



THE CREEKSIDE ALMANAC

Prescott Creeks Preservation Association · Spring 2004 Issue · Volume 10 Issue 1



Going Back in Time to
Get to the Future

From the President

River Rally 2004

Fundraising Update

Meet the Staff

Creek Signs Integral
to City
Engineering Design

Community Creek
Efforts

Information Derived
from Creek Splashing



Going Back in Time to Get to the Future

by Michael Byrd

A visitor's experience of Granite Creek in the 1860s was very different from the experience you would have today. Back then, Granite Creek was described as a stream of clear pure mountain water; its banks lined with extensive growth of jungle willows, wild vines and cottonwood trees (Adapted from: Argonaut Tales by Edmund Wells, 1927. Grafton Press, NY.). Wildlife and flowing water were abundant in the area now known as Watson Woods Riparian Preserve (between Watson Lake and Sundog Industrial Park just east of Hwy. 89 North).

With the increase in agricultural and industrial activity in the area throughout the 1900s however, a visitor to the area could walk for hours without getting tangled up in the riparian (streamside) vegetation, without crossing wet ground, and sometimes without seeing significant wildlife. This is beginning to change through a partnership between the City of Prescott, owners of the property, and Prescott Creeks, the local non-profit organization responsible for managing the Preserve. With major funding from the Arizona Water Protection Fund, Prescott Creeks has begun the process of restoring Granite Creek and the Preserve to something similar to what it was



The entrance kiosk at Watson Woods will get a much-needed face-lift.

back in the 1800's.

Here's how we will do it: In February 2004, Prescott Creeks received its fifth grant from the Arizona Water Protection Fund. With this \$200,000 grant, Prescott Creeks will conduct extensive research at the Preserve over the next few years (looking at historic informa-

tion, and current hydrology, geomorphology, vegetation, wildlife) to determine how to restore the area. The project will culminate with a model and master plan that will guide restoration work for the Preserve over the next decade. Humans have been, and will continue to be, an important aspect of the Preserve's condition. With this in mind, we will continue to include our membership and the public in all aspects of our work at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.



Prescott Creeks and the City are not the only participants in this project though. We will also continue to work with Northern Arizona University's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering students and faculty (see Vol. 9 Issue 1 of *The Creekside Almanac*), the Arizona Riparian Council, Prescott College students and faculty, and many local volunteers. While much of the

Continued on page 3

River Rally 2004



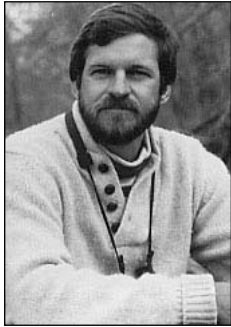
The Blue Ridge Mountains Are Calling! River Network's National River Rally 2004 will help grassroots groups, like Prescott Creeks, harness the power of citizen involvement to protect rivers and build healthier communities and watersheds. The River Rally will bring together hundreds of friends of rivers, water keepers, monitors, watchdogs, stewards, guardians and others involved in watershed protection and restoration. Together, we will celebrate rivers, teach and learn from each other, and explore the power of citizen action.

Several board members and Executive Director Michael Byrd hope to attend this important conference. If you would like to join them, please call the office to get details, or go directly to the River Network website (www.rivernetwork.org).

**River Rally 2004
May 21st-25th, 2004
Wintergreen, Virginia**



Don Elder, River Network CEO, & Tim Palmer, Board Member and river author, will be at the Rally waiting to meet you!



From the President...

As I craft my message for this season's issue of *The Creekside Almanac*, there's a nice, soft rain outside. Something about this rain seems extra special. Maybe it's what I heard on the radio this morning - that the Western U.S. is now only halfway through a 15-year drought.

Indeed, these dry years are making little rains like this a good reason to stop and take notice. The next time it rains, some of you might take a moment from your "task at hand" to look up, listen, and smile; others might stick their hand or face out the window to feel a few cool drops on their skin; and a few of you might even run outside for a spontaneous rain dance or song. Whether it's falling from the sky or flowing down our creeks, these rains help me remember that water is life. It's a beautiful thing, really. We'd like to hear from you rain dancers and singers - that kind of energy is a gift to share.

