

# Life in a Narrow Place

by Stephen Hirst

“Here, stand on the bench and tell people who you are.”

So began our job interview with the Havasupai forty years ago.

In those days, the Havasupai Tribal Council had no building for meetings, so the villagers gathered in front of the small, stone-walled store—summer and winter—to discuss issues affecting the community. The chairman wanted people to get a look at my wife Lois and me. What we didn’t know as we presented our experience was that what we looked like was about all they were getting; Supai was and still is a community far more conversant with its own language than with English.

We were working in Washington, D.C., when a friend told us about a community at the bottom of the Grand Canyon that needed someone to manage their Head Start program. With my background in economics, I could run a preschool, couldn’t I? I figured Lois’s training in education would pull us through.

Fortunately, my inexperience didn’t come into play; the Havasupai saw a couple—just what they wanted—and hired us. The bond we began back then continues to this day.

Our first winter in the canyon proved an eye-opener, even though we had spent two years in the Peace Corps. It was 1967, the year of northern

Arizona’s legendary seven-foot snowstorm. Snow fell for nine days and reached deep into Havasu Canyon—the preschoolers rolled sand-pocked snowmen on the canyon bottom with us. Little did we know what awaited us on the rim.

When graders finally broke a sixty-mile road through to the rim ten days later, we decided to make a supply run. A snowy wasteland greeted us at the top, and we had to probe with a stick to find our car. Of course, the battery was dead, but a Havasupai packer obligingly looped a rope around the bumper and pull-started us with his horse, never cracking a smile.

It didn’t take us long to see that Havasu Canyon, for all its beauty, was a trying place to pursue everyday life. It still is. When things break, they stay broken. Neither do they always work as advertised. The preschool, which doubled as our living quarters, had a propane heater with an electric thermostat. At night, the generator shut down. So much for heat. Once we had to wait six weeks to replace a water-heater element. Another time the mailman reported our car had a flat at the rim. When one of the lug nuts could not be budged, I had to hitchhike to Kingman and back—a round-trip distance of

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*Stephen and Lois Hirst hold daughter Alexa in a traditional Havasupai cradleboard, December 1975. Photograph by the author*



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some 300 miles—to get a cold chisel to remove the wheel.

In early 1973, unrelenting snow and rain marooned the village for months until the National Guard finally helicoptered in food drops. Eventually driven to desperation, Lois and I packed a picnic lunch and hiked eight miles to the rim, then drove until the mud stopped us. Between us and the distant shore, submerged Caterpillars and road graders made quite a sight, and we enjoyed a lovely picnic with the San Francisco Peaks on the horizon. We thought we'd best head back when the mountains faded into an approaching snowstorm. Hours later we arrived home soaked and exhausted.

Around midnight that night, the new village medic was at our door, wanting to know if Lois had ever assisted a childbirth. With Lois' one experience making her the expert, she spent the rest of the night in the clinic with a young Havasupai woman delivering her first baby. Afterward, Lois learned the grandmother sitting in the next room was the village midwife.

Later, when our own daughter was born, our Havasupai friends made sure we had a cradleboard ready for her. We shall always thank them for insisting we use it.

Three weeks after her birth, we saddled up for the ride to the rim with our winter baby Alexa in her cradleboard. High on the icy switchbacks, the horse I was leading slipped, and I lost my grip and dropped Alexa headfirst to the trail. The precious cradleboard performed as designed: protected by its sturdy frame, she barely woke up. Later, when the Havasupais saw the storybook I made for Alexa about her narrow escape, they translated it to use as an elementary reader in their school.

Havasupai Canyon sure seemed a safe place to raise a child. Only years later did our daughter admit to climbing cliffs with village children high above the canyon floor.

To be sure, the heights were alluring, as the Havasupai took pains to show us. Often we went camping and piñon picking with them. After a while, the trips became purposive when they began showing us houses and even little settlements secretly maintained on U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service lands surrounding the village.

One morning, as we drank coffee outside one of their old cabins, Lee Marshall and Earl Paya told us, "We showed you these places for a reason."

