

A Stroll in the Park: 2005 Members' Gathering

by Hap Williams, Membership Coordinator

They came from all over the United States. Mark Hicks flew in from Baltimore, Md. Kristi Greenfield drove from Shoreline, Wash. Johanna Johanson and Joanne Thompson came from Placitas, N.Mex. The Lewises came from Oklahoma, the Leaders from South Carolina, the Morels from Illinois, the Jacksons from California, Kim Christiansen from Iowa, Bonnie Murray from Nevada—and the list goes on.

These people and others from all corners of the nation came by car, bus, train or plane to the Grand Canyon the weekend of September 9 for the 2005 GCA Members' Gathering. Their impetus was a weekend packed with informational programs on the canyon they all cherish. Educational sessions included three favorites from the past: Mike Anderson's "Village History Walk," showings of the Kolb brothers' 1911 river-running movie, and an early-morning hike to Ooh-Aah Point on the South Kaibab Trail, led by Grand Canyon Field Institute instructor Jack Pennington. In addition, a Grand Canyon Music Festival performance celebrating the songs and music of Latin America attracted 82 members and presenters on Saturday night.

Several new presentations also intrigued eager listeners this year. Local historian Henry



Karpinski peppered his talk on the early days of Hermit Trail with his usual wit, recounting the trail's history from its beginnings in 1889 as the Silver Bell Trail through the torching of Hermit Camp in 1936. Jan Balsom, Grand Canyon National Park's chief of cultural resources, spoke on the rich archaeological resources found at Grand Canyon. Jeff Cross, director of Grand Canyon National Park's Science Center, dazzled an early morning, standing-room-only crowd by discussing the effects of Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River ecosystem.

Carl Bowman discusses air quality on the canyon's rim.

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a stroll in the park, Continued

In addition, Grand Canyon interpretive ranger Allyson Mathis spoke to members about mining history at Grand Canyon. Ranger Carl Bowman's rim walks discussing air quality featured a visit to the air quality monitoring station at Yavapai Observation Station. Ecologist John Vankat took participants on a historical journey through the surrounding forests as he discussed forest health and the effects of fire. And the ever-popular Mike Buchheit, GCFI director, shared humorous anecdotes and park photographs in a unique look at "the grandest of canyons."

One of the more unusual offerings was a spur-of-the-moment star-gazing session on both Friday and Sunday evenings. Joe Orr, who attended the Members' Gathering as a guest of GCA's chief financial officer John Pearson, came down from Bryce Canyon National Park where he presents programs on the night skies. Joe generously offered to bring out his "night laser" (a laser pointer with a green beam that "reached to the stars") to reveal constellations for interested members. About a dozen people huddled together

each night in the early fall chill at Mather Point to look skyward and listen to Joe's star lore.

The diversity of topics at this year's event reflected the interests of our increasing membership. The first such event, in 1995, had less than a dozen members in attendance. The 2005 gathering, GCA's 11th annual get-together, drew 170 participants.

Amazingly, our membership has grown by nearly 3,000 members since last September. Naturally, such a large increase has brought new challenges and opportunities. Chief among the challenges has been the task of accommodating a growing number of participants at Members' Gathering. In a remote location such as Grand Canyon, there are few places large enough to host 120 people for lunch—especially when those same facilities are sought by throngs of sightseers from all over the world. This year's luncheon reservations outgrew the maximum allowed by our permit at Shoshone Point, and the meal had to be moved to the Grand Canyon School's gymnasium/

multi-purpose room. (The scenery at Shoshone Point was not to be missed totally, though; shuttles took the interested after-lunch crowd out to the point for an afternoon stroll.)

Jovial and creative GCA members took all challenges in stride, however. Even a thoroughly tested but apparently stage-shy sound system which resulted in one "silent" showing of the Kolbs' movie did not phase this crowd—audience members simply provided their own narration.

Member feedback on this year's event has been quite positive, with encouraging and innovative suggestions on how to handle even larger crowds in the future. With the support of our many dedicated members, the challenges inherent in a larger constituency become opportunities—for more member programming, different types of events, more frequent member communications, varied program sites, more members-only products, etc. GCA is grateful for our members' commitment to Grand Canyon National Park and intends to honor—and preserve—that loyalty by exploring these types of enhanced member benefits during the coming year. And I'm betting the 2006 Members' Gathering will be just another (wonderful) stroll in the park.

