

OAK CREEK CHRONICLES

...a newsy letter about our watershed

Oak Creek Watershed
COUNCIL



Project Update: The Impairment of Oak Creek
Other News: Oak Creek Canyon website completed --
MWS Program underway--Litter pickup dates set

April 18, 2011



««««««««««Oak Creek at Indian Gardens

Oak Creek Watershed Improvement Plan (OCWIP) Project Update: Inclement weather, and various time challenges, have all contributed over the winter to a slower pace of Creek sampling progress. We are currently recruiting additional experienced samplers to help our Volunteer teams in order that we can gather more data in a timely manner. If you are experienced in water sampling, and would like to volunteer your

time on this historic project, please contact Barry Allan at your earliest convenience (Tel: 928-554-5460 or email barry@oakcreekwatershed.org). Principal Investigator, Rex Bergamini, has completed a draft of Chapter 1, Background Information, for the Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP), and submitted it to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Research on Chapter 2 is underway and will cover Watershed Investigation, followed by Chapter 3, Watershed Improvement Strategy. The Project end-date is currently September 30, 2011, but we are in the process of applying for an extension of time until September 30th, 2012 which includes revising the scope of work and budget, as well as retaining additional personnel.

Oak Creek Canyon website update completed: Thanks to the expertise of web designer Theresa Stacy-Ryan, our website dedicated to Oak Creek Canyon <http://www.oakcreekcanyonaz.org> has been updated and is currently receiving over 21,000 hits a month. The site is mainly for visitors but the information on trails, campgrounds, other local sites, etc. can be used and enjoyed by everybody. We encourage links to our site by local community group websites as well as government, tourist and travel sites because the site is designed to give visitors a wealth of recreational information about Oak Creek Canyon at the same time as promoting its proper stewardship, and protecting the integrity of Oak Creek. The only way we are going to reduce the impairment of Oak Creek is for it to be a community-driven effort. For more information on how you can help, please also visit our main website at <http://www.oakcreekwatershed.org>

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."

--Native American Proverb



The Oak Creek Watershed Council, in partnership with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, held the first class of the Oak Creek Master Watershed Steward (MWS) Program March 3rd, 2011. Twelve classes are being held weekly on Thursday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Keep Sedona Beautiful Pushmataha Center, 360 Brewer Road in Sedona. An additional four classes are all-day field trips. The course concludes on June 16th, 2011.



<<<<<<Dr. Channah Rock, Associate Professor at the University of Arizona teaches water quality monitoring parameters to MWS class at KSB Center in Sedona.



Consulting Geologist, Paul Lindberg on field trip with MWS class at Devils Kitchen Sinkhole in Sedona. >>>>>>>>



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Devils Kitchen Sinkhole
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For more information on this phenomenon of nature go to:
http://www.azgs.az.gov/arizona_geology/winter09/article_devilskitchen.html

The course has been so well received that we are in the process of determining the feasibility of offering it again in the spring of 2012. You are invited to review the course information on our website at <http://www.oakcreekwatershed.org/MWS-Course-Outline.pdf> as well as answers to frequently asked questions at http://oakcreekwatershed.org/MWS_ProgramFAQ.pdf

There may be some changes to the outline in 2012, but at this point we would be interested in knowing how many in the community would like to attend? The class would be limited to 24 participants. Please drop an email to barry@oakcreekwatershed.org

The Master Watershed Steward Program is the cornerstone of our group's celebration of The Year of the Volunteer - 2011. Funding for the Program is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Division.

Keep Oak Creek Beautiful litter pickup dates have been set for 2011 on May 21st, July 30th and September 24th. If you'd like to help us keep Mile 380 of Highway 89A in Oak Creek Canyon, and areas around Oak Creek, trash-free, please drop me an email or call us at (928) 554-5460. We'll send you the details for the first event in early May. Managing Directors are Judy Lewis and Jim Sandoval.



We are also in the process of developing a Creek cleanup event as part of our Oak Creek Community Outreach Program (OCCOP) and hope to have it operational in 2012.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtfully committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."
--Margaret Mead

Celebrate Earth Day, every day, and Happy Easter from the Oak Creek Watershed Council...

Thank you for your continuing support...

Barry Allan, Executive Director

