



GRAND  
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# CanyonViews

VOLUME XVIII, NO. 3/FALL 2011

## Listening to the Descendants:

Tribal Perspectives and Integration  
at Grand Canyon National Park

## Grand Canyon's 2012 History Symposium:

A True Grand Canyon Experience

## Little Surprises All Around Me:

Birds of Grand Canyon



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The Grand Canyon Association is the National Park Service's official nonprofit partner raising private funds to benefit Grand Canyon National Park, operating retail shops and visitor centers within the park, and providing premier educational opportunities about the natural and cultural history of the region. Memberships are available beginning at \$35 annually. To obtain more information about GCA or to become a member, please visit our Web site at [www.grandcanyon.org](http://www.grandcanyon.org), contact us by phone at (800) 858-2808 or write to us at P.O. Box 399, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-0399, U.S.A.

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Cover photograph: Archaeologists at upper Unkar Delta, river right, Ivo site, in Grand Canyon National Park. Photograph courtesy Dawn Kish, [www.dawnkishphotography.com](http://www.dawnkishphotography.com)



The Grand Canyon Association  
 is the official nonprofit partner  
 of Grand Canyon National Park.

# From the Executive Director Grand Canyon Touchpoints

by Susan Schroeder

**A**t first glance, Grand Canyon National Park and diversity may not seem to go hand in hand. The usually parched, sparsely vegetated climate of the inner canyon seems, to some, to be lacking in variety of life. In fact, the park is one of the most diverse in the country, with habitats ranging from those seemingly more appropriate to Canada to some of the hottest desert areas in the Southwest, with huge varieties of wildlife from river to rims.

Looking at diversity in another way, 11 American Indian Tribes have cultural ties to Grand Canyon, and remnants of their ancestors' lives abound within the park. Tribes trace their roots in the canyon back many centuries, with some tribes believing their spiritual place of emergence and the exit portals of life lie deep within Grand Canyon.

Included in this issue of *Canyon Views* are numerous viewpoints on diversity, from tribal consultants working with the National Park Service on archaeology projects along the Colorado River to a meditation on the enormous variety of birds in the park. You'll also find in these pages an introduction to David Ueberuaga, Grand Canyon National Park's new superintendent, who previously served as superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park for nine years. He comes to Grand Canyon with great enthusiasm to tackle a host of challenges in one of the world's premier national parks. You'll also read a recap of this spring's Members' Gathering at the South Rim by GCA member Ron Alexander; reflections from this summer's GCA-sponsored Polk Intern in archaeology at Grand Canyon, Stephanie Welch; and an interview with Nikki Cooley, a GCA donor and board member and the first female Diné (Navajo) licensed river guide to work in Grand Canyon.

We all have diverse connections to Grand Canyon, with differing things about this remarkable place touching our souls. Let this issue of *Canyon Views* be a celebration of these varying touchpoints.



Photograph courtesy Mike Buchheit

## An App for Grand Canyon

With new technological advances being announced every day, have you wondered when an app would be available for Grand Canyon, your favorite national park? Thanks to Chimani, it's finally here!

Do you want real-time information on hiking or ranger programs? Want to learn more about the park's geology while standing on the canyon's rim? Now, with your iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch or Android device, you can.

Not only has Chimani created an app for Grand Canyon National Park visitors, but they're also giving a portion of the proceeds of each download to the Grand Canyon Association, the park's official nonprofit partner.

"Chimani is honored to partner with the Grand Canyon Association. The association plays such a critical role in the support of the park. From day one, it's always been Chimani's mission to give back and help nonprofits leverage this new and exciting technology," said Kerry Gallivan, Chimani's president.

To download Chimani's Grand Canyon National Park app, visit [www.chimani.com/parks.html#grandcanyon](http://www.chimani.com/parks.html#grandcanyon).



Photograph courtesy Chimani

# Listening to the Descendants:

## Tribal Perspectives and Integration at Grand Canyon National Park

by Janet Balsom, Deputy Chief, Science and Resource Management, Grand Canyon National Park

Over the past 20 years, Grand Canyon National Park staff has worked with our tribal neighbors to better understand their interests, concerns and perspectives on resources within the national park. The first tribal consultation river trip occurred in 1990; tribal participants were a little tentative about committing to a two-week trip down the Colorado River, but the trip launched and its success led to many, many more. On some of the early trips, we realized we were facilitating access to places known to tribal members only from oral histories. It was humbling and gratifying to know that our work was allowing traditional leaders to visit places central to their cultural identity. It took years of work on the part of park staff and our tribal counterparts to become comfortable with the field-based consultations we embarked on. Now, more than 20 years later, it has become a familiar venue, one where tribal representatives share with park staff their views on a host of topics.

Havasupai, Hopi, Hualapai, Southern Paiute, Navajo, Apache, Yavapai and Zuni all have histories that intersect with the lands we manage as Grand Canyon National Park. We must remember that these lands were once tribal lands; although administrative jurisdiction rests with the National Park Service, the associated tribes view these lands as ancestral lands that hold great significance for both their histories and their futures.

Hopi tribal consultants reviewing materials from recent excavations.  
*Photograph courtesy Allyson Mathis*



The Colorado River itself has considerable significance for many of the indigenous peoples of the region. For the Hopi people, the river and canyon are referred to as the Salt Canyon, *O'ongtupka*, representing the place of emergence of their people into the fourth world. The people originated from the *Sipapuni* deep within the canyon, and upon death, their spirit returns to the canyon. For the Navajo people, the river is the river of never-ending life, *Bits'is Nineezi*, a sacred being in and of itself. The confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers represents the sacred male and female beings. The rivers also represent cultural boundaries. For the Zuni people, the rivers symbolize the umbilical cord that connects them to their place of origin deep within the canyon. For the Pai peoples, the canyon and the river are *bakatai'a*, the backbone. The Southern Paiute people have identified a place deep within the canyon where they cross over when they leave this world. The archaeological sites are sometimes referred to as the "footprints of our ancestors," tangible vestiges of those who lived here in the past.

