



Dream Fulfilled:

Cancer Patient Sees Canyon

by Linda Margison

Sitting on the top of Stone Head Ridge in Van Buren Township, Indiana, Loran White had a rare moment of speechlessness as he contemplated his recent trip to see the Grand Canyon.

Finally, he said, "It was awesome," as he sat in the screened-in porch of Rick and Donna White's home on a nippy morning last fall. Although not related to Loran, Rick and Donna spend a lot of time with their friend who suffers from metastatic renal cell cancer. In fact, Donna spearheaded the fundraising efforts and arrangements for Loran's dream trip to see the Grand Canyon.

"When Rick's brother died, Loran came into his life," Donna said, explaining that Loran has become like a brother to her husband, who jokes around and trades insults with the ailing man.

Taking each day as it comes, Loran's life is now a series of "good" and "bad" days. Tuesday was a good day, when he was able to walk for a bit without his walker. His leg continues to heal from a muscle strain injury triggered by walking down steps at the canyon.

Loran's favorite part of the dream trip was a 45-minute helicopter flight across the massive ravine. Loran jokes that the seats had to be replaced when he got off the aircraft because he had soiled his pants. He didn't really.

"I never dreamed—," he said, pausing and then adding, "Pictures of the Grand Canyon don't do it justice."

Loran was swept away by the vast breadth and depth of the gorge. He explained that the helicopter flew about 25 feet off the ground and then out over the edge of the Grand Canyon, taking his breath away.

"There was no bottom to it," he said. "I couldn't

believe that hole in the ground. The whole thing was enjoyable."

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Loran White at the South Rim. Photograph courtesy of the Brown County Democrat

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Although he wanted to ride a mule down into the canyon, Loran didn't meet the weight requirements with necessary gear and wouldn't have been able to handle the rough descent and climb back out that takes seven hours to complete.

"I'd love to go back out there and spend a whole year right down in the bottom," he added. "I wanted to take the mule ride, but as Rick said, there would have been enough asses down there anyway."

Loran spent four days in Arizona with his son, Terry "T.J." White, the person who first asked him what he wanted to do in the time he has left

on Earth. Loran told his son he had always wanted to see the Grand Canyon, and Donna White began seeking a way to fulfill his dream. She completed the task in two weeks.

Donations from private citizens and businesses poured in after word spread that Loran longed to see the national landmark before his life ends.

The disease ravaging through Loran's body began in his kidneys and has spread to his bones, blood and lungs. He has tried an experimental drug that elevated his blood pressure after less than a week. Once that returns to a normal level, he wants to begin taking the drug again, because of

its success in treating diseases such as his. After about 40 minutes, Loran had said all he wanted to about his dream vacation, his disease and his plans for the near future. Instead, he was ready for breakfast at Brownie's Inn in nearby Bean Blossom.

At last sight, he and Rick White were bickering over who would drive.

Linda Margison is the editor of the Brown County Democrat in Nashville, Indiana. Reprinted by permission.



Hikers' Symposium at the South Rim

The Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association, in conjunction with the Grand Canyon Field Institute, will host the inaugural Grand Canyon Hikers' Symposium on April 8, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Shrine of the Ages in the park. Speakers will discuss hiking adventures in the backcountry, ranging from the first ascent of Zoroaster Temple to a 30-night hike in the canyon. Speakers include Dr. Tom Myers and Elias Butler, Mike Anderson, Maverick, Tom Martin, Dave Ganci, and many more. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Tom Martin at tomhazel@grand-canyon.az.us or Doug Nering at doug@gloming.com.

Great Digs

by Todd R. Berger, Managing Editor

As I spoke to Tricia Lund, GCA's warehouse manager, about the association's new warehouse within the confines of the voluminous, well-laid-out space, I had difficulty thinking about anything but the forklift.

Sure, I'm a guy. And most guys like motorized equipment. But I also like romantic comedies and kittens, so I was a little taken aback by my fixation. When Tricia told me the forklift could raise a pallet of books 30 feet to the top racks in the new warehouse, I tried to think of justifications for the managing editor to get forklift training.

In the old warehouse, "we had to unload pallets by hand," Tricia told me. "Now we'll just forklift the pallets right into [place on the shelves]." Cool.