They explained that the houses we had seen lay on their ancestral homeland, which they had been trying to regain for nearly a century. They said no one understood their attachment to the uplands, and Lee and Earl wanted us to tell their story to the world so people would understand. That morning, a book and our share in the Havasupais' fight to recover their homeland were born. [cv](#)

*Stephen Hirst is the author of I Am the Grand Canyon: The Story of the Havasupai People, published by GCA. For more information or to order a copy, please see the back cover of Canyon Views.*

*Alexa Hirst (center) sitting on a porch swing with four Havasupai friends, 1979. Photograph by the author*



# Enrollment to Open *Online* for GCFI's 2007 Program



On Monday, November 27, the Grand Canyon Field Institute (GCFI), the field seminar program of the Grand Canyon Association, will post its 2007 class schedule on their Web site <http://www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute>. This milestone marks the official beginning of the enrollment season—one that is historically brisk in the first few weeks after enrollment opens.

In a departure from previous years, only GCFI alumni and those making a special request received GCFI's annual printed catalog of classes. **GCA members who are not GCFI alumni will not receive this publication.** If you do not have access to the Internet or would otherwise like to receive a printed copy of the catalog, please contact GCFI at (866) 471-4435; we would be happy to mail one to you. Some classes fill quickly, so, if you wish to take a class, please visit our enhanced Web site as soon as you can.

The GCFI staff is very excited about the 2007 season. We have a number of new offerings and instructors to complement the tried-and-true. A short list of these new classes includes two

multi-day botanical outings on the North Rim, two yoga classes (one above and one below the rim), an archaeology/geology backpack in the Nankoweap Basin, a writing workshop, a South Rim wildlife survey, South Rim classes on California condors, a photography workshop in Havasu Canyon and a geology-based day-trip to Grand Falls on the Little Colorado River.

Our goal in 2007 is to build on our success over the past fourteen years in providing quality educational programming in support of the National Park Service (NPS) at Grand Canyon. Our 100+ classes each year translate into more than 40,000 educational contact hours enjoyed by over 1,200 participants.

In addition to our traditional programming, GCFI continues to assist the NPS locally by co-opting archaeological surveys and habitat-restoration projects, providing public lectures and hosting an annual Guide Training Seminar for professionals in the commercial guiding industry. On the strength of these ongoing programs, and the dedication and experience of our staff and instructors, GCFI has proudly

emerged as a national leader in the arena of association-based educational programs.

We encourage all GCA members, GCFI alumni and others interested in all things Grand Canyon to visit our Web site at <http://www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute>, choose a class (or two) and enroll today in your next Grand Canyon learning adventure! [cv](#)

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*A GCFI backcountry medicine class at the South Rim. Photograph by Mike Buchheit*



# CANYON FOSSIL— A New Life Form?

by Anne Minard

What's 500 million years old and looks like a six-inch-long sperm cell etched into rock?

Even scientists aren't sure. During a river trip through the Grand Canyon in the spring of 2005, a National Park Service administrator found the mysterious fossil. After wrangling about whether to remove it from its natural home, it is now out of the canyon—and has become the subject of an energetic scientific debate. At first, John Rihs, the Earth Science Program manager at Grand Canyon National Park, thought it might have been made by an eocrinoid. *Eo* is the Greek word for "dawn." Crinoids, which presumably came later than eocrinoids, are related to modern sea urchins and sea stars. Common 250 million to 400 million years ago, crinoids looked like flowers but were actually animals on stalks, with tentacles to push food into their mouths. At first, Rihs and others believed the fossil was made by a type of eocrinoid new to science, and they were very excited.

But now other scientists have weighed in, and the ancient waters are considerably muddier.

The mystery began when Frank Hays, Pacific Area director for the National Park Service and a former restoration biologist at Grand Canyon, spotted the fossil about a year and a half ago. He was volunteering on a Grand Canyon river trip to monitor the creep of tamarisk, a nonnative tree,

from its stronghold on the banks of the Colorado River into side canyons and tributaries. In a remote side canyon, he stood waiting for his colleagues amid a loose, brittle rock layer known as the Bright Angel Shale.

"We were right in the middle of the drainage and Frank just kind of looked over his shoulder and something caught his eye," said Dan Hall of Flagstaff, a river guide who was on the trip.

"Frankly," Hays added, "I was jumping out of my skin waiting for the rest of the group to catch up so I could show them what the canyon had shared with us. We joked that it was some new species that would be named after me."

The knot of people stood around looking at the hand-sized rock and its well-preserved fossil, which was about six inches long.

"The alarming thing about it was that it looked like a huge sperm cell," Hall said. "We were just like, 'Man, that's a big sperm cell.'" Sensing it was an interesting find, they snapped a few digital photos and set the rock back down a little higher in the drainage, where it was less likely to get washed away in a flash flood.