The archaeological sites along the Colorado River have been the focus of our consultation work since the very first river trip in 1990. On that trip, we brought tribal representatives on the river to show them the archaeological sites we knew of and to discuss our concerns regarding their visible erosion and anticipated preservation needs. Outcomes from discussions on that trip led to integration of tribal perspectives into the original archaeological inventory survey parameters, and tribes were instrumental in evaluating the condition of archaeological sites along the river as we conducted formal site assessments. Tribal representatives continue to actively participate in monitoring archaeological sites and areas of traditional cultural concern. Those evaluations are shared with park staff so management plans of action can be developed to address any of the identified concerns.

The excavations along the Colorado River, documented in the Grand Archaeology exhibit at Kolb Studio on the South Rim in summer 2011, are the culmination of 20 years of archaeological work and consultation with all the associated tribes. The sites highlighted in the exhibit contain valuable scientific information, yet the true story is of the people who lived their lives in the canyon. Through tribal consultation, we were able to bring a more personal story to the sometimes rote version of archaeological interpretation. When tribal consultants saw certain aspects of the archaeological sites in the field, they recognized elements as familiar and culturally identifiable to their own lives. Their insights helped us recognize and identify architectural elements and site layouts on the sites themselves. Artifacts in the lab were viewed by knowledgeable tribal consultants, often providing insight as to the use and tradition of specific objects. Whether

they were interpreting minerals for paints or hand-sized *manos* for grinding corn, tribal consultants worked with our staff and the staff at the Museum of Northern Arizona to ensure our understanding of the pieces of the past was correct and that we told the stories in a way that was representative of their history in the canyon. This dialogue allowed the physical remains to come alive and be part of the present, not just artifacts of the past.

Tribal consultation continues to be a major component of our work, and integrating tribal perspectives into our understanding of the canyon is central to providing a more holistic approach to park management and interpretation. We are fortunate to have tribal partners willing to share with us their knowledge and understanding of the environment and Grand Canyon. Without their willingness, we would be looking at things out of context and without the human story.



Participants from a tribal consultation river trip in 2005. Photograph courtesy National Park Service

**Grand Canyon History Symposium  
January 26–29, 2012  
Shrine of the Ages  
South Rim  
Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona**

**Online registration begins October 15, 2011.  
For more information, visit  
[www.grandcanyonhistory.org/symposium.html](http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/symposium.html).**

# Grand Canyon's 2012 History Symposium: A True Grand Canyon Experience

*by Helen Ranney, Director of Outreach and Public Relations*

**T**he first Grand Canyon History Symposium took place in 2002. At the time, I scheduled an inner-canyon hike with my friend Gary Ladd, who would be attending the symposium on the South Rim. I needed to speak with Gary prior to the hike to do some planning, so I asked someone to help me find him at the crowded symposium in Grand Canyon Village's Community Building. Gary rushed out (briefly, he didn't want to miss anything) and told me, "This is fantastic!" He then quickly worked out the hiking details with me and rushed right back in the room. I was curious about what was going on in there, but had to wait until our hike the next day to find out more.

As it turned out, Gary talked about the history symposium for months; he couldn't

believe how great the presentations were and was happy to see so many of the "old-timers" all in one room. I felt like I'd missed out on something special and wished I'd been part of that audience. I vowed not to make the same mistake again.

Fast-forward five years to 2007, and there I was at the second Grand Canyon History Symposium, this time videotaping the presentations as an employee of the Grand Canyon Association. I couldn't believe the diversity of the presentations, the passionate and engaged speakers and the energy in the room. You'd have thought we were at a rock concert instead of a gathering of history aficionados at the South Rim.

Thanks to dedicated members of the Grand Canyon Historical Society, the third Grand

Canyon History Symposium is coming up in January 2012. You too could be a part of a true Grand Canyon experience by listening to these historians share their passion for and thorough research on this place we all care about. You might even learn a thing or two.

I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to meet some of the men and women who have made an impact on recent canyon history, leaving a legacy of adventure and exploration for future generations, and I look forward to again being there in person.

