Interview with Superintendent Chris Lehnertz

Celebrating 100 Years: National Park Service Centennial

An Endangered Species Recovers
What a year it’s been! We celebrated the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, and together we kicked off critically important conservation, restoration and education programs here at the Grand Canyon. Thank you!

As we look forward into the next 100 years of the National Park Service at Grand Canyon National Park, we welcome a new partner, Superintendent Chris Lehnertz. This issue features an interview with the park’s new leader. I think you will find her as inspirational as we all do. We look forward to celebrating Grand Canyon National Park’s Centennial in 2019 together!

We also want to celebrate you, our members. Without your support and love of Grand Canyon, Grand Canyon Association would not exist. On pages 7–9, we share stories from some of our longtime members who’ve watched our organization transform over the years. Their words are an inspiration and remind me that our mission touches people in many different ways.

I’m so grateful that we have special places like Grand Canyon protected for our children and our children’s children. Never underestimate that your voice, support and passion will help keep Grand Canyon thriving for another 100 years.

Susan E. Schroeder
CEO

P.S. As we look toward the New Year, I invite you to visit in 2017 and share your Grand Canyon stories with us on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/grandcanyonassoc. I would love to hear how Grand Canyon National Park touches your life.
Interview with
Chris Lehnertz
New Superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon National Park welcomed new Superintendent Chris Lehnertz to the park this fall. We sat down with Superintendent Lehnertz to ask her about her impressions of Grand Canyon National Park and about her views on the next 100 years. She is excited to be at the park and is impressed by Grand Canyon Association’s support and what the Association is able to do with the help of its members.

What motivated you to join the National Park Service and to work at Grand Canyon National Park?

Part of the joy of working with the National Park Service is that you get an opportunity to help protect some of the most special places on the planet. The park system protects and preserves an incredible tapestry of our heritage, landscapes and resources. For me, the opportunity to be a part of an organization that does that on behalf of America is a real inspiration.

As far as Grand Canyon National Park, I have loved the desert for a long, long time. I spent time in Arizona as a kid, and my parents realized right away that they were raising a little desert rat. I have always wanted to give back to the desert, and the chance to come to the Grand Canyon allows me to do that. Each of us of has a certain location or a certain ecosystem that makes us feel at home and inspired, and for me it’s the Colorado Plateau and the high desert.

What are your top priorities, things that you want to help influence at Grand Canyon?

This is such a complex place. My first priority is to learn, listen, get oriented and work in collaboration with park staff, our partners and the
people who love this place to set the agenda for the future. We are looking at our park centennial in 2019; clearly that will be a priority in terms of determining how we will inspire people and bring in new generations of supporters for the future. It’s going to be fun! Grand Canyon’s Centennial is a wonderful echo of the National Park Service Centennial and a great opportunity.

You’ve come from Golden Gate National Recreation Area, an urban park that encompasses small parks all over the Bay Area. What did you learn there that you can transfer to Grand Canyon?

Many things happening at a national park in an urban setting apply to a national park like Grand Canyon. A younger park offers innovation. Golden Gate National Recreation Area was created in 1972, well after Grand Canyon National Park was established. It has new ways to reach audiences who may not be as comfortable or as confident coming to a national park. We will apply that innovation, as well as look for ways to connect with other parks across the system. Many people think about a place at the end of their block when they think about a park. We want to help those people learn that there are state parks and national parks, and that Grand Canyon is a place of inspiration for them too, just like their park at the end of the block.

Our member base is a diverse group of people, some who can come often and some who regard a trip to Grand Canyon as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. What would you like to share with them?
People who support the Grand Canyon through the Grand Canyon Association are so critical to the success of the park and help us achieve things we might not otherwise be able to achieve. As advocates, they help introduce the park to family and friends. As supporters, they help fund improvements throughout the park, like trails, and help us raise the bar on safety. Additionally, members get an opportunity to learn a little bit more about the park than they might otherwise. This creates a stronger connection to a place that they already love and inspires them to conserve and preserve Grand Canyon National Park.

We are all so grateful for our supporters. You bring inspiration to others when you share your experiences, get on the website, have a virtual experience, take a class with the Field Institute, read a Grand Canyon Association–published book or volunteer. Any of those things make us stronger as public land stewards and a nation, and they create this fabric of democracy that is so special.

Superintendent Lehnertz trained as an environmental biologist and worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Denver and Washington, D.C., for 16 years. She is a graduate of the University of Colorado Boulder and worked as a seasonal wildlife and biological technician for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She began her career with the National Park Service in 2007 as deputy superintendent at Yellowstone National Park. She also served as regional director for the bureau’s Pacific West Region. She was appointed superintendent at Golden Gate National Recreation Area in March 2015. Superintendent Lehnertz recently moved to Grand Canyon National Park with her spouse, Shari Dagg.
As the National Park Service Centennial year comes to an end, we look back at the many events that helped commemorate this important milestone and connect us to Grand Canyon. Reaching 100 is certainly something to celebrate! With the park service entering its 101st year, we hope you will carry the excitement of the Centennial with you and continue exploring Grand Canyon and all of our nation’s parks.