In this issue of *The Creekside Almanac*, we've taken the opportunity to share with you our activities and accomplishments over the past several months - like the generous grant from the Arizona Water Protection Fund for Watson Woods, the ongoing creek inventories with the Creek Observation Guide, our trio of new staff members from Prescott College's work study program, and the success of our end-of-the-year appeal. As you read through these articles, we hope you get a renewed sense of our mission to help the community of Prescott protect, restore, and celebrate its creeks. This is a big reason we pull together *The Creekside Almanac*. We also like sharing a few creekside stories and keeping you updated on creekside events and news. If you like what we're up to and how we're doing things, we hope that you'll view Prescott Creeks as a local non-profit organization that merits your support. While we won't deny that your financial support is essential, we also want to invite you to come join in on one of our Watson Woods restoration projects or sit in on a neighborhood CreekWatch gathering. You can also cruise by our website (www.PrescottCreeks.org) to learn more about the creeks, the watershed, and what we're up to, or stop by our office in The Grove to look through our collection of resources and chat with Michael Byrd or the other staff members about your creek related ideas or concerns.

For now, I'm feeling the urge to head down to Manzanita Creek and enjoy the rain with my daughter Maya. I look forward to crossing paths with you along one of the creeks sometime soon.

Fundraising Update:



In addition to the recent Water Protection Fund grant for Watson Woods (see cover article), Prescott Creeks had success with our end-of-the-year fundraising appeal. \$4,000 in contributions from members and creek enthusiast was matched by an anonymous donor's gift of \$4,000. Working together, you helped raise \$8,000 that will help preserve, restore, and celebrate our watershed.

Meet the Staff

A note from Michael Byrd: In 1999, I was hired as the first Prescott Creeks staff person. In 2003, Anna Varney joined me as our first Prescott College work study assistant. Anna graduated in December, but three additional Prescott College students have joined the Prescott Creeks staff. Not only does Prescott Creeks benefit from this assistance, but also the students have an opportunity to participate in real-world conservation activities. I'd like to thank Prescott College for this support, and I'd like to thank Toby, Poe, and Ingrid for their contributions. I hope you enjoy "meeting" our talented staff.



Toby Corwin

My name is Tobias Corwin, and I have been working as the Prescott Creeks Preservation Association Watershed Technician since October of 2003. I am currently an undergraduate student at Prescott College. My academic focus is on environmental studies with an emphasis in conservation biology. I have been living in Prescott for over three years, enjoying the town and

its surrounding landscapes. Before making Prescott my home, I lived east of Albuquerque in New Mexico. In many ways, Prescott reminds me of the landscapes in New Mexico that I have lived in. Growing up in the Southwest has given me a special appreciation for water, and the amazing diversity of life that accompanies its presence in arid lands. I am excited to be working with Prescott Creeks, a local non-profit community based organization that is working towards preservation and education about our local riparian areas. This summer I will be working for Prescott Creeks part-time. I will also be conducting field research in New Mexico for my senior project on the fire ecology of pinion/juniper woodlands. As Watershed Technician, my focus has been on the completion and compilation of data from our Creek Observation Guide Project. (See Creek Splashing on page 5 for additional information.)

BACK IN TIME...from page 1

technical engineering and botanical work for the project will be sub-contracted, a volunteer technical advisory committee will help direct the work and will solicit input from the Prescott community through several public meetings and at least one hands-on workshop. The results from this project will help enrich the community of Prescott by preserving a very important piece of our local landscape and open space.

In particular, this project will set the stage for on-the-ground ecological restoration work at Watson Woods. Restoration could include anything from re-engineering the Granite Creek channel, to planting trees, to prescribed burning. It is too early to know the technical details, but the project will also include many educational aspects along the way. In addition to holding workshops and devel-

Ingrid Dahl

All the way from Seattle, Washington in the lush northwestern corner of our country, Ingrid is Prescott Creeks' newest addition. In January she arrived as a transfer student at Prescott College. Ingrid is currently a junior in the Environmental Studies program, focusing on environmental education and Latin American studies. Her past year, prior to attending Prescott College, was spent traveling in Central America, doing voluntary construction work in Guatemala, and going to school in Seattle. During her spare time, Ingrid can generally be found outside, and may likely be either climbing on a rock or on her way to do so.



