Celebrating Our Past . . . with an Eye to the Future

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and all 400+ sites in America, including the Grand Canyon, are celebrating. From a rededication of Desert View Watchtower in May to a special show of artwork featuring all of our nation’s parks at September’s Grand Canyon Celebration of Art, we plan a full range of events and programs—and you’re invited to them all!

You’re included in all of the fanfare because your support makes a profound impact each and every day at the Grand Canyon. In this issue of Canyon Views, we’ll provide information on centennial events and we’ll also take a moment to reflect on how far we have come and perhaps more importantly, where we are headed.

For many of us today, it may seem inconceivable that places like Grand Canyon were not always cherished and protected—that there ever was a time when preserving natural lands and historic landmarks was a minority view. As we reflect on the founding of the National Park Service, we must remain vigilant and remember that the work of the dedicated individuals who helped found our park system now belongs to us.

As you prepare to celebrate with us, I encourage you to think about the next 100 years at Grand Canyon and how together, we can help ensure the next century of stewardship at this place we love so much.

Susan Schroeder
With a mission to preserve and protect our nation’s lands now and for future generations, the National Park Service celebrates 100 years of accomplishments that have kept our precious national lands intact and available for all to enjoy. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Wallace Stegner said, “The national parks are the best idea we ever had.” Indeed, our parks would not exist today were it not for ordinary citizens, everyday Americans who recognize that some lands of our great nation should be set aside to be enjoyed by all.
Established by President Woodrow Wilson as a new federal bureau within the Department of the Interior, the park service was created “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein.”

Shortly after the park service was founded, several nonprofit organizations were formed to encourage private philanthropic support for programs and projects not covered by government funding. The Yosemite Association was formed first, in 1923, followed by others, including the Grand Canyon Natural History Association (now Grand Canyon Association) in 1932. Originally formed to help foster scientific research and share this knowledge, the role of park associations has expanded to meet the broad needs of our modern park system.

Today, GCA and the park service at Grand Canyon National Park enjoy a unique private/public partnership that brings 500 National Park Service staff and 1,200 volunteers together with thousands of members, donors, friends and supporters who share a love for Grand Canyon. Our base of members and donors has grown to over 14,000 households from each of the 50 states and many countries overseas. As a member of GCA, you help make Grand Canyon one of the most well-loved American landmarks in the world.

The National Park Service in partnership with the National Park Foundation has launched a national awareness campaign that invites all Americans to Find Their Park; in other words, to recognize and tell others about the importance of places like Grand Canyon so they, too, can be inspired by this beautiful, magical place. As a supporter of Grand Canyon . . . you’ve already found your park.
Today, GCA helps fund a variety of projects across the park, including the renovation of the Bright Angel trailhead (top photo), the restoration of Kolb Studio (middle photo) and wildlife research such as monitoring the California condor (bottom photo)—thanks to your help.

To learn more about the impact that Grand Canyon Association and its members have had at the Grand Canyon, please visit www.grandcanyon.org.

How to support YOUR park this centennial year:

1. **Upgrade your membership.** Members help us inspire people to protect and enhance Grand Canyon National Park for present and future generations.

2. **Buy something great in our stores.** A percentage of every purchase goes back to the park.

3. **Make a donation** (above and beyond your membership) to special initiatives or projects such as Trails Forever, youth programs, wildlife research or historic preservation.

4. **Take a hike below the rim** to better experience this incredible wonderland. Only 10 percent of visitors go below the rim.

5. **Bring your friends to the Grand Canyon** and share your passion.

6. **Attend one of our centennial celebration events** (see page 14).

7. **Participate in a Field Institute class** to enhance your knowledge of and appreciation for the canyon. Learn more about the GCA Field Institute at www.grandcanyon.org/learn.

8. **Sign up for a week of volunteer service** (see page 15).

9. **Give the gift of membership** to a friend or family member so they may experience the Grand Canyon too.

10. **Leave a legacy to meet future needs of the park** with a bequest in your will.
Interview with

Dave Uberuaga

Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent

Dave Uberuaga sat down with the Grand Canyon Association to talk about the future of our park.

Q: Why is it important to you personally to work for the park service?

A: I’ve always been passionate about serving the public. I think it comes from an early age, as my parents were always involved in the community in some way. They instilled a sense of giving back that has stuck with me. I believe my role as superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park is to protect and preserve a world-class experience for visitors now and in the future. This type of experience is something I’ve also tried to convey to our staff. My goal is that everyone, from the interpretive ranger giving a talk on the rim to the person who cleans the restrooms, has a personal stake in ensuring that our visitors feel welcome and are left thinking about how wondrous the canyon is.

