Grand Canyon’s Wilderness Trails

Along the Hermit Trail

Leave a Legacy to Trails Forever

Artist Demonstrations at the Watchtower

Youth Conservation Corps at the Canyon
Intrigued by its name, one of the first trails I hiked at Grand Canyon was the Hermit Trail. This wonderful trail, steeped in the history of early pioneering activity, is featured in this issue of Canyon Views. It remains one of my favorite day hikes, especially the spur that leads to Dripping Springs. While rugged in spots, this three-mile hike on a steep and hot trail rewards one with an enchanting alcove and dripping water springs at the base of the Coconino Sandstone. This lush oasis, filled with maiden-hair ferns and scarlet monkey flowers, is a quiet place to reflect on the sights and sounds in the canyon.

The trails of Grand Canyon are not only passageways into the spectacular layers of geologic formations and sweeping views, they also take us back in time and connect us to the people who have called the canyon home for centuries. For everyone from the Ancestral Puebloan communities to the American pioneers, the trails have provided a lifeline to essential food and water, sacred sites and places of cultural importance.

This issue of Canyon Views shares the stories of our trails, their past and their continued importance to us. Just as the magnificence of the canyon is continually changed by the forces of water, weather and time, the trails, too, are ever changing. Overgrown vegetation, trail erosion and a continual stream of enthusiastic visitors requires us to pay special attention to our trails and their upkeep. Many of you have supported our trails fundraising program, and we can’t thank you enough for being part of the continued legacy of our beloved Grand Canyon trails.

Happy Trails!
Leave Your Footprint at Grand Canyon: 
Your Support Helps Fund Trail Restoration and Stabilization

More than 350 miles of established trails offer visitors a one-of-a-kind connection to the rich history and visual splendor of Grand Canyon. Many canyon hikers have a favorite Grand Canyon trail thanks to an epic adventure, a memorable time with family or friends or simply because they enjoyed a rare moment of solace surrounded by nature.

With limited federal funding for trail restoration, many of our wilderness trails are in peril. Grand Canyon National Park currently spends more than a million dollars each year to maintain popular Corridor trails like Bright Angel and Kaibab. Unfortunately, that’s not enough to permit the park’s hardworking trail crews to protect backcountry and wilderness trails too.

Steep terrain, heavy use and continual erosion degrade trails quickly. Many wilderness trails are overgrown by vegetation and blocked by rockslide debris. In some places, hiker shortcuts and walk-arounds are causing further damage.

That’s where you and other Grand Canyon Association members can help. You can support trail restoration at Grand Canyon National Park with your gift to our Trails Forever campaign. Park leadership developed a multi-year restoration project that will restore the park’s most beloved and well-traveled wilderness trails. The “roadmap” for this massive restoration project is detailed on the next pages.

Your gift to the Trails Forever program funds high-priority trail work and sustains the trail crews who work to preserve and protect the park for current and future generations. To learn more, visit our website, www.grandcanyon.org, or call or email Chief Philanthropy Officer Ann Scheflen at 928-863-3876 or ann@grandcanyon.org.
Trails Forever: Grand Canyon's Wilderness Trail Update

Grand Canyon Association members and donors are helping to fund annual trail maintenance and create a permanent fund for ongoing trail restoration.

Clear Creek Trail
Clear Creek Trail was built between 1934 and 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC). Its trailhead is approximately .25 mile north of Phantom Ranch on the North Kaibab Trail.

In the spring of 2015, you made it possible for NPS, in collaboration with the Arizona Conservation Corps, to rehabilitate and stabilize the trail. We are proud to say that this restoration effort has been completed and the trail is ready for your next visit.

Tanner Trail
What remains of a once popular pioneer-era trail follows the gully immediately east of Lipan Point. The upper section of the Tanner Trail is narrow, badly eroded and can be difficult to follow, especially after a winter storm. Restoration, supported by GCA members, will keep hikers from creating bypass trails around obstacles. This is important, since the bypass trails form gullies that can cause further erosion.

