

# A Grand Canyon Get-Together: Members' Gathering 2003

by Patty Brookins

A photograph of eleven smiling faces hangs on the wall of Grand Canyon Association's main office. Four of the grinners are/were GCA employees, while the remaining seven comprise the members able to attend our Members' Gathering 1995. Eight years later, Members' Gathering has grown exponentially, with eighty-five members joining GCA staff at Grand Canyon for Members' Gathering 2003. A group picture today would require a panoramic camera.

The weekend of September 13 and 14 still felt much like summer, with cooler fall temperatures another month away. Without a doubt, the balmy sunshine was a welcome contrast to the rainstorms of Members' Gathering 2002! Attending Grand Canyon Association members assembled at the historic Community Building in Grand Canyon Village to begin the weekend's activities, and all signs pointed toward a memorable weekend for all.

Henry Karpinski, a noted local historian, was kind enough to volunteer to lead the first members' excursion, a walking tour of one aspect of Grand Canyon's history. Henry, who is well on his way to becoming a canyon legend himself, came to Grand Canyon over thirty years ago, hitchhiking to the South Rim with a friend. Since they were short on funds, the pair decided to hire on in the kitchen at El Tovar and stay until they got their first paycheck, and they would then move on down the road. Well, Henry's friend got his check and split, but Henry became enchanted with Grand Canyon and never left.

Henry gave our members an inside view of Mary Colter-designed fireplaces. As we walked from fireplace to fireplace through the Historic District of Grand Canyon Village, Henry pointed out the unique features of each one. We ended the walk

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*Spectacular sunshine with a Grand Canyon backdrop encircled diners at the Members' Gathering lunch at Shoshone Point. GCA photo by Todd R. Berger*

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with a tour of the upstairs living quarters of Hopi House, once used by local artisans and now office space for a few lucky Xanterra employees—including Henry.

Once Henry wrapped up his presentation, members split off into groups. Some joined author and historian Michael Anderson for a walking tour of the Historic District. Michael has authored several books for Grand Canyon Association, and his research skills have given him a depth of knowledge of local history shared by few. Michael's knowledge, coupled with his quick wit and dry sense of humor, carried our members on a not-soon-to-be-forgotten journey back to the time when tourism at Grand Canyon was in its infancy.

Other members joined Henry Karpinski again for a slide-show presentation on the historic Black Bridge at Phantom Ranch. Henry's presentation and historical photos transported the gathered members to the bottom of the canyon—without the otherwise necessary seven-mile hike.

Some members chose to visit the National Park Service Museum Collection, a veritable wealth of treasures from past and present. Colleen Hyde, the park's museum technician, gave us a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at Grand Canyon history. We enjoyed her stories about how various artifacts found their way to the museum, and she pulled out everything from split-twig figurines to ancestral Puebloan pottery for all to see.

We reconvened at the Community Building and from there some members choose to listen to a presentation at Kolb Studio on Grand Canyon women, featuring Denise Traver, a former backcountry ranger at Grand Canyon and a Grand Canyon Field Institute instructor. Denise fascinated her audience with tales of the sturdy feminine influence at Grand Canyon.

Others chose to enjoy the warm afternoon and listen to Tanya Holigay's outdoor talk. Tanya, a park wildlife biologist, discussed the recent infestation of pine bark beetles and how this infestation is influencing Grand Canyon's ecosystem. Her hands-on presentation, complete with sample beetles,

gave members a clear understanding of one of the dangers the park is facing.

As evening approached, members gathered at the Shrine of the Ages to enjoy a performance of the Grand Canyon Music Festival, now in its twentieth season. Attendees listened to a preconcert performance of compositions by young musicians participating in the Native American Composers Apprenticeship Project. This program began several years ago as a

way to encourage young Native American composers to create modern works for performance. To learn more about this program and find out how you can help support these efforts, please log on to [www.grandcanyonmusicfest.org/nacap.htm](http://www.grandcanyonmusicfest.org/nacap.htm).

The evening's performance by the Avalon String Quartet was superb, and while listening to their presentation, I marveled at the commitment these musicians and the facilitators of the music festival have for Grand Canyon. Sharing that passion with our committed family of members seemed natural.

