



THE CREEKSIDE ALMANAC

Prescott Creeks • Winter 2005 Issue • Volume 11 Issue 1

Observers Complete Guide

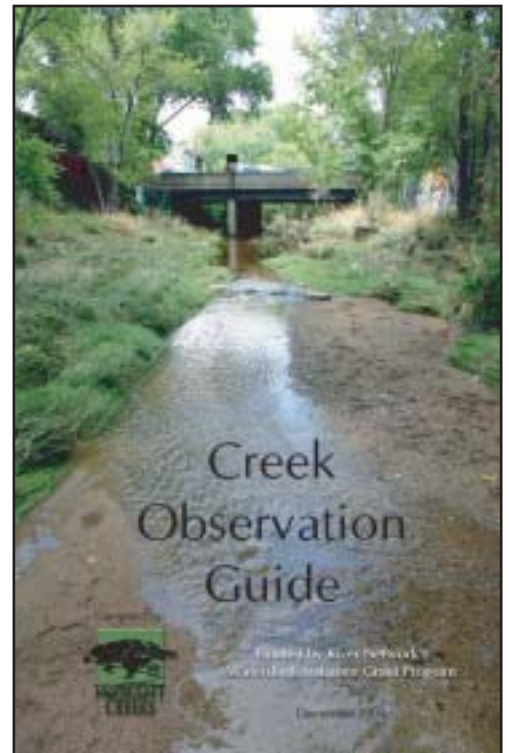
by Tobias Corwin

What type of projects do we want to do on our creeks? Well, what do we really know about the creeks? How long are they? What is the vegetation or land use like?" These and other questions prompted members of the Aspen Creek Watch Group to begin developing the initial idea for the Creek Observation Guide project during the fall of 2002. The group wanted to create an interactive process to learn about Aspen Creek. At the same time, Prescott Creeks was investigating the feasibility of watershed monitoring. The Aspen CreekWatch Group's plan provided a good model for learning about each of the nine main creeks in the Upper Granite Creek Watershed. Volunteers then began collecting and recording information about the morphology, land use, vegetation, wildlife, and potential pollution sources along the creeks.

In the winter and spring of 2003, public support was rallied around the project and dozens of volunteers were trained to survey the creeks using the process developed by the Aspen CreekWatch Group and the Prescott Creeks Watershed Monitoring Technical Advisory Committee. Teams of volunteers were assigned stretches of creek to survey throughout the Upper Granite Creek Watershed. By late summer 2004, nearly 50 community volunteers and Prescott Creeks staff completed surveys on all creek stretches in the Upper Granite Creek Watershed (a total of 58 stretches representing nine creeks). This guide is the result of all of the hard work of many contributors. We hope you will find it a useful tool as you get to know your watershed.

The Creek Observation Guide project was designed as a feasible, community-based watershed-monitoring survey that included community members and raised awareness of the factors to be considered when assessing the condition of the watershed. The survey provides a description of the watershed characteristics that bear on the health of the watershed in general, and the creeks in particular. For Prescott Creeks, this survey provides information to help define the scope of ongoing monitoring efforts (as part of the Upper Granite Creek Monitoring Program). This survey provides a general description of the watershed rather than an assessment of its specific condition.

I'd like to thank River Network for support during the project, and I'd especially like to thank the many volunteers who made this guide possible. To order the full-color *Creek Observation Guide* (\$25 prepaid) please contact Prescott Creeks at (928) 445-5669, or check the store section of our website www.PrescottCreeks.org.



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From the President...

Editor's note: Typically, we have a few words from our President Joel Barnes in this space, but for this issue of *The Creekside Almanac*, we decided shake things up a bit. We're including Larry Bickford's "President's Letter" from Prescott Audubon Society's Jan/Feb issue of *Wingtips*. Recently, Larry also joined the Prescott Creeks Board of Directors. You can read more about him and our other new board members on Page 3. In this issue, you'll also find information about the Creek Observation Guide, pictures of the December floods and notices for upcoming events. We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Creekside Almanac*. -MB

I am experiencing my fifth winter in Prescott. As I write this at the start of a new year, I am impressed by the presence of the continuous flowing (or at least trickling) of water through our property since mid-October. This is longer than any other period since we moved here. This water feeds into Manzanita Creek, which is a tributary of Granite Creek.

Granite Creek and its sister feeder creeks are a relatively unique Arizona occurrence. This drainage system (which, in turn, flows into the Upper Verde River) provides a relatively healthy ecosystem of riparian habitat. This means that it is dependent upon the existence of perennial, intermittent and ephemeral surface or subsurface water flows. Combined with man-made Watson Lake and Willow Lake, which exist on the waters from the creek drainages, these riparian areas provide a wide variety of flora and fauna, many of which can only be found under such conditions.

