

VIEWPOINTS

Canyon Views

GRAND CANYON ASSOCIATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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If Only You Walk Far Enough

by Sally Underwood

As I looked at the faces in the crowd at Kolb Studio and later at the Community Building on the evening of November 13, 2003, I wondered how many of us had stood in some obscure side canyon, sweaty hands clutching photocopied pages from George Steck's book, trying to decipher and interpret George's words. A lot of us, no doubt. Like theologians studying ancient religious texts, we debated the meaning of "gully" or "saddle" as we matched words to landscape and made our Grand Canyon pilgrimages using *Hiking Grand Canyon Loops: Adventures in the Backcountry* as a guide. How many others had spent a winter evening with maps strewn all around and Steck's book on their laps, laughing at George's wit, dreaming of spring and hikes of their own? I knew that the people gathered this evening to honor George Steck were only a small number of those who had been influenced by his writing, encouraged to get off the well-traveled canyon trails and get into the "outback," as George refers to the canyon backcountry, if only vicariously through armchair hiking.

This gathering, sponsored by the Grand Canyon Association, Grand Canyon National Park, and

Xanterra Parks & Resorts, honored George Steck for his many contributions to Grand Canyon, including his years of work as a VIP (Volunteer in Park), his work correlating place names with topographical features, his service as an expert resource for search and rescue operations, and his writing prowess in authoring *Hiking Grand Canyon Loops*. As friends and family looked on, Grand Canyon National Park Deputy Superintendent Kate Cannon presented George with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" for his service to and positive impact on Grand Canyon.

Born in 1925, George Steck's first love was Glen Canyon. George completed several float trips there before the dam was erected and Lake Powell flooded the canyon. Thereafter, George turned his attention to Grand Canyon, at first through exploratory hiking trips with friends like Don Mattox, and later through extended backcountry hiking vacations with his family. In 1977, he hiked from Lees Ferry to Lava Falls on a six-week trek with family members and friends. A decade later, George repeated the

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George Steck signs copies of *Hiking Grand Canyon Loops: Adventures in the Backcountry*. GCA photo by Todd R. Berger

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hike, but extended the trip a tad: He hiked all the way from Lees Ferry to Grand Wash Cliffs and Lake Mead. In addition to such grand adventures, George found he enjoyed week-or-so-long hikes in the backcountry that could be done as a loop—starting and ending in the same place—and the idea to write a book was born from this interest. Even if one doesn't plan to venture off the rim, his very readable book is full of useful information



and wonderful stories. Although informative about the two things that matter most to backcountry hikers—breaks through cliffs and water—George's book is not a spell-it-all-out-for-you tome. The reader is given the main ingredients for a safe and fun trip but is also left with plenty of opportunity to explore and discover things on his or her own. Perhaps there are many Grand Canyon hikers who have covered more miles, found more breaks, and climbed more buttes in Grand Canyon, but few have facilitated and empowered so many others to get out and hike the canyon outback. George Steck is a great friend to Grand Canyon and canyon hikers.

George subtitled one of the chapters in his book "Talus in Wonderland," obviously a play on the title of the famous book by Lewis Carroll. Coincidentally, this passage from *Alice in Wonderland* has always reminded me of George: "Would you tell me, please, which way to go from here?" . . . "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the cat. "I don't

much care where," said Alice. "Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the cat. "So long as I get somewhere," Alice added as an explanation. "Oh, you're sure to do that," said the cat, "if only you walk far enough."

Thank you George, for helping us get out there by foot or by page, to enjoy the wonderland that is Grand Canyon.

Sally Underwood is a naturalist and fitness trainer, as well as an instructor for the Grand Canyon Field Institute and Museum of Northern Arizona.

Grand Canyon National Park Deputy Superintendent Kate Cannon presents Steck with a "Lifetime Achievement Award." GCA photo by Todd R. Berger

HIDDEN GRAND CANYON:

The Graves of Charles and Olga Brant

by Patty Brookins



In this place doubt is impossible. Else, why all these wonders, this surpassing beauty, this grandeur, this deep peace, this confident repose? No, here is the spirit of God, here one must believe.