In fact, a forklift wouldn't fit in the old warehouse, a retrofitted helicopter hanger well suited for its original use but lacking space for a functional warehouse. Employees often had to climb tall ladders to place boxes of books and other products on shelves one at a time, and then fetch those same boxes when stock ran out in the neighboring stockroom.

"Improved safety for our staff is an important advantage of the new warehouse," GCA's executive director Brad Wallis told me. Over his three and one half years at the helm of GCA, Brad has lobbied continuously for a new warehouse space.

Many options were considered, including a warehouse outside the park in Tusayan, Valle, Flagstaff or Williams; an entirely new warehouse built from scratch inside the park; and even to outsource GCA's warehouse function to a fulfillment company. In the end, GCA was able to obtain the right to use an existing warehouse



Warehouse Assistant Geneva Martinez stocks shelves in the new warehouse, curiously ignoring the forklift.

inside the park. This was the least expensive and most desirable option on the table, as the existing warehouse was large enough (roughly double the size of GCA's former warehouse) for the association's present and future needs, and it could be remodeled relatively inexpensively.

Negotiations were necessary to have the former NPS warehouse assigned to GCA, as the park service originally assigned the building to Xanterra, which runs the lodges and restaurants at Grand Canyon. Ron Everhart, a special assistant to Grand Canyon National Park from the regional NPS office in Denver, served as the arbitrator between the three parties. In the end, Ron and the parties worked out an agreement that pleased everyone, and Superintendent Joe Alston and Chief of Interpretation (and GCA Liaison) Judy Bryan supported the assignment of the warehouse to the association. Xanterra will break ground on a new warehouse next to the GCA facility in the spring of 2006.

The transition to the new warehouse has been seamless. Seven GCA employees and Wayne

Ranney, a GCA author, gave up a weekend in late January to help with the move. Tricia's goal that first Saturday was to simply get the mail order/wholesale area of the new warehouse set up, but, she noted, "we got that done early in the day, and people thought we should just keep going. It's great to work for a company where everybody pitches in."

GCA's three other warehouse-based employees—Mail Order/Wholesale Manager Patrick Harrison, Sales Representative Sandy Reason, and Warehouse Assistant Geneva Martinez—gushed about the new set-up. Sandy said, the warehouse is "great digs. Nice and cozy."

The warehouse's other resident seems to be having a harder time adjusting. Charlie (the cat), an elusive feline rarely seen and never petted, "is not very happy. Right now, he's hiding," Tricia said.

However, Patrick added, "he's having a good time roaming around checking things out."

When the lights go out in the evening, I have a feeling Charlie is behind the wheel of the forklift.

Tammy-Whackin'

by Frank Bruno

The Grand Canyon seems indestructible: a massive chasm impervious to change or serious harm. Of course, the canyon is in a state of constant geological change and given enough time—billions of years—the changes are quite dramatic.

However, there are more recent and rapid changes happening in the canyon, and many of them are not beneficial to the canyon ecosystem. One is the growing prevalence of invasive species, some of which are a new phenomenon.

Tamarisk (*Tamarix chinensis*), also known as salt cedar, is a plant that can grow to the size of a small tree. In the 19th century it was introduced to the Southwest from Eurasia for erosion control and as an ornamental plant. It spread into the Grand Canyon in the 1930s and has become solidly established since Glen Canyon Dam was completed in 1963, eventually becoming the dominant species in the park's Colorado River corridor. Tamarisk has been successful because it reproduces prodigiously and is drought and flood resistant.

But it is more than a plant that does not belong in the canyon. Once established, tamarisk crowds out native species because it soaks up available water and grows quickly.

With the sinister threat of tamarisk invasion in mind, I decided last fall to join a tamarisk

eradication project sponsored by the Grand Canyon Trust, a nonprofit conservation organization based in Flagstaff. Our group of eleven featured a good mix of ages, genders and levels of experience.

For this trip, our assignment was to backpack to Phantom Ranch via the South Kaibab Trail, set

up housekeeping at the bunkhouse there, and remove tamarisk at various spots from the confluence of Bright Angel Creek and the Colorado River to about five miles up the creek along the North Kaibab Trail.