Grandview Trail
Over time, the original Grandview Trail was created to connect early explorers to copper mines on Horseshoe Mesa. The well-built trail was used by more tourists than miners because it provided one of the best access routes into the canyon for its time.

Thanks to your generous support, work will begin this year on the Grandview Trail to improve access to Horseshoe Mesa. Crews will remove debris, fix damaged walls, clear drainage devices and stabilize historic structures.
Thank You for Supporting Our Trails

Thanks to the generous support of these donors who gave a leadership gift to the Trails Forever Endowment and Restoration fund, Grand Canyon trails continue to lead the way to safe and enjoyable adventures in the canyon.

Arizona Public Service
Liz and Bill Sweeney
Horejsi Charitable Foundation
Anonymous
Elly and Bob Hostetler
Rick and Frances Rockwell
Peter and Kathleen Wege
Bill and Barb Berkley
Rob and Mary Bricker
Arch and Laura Brown
Just Roughin’ It Adventure Company
Kenneth and Mary Ellen Mylrea
Bruce and Ann Peek
The Raintree Foundation
REI

Thanks to all our members and donors who support Grand Canyon trails.

New Hance Trail
In 1883, “Captain” John Hance became the first European American to settle at the Grand Canyon. He originally built the trail to reach his mines but quickly found that the real money lay in work as a guide and hotel manager.

The New Hance Trail’s restoration efforts will focus on reestablishing original trail alignments, pruning vegetation and repairing failed trail features. In addition to these important maintenance efforts, NPS will also be clearly marking the trail where it enters Red Canyon, a notoriously confusing area for hikers to navigate.

Thunder River and Tapeats Creek Trail
The multi-tiered waterfalls at Thunder River and Tapeats Creek have attracted people since prehistoric times. The Thunder River and Tapeats Creek Trail is difficult to travel because of topography, rockslides and overgrown vegetation. This trail’s restoration work will include eliminating existing problems as well as maintaining trail structures and improving campsites.

Hermit Trail
The park’s next priority is the Hermit Trail. See the next page for additional information.
The Hermit Trail:
Your Connection to Canyon History

Your support of Trails Forever at Grand Canyon Association keeps trails open and accessible for hikers, and it helps preserve our remarkable history. As trails are restored, every effort is taken to protect ancient archeology sites, pioneer structures and Civilian Conservation Corps construction. With your help, many of the trails are being protected, but there is still so much left to do. Soon our focus will turn to the Hermit Trail.

The Hermit Trail, like most Grand Canyon trails, began as an American Indian route over 2,000 years ago. Nearby Ancestral Puebloan communities created the trail for hunting and gathering. As newcomers arrived on the continent in the 16th century and American pioneers moved westward in the 1800s, entrepreneurs and opportunists began to settle in the canyon and continued to use and further develop the trails established by their predecessors.

The “hermit” of the trail was Louis D. Boucher, a French-Canadian miner and prospector who lived in the Hermit Creek area for approximately 20 years and operated several mines there. He was labeled a hermit because he lived alone, but Boucher was, in fact, socially active and respected in the South Rim community of his day.

In 1909, the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company, a subsidiary of the Santa Fe Railway, surveyed the Hermit Trail and hired the L. J. Smith Construction Company to modernize it over a
two-year period beginning in 1911. When it came
time to give the trail a name, the railway decided
to call it the Hermit Trail after its former resident.

The Hermit Trail was developed as a state-of-the-art rim-to-river trail. At the time, the trail was unique to the Grand Canyon because it was designed exclusively for tourist use. The railway also built Hermit Camp, complete with a tramway from the rim, a functional automobile for transportation below the rim and a Fred Harvey Company chef.

