



THE CREEKSIDE ALMANAC

Prescott Creeks · Summer 2004 Issue · Volume 10 Issue 2

Ah-Hah Gih Heyllah

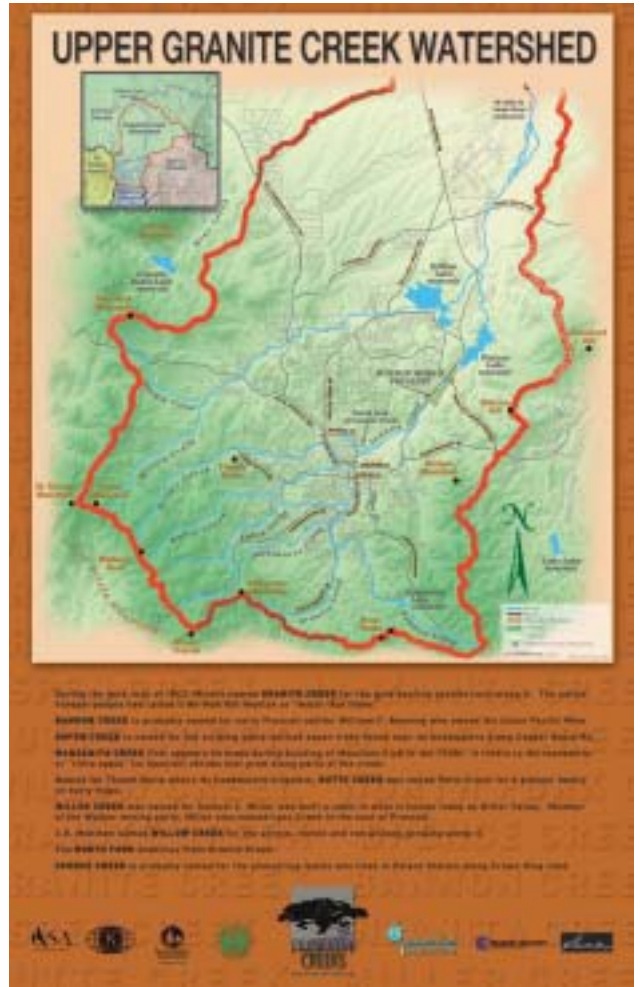
by Michael Byrd

Ah-Hah Gih Heyllah. “How do you pronounce that? What does it mean?” I was instructed that the spelling is phonetic. Ah-Hah Gih Heyllah is one of the names that the native Yavapai-Prescott people called (what we now call) Granite Creek. It means “water that flows.”

You can find this information along with other historical notes for each creek in the area in the new Upper Granite Creek Watershed Map. **You can support Prescott Creeks by purchasing this map for just \$10.** The full-color map with historic information and sponsor logos is printed on a durable 100# paper stock and measures 24 by 36 inches. (These dimensions accommodate a standard size frame). Whether you frame it, fold it or roll it, it’s packed with information to help you learn more about your local creeks!

In direct response to community members’ requests, the watershed map was adapted to this poster format from the interpretive panels that were installed around the downtown area during October 2002. It also continues Prescott Creeks’ ongoing effort to educate local residents and visitors about the importance of our rare and endangered riparian areas. Working with the Prescott Unified School District, Prescott Creeks reserved the first 1,000 copies of the map to use in the school district’s 4th grade, 6th grade and high school Earth & Global Science classes. Every student in those grade levels will have an opportunity to study the map in detail and learn about their hometown watershed.

Thanks go out to everyone who made this map a reality. Major sponsors for the map include the Yavapai County Community



Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Prescott, Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott Unified School District, the Open Space Alliance of Yavapai County, Keep Prescott Beautiful. The Yavapai Group-Sierra Club and the Yavapai-Prescott Tribe provided other assistance. Bridget and Karlyn at Fountainhead Design donated graphic design services and made the map look beautiful.

You will find an order form for the map on page 5, or just stop by our office at 119-A Grove Ave. in Prescott to pick one up.

Ah-Hah Gih Heyllah

From the President

Watson Woods
Ramble

Suzanna McDougal
Joins the board

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Suzanna McDougal Joins the Board

by Karen LaVoie

A person with a passion for the Earth's sustainability, Suzanna McDougal was the perfect candidate for the Prescott Creeks Board of Directors. With the concurrence of the Board, Suzanna was appointed to her position in June of this year.