Volunteer Darryl Garcia struggles with a particularly stubborn tamarisk. Photograph courtesy of the author



After a pre-hike stretching session and after accepting hiking poles urged on us by our project leader, Kari Malen, we took our first steps down the trail. By about the fourth step, I strained my knee, which hobbled me for the rest of the trip and which I still felt months later. But, as John DeMarco, one of my comrades on the trip, would often say, "This is not about me."

It was about tamarisk. We would find hundreds of inch-high seedlings poking up from patches of sand, branches sprouting from many previously cut-down plants, and 10-foot tall tamarisk trees. No mechanical tools are allowed in the inner canyon where we were working due to its status as a wilderness study area, so we used hand saws, pruners, and loppers. I named mine Cyndi—Cyndi Lopper. The "technical" term for removing tamarisk is "tammy-whackin'."

The coup de grâce for the cut tamarisk was the application of a biodegradable herbicide. At times, the entire process seemed futile when my thoughts became dominated by the fact that tamarisk has such an incredible ability to reproduce, in addition to the reality that it was impossible for us to get every sprout—although we certainly tried. However, studies show the methods we employed to be effective and, in some cases, to result in the eradication of

tamarisk from several tributary canyons in the park. Through early 2005, invasive-species eradication crews had worked in 70 project areas, and follow-up treatment was required in only 12 percent of those areas.

The National Park Service began an invasive plant species program in Grand Canyon National Park in 1993. The park service focused its efforts on the most ecologically damaging species, and tamarisk was at the top of the list. Monitoring of treated areas has shown a 99-percent reduction in tamarisk with an increase of native plants. The park service will continue to monitor these areas for another five to ten years.

Much of this work is done by volunteers, and such trips can be rugged. While our project allowed us the relative comfort of the bunkhouse with its beds, flush toilets and fully stocked kitchen, most trips involve camping. Many also require a lot of hiking and a lot of work, although some are shorter-term (such as weekend-length) and are considerably less demanding than our project. Anyone interested in joining an invasive plant eradication project can find information at <http://www.volunteer.gov> or at <http://www.grandcanyontrust.org>.

Frank Bruno is a GCA member who lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

2007 Grand Canyon History Symposium

Call for Presentations Available in April

GCA, the Grand Canyon Historical Society, Xanterra, and the National Park Service have set January 25–28, 2007, as the dates for the second Grand Canyon History Symposium at the South Rim. Historians, park service employees, GCA members, canyon aficionados, American Indians and all others with an interest in Grand Canyon history and prehistory are invited to submit abstracts for presentation consideration. The Program Committee for the symposium is strongly interested in having laypeople with stories of canyon history as well as professional historians present at the conference. A Call for Presentations will be sent out in April 2006 with abstracts due August 1, 2006. If you are interested in submitting a presentation abstract for consideration by the committee, please note the topic you would like to discuss and send your contact information to Todd R. Berger, Chair-Program Committee, PO Box 148, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-0148, symposium@GrandCanyonHistory.org. He will send the Call for Presentations to you as it becomes available.



Members' Gathering

Mark your calendars for September 16–17, 2006, the dates of this year's Members' Gathering at the South Rim. More information on the gathering will be available mid-summer, but if you plan to attend, we suggest you make your lodging or camping reservations now. For lodging inside the park and RV camping, contact Xanterra at <http://www.grandcanyonlodges.com> or (888) 297-2757. For camping reservations at Mather Campground, contact Spherix at <http://reservations.nps.gov> or (800) 365-2267. For lodging in Tusayan, contact the Grand Canyon Chamber of Commerce at <http://www.grandcanyonchamber.org> or (928) 638-2901. We'll see you in September!

Trekking a Family Legacy through the Grand Canyon

by Traci Wyrick

At the head of the Bright Angel Trail on the South Rim, a wave of apprehensive excitement swept over me. My brother Craig, myself, and three of our cousins (Clay, Cheryl and Brooke) were about to venture on what many consider the classic canyon hike: rim to rim.

Our group had an unusual imperative to hike here. We were connected to this grandest of canyons through two sets of grandparents, one distant uncle and our parents, who all had lived and worked at this colossal rock wonderland.

Ralph Cameron, Clay and Cheryl's great-great uncle, migrated to the canyon in the late 1800s. An enterprising businessman, he worked as a miner, then cashed in on tourism, taking sole

ownership of the Old Bright Angel Trail in 1901 by making mining claims along its route. He improved the trail and renamed it "Cameron's Trail," charging a one-dollar toll to hikers and mule riders. Cameron lost control of the trail to Coconino County in 1920, and the National Park Service took ownership in 1928.