Given that it was found in a national park, the river runners debated whether to take the fossil

or leave it behind, Hall said. It is a discussion he and other boatmen knew by heart. They are always urging passengers to respect rocks—and anything else they find in the canyon—by leaving them behind.

"The park service philosophy is to leave the resource in place. We didn't know that this might be an unknown species, but we did think it was a unique find. It's a neat part of the natural resource. And we thought it should stay in the park," he said.

So they went on with their tamarisk-eradication trip.

The Bright Angel Shale is not the Grand Canyon's oldest rock—the canyon contains layers believed to be up to 1.84 billion years old. Still, laid down about 510 million years ago, this shale is old. At that time, the Colorado Plateau hosted a primitive marine environment with lots of worms and trilobites—simple, shelled creatures whose closest modern relative is the horseshoe crab.

Christa Sadler, a Flagstaff geologist, river guide and author of the book, *Life in Stone: Fossils of*

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*Frank Hays holds the fossil he found in Grand Canyon, May 2005. Photograph courtesy John Rihs*

*the Colorado Plateau* (published by GCA), says that the Bright Angel Shale represents an exciting time in geologic history.

“It was deposited during a time when, really, the ancestors of all the modern groups of animals were appearing and flourishing and diversifying,” she said. “Thirty million years before that, up until right around that time, life had been pretty basic. All of a sudden, in the world’s oceans, we find this massive explosion [of life forms].”

Finding fossil evidence of the explosion is rare and exciting, she said; the Bright Angel Shale doesn’t keep as good a record as some of the canyon’s younger rock layers. And this particular record has piqued the interest of every scientist who has seen it.

First, the photographs went to Lori Makarick, Grand Canyon’s inner canyon vegetation program manager and the director of the tamarisk program.

“I sent the pictures to a couple of people in the park. Everyone who saw it [said things] like, ‘That looks like something new,’” Makarick said.

The scientists decided to retrieve the fossil. Hall was headed downriver on an unrelated river trip,

so they sent him with a special padded case and specific instructions. But he couldn’t get a GPS reading in the remote canyon that day. He spent an hour looking and gave up.

It wasn’t until the fall of 2005 that Kate Watters, Hall’s wife and a fellow boatman, was heading downstream on another tamarisk trip. The scientists gave her the same mission, the GPS worked that time and she brought the rock out of the canyon. Even then, it was a controversial move, Watters said, adding, “I guess while we were down there, there were e-mails flying all around about it.”

Meanwhile, Rihs sent photographs of the fossil to geologists at Northern Arizona University, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Flagstaff and in Menlo Park, Calif., and the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles. The fossil itself remains at Grand Canyon National Park’s Museum Collection.

Jake Bailey, of USC, sent an e-mail reply calling it a “gorgeous specimen!” But Bailey suggested that the fossil might be a brachiopod rather than an eocrinoid. He points to a wrinkled texture surrounding the sperm-cell likeness, and noted that it is reminiscent of a texture associated with microbial mats, or biological slime. Bailey and his

colleagues have found similar textures surrounding brachiopod fossils in slightly older rocks from eastern California. The brachiopod fossils have a similar shape to the Grand Canyon fossil, and some brachiopods anchor themselves to the seafloor using a long stalk called a pedicle.

Charles Powell, a member of the USGS’s Western Earth Surface Processes Team in Menlo Park, disagrees. He said that brachiopods are bilaterally symmetrical—or equal on both sides, like clams and humans—and they don’t have such long appendages extending from their bodies. Powell maintained that the specimen could be new to science: “There is nothing remotely similar to this specimen in the *Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology*,” he wrote.

Sadler pointed out that the difference between those interpretations is significant: crinoids and brachiopods are taxonomically quite far apart. Whereas crinoids eventually gave rise to sea urchins and starfish, brachiopods were once the dominant bivalve. These days, that niche is filled by clams. Sadler is excited about the find no matter what it turns out to be. “Either way you slice it, crinoid or brachiopod, it’s very cool,” she said.

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*The fossil that is creating all the fuss. Photograph courtesy GCNP Museum Collection*

# Life Comes Full Circle

by Lynn Boddy



The Grand Canyon contains many memories for me and surely holds many experiences to come. The canyon and I go way back.

My husband, Scott Boddy, was a navigator for the U.S. Air Force. Just before he entered training near Sacramento, Calif., we traveled across the country from Atlanta, stopping in Arizona to visit his mother. At that time, we took our first trip to Grand Canyon and fell in love with every part of it. After training, Scott was assigned to Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix, a posting that afforded us many opportunities to visit the canyon.