Napolian Stewart

Hello, I am Napolian Stewart, and I am the Information Technology Administrator at Prescott Creeks. You may be wondering what that mystifying title actually means. Well, I am in charge of redesigning and updating the Prescott Creeks website (www.prescottcreeks.org); designing, deploying, and administering our internal computer network; as well as addressing any

other technical issues that may arise. I am currently a junior at Prescott College studying Adventure Education with an emphasis in personal growth facilitation. I came here last fall, from Portland, Oregon, to go to school. I became involved with Prescott Creeks through a work study position through Prescott College. When I am not at school or working you may find me playing music, cooking, rock climbing, or embarking on some artistic endeavor.

oping interpretive trails, Prescott Creeks will update the faded displays at the kiosk near the entrance to the Preserve, produce several interpretive signs, and re-publish the popular full-color Riparian Habitats of Prescott, Arizona map (originally available through Sharlot Hall Museum).

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve is open to the public from dawn until dusk, 365 days per year. It can be accessed from a shared trailhead with the Peavine Trail on Sundog Ranch Rd. just north of Prescott Lakes Parkway.

For more information about Prescott Creeks, or Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, you can visit our website at www.PrescottCreeks.org, or call me at 928-445-5669.

Creek Signs Integral to City Engineering Design

by: David Brinkley, City of Prescott Streets Superintendent

Have you noticed the signs at all the creek and road crossings in and around Prescott? Each sign features the creek name along with a City of Prescott and Prescott Creeks logo. In a coordinated effort the City of Prescott and Prescott Creeks Preservation Association, completed this project in 1999. The two groups partnered to boost public awareness about the many creeks that weave through town.

Since the signs were installed, the City has actively worked to improve the aesthetic qualities of the creek crossings with creek signs. Where possible, the signs and their posts were integrated into the design of other structures to improve the overall look of the crossings. The



these creeks play in our natural and cultural heritage. We hope you will join us in the care and preservation of the creeks.

creek signs are now built-in to railings and bridges at many creek crossings around Prescott.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the project, and to the creeks, the City of Prescott will maintain the signs as a part of the normal City sign maintenance program.

Because of this project, public awareness of the creeks in Prescott area has been heightened. No longer are these important historic, geographic and ecological features just nameless drainages. Posting the names of this important natural resource will lead to knowledge and appreciation of the role

Community Creek Efforts:

EARTH DAY

Earth Day will be celebrated at Granite Creek Park again this year! As in year's past, the celebration will include arts and crafts for the kids and musical acts for everyone. Prescott Creeks, along with other social and environmental non-profit groups from the area, will have a table where you can learn more about our work, make a contribution, get a t-shirt, or just stop by to chat.

Earth Day will be the recipient of New Frontiers Natural Foods' 5% Wednesday on April 21, Maybe you can save your shopping for that day so the earth can benefit!

**Earth Day at Granite Creek Park
Saturday, April 24th, 2004
11 a.m.—3 p.m.**

Call Beth Rossi for details: 928-445-5763

GRANITE CREEK CLEAN-UP

The annual Granite Creek Cleanup promoted by Keep Prescott Beautiful is scheduled for May 1. Local organizations and individuals are invited to participate in the removal of litter from Granite Creek and its tributaries. Last year, volunteers removed about 6 tons (that's 12,000 pounds!) of trash from the creeks. Registered participants will receive a t-shirt and complimentary lunch

after the cleanup (Noon—1 p. m.).

Not only does this event remove trash that will eventually end up at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, it provides an opportunity for you to experience Prescott's many creeks in an up-close and personal way. It's lots of fun, too!

**Granite Creek Cleanup
Saturday, May 1st, 2004**

**Meet at Granite Creek Park Ramada
8 a.m. to Noon**

Call 928-776-4452 for Pre-registration of groups and for more information

TSUNAMI ON THE SQUARE

This is the third year for Tsunami's Flourish Before the Flood, a locally produced performance art piece. Monsters & Gods is a ritual performance where you are offered to come bearing offerings to your own monsters and gods, and delight in the dance of Forest Spirit.