C.A. Brant

These inspiring words are found on the headstone of Charles A. Brant's grave at Grand Canyon National Park; Charles and his wife Olga are buried near Hermit Road on the South Rim. The Brants were the first caretakers of El Tovar Hotel, and they requested that, upon their deaths, they be buried in a spot where they could view the hotel for all eternity. Charles and Olga passed away in 1920 and 1921, respectively. The Brants left behind an Airedale,

Razzle Dazzle, and the Grand Canyon Village community cared for the dog until he passed away. He was subsequently buried beside Charles and Olga.

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

The graves of Charles A. Brant, Olga Brant, and the couple's Airedale, Razzle Dazzle. GCA photo by Todd R. Berger



Art Exhibit Draws a Crowd

by Pam Frazier

It's a good thing that Kolb Studio is now anchored to the cliff. (That wasn't always the case, you know, but that's another story.) On December 18, 2003, the venerable structure was put to the test. The occasion was the opening reception for the "Arts for Our Park" exhibit featuring artworks created by kindergarten through senior students at our local school, and it drew a huge crowd of local residents and park visitors alike.

Inspired by the annual "Arts for the Parks" exhibit, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon Unified School District, and Grand Canyon Association encouraged local children to communicate through art what it means to call Grand Canyon "home." Students were asked to focus their artwork on the park's primary interpretive themes:

the inspirational power of the landscape, the importance of water in an arid land, the relationships among living things and their settings, the shaping forces of erosion, the canyon as homeland and a sacred place for many American Indian cultures, and our role as stewards in conserving the local and global environment.

A panel of judges evaluated the entries, winnowing them down to 114 original works of art, representing a broad range of media, for the exhibit. Winning entries received ribbons and prizes, many of which were contributed by local organizations and businesses.

Brian Skeet, a senior at Grand Canyon High School and an accomplished artist, created an original

painting of Havasu Falls for the exhibit. Brian worked with Ron Short, Grand Canyon Association's art director, to develop a poster using Brian's painting to promote and commemorate the event.

For Amy McBroom, the school's art teacher, this exhibit was a dream come true. "This is recognition the students deserve to have," said McBroom. "This is not just art you put on the refrigerator. It's the result of a vital process by earnest individuals. It's as honest as you get."

Pam Frazier is the deputy director of the Grand Canyon Association.

Grand Canyon High School senior and artist Brian Skeet hugs art teacher Amy McBroom at the "Arts for Our Park" opening. GCA photo by Todd R. Berger

Canyon Country Community Lecture Series Schedule

Prescott: March 21; 1:00–3:00 p.m.

"The History of Grand Canyon River Running"
Presented by Brad Dimock, commercial boatman and author of *Sunk Without a Sound: The Tragic Colorado River Honeymoon of Glen and Bessie Hyde*

Flagstaff: April 8; 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Teddy Roosevelt returns to canyon country to spread his message about the importance of preserving the natural resources of the West. Presented by Teddy Roosevelt impersonator Keith McGough

Prescott: April 18, 2004; 1:00–3:00 p.m.

"Grand Canyon Prehistory, an Archaeological Overview"
Presented by Researchers from the Grand Canyon National Park Science Center

Prescott: May 16, 2004; 1:00–3:00 p.m.

"A Brief History of the Mishaps and Tragedies at Grand Canyon"
Presented by Tom Myers, M.D., author of the *Grand Canyon Trail and River Medicine Field Guide* and co-author of *Over the Edge: Death in Grand Canyon*

Prescott lectures will be held at Sharlot Hall Museum, 415 W. Gurley (two blocks west of Courthouse Plaza). Space at the Prescott lecture series is limited; please call (928) 445-3122 to inquire about seating. Flagstaff lectures will be held at Cline Library, at the intersection of Knoles Drive and McCreary Road on the NAU campus. Parking is available to the west of the library (Lot P13 on Riordan Ranch Road). All lectures are free and open to the public.