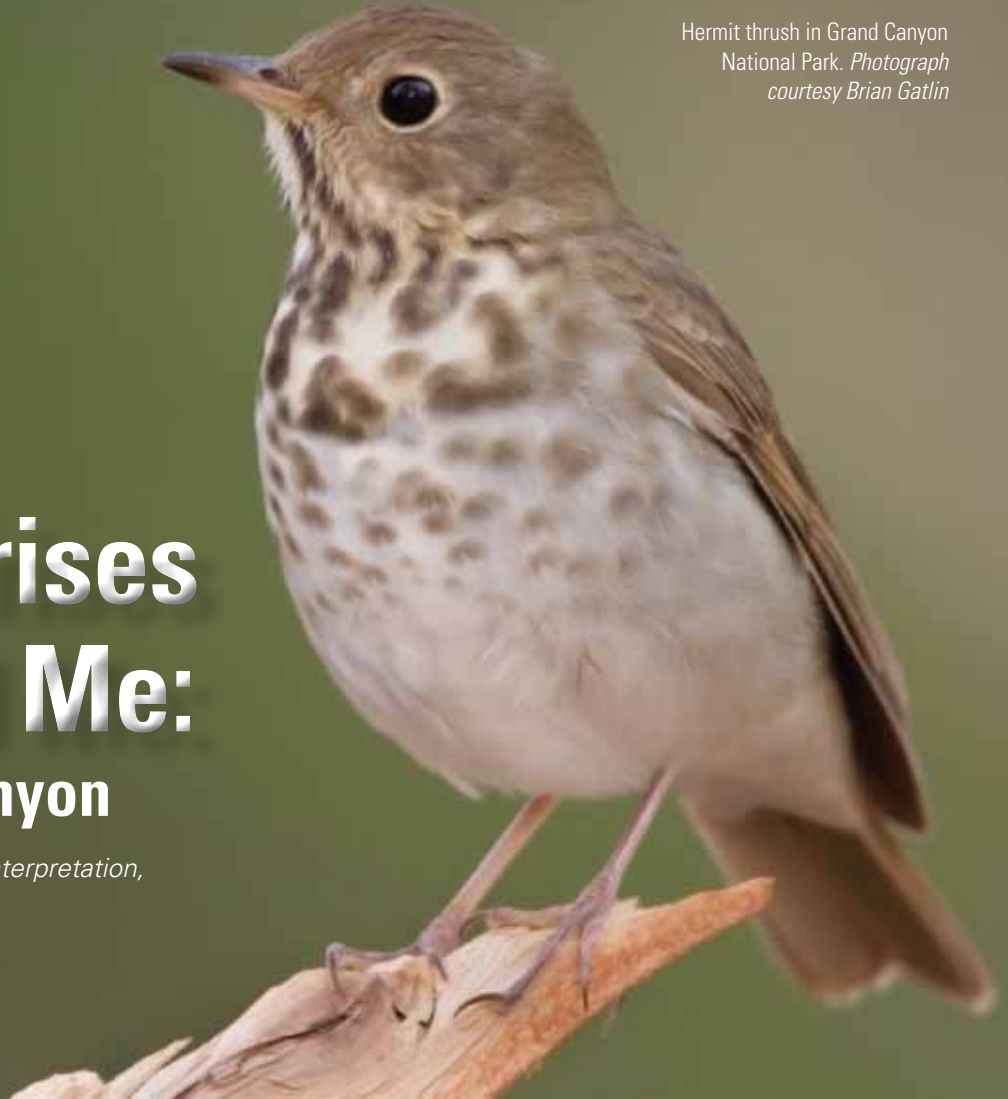
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Emery (left) and Ellsworth Kolb inspect damage to the Edith during their 1911–12 river trip down the Green and Colorado Rivers. *Photograph courtesy GCNP Museum Collection (Image #10527)*

Hermit thrush in Grand Canyon National Park. Photograph courtesy Brian Gatlin

# Little Surprises All Around Me: Birds of Grand Canyon

by Brian Gatlin, Park Ranger, Division of Interpretation,  
Grand Canyon National Park



**T**oday there are Hermit Thrushes singing outside my office window. They shouldn't be in a pinyon-juniper woodland at Tusayan Museum on Grand Canyon National Park's South Rim on a mid-July day—they should be on the North Rim, or in the Rocky Mountains or in the ponderosa pines near higher-elevation Grandview Point. But here they are. Their magical fluting song fills my ears, and I step away from the computer to take a short walk and find them.

Before I know it, I've located five: two singing in the distance and three hopping around near my feet. Why are they here? Are they refugees from the forest fires that have burned hundreds of thousands of acres elsewhere in Arizona? I'll never know, but I'm glad to hear and see them.

After seven years of intensely studying Grand Canyon National Park birds, I continue to find little surprises all around me. This is a product of the spectacular variety of birdlife found in the region. This wonderful diversity of Grand Canyon's bird varieties is one of the park's little-known treasures. More than 350 species of birds have been recorded in the region, ranging from the miniscule Calliope Hummingbird, weighing barely more than a penny, to the massive California Condor, roughly 4,000 times heavier. They include the ubiquitous Common Raven, the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, the brilliant Western Tanager and the Plain Bush-tit. The eloquent songs of the Hermit Thrush and the harsh scolds of the Spotted Towhee fill the air.

For many people, birds are sounds heard at a distance, small, fast-moving creatures

hidden deep in vegetation. By simply taking up a pair of binoculars, a new world appears. A close look at the canyon's birds reveals that their patterns and colors are even more diverse than those of the canyon's rock layers. Peruse the species names on the park bird list—you'll find more colors than you knew existed. Considering just the shades of red, we find pink, rose, rosy, rusty, rufous, ruby, scarlet, vermilion, cinnamon and red, not to mention flammulated (from the Latin for "little flame"), ferruginous (rust) and hepatic (liver-colored). Their plumage patterns are equally diverse: painted, marbled, gilded, bronzed, spotted, hooded, bridled, horned, eared and most appropriately, varied.

Nearly 8,000 feet of topographic relief across the region create room for many different habitats where each species finds its

place. The mixed-conifer forests of the North Rim are home to Dusky Grouse and American Three-toed Woodpeckers, while ponderosa pines on both rims host Western Bluebirds and noisy flocks of Pygmy Nuthatches. Western Scrub-Jays and Juniper Titmice are characteristic of the pinyon-juniper woodland on the South Rim, while Scott's Orioles and Gray Vireos summer in the more open pinyon-juniper of the canyon's upper slopes. Descending deeper into the canyon, Black-throated Sparrows occupy the desolate blackbrush of the Tonto Platform, and Lucy's and Yellow Warblers sing from tamarisk thickets along the Colorado River. Thousands of ducks—Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Ducks, American Wigeons and others—winter on the river itself, and Peregrine Falcons and Red-tailed Hawks glide over the vast open spaces of the canyon.

