CANYON VIEWS
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FROM THE CEO

Celebrating Change, Protecting What’s Timeless

The first time I hiked to the bottom of Grand Canyon, it was so grueling that when I reached the bottom, I was sure I would never do that again. But I didn’t yet realize the power of this place. After a couple of days exploring and relaxing in Bright Angel Creek, I was hooked. I had been humbled by the trail, but inspired by the incredible beauty around me. I saw my journey in a different light — as a triumph, a transformation.

Things change. That is the reality of life. It’s the reality of Grand Canyon. Change isn’t always easy, but it often brings with it new vitality and a new way forward. And while some things change, others, we hope, never do.

This is the hope I bring as I assume my new role as CEO of Grand Canyon Conservancy this month — that you and I will remain steadfast in our efforts to protect what is priceless and timeless at Grand Canyon while embracing changes that will ensure a bright future for this magical place and all who come here to experience its wonders.

As we bid farewell to Susan Schroeder, we celebrate the many changes she ushered in with your help — the redevelopment of Bright Angel Trailhead, the renovation of Kolb Studio, construction of the South Rim greenhouse. And much more.

In this Canyon Views, you’ll see more exciting changes underway as we carry the Conservancy’s work into the next 100 years — like a new shade structure at Tipoff on the South Kaibab Trail. And you’ll see the enduring passion and commitment of our supporters, like Sheila and Allen Henry, that makes our work possible.

For the many wonderful changes Grand Canyon has brought into my life — and for all the exciting changes to come — thank you for loving, and caring for, the canyon!

Theresa McMullan
Chief Executive Officer
It’s one of Grand Canyon’s most popular trails. And no wonder. The South Kaibab offers up to 500 visitors a day a wealth of panoramic views as it hugs the ridgeline on its descent toward the Colorado River.

But the South Kaibab Trail is also notable for what it does not offer: shade and water. Being on the ridge exposes the canyon’s breathtaking views, but it also exposes hikers to Arizona’s unrelenting heat, sun, and dry conditions.

It’s not unusual for hikers to set out energetically on a day hike or overnight trip to Phantom Ranch, only to find themselves hot and exhausted by the time they get to the Tipoff just 4.4 miles down the trail. The Tipoff has composting toilets and an emergency phone but doesn’t help hikers with their greatest need — protection from the sun.

The plan includes improvements that will make the trail safer and more enjoyable for tens of thousands of people who travel it each year, including:

• A durable shade structure with steel roof and wooden benches, built to withstand harsh weather conditions with little or no maintenance.

• Two new cisterns to capture the canyon’s precious rainfall, making emergency water available to hikers carrying water filters.

Be on the lookout for crews working on this much-needed structure as you hike South Kaibab later this year!
Sheila and Allen Henry first visited Grand Canyon together on a group camping trip to Havasu Falls in 2006. It was an amazing and moving experience. That’s why they return — again and again. “It’s spiritual,” Sheila says. “Of course, it’s a physical challenge too, but you can’t help but be impressed by the age of it. You’re looking at nearly 2 billion years of history.”

Allen agrees. A trip down the Colorado River a couple years ago brought it home to him in an especially dramatic way. “That trip made me appreciate how precious and delicate the canyon is,” Allen says. “It could so easily be destroyed if people didn’t care. We came away thinking, ‘If we’re benefitting from what’s being done, and enjoying this environment and the trips we’re doing, we should support it.’”

When the Arizona couple hiked with a guide down the Grandview Trail, it underscored their conclusion. They were able to see how their contributions supported urgent needs in the park, particularly on the trails they love. “We saw how much work remains to be done,” Sheila says, “and realized if these trails are not kept up, people could get hurt.”

“We also saw the care, attention, and workmanship that went into rebuilding the trail,” Allen adds. “That’s when we decided to increase our commitment to Trails Forever.”

“Every time we visit, we go to Desert View,” Allen says, “and we’ve been impressed with how the restoration is going. I also became aware of the value of the Dark Skies project on a rafting trip. I woke up during the night, put on my glasses, and saw the unbelievable splendor of the Milky Way.”

Sheila emphasizes that their support makes them part of something bigger at Grand Canyon — a community of people who care deeply about protecting this place they all love so much.

“If we aren’t willing to support Grand Canyon Conservancy,” says Allen, “how can we expect anyone else to?”
For someone who loves Grand Canyon, and maps, as much as Dennis Foster does, it was an amazing find — two maps of Grand Canyon published in 1906 and 1907.