GCA's Art Collection Grows

by Pam Frazier

Visitors to Kolb Studio auditorium this winter were treated to an eye-dazzling exhibition of watercolor paintings by the late artist Allan J. Schulz. The centerpiece of the exhibit, and the newest addition to GCA's growing art collection, was Schulz's monumental triptych *Point Sublime*.

Measuring 50 inches high and 210 inches wide, the painting covers the west wall of the gallery, giving the illusion of windows opening onto the canyon itself.

Inspired by the work of artist William Henry Holmes, who scribed a similar image to accompany Clarence Dutton's *Tertiary History of the Grand Canyon District* in 1882, Schulz was compelled to seek out the same vantage point and paint the scene as it was more than a century later. After two and one-half years of work, the painting was completed in 1995, representing Schulz's skill at the apex of his career.

Last fall Grand Canyon Association received a call from the painter's sister, Mrs. Lois Larsen of Toquerville, Utah. As executor of her brother's estate, Mrs. Larsen wanted to realize one of his dreams—for the painting to return home to Grand Canyon National Park to be enjoyed by the public. Grand Canyon Association was pleased to accept the donation and privileged to host an exhibition honoring the work of this remarkable painter. As a part of the association's collection, it is assured that *Point Sublime* will be available for public enjoyment for decades to come.

Pam Frazier is the deputy director of the Grand Canyon Association.

Point Sublime, the monumental triptych by Allan J. Schulz, which was donated to the Grand Canyon Association in the fall of 2003. Shown from top to bottom are the left, middle, and right panels of the painting



There at the Beginning: Founding GCA Board Member Emery Kolb

by Todd R. Berger

When Grand Canyon Natural History Association (today known as Grand Canyon Association) formed in 1932, the fledgling operation needed the support of the Grand Canyon community to survive. Numerous park residents—neighbors in those days but historical icons today—got behind the new association whose mission was, and still is, to support education, research, and other programs for the benefit of Grand Canyon National Park and its visitors. Photographer Emery Kolb was one who stepped forward to support the organization, and as the association formed, Emery became a founding member of GCNHA's board.

Emery followed his brother Ellsworth from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Grand Canyon in the fall of 1902. Shortly after Emery's arrival, the brothers purchased a photo studio in Williams, Arizona, for \$425, and in 1903, the Kolbs opened up shop in a tent at Grand Canyon on a private inholding of land near the head of the Bright Angel Trail on the South Rim. A year later, the brothers built a small wood-frame building nearby to house their growing business.

The brothers made their living photographing tourists riding mules down the Bright Angel Trail. In addition, they hiked all over Grand Canyon, creating a huge body of images of the region, an unmatched historical record that includes Teddy Roosevelt's visit in 1911; the last known photograph of newlyweds Glen and Bessie Hyde, who disappeared somewhere on the Colorado River

after the image was taken in 1928; and the first ascent of Shiva Temple in 1937 by Emery, his daughter Edith, and others. Today, the Emery Kolb Collection is housed at Northern Arizona University's Cline Library in Flagstaff.

In addition to still photography, the brothers utilized the new technology of moving pictures to document their 1911–12 river trip from Green River, Wyoming, to Needles, California, tracing the route of John Wesley Powell's 1869 exploration of the Green and Colorado Rivers. Emery screened the resulting film in Kolb Studio's auditorium until his death in 1976.

After the river trip, the brothers began to quarrel more and more. In 1913, the acrimony had escalated, and Ellsworth and Emery decided to flip a coin to determine who would get to keep Kolb Studio, and who would move on. Emery won, and Ellsworth left the canyon, eventually settling in Los Angeles, where he lived until his death in 1960.