Getting out and experiencing local riparian habitats can truly expand one's appreciation of this biodiversity and the habitat's resiliency and beauty. Many of Prescott Audubon's field trips include exploring aspects of this riparian world. To cite two: our monthly bird walks at the Watson Woods Preserve and at the Highlands Center facility at Lynx Lake.

We have also been active in the development and support of Stricklin Park, which includes a portion of Butte Creek. From this small park there is a trail that meanders west in the direction of Butte Creek providing an interesting convergence of riparian and Ponderosa Pine forest habitat. If you take this trail far enough, and are willing to do a little bushwhacking, you will encounter two interesting waterfalls when the Creek is in good flow. I encourage you to become more familiar with the local riparian areas and its wildlife.

- Larry Bickford

Winter Deluge

December 29th, 2004 will be a date that is remembered Prescott's weather history! That morning, I showed up at the office as normal. The power was out, so I abandoned my plans to complete the year end reports. I grabbed the digital camera and headed out to document one of the Prescott's biggest storm in nearly 10 years. Below, and on page 4, are a few of the pictures I captured. You'll find many more at our website: www.PrescottCreeks.org



Granite Creek, at the far end of the bridge, is outside its banks. This area below the Prescott Lakes Parkway bridge at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve is typically high & dry!

Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs. I am haunted by waters.

Norman Maclean,
A River Runs Through It

Meet the Board

Winter 2005

For most of last year I met with the Prescott Creeks Advisory Board to strategize ways to re-energize this organization's Board of Directors. After carefully evaluating the organization's strengths and challenges, new Board members were recruited to join Joel Barnes and Suzanna McDougal as Directors of Prescott Creeks. I am excited to introduce this new group as they begin their work for Prescott Creeks. Below, you can "meet" the Board of Directors. -Michael Byrd



Joel Barnes has served on the Prescott Creeks Board of Directors since 1997. He signed on as President in April 2001 and currently serves as the Project Manager for the Prescott CreekWatch Network. He has lived in the Prescott community for most of the past 22 years. During this time, Joel has sustained his passion for exploring and studying landscapes of the arid southwest and Central Arizona Highlands. More recently, his doctoral studies have enabled him to focus more intently on aridland riparian ecology and watershed conservation. He currently teaches environmental studies and adventure education at Prescott College. JBarnes@PrescottCreeks.org

Suzanna McDougal is a person with a passion for the Earth's sustainability. Suzanna was the perfect candidate for the Prescott Creeks Board of Directors when she joined in June of 2004. After fifty years of living in Montana, New Mexico and Arizona, Suzanna settled along Aspen Creek in Prescott in 1997. Her long "herstory" of outdoor interests and passion for conservation and alternative energy have allowed her to make a living doing what she loved. In addition to serving on the Prescott Creeks Board, Suzanna owns & operates The Grove Studio: a space that can be rented for classes, meetings and workshops. Proceeds from The Grove Studio help support non-profits, like Prescott Creeks, who rent space in the hundred-year-old house at The Grove. SMcDougal@PrescottCreeks.org



Larry Bickford joined the Prescott Creeks Board during the autumn of 2004. He came to Prescott in June of 2000 after serving for 26 years as a senior member of a national consulting firm. While living in New York, Larry served as a board member for the local Audubon Society chapter and a large local private nature preserve. He also served his community as a member of its planning board. In addition to Larry's involvement with Prescott Creeks, he currently serves as President of the Prescott Audubon Society. He is also an active member of the Alumni Council of Bowdoin College and is a strong supporter of its Coastal Studies Research Center, both found in Maine. Since a four branches of the Manzanita Creek headwaters go through their property, Larry and his wife, Ann, got involved with Prescott Creeks' Creek Observation Guide project during 2003. LBickford@PrescottCreeks.org

Doris Cellarius and her husband Richard retired to Prescott in 1999. She has worked with the Sierra Club on pollution and toxics cleanup for many years, but now she is enjoying spending more time out-of-doors, walking our creeks and talking with her neighbors about protecting them. "Its always been about water and getting my feet wet", from my childhood in Illinois, where my Dad organized nature walks for the community, to Olympia, Washington, where we raised our family a 'stones throw' from Puget Sound." Her Reed College biology thesis was about frogs, as was her research in zoology at Columbia University. She even spent a few years working at the Bronx Zoo. Earth Day in Ann Arbor, Michigan was a turning point when she became an full-time activist, helped start an Ecology Center, and created school gardens. Prescott Creeks offers a wonderful opportunity to work with others who care about water and the life that depends on it. DCellarius@PrescottCreeks.org