Each bird fills a particular niche within its habitat. Northern Goshawks are top predators, preying on small mammals and medium-sized birds; Turkey Vultures are scavengers, cleaning up carcasses small and large; Black-chinned Hummingbirds pollinate flowers; Pinyon Jays cache pine nuts, always forgetting to retrieve a few, which in turn propagate new pinyon pines; White-throated Swifts collect insects from the air; Common Ravens teach tourists not to feed the wildlife by stealing every food item left unsecured. Every species has a role to play.

This rich and diverse world of Grand Canyon birds is one in constant flux. While some species such as Mountain Chickadees are year-round residents, others spend only the summer or winter at the canyon. Many more, like Wilson's Warblers and Solitary Sandpipers, are seen only as spring and fall migrants, coming and going from their breeding grounds to the north. The latest northbound spring migrants, such as Common Nighthawks and Blue Grosbeaks, arrive in late May and early June. The earliest southbound birds, Rufous Hummingbirds, begin to appear only a week or two later, in late June. The species found in any given location are constantly changing throughout the year. Adding a



This juvenile Pinyon Jay helps to propagate new trees by eating nuts from the pinyon pine. *Photograph courtesy Brian Gatlin.*

final dash of variety are the birds that are outside their normal range, including dozens of species that have been seen in the region only once, for example the Magnificent Frigatebird, Streak-backed Oriole or White-winged Crossbill, and more common but still unexpected birds like the Hermit Thrushes still singing outside my office.

The tremendous diversity of birdlife at the Grand Canyon offers a rich world

of beauty and discovery that is available to anyone. Similarly stunning biodiversity awaits throughout Grand Canyon, whether it's mammals, insects and invertebrates or plants. The next time you stand on the canyon rim, take time to look away from the canyon and examine the life all around you, including the species in the trees and sky. The longer you look, the more surprises you'll find.

## Your Membership Dollars at Work



Every membership allows the Grand Canyon Association to fund meaningful projects and programs. Along with many other programs, your membership fee contributed to the Transportation for Tribes program—helping to bus Native American school children to school every day; programs related to Grand Canyon National Park's Sister Park, Yuntaishan World Geopark in China; and the Eighteenth Annual Native American Heritage Days event on the North Rim in August—a valuable cultural experience featuring a wide-range of educational and recreational activities. Your continued support makes GCA's mission possible.

Benn Pikyavit performing at the Seventeenth Annual Native American Heritage Days event in 2010. *Photograph courtesy Nancy Varga*

# Canyon Views Talks with Nikki Cooley

Interview with Todd Berger, Director of Publishing

**N**ikki Cooley is the first Diné (Navajo) woman to become a certified river runner on the San Juan River in southern Utah and the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. She is cofounder of the Native Guide Training and Cultural Interpretation Program, and has helped train more than 45 Native American students in the fundamentals of the river guiding industry. Cooley is also a Grand Canyon Association board member and donor.

*When and why did you first run the Colorado River in Grand Canyon and could you describe that experience?*

I worked with a few river guides at Northern Arizona University when I was an undergraduate, and I met seasoned river guide, Laura Colton, there. She invited me to be an assistant for six days on a paddle trip with Arizona Raft Adventures in 1999. After a

short discussion, she offered it to me, and I said, “yes!” It was my first time on any type of boat and my first time really interacting with people who were curious about my Navajo culture. Every time we stopped for a hike or to camp, I was asked so many questions. “What does this mean to the Navajo?” “What do the Navajo think about river running?” I realized that it was important for me to continue river running. It was not only necessary to educate myself and my fellow river guides, but to help people coming from New York or Switzerland to understand that the Navajo People and other Native American tribes have historical ties to the land and the environment, but they are also participants in the western world.

*The water and riverways of the Southwest are very important to the Navajo and other Native tribes in the Southwest. Is that*

*cultural significance in the Navajo Tribe something that originally drew you to becoming a river guide?*

Yes. The Colorado, San Juan and Rio Grande Rivers form a traditional cultural boundary around the Navajo homeland where the holy people sit. I grew up being taught that water is life, water is important and that we should take care of it. I realized when down in the Grand Canyon or on the San Juan River that we have to make sure we tell people this is not a water park, but is culturally and spiritually significant to Native American tribes.

*What prompted you to cofound the Native Guide Training and Cultural Interpretation Program?*

Around 2005, as I was getting into river guiding full-time with Arizona Raft Adventures



and Canyon Explorations, I met Karen English. We'd run into each other and would say, "We have to talk." I had a vision of a training program for Native Americans. My training was the old-school way where I had to work my way up—be available for trips, ask for trips, fight for trips. I had to gain the respect. No one really talked to me about training trips. Karen and I put our heads together and determined there should be some kind of training. We both had our connections to make it happen.

*As the first Navajo woman to be certified as a river guide in the Grand Canyon, how much do you think your cultural knowledge of the landscape impacts the people you guide? Do you think sharing such knowledge is important?*

It is so important. Very, very important. A majority of the people who come on Grand Canyon Colorado River trips are often middle to upper class, from big cities, or foreigners. They have not really been exposed to Native American culture as we have it here in the Southwest. Many don't realize there's a difference between Hopi and Navajo. They don't realize there are 21 tribes in Arizona, with 11 of those tribes holding the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River as sacred parts of their culture.

We went on this hike that I remember so vividly at Clear Creek—after getting wet in the waterfall, we laid on the hot granite to warm ourselves. This man from New York City said to me, "You know, if I had never gone on this trip, I never would have realized that people actually once lived here—the Anasazi/Ancestral Puebloans—actually lived here. I had no idea these people even existed." And that was a confirmation of what I deem my very important work as a cultural educator and interpreter. It's important for other river guides too, as the more they hear it, the more likely they will be to tell Native American cultural stories accurately.

