

Applications are coming in daily, but there is still space available although the class is limited to 24 participants. If you are interested, email me a note including your address and telephone number to barry@oakcreekwatershed.org at your earliest convenience, or call (928) 554-5460.

The Master Watershed Steward Program will be 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.

"It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference." -Tom Brokaw



On a Personal Note: A watershed resident recently wrote to me that he saw a neighbor had dumped a lot of trash into the Oak Creek floodway. The neighbor openly expressed that he thought this was okay, as well as justified, and that it has been done by many others in the past. *Well, it's NOT "okay" and could be a class 2 misdemeanor, but that aside, whatever happened to common sense?* Apart from toxic chemicals that are hazardous to human and wildlife health, fecal contamination of Oak Creek can be caused by wildlife attracted to the garbage.

By rule, Oak Creek is an "Outstanding Arizona Water" (OAW). As such, Oak Creek is protected as a Tier 3 water under Arizona Administrative Code R18-111-07.D Antidegradation which states, "Tier 3: Existing water quality shall be maintained and protected in a surface water that is classified as an OAW under R18-11-112. Degradation of an OAW under subsection (C) is prohibited."



Local law enforcement and criminal investigators have the option of citing, A.R.S. § 49-791(B) which makes it a class 2 misdemeanor to dump or dispose of solid waste in violation of Title 49, Chapter 4, Article 4.

Coconino County Environmental Services (928) 679-8750 has the authority to investigate illegal dumping of solid waste or environmental nuisances including refuse, rubbish, demolition or construction debris, trash, garbage, motor vehicles, appliances, or tires. In Yavapai County, report illegal trash dumping to Yavapai County Development Services, Environmental Unit (928) 639-8151, or local law enforcement. Oak Creek is impaired, and we all must work together to restore its integrity. That's a given, or it will not happen. Thank you for your support, and...

Happy Holidays from the Oak Creek Watershed Council...

Barry Allan, Executive Director