After the concert came what turned out for many to be the highlight of the weekend. Park service ranger Stewart Fritts gave us a spooky graveyard tour through the Grand Canyon Pioneer Cemetery. Stew kept the crowd moving and laughing with his lively and entertaining walk through Grand Canyon history, telling tales along the way of the residents of the graveyard. Kerosene lanterns, long shadows, and weathered gravestones provided a fantastic backdrop to Stew's spirited program.

Sunday dawned beautiful, and attendees were offered the chance to see programs they missed through encore performances of Saturday's events. When the morning activities concluded, GCA shuttled the group out to Shoshone Point, where members met with staff and heard a little about GCA's work over the previous year. Members then enjoyed a first-rate lunch on the rim, catered by Xanterra, and after everyone had set down their forks, field institute instructor and geologist Andre Potochnik led a geology walk out to Shoshone Point. Just because it was that kind of weekend, a California condor swooped by the geology tour participants, putting a pink-headed exclamation point on the weekend's events.

All in all, the weekend was a great success. We enjoyed the company of many new GCA members and saw old friends as well. As I reflect on my third member event with GCA, I marvel at what a wonderful bunch of folks our members are. As I've said before, you all feel like family to me, and I am thankful for the opportunity to share this little slice of heaven with each and every one of you. Please join us next year!

*Patty Brookins is the membership coordinator for the Grand Canyon Association.*



*Grand Canyon National Park Museum Technician Colleen Hyde talks about split-twig figurines found in the park as GCA member Marie Aten looks on. GCA photo by Todd R. Berger*

# GRAND CANYON ASSOCIATION Launches Lecture Series in Flagstaff and Prescott

Have an inkling for buttes and mesas, switchbacks and pink rattlesnakes, but don't feel like driving to Grand Canyon National Park? Do you relish the chance to hear the ideas of Grand Canyon experts? Well, mark your calendars, because Grand Canyon Association is launching two groundbreaking lecture series in Flagstaff and Prescott, Arizona, this winter, finally bringing the canyon to your backyard. These new lecture series will bring regional and national authors, photographers, artists, scientists, park service rangers, legendary hikers, river runners, Grand Canyon Field Institute instructors, and many others to speak about Grand Canyon and issues related to Grand Canyon. All lectures are free and open to the public.

The lecture series in Flagstaff, presented in partnership with Cline Library at Northern Arizona University, begins Thursday, January 22, 2004, with a talk by Stephen Pyne, author of *Fire on the Rim: A Firefighter's Season at Grand Canyon* and *How the Canyon Became Grand*. Pyne will speak about fire management. Pyne's inaugural lecture will be followed on Thursday, February 19 by a presentation from Flagstaff-area photographer Michael Collier and author Rose Houk. Collier and Houk collaborated on *The Mountains Know Arizona: Images of the Land and Its People* and several other books. Houk is also the author of *An Introduction to Grand Canyon Ecology*, published by Grand Canyon Association. Additional lectures in Flagstaff will be

announced in *Canyon Views* and in Flagstaff-area media. All Flagstaff lectures will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at Cline Library, at the intersection of Knoles Drive and McCreary Road on the NAU campus.

The lecture series in Prescott, presented in partnership with the Sharlot Hall Museum, begins Sunday, January 18, 2004, with a presentation by Grand Canyon Historic Trails Archaeologist Michael Anderson. Anderson is the author of several books on Grand Canyon, including *Along the Rim*, *Polishing the Jewel*, and *Living at the Edge*, all published by Grand Canyon Association. Future lecturers will be announced in *Canyon Views* and in Prescott-area media. All Prescott lectures will start at 2:00 p.m. and will be held at the Sharlot Hall Museum, at 415 West Gurley Street.

If you're curious about issues related to the canyon but don't feel like straying too far from home, Grand Canyon Association's speakers will satiate your appetite for canyon knowledge in your neck of the woods. Enjoy the lectures in January and February, and keep your eye out for future presentations.