Louis Schellbach III, Craig's and my paternal grandfather, arrived at the canyon in 1937 to take a job as a junior naturalist; he became chief park naturalist in 1941. He held that position until 1957, when he reached the mandatory retirement age of seventy.

Dean Tidball, the maternal grandfather of all five of us, came to the canyon in 1952, and he worked as a

hydrographer with the USGS on the Colorado River, both at Grand Canyon and Lees Ferry, until 1961.

With heightening anticipation, we stepped from the South Rim and began our descent into the inner canyon. The trail steepened immediately and soon twisted back and forth in a mesmerizing series of switchbacks. Being a first-timer and lugging an awkward, lopsided pack, I didn't dare take my eyes off of the trail. Quickly losing elevation, the trail changed colors as we passed through the vivid bands of rock formations so apparent from the rim. We stopped often to take in the view. Looking toward the North Rim, remote pinnacles rose above hidden canyons, while sunken plateaus and majestic buttes filled the great expanse.

The sweaty, grim faces of the people hiking up had me second-guessing my decision to go on this four-day, three-night, cross-canyon jaunt. Nevertheless, three hours and over four miles later, the trail grade eased and the canyon walls opened. We entered Indian Garden, a quaint little oasis tucked within the realm of rock. A delightful stream rippled nearby, appropriately named "Garden Creek." We settled into one of the cottonwood-canopied campsites for the night.

Awakening the next morning, I tried to sit up, but my fatigued legs and shoulders fiercely



Five cousins at the Bright Angel trailhead. L to R: the author, Cheryl Barron, Clay Cameron, Brooke Myers and Craig Schellbach. Photograph courtesy of the author

protested. It was all I could do to get out of the tent, but somehow I summoned the strength and will to reshooulder my pack and amble on toward the Inner Gorge.

Shade trees turned to sagebrush as we arrived at a section of the trail ominously known as the Devil's Corkscrew. Frequently, we had to "stop and gawk" at the winding trail below, hemmed in by towering rock faces.

Nearing the Colorado River, the trail unexpectedly turned uphill. As we struggled up the sun-drenched incline, I now realized why the people we passed during our descent looked so grim—hiking uphill, coupled with carrying a heavy pack, was grueling. Just after we began hiking along the river on the River Trail, the dirt turned to sand and sucked at our shoes. After crossing the 400-foot-wide Colorado on the Silver Bridge, we finally reached the bottom of the Grand Canyon. (I knew it was the bottom because there was nowhere left to fall.)

We staggered into an open site at Bright Angel Campground, plopped down our packs and relaxed beside the bubbly Bright Angel Creek. Brooke tended to her feet, while the rest of us set out to find the former Tidball home, lab and gauging station. Taking old photographs along, we walked to the confluence of Bright Angel Creek and the Colorado River. Here, we tried to match the existing buildings to those in our parents' pictures. Unable to determine where the house and lab had stood—and unsure if they still existed—we walked upstream to the Kaibab Suspension Bridge. Standing at the bridge, we looked down at the Colorado and reflected on how our grandfather used to collect silt samples from the river. Back at his lab, Tidball determined the percentage of silt in the water by evaporating the water and then weighing the remaining residue. The USGS used his data to calculate the number of years it would take for Lake Mead to fill up with sediment.



The Kaibab Suspension Bridge over the Colorado River

Under the clear night sky I unrolled my sleeping bag on top of the picnic table and wriggled into my bag, exhausted. The starry sky spread out above me, book-ended by soaring, moonlit stone.

The next morning, after thirty minutes of wishing we were somewhere else due to the pain in our bodies and the long hike awaiting us, we laced up our boots and heaved our seemingly heavier packs onto our backs; my legs and shoulders intensely objected. The seven-mile journey on the North Kaibab Trail to Cottonwood Campground awaited.

We passed Phantom Ranch and headed north, eventually reaching the intersection with the Clear Creek Trail. I recalled how grandfather Schellbach was awakened while camping near Clear Creek one night to find a skunk atop his chest. The critter was licking the salt from his face. Instinctively, he knew the skunk was only after the salt, and with great composure, he allowed the nocturnal animal to finish the job and retreat into the brush.