You helped the National Park Service celebrate 100 years with these events, funded in part by Grand Canyon Association supporters.

### Desert View Dedication Ceremony
May 22
Native American tribes traditionally associated with the Grand Canyon are working with the National Park Service and Grand Canyon Association to repurpose the Desert View area and the historic watchtower from a gift shop into an inter-tribal cultural heritage center. The space allows visitors the opportunity to interact with cultural demonstrators and tribal community members to learn about their arts and crafts as well as the canyon’s significance to their culture.

### Postage Stamp Dedication
June 2
An iconic painting of one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World—the Grand Canyon—was previewed as the eighth of 16 Forever Stamp images celebrating the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary.

### Naturalization Ceremony
August 25
As part of the Founders Day celebration, Grand Canyon National Park, in collaboration with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Phoenix field office, hosted a naturalization ceremony at Mather Point at Grand Canyon to welcome 17 new citizens and introduce them to their national parks.

### Music Festival
August 25
Traditional Hopi musicians, funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, premiered Puhutawi, a fusion of Hopi traditional music with contemporary chamber music performed by the Catalyst Quartet.

### Rose Bowl Parade
January 1
To kick off the new year and celebrate the Centennial, Grand Canyon National Park participated in the 127th Rose Parade on New Year’s Day. Following the “Find Your Adventure” theme, the National Park Service equestrian unit represented the past, present and future of the horse and mule tradition in national parks like Grand Canyon.

### Earth Day
April 22
Grand Canyon National Park celebrated the 46th anniversary of Earth Day with demonstrations, games, information on local and national environmental initiatives and much more.

### Living History Week: Echoes
July 24–30
Known for its earth history, Grand Canyon’s human history is just as compelling. Park rangers and volunteers dressed as historic figures, including architect Mary Colter, storyteller and entrepreneur John Hance, and other Grand Canyon history-makers.

### Week of Steam
August 24–27
One of the rarest sights in railroading took place as legendary steam engines #4960 and #29 powered 1950s-era streamliner railcars, including dome cars and a classic open platform observation car, the entire 65 miles from Williams, Arizona, to the South Rim of Grand Canyon.

### Celebration of Art
September 10–18
Hosted each year by the Grand Canyon Association, the Grand Canyon Celebration of Art is an annual event that includes six days of art-related events followed by a three-month-long exhibition in Kolb Studio on the South Rim.
The National Park Service Centennial was a time for all of us to reflect on the importance of our national parks and the role we play in their future. As supporters of Grand Canyon Association, you are a critical part of making sure Grand Canyon fulfills its educational mission every day. Each of us joined Grand Canyon Association for different reasons—a love of the river, memories of enjoying the canyon with family and friends, the park’s crystal-clear night skies—but together we create a legacy that protects the park for future generations. Here, our members share why they joined Grand Canyon Association.

Nancy and Jerry Fogleman joined GCA in 2001, after their first visit to Grand Canyon National Park. They have since been to the park a dozen times, and when not visiting, they enjoy the beauty of the Grand Canyon through the paintings surrounding them in their Texas home. Jerry recalled one of his favorite memories from a recent visit, when he and Nancy, along with their two daughters and four grandkids, drove cross-country for a visit to the North Rim. “I remember getting a knock on our cabin door one night from the grandchildren. They had just participated in the night program and were so excited to share the news. They could see the Milky Way for the first time in their lives.”

Another high point for the Foglemans was when they were joined by their eldest daughter and her family on a hike down Bright Angel Trail. Jerry had arranged a guide from the Field Institute to educate everyone along the way. The Foglemans continue to support the park quite simply because they love the canyon.
The kindness and enthusiasm of Grand Canyon Association retail staff initially caught the attention of Hanny and Willem Van Kempen. “The stores are outstanding. We were pleased to meet people working with great enthusiasm, explaining to us what the Association does and what it stands for. So we decided to sign up and paid for a membership in 1990,” they said. They continue to renew their membership each year because they understand the important role Grand Canyon Association plays in supporting and seeing park projects through. “Over the years, the Association has matured into a full-fledged support organization, with the know-how and professional leadership to support important park projects,” said Hanny and Willem.