Karen O'Neil, who joined the board in September 2004, has been a Prescott resident for more than 20 years. She has been (and continues to be) active in leadership positions in Prescott Audubon Society. She also represents Prescott Audubon Society on the statewide Arizona Audubon Council and serves as an officer. As a result of her passion for birding and other outdoor activities, she recognizes the critical need to protect and preserve riparian habitat, especially in the arid southwest, not only for birds, but for all life including human beings. Karen believes that participating as a member of the Prescott Creeks Board is a meaningful way to contribute to the protection and preservation of riparian habitat on a local level. KONEil@PrescottCreeks.org

Joel Hiller brought over 25 years of diversified experience with nonprofit organizations to the Prescott Creeks Board of Directors in the fall of 2004. Previously, he's held the positions of Co-President and Interim President at Prescott College for three years, and has served with the City of Prescott Strategic Planning committee, Watson and Willow Lakes Steering committees. Joel has also held leadership positions with organizations as varied as Yavapai Regional Medical Center, the Arizona Humanities Council, the Arizona Historical Society and Desert Caballeros Western Museum. "I can spend days walking the streets of small towns and big cities alike, observing the people and buildings...the business of the day. The international southwest with its rich traditions and dynamic future is home. There are few places I've been I wouldn't return, and many more I hope to visit." JHiller@PrescottCreeks.org



Betty J. Siegfried, Director Emeritus, is a native to the state of West Virginia, but after marrying a US Public Health Service physician she called many states home before settling in Arizona in 1974. In 1949 Betty joined her first gardening club and has been addicted ever since. As a gardener she sees herself as a defacto environmentalist; one who wants to protect the place she lives. Over the years Betty has been active in numerous environmental non-profit organizations. After a trip to San Antonio, Texas to view the San Antonio River Walk she and friend Bette Bridgewater were inspired to protect and enhance the many creeks in Prescott. In 1989 they established Prescott Creeks! BSiegfried@PrescottCreeks.org

More Images of Prescott's December Flood



Clockwise from top left: "Johanna's" bridge at the confluence of Butte & Miller Creeks (at Lincoln St.); Inundated walking bridge over Granite Creek at West Granite Creek Park; sand bars deposited at Watson Woods Riparian Preserve; Children & parents play by Butte Creek (behind Prescott College); Leaky manhole cover at Mile High Middle School (center image).



Photographs by Michael Byrd.
Prescott Creeks © 2004.

Upcoming Event!

Wyoming to Mexico: 82 River Days

a slide presentation by Thomas Barry


Friday February 25th, 2005
at The Grove Studio (119-Z Grove Ave.)
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Please join Prescott Creeks and Thomas Barry for an evening of thrilling tales and images from his 82 day journey down the Green and Colorado Rivers in 1999. The expedition began at 8,100 ft. above sea level in the Wind River Mountains and passed through 500 rapids in 14 canyons before concluding, 1,600 miles later and 8,020 ft. lower, at Morelos Dam in Mexico. *Your donation at the door is appreciated.*



"Crystal" Thomas Barry © 2004.

Dates Announced!

Prescott  Celebration
sponsored by the *Open Space Alliance*

Saturday April 23rd, 2005
Granite Creek Park
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

For more information contact:
Ashley Fine (928) 445-1264
www.YavapaiOSA.org/OpenEarth.htm

Granite Creek Clean UP
sponsored by *Keep Prescott Beautiful*

Saturday May 7th, 2005
Granite Creek Park
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

For more information contact:
Bob Johansen (928) 776-4452
Picnic lunch & T-shirt for all registered participants.

Dates Announced!

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 many creeks 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!*

Visit our website at www.PrescottCreeks.org for more information

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 expertise!



Or, maybe you'd like to help with one of the events listed at the top of the page? The *Slideshow*, *Prescott Earth Day Celebration* and the *Granite Creek Clean Up* are all great opportunities to meet people and enjoy the creeks. Contact us for more info.

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

Detach and Return

Prescott Creeks

Board of Directors

Joel Barnes
President
Suzanna McDougal
Director
Larry Bickford
Director
Doris Cellarius
Director
Karen O'Neil
Director
Joel Hiller
Director
Betty J. Siegfried
Director Emeritus

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John Zambrano
Karen LaVoie
Dan Garvey

Staff

Michael Byrd
Executive Director
Preserve Manager

Prescott College Work Study Staff

Emily Ducat
Assistant to the Director
Tobias Corwin
Watershed Technician
Napolian Stewart
Info/Tech Administrator

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 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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