Jeff Cross of the Grand Canyon National Park Science Center speaks to GCA members about the effects of Glen Canyon Dam. Photograph by Tom Miller

Grand Canyon Semester

by Kim Andrews

The Grand Canyon Semester, an experiential learning program offered through Northern Arizona University, might just be the best-kept secret in American academia. The program focuses on exploration, adventure, and community as learning tools, and the experiences that I *personally* racked up during my all-too-short time in Flagstaff have taught me an indescribable amount.

I spent most of my undergraduate career at Johns Hopkins University, which is located in Baltimore, Md. Baltimore is a big, dirty, East Coast city. There are many things to love about the place, and love it I did, but after three years I began to itch for something new—something away. An honors society that I had joined sent me an E-mail containing a link to the Grand Canyon Semester homepage. I clicked on it. The rest is history.

I had always loved the American West in some capacity—the open skies, skiing in Colorado. I had never seen the Grand Canyon, nor had I ever been to Arizona prior to enrolling in the program. So when I was led, blindfolded, to the rim of the canyon, I had a vague expectation of grandeur and beauty. When I was made to see, what I saw literally took my breath away and cemented the place in my heart as a destination that lives and breathes within me. As dramatic as that sounds, there is simply no other way to describe my relationship with the Arizona wilderness as I experienced it through the Grand Canyon Semester.

Since high school I've been avidly "outdoorsy;" to appreciate all that the Grand Canyon Semester has to offer, one shouldn't mind getting a little dirty. Or perhaps a *lot* dirty, depending on what the day or the trip has in store. From scrambling into caves to wading in the Colorado River, there can be no doubt that this is a *hands-on* program.

Experiential learning is an interesting and relatively modern school of thought that asserts learning by *doing* is just as good as, and probably better than, learning simply by third-party research, memorization, or other traditional forms of education. The Grand Canyon Semester takes experiential education and fuses it with classroom courses to form an integrated, best-of-both-worlds program that involves both traditional research and complete immersion.

The Grand Canyon Semester has added, as all wonderful academic endeavors should, a further degree of beautiful strangeness to my college experience. I have seen nature as raw power and subtle beauty, humans as monsters and gods, the planet as fragile and endlessly resilient. The Grand Canyon Semester has taught me more about myself and the world around me than I ever thought I would learn in one semester.

When we are in college, we sometimes forget to *explore*, and adventure is the stuff of life. I would encourage anyone who is at all interested in the unique and fascinating culture, politics, and landscape of the American Southwest to apply for this program. There is nothing else like it.

The Grand Canyon Semester invites you to *experience* education!

Join Northern Arizona University and Grand Canyon National Park for a semester of unparalleled adventure and new experiences. Study in campus classrooms and "The Oldest Classroom on Earth": the Grand Canyon. You will earn credits in a variety of subjects while exploring wilderness areas, attending lectures, hiking back-country trails, visiting archaeological sites, and rafting the Colorado River. For information and online application go to <http://www.grandcanyonsemester.nau.edu> or contact us by E-mail for personal assistance at GrandCanyon@nau.edu. Applications are being accepted now for the fall 2006 semester.

Kim Andrews is a 2004 alumnus of the Grand Canyon Semester.

The 2004 Grand Canyon Semester class prepares to head down the Colorado River at Lees Ferry. Photograph by Sandra Swift



Growing Up Below the Rim

by George J. Davis

You never know when it is going to happen. One of those moments that pushes you down the road of life, makes you better than you were the moment before. One of those moments that makes you see things more clearly, makes you see what is important and what is not.

Take that 21-year-old guy who looked out from Mather Point for the first time. He took off across the country after his freshman year in college, seeing the sights of the West. He dropped in to see the Grand Canyon, the sight that every American should see.

It was a hot August day, but the cool breeze off the rim almost made it pleasant. He was not ready for the vastness of the scene, how it went on seemingly forever. And no matter how often he looked, it seemed to keep changing. He wondered right away if it were possible to get down into the canyon, to see that grand sight from within.

After a few inquiries, he and his semi-enthusiastic girlfriend were on their way down the Bright Angel Trail early the next morning. Going down was fun with the scenes changing by the minute. The awesome canyon surrounded them. Looking up at the canyon walls, now transformed into

mountains, time slipped away. A very long hike brought them out well after dark.

That was it. In a “moment” that lasted from early morning until late at night, he had a glimpse of something. Something that would occupy his thoughts and shape his life.