Late in 1974, a good friend of Scott's died at the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range near Gila Bend, Ariz. We cared deeply about this young man and his family. The members of the squadron worried the same fate awaited them. The same thoughts entered our minds.

In December of that year, Scott's mother invited his sister Karen and us to visit the Grand Canyon with her. She thought it would help with the healing process. We didn't know it would have an effect on us forever. At the canyon, we awoke early and walked out to the snow-covered South Rim to watch the sunrise; the view was breathtaking. Scott told me he wanted his ashes strewn over the canyon if anything happened to him. When we returned home, he wrote his request down and tucked it away with our

important papers. It was forgotten until December 6, 1976.

That day, Scott died while training in Nevada. The Air Force notified me at Moody Air Force base in Georgia, where we were then stationed. Our son, Ryan, was only eight months old. I informed the officers of Scott's wish to have his ashes strewn at Grand Canyon; they were amazed that a 25-year-old had taken the time to write down such a request. They didn't know if it was possible to deposit his ashes at Grand Canyon, but they promised to find out. After the funeral, the Air Force let me know that Scott's ashes had been scattered in a remote part of the canyon. This was allowed on an informal basis in 1976, but scattering ashes in the canyon is not permitted today. Although I couldn't travel to the canyon when they scattered his ashes, I was happy Scott's wish had been granted.

Ryan and I traveled to Phoenix the following March to visit friends and decide where to live. We went to Grand Canyon again with my mother-in-law and Karen, riding mules to the bottom and spending the night at Phantom Ranch. Ryan and Scott's mom stayed on the rim. I knew Scott loved that we were there. I'm certain his spirit was with us.

Many years have passed. Ryan is now 30 years old and will be getting married soon. I am with

someone new and have two more children. I teach at an elementary school in Phoenix. Recently, I again visited the canyon, this time with my youngest son, Cole. There was a rainstorm, and we wandered into a bookstore operated by the Grand Canyon Association in search of shelter from the downpour. The sales clerk overheard me talking about my students, and she told me about the teacher discount, the Travelin' Trunks and other benefits GCA offers. I told her I wished I could bring my class to the canyon, and she gave me the contact information for a National Park Service employee who just might be able to help with that.

I e-mailed Ranger Jacob Fillion immediately after we returned home, telling him I worked at a Title I school, so we probably could not afford a trip to the canyon. He told me about grants and let me know that most Title I schools can receive some money. I approached my principal, who was very excited for us and supported the trip wholeheartedly. With a little work, we raised enough money to pay for the trip. We decided to use the trip as incentive for students to work hard at their studies, get good grades, complete homework on time and display good behavior, all goals of our Character Counts Program.

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*First Lieutenant Scott R. Boddy at Mather AFB near Sacramento, Calif., March 1974. Photograph courtesy of the author*

We planned the trip for May 2005. Many of the students had never been outside of Phoenix. When we neared Flagstaff and saw the snow-covered San Francisco Peaks, the kids were awed. I wish we had captured their excitement on video when they got their first look at the canyon from Yavapai Point as the bus drove toward Park Headquarters. They couldn't wait to get off. At our first stop we picked up Rangers Jay and Deb.

We hiked with the rangers to a fossil bed a quarter mile down the trail. The students learned so much, all of it in line with our fourth-grade curriculum. Even the teachers looked for different types of fossils in the rocks. Our students were enthusiastic learners, blurt-ing out answers to the rangers' questions. On the way down, we heard, "Why can't we hike to

the bottom?" On the way up, we heard, "I'm glad we didn't!" Back on the rim, we sat down for a picnic lunch with a fantastic view of the canyon. We hiked along the rim, stopping at various places to discuss the formation of the canyon. Ranger Jay told the students that the canyon was theirs to enjoy, protect and pass on to future generations.

The teachers' favorite part of the trip was reflection time at the end, when everyone quietly drew pictures of or wrote about the canyon. Ranger Jay looked at all of the students' drawings and essays, and he made self-esteem-building comments to each student.