Q: How would you describe the relationship between Grand Canyon Association (GCA) and the park? Why is private philanthropy important to the future of Grand Canyon?

A: In the last four years alone, the park has seen many changes thanks to the efforts of the National Park Service and its ongoing partnership with GCA. Through our combined efforts, Grand Canyon is flourishing. Looking into the future, GCA’s members and donors play a vital role in building a park that visitors can appreciate for the next 100 years. Beyond the physical projects that GCA members have helped to fund, such as the Bright Angel trailhead and the restoration of Kolb Studio, their generosity is essential to keeping the park experience alive. Many of the materials our rangers use to engage visitors are funded through GCA, including the Junior Ranger program, which is critical to help connect our youth to the park.
As Grand Canyon lovers, GCA members share their passion for the park through their travel stories and help through volunteerism. When they talk about the canyon and their support of the projects in the park, they educate others about what the canyon needs to thrive. They are important partners in our shared mission to protect this amazing place.

Q: As you look forward to the 2016 National Park Service Centennial and then the 2019 Centennial of Grand Canyon National Park, what do you think about and plan for?

A: This centennial is not just a party or a ribbon cutting, it is an opportunity to connect new people to our parks. It’s about people coming to the canyon for the first time then returning again and again. One important event that we will be celebrating is Founder’s Day on August 25. Rather than having a big parade or unveiling a new building, we will be hosting a naturalization ceremony for people who are becoming citizens of the United States. This event provides such a profound connection to this place, to welcome a new group of people to the park who are also new citizens of our country.

One important thing we can all do during the National Park Service Centennial is to reflect
on our past and dream about the future. What makes Grand Canyon National Park a place that people will continue to visit, learn from and be inspired by for the next 100 years? I am particularly moved by some of the relationships we’ve developed with tribes that traditionally associate themselves with Grand Canyon. Through work with the Inter-Tribal Advisory Council, we’ve begun reconnecting our tribes to the canyon and working together to share food, dance, art and Native American stories at the Desert View Watchtower area.

Q: What message would you like to send to GCA members?

A: A big and continuous Thank You! I strongly believe that GCA members and donors provide the park with a true partner to lean on. Members enable funding for efforts that could not be realized without GCA’s help. They are passionate about the park, and their passion is enduring. I am grateful for their generosity as well as their service as volunteers.

**Dave Uberuaga** came to Grand Canyon National Park as park superintendent in the summer of 2011. He has 41 years of federal service experience and has worked for the National Park Service since 1984.

He grew up in Boise, Idaho, where he participated in a variety of outdoor activities, including hunting, fishing and camping. His childhood experiences in the wilderness helped connect him to the environment and built the foundation for his interest in natural sciences.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in biology and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Idaho. He believes that his role as superintendent is to be a steward of the canyon and that his responsibility, and that of his staff, is to protect and preserve this natural wonder for future generations.

Donors Dorothy and Ken Lamm break ground for a new greenhouse with Superintendente Uberuaga.
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INTERNS

Inspiring Our Next Generation

What will the next 100 years bring for the National Park Service? Who will carry on the tradition of service and ensure our parks continue to protect the wildlife and wilderness areas in their care?

Grand Canyon National Park, with the help of Grand Canyon Association, is actively working to answer these questions by engaging the next generation. Our members and donors help thousands of students experience the Grand Canyon’s outdoor classroom each year by funding field trips to the canyon, programs that bring rangers into classrooms and the ever-popular Junior Ranger program. In addition, your member dues and contributions fund hundreds of opportunities for high school, college and graduate school students to conduct scientific research, work alongside trail maintenance crews and perform many other critical tasks to assist the park service.

One such program, the Eugene Polk Science Fellowship, inspires stewardship at the park and actively encourages students to consider a career in the National Park Service. David Hejna, who recently completed an internship with the park’s wildlife program, is one example of how working at Grand Canyon National Park stays with these interns for a lifetime, creating strong advocates for the future of our park.
Dear Mr. Polk,

My three months at Grand Canyon National Park provided some of the most memorable experiences in my wildlife career. My time here has exposed me to a vast array of wildlife and ecosystems that I have only read about in textbooks and seen on postcards. Being able to observe, study and even handle some of the animals that call the Grand Canyon home is simply incredible.

Not even 48 hours into my internship, I was assisting with a survey of bat species found on the South Rim. White-nose syndrome has become a hot topic in bat conservation in recent years. Its spread from the East Coast to the western reaches of the country, including Grand Canyon, is a cause for concern.

In order to prepare for the possible introduction of white-nose syndrome to the park, I worked on a project to pinpoint caves that could harbor bats, giving us a better understanding of where the first cases of this deadly disease could potentially occur. This rewarding project has the potential to save countless bats at Grand Canyon, helped solidify my love for wildlife and has sparked an even larger personal interest in a group of animals threatened by disease.