There was this other guy. He was at the overhang at Hermit Camp in mid-July, and the thermometer registered 104 degrees F. He was on his sixth hike below the rim, and he had just learned something: he liked to hike alone, thinking of himself as a Colin Fletcher type. He had been to Hermit before, to Clear Creek and to Boucher. This was the life: stay below the rim for a week or so, come out and rejuvenate, then go right back in.

Something happened on that particular trip, though. He realized he had not seen or spoken to any person in 57 hours. How many people can say that? Around every corner, and especially there at Hermit, he expected to see *somebody*. The only evidence of humankind he had seen were Boucher’s cabins, some river rafters (from a long way off) and a lot of footprints. Then, it dawned on him that he, in truth, was a social person, and that the canyon, in all its majesty,

just was not enough without someone to share it. He headed home. Let’s try this canyon stuff another time, he thought.

This next fellow has a good story. He was 25 years old and had a serious girlfriend. It was Thanksgiving weekend, and they managed to drive to the canyon from their homes in Albuquerque to do some hiking. He was in graduate school at the University of New Mexico. He chose his school according to the criteria: (a) How close was it to the Grand Canyon? (b) Who had better financial aid? UNM won.

It was warm and sunny, but not terribly hot like in summer. They made it down to Hermit Camp on day one and down to the rapids on day two. Then, he took out the ring. Yes, he asked her to marry him, right there at Hermit Rapid. And yes, she said “Yes.” To this day, he has a picture of Hermit Rapid on his office door. Another moment. Another step in the canyon.

This next guy really should not have been on the river. Or so he thought. His wife was with him—it was their first wedding anniversary—but he was convinced they did not have the kind of money the



trip was costing them. He was also afraid of the water, could not swim and, understandably, was more than a bit nervous. He pulled the straps on his life jacket tight at Lees Ferry as the rubber raft pushed off from the riverbank.

He had his maps, his river guides, his camera, his memories and his expectations. It took all of 60 seconds on the water for him to realize that, yes, he should be there. Luckily they had signed on with a guide who liked to hike, so they did some serious walking at the Little Colorado, North Bass, Matkatamiba and eight miles up Havasu Creek. How can six and a half days seem as only one? Another moment. Another angle.

Understanding. Growing.

Speaking of growing, lets talk about two kids who saw the canyon up close. One boy was ten years old, the other was seven. They had hats, they had canteens, they had smiles and they had a few canyon miles behind them. On this trip, they sat under the trees next to Roaring Springs on a beautiful August day. Dad was beaming, and so was Mom.

The older one had been to the North Rim before but did not remember it. The younger one was awestruck with wonder. They were good travelers, always had been. It took Dad a little longer to get up to that 8,000-foot trailhead than on trips past, but he was almost 40 by then. They limped over to the campground and had the best pizza of their lives. At that moment, it was hard to imagine four people feeling any closer. They didn't know it then, but seven years later they would be cinching up their life vests at Lees Ferry. Six and a half days after that, they would be even closer.

Our next canyon character was tired when he got to the park. He was at a meeting in Phoenix and "stopped by" the canyon on his way home. He

had 42 hours to see what he could see, before getting back to Phoenix, the airport, the "real world." He hiked down to the Tonto Platform, above the mouth of Cottonwood Canyon. It was about 11:00 a.m. on an overcast November day when he reached Cottonwood. His 47-year-old ankles told him that he better get going back up to Horseshoe Mesa if he had any hope of getting out before dark.

But he didn't leave right away. He was at the perfect viewpoint. Golden cottonwoods below to the left, warm Tapeats sandstone to sit on, the river right in front, and the Granite Gorge to the right. Turning around, he could see all the way to Hance. He had it all. The past, the unbelievable present, and a promising future. Even the hike out was a joy. He understood value: the value of life, the value of love and the value of the little things that make us what we are.

Just one more guy to meet. The guy writing this story. He is 54 now, and he has visited the canyon 27 times. That's 27, and he is not done counting. The kids have grown and gone, but he goes back now with his love. Once to take her down to

Horseshoe Mesa, and once to visit in a below-zero January. He lives all the way across the country these days, so the visits take a little more planning. He will be back, though. He is already thinking about another river trip and some walking. How can he not? There is undoubtedly another moment out there. You just never know when it is going to happen.

George J. Davis is a GCA member who lives in Atlanta with his wife, Mary Ellen. They have two grown sons and look forward to their next trip to the canyon.