It is gratifying to know this magnificent national treasure is protected and preserved for future generations by such caring, devoted people as

Rangers Deb and Jay. I know Scott is very happy that I did this. Someday, I'd like to start a program in Scott's name to support additional grants to take Title I school students to Grand Canyon. This is something every student should experience. And it amazes me how my life came full circle. *cv*

*Lynn Boddy is a GCA member from Glendale, Ariz.*

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*The author's class of fourth graders at the South Rim, May 12, 2005. Photography courtesy of the author*



# Proud to Be a Member

by Leona Talker, Membership Coordinator, and Melanie Fellows, Administrative Assistant

"GCA members' enthusiasm for the Grand Canyon renews our enthusiasm for what we do," GCA Warehouse Manager Tricia Lund said recently, putting into words what all of us at GCA feel. Our members are the heart of GCA, and nurturing a healthy heart helps the association in all the things it does to support education and science at Grand Canyon National Park.

Given this, GCA welcomed some 164 members to the South Rim the weekend of September 16-17, 2006, for our annual Members' Gathering. In addition to the witty conversation, tasty eats and gargantuan views of the canyon, members enjoyed an array of speakers discussing all things Grand Canyon.

How many elk were relocated to Grand Canyon? Who is that butte named after and how many species of cacti are found in the national park? GCFI Director Mike Buchheit answered these questions and more in a delightfully educational program. The Community Building room was filled with energy as he showed slides and asked participants to choose the correct answer for each question posed to them. Every member in attendance was given a scorecard to keep track of his or her answers. At the close of the presentation, the member with the most correct answers was the winner. Gale Dom of Kingman, Ariz., came in first, receiving a GCFI rim-to-rim backpacking trip for her display of intellectual prowess. The consolation prize winner, Roger Lewis

of Albuquerque, N.M., received a sporty GCFI cap.

Jacob Fillion, chief of the Environmental Education Program at Grand Canyon, also presented at the gathering. Complementing the mission of GCA, the Environmental Education Program seeks to educate visitors about the Grand Canyon environment. Through Jacob's presentation, our members experienced some icebreaker games that he conducts with school groups and families. At the beginning of the

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*Beautiful skies greeted GCA staff and members during lunch at Shoshone Point.  
Photograph by Gerald Mcllvain*



Junior Ranger Program portion of his talk, Jacob lead the audience members in a game of “Who Am I?”, which helps children introduce themselves to one another. Jacob also spoke of the generosity, support and importance of the Grand Canyon Association and its members. After hearing of GCA’s support of the Environmental Education Program, Gerald McIlvain of Houston, Tex., told the gathered members that he was “even more proud to be a member of the association.” Many in attendance were left with a warm feeling in their hearts knowing that their membership dollars help support important National Park Service educational programs.

With beautiful weather and a spectacular view, members enjoyed lunch at Shoshone Point.

GCA hosted the luncheon on both days of the weekend, allowing all members in attendance to experience the beauty of a lunch on the rim.

In addition, at a forum on Sunday, our members expressed some exciting new ideas and ways to improve the annual gathering. At the forum, members met some of our staff, giving many a chance to make personal connections and renew old acquaintances.

The association deeply appreciates the dedication to Grand Canyon of all of our members. We hope the Members’ Gathering helps reflect this fundamental belief of GCA.

That said, most came to the South Rim for a good time at one of the Seven Natural Wonders

of the World. As one of our members declared, last year’s gathering was excellent, but this year’s was “excellent-er.” We definitely look forward to making next year’s gathering the “excellent-est.” [cv](#)

*Note: The minutes from the Members’ Forum are available. If you wish to receive a copy, please contact Melanie Fellows at (928) 638-7036 or Leona Talker at (928) 638-7022.*

## Canyon Country Community Lecture Series Schedule

Prescott, Sunday, December 17, 1:00 p.m.

*Prickly Plants of Grand Canyon*

Presented by Sally Underwood

Join Grand Canyon Field Institute instructor and Prescott native Sally Underwood as she discusses the cacti, yuccas and agaves found in Grand Canyon. You will never look at this same group of prickly and pokey plants the same way again.

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

*The Orphan Lode Mine and National Security*

Presented by Michael Amundson

Along Grand Canyon National Park’s Hermit Road sits the former Orphan Lode Uranium Mine. The mine was once one of the nation’s richest uranium mines, operating on an inholding within the park. Northern Arizona University historian Michael Amundson will discuss the mine and the political battles that surrounded it.

Flagstaff, Wednesday, January 24, 7:00 p.m.

*Harold Colton and Northern Arizona Volcanoes*

Presented by Wayne Ranney

Harold S. Colton, founder of the Museum of Northern Arizona, was a pioneer in the study of the volcanoes found between Flagstaff and the Grand Canyon. Learn about this fascinating man and his groundbreaking research through a presentation by Wayne Ranney, Yavapai College

geology professor and author of *Carving Grand Canyon*, published by GCA.