Meanwhile, Emery expanded his business at Grand Canyon, building additions to Kolb Studio in 1915 and again in 1925. Up until 1930, Emery had to print his photographs in a darkroom at Indian Garden, 3,000 feet below the South Rim. He would photograph mule trains departing the head of the Bright Angel Trail in the morning, hike the 4.6 miles (one-way) to Indian Garden, develop and print the images, and hike back out ahead of the mule train so he could sell his barely dry images to

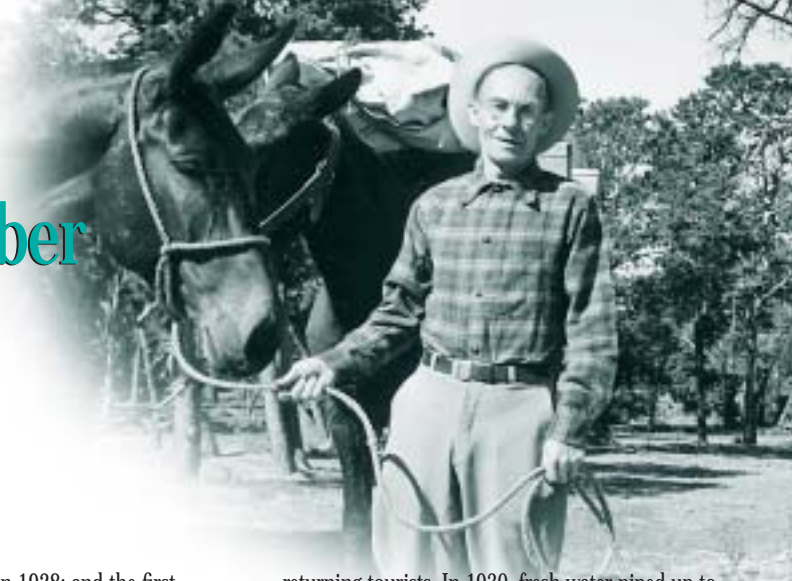
returning tourists. In 1930, fresh water piped up to the rim eliminated Emery's daily hike.

Emery served GCNHA with several canyon luminaries, including Miner Tillotson, then superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park, and Eddie McKee, the park's naturalist from 1929 to 1940. During their years of service, GCNHA published the first checklist of plants occurring in Grand Canyon National Park, the first editions of GCNHA's *Natural History Bulletin*, and *Grand Canyon Nature Notes* (in cooperation with the National Park Service).

This year marks the centennial of Kolb Studio, Emery and Ellsworth Kolb's home, movie theater, store, and photographic studio on the canyon edge. Today, Kolb Studio operates as a bookstore and art gallery run by the Grand Canyon Association. To celebrate the centennial, the interior of the store has been redecorated, with redesigned store displays and a new exhibit on the store's porch honoring the Kolb brothers' work photographing mule trips down the Bright Angel Trail. Stop by Kolb Studio to check out the changes, view the exhibit in the gallery, and reflect on Emery Kolb, a pioneer at Grand Canyon and in the history of the Grand Canyon Association.

Todd R. Berger is the managing editor of the Grand Canyon Association.

Emery Kolb (and equine friends) during the 1930s. Photo courtesy Emery Kolb Collection, Cline Library, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona. NAU 568-24





A Little Chilly, Though

by Jack Pennington

Quiet
Pleasantly warm
Typically dry
And did I mention quiet?

Such is the stingy-on-words-yet-poetic way to describe Grand Canyon Field Institute's first winter class, a Hermit to Bright Angel loop hike in early January 2004. The weather was most cooperative as it typically is at Grand Canyon. Only the uppermost parts of the Hermit and Bright Angel Trails were covered with snow, but such obstacles proved to be no impediment to this group. The first morning's temperature of 8 degrees Fahrenheit was a little chilly, though. However, by lunchtime, we had all shed several layers. Overall, the days were clear and pleasantly warm, and the nights were chilly but lit by a wonderful full moon.

Steve Monroe, a United States Geological Survey hydrologist, accompanied the course participants and imparted his keen and up-to-date knowledge about many of Grand Canyon's springs. Under Steve's direction, the group climbed to the head of Monument Creek, shadowed by the imposing wall of the Abyss. Bypassing a partially frozen waterfall, the group was able to check two data monitoring devices. It was reassuring to hear from Steve and see for ourselves that despite the recent years of drought most of the canyon's springs are flowing at normal levels. After a quick data download it was time to head back down the canyon, past frost-wilted monkeyflowers that were already greening up for the next growth cycle, and on into the much-missed warm sunshine.

The canyon was very quiet with only two other parties camping at Hermit Creek, no one for most of our time at Monument Creek, and only

two other brave souls at Indian Garden. On the trails themselves, we saw one other hiker during our treks from camp to camp.