The inner canyon from Hermit Road. Photograph by the author



Sojourns:

A Kaleidoscope of Beauty

by Hap Williams, Membership Coordinator



Every now and then, a new voice or image or scent invites me to experience the familiar in new ways. From the vantage of a different perspective, this stranger beckons me to stand in awe at the ordinary transformed into the extraordinary by a subtle shifting of the lens through which I view my world. This is the promise of *Sojourns*, the new theme-based magazine debuting in January of 2006 with the intent of “enhancing the experience and heightening the awareness of visitors to these wonderful parks, deserts, forests and historic places” of the Colorado Plateau.

Sojourns is published by the Peaks, Plateaus and Canyons Association (PPCA), a consortium of nonprofit organizations that support education and research on the public lands of the Colorado Plateau. Grand Canyon Association is one of 14 PPCA cooperating associations that partner with such agencies as the National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to further the missions of these agencies. In 2004 alone, PPCA member associations operated more than 100 nonprofit bookstores and contributed more than \$4 million to support further research and education on this region’s public lands.

No surprise, then, that PPCA should bring forth a publication that combines science, art, history, literature and philosophy to offer new insights on a venerable area with as much to teach us about

our modern lives as about the history of the plateau. The inaugural issue of *Sojourns* focuses on birth and renewal, an apt theme for a landscape that has seen the rise and fall of dinosaurs and other life-forms, has been inundated and abandoned by ancient seas numerous times in the past billion years, and has been witness to the comings and goings of many peoples and cultures in its long history.

Articles in this issue include Michael Engelhard’s essay on birth, renewal and change among the Navajo; Rose Houk’s examination of the vulnerability of newborn wild animals; Alfred Runte’s look at how the railroads promoted the American West; and Christa Sadler’s story about the shifting world of paleontology. Not content to record facts alone, *Sojourns* muses on the contemporary relevance of these findings, asking us to question what portents surface among them.

With the wide-ranging eye of the curious and reflective observer, *Sojourns* explores what the Colorado Plateau tells us about its long past and its diverse present, and examines what messages it holds for the future. As Lyman Hafen so gracefully expresses in the introduction to the inaugural issue, “Each article, each essay, each monograph or story or insight shared here, is a kind of erosion-resistant rock cap that

contributes to the formation of a beautiful landscape of understanding. . . . The more we learn about the Colorado Plateau—the more we immerse ourselves in its history, its science, its art, and its lore—the more vividly that landscape takes shape in our minds.”

For readers who wish to explore ever more fascinating facets of this vast, rugged region many of us have come to call home, *Sojourns* promises to be an endless kaleidoscope of perspectives on a landscape of endless beauty. We who work for Grand Canyon Association hope this inspires us all to better appreciate and preserve this incredible legacy for future generations.



How to Receive *Sojourns*

Want to explore the Colorado Plateau from the comfort of your home? Here are two ways to get your own copy of the twice-yearly *Sojourns*:

Join Grand Canyon Association at the Sojourner level (\$50 per year). This guarantees not only every issue of *Sojourns* in your home mailbox but also entitles all family members of your household the additional benefits of GCA membership:

- ❖ a 15% discount on purchases at our stores, from our Web site and through mail order;
- ❖ discounts at sister stores serving public lands nationwide;
- ❖ a subscription to *Canyon Views*, our quarterly member newsletter;
- ❖ a subscription to our new monthly E-mail newsletter;
- ❖ a catalog and discounts on Grand Canyon Field Institute courses;
- ❖ a welcome gift;
- ❖ a tax deduction to the fullest extent allowable under the law;
- ❖ and the satisfaction of supporting one of the world's premier parks!

A member application is available on our Web site: <http://www.grandcanyon.org>.

Individual issues may be purchased through our Web site or by calling our Mail Order Department at (800) 858-2808, ext. 7030

Canyon Country Community Lecture Series Schedule

Prescott, December 18, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

**Historical Mining at Grand Canyon
Presented by Jack Pennington**

For over a century, the lure of fast riches has drawn numerous miners and entrepreneurs to Grand Canyon. Learn about the colorful tales of those who negotiated the canyon's harsh environment in pursuit of fame and fortune.

Prescott, January 15, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

**History of Phantom Ranch
Presented by Marjorie "Slim" Woodruff**

When early tourists arrived at the Grand Canyon, their first thought was often, "I want to go down there. I'm not sure why: I just do." Turn-of-the-twentieth-century entrepreneurs helped satisfy this yearning with tourist camps and, later, cabins. The best-known human-made inner-canyon destination is Phantom Ranch.