Visiting the park many times over the years, they count their river trip as the crown jewel of their experience. The Van Kempens joined the Bright Angel Circle in 2013 with a bequest to Grand Canyon Association. “We have a deep love for Grand Canyon, and we are entrusting the Association to continue our legacy,” they said. They appreciate knowing the park will always be supported and protected.
Susan and Rich Turner fell in love with Grand Canyon when they both worked for Grand Canyon Dories. In fact, Grand Canyon helped them fall in love with each other. Rich recalled one of their first dates: “We camped at the canyon in October. One of the first things we did was go to Kolb Studio to see the movie of Emery and Ellsworth Kolb’s 1911 river trip, the first one ever filmed. We were greeted at the door by Emery himself and exchanged a few river stories. What an unforgettable and fortunate meeting, as he passed away two months later.”

Neither Rich nor Susan could choose their favorite park project, but they acknowledged the growing changes and threats to the park over the last few years. As former teachers, they value that Grand Canyon Association supports education efforts at the park, including interpretive talks, research and publications. “We both love this canyon and are grateful to support a dedicated organization that allows visitors to experience the canyon’s magnificence while making every effort to preserve what makes those experiences worthwhile.”

Do you have a great story about Grand Canyon? We invite you to tell your own story of passion and connection on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/grandcanyonassoc.
Grand Canyon National Park is very large and widely diverse; it contains 1.2 million acres of land and more than 1,750 species of plants. Yet within this huge area, there is only one federally listed endangered plant: the sentry milk-vetch (*Astragalus cremnophylax* var. *cremnophylax*). Sentry milk-vetch is not only endangered, Grand Canyon National Park is the only place in the world where this plant lives. What’s more, this tiny perennial plant only grows in shallow soil pockets found in cracks and crevices of Kaibab Limestone within 25 feet of the rim.

It may be hard to imagine how you, as a Grand Canyon supporter, have affected this tiny plant—especially since it’s likely that you’ve never even seen one. But you have played a big role in ensuring its survival and recovery.

A Species on the Edge

Research conducted by the park’s vegetation staff and funded by Grand Canyon Association supporters provided significant insights into this endangered plant and the challenges it faces. Typically, sentry milk-vetch seeds ripen in May.
and fall quite close to the parent plant. Each plant produces a large number of flowers and seeds, but few seeds germinate and even fewer seedlings survive to maturity.

Threats to this species include habitat loss, climate change and drought. Visitors disrupt the plant’s survival too. The sentry milk-vetch population near Maricopa Point was fenced in 1990 after scientists discovered that the plants were being inadvertently trampled by people enjoying views of the canyon. Put all of this together, and the species is extremely vulnerable to extinction.

Recovery Program – On the Road to Success
Despite all of these threats, this little plant has a hopeful future, thanks to you. To get down-listed from endangered to threatened on the endangered species list, sentry milk-vetch must grow in four separate sites, each with a population of more than 1,000 plants. In 2006, the park partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arboretum at Flagstaff and Grand Canyon Association to initiate a dynamic conservation program designed to preserve and protect this endangered species. With this partnership and dedicated staff and volunteers, the plant is on its way to recovery.

The work initially focused on the sentry milk-vetch population at Maricopa Point, where a parking lot was removed in 2008 to expand the habitat and create an area for reintroduction by re-creating the specific soil and rock habitat this plant requires. Using plants propagated in a small passive-solar greenhouse constructed with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and support from the Association in 2009, the park was able to reintroduce both plants and seeds at the site with great success.

Since that time, teams have surveyed for additional populations, completed annual monitoring and expanded the propagation program. Park staff and volunteers collect seeds and cuttings each year and have established two new reintroduction sites. At the start of the recovery effort, only 150 known plants existed in the park. Today, over 16,705 plants thrive along the canyon’s rims.

The recovery of this plant is a testament to the importance of places like Grand Canyon National Park and the protection they provide to species both large and small. As we reflect on the first 100 years of our national parks at the end of this Centennial year, we are also reminded of the important role that private philanthropy plays in helping the park achieve its conservation goals. You can support projects like this at www.grandcanyon.org.
Elly and Bob Hostetler are no strangers to blazing new trails. The couple has four kids, founded their own business and hiked the most difficult trails near their home in Monument, Colorado. Bob is a veteran Grand Canyon backpacker, exploring the most remote and least traveled areas of the park.

Now, the intrepid outdoorsman and his wife are breaking ground once again, this time inspiring others to protect and preserve the park they love. Elly and Bob recently pledged $250,000 to Grand Canyon Association, earmarking a significant portion of their gift to the Trails Forever endowment fund. “We’re making this commitment because we want to encourage others to help the park in whatever way they can,” said Bob. “The Trails Forever endowment will benefit park visitors for decades to come.”