Flagstaff, Wednesday, February 7, 7:00 p.m.

*A Life in the National Park Service*

Presented by Nancy E. Muleady-Mecham

A veteran National Park Service ranger and author, Nancy Muleady-Mecham will discuss the history of the National Park Service and the origin of park rangers, as well as her own career in the park service.

Prescott, Sunday, February 18, 1:00 p.m.

*The Sandstone Canyons of the Colorado*

*Plateau: A Photographer’s Perspective*

Presented by Richard Maack

Seasonal flash floods cut into the Colorado Plateau to form narrow slot canyons, which provide a photogenic feast of swirling shapes and dancing light. Join former *Arizona Highways* photography editor Richard Maack for a visual journey into northern Arizona’s magnificent slot canyons.

Flagstaff, Wednesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.

*Bert Loper: Grand Old Man of the Colorado*

Presented by Brad Dimock

Join author and river-runner Brad Dimock for a rollicking ride through the life of Bert Loper, one of the great old-time Colorado River boatmen. **This lecture will also be presented Monday,**

**March 12, 7:30 p.m., in Grand Canyon Village; Thursday, March 15, 7:00 p.m., in Glendale; and Sunday, March 18, 1:00 p.m., in Prescott.**

Grand Canyon, Monday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.

*One Who Dared: Harvey Butchart*

Presented by Eli Butler and Tom Myers

Trace legendary Grand Canyon hiker Harvey Butchart’s footsteps along the hairy routes he pioneered in the wilds of Grand Canyon, by joining authors Eli Butler and Tom Myers as they piece together his feats, tragedies and legacy.

**Prescott lectures** are held at Sharlot Hall Museum, 415 N. 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** are 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** are held in the Roadrunner Room at the Glendale Foothills Library, 19055 N. 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue (just north of W. Union Hills Drive). **Grand Canyon lectures** are held at the Shrine of the Ages in the national park. 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>.



# Grand Canyon Historical Society Scholarship Available

Every year, the Grand Canyon Historical Society (GCHS) awards a scholarship to support research about Grand Canyon history and about historic or environmental preservation in the Grand Canyon region. The society awards this \$1,000 scholarship to a graduate student at Northern Arizona University researching these fields.

Any Northern Arizona University graduate student doing appropriate research is eligible. Appropriate work includes original research concerning historical individuals, events, sites, organizations, businesses or environmental issues in the Grand Canyon region; or any work that results in original research that supports or leads to preservation of historic sites, photographs, documents or diaries with origins in the Grand Canyon region.

Papers and/or items submitted as a result of the research become a part of the GCHS Collection in NAU's Cline Library, Special Collections and Archives, for use by anyone researching Grand Canyon historical or environmental subjects.

The Grand Canyon Historical Society accepts applications for its scholarship through Northern Arizona University. Applications are solicited in late January and accepted through the end of February each year. For more information, please contact Al Richmond, GCHS Scholarship, 50 Adobe Circle, Sedona, AZ 86351; [alrichmond@npgcable.com](mailto:alrichmond@npgcable.com).

Scholarship students benefit from the funds you contribute to the Grand Canyon Historical

Society Scholarship Fund—and we all benefit from the results of these scholars' work. Please contribute today. To donate to this worthy cause, please contact Susan Billingsley, GCHS Treasurer, PO Box 345, Flagstaff, AZ 86002; [gors@bml.com](mailto:gors@bml.com). [cv](#)

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*The water of the Colorado River has carved oddly shaped recesses in the limestone near the confluence with the Little Colorado River; and E. C. LaRue of the 1923 Birdseye Colorado River Survey poses amidst the fantastical shapes. From the Birdseye expedition to Victorian-era visitors, the topics available to Grand Canyon scholars are as vast as the canyon itself. Photograph courtesy USGS*

Yet another scientist has weighed in and said it could be neither of those things. Whitey Hagadorn, a geologist at Amherst College in Massachusetts, has suggested the fossil could actually be an overlaid hodgepodge of Cambrian remnants, including nonbiological indentations and a fossilized burrow. The other scientists have acknowledged the possibility, but at least one—Bailey—says finding other such records is essential to solving the mystery. He hopes people who find similar fossils will take photographs and GPS coordinates but leave the fossils in place, so other nearby rocks can be used as clues.

Finding any new fossil, especially in the Bright Angel Shale, is rare. But Watters, who is a botanist, said the tamarisk trips have yielded other discoveries. On the same May trip when Hays discovered the mysterious fossil, other volunteers made 15 new plant records.