*How much has a tradition of oral history assisted you in your work?*

I grew up with my grandparents and I was taught the Navajo way first—to think and live the Navajo way. Everything was taught orally. We did not write anything down. That traditional background has really given me the confidence and strength to share my culture. Without it, I would have a harder time transferring the information to other people. *Could you tell me about someone who influenced your decision to work with GCA?*

It was actually [GCA Executive Director] Susan Schroeder. We had known each other when she was at NAU. Her talking about the work GCA does was pretty inspiring. Before that, former GCA Executive Director Brad Wallis, former park Superintendent Steve Martin and Deputy Superintendent Palma Wilson helped fund four scholarships for the Native Guide Training Program... Their belief in that kind of work heavily influenced my decision to support GCA.

*What inspires you to volunteer with and donate to GCA?*

It really is the work that they do to fundraise and to support the National Park Service. I believe the work that Grand Canyon National Park does, such as trail work, watershed restoration, etc., is really meaningful, not only to the park itself, but to the people who love and appreciate the park so much. It really is about the projects that GCA supports, and the people who work in and around the park.

*Do you have a favorite trip or experience on the river or in the canyon?*

I'll mention two of them. There was one trip I went on a few years ago with Team River Runner, a nonprofit organization that helps wounded veterans. There were perhaps 20 veterans who were amputees, paraplegics or emotionally/spiritually wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan. They were so grateful to be



alive and to be in a place that was quiet and spiritual. I think it provided a lot of healing for them. There are a lot of Native Americans in the military, so they were really excited to hear my stories about my life. I come from a long line of Marines, so we bonded. It was just amazing to see these people who were hurting so much to have 16 days of peace in a place where they weren't being reminded of their time in war. It was just a beautiful, beautiful trip.

The other trip I went on was with Native Voices of the Colorado River—a program that relates tribal significance about the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon to non-Native river guides. We took a 10-day motor trip with elders from Southern Paiute, Havasupai, Hualapai, Hopi and Navajo, and we just had 10 days of cultural learning. It was a really neat trip, to learn stories about the cultural significance of this area directly from the elders. It was amazing to watch them going back to a place of sacredness and home.

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Opposite: Nikki Cooley, 2008 Native River Guide Training Trip on the San Juan River. *Photograph courtesy Nikki Cooley*

Nikki Cooley by the Source Waterfall, near Deer Creek. She spent the day giving blessings to the water and honoring the Paiute, Zuni and other tribes who consider the area sacred. *Photograph courtesy Nikki Cooley*

# David Uberuaga Becomes Superintendent

by Maureen Oltrogge, Public Affairs Officer,  
Grand Canyon National Park

On June 1, 2011, the National Park Service's Intermountain Regional Director, John Wessels, announced that Mount Rainier National Park Superintendent David Uberuaga had been named superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park.

Uberuaga was introduced as the 24th superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park in an installation ceremony held on the South Rim of Grand Canyon on July 28. The ceremony was attended by national park superintendents from throughout the region, tribal leaders and representatives from traditionally associated tribes, and representatives from other federal land management agencies. State and local governments, regional and local businesses, the Grand Canyon Association and many other groups were also present.

During the ceremony, Regional Director Wessels said, "Parks are all about the intersection of people and resources. It is written there in our Organic Act, and it is lived every day by park staff and park visitors. It is the reason parks exist, so that we can both protect remarkable natural and cultural resources, and so people can learn from and enjoy those resources. Our best superintendents know how to weave together these two important strands of the park service mission, and Dave Uberuaga is one of the very best." He added, "I am pleased that Dave has accepted this job. I am pleased to be able to work with someone of his talent, skill and compassion, and I am pleased for the visitors, the public and the canyon, because I know that they will all get the kind of stewardship that this spectacular, inspirational and awe-inspiring landscape deserves."

Following his introduction, Uberuaga told those attending the ceremony that he was truly humbled and very grateful for this new opportunity. He said that following the announcement of the position at Grand Canyon, he spent a couple of days at the park going through a discernment process. He sat on the canyon rim at sunset and again at sunrise looking over the view with amazement and awe as he had during past visits, but this time was different. He asked himself, "Do I belong here as the next superintendent? Is this the right time and place? What about my years at Mount Rainier—should I leave? What is it that I can bring to this place? What contribution could I make that would add value to this world-famous national park?" He added, "It's important to me that this is a good match for the park. That the skills that I have developed over the last 37 years of public service can be of good use here, that what I value and appreciate is present in this organization . . . . At the end of my stay, I was convinced that Dave and the Grand Canyon would be a good match, so I pursued this opportunity with all my abilities." He concluded the ceremony stating, "I will work hard to serve all of you as together we look forward to the National Park Service's 100th anniversary, just five years from now, on August 25, 2016."

Susan Schroeder, the Grand Canyon Association's Executive Director, applauds the Superintendent's methods and experience. "We are pleased to welcome Dave to Grand



Canyon. He truly understands the value of collaboration with those who work to support this stunning landscape. This dedication to a partnership between the canyon and surrounding communities will undoubtedly benefit everyone involved."

Uberuaga, like many superintendents before him, will have a challenging job. According to Deputy Superintendent Barclay Trimble, Uberuaga will manage one of the largest programs nationwide that includes science and resource management, visitor protection, interpretation and visitor services, facility management, planning and compliance, project management, concessions management and administrative services. Uberuaga will be involved in many long-standing and complex issues over the

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Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent David Uberuaga. Photograph courtesy National Park Service

next several years, including the substantial restoration of natural quiet within Grand Canyon National Park and long-term impacts to canyon resources by the operations of Glen Canyon Dam and uranium mining, to name a few. He will also oversee the issuance of one of the largest concessions contracts in the service, and will be responsible for more than 1,600 capital assets worth roughly \$1.2 billion. In carrying out his stewardship responsibilities, Uberuaga will work with a congressionally approved budget of approximately \$22 million and with nearly 550 personnel distributed parkwide during peak operations.