Dennis is an avid hiker, Grand Canyon Conservancy supporter, and professor of economics at Northern Arizona University. Why are these maps so exciting? For one, Dennis says they are the first detailed maps of Grand Canyon. Called the Bright Angel Quadrangle and Vishnu Quadrangle, they were created by François Matthes, a geologist who mapped many natural areas and national parks in the west for the United States Geological Survey.

But what makes them a true treasure for anyone who loves hiking Grand Canyon is that they are detailed enough to show trails, some that have gone largely unused for a hundred years or more!

“When finding the starting and ending points for these old trails is challenging.”

When Dennis discovered the cartographic treasures, he became charged with a new mission — to locate and hike the forgotten trails. “Finding the starting and ending points for these old trails is challenging,” says Dennis. “Once on them, you can usually follow them pretty well, especially if they have signs of old construction.”

He was surprised to find that some of these historic trails seemed familiar. “I kept saying to myself, ‘I’ve been over that trail.’” As it turns out, he’d stumbled onto many of the old trails during his 30 years of hiking the canyon. Who knows, you may have too!

Other trails are ones you likely know, though they’ve changed overtime. Famous Bright Angel, for example, appears on the map but with a slightly different route and a different name — the Cameron Trail.

One historic trail that is easy to find is part of an older route of the current Bright Angel Trail. Dennis calls it the Bright Angel Wash Trail. To find it, from Indian Garden follow the Tonto trail east. The old trail goes down a drainage and has an obvious trail tread.

Remember, no matter where you hike in the canyon, stay on trail and hike smart! Make sure you have food and water, the appropriate clothing for the ever-changing Grand Canyon climate, and leave no trace of your visit to one of the world’s greatest landmarks. Most of all, have fun!
The Raintree Foundation has been supporting Grand Canyon Conservancy since 2009. In this Centennial year, the Foundation is helping to fund the Canyon Field School, Search and Rescue (SAR) and Preventive Search and Rescue (PSAR), and Trails Forever.

We spoke with James Frank, Raintree’s president, about what supporting Grand Canyon Conservancy means to the Foundation:

“The Raintree Foundation was founded by my late father, Harold Frank. As an engineer turned businessman, he had a passion for supporting entrepreneurship education for engineering students at our local university, the University of California at Santa Barbara, his alma mater, Washington State University, and my alma mater, California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. The Foundation continues to support those and other educational and youth programs in the Santa Barbara area.

The current directors of the Foundation believe strongly that creating opportunities for involving youth in the wilderness benefits our planet. Our investment in today’s youth will create better decision makers in the future. Grand Canyon Conservancy provides those opportunities through the Field Institute and the youth trail crews.

I am most enthusiastic about projects that get people out of their cars and into the wilderness. While this includes good trails, good signage, and motivation, it also includes making it a safe experience. I have been told by several rangers that funding for Preventive Search & Rescue (PSAR) does not have the “attractiveness” of some of the other projects. Raintree has helped support the PSAR program for several years.

With more than 40 years’ experience as a volunteer Search and Rescue responder, I greatly appreciate the motivation and skill of the Search and Rescue rangers in all of the parks. It is always great to connect with these longtime friends when I am at the canyon.”

Grand Canyon Conservancy thanks Raintree Foundation for its ongoing support of Grand Canyon National Park.

Jim Frank and friend Juanita Smith at the Great Unconformity, Grand Canyon Conservancy Field Institute trip.

For more information regarding Corporate and Foundation Support, please contact Elizabeth Wilkinson, Senior Philanthropy Officer, Institutional Giving at ewilkinson@grandcanyon.org or (602) 819-4248.
You already know one of the most spectacular sights a person can hope to see in their lifetime is Grand Canyon. So just imagine the beauty that will be captured on canvas when more than 20 talented landscape artists from around the country come to Grand Canyon to paint *en plein air* (outdoors) for an entire week, creating a body of more than 500 original works.

The 11th Annual Grand Canyon Celebration of Art has something for canyon lovers and arts patrons near and far.

Plan a trip to visit the South Rim between September 7 and 15, and you’ll be rewarded with rich, one-of-a-kind experiences as part of the on-site festivities. With painting taking place along the South Rim, visitors can see demonstrations and watch amazing canyon views come to life on canvas. This year, in honor of Grand Canyon National Park’s Centennial, several special guest artists will join the celebration.

And here’s the best part—the paintings will be sold to benefit the establishment of a dedicated art venue at the South Rim and to increase the park’s educational opportunities related to art.