“They’re not new species to science like they think this fossil is, but they’re new plants that we didn’t know occurred in the Grand Canyon,” she said.

Watters said such discoveries—they’re most common in botany and archaeology—are a natural consequence of the kind of backcountry explorations she and others do for the tamarisk project. But they almost never happen on purpose, she said.

“It’s kind of like anything; you can go back the next day and be like ‘Oh yeah, there they are.’ You’re going to the bathroom and you see it.” [cv](#)

*Anne Minard is a Flagstaff-based freelance writer and an NAU journalism instructor. Her work appears in Earth Notes: Exploring the Southwest’s Canyon Country from the Airwaves, published by GCA.*

## Canyon Buzz

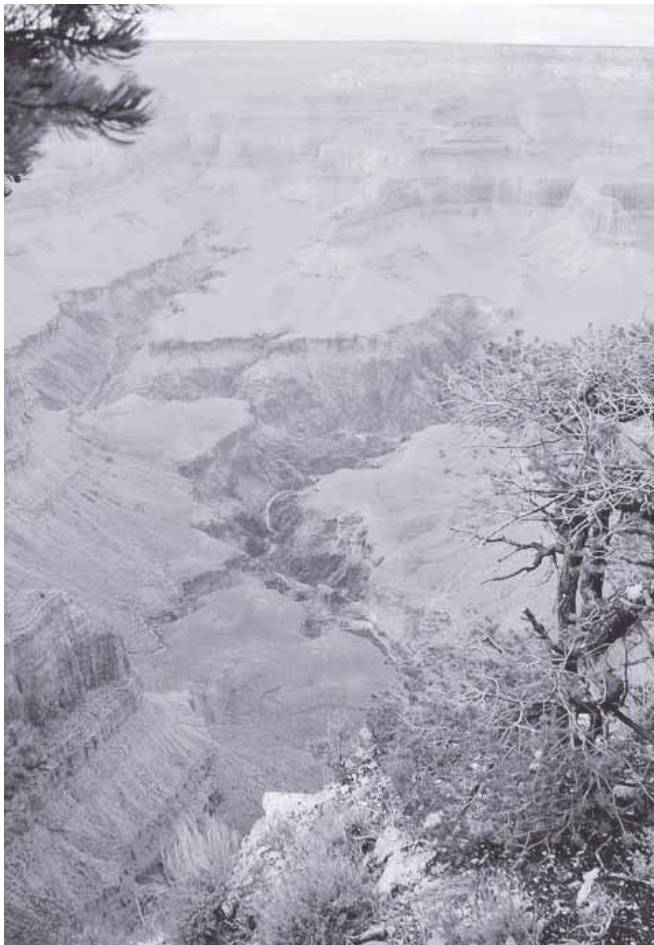
GCA and Park Activities Since the Last Issue of *Canyon Views*

**October 14:** GCA’s mailorder manager Patrick Harrison married Deanna Prather at a beautiful ceremony in Flagstaff.

**October 18:** Over a three-hour period during KNAU-Arizona Public Radio’s fall pledge drive, GCA’s executive director Brad Wallis and chairman of the board Dr. James Wurgler spoke about the association with KNAU general manager and GCA board member John Stark. GCA staff, board members and friends took pledges in the phone bank. Callers pledged more than \$9,000 to KNAU that morning.

**November 1:** The exhibit *Passionate Vision: Landscape Paintings* by Joella Jean Mahoney opened at historic Kolb Studio on the South Rim. The exhibit continues through February 18, 2007.

**November 27:** Registration for 2007 Grand Canyon Field Institute classes opened on the field institute’s Web site, <http://www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute>. See the related story on page 3.

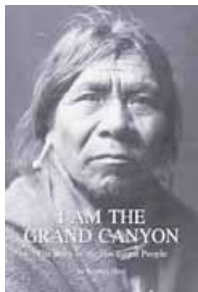


## Hidden Grand Canyon: Artist’s View

In 1912, Hermit Rim Road (today’s Hermit Road) between Grand Canyon Village and Hermits Rest was completed. The new scenic byway connected the Fred Harvey Company’s lodges and restaurants in the village with the hospitality company’s Hermit Camp via the Hermit Trail. The alignment of today’s road traces a similar path to the original road, but some notable viewpoints were bypassed when the road was realigned in 1935. Artist’s View is one such overlook, which lies today in the pinyon-juniper forest between The Abyss and Pima Point, a short distance from the main road along the Rim Trail. The overlook still offers commanding views of the canyon, including a look almost straight down into the tributary canyon formed by Monument Creek. [cv](#)