After living 50 years in the North Country with 25 of those years in Montana, Suzanna moved to Prescott in 1997. She had spent time in New Mexico and Arizona, so she was familiar with the sunny days and mild weather of the Southwest. After moving to Prescott and finding a home on Aspen Creek, Suzanna knew she wanted to work on water issues. Prescott Creeks was the perfect match for her interests. So, with skiing and ice-skating left behind, Suzanna is now devoting time and energy to one of her passions by assisting Prescott Creeks.

Since the Carter days, Suzanna has been very interested in conservation and alternative energy. Her work to help the Earth stay in balance started in the 70s in Montana and continues to this day in Arizona. In Montana, she farmed biodynamically as part of a collective with a large farm growing produce. She left to start her own farm on one acre where she grew culinary and



medicinal herbs and created value-added products. Also, many beautiful flowers blossomed on her one-acre with classes taught in herbal preparations, growing and dried flower arranging.

In the past, she has worked with horses, both as a hobby and then for a living - training and teaching. According to Suzanna, "Most of my life I have turned my hobbies into bread winners, making a living doing what I loved. As I changed, so did my jobs; so for work, my degrees in education were used differently than I expected." Her last area of focus in a small town in Montana was establishing a non-profit community center, a gathering

place for locals to take and teach classes.

When Suzanna arrived in Prescott, she wanted to be more involved in giving back to her community, so she established a center called The Grove. Part of this facility on Grove Avenue has been converted into offices for conservation and environmental groups. The Grove Studio, located behind the century old house, is rented out for classes, meetings and workshops that help to support the groups renting the offices. Prescott Creeks was the first organization to set up their offices in the building. So, can we say that the rest is 'herstory'?

Citizens Water Advocacy Group

by John Zambrano

The Citizens Water Advocacy Group (CWAG) is a non-profit organization with members from Prescott and the surrounding communities in the Upper Verde Watershed. CWAG's mission is to advocate sustainable long-term water consumption by educating the public and encouraging responsible governmental decision-making. Its goal is the realization and maintenance of sustainable water consumption in the combined Prescott Active Management Area (PAMA) and Big Chino Basin. The mission and goals of CWAG are complimentary to those of Prescott Creeks, and indeed a number of CWAG members, including this writer, are active in both organizations.

CWAG was founded in 2002 by a group of citizens concerned with the min-

ing of groundwater in the PAMA and with proposals for large-scale pumping of the Big Chino aquifer by developers and the City of Prescott. It was felt that large-scale pumping of the Big Chino would reduce the base flow of the upper Verde River and greatly impair this perennial river and its riparian habitat.

CWAG's first year was primarily spent educating its members and the public on the water consumption issues. Monthly meetings were held with presentations by experts, followed by discussion. A Water Forum highlighted this educational phase in October of 2003 with about 200 attendees.

Recent activities include a scientific paper on the effect on the Verde River of the City's proposed pumping in the Big Chino. The paper was prepared by two CWAG members with expertise in hydro-

logy and geology and has received favorable attention by the media and professionals in the field. CWAG members are participating in Yavapai County advisory groups for water conservation and management.

Other activities include a petition to the Arizona Department of Water Resources to reopen and include new and more stringent requirements in the management plan for the PAMA. CWAG has recently begun educating and advocating for a community and economy that can be vibrant but sustainable, particularly with respect to water.

CWAG meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Granite Peak Universalist Congregation in Prescott from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.. The public is welcome to attend. More information can be found at www.cwagaz.org.

From the President...