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After hiking through the cool shade of the Box and the noontime sun in the Grand Canyon Supergroup layer, we trudged up what avid canyon hikers call “Asinine Hill”—a rise that zaps the last juice out of a hiker—just before reaching the comforts of Cottonwood. Topping the hill, I felt delusional. But soon we reached the campground, and, beaten by the heat and the hill, I stripped the gear off my salt-laden body and sat in our shaded camp, savoring a well-earned rest. A little foot soaking, a little dinner, and we were soon sound asleep.

We were on the trail by 4:00 a.m., intent on getting to a higher elevation before the heat of the day. By daybreak, we had humped three of the seven miles between Cottonwood and the North Rim. The weight of our packs resonated in our quads and knees. The effects this had on us varied, leading us to split up during the grinding

ascent. Alone now, I reached a forest of ponderosa pines and quaking aspens clinging to the canyon’s limestone bluffs, and the shade lightened my mind and spirit. The refrigerated air above 7,000 feet, although thin, rejuvenated my over-burdened lungs. As I neared the human-made Supai Tunnel, numerous hikers passed me on the way down, smelling sweetly of soap and smiling. By 1:00 p.m., I reached the trailhead and eyed Cheryl and Clay, who were planted on the grassy slope ahead, their socks and boots strewn about. Reaching them, I dropped my pack and myself to the ground, looking up at the blue, autumn sky through the lovely quaking aspen trees. Brooke emerged shortly after me, and we all sat, wondering if we’d ever see Craig again. About a half an hour later, Craig popped out of the trees.

Dust-covered and starry eyed, I reflected on my first odyssey through this phenomenal canyon.

Having spent four days traversing it, I imagined what our relatives experienced while living for many years in this profound yet isolated landscape. As challenging as the hike was, the regal scenery dwarfed the hard work. When the time came to leave our rim-side knoll, I felt an air of sadness and a lump in my throat. With a final glance back into the canyon, I ached to do it all over again. The Grand Canyon had indeed worked its magic.

Traci Wyrick is a GCA member and a US Postal Service letter carrier in Killeen, Texas, where she lives with her husband, Tim.

Near the North Kaibab trailhead in the cool ponderosa pine and quaking aspen forest of the North Rim



GCA Launches Glendale Lecture Series

In March 2006, GCA, in cooperation with the Glendale Foothills Library and the Coconino Community College Colorado Plateau Studies program, expanded the Canyon Country Community Lecture Series to Glendale. The series features regional and national authors, photographers, artists, scientists, National Park Service rangers, legendary hikers, river runners, Grand Canyon Field Institute instructors, and many others speaking about the canyon country of the Southwest and issues related to the region. See the schedule below for all upcoming lectures.



Canyon Country Community Lecture Series Schedule

Prescott, Sunday, April 16, 1:00 p.m.

On the Trails of Grand Canyon Pioneers

Presented by Michael Anderson

Michael Anderson, Grand Canyon National Park's trails archaeologist and cultural resource specialist, will talk about the many historic and prehistoric routes in Grand Canyon and the characters who built or improved them.

Flagstaff, Wednesday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.

Apaches in the Northland: A Brief Look at the Dilzhe'e People

Presented by Chris Coder

Before 1870 much of the country around Flagstaff was occupied by the Dilzhe'e, a people known to many as the Tonto Apache. Chris Coder, a Flagstaff-based archaeologist and author, will discuss the Dilzhe'e and their ties to the Grand Canyon region.

Glendale, Thursday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.

The Painted Desert: A Lost Landscape

Presented by Scott Thybony

The Painted Desert runs for 200 miles across northeastern Arizona, linking Petrified Forest with Grand Canyon. Author Scott Thybony will bring this extraordinary landscape to life with stories and images focusing on a corner of the Painted Desert that few know.

Flagstaff, Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.

The 1956 Grand Canyon Air Disaster

Presented by Dan Driskill

On June 30, 1956, two airliners collided over the Grand Canyon, killing 128 people. Writer, attorney, and flight paramedic Dan Driskill will discuss this tragic mid-air collision and the changes in the federal aviation system that resulted.

Glendale, Thursday, May 18, 7:00 p.m.