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Author and Grand Canyon National Park Historic Trails Archaeologist Michael Anderson will speak at the first Grand Canyon Association lecture in Prescott, Arizona, on January 18, 2004. GCA photo by Todd R. Berger

## Grand Canyon Association and Grand Canyon National Park Foundation:

# Partners for the Park

Grand Canyon National Park Foundation (GCNPF) is Grand Canyon Association's partner in helping to preserve Grand Canyon National Park. Initially created by GCA, the foundation is now an independent organization raising money

for specific projects that benefit the park, including wildlife studies, trail maintenance and construction, conservation of the historic boats at Park Headquarters, and youth programs. Due to the parallels in mission and the historical relationship between GCA and GCNPF, GCA has agreed to allow the foundation access to our member list. In the future, GCA members may receive mailings from the foundation. GCA will not sell, rent, or give member information to any other entity. While GCA exists to support education, research, exhibits, and other programs for

the benefit of Grand Canyon National Park and its visitors, fund-raising in support of the park is the realm of GCNPF. GCA appreciates your understanding and respectfully requests your kind attention to GCNPF literature.



## Behind the Scenes at Kolb Studio



GCA employees Donn Reynard and Pam Frazier setting up the "These Rare Lands" exhibit at Kolb Studio. GCA photo by Todd R. Berger

Member dollars support many, many things at Grand Canyon National Park, including art exhibits at Kolb Studio. Long before the pictures are hung and the doors are opened to visitors, Grand Canyon Association develops exhibits or secures shows from outside organizations, such as the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, which put together this fall's "These Rare Lands" exhibit of panoramic photography. Everything from the costs of the show (the originator's fee, shipping of artwork, insurance, signage for the exhibit,

and more) to the salary of the employees setting up the exhibit is paid for, in part, by member dollars. Thank you so much for making the wonderful exhibits at Kolb Studio a part of the Grand Canyon visitor experience.

# Froggy Cacophony

by Sally Underwood

There you are, in that beautiful little Grand Canyon National Park side canyon at the end of the day: boots off, feet up, basking in the peacefulness of the idyllic setting when an incredibly loud “**BRRURT!!! . . . BRRURT!!!**” interrupts the silence and startles you awake. What on earth was that?! It sounds like a cross between a mimic of a machine gun and a love-sick sheep bleating from the inside of a tin can. You have just heard the call of the male canyon tree frog, *Hyla arenicolor*, announcing his presence to all available females.

The canyon tree frog is the most common frog in Grand Canyon. You can usually find a frog or

two within a couple of hops from perennial water sources such as side streams, springs, and water pockets. At maturity, a canyon tree frog is two inches long, gray to coppery in tone, and, like a chameleon, has the ability to change its color or add spots to better blend into its environment. It has bulbous toe tips with sticky pads and extra cartilage segments between the last two toes, which allow the toes to swivel and keep flat against any surface. Mature males have dusky (darker) throat patches while females have light-tan throats matching their bellies.

Though called a tree frog, the canyon tree frog is most often found basking in the sun on rocks

and boulders. It is fond of sunbathing, an activity that biologists have theorized may increase its metabolism. The canyon tree frog can apparently keep from overheating in the sun by evaporating water from its skin, as well as from the occasional dip into the water to cool off and drink. Mating usually begins in March or April when the evening water temperature warms to about 55 degrees; the cacophony of froggy courting serenades lasts until July or August. Eggs are laid in masses of about 500 in shallow, still pools of water and take about 70 days to hatch and develop into mature frogs. The warmer the water temperature, the faster the development, but shallower, warmer pools also have the possibility of drying up altogether before the next generation can hop out, making where a canyon tree frog lays its eggs a kind of reproductive Russian roulette. Only about 2 percent of eggs laid will make it to become frogs, and only 10 percent of those will survive the first year and breed the next spring. Amazing statistics to ponder as you listen to what sounds like a canyonful of tree frogs surrounding your campsite.

So next time you hear what you think is a herd of goats in that beautiful little side canyon, know that it is the next generation of the sunbathing canyon tree frog in the making. Go for it, little fellas!