Flagstaff, January 25, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

**Mining the Grand Canyon to Save It: The Orphan Lode Uranium Mine and National Security
Presented by Michael Amundson**

Along Grand Canyon's Hermit Road sits the old Orphan Lode Uranium Mine. Surrounded by a tall chain-link fence, the site is ringed by

"Caution: Radioactive Area" signs. These warnings only hint that the Orphan, which operated on an inholding in a national park, was one of the nation's richest uranium mines.

Flagstaff, February 15, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

**Inspiration from Landscapes
Presented by Shonto Begay**

In Navajo, the word *shonto* refers to "light reflecting off water." A similar glint is in Shonto Begay's eyes when his paintbrush meets canvas. Born on a Navajo reservation sheep camp to a weaver of Tonalea storm patterns and a respected medicine man, Begay was removed from his hogan home as a boy and was forced to attend a government boarding school away from his family and culture. Now he reclaims his identity through his art, balancing the harsh realities of reservation life with the amazing beauty found among its canyons and mesas.

Prescott, February 19, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

**The Last Wagon Train: The Hole-in-the-Rock Expedition
Presented by Stewart Aitchison**

In 1879, 230 settlers in southwestern Utah heeded the call from the leaders of the Mormon Church

to pull up stakes and move to the distant San Juan River country of southeastern Utah. Their six-month-long journey became one of the most extraordinary wagon trips ever undertaken in North America. Their trail is one of peril, difficulty, spectacular scenery and determination.

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

The Battleship

by Sally Underwood

The Grand Canyon Association Members' Gathering in September was a great success made even more enjoyable by picture-perfect weather, so who could resist staying at the canyon just one more day and doing a nice day hike? Certainly not fellow GCA member Kristi Greenfield and I, who set out on Monday morning to hike and scramble up The Battleship, the prominent monolith rising above Indian Garden to the west.

We set out at a brisk pace down the Bright Angel Trail, enjoying the last blooms of purple and white asters and yellow broom snakeweed that seemed to be hanging on to summer despite the definite feel of fall in the morning air. We left the trail slightly above the drainage found directly below Two-Mile Corner and started the long contour along Supai ledges. This would eventually take us to the saddle between the upper sandstone cliffs of the Esplanade member of the Supai Group, which forms the bulk of The Battleship and the rim at Maricopa Point. Many faint paths are evident at different levels; cairns here and there will help you navigate through minor drainages. As I had found on previous hikes out there, "all roads lead to Rome" and as long as you stay above the level of the main cliff forming the saddle, it doesn't matter too much which path you choose. Time and patience will reward you with fantastic views of Dana Butte and Horn Creek to the west and Cheops and Isis across the river.

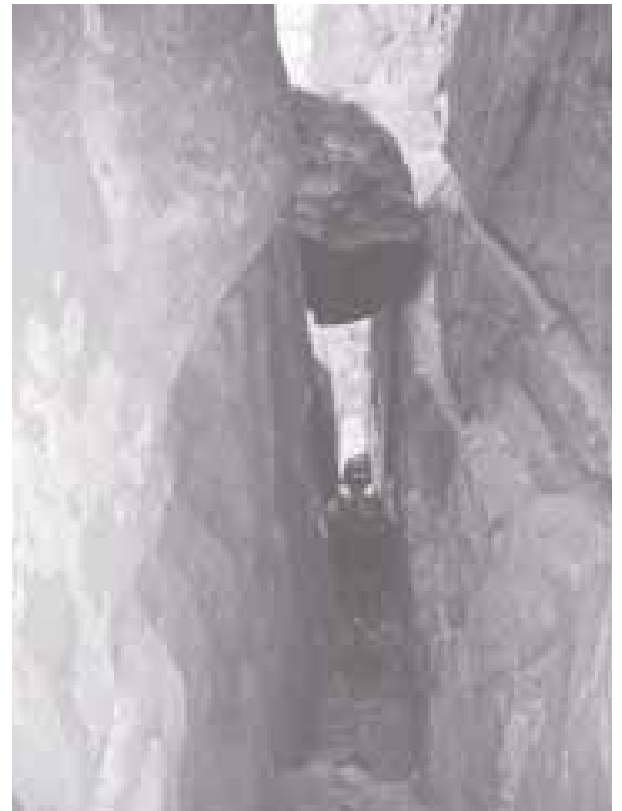
We pressed on to the summit with the promise of even better views from the top, following a path that continued on the east flank and then up to the base of the Esplanade cliffs. The next part takes some route-finding, determination, and rock-scrambling ability as you climb your way up a sandstone chute and chimney and along narrow ledges. Fellow hiking companions in the past had been known to bring a rope or length of webbing to use as a hand line for the "sketchier" parts, but I had not brought one, so Kristi and I pushed, pulled, wedged, scooted and persevered until we found ourselves standing on the summit at last. We sat down to enjoy the wonderful panorama before us as we ate lunch.