GCFI and the participants considered this experimental winter course a success. All were gratified to have a normally busy route almost completely to ourselves. GCFI is looking at building on this success in winter 2005.

Jack Pennington is the assistant to the director of the Grand Canyon Field Institute and a GCFI instructor.

The January Hermit to Bright Angel GCFI class makes their way along the inner-canyon Tonto Trail. Photo by Jack Pennington

A Siege of Fair Weather

by Donald E. McHenry, Junior Park Naturalist

"A Siege of Fair Weather" was first published in Grand Canyon Nature Notes in December 1934. The piece was also excerpted in The Best of Grand Canyon Nature Notes, edited by Susan Lamb and published by the Grand Canyon Association.

Editor's Note: Grand Canyon is beginning the fifth year of a prolonged drought. Although the drought at the park has not been as severe as some other parts of the Southwest and West, the effects of the dry spell can be seen all over the area, from bark-beetle-killed ponderosa pines to large numbers of elk wandering into the village in search of water. It seems, in 2004, we too are experiencing a siege of fair weather.

Nothing pleases the tourist so much as fair weather for a Canyon visit. Some, however, prefer to see the Canyon when the depths are filled with drifting shadows of numerous small clouds floating above, or perhaps enhanced by an errant storm moving majestically from rim to rim.



It is, however, no aesthetic consideration which leads Grand Canyon inhabitants to long most ardently for more clouds and much more moisture. The [average] annual rainfall for the past thirty years on the North Rim is 26 inches, and 17.3 inches on the South Rim. However, during the year from November 1, 1933, to October 30, 1934, the rainfall for the North Rim has been but 13.4 inches, and only 9.28 inches for the South Rim. Although a delight to visitors, this siege of fair weather for the last year has not passed without leaving its mark upon life in Grand Canyon. . . . Not only the plants, but the animals of the region felt the drought. It was too dry for the usual crop of mushrooms upon which the deer feed with so much relish. Many old reliable waterholes on the North Rim dried up for the first time in their known history.

[W]e at Grand Canyon, along with our friends the Hopi Indians near the Painted Desert to the east, would be pleased to have a few more clouds and considerably more rain than we have had for the past year, the tourist to the contrary notwithstanding.

Fair skies over the Colorado River at the bottom of Grand Canyon. Photo by Todd R. Berger

Your Member Dollars at Work

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

November 13: Grand Canyon Association, Grand Canyon National Park, and Xanterra Parks & Resorts honored George Steck with a reception at Kolb Studio. See the story on page 1.

December 10–11: GCA exhibited books and other materials about Grand Canyon at the Arizona Library Association convention in Phoenix. The attending librarians responded in particular to GCFI's Travelin' Trunks and Video Loan program.

December 18: The "Arts for Our Park: A Celebration of Creativity" exhibit at Kolb Studio opened, featuring artwork created by the children and teenagers of Grand Canyon Village. The exhibit ran through January 7. See the story on page 3.

January 1: GCA closed the books on the best sales year in the history of the association. The record sales receipts will help further GCA's mission to support education, research, and other programs for the benefit of Grand Canyon National Park and its visitors. Every employee, member, and bookstore customer contributed to this remarkable sales year, and GCA is profoundly grateful to the many individuals who made this possible.

January 7: GCA published five new posters featuring major canyon sites and sights, such as the Desert View Watchtower, the Colorado River, lightning over the South Rim, and Cape Royal on the North Rim, as well as a new version of our bestselling 10,000 Cathedrals poster.

January 14: "Paint It As It Is: The Canyonland Watercolors of Allan J. Schulz" opened at Kolb Studio. The exhibit features *Point Sublime*, the 17-foot-by-4-foot triptych donated to GCA in the fall of 2003. The exhibit runs through March 31. See the story on page 4.

January 18: GCA and the Sharlot Hall Museum launched the Canyon Country Community Lecture Series in Prescott with a presentation by author and Grand Canyon National Park Trails Archaeologist Mike Anderson.