“Dave is a tested leader [who] has seen the very best and the very worst of issues that can challenge park managers,” stated Wessels. “He has routinely risen to those challenges and brings with him tremendous skills—the skills necessary to take on the challenges of a place that has a range of issues as broad as the canyon itself.”

Prior to being selected as superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park, Uberuaga was the superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park in Washington state, a post he held for

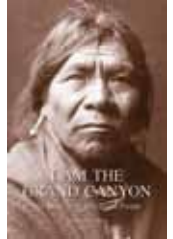
the past nine years. During that time he served for more than a year as acting superintendent of Yosemite National Park. He has spent 37 years in federal service and has been with the National Park Service since 1984.

Born and raised in Boise, Idaho, Uberuaga has a bachelor of science degree in biology and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Idaho. He is the recipient of many awards, including the National Parks Conservation Association’s Stephen Tyng Mather Award for promoting environmental preservation in parks, the Department of the Interior Cooperative Conservation Award and the Department of the Interior Superior Service Award. In 2008, he was named Federal Land Manager of the Year by the Department of the Interior. He and his wife, Barbara, have three grown children, Mark, Michelle and Amy.

## GCA Product Highlights

### *I Am the Grand Canyon*

*I Am the Grand Canyon* is the story of the Havasupai people. From their origins as one of the first group of Indians to arrive in North America some 20,000 years ago to their epic struggle to regain traditional lands taken from them in the 19th century, the Havasupai have a long and colorful history. The story of this tiny tribe once confined to a too-small reservation depicts a people with deep cultural ties to the land, both on their former reservation below the rim of the Grand Canyon and on the surrounding plateaus. Now available as an e-book from Amazon, Barnes and Noble and iBooks/iTunes (sorry, no member discounts [yet] on e-books). Paperback, 6" x 9", 276 pages. Member Price: \$16.11 • Code: 10121



### *Grand Canyon: A Journey of Wonder DVD*

Shot in stunning high-definition, with exclusive access to places rarely seen before, *Grand Canyon: A Journey of Wonder* is the official National Park Service film that plays daily in the park’s visitor center. Through the use of extraordinary aerial photography, cutting-edge computer graphics and beautiful on-location filming, this adventure film takes you on an incomparable journey through one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Enjoy an introductory price on this Special Edition DVD, packed with more than two hours of bonus material. Narrated by Peter Coyote. Plays worldwide, 180 minutes. Member Price: \$16.99 • Code: 30236



## Did You Know?

Grand Canyon National Park attracts millions of visitors as a place of stunning natural beauty, fascinating geological history and a diverse habitat for rare plants and animals. Its appeal is so great that visitors from at least 41 foreign countries set eyes on Grand Canyon every year. In April 2005, the Grand Canyon National Park Northern Arizona Tourism Study concluded that foreign visitors make up 17 percent of overall visitors. However, in recent years, park officials estimate that the number could be as high as 35 percent. The 2005 study indicated that visitors from the United Kingdom, Canada and Japan made up the highest numbers of international tourists, and the National Park Service reports that increasing numbers of Germans, Chinese and South Koreans are choosing to travel to the park. The park now publishes *The Guide*, the park’s visitor newspaper, in seven foreign languages.



# A Grand Time at the GCA Members' Gathering

by Ron Alexander, a GCA member from Arlington, Virginia

I've considered myself a Grand Canyon addict since my first visit to the park, in 1993. Since then, the "big ditch" calls me home for hiking adventures at least twice a year.

I've often wondered what causes this grand obsession and how many people have this condition. Upon attending the annual GCA Members' Gathering in May, I realized that I am not alone!

More than 150 individuals from all over the country and abroad attended this year's event, which took place at the South Rim. It was a great experience getting to know so many other people who share such a passion for the Grand Canyon.

The weekend's events kicked off with a Friday night member mingle. This was an opportunity to talk with fellow canyon addicts and get to know many of the dedicated GCA staffers who do such great work throughout the year. The evening included a silent auction with an impressive mix of canyon artwork, outdoor

gear, books and other items. It was great to meet canyon enthusiast and author Seth Muller, who was on hand to sign copies of his new book *Canyon Crossing* (a must-read for any canyon aficionado). After the auction, GCFI's Mike Buchheit amazed us with a slide show appropriately titled "A Chasm beyond Compare."

Saturday's schedule was packed with seminars, lectures, tours and adventure activities that provided an opportunity for members to expand their canyon knowledge. The morning kicked off with a session featuring NPS park administrators and GCA staff, who provided insight into the behind-the-scenes management of the park as well as upcoming projects. Then, it was off to a full day of events. Some of the events I attended included Tour of Grand Canyon Emergency Services, Grand Canyon's Life in Stone Hike on Hermit Trail, Night Sky over the Canyon and History of the Village. Other programs offered included Cougars of the Canyon, Kolb Brothers Studio Tour, Cemetery

Tour, The Legendary Mary Colter and An Evening with Terry Tempest Williams.

One of my favorite memories from the weekend was the lunch at Shoshone Point. What could be better than being at an isolated spot along the rim, having a fantastic catered picnic lunch with 150 people who share a passion . . . a passion for something we simply call The Canyon.

At Sunday morning's farewell mingle, I heard many veteran attendees comment that this year's event was by far the best they had attended. Without a doubt, I plan to return for next year's Members' Gathering, and I encourage those who have never attended to come and experience a grand event.