I had had the good fortune of being up there before with Grand Canyon National Park's Trails Archaeologist Mike Anderson, who along with other long-time residents, told me some of the lore surrounding The Battleship. Emery Kolb is credited with naming it "Battleship Iowa" and with naming the butte now known as O'Neill Butte "Battleship Oregon," both famous ships commissioned in the 1890's and used in the Spanish American War. After Bucky O'Neill was killed in that war, the Battleship Oregon was

renamed O'Neill Butte in his honor and Battleship Iowa was shortened to just "The Battleship."

The same path that Kristi and I used to get to the saddle was also used by Dan Hogan to access his "Orphan" copper mine just west of Maricopa Point; the trail was improved in the 1950s as the mine was reopened to extract uranium.

Looking up the sandstone chimney on the way to The Battleship. Photograph by the author





Left: The author examining inscriptions on top of The Battleship. Photograph by the author

Below right: The Battleship, from the Bright Angel Trail

During the early days of World War I, before the United States entered the war, an American flag was placed on The Battleship summit. Mike Anderson tells the story of that flag being removed in 1915 by some Japanese fellows working at El Tovar Hotel, replacing it with a Japanese flag. This caused an international incident at the South Rim, and John Hance gathered together a group of patriotic vigilantes to confront the Japanese men, telling them they had until sundown to replace the American flag or they wouldn't live to see the next sunrise. A group of Fred Harvey employees intervened on behalf of their Japanese coworkers, confronting Hance and almost causing a riot. At that point, other South Rim pioneers came to Hance's rescue bearing arms. It is not known exactly who replaced the flag, but at the end of the day, the Stars and Stripes waved once more over The Battleship. The end of that same decade saw more activity on top of The Battleship as a proposed location for a support tower along one of the possible alignments for a trans-canyon aerial tramway. Thankfully, the tramway was never built.

What goes up, must come down, and Kristi and I reversed our gyrations and gymnastics to



work our way back down the main cliff face and then retraced our steps to the Bright Angel Trail, having savored a beautiful fall day at the canyon as well as a taste of canyon history from days gone by.

A cautionary note: this off-trail hike should only be attempted by those experienced at route-finding and scrambling in the Grand Canyon. Take plenty of water and food, and tell others where you are going and when you will be back.

Sally Underwood is a GCA member and a Grand Canyon Field Institute instructor.

A Legacy of Grand Canyon Art

by Pam Frazier, Deputy Director

As a way of celebrating Grand Canyon National Park's 75th Anniversary in 1994, Grand Canyon Association purchased its first piece of original artwork—an oil painting by Gordon Brown titled “Breaking of Light”—and developed a series of products commemorating this important milestone in the park's history. On the same occasion, the Grand Canyon Trust commissioned noted Southwest artist Curt Walters to create “National Treasure,” which was presented to the National Park Service and then donated to the Grand Canyon Association.

These two paintings became cornerstones of a collection that now includes dozens of artworks and continues to grow every year.

It just so happened that GCA had completed rehabilitation of the auditorium space at Kolb Studio in 1993, and we hosted the first of many changing exhibitions at this unique venue that same year. The exhibit program was experimental at first, but it didn't take long for the visiting public and local community members to demonstrate their enthusiasm for it. The program also proved to be a natural way to address one of the park's primary interpretive themes: Inspiration and Experience.

Historically, artists played a vital role in building public support for national parks and monuments. They introduced the dramatic landscapes of the West to eastern audiences (read voters) and opened their hearts and minds to a new aesthetic. Their artworks influenced lawmakers and encouraged tourism.

The Grand Canyon Association would like to continue the tradition of encouraging artists to create new works inspired by the Grand Canyon.



“Breaking of Light” by Gordon Brown

To this end we are building a legacy of Grand Canyon art to be enjoyed by the visiting public.