I’d like to thank the Eugene Polk Science Fellowship and the Grand Canyon Association for allowing science students like myself to participate in such an amazing program at an incredible park. I would also like to thank the park’s wildlife team, whom I had the pleasure of working with. They made this a very enjoyable and educational summer in the canyon.

—David Hejna

The Eugene Polk Science Fellowship program was created in 2001 to honor Eugene P. Polk, longtime supporter of Grand Canyon. The program awards three internships each year to college seniors or graduate students studying fields such as biology, zoology, archeology, outdoor studies and park management. Polk interns work alongside National Park Service scientists on key research projects throughout the park.

If you would like to support internship programs and educational opportunities for students and youth programs at the canyon, please call Ann Scheflen, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at (928) 863-3876, or email her at ann@grandcanyon.org.
Grand Canyon is one of Earth’s most glorious and dramatic landscapes. It’s also one of the most challenging to photograph. With just a few precious hours at the canyon, where should you go to take the best pictures? What’s the best time to shoot? What techniques can you use to capture the majesty of this awe-inspiring place?

Photographing Grand Canyon answers all these questions and more. No matter what time of year you visit, whether you’re caught in a thunderstorm or it’s a cloudless summer day, if your camera is a smartphone, point and shoot, or a professional DSLR, Gary Ladd will help you leave Grand Canyon with photographic memories to last a lifetime.

$11.95  •  Member price: $10.16  •  64 pages  •  6" x 9" paperback

Enroll Now!

April
6–10

Havasu Canyon Natural History Backpack
Marjorie “Slim” Woodruff will share the intricate ecosystems that thrive in this land of tumbling waterfalls and the Havasupai people who call it home.

Member price: $770.00
Nonmember price: $795.00

May
10–13

Take a Load Off: Mule-Assisted Backpack
Let the mules do the heavy lifting as you enjoy a journey to the canyon’s depths with GCA Field Institute instructor Melissa Giovanni.

Member price: $800.00
Nonmember price: $825.00

June
1–4

Drawing on the Edge
Join artist Alan Petersen as he taps inspiration at various points along the towering South Rim with pen, pencil and brush.

Member price: $300.00
Nonmember price: $325.00

For more information about all of our GCA Field Institute classes, please visit our website at www.grandcanyon.org/learn.
Joe Orr was a lifelong amateur astronomer who enjoyed the study of the universe. Growing up on a 75,000-acre ranch in Floresville, Texas, Joe’s interests were not in ranching but in the natural wonders all around him. As a child he was often found heading out into the Southwest desert with his telescope in hand to gaze into the dark night sky.

When Joe inherited his family’s ranch in 1994, he endeavored to return the land to its native beauty. Instead of grazing cattle, he let the earth replenish itself and invited others to share in its splendor. When an oil company executive informed him in 2009 that the ranch sat on top of the Eagle Ford shale fields, Joe came into an unexpected fortune—more money than he felt he could ever possibly spend.

True to form, Joe became a philanthropist. Joe realized one of Grand Canyon’s most important and underacknowledged resources is our night sky. Light pollution continues to grow and is a widespread issue throughout the country and the world. In most large cities, you can barely see the stars at all, but at Grand Canyon, as in many of our national parks, the Milky Way is clearly visible.

Joe considered the Grand Canyon to be the “best thing that ever happened to him” and was proud to support park projects—from protecting the dark skies he loved to funding the preservation of the Zuni rock art panel at Whitmore Wash. When Joe unexpectedly died in 2014 following a short illness, he made sure that his estate plans continued to honor his passion for philanthropy through a bequest to Grand Canyon Association (GCA).

Joe’s love for the outdoors and the night sky live on through his legacy at Grand Canyon and his vision to protect this magnificent place. He is a member of GCA’s Bright Angel Society, a group of people who have made a bequest to Grand Canyon in their wills.

For more information about making a bequest to the canyon, please call Ann Schefflen, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at (938) 863-3876, or email her at ann@grandcanyon.org.
Preserving the View

Through the generosity of Joe Orr and members like you, Grand Canyon National Park is on its way to reducing light pollution and energy consumption. With your support every light bulb and light fixture within the boundaries of this more than one million-acre park has been identified and cataloged in a database that allows park scientists to virtually test different preservation techniques and approaches. During this centennial year, Grand Canyon National Park will apply to become a Certified International Dark Sky Park and start the ambitious process of retrofitting old fixtures and bulbs with state-of-the-art LED lighting that minimizes glare, reduces light and won’t pollute the night sky. Grand Canyon National Park is developing a plan to remove or retrofit all offending light sources while ensuring resident and visitor safety at night. This plan will not only improve the visibility of our stars and planets today, but will protect the night sky for generations to come.
The National Park Service and Grand Canyon Association will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service throughout the year. Join us for these fun and inspiring events that help us celebrate our public lands and plan for the next 100 years.