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Grand Canyon Association members congregate at Shoshone Point during the 2011 Members' Gathering at the South Rim. *Photograph courtesy William S. Brookins*

# Preserving and Conserving

## Cultural Resources at Grand Canyon

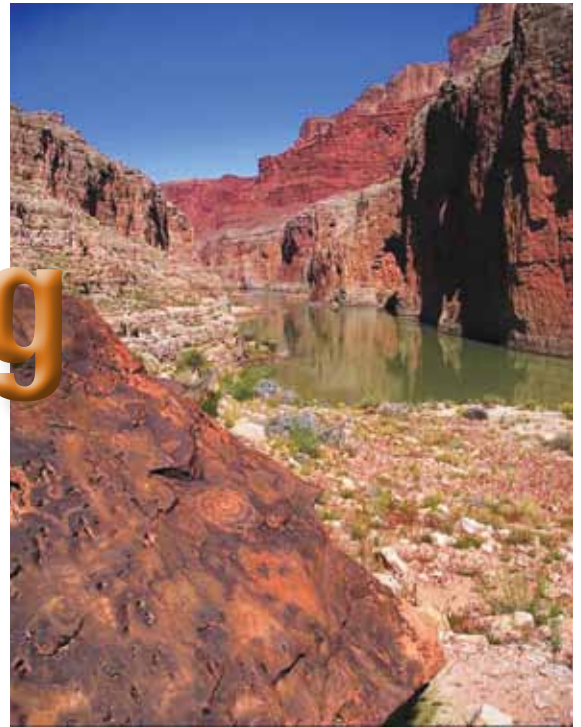
by Ellen Brennan, Cultural Resources Program Manager,  
Grand Canyon National Park

The cultural resource program for Grand Canyon National Park oversees the protection and preservation of 12,000 years of human history in one of the grandest landscapes of them all. Our crews are involved in site management and protection of more than 4,000 archaeological sites, preservation of historic-period cabins and mining features, preserving cultural landscapes and museum objects, and protecting places important to traditional communities.

The program includes, among other activities, the river archaeology program, focused on the preservation of sites impacted by the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and river users; the Vanishing Treasures program, focused on the understanding and preservation of prehistoric and historic architectural buildings and structures; the fire archaeology program, aimed at identification and protection of prehistoric and historic sites and features that could be damaged by fire; the compliance program, aimed at the protection of cultural resources during the implementation of park and concession projects such as construction and maintenance of historic structures; the ethnography program, focused on identification and management of natural and cultural resources of importance to the park's 11 traditionally associated tribes; the museum collection program, which aims to conserve

important documents, objects and artifacts of the past for future generations; the cultural landscape program, focused on the preservation of important landscape areas such as the historic Grand Canyon Village; and the public outreach and education program.

In order to effectively manage such a wide range of activities, the culture and resource program is supported by permanent and temporary employees, volunteers and interns. The Grand Canyon Association has played a key role by sponsoring students as Polk interns. This coveted internship has given students such as Stephanie Welch, the 2011 archaeology Polk intern, an opportunity to work at Grand Canyon National Park as part of the cultural resource staff (see the article on page 14). Welch has had the opportunity to explore what it means to work as a resource manager within the National Park Service while assisting Grand Canyon cultural staff in meeting program responsibilities and project goals. She has assisted on an array of projects and has been a valuable member of our staff this summer. We are grateful to the Grand Canyon Association for their continued support of this internship.



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Top: Petroglyphs adorn this red rock in the canyon, a site of a recent archaeological excavation. *Photograph courtesy Ellen Brennan*

Archaeologists examine a site for cultural resources. *Photograph courtesy Ellen Brennan*

# Get to Know Your Park

## Experiences as a Polk Intern in Archaeology

by Stephanie Welch

**T**he most typical question I get when I tell people I'm obtaining a degree in anthropology and working in archaeology is "Oh, what digs have you been doing?" This summer, after completing my Polk internship at Grand Canyon National Park, I have lots of interesting experiences to relate.

For the 2011 season, Arizona's state historic preservation officer tasked the Grand Canyon archaeology program with mitigating the area where the new Greenway III path will be constructed. For my intern project, I gathered alignment data for Greenway III and its spur trails. To do this, I used Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to record coordinates as I walked the path. I also monitored areas along Greenway III where archaeological resources may be disturbed or removed by passersby, carefully photographing any nearby artifacts. Assessing threats to archaeological sites and artifacts is imperative in order to monitor a site's integrity.

Next, I did some excavation with a group of Grand Canyon Field Institute volunteers. Excavation is an extensive process that involves everything from laying out a grid to actually digging in the site to drawing a plan view or profile map for each completed unit.

But in addition to a lot of time in the field, I also soon learned that archaeologists spend an equal if not greater amount of time on documentation. I was exposed to the countless ways that records must be kept. My part in this process was the digitization of field forms, photograph logs and field specimen logs, or artifact logs, after completion of fieldwork. I also learned how to "ink" maps. This meant taking hand-drawn site maps and, after scanning them into the computer, painstakingly creating digital versions.

But the Greenway III project wasn't the only thing I was up to this summer. In addition, I updated archaeological site information along the Thunder River Trail. This included entering monitoring information from a trip done in fall 2010 into a national database, as well as using aerial photographs with site boundary lines to ink site boundaries onto topographic maps.

Finally, since Grand Canyon is part of the Vanishing Treasures program, I had the opportunity to participate in the preservation and stabilization of Tusayan Ruins. Part of the stabilization included removal of the old, loose, eroded mortar, replacing it with a stabilizing soil mortar. It was a great experience to be able to experiment with stabilization techniques and materials.



In the projects I took part in, I had the opportunity to preserve the past of Grand Canyon for those who will visit in the future. And now I have some great answers to the "What digs have you been doing?" question I'm sure to get from curious people when they learn where I spent my summer.