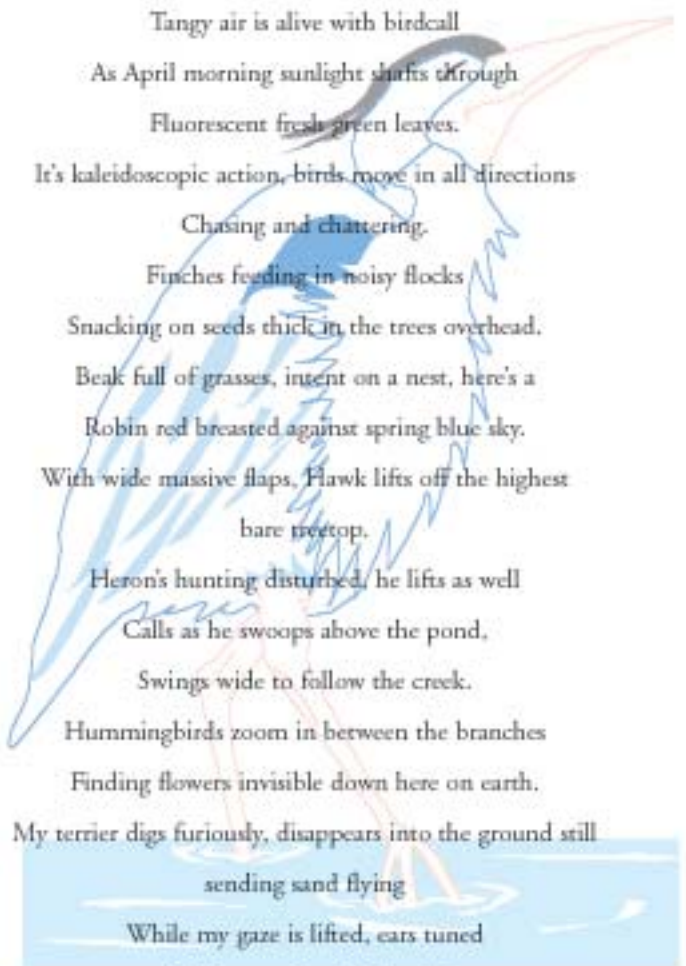
Well, with the monsoons here it's safe to say that our little pine-clad basin has made it through this year's major dry season. The watershed has been soaking up these rains over the past month or so and the creeks are flowing through town. Compared to the gentle flows of mid-winter, our creeks can really spring to life during the monsoon season. In fact, according to my rain gauge, one deluge in mid-July dropped 2.25 inches in 24 hours and brought Manzanita Creek to bank-full for several days. Also in mid-July, the Granite Creek gauging station down by Watson Woods recorded flows over 1,600 cubic feet per second, which is a lot of water for our modest creek system. The wildlife along with the trees, shrubs, and aspiring wildflowers drink up what they can and the rest begins its journey down through the Granite Creek Watershed. This journey is something that we are very interested in as we go about our work of preserving, restoring and celebrating our watershed.

In between our summer rain dances, we've been quite busy here at Prescott Creeks, and we aim to share some of our work with you in this issue of *The Creekside Almanac*. Read on to find out more about the full size color poster of the Upper Granite Creek Watershed (complete with creek name history), which is hot-off-the-press and ready for sale. You'll also discover that the Watson Woods Riparian Preserve has been designated as an Important Bird Area thanks to our local Audubon chapter and that we kicked off the rebuilding of our Board of Directors with the addition of Suzanna McDougal as an official member. Those of you who attended the 2nd annual open house for The Grove in June know what a fine gathering it was this time around, with wine tasting, fine acoustic tunes, and a wonderful presentation on the creeks. A number of new folks stopped by the open house to learn more about Prescott Creeks and have since become involved in field projects or office work. If you missed this year's open house, for heavens sake don't wait until the next one to stop by The Grove to find out what Prescott Creeks is up to and how you can help protect, restore and celebrate our local creeks and watershed!



Watson Woods Ramble

by Laurel Freeman 4/13/04



Tangy air is alive with birdcall
 As April morning sunlight shifts through
 Fluorescent fresh green leaves.
 It's kaleidoscopic action, birds move in all directions
 Chasing and chattering,
 Finches feeding in noisy flocks
 Snacking on seeds thick in the trees overhead.
 Beak full of grasses, intent on a nest, here's a
 Robin red breasted against spring blue sky.
 With wide massive flaps, Hawk lifts off the highest
 bare treetop.
 Heron's hunting disturbed, he lifts as well
 Calls as he swoops above the pond,
 Swings wide to follow the creek.
 Hummingbirds zoom in between the branches
 Finding flowers invisible down here on earth.
 My terrier digs furiously, disappears into the ground still
 sending sand flying
 While my gaze is lifted, ears tuned
 To inscrutable whistles of
 A world apart, an evolutionary road not taken
 By my ancestors.



Graphic design and layout provided
 as a service by **Fountainhead Design**.
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 info@fountainhead-design for your
 next design or writing project

How do you get your copy of the Upper Granite Creek Watershed Map?

- Fill out and mail in the form at right
- Go to www.PrescottCreeks.org and follow the links
- Stop by the office at 119-A Grove Ave. (Please call 445-5669 first to make sure someone is in the office.)
- Watch for the map in your creekside and other local businesses, bookstores, etc.

