS player for the boardroom
- Soft or hard case for our Palm pilot
- Small backpack for field work
- Dissolved oxygen sensor (with membrane)
- Shovels, hard rakes, picks, digging bars
- Benches for the Preserve
- Sturdy camera tripod
- Binoculars for volunteer field work
- Wadders for working in the creeks
- Late model Toyota pickup truck
- Weed trimmers
- Gardening gloves (leather)
- Copier
- Canoe, paddles & 2+ PFDs

Donation of any of these items may be tax deductible. Please consult your personal tax advisor and call us for additional information about the items requested above.

Prescott Creeks Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest (\$1000) Lifetime Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Seed (\$25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree (\$100) | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil (Volunteer 24 hrs./year) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Root (\$50) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

In addition to my membership dues, I am making a tax deductible donation of \$ _____ to Prescott Creeks.

Make checks payable to Prescott Creeks. Detach and return this form with payment to:



Prescott Creeks
PO Box 3004
Prescott, AZ 86302

Prescott Creeks

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Watershed Technician
Napolian Stewart
IT Administrator

Do you like to dance, meditate, practice yoga, the healing arts, or hold meetings and workshops in Prescott? If so, you should know about The Grove Studio at 119-Z Grove Avenue. The Grove Studio is a 750 square foot facility with a sprung wood floor and mirrored walls. The Studio is available for rent with fees based on a sliding scale - the more you use it, the less expensive it becomes.

In coordination with Suzanna McDougal, Prescott Creeks helps to manage The Grove Studio. Please call for booking information: Suzanna McDougal 771-2408 or Prescott Creeks 445-5669.



Every booking directly benefits
Central AZ Land Trust and Prescott Creeks,
Prescott's Voice for Conservation.



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