January 29: GCA and NAU's Cline Library launched the Canyon Country Community Lecture Series in Flagstaff with a presentation by author and fire historian Stephen Pyne.

February 4: GCA published eight new postcards, featuring California condors, lightning over the inner canyon, and summer scenics, as well as all-new sets of "Winter Splendor" and "Through the Artist's Eyes" notecards.

February 15: Former backcountry ranger and current Grand Canyon Field Institute instructor Denise Traver presented "Famous Women of the Grand Canyon," the second lecture in the Canyon Country Community Lecture Series in Prescott.

February 19: Author Rose Houk and photographer Michael Collier discussed the changing nature of the Colorado Plateau as part of the Canyon Country Community Lecture Series in Flagstaff.

February 20: A redecorated Kolb Studio bookstore, including a new exhibit on the porch honoring the Kolb brothers and their work photographing mule trips on the Bright Angel Trail, opened to the public.

February 28–29: Grand Canyon Field Institute and Grand Canyon National Park sponsored the third annual Guides Training Seminar for the commercial hiking and backpacking community, a chance for GCFI instructors, park service interpretive staff, and other commercial and non-commercial guides to exchange ideas; discuss park issues and changes for the coming season; learn about Leave No Trace principles; tour park facilities; and review procedures for search-and-rescue operations, law enforcement, and treating injuries in the backcountry.

Calendar

In addition, please check out the lecture schedule on page 3.

April 3: Grand Canyon Association will exhibit at the Arizona Book Festival at the Carnegie Center in Phoenix.

April 11: "Arts for the Parks" opens at Kolb Studio. Selected from thousands of entries by the National Park Academy of the Arts, the top 100 winners from the 2003 competition will be on exhibit. The exhibit runs through June 6.

May 10: Approximate opening of the North Rim, including GCA's North Rim bookstore.

A LOOK AHEAD: UPCOMING SPRING/SUMMER GCFI CLASSES

April 22–27: Red Canyon to Grandview Geology Backpack; *Member price: \$420*

May 25–29: Exotic West Rim; *Member price: \$360*

May 29–31: Nature's Open Book: Connect with the Canyon, Connect with Your Self; *Member price: \$165*

May 30–June 2: South Rim/Cathedral Wash Photo-graphy (Digital and Film); *Member price: \$310*

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

Get Ready for Spring with New and Popular Products Available through GCA

The Grand Canyon:

Arizona Highways Special Scenic Collection

All new, this beautiful coffee-table book includes panoramic views from the rim plus intimate portraits of the canyon interior. The book showcases the work of award-winning *Arizona Highways* photographers. Paperback, 10 x 12 3/4, 80 pages. *Member price: \$8.46 plus S & H*

The Best of Grand Canyon Nature Notes: 1926–1935

In 1926, Grand Canyon National Park began publishing a monthly collection of reports and reflections on the natural and human history of the park. This anthology presents *Nature Notes* to delight yet another generation of visitors to Grand Canyon. Paperback, 6 x 9, 167 pages. *Member price: \$4.25 plus S & H*

Welcome Back! California Condor Book Bag

In the early 1980s, scientists documented only 22 condors remaining in the wild, all in California. Thanks to a successful captive-breeding program, their numbers have increased to over 200 birds, some 40 of which now fly free over northern Arizona. Celebrate the condors' historic second coming with our new Welcome Back! California Condor Book Bag. A Grand Canyon Association exclusive. *Member price: \$14.41 plus S & H*

Hiking Grand Canyon Loops:

Adventures in the Backcountry

George Steck's legendary guidebook will lead you along the rim, into the canyon, up from the river, and across the plateau—best of all, you end up right back where you started. Paperback, 270 pages, 6 x 9. *Member price: \$14.41 plus S & H*

To order or for more information, call (800) 858-2808 or log on to www.grandcanyon.org



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*. GCA also welcomes article submissions related to the association and/or park activities. Address all editorial correspondence to Grand Canyon Association, Attn: Todd R. Berger, Managing Editor, P.O. Box 399, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023; tberger@grandcanyon.org.

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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, 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 © 2004 Grand Canyon Association ☺

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