Many of the paintings have been acquired by GCA's sponsorship of a Grand Canyon category in the annual Arts for the Parks competition. Each year we are able to choose from among the juried finalists who have submitted paintings of Grand Canyon subject matter. These may be landscapes, wildlife vignettes, or cultural subjects, but we are always looking for an unusual perception or rendering.

Over the years we have received donations from artists and collectors as well. In all cases, the artworks have been so valuable that we could not have acquired them any other way. This year two very significant donations have enriched GCA's collection. The Bruce McHenry family contributed an untitled watercolor painted by Gunnar Widfors in the early 1930s. The artist gave the painting to the McHenrys as a thank you gift for providing him with room and board while he painted on the North Rim. This fall painter

Bruce Aiken donated an oil-on-canvas triptych called “Influence.” People who are familiar with Aiken's representational art express surprise at the seemingly abstract rendering of textures and colors from rocks of the Bright Angel Shale. Indeed, this work was inspired by his exploration of “the same subject, just a closer look.”

Grand Canyon Association's art collection is currently displayed at Kolb Studio together with selected pieces from Grand Canyon National Park's Museum Collection and artworks donated by artists who have participated in the park's Artist-in-Residence program. This exhibit continues through January 3, 2006.

You are invited to take a virtual tour of the exhibit on our Web site at <http://www.grandcanyon.org>. Click on Kolb Studio Art Exhibits to view “A Legacy of Grand Canyon Art” or any of the exhibits from the past two years. To learn more about the park's Artist-in-Residence program, visit <http://www.nps.gov/volunteer/air.htm>.

Grand Canyon

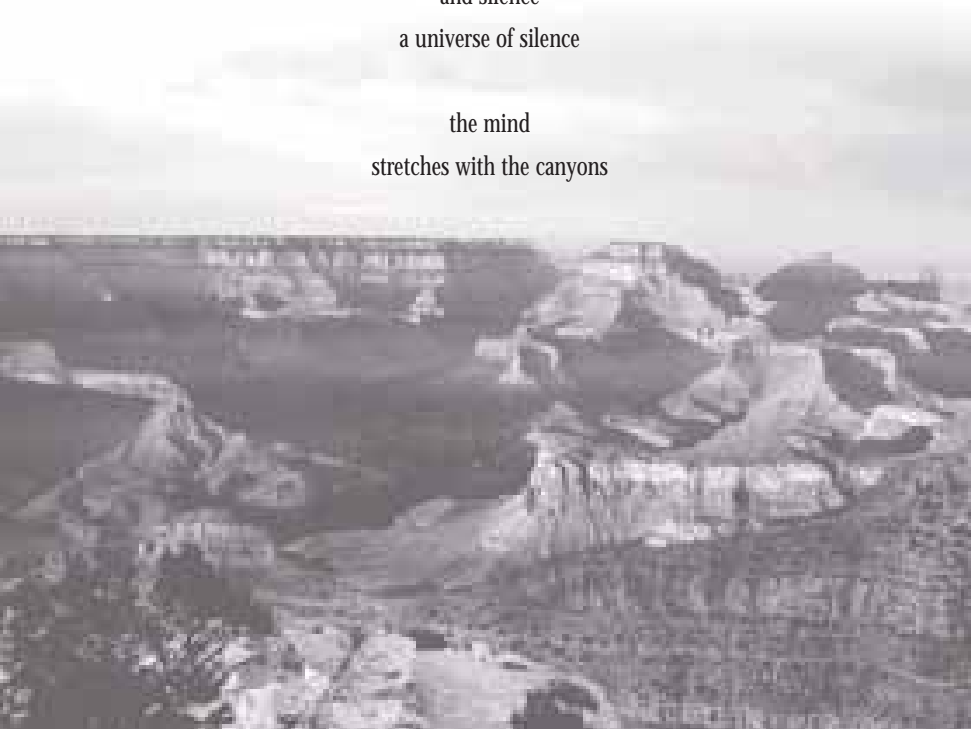
by Robert C. Landes

the canyons
stretch to the horizon
Martian landscape
unearthly grandeur
blue and purple
red and brown
and gold
and far below
the river
dark green ribbon
twisting
winding

blue sky
white clouds
yellow sun
green river
red brown purple gold canyons
infinity
cut in stone

and silence
a universe of silence

the mind
stretches with the canyons



Robert C. Landes is a GCA member who lives with his wife, Janice, in Laurel, Del. Bob is a retired scientist who has backpacked many of the trails in Grand Canyon National Park.