*Sally Underwood is a northern Arizona veterinarian and a Grand Canyon Field Institute instructor.*



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*The canyon tree frog is found throughout Grand Canyon, most often basking in the sun on rock surfaces. Photo by Edward Haenlin*



# GCFI Has Record-Breaking Season in 2003

by Mike Buchheit

Grand Canyon Field Institute (GCFI), the field seminar program for Grand Canyon Association, has just completed its most successful season to date—both from a programmatic standpoint and in terms of revenue. In 2003, GCFI conducted a record 125 classes and provided over 40,000 hours of education to more than 1,000 participants. Highlights included an 18-day Colorado River float trip taught by a team of five Grand Canyon experts and the continued success of the increasingly popular “Learning & Lodging” package conducted in partnership with Xanterra Parks & Resorts.

GCFI also hosted the third annual Guides Training Seminar for members of the commercial guiding industry, tour operators, GCFI instruc-

tors, National Park Service personnel, and other Grand Canyon backcountry enthusiasts. This event began in 2001 when the park service asked GCFI to organize the two-day training event. As in previous years, the 2003 Guides Training Seminar gave NPS resource managers and other experts a forum to present interpretive information and practical advice to those who make a living leading others below the rim.

The Travelin’ Trunk program continues to reach students across the nation with educational materials and curriculum-based activities. Six different Grand Canyon themes (geology, river ecology, human history, etc.) are available within our supply of 16 trunks. We are in the process

of making additional clones of the most popular themes to meet the growing demand. An estimated 3,000 students from over a dozen states were exposed to the program in the 2003 calendar year.

Looking ahead to 2004, GCFI plans to build on the successes of recent years. A number of new classes, instructors, and destinations are being added to the program. These include a return to Paria Canyon with geologist Christa Sadler, a GCFI/NPS collaborative archaeological survey on Horseshoe Mesa, and a Wilderness First Responder course taught by Dr. Tom Myers. As part of Grand Canyon Association’s renewed focus on community outreach, GCFI is working with the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott to develop a monthly Grand Canyon lecture series (see page 3).

None of these events and initiatives would be possible without the support and participation of GCFI’s loyal following—many of whom are GCA members. As a member, you should have received your 2004 GCFI Catalog of Courses by the time of this printing. If you have yet to receive our catalog, or would like an extra to share with others, please call GCFI at (866) 471-4435 or visit GCFI’s Web site at [www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute](http://www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute).

*Mike Buchheit is the director of the Grand Canyon Field Institute.*

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*Approximately 3,000 students visited the canyon through GCFI in 2003, one happy group at a time. Photo by Mike Buchheit*

# Your Member Dollars at Work

GCA and Park Activities Since the Last Edition of *Canyon Views*

**September 10:** Grand Canyon Association published *Checklist of the Wildlife of the Grand Canyon* by Dave Thayer.

**September 13–14:** Members' Gathering 2003 was a smashing success. Please see Membership Coordinator Patty Brookin's full report on page 1.

**September 20:** GCA exhibited at the Prescott Book Festival. Author Michael Anderson was on hand to sign copies of his book *Along the Rim*.

**October 11:** "These Rare Lands," a Smithsonian Institution exhibit featuring the panoramic

photography of Stan Jorstad, opened at Kolb Studio. The exhibit runs through December 7.

**October 13:** GCA's North Rim bookstore, as well as all other North Rim facilities, closed for the winter.

**November 1:** GCA bookstores on the South Rim switched to winter hours, with all stores closing at 5:00 p.m.

**November 7:** Grand Canyon Association and the Jack Dudley Memorial Fund donated three paintings from GCA's Jack Dudley Collection to Arches

National Park, Canyonlands National Park, and Great Basin National Park.

**November 14:** Thirty-two paintings from GCA's Jack Dudley Collection went on display in the main hall of the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott, Arizona. The exhibit runs through March.

**December 1:** Hermit Road and the road to Yaki Point opened to private vehicles. Private vehicles can use the roads through February 29, 2004.