In early October, the paintings will become available through the Celebration of Art’s online gallery. Mark your calendar to visit grandcanyon.org/coa to enjoy the amazing collection of art and perhaps bring Grand Canyon into your home with the purchase of one of these very special original works of art!
El Tovar Hotel and Maswik Lodge are two of the many places to stay when visiting Grand Canyon National Park. Run by Xanterra Travel Collection, they are two of Grand Canyon Conservancy’s Guest Donation Partners — a program that encourages employees of Grand Canyon National Park’s concessioners to promote Grand Canyon Conservancy and its mission to visitors.

Weylon Singer is one of Xanterra’s employees who has made an enormous difference acting as a proud ambassador for the park at El Tovar and Maswik Lodge. He has broken records by raising more than $76,000 for Grand Canyon Conservancy by explaining GCC’s importance to the park to lodging guests and asking if they’d like to support Grand Canyon through a donation.

When guests arrive, Weylon asks about their first impressions of Grand Canyon. For many, it’s their first visit, and they’re still in awe. It’s a feeling Weylon understands.

“I was 11 years old the first time I visited. It just looked surreal. It’s so vast. I remember being awestruck by it.”

Weylon grew up in northern Arizona, so he knows a lot about the area and is passionate about sharing his knowledge — and enthusiasm — with others. It’s his passion for Grand Canyon that makes him excel in his work at the front desk.

“It’s just making people happy. Making their visit eventful so they have lasting memories, so they come back.”

“It’s having a good rapport,” he says. “Asking guests ‘How was your day? How was your drive into the park?’ Giving them information about the canyon. At the end, I ask, ‘Would you like to make a donation to Grand Canyon Conservancy?’”

If people ask, Weylon tells them more about what the Conservancy does — about the Dark Skies Initiative, the importance of maintaining the trails, the work at Desert View. And he always makes sure to mention the Junior Ranger program to parents.

Asked how he feels about the record donations he’s generated, he replies modestly, “I’m excited about it. I think it’s going to a great cause.”

And despite staying busy with his work, Weylon still finds time to enjoy the canyon.

“I like the sunsets. When I get off, I sometimes drive to the South Kaibab Trail and jog out to Ooh Aah Point. It’s my evening exercise.”

Thank you to all our in-park Guest Donation Partners for sharing our mission with visitors: Grand Canyon National Park Lodges (Xanterra), Grand Canyon Railway Hotel, Delaware North Company, Forever Resorts, and Bright Angel Bicycles.

For more information on the Guest Donation Program, please contact Anne Dowling, adowling@grandcanyon.org
FIELD INSTITUTE
DAY TOURS BRING THE CANYON TO LIFE FOR CURIOUS VISITORS

Looking for the perfect way to spend a day at Grand Canyon National Park? Consider an expert-led walking tour with the Grand Canyon Conservancy Field Institute. It’s a surefire way to go home with an understanding of the world’s most-famous chasm — and some gorgeous photographs.

Over the past 26 years, our instructors/guides have shared the wonders of the park with thousands of visitors thanks to the support of friends like you — delivering talks at scenic overlooks, leading strolls along the rim, and guiding visitors on hikes down the canyon’s trails.

Topics include geology, ecology, and archaeology, as well as pioneer and American Indian history. Our goal is to provide safe, fun, and informative adventures for the entire family (age restrictions apply).

These half and full-day engagements are perfect for first-time visitors and Grand Canyon aficionados alike. To the extent possible, instructors/guides tailor the day’s topics and activities to the abilities and interests of the participants. Some tours are offered on a private basis; others are available for general registration. Tours are offered on both the South Rim and (seasonally) North Rim.

The Field Institute works with the park’s three hotel concessioners — Delaware North Company, Forever Resorts, and Grand Canyon National Park Lodges (Xanterra) — to showcase, and in some cases collaborate on, these memorable learning adventures.

Visit us online at grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute and go to “Day Hikes & Tours” for full details. Or call us at (866) 471-4435.

Let our family show your family why they call it “Grand” Canyon!

Photo by Mike Buchheit
SHOP THE CENTENNIAL

Take home a Centennial collectible product or give one as a gift . . . it’s as easy as visiting shop.grandcanyon.org!

Grand Canyon National Park 100 Views
$30.00, Supporter price $25.50
Bring home your copy of the official publication of Grand Canyon National Park’s Centennial. Enjoy breathtaking pictures that capture the deep and abiding appeal of Grand Canyon paired with essays by canyon veteran Scott Thybony. This book is truly a collector’s item for this special Centennial year.