A portion of the proceeds from this event will benefit Prescott Creeks Preservation Association

**Tsunami on the Square Presents Flourish
Before the Flood 2004**

**Monsters & Gods: A Forest Fable
Twilight, May 15th & 16th 2004**

Granite Creek behind the
McCormick Arts District

\$10 suggested donation

Contact Mizu Desierto for details and tickets. Email: mizudesierto@yahoo.com or call: 928-717-1035

PRESCOTT CREEKS SLIDESHOW

On Thursday, April 22, 2004, Prescott Creeks Executive Director / Preserve Manager Michael Byrd will present a slideshow to the Prescott Audubon Society. The show will focus on the importance of healthy riparian areas in Central Arizona. Natural and cultural history will be covered along with issues affecting the area's creeks. Emphasis will be placed on Prescott Creeks community based approaches to preserve, restore and celebrate the "lifeblood" of our landscape.

**Trinity Presbyterian Church - Sica Tuva
Room, 630 Park Avenue.**

For more information contact: Laurel
Freeman at 442-3326



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Information Derived from Creek Splashing

by: Tobias Corwin



Since our last update in the fall, Prescott Creeks' volunteers have been busy completing the last in-town stretches in the Creek Observers Guide Project. Once complete this project will provide valuable information for the development of the Upper Granite Creek Watershed Monitoring Plan. I am excited to announce that over 95% of the in-town stretches are complete, with the remaining soon to follow. There is however, still much work to be done. In the coming months I will focus on completing the remaining

upstream creek reaches (mostly in the Prescott National Forest). Volunteer help is still essential to the success of the Creek Observation Guide Project.

Another priority for the project is the creation of a "database" for all of the survey information collected. Moving this information from the field datasheets into the computer is an important task toward creating a useful guide to help you get to know your local creeks. The final guide will include informative narrative descriptions of the features of each unique creek, as well as pictures. Information from the project will be published on the Prescott Creeks website (www.prescottcreeks.org).

If you are interested in volunteering your time to assist with creek surveys or the entry of survey data into the computer, please contact me at 445-5669, or by email at tcorwin@prescottcreeks.org.

Aspen Creek Watch Public Meeting

April 19th, 2004. 7—9 p.m.

This slide presentation, by Watershed Technician, Tobias Corwin, will give an overview of Prescott Creeks' Creek Observation Guide project. Attendees will gain an understanding of how fieldwork is progressing and a preliminary summary of surveyors' observations. The presentation will also explore visions for the completed Guide. Afterward Mr. Corwin, will solicit public input and be available to address questions and comments.

Trinity Presbyterian Church - Sica Tuva Room, 630 Park Avenue. Please use the door at the North end of the Church.

HOW can you HELP ?

Prescott Creeks is a community-based non-profit organization of passionate members and community volunteers. To participate in the preservation, restoration, and celebration of Prescott's Creeks you can:

- Join Prescott Creeks as a dues-paying member
- Make a tax-deductible donation of cash, goods or services
- Contribute your time to one of many exciting creek-related projects
- Join a group in the Prescott CreekWatch Network
- Share your knowledge of Prescott Creeks and the important work we do
- Apply for a position on the Board of Directors



Prescott Creeks Membership Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Forest (\$1000+) Lifetime Member Seed (\$25)

Tree (\$100) Soil (Volunteer 24 hrs./year)

Root (\$50) 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 with payment to:

Prescott Creeks
PO Box 3004
Prescott, AZ 86302

NL0404-01



Do you like to dance, do yoga, meditate, practice 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 dance 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 information. Suzanna McDougal 771-2408 • Prescott Creeks 445-5669

Event

Who to Contact

Bruce Lee-Jeet Kune Do	Richard Nogan 776-0060
Feldenkrais	Debra Lerman 708-9090
Feldenkrais	Kenney Neu 778-3634
Infinite Way-Tape and Mediation	Dorothy Berry 541-9787
Life Drawing	Leigh Marshall 717-1035
Open Space Alliance	Tom Pettit 708-0695
Tango	Leslie Huzenga 775-4676

Space is available, so please help us fill up this roster!

Every booking directly benefits Central Arizona Land Trust and Prescott Creeks Preservation Association, Prescott's voice for conservation.



Prescott Creeks Preservation Association
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