The Sandstone Canyons of the Colorado Plateau: A Photographer's Perspective

Presented by Richard Maack

Arizona Highways Photography Editor Richard Maack will introduce you to northern Arizona's magnificent slot canyons. He will also reveal the contents of his camera bag and offer advice on how to improve your own photography.

Prescott, Sunday, May 21, 1:00 p.m.

Spirit of the Canyon: A River Journey Through Time

Presented by Charly Heavenrich

Colorado River guide, photographer, and author Charly Heavenrich will take you on an exploration of why places like the Grand Canyon have such a profound impact on people's perceptions and lives.

Glendale, Thursday, June 15, 7:00 p.m.

Preposterous Landscapes: Exploring the Wild Terrains of the Arizona-Utah Border

Presented by Gary Ladd

The Arizona-Utah border is a stunning landscape of ecological diversity and geologic features ranging from soaring mountains to nearly impenetrable canyons. Photographer and author Gary Ladd will explore this contoured land through images and stories.

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 Road). Glendale lectures will be held in the Roadrunner Room at the Glendale Foothills Library, 19055 N. 57th Avenue (just north of W. Union Hills Drive).

All lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, call GCA at (800) 858-2808, ext. 7033, or visit us on the Web at <http://www.grandcanyon.org>.

Earth Notes

by Peter Friederici



Residents of the Colorado Plateau are blessed to live amid timeless scenery, a rich natural world and a diverse cultural heritage. But like everyone else on the planet, we are also facing an array of environmental problems: air pollution, sprawl, the loss of native plant and animal species, climate change and more. Since 2001, KNAU/Arizona Public Radio and Northern Arizona University's Center for Sustainable Environments have been collaborating on *Earth Notes*, a modest radio program that addresses many of those issues.

Earth Notes is a weekly two-minute program that airs on KNAU and its affiliate stations, as well as on KUNM (New Mexico Public Radio) and KUYI Hopi Radio. The topics it covers are as broad as the landscapes of the Colorado Plateau. They include profiles of the region's ecology, from pinyon pines to spadefoot toads to ants, and celebrations of its cultural diversity, from Hopi salt pilgrimages to Apache wolf songs to the carvings Basque shepherders left behind on aspen trees.

Above all, *Earth Notes* looks at how an ever-growing cadre of modern innovators is working on solutions to the region's environmental issues. They are reinvigorating ancient traditions and pioneering the use of modern technologies. They

are restoring historic adobe buildings in New Mexico. They are installing solar panels on ancient Hopi houses. They are promoting the use of energy-efficient lighting that keeps the region's spectacular night skies dark. They are reintroducing California condors and Mexican wolves to the region's wildlands. They are monitoring the flights of migratory hawks across the Grand Canyon. Unlike much environmental reporting, *Earth Notes* is proactive and forward-looking: it presents the many solutions that accompany environmental problems.

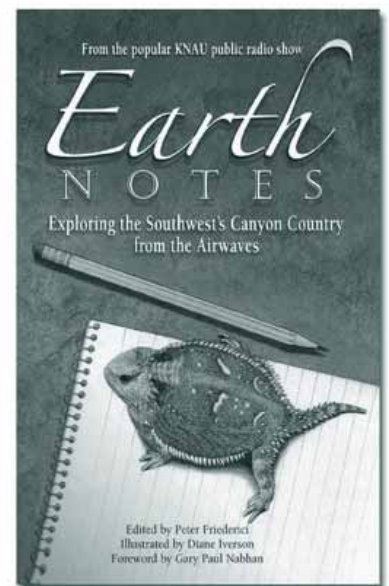
Earth Notes is produced at KNAU in Flagstaff, where I oversee a network of talented freelancers who research and write scripts. All scripts are checked by experts in the field—including many of Northern Arizona University's science researchers—before they are sent to KUNM's Tristan Clum for recording.

You can hear *Earth Notes* on the air, and now you can even carry *Earth Notes* with you. The Grand Canyon Association, in partnership with KNAU and the Center for Sustainable Environments, has just published *Earth Notes: Exploring the Southwest's Canyon Country from the Airwaves*, a paperback that compiles 27 *Earth Notes* scripts. Beautifully illustrated with drawings by Prescott artist Diane

Iverson, the book profiles the Colorado Plateau from multiple viewpoints. Like the radio program itself, it includes an overview of the region's natural and cultural diversity as well as a salutary dosage of stories about hopeful environmental solutions.