Canyon Buzz

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

September 1: The Grandview Trail reopened to hikers one month ahead of schedule. The National Park Service closed the trail last March when a rockslide destroyed a quarter-mile section of the upper portion of the trail.

September 3: The Bureau of Reclamation, in cooperation with the National Park Service, reduced water flows from Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River just above Grand Canyon National Park. The reduction allowed scientists to evaluate habitat-building experiments in the Grand Canyon.

September 10–11: The annual GCA Members' Gathering took place on the South Rim. See the full recap on page 1.

September 17: GCA exhibited at the Prescott Book Festival in Prescott, Ariz.

September 19: The National Park Service announced that the entrance fee to Grand Canyon National Park will rise to \$25 per car in 2006. NPS has not set a date for the increase to take effect, but GCA will update members in *Canyon Views* when more information is released.

October 11–13: GCA exhibited at the Arizona Library Association's annual convention in Phoenix.

October 13: A Legacy of Grand Canyon Art opened at Kolb Studio on the South Rim. The first-ever joint exhibit of works in the collections of Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Canyon Association will be on display until January 3, 2006. See the related article on page 10.

October 16–19: GCA exhibited at the Geological Society of America's Annual Meeting and Exhibition in Salt Lake City.

October 21: Services at Grand Canyon National Park's North Rim closed for the winter. The North Rim will reopen in May 2006.

October 24: GCA, KNAU, and the Center for Sustainable Environments cosponsored an *Earth Notes* book signing at the NAU Bookstore, featuring the book's editor, Peter Friederici.

October 24: The Desert View Campground on the South Rim closed for the winter. The campground will reopen in May 2006.

November 10: The National Park Service at Grand Canyon released the final environmental impact statement on revisions to the Colorado River Management Plan. The document can be downloaded for public review at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/crmp>.

November 13: Mather Campground on the South Rim switched to winter camping rules. Through February 28, 2006, all sites are first-come, first-served and cost \$10.00 per night.

Calendar

In addition, please check out the lecture schedule on page 7.

December 3: Join Peter Friederici, editor of *Earth Notes*, for a reading and book signing at Bookman's in Flagstaff, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Contributors Bryan Bates and Anne Minard, as well as Tristan Clum, host of the *Earth Notes* radio show, will also be on hand. Call (928) 774-0005 for more information.

January 16: Inner Gorge Metaphors, an exhibition of the paintings of Moab, Utah, artist Serena Supplee, opens at Kolb Studio. The show continues through March 12.

February 3: Join editor Peter Friederici and contributor Bryan Bates for an *Earth Notes* book signing at Mountain Sports in Flagstaff from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Call (928) 226-2885 for more information.

A LOOK AHEAD: UPCOMING GCFI CLASSES

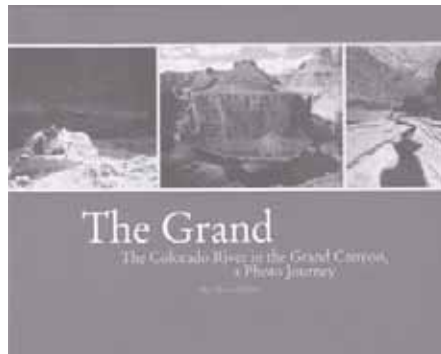
March 13-18: Hermit to Bright Angel Geology Backpack; *Member price: \$495*

April 7-12: Red Canyon to Grandview Geology Backpack; *Member price: \$495*

April 24-27: Women's Introductory Backpack: Indian Garden; *Member price: \$375*

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

Give the Grand Canyon this Holiday Season

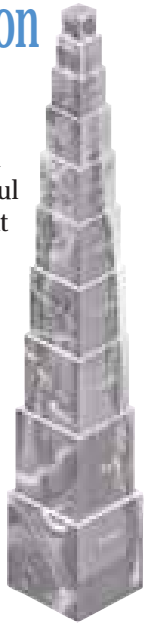


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GCA's new Grand Canyon Stacking Blocks are colorful and educational cubes that create a tower of information about hiking in the canyon, geology, wildlife, geologic time, and Grand Canyon history. Kids of all ages will enjoy stacking their way to a canyon of knowledge. *Retail price: \$18.95 plus S & H; Member price: \$16.11 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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