Stephanie Welch at the South Rim during her Polk Internship. *Photograph courtesy Stephanie Welch*



### Upcoming GCA and Park-Related Activities

**October–November:** Mark your calendars for the Community Lecture Series, located in Flagstaff, Prescott and Glendale. Tom Myers, Michael Ghiglieri, Tom Bean and Susan Lamb will present at various locations. For more information on the lectures, please visit [www.grandcanyon.org/events\\_lectureseries.asp](http://www.grandcanyon.org/events_lectureseries.asp).

**October 11–17:** The National Park Service will hold the Third Annual Earth Science Week, complete with fossil- and geology-related programs and fun exhibits. Join the festivities to understand and gain an increased appreciation

for earth science research. Stay tuned for exact dates and times of the event.

**November 11–13:** Get free admission to the park and 10 percent off Navajo code talker merchandise in all GCA stores on Veteran's Day weekend.

**December 9–September 4, 2012:** Join us on the South Rim for the Kolb Studio Exhibit and view the canyon through the eyes of Ellsworth and Emery Kolb.

## Challenge Grant to Help Restore Backcountry Trails

For the second time in three years, GCA members Bob and Elly Hostetler have made a \$10,000 challenge grant to benefit backcountry trail restoration in Grand Canyon National Park. Their first challenge was matched by more than 75 individual donors and supported critical repairs on a number of Grand Canyon's world-famous trails.

The deadline to meet this challenge is December 31, 2011. If you are one of the thousands of people who have enjoyed the Grand Canyon from below the rim—or wish you were—please consider helping Grand Canyon Association reach this goal.

You can make your contribution by phone (800-858-2808) or mail (P.O. Box 399, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023), or donate securely online by following this link: [www.grandcanyon.org/support/support\\_gc\\_trail\\_fund.asp](http://www.grandcanyon.org/support/support_gc_trail_fund.asp). Thanks, Bob and Elly!

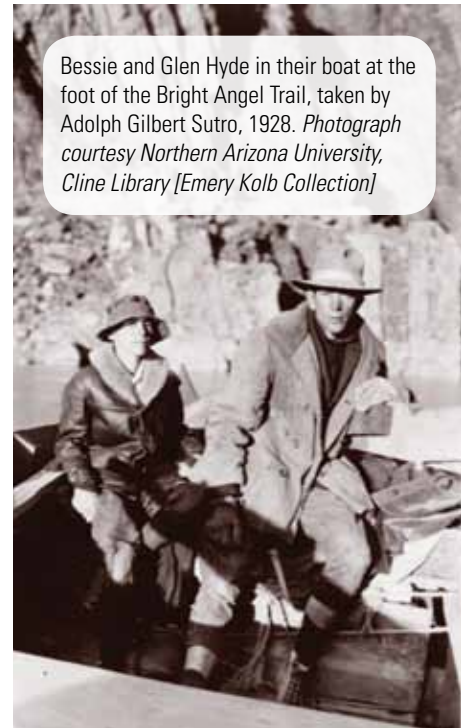


Hikers descend the Bright Angel Trail. *Photograph courtesy Mike Buchheit*

## Support the Grand Canyon Association through Goodsearch.com



You can support GCA by using the search engine [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com). Simply type in "Grand Canyon Association" in the box labeled "Who Do You Goodsearch For?" and click "Verify." Then use the site to search for anything on the Internet, just as you would through Google, Yahoo! or other search engine sites. Approximately 1 cent per search—money generated from ad revenue—will be donated back to the association to support education and science at Grand Canyon National Park. What could be easier?



Bessie and Glen Hyde in their boat at the foot of the Bright Angel Trail, taken by Adolph Gilbert Sutro, 1928. *Photograph courtesy Northern Arizona University, Cline Library [Emery Kolb Collection]*

## It Happened Here The Lost Honeymooners

On October 20, 1928, honeymooners Glen and Bessie Hyde set off from Green River, Wyoming, in a wooden, flat-bottomed sweep scow built by Glen for \$50. They planned to travel more than 1,000 river miles, passing through Grand Canyon en route to Needles, California. They wound their way down the Green and then the Colorado River in the scow—named Rain-in-the-Face—without life preservers, despite advice against foregoing life jackets from just about everyone they spoke to about their trip, including Emery Kolb. After hiking out to the South Rim of Grand Canyon in November, the Hydies returned to the river to continue their journey on November 18. When the couple did not arrive in Needles on December 9, Glen's father, who was waiting for them, pressured officials to begin a search for the missing honeymooners. An air search began on December 17. Rescuers soon located the still fully outfitted Rain-in-the-Face floating near River Mile 237 in the Grand Canyon, but the Hydies had disappeared without a trace, and were never found.



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*The mission of the Grand Canyon Association is to help preserve and protect Grand Canyon National Park by cultivating support through education and understanding of the park.*

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## GCFI to Roll Out 2012 Schedule on November 14

**T**he Grand Canyon Field Institute, GCA's premier outdoor education program, is making grand plans to build on a record-breaking 2011 season. With new classes, new instructors and new destinations, GCFI's 19th season will extend a tradition of providing quality educational experiences throughout the park to participants of all ages.

The 2012 season offerings will go live on GCFI's website, [www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute](http://www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute), on Monday, November 14. All GCA members and GCFI alumni will receive a postcard reminder several weeks in advance.

Be sure to mark your calendars, and join GCFI for your next Grand Canyon learning adventure!



GCFI instructor Gary Bolton shares the botanical wonders of Marble Canyon. Photograph courtesy Mike Buchheit

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Visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/grandcanyonassoc](http://www.facebook.com/grandcanyonassoc) and click the "Like" button to follow all Grand Canyon Association happenings!