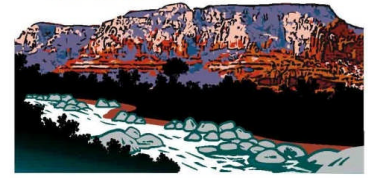


# OAK CREEK CHRONICLES

...a newsy letter about our watershed

Oak Creek Watershed  
COUNCIL



Project Update: The Impairment of Oak Creek  
July 1, 2010

Lots happened in the second quarter... the WIC was formed as well as a task force of volunteers... several sampling and mapping training sessions were attended by volunteers, and a special mapping training session scheduled for the WIC... and last, but not least, Rex (Principal Investigator/Project Manager) and Erika Bergamini had a baby boy, Lanzo...



April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 was the first official meeting of the Watershed Improvement Committee (WIC) who represent watershed stakeholders in the development of the Oak Creek Watershed Improvement Plan (OCWIP). The project is being funded by a grant from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), under the federal Clean Water Act, to pin-point the sources of fecal contamination.

WIC members include Amina Sena, Hydrologist, Forest Service (USFS); Charles Mosley, City Engineer, Sedona; Cindy Dunn, Assistant Manager, Page Springs Hatchery; Janet Walter, Microbiologist (Retired); Jeanmarie Haney, Hydrologist, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Josh Myers, Environmental Health Specialist, Yavapai County Environmental Services; Ken Beller, President, Cathedral Vista Property Owners Association; Lee Luedeker, Wildlife Enforcement Officer, Arizona Game & Fish Department (AGFD); Marlene Gaither, Microbiologist, Coconino County Environmental Services; Sharon Lopez, Researcher, Ecological Restoration Institute; and Steve Pawlowski, Program Coordinator, Sierra Club Water Sentinels.



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Oak Creek is the thread that weaves together the fabric of our watershed community.  
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Our call to the community for volunteers, in April, resulted in over fifty enthusiastic replies.



We were elated at the response, and now that Dr. Channah Rock (NEMO-UA) has provided training in sampling techniques, and Kristine Uhlman (NEMO-UA) in GPS and mapping, we have enough volunteers for 3 teams, along with several student volunteers.



We expect the volunteer task force will be ready for field work in the second half of July.

Special thanks to community groups like the Sierra Club; Keep Sedona Beautiful; Verde River Citizens Alliance; and the Verde Watershed Association, as well as Coconino County, Yavapai County and the City of Sedona for distributing our call for volunteers to your membership and employees. We are very happy to be partnering with you all, and appreciate your support.



To all you volunteers who wanted to participate in this phase of the project but were unable to, we very much appreciate your interest, and ask you to stay in touch with us, as we will with you. This is a community-driven project, and there will be various opportunities in the future to become involved. Your participation is highly valued.

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Fifty five miles of fresh water perpetually in motion, Oak Creek meanders from its head waters in Fry Canyon through Coconino County, the City of Sedona, and Yavapai County, to its confluence with the Verde River.  
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Litter, litter everywhere, and 6 bags full...



On May 15<sup>th</sup>, a separate team of volunteers tackled Mile 380 (just south of Slide Rock) on Highway 89A on our inaugural litter pickup session under the auspices of ADOT's Adopt-A-Highway program. Our volunteers' efforts are also part of the Oak



Creek Watershed Council's KEEP OAK CREEK CANYON BEAUTIFUL anti-litter program managed by Judy Lewis and Jim Sandoval.

There's a sign on the I-5 just outside of Seattle, WA that says: "LITTER, AND IT WILL HURT." The message has a double meaning. Folks in the northwest don't look kindly on those who toss their trash out of their vehicles and so they impose fines that are stiff. The catchy message also wants people to know that littering affects the environment negatively.

Litter in the vicinity of Oak Creek attracts animals that in turn leave their own "litter." Animal feces are a source of contamination for Oak Creek, and visitors as well as people travelling into, and through, the Canyon are urged to think twice before tossing once. It does indeed hurt.

Next issue: WIC decisions; Creek sampling; Clean Water Community Outreach Program

We hope you will join with us to help make a difference, and be a part of the Oak Creek legacy...  
Barry Allan, Executive Director / Grant Administrator