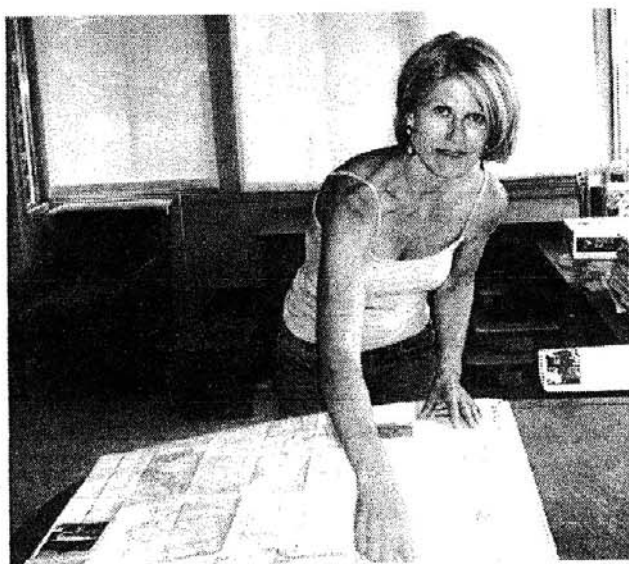


OF THIS & THAT IN PCC



Oellers continues to ask quad-cities leaders for a plan that keeps Verde River flowing.

Your PCC neighbor Joanne Oellers uses her knowledge and skills to bring important Verde River conservation information to the attention of the citizens of Yavapai County. A lifetime of involvement in the Prescott area, which she often visited as a child from her home in Phoenix, stimulated Joanne to focus her attention on the area in 1979 when she decided to settle down from her western explorations, further her education, and begin her family life and career as an educator. In addition to being an Elder Hostel leader, Joanne is an adjunct Biology and Chemistry instructor at Yavapai College and is continuing her own education as a Masters candidate at Prescott College. Her love

of nature coupled with education in the biological sciences has created critical concerns about human impact on the natural environment generally and specifically in this place she has called home for her entire adult life.

Joanne's two daughters also call PCC home and are pursuing degrees at state universities. Kaolin is studying Environmental Science and Spanish at U of A and Emery is on her way to NAU to study Anthropology and languages. The girls spent their youth actively involved locally in academics and sports through the Humboldt Unified School District.

You may see Joanne mornings or evenings walking or running in PCC, but when she can take a moment to get away from the demands of life, Grapevine Springs at the base of Big Bug Mesa beckons. The rough hike to this perennial spring is rewarded with cool solace in the summer and an ice-castle-effect visual feast in the winter. Her backyard abuts government land and provides its own small nature preserve offering shelter and foraging for quail, heron, rock squirrel, desert cottontails, including one affectionately named Sondre by the girls, and a lone remaining goldfish in the pond.

This year, with serious concerns about the fate of the Verde River, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) opened its Prescott office and prudently installed Joanne Oellers as the Verde Project Coordinator. Oellers works with a very small, but dedicated part-time staff of one.

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Through networking with other organizations and individuals in the area focused on saving the Verde River, the Prescott CBD office is able to maximize their grassroots efforts. The Verde Project's Web site, <http://savetheverde.org>, provides a calendar of events, informative text and magnificent photographs of the Verde River and its flora and fauna, and a link to *American Rivers'* recognition of the Verde as one of "America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2006" because of the threat of groundwater pumping.

If you are at all curious about groundwater pumping and pipelines to import water to support more Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley development and how that may impact all of us who have made our homes here, call Joanne to find out about public information meetings and social gatherings where you can learn more and meet others who are concerned. Letter writing campaigns are also being held in private homes with friends and neighbors. This is a very easy way to get involved while visiting with your friends.

By visiting the CBD Web site, www.BiologicalDiversity.org, or requesting a brochure, you can learn more about their mission and successful efforts nationally and internationally. CBD is the only national environmental nonprofit headquartered in Arizona. Their work is exemplary.

Intrigued? Take action. Visit the Verde River. Attend the Save the Verde Ice Cream Social at Granite Creek Park in Prescott on Saturday, August 18, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Write a letter to the newspaper, to Governor Napolitano, and to your state and national legislators. Telephone or e-mail your neighbor Joanne Oellers at 772-8204 or joellers@biologicaldiversity.org to get your questions answered. If you care, take action while the Verde is still flowing.