2019 Limited Edition Centennial Pendleton Blanket
$349.00, Supporter price $296.65
This one-of-a-kind blanket was designed by renowned astronomer Dr. Tyler Nordgren and is dedicated to commemorating the park’s 100th anniversary and designation as an International Dark Sky Park.

2019 Grand Canyon National Park Centennial Nalgene® Tritan™ Bottle
$17.00, Supporter price $14.45
This tough and durable, 24 oz. bottle with a burley carabiner cap is a special edition Centennial water bottle. Easy to clean, fill, and drink. Made in the USA.

You can find these items and much more at shop.grandcanyon.org
A GRAND FAREWELL

After serving as Grand Canyon Conservancy’s CEO for 11 years, Susan Schroeder reflects on her tenure and what’s to come — for Grand Canyon and herself.

What are you most proud of as you reflect on your tenure as CEO?

Growing Grand Canyon Conservancy, both existing and new programs, without losing sight of preserving our past. Grand Canyon Conservancy has been around since 1932, so preserving its legacy, was important to me as we embarked on beginning a fundraising program. We’ve had many longtime supporters that have watched us grow and change over the years and to hear them be excited about the changes, and the additional ways we now support the park means a lot to me.

Over the past 10 years, Grand Canyon Conservancy has seen immense growth which is allowing us to support Grand Canyon National Park like never before. We have a strong and effective partnership with the park and are in lockstep supporting their efforts. We have expanded our supporter base to over 22,000 households, and we have grown and diversified our board of directors who come from all across the country.

We launched our first ever fundraising campaign during the National Park Service Centennial in 2016, and we will end the campaign this year during Grand Canyon National Park’s Centennial. It’s a $15 million campaign, and we are at $14.5 million — we’re almost there!

What were your biggest challenges as CEO of Grand Canyon Conservancy?

When I took the position in 2008, I was tasked by the board to start a fundraising program. Then the recession hit, and I didn’t anticipate the impact it would have on us. Adversity has a way of making us stronger, and that was the case for Grand Canyon Conservancy. It was a challenging time, but also an opportunity to see how we could do things differently.

What are some of your most memorable experiences?

There are so many! Most of them revolve around seeing the ways Grand Canyon affects people emotionally. The canyon is a very spiritual place for many, offering us the opportunity to observe the powerful and spiritual ties between people and place. I’ll never tire of watching people standing silently at the rim, being transfixed by the mesmerizing vastness of this place. You realize that your life is a small part of the whole universe. It’s a very humbling experience.

What are your thoughts about the future of GCC and Grand Canyon National Park?

It’s critical that we continue finding ways to connect and engage our youth, the next generation that will care for and steward our natural wonders. That means understanding new methods of reaching out to get them engaged. The ways people find out about and visit parks is changing, as is how they support causes they care about.

As National Parks and other public land agencies face ongoing fiscal constraints and external threats, private and nonprofit partnerships will play a critical role in providing additional support for these special places. I think the role GCC plays will continue to be critical.

I’m excited and confident in the future of this organization. The board made an excellent choice in selecting Theresa McMullan as CEO, and her knowledge and experience with GCC will allow us to make this a seamless transition into GCC’s next chapter.

What comes next for you?

I plan to travel more with my husband and have more time to hike Grand Canyon! I’ll continue serving as a volunteer for nonprofit boards and do some consulting for nonprofit organizations.

Leading GCC has been an incredible honor and privilege. I’m thankful for having the opportunity to work so closely with some amazing people over the years. I’ll be cheering from the sidelines and am excited to see its next chapter unfold!
Support YOUR Park:

Ways to Give

Your contribution to Grand Canyon Conservancy provides critical support to protect and preserve Grand Canyon National Park.

**BRIGHT ANGEL CIRCLE**
Preserve and protect the park for future generations by remembering us in your will. Your estate gift leaves a lasting legacy and honors you today with recognition in our Bright Angel Circle.

**DONOR-ADVICED FUNDS**
Recommend a gift to Grand Canyon Conservancy through your donor-advised fund. Check with your fund advisor to learn how you can support Grand Canyon with a one-time, recurring, or estate gift through your fund today.

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

**IRA CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION**
Taxpayers 70 ½ years and older may donate up to $100,000 from their individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs to charitable nonprofits like Grand Canyon Conservancy. See your tax advisor for details.

**LEADERSHIP GIFTS**
Make a lasting impact at Grand Canyon with a leadership gift of $10,000 or more to trails, historic preservation, Desert View Inter-tribal Heritage Site, Dark Skies, science, research, education, and more.

To make a gift, call us at (928) 638-2481 or visit grandcanyon.org/ways-to-give.