*Looking into Monument Creek from Artist’s View. Photograph by Todd R. Berger for the Grand Canyon Association*

# Winter Reading



## ***I Am the Grand Canyon: The Story of the Havasupai People* by Stephen Hirst**

From their origins among 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 nineteenth century, the Havasupai people of the Grand Canyon have a long and colorful history. Stephen Hirst's

classic ethnography has been fully revised and updated in cooperation with the Havasupai Tribe, bringing the story of this resilient people to a modern-day audience. Available December 10. Advance orders are being accepted. Paperback, 6" x 9", 296 pages. Member price: \$16.11 plus S & H



## ***Writing Down the River: Into the Heart of the Grand Canyon***

Kathleen Jo Ryan's elegant book of essays makes a wonderful holiday gift. Over the course of a summer, fifteen of today's best female writers traveled down the Colorado River through

the heart of the Grand Canyon and wrote about their experiences for this trailblazing book. Their words are accompanied by Ryan's acclaimed photographs. Paperback, 10 1/2" x 9 1/2", 134 pages. Member price: \$16.96 plus S & H

**Your purchase supports educational, interpretive, and scientific efforts at Grand Canyon National Park. To order or for more information, call (800) 858-2808, ext. 7030, or log on to <http://www.grandcanyon.org>.**

# Calendar

In addition, please check out the lecture schedule on page 9.

**December 4:** GCA will sponsor a community open house at the Books & More Store in Canyon View Information Plaza at Grand Canyon. The event will feature product discounts, Christmas caroling by the Canyon Crooners, a choral performance by Grand Canyon schoolchildren, book signings by Grand Canyon authors and a raffle to benefit Grand Canyon Village's Holiday Food Basket Program.

**December 10:** GCA will release *I Am the Grand Canyon: The Story of the Havasupai People* by Stephen Hirst.

**January 25-28:** GCA, the Grand Canyon Historical Society, Xanterra and the National Park Service will sponsor the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grand Canyon History Symposium on the South Rim. For more information, please visit the symposium's Web site at <http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/symposium.html>.

**January 30:** Wayne Ranney, author of *Carving Grand Canyon*, will speak at the REI store in Paradise Valley, Ariz., beginning at 6:30 p.m. Ranney will touch on the many theories about the formation of the canyon. He will also speak on this topic on **January 31 at the REI store in Tempe, Ariz.**, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

**January 31:** GCA and PPCA will release Issue #3 of *Sojourns* magazine. The issue focuses on the World War II years on the Colorado Plateau.

**February 13:** Stephen Hirst, author of *I Am the Grand Canyon: The Story of the Havasupai People* (published by GCA), will speak during a brown-bag lunch at Riordan Mansion State Historic Park in Flagstaff. The presentation begins at 12:15 p.m. For more information, please call (928) 779-4395.

**February 20:** In celebration of GCA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the association will sponsor a dance featuring the band Exit 64 at the South Rim's Community Building. During GCA's early years, the association sponsored several dances for the Grand Canyon community.

**March 1:** The exhibit Arts for Our Park: Legacies opens at historic Kolb Studio. The exhibit of artwork created by Grand Canyon National Park's schoolchildren will be on display through March 29. An opening-night reception at Kolb Studio will be held on February 28 at a time to be decided. The reception is open to the public. Please contact GCA for more information.

**March 10:** GCA will release *Condors in Canyon County: The Return of the California Condor to the Grand Canyon* Region by Sophie A. H. Osborn.

*Canyon Views* is published quarterly by the Grand Canyon Association to inform members of association and park activities, as well as topics related to these activities. Please feel free to suggest subjects and information you would like to see in *Canyon Views*. GCA also welcomes article submissions related to the association and/or park activities. Address all editorial correspondence to Grand Canyon Association, Attn: Todd R. Berger, Managing Editor, PO Box 399, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-0399; [tberger@grandcanyon.org](mailto:tberger@grandcanyon.org).

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The Grand Canyon Association (GCA) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 educational organization established in 1932 to assist Grand Canyon National Park in meeting its research, interpretation and educational goals. Memberships are available beginning at \$35.00 annually. To obtain more information about GCA or to become a member, please visit our Web site <http://www.grandcanyon.org>, contact us by phone at (800) 858-2808 or write to us at PO Box 399, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-0399, U.S.A.

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