## Yellowstone Association Institute: A Sister to GCFI

Did you know that Grand Canyon Field Institute (GCFI) has a sister organization in Yellowstone National Park? The Yellowstone Association Institute (YAI) is a nonprofit field school operated in partnership with the National Park Service to provide educational programs for visitors to Yellowstone. Like GCFI, YAI offers backpacking courses that combine authentic wilderness experience and in-depth learning. Next summer's backpacking schedule at YAI will include wilderness courses that explore remote areas of Yellowstone and topical courses that head into the backcountry to focus variously on wolves, grizzly bears, other wildlife, history, or geology. For complete information on YAI's programs, contact the YAI registrar at (307) 344-2294 or go to [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org).



*A Yellowstone Association group inspects the remains of an elk. Photo by Shirley Cope*

# Calendar

**December 19:** Opening of the inaugural "Arts for Our Park: A Celebration of Creativity" exhibit at Kolb Studio, featuring art created by the children of Grand Canyon. The exhibit runs through January 7.

**January 15:** Opening of "Paint It as It Is: The Canyonland Watercolors of Allan J. Schulz" at Kolb Studio. The exhibit runs through March 31.

**January 18:** Grand Canyon Association author and Grand Canyon National Park Trails Historian Michael Anderson will deliver the inaugural lecture of Grand Canyon Association's lecture series in Prescott, at 2:00 p.m. at the Sharlot Hall Museum.

**January 22:** Author Stephen Pyne will present the inaugural discussion of Grand Canyon Association's lecture series in Flagstaff, speaking about fire at Cline Library on the NAU campus. The lecture begins at 6:30 p.m.

**February 19:** Author Rose Houk and photographer Michael Collier will discuss their work at Cline Library on the NAU campus as part of Grand Canyon Association's lecture series in Flagstaff. The lecture begins at 6:30 p.m.

## A Look Ahead: Upcoming Fall/Winter GCFI Classes

**March 25-28:** Rim-to-River Geology Backpack; *Member price: \$295*

**April 4-9:** South Kaibab to Grandview Natural History Backpack; *Member price: \$430*

**May 16-20:** Horseshoe Mesa Backpack; *Member price: \$360*

**May 30-June 2, September 25-28:** South Rim/Cathedral Wash Photography (Digital and Film); *Member price: \$310*

Call (866) 471-4435 or visit GCFI on the Web at [www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute](http://www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute) for more information or to enroll.

# Grand Canyon Gifts for Friends, Family—and Yourself!

## Long- and Short-Sleeve California Condor T-Shirts

The amazing story of the return of California condors to Grand Canyon is a great lesson for what humankind can do to save endangered species. Celebrate the condors' historic second coming with our new Welcome Back! California Condor T-Shirt, now available in long sleeve as well as short sleeve. 100% cotton. Long-sleeve sizes S, M, L, XL (*Member price: \$17.81 plus S & H*), and XXL (*Member price: \$18.66 plus S & H*). Short-sleeve sizes S, M, L, XL (*Member price: \$14.40 plus S & H*), and XXL (*Member price: \$15.26 plus S & H*)



## Audubon's Field Guide to the Southwestern States

Now available through GCA, the comprehensive *Audubon's Field Guide to the Southwestern States* by Peter Alden and Peter Friederici is a wonderful introduction to the natural history of the Southwest. The book is full of interesting information on geology, history, and wildlife, and you will find it an indispensable tool for identifying flora and fauna at Grand Canyon and throughout the Southwest. Paperback, 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, 448 pages, 1,300 photographs. *Member price: \$16.96 plus S & H*

*Canyon Views* is published quarterly by the Grand Canyon Association to inform members of association and park activities, as well as of topics related to these activities. Please feel free to suggest subjects of interest and information you would like to see in *Canyon Views*. Address all editorial correspondence to Todd R. Berger, Managing Editor.

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Grand Canyon Association (GCA) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 educational organization established in 1932 to assist Grand Canyon National Park in meeting its research, interpretation, and education goals. Memberships are available beginning at \$35.00 annually. To obtain more information about GCA or to become a member, please visit our Web site at [www.grandcanyon.org](http://www.grandcanyon.org), contact us by phone at (928) 638-2481, or write to us at P.O. Box 399, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023, U.S.A. Copyright © 2003 Grand Canyon Association ☺

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Grand Canyon Association

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