The principal challenge in compiling the book was making hard choices: with more than 200 scripts to choose from, it was a great challenge to pick only a couple dozen to represent the region and the innovations at play here. But I think we captured something of both the program and the plateau. Thanks to the great work of GCA managing editor Todd Berger and art director Ron Short, you can buy a keepsake of the Colorado Plateau that is ideal for visitors and residents alike.

In addition to compiling and editing Earth Notes (the book), Peter Friederici is the editor of Earth Notes (the radio program), and the editor of A New Plateau: Sustaining the Lands and People of Canyon Country.



Top: Tristan Clum, narrator of the Earth Notes radio program, on the job.

Earth Notes (the book) is now available from the Grand Canyon Association. See the back cover of Canyon Views for ordering details.

Out AND About WITH GCFI



High, Low, Everywhere We Go

In 1889 biologist C. Hart Merriam traveled to northern Arizona to test his theory that elevation and latitude largely determined what type of flora one could find in a given location. At the researcher's disposal were the 12,000-foot San Francisco Peaks and the depths of the Grand Canyon. His "Life Zone" construct was revolutionary at the time.

Subsequent studies have shown that a variety of other factors play a part in determining what biotic communities might exist in a given locale, but, in general, Merriam's theories have withstood the test of time.

The Grand Canyon Field Institute will follow in Merriam's footsteps on two occasions this year. One will be the single-day class "High Country Ecology" with Jack Pennington (July 15), and the other will be "Northern Arizona Top to Bottom," a class instructed by Christa Sadler and Lisa Kearsley. Don't miss these opportunities to put Merriam's "Life Zone" theory, and your backcountry prowess, to the test!

Visit the GCFI Web site at <http://www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute>, or call (866) 471-4435 for more details.

A LOOK AHEAD: UPCOMING GCFI CLASSES

South Rim/Cathedral Wash Photography

May 24-27; Member price: \$400

From stunning South Rim overlooks to a sinuous slot canyon near Lees Ferry, Ken Walters will help you capture the beauty of Grand Canyon. One night's lodging included.

Birds of Greater Flagstaff

June 10; Member price: \$85

This one-day class with Andi Rogers highlights the amazing avifauna of these beautiful high-altitude water sources.

Learning & Lodging: Women of the Grand Canyon

August 18-20; Member price: \$371

From maverick architect Mary Colter to the famous Harvey Girls, women have been making their mark at Grand Canyon since the early days. Accompany Denise Traver as she shares the stories of these hardy souls. Lodging and some meals included.

Canyon Buzz

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

November 30: Condor 389, a wild chick hatched in the spring of 2005, fledged from its nest cave in Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, north of the national park. It is the fourth California condor chick hatched in the wild to fledge in northern Arizona.

December 5: GCA held an "open house" for Grand Canyon residents at Canyon View Information Plaza's Books & More store, which featured caroling by Grand Canyon schoolchildren and community adults, a raffle, and lots of holiday goodies. The event was heavily attended, and GCA plans to make it an annual event.

December 23: Condor 392, the second wild chick hatched in the spring of 2005, fledged inside the national park. It is the fifth California condor hatched in the wild to fledge in northern Arizona.

December 31: The Mohave Generating Station, a coal-fired power plant west of Grand Canyon National Park, closed.

January 16: Inner Gorge Metaphors, an exhibit of the paintings of Moab, Utah, artist Serena Supplee, opened at Kolb Studio. The exhibit ran through March 12.

January 30: GCA's new warehouse officially opened for business.

January 31: GCA's Membership Coordinator Hap Williams left the association to work for Verkamp's Curios on the South Rim. GCA staffer Leona Talker was promoted to Hap's position.

February 3: Editor Peter Friederici, artist Diane Iverson and contributor Brian Bates signed copies of *Earth Notes: Exploring the Southwest's Canyon Country from the Airwaves* at Mountain Sports in Flagstaff.

February 14: Grand Canyon National Park held an open house to discuss transportation options for the South Rim.

March 4-9: GCA staffers Brad Wallis, Tricia Lund, Helen Thompson and Todd R. Berger attended the Association of Partners for Public Lands Annual Convention, in Little Rock, Ark.