The Hermit Trail was built to be as comfortable and safe as possible, with plenty of rest stops along the route, a wide tread and reduced grades to help make an inhospitable landscape more welcoming and pleasant. Portions of the trail were stabilized with a rock foundation and featured retaining walls built of local stone to help them blend into the natural landscape. These creative features became a model for trail construction throughout the National Park System.

Today, the old Hermit Trail is a mere shadow of its former self. Although it is a regularly traveled path that offers a direct link to the excitement and romance of the early days at Grand Canyon, it’s in critical need of restoration and maintenance.

With support from our members and donors, work will primarily focus on the most heavily used sections of the trail, including the upper segment (within three miles of the trailhead) and the lower segment (within two miles of the river). Restoration efforts will focus on areas where the trail has eroded, making it difficult for visitors to find their way. With your continued help, the park will have the tools and the resources to restore this historic treasure to its former state of grandeur.

Hermits Rest was originally built in 1914 as a stage stop for tourists.
As children, Arch and Laura Brown spent many hours discovering the natural world around their East Coast family homes. When Arch first visited the West in the 1950s, he was spellbound by its wide-open spaces. The couple’s first visit to Grand Canyon, however, opened an expansive new world. Laura vividly remembers peering over the rim holding her youngest child, who was one year old at the time. “I’d never seen anything like it, and I’ve never forgotten that feeling of complete awe.”

Arch and Laura have been visiting—and supporting—the canyon ever since. Frequent canyon hikers, the Browns have completed a rim-to-rim and numerous backpacking trips on lesser-known trails like Hermit. In the 1980s, the Browns organized a 14-day family reunion down the Colorado River aboard two motorized boats. This year, the couple, along with son Alexander, joined Grand Canyon Association again for an eight-day river trip.
“The Grand Canyon cannot take care of itself. With over five million visitors to the park each year, trails are impacted and the park needs help to maintain them.”

The Browns particularly enjoy hiking backcountry wilderness trails. “The peace, beauty and challenge of hiking these seldom-used trails is a special experience. I cannot think of a more beautiful place to disconnect from the modern world and enjoy nature,” says Laura.

Recently, the couple decided to inspire others with a gift to the Trails Forever Endowment fund. “The endowment fund is a powerful and secure way to support the canyon trails we love in perpetuity,” says Arch.

The Browns feel it is imperative to educate the next generation about preserving our national parks, including Grand Canyon. “Introducing young men and women to the beauty of the outdoors and protecting trails used by our forefathers is of great importance to us,” says Laura. “We have hiked in many different countries but return each year to Grand Canyon to explore its magnificence. Our grown sons often accompany us—they are the next generation of advocates for the park.”

Leave a legacy to support trails

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.

In 2013, Arizona Public Service made a generous gift to establish a permanent fund for improvement and maintenance of the trails within the park. Many others have also chosen to leave a legacy for the park by designating a portion of their estate gifts to Trails Forever or another priority project.

Your estate plan is personal and unique. If your plans include Grand Canyon, we’d like to send you our free Planning Your Legacy guide. This useful guide has helped many of our supporters think through what best fits for them. If you have already included Grand Canyon Association in your estate plans, we thank you. Please let us know so we may recognize your foresight and generosity.

To request a copy, please contact Ann Scheflen at 928-863-3876 or ascheflen@grandcanyon.org
“Work, Play, Learn, Grow.” That is the motto for every Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) unit across America. Fostering these four components through youth work programs helps inspire the future caretakers of our public lands as well as gives our youth exciting opportunities to explore possible career paths.

At Grand Canyon, the youth, ages 15-18, who participate in park’s YCC program all come from local communities. Most visitors don’t realize that the park is home to a community of 2,000 year-round residents. These residents make up the workforce at the park and include employees from the National Park Service, the park’s concessionaire partners and the Grand Canyon Association. All of the students in the Grand Canyon YCC program attend Grand Canyon High School, one the few K-12 schools within the park system.