Upper Granite Creek Watershed Map Order Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ St/Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

# of Maps	x	\$10 Unit Price	=	\$ Map Total
<input type="checkbox"/> In addition to the price of the Watershed map(s), I am making a tax-deductible donation to Prescott Creeks. \$ _____ Shipping & Handling: 1-3 maps \$5, 4-6 maps \$10, etc. \$ _____ Please accept my enclosed payment of: \$ _____				

- I have included payment for S&H. Please mail my map(s) to the address listed above.
- Reserve my map(s) so that I can pick them up at the Prescott Creeks office (119-A Grove Ave.)

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

Prescott Creeks
 PO Box 3004
 Prescott, AZ 86302

PO0408-01

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)
 Box (\$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

NE0403-02

Collaborations Produce Results at Watson Woods

by Michael Byrd

It takes more than a handshake between friends, neighbors or colleagues to ensure that Prescott's creeks are protected and celebrated. Being a good neighbor and a valued member of the community is one of our highest priorities at Prescott Creeks. One way we do this is by engaging in collaborative programs and projects with a variety of community partners. This helps us expand the effectiveness of our small organization and budgets. Below you'll find just a few examples of current collaborations in which Prescott Creeks is engaged.

CITY OF PRESCOTT

As you might know, Prescott Creeks and the City of Prescott hold a formal partnership at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve through a 25-year lease for the property. One aspect of this agreement was the installation of what is now the Prescott Lakes Parkway Bridge. In an effort to mitigate the impacts resulting from the bridge, the City funded a riparian tree-planting project during the winter of 2002 where over 150 community volunteers helped plant 1,000 cottonwoods and willows along the banks of Granite Creek. After the trees' second year of growth, the Prescott Creeks monitoring crew (Board member Matt Turner and Prescott College students Tobias Corwin and Napolian Stewart) encountered two bobcats resting in the shade of the plantings. All those volunteers created bobcat habitat!

PRESCOTT AUDUBON SOCIETY

Prescott Creeks and the Prescott Audubon Society have enjoyed a long-time, informal collaboration. Audubon leads walks at the Preserve on the third Saturday of each month. Audubon members recently nominated Watson Woods Preserve, along with Watson and Willow Lakes for designation as an Important Bird Area under the international recognition program of the same name. The newly named Watson Woods Ecosystem Important Bird Area will help to attract more bird-watchers to the Preserve, provide resources and information for Preserve program development and restoration work, and



A bobcat at Watson Woods Preserve during fall 2003.
Photo by Matt Turner. ©Prescott Creeks, 2004

promote education to a wider audience. Prescott Creeks and the Prescott Audubon Society-Conservation Committee are currently exploring joint projects in relation to existing plans. To learn more about the Important Bird Area program, you can go to www.audubon.org/bird/iba/az.

SHAMROCK WELL TESTING

During the summer of 1997 Prescott Creeks installed 8 wells to monitor groundwater levels at the Preserve. Monthly data collection shows that levels vary from approximately 4-12 feet below the surface depending upon the season and recent weather patterns. The Arizona Water Protection Fund requested that Prescott Creeks take a closer look at these

wells as we begin our restoration-planning project (see *The Creekside Almanac*, Vol. 10 Iss. 1, Spring 2004). I began to research how we might meet this requirement and was referred to Bob Shea of Shamrock Well Testing. After a short chat, we decided to visit the Preserve. Bob has a long background with state-of-the-art well testing equipment, and Shamrock offers services such as well yield testing, water depth sounding, monitoring and water quality testing to private, residential well owners. With Bob's help, Prescott Creeks will soon restore our wells to like-new condition and install water level reading equipment that will allow us to look at levels more closely than we've ever been able in the past. With the power to collect detailed information minute-by-minute,

hourly or daily, we'll be able to correlate well levels with storm events and flows in Granite Creek, as well as with Watson Lake level fluctuations. All this information will directly benefit restoration planning by helping determine where the water is underneath the ground, and thus how to go about the restoration of different riparian habitats. You can download the Shamrock Well Testing brochure on the Prescott Creeks Web site (www.PrescottCreeks.org).





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

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
Allan's Flowers (Kelsey Bogart)	Fish Bowls
Eric Glomski	Regional Wine
Liquor Barn (CC Ware)	Brewed Beverage & Gear
Pangea Bakery (Nicole Marshall)	Focaccia
Prescott College Food Service (Molly Beverly)	Oatmeal Cookies!
Sarah & Tim Crews	Live Acoustic Music
Shaunti Kazenmi	Egyptian/Oriental Belly Dance



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



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