One of Bob’s first Grand Canyon hikes was the North Bass Trail, a remote, difficult trail named for pioneer explorer and miner William Bass. At the time, the trail was in disrepair, damaged by erosion and rockslides. “A year later, I hiked that same trail after it was restored,” said Bob. “The
New Publication from GCA

Grand Canyon Association extends the educational mission of the park by working with topic experts to develop books about Grand Canyon–related themes such as natural history, geology, wildlife, American Indian culture, pioneer history, hiking and more. Proceeds of book sales help support Grand Canyon National Park.

Visit our online store to place an order today: www.grandcanyon.org

Scout Moore Junior Ranger: Grand Canyon
By Theresa Howell, Illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbeler

When her family takes a special trip to the Grand Canyon, which is WAY bigger than her own backyard, Scout is totally amazed. She cannot wait to explore. She is determined to become a REAL Junior Ranger at the park. This delightful and humorous book appeals to the Junior Ranger in all of us. Her story will inspire kids to get outside and explore nature for themselves because every day is a great day to explore.

Trails Forever:
Leave Your Footprint at Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon Association is raising funds to permanently support trail restoration at our national park so that future generations can enjoy the beauty and thrill of hiking the Grand Canyon.

Your gift to the Trails Forever endowment will be invested in a permanent fund, and the earnings will provide a source of income each year to help the park maintain more than 350 miles of wilderness trails in perpetuity. To learn more, call Chief Philanthropy Officer Ann Schefflen at (928) 863-3876 or email ann@grandcanyon.org.

Recent trail work was done to restore Grandview Trail.

Over the years, Elly and Bob’s tradition of giving to Grand Canyon grew. Now, Bob serves on the Grand Canyon Association board of directors and the couple are members of the Bright Angel Circle. The Hostetlers are also longtime supporters of Rocky Mountain National Park. “We just feel that the national parks are a premiere place to make a charitable commitment,” said Elly.

work the crew had done was just beautiful. The craftsmanship was incredible. We immediately made a gift to park trails, and we’ve been supporting trails ever since.”
Join the Field Institute for Your Next Learning Adventure!

A visit to Grand Canyon National Park has often been described as the trip of a lifetime—and nobody knows Grand Canyon like our talented instructors.

Treat yourself to a rich educational experience full of fun and adventure with the Grand Canyon Association Field Institute. Learn from professional geologists, biologists, archaeologists, historians and artists who have devoted their lives to understanding this multifaceted landscape, its ecosystems and the people who have called it home over the centuries.

For full class details and online registration visit grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute or call (928) 638-2485.

NEW CLASSES
A few of the first-time class offerings in 2017 include an agave survey backpack to Utah Flats and two birding classes: one along the South Rim and another featuring birds as the central theme on a rim-to-rim backpack.

LEARNING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
Bring your family and friends for a custom full-day or half-day tour that explores the wonders of either the South or North Rim, as well as the upper stretches of the rim-to-river trails. See the “Family Classes” section of our website for full details.

GCA members receive discounts on some classes. Visit www.grandcanyon.org for more information.
Support YOUR Park: Ways to Give

Your contribution to the Grand Canyon Association provides critical support to protect and preserve Grand Canyon. However you choose to give, your generosity will be recognized and appreciated by all who treasure this World Heritage Site.

MEMBERSHIP
From historic preservation to wildlife research, members make it happen. You support a wide range of visitor services throughout the year and are part of a community of people from around the world who care deeply about nature and our national parks.

GRAND GUARDIAN
Help protect and sustain one of America’s most enduring landscapes with a gift of $1,000 or more.

TRIBUTE & HONOR GIVING
Recognize an important person in your life, honor a special event, an anniversary or remember a loved one.

LEADERSHIP GIFTS
Make a lasting impact at Grand Canyon with a leadership gift of $10,000 or more to trails, historic preservation, research and science or youth education.

TRAILS FOREVER & ENDOWMENT GIVING
Your gift to Trails Forever will be invested in a permanent fund and the earnings will provide a source of income each year to help the park maintain more than 350 miles of wilderness trails.

BRIGHT ANGEL CIRCLE
Preserve and protect the park for future generations by remembering us in your will. Your estate gift or bequest leaves a lasting legacy, and you are honored today with recognition in our Bright Angel Society.

To make a gift, call Ann Scheflen, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at (800) 858-2808 or email Ann at ann@grandcanyon.org.
A GRAND Way to Give

With an IRA charitable rollover gift, you can help Grand Canyon National Park and enjoy valuable tax and income benefits. If you are 70½ years old or older, you may be able to roll over up to $100,000 from your IRA without paying federal income tax. Even better, your gift qualifies for your annual required minimum distribution (RMD).

The best news is that because the charitable rollover is now permanent, you can benefit the canyon now or at any time of the year!

To see if you qualify to make an IRA charitable rollover gift, call Ann Schefflen, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at (800) 858-2808 or email Ann at ann@grandcanyon.org.