The opportunity to participate in the YCC program helps local youth learn more about the park’s rich natural and cultural resources, all while developing leadership skills and earning a paycheck for eight weeks during the summer months when school is closed. During the summer of 2016, Grand Canyon National Park will once again hire two youth crews to complete park vegetation projects, assist visitors vacationing in the park, participate in video documentation efforts and work with the horse patrol staff. It’s an exciting opportunity for these young participants to learn more about Grand Canyon while working alongside park professionals in their home community.

(Above) Youth Conservation Corps crew members Brandon Lenz (crew youth leader on the left), Anna Knight, Julia Vincent and Liam Gallagher work at the park’s greenhouse preparing native grasses for eventual transplantation.

(Top left) After a day of service work on the North Rim, field crew leader Anna Knight (left) and YCC participants Jimmy Hoblin, Kylie Donehoo, Tina Dugi, Brandon Lenz, Julia Vincent and Jess Van Inwagen head out on a rim-to-rim hike across the canyon.
During the midst of the Great Depression (1929–39), Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal provided thousands of young men work in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The goal of the newly formed agency was twofold: conservation of our natural resources and jobs for unemployed men ages 17 to 23. The work of the corps members primarily included projects such as planting trees, building flood barriers, fighting forest fires and maintaining forest roads and trails—including at Grand Canyon.

Today, the legacy of the CCC continues at Grand Canyon in the form of modern youth conservation corps like the YCC, Arizona Conservation Corps and Student Conservation Association.

Explore Grand Canyon with the GCA Field Institute

**Hike with the experts!** You can experience the wonders of Grand Canyon with instructors whose in-depth knowledge of the canyon contributes to a fun, educational and safe adventure that you and your family will not forget. **Join us for the day!**

The Field Institute offers single- and partial-day guided hikes including private hikes for families and groups on the South Rim, half-day tours for the general public on both the North and South Rims, and a two-day Learning & Lodging program conducted in partnership with Xanterra South Rim, LLC. Join us for an unforgettable and GRAND adventure!

Members receive discounts on select classes. Learn more: [www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute](http://www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute)
Standing on the edge of the canyon, many visitors are overwhelmed by the grand geologic history on view before them. Gazing down almost two billion years into the past, we sometimes overlook that the human connection with the canyon is also ancient. For visitors to the Desert View Watchtower, that is all changing.

In 2015, Grand Canyon Association members helped the park bring more than 27 tribal artists, dancers and storytellers to Desert View, providing 73 days of onsite cultural demonstrations.

People have lived in proximity with the canyon for at least 12,000 years, and the descendants of those inhabitants are still here, living in and around Grand Canyon today. When Mary Colter designed the Desert View Watchtower in 1932, her intent was to honor this connection by creating a landmark that would “introduce the depths of native culture to the traveler.” Filled with stunning murals of Hopi life painted by Fred Kabotie, the watchtower regularly hosted artists and demonstrators who brought tribal traditions to life for visitors.

Sadly, over time the original purpose of the watchtower faded. The tower was turned into a large souvenir shop, and cultural demonstrations stopped. Then, in 2013, the Grand Canyon Inter-Tribal Advisory Council was established to bring the collective wisdom of the tribal members together in open dialogue with the park leadership. During these conversations, the tribes expressed a desire to have a place to call their own within the park.
Now, thanks to funding from the National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the ArtPlace America National Grants Program and the Grand Canyon Association, the Desert View area is once again becoming a place where tribal voices and heritage can be seen and heard, and the watchtower is being restored to its original purpose. Today, the tribes gather at Desert View for public cultural demonstrations, celebrations, elder and youth programs, authentic tribal interpretive programs and just to be “home” again. The next time you are at the park, make a visit to Desert View part of your plans and experience this exciting revitalization for yourself.