### February 26
Kaibab-Paiute Dark Skies Program

### April–August
Desert View Cultural Demonstrations

### April 15
National Junior Ranger Day

### April 16–24
National Park Week

### April 22
Earth Day

### May 6–8
Living History Performance of Teddy Roosevelt

### May 20–22
Rededication of Desert View Watchtower and Grand Canyon Association Members’ Weekend

### June–August
Grand Canyon Field School

### June 4–5
Fred Harvey Symposium

### June 4–11
2016 Star Party

### July–August
Echoes from the Canyon

### August 25
Founder’s Day Naturalization Ceremony

### August 25
Grand Canyon Music Festival Puhutawi Premiere

### August 26–29
NPS Centennial Steam Days

### August 26–27, September 2–4 and 8–10
Grand Canyon Music Festival

### September 9–11
Talkin’ Birds Radio Show

### September 10–18
Celebration of Art Events

### September 18–24
Grand Canyon Restaurant Week

### September 18–January 16
Celebration of Art Exhibition

### September 24
Arizona Republic Storytellers Event

### November 4–6
Grand Canyon History Symposium

A full calendar with event descriptions is available on the GCA website; visit us at [www.grandcanyon.org/events](http://www.grandcanyon.org/events).

On May 22, during GCA Members’ Weekend, the Desert View Watchtower will be rededicated as a cultural center. Built in 1932, the watchtower was inspired by similar Native American structures. It serves as an observation point, offering 360-degree views on multiple levels as you climb staircases to the top, and houses a variety of unique furniture and Native American paintings. Join Grand Canyon National Park and GCA to celebrate the legacy of Mary Colter’s architecture and the tribes that call the canyon home.

Members’ Weekend registration opens online on February 23 at [www.grandcanyon.org/events](http://www.grandcanyon.org/events).
Lending a Hand: Members Give Their Time to Grand Canyon National Park

BY KATE MCHUGH, GCA VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Have you ever wanted to live and work in Grand Canyon National Park . . . even just for a week? This November, a dozen Grand Canyon Association (GCA) members had this experience when they came together to work alongside National Park Service wildland firefighters during one of our Volunteer Week events. Our volunteers helped park staff to ensure a healthy forest ecosystem in and around the Grand Canyon Village area. Traveling from near and far—from Flagstaff to Washington, D.C.—our volunteers gave their time to be stewards of Grand Canyon National Park and give back to the park they love.

During their volunteer experience, the crew learned about the intricacies of wildland fire history and management and put their education into practice by participating in hands-on fire management on the South Rim. Projects included thinning the overgrown forest and piling thinned trees into burn piles.

Grand Canyon’s wildland firefighters were very thankful for the strong work of our volunteers. The firefighters and volunteers finished eight weeks of work in just one week. Many hands really do make light work!

In just one week, GCA volunteers contributed:

- **336** total hours of labor
- **$7,752** in labor value
- **Significant** progress toward protecting the park from catastrophic wildfire and creating a healthy forest

“I love the Grand Canyon. I joined several years ago because I realized the important contribution GCA made to the park. This week confirmed the commitment between GCA and NPS for me, so I have now enrolled with my employer for an automatic monthly donation made to GCA, with a percentage matched by Allstate Insurance.”

Debbie Sebo, Member

Fire is an important part of the rims’ forest community, where dominant species such as ponderosa pines require wildfire in order to propagate and prosper. Historically, ponderosa pines numbered 50 per acre in this region. In areas where wildfire has been suppressed, that number is now more than 1,000 trees per acre.

The fire management tasks that our volunteers completed are critical to allowing healthy fire to return to the Grand Canyon ecosystem without threatening the rims’ ecological or human communities. Low-intensity burns limit the amount of fuel a fire can consume and help to create a healthy forest by removing young and weak trees.

Grand Canyon Association is excited to offer four week-long volunteer opportunities to our members. To learn about upcoming projects, visit [www.grandcanyon.org/volunteer](http://www.grandcanyon.org/volunteer).
Leave a Grand Legacy

Making a bequest through your will or estate plan is a simple way to protect and enhance Grand Canyon National Park for present and future generations.

If you’ve already included the Grand Canyon in your will . . . Thank You! Please let us know about your plans, so we may recognize you as a member of the Grand Canyon’s Bright Angel Society.

Find out more by calling Phil Payne, Donor Engagement Manager, at (938) 638-7021, or email him at ppayne@grandcanyon.org.