March 8: GCFI Administrative Assistant Bonnie Berger left GCA to pursue certification to teach pilates. Elaine Furimsky took over Bonnie's job, having started training on February 28.

March 18: GCA Facilities Manager Brent Oldfield left GCA to return with his wife Linda to her home state of Alabama. Chris Maragos took over Brent's position, having started training on February 28.

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

Calendar

In addition, please check out the lecture schedule on page 9 and "Out and About with GCFFI" on page 11.

March 20: Opening reception for *Metamorphosis: From Here to Where?* at Kolb Studio on the South Rim. The exhibit is part of the annual Arts for Our Park show, featuring art created by the children living in Grand Canyon National Park. The reception begins at 6:00 p.m., and the exhibit continues through April 2.

April 1: GCA will exhibit at the Arizona Book Festival in Phoenix. Author Christa Sadler will be on hand to sign books and speak about fossils in our own backyard. For more information, visit the festival's Web site at <http://www.azbookfestival.org>.

April 10: Opening reception for Arts for the Parks at Kolb Studio on the South Rim. The one-of-a-kind exhibit showcases artists who interpret the nation's public lands through painting. The reception begins at 7:00 p.m., and the show continues through June 5.

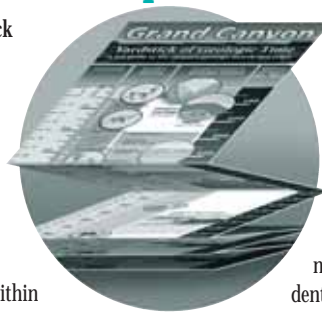
April 21: The opening event of the Northern Arizona Book Festival features a panel discussion on Grand Canyon history with Michael Anderson, Richard Quartaroli, Tom Myers and Janet Balsom. All had their work published by GCA in *A Gathering of Grand Canyon Historians*. The discussion begins at 4:00 p.m. at the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff. For more information, visit the festival's Web site at <http://www.nazbookfestival.org>.

June 18: Opening reception for *Lasting Light: 125 Years of Grand Canyon Photography* at Kolb Studio on the South Rim. The exhibit features historical and modern-day images from the greatest photographers to aim their lenses at the canyon. A book with the same title will be released to coincide with the event. The reception begins at 7:00 p.m., and the exhibit continues through October 15. Many of the featured photographers will be on hand for the opening.

Feast on the New Crop of GCA Originals this Spring

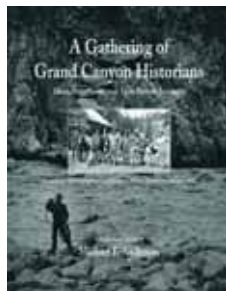
Grand Canyon Geologic Yardstick

Placing Grand Canyon's geologic story within the timeframe of Earth's history is the lofty goal of this three-foot-long, foldable guide. Amazingly, one inch equals 125 million years of geologic time, twice the span of the Age of Mammals. Imagine the minute length of our own lives within the grand expanse of geologic time. A GCA original. 4 3/4" x 3'. Member price: \$5.06 plus S & H



Earth Notes: Exploring the Southwest's Canyon Country from the Airwaves

Published in cooperation with KNAU/Arizona Public Radio and the Center for Sustainable Environments, *Earth Notes* captures the diversity of the Colorado Plateau's landscape through essays from the radio program of the same name. Whether you are a visitor or a resident, you will find this book an inspiring look at how the human culture of the plateau rises to the level of the extraordinary scenery. A GCA original. Paperback, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", 72 pages. Member price: \$5.91 plus S & H



A Gathering of Grand Canyon Historians: Ideas, Arguments, and First-Person Accounts

In the winter of 2002, some 200 aficionados of Grand Canyon history gathered on the South Rim for the inaugural Grand Canyon History Symposium. GCA has just published the proceedings from that doubly historic event, which contains an esoteric and intriguing collection of essays that are accessible to lay readers. The book, edited by Michael F. Anderson, covers everything from a proposed trans-canyon tramway to the Grand Canyon on postage stamps. A GCA original. Paperback, 8 1/2" x 11", 200 pages. Member price: \$12.75 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 that 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, PO Box 399, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023; tberger@grandcanyon.org.

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