Weekend Watchtower Cultural Demonstrations

If you were at the Watchtower May 7-8 you perhaps met Iva Honyestewa, a Hopi artist best known for her basket weaving. A member of the Sun Clan, she lives in Shungopavi Village on Second Mesa, located about two hours east of the Grand Canyon on the Hopi Reservation. Using traditional materials such as the yucca plant, willow and three-leaf sumac branches, she says, “I believe I can share my art with the world in creating new, unusually unique baskets and figures.”

If you will be at the canyon this summer, be sure to visit Desert View so you can meet other artists like Iva and experience the tribal connection to the canyon for yourself.

June 18 & 19
Donald Dawahongnewa, Hopi weaver
Patrick Yellowhorse, Navajo sandcast jeweler

June 25 & 26
Donna and Francis Nightpipe, Yavapai basket weavers
Michael George, Hopi carver

July 2 & 3
Ernest Mackel, Zuni fetish carver
Damon Tso Jr., Navajo potter

July 9 & 10
Greg Hill, Hopi toy maker
Jonah Hill, Hopi silversmith

July 16 & 17
Estaban Najera, Zuni fetish carver

July 23 & 24
Ed Kabotie, Hopi musician and storyteller
Curtis Naseyowman, Hopi carver

August 13 & 14
Herbert Him Jr., Zuni carver

August 27 & 28
Florence Riggs, Navajo weaver

For more information and the full calendar of the 2016 cultural demonstrations scheduled at Desert View Watchtower, please visit the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/calendar-of-events.htm.
Vote for Grand Canyon.
Help raise $250,000 to preserve Desert View Watchtower.

Learn more at www.votegrandcanyon.org
Vote at www.voteyourpark.org
TAKE A HIKE: Before your next hike, enjoy one of GCA's publications on the trails of Grand Canyon.

Official Guide to Hiking Grand Canyon
by Scott Thybony
Whether you’re going to the bottom of the canyon or strolling on the rim, you’ll want this guide in hand. Official Guide to Hiking Grand Canyon provides profiles and maps of major trails, beautiful photographs and current park regulations and permit procedures. 68 pages, 8 ½" x 5 ½" paperback non-member price: $9.95 Member price $8.46

Canyon Crossing: Stories about Grand Canyon from Rim to Rim
by Seth Muller
Join author Seth Muller on a grand adventure, searching for the canyon’s soul along miles of the park’s Corridor trails: the Bright Angel, South Kaibab and North Kaibab. Muller profiles rangers, artists, hikers, mule skinners and other canyon characters. 208 pages, 6" x 9" paperback non-member price: $16.95 Member price $14.41

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

Grand Canyon Association works 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.

8TH ANNUAL GRAND CANYON CELEBRATION OF ART
SEPTEMBER 10, 2016 — JANUARY 16, 2017

Join us as we celebrate art at Grand Canyon. Artists will paint along the rim and in the canyon “en plein air,” culminating in a weekend of activities showcasing their work.

Celebration of Art Calendar of Events
Quick Draw & Auction – Saturday, September 17
8 a.m.–noon at the Bright Angel trailhead

Brunch (ticketed event) – Sunday, September 18
10 a.m.–noon at Kolb Studio

Grand Opening – Sunday, September 18
Noon–2 p.m. at Kolb Studio

Exhibit and Sale – September 18, 2016–January 16, 2017
Kolb Studio Art Gallery

For more information on Celebration of Art and a list of participating artists, please visit us at www.grandcanyon.org/arts-and-culture.
With an annual gift of $1,000 or more, you make an immediate impact on the park while enjoying special benefits only available to Grand Guardians, including:

• Recognition in our annual report and in the Donor Registry at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center
• Opportunities to reserve early for premier events like Members Weekend and Celebration of Art

NEW FOR 2016! Celebrate the National Park Service’s 100th Anniversary with a private gathering at the North Rim for Grand Guardians only. This special two-day event will take place after the lodge closes to the public for the season. Space is limited.

For more information, visit our website at grandcanyon.org.