

## **Kodak Grant Application (2009) for a proposed Greenways Kiosk - Major projects undertaken and completed in the last two years.**

The Open Space Alliance of Central Yavapai County (OSA) continues to work to protect critical lands for public benefit. This has entailed maintaining a public forum for discussion of issues, ideas, problems and solutions in dealing with the open space of Central Yavapai County through our monthly meetings. They have included business meetings, organizations and committees reporting on activities, citizens bringing concerns to the public forum, and presentations by experts on relevant issues. A number of projects have grown out of these ongoing efforts.

The longest running and significant project is the annual Prescott Earth Day Celebration which OSA has been organizing for the last 11 years through the assistance of many organizations and volunteers, and a paid Earth Day Coordinator. Approximately 1000 people participate in the celebration each year. The last two years have featured collaboration with Prescott Creeks sponsorship of the annual Creeks Cleanup on the same day.

The Greenways Committee of OSA has been working for many years to protect the creeks of Prescott and provide safe, convenient access to the natural areas for the general public. The committee is composed of members of Prescott Alternative Transportation, Prescott Creeks, the Prescott Audubon chapter, City of Prescott and individual citizens from the community. The Greenway Committee activities have entailed continued dialog with property owners along Miller and Granite Creeks, and an open house in September 2008 outlining the ground work that began in October for preparation of the trail corridor by volunteers, community service crews, as well as parks and trails staff. The culmination of the efforts was a Grand Opening Celebration of a key section of the Greenways Multi-Use Trail System on National Trails Day, June 6, 2009, with almost 300 people in attendance.

OSA, in partnership with Sharlot Hall Museum, hosted a second Regional Wildlife Symposium in Prescott, Arizona in September 2008. Building on the success of the 2005 Symposium, which focused on sensible living with wildlife, the second event addressed the impacts of urban growth on wildlife populations and the benefits of balanced open space planning. With over 20 exhibitors in attendance, including Arizona Game and Fish, Prescott Audubon, the Highland Center for Natural History, and Prescott National Forest, the public had the chance to ask local experts questions about living in the urban/wildland interface. A goal of the event was to inform the public about specific ways they can design and manage their personal property for the mutual benefit of themselves and resident wildlife. The Symposium also helped the public recognize how wildlife can provide aesthetic, recreational and economic benefits to communities and in order to preserve this part of our heritage, we must develop a regional plan that considers the habitat needs of pre-existing wildlife.

An excellent collaboration evolved out of our two Wildlife Symposiums with Chris Hoy of the Citizens Water Advocacy Group and our treasurer, Ashley Fine, playing key roles in developing an exhibit at Sharlot Hall Museum. The exhibit, "Water: Quest for the Solution" was in place from August 2008 though March 2009. The exhibit examined the history of water management in Arizona and brought to life the story of this critical and ever changing resource. It was for the

general public, and a special effort was made to make the content accessible and usable for 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade teachers. There were also public lectures scheduled at the Museum in alignment with the exhibit, such as, 'Water Ways: Water, Human Nature and Human Culture' by Dr. Eugene Anderson on October 26, 2008, and another presentation was 'Water as a Way of Life' by Jerry Honowa, Hopi elder on November 23, 2008.