

## GCNP Library Tour

On Saturday, January 17, there were 23 members and guests of the GCHS who took advantage of the beautiful winter day to arrive at the Grand Canyon National Park Library, located in the old Visitor Center. We were treated to a fun and informative discussion with Susan C. Eubank, professional librarian.



Susan joked that she was a public librarian for one day, and didn't like it. She prefers to work in these small, intense collections devoted to one subject area. Her passion for plants found her as the librarian in a botanical library. Her interest continues today as she works part of her time with the Reveg Department doing plant research.

Susan's father was in the Park Service, and they lived in Big Bend National Park when she was younger. In the 1980's, her parents moved to Grand Canyon, where her father was the engineer. On an interesting side note, her mother worked during that time at the Community Library. At that time it was housed in the old Babbitt Building, along with the Employee Pub and the Rec Center.

The history of the Park Service Library begins the same year that Grand Canyon became a national park, in 1919. At that time, the information services consisted of a set of traveling brochures. By 1920, the National Park Service and the Grand Canyon community pooled their resources to begin a library. 50 reference books were loaned by Arizona State University Library. (Susan wonders if those were ever returned??) Individuals such as Ellsworth Kolb also made contributions. From its humble beginnings, the library now boasts 12,000 volumes, with branches at the North Rim, Phantom Ranch, Tusayan Museum, Lee's Ferry and the Science Center. Phantom has the most amusing classification

...continued on page 2

## 2004 Outings

**February 21: *Wildfire at the Grand Canyon*** by Ron Brown, GCNP Interpretive Park Ranger. The program will include information on fire ecology and the history of wildfires in Grand Canyon National Park. We will hear how fire management has changed as a result of our understanding of how fire's role in the ecosystem has evolved. Lessons learned in fighting recent fires in the park such as the Outlet, Popular Complex and Powell Plateau fires will be discussed.

Ron has worked in the park's Wildland Fire Section and is the Park's Fire Information Officer. He is the person who interfaces with the public and press whenever there is a wildfire fire or smoke present in the Park.

Come join us to hear this enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker.

Place: Gurley Street Grill meeting room  
(on the 2nd floor)  
230 West Gurley Street - Prescott, AZ

Time: 11:00 AM with lunch to follow

*(Tom Carmony, February Outing Leader)*

**March 27: *Grand Canyon Climber – The Story of Robert Benson.*** Robert is the hero of GC climbers. Known for walking from Horse Canyon (Green River, Utah) to Lee's Ferry to join up with George Steck and his group who were on their way to Grand Wash Cliffs, Robert continued the trek along the River from Lake Mead to Moab (with a broken pelvis). Gary Ladd and George Steck will tell their stories of Robert Benson.

Join fellow hikers and historians at 11 AM at the old Marble Canyon Inn located across Highway 89A from Marble Canyon Lodge. (Look for the statue of the female river runner.) Let's meet for breakfast at Marble Canyon Lodge at 9:30 AM, and after the talk we could meet for lunch at one of the local eateries.

*(John Azar, March Outing Leader)*

...continued on page 4

## GCNP Library Tour ...continued from page 1



system – they use the “Duct Tape” system rather than the Dewey Decimal system. It’s amazing how many colors of duct tape there are! Considering it’s housed on one small bookcase in the corner of the Ranger Station, this system probably works just fine! The Tusayan

branch houses the majority of the Native American collection for the park.

A list of the library managers is a list of historical Grand Canyon Who’s Who. Glen Sturdevant worked in the library in 1927. Edwin D. McKee worked on the library and museum collection from 1927 until 1951. Louise Hinchliffe was hired in 1951 as the editor of Nature Notes. By the way, said her new employer, you will also be running the library and the museum. And so she did, until 1985.

The library was originally where the Community Library is today. The library was moved to its current location in 1957. The museum collection today is in the maintenance area in an environmentally controlled warehouse. This collection used to be in the library.

The library is heavily used by the science center researchers, as well as the interpretive staff. Using the library helps to make better programs and better science. Susan is trying to assure that the library is open to everyone interested in the body of knowledge about Grand Canyon. The scope of the books are books about Grand Canyon, as well as what it takes to understand Grand Canyon. Although checkout privileges are limited, the library is available to anyone willing to do their research on site. Research may also be done on line: [www.library.nps.gov](http://www.library.nps.gov)

Susan is working on a project to convert the holdings from the Dewey Decimal system, which is appropriate for general collections like a public library, to the Library of Congress classification system, which is more appropriate for academic holdings.

There is an extensive video collection, organized currently by Dewey number.

Sara Stebbins was the librarian prior to Susan. Sara’s training was actually as an archeologist, which caused her to want to save everything. One of Sara’s gifts to Grand Canyon was a filing cabinet where she turned every reference question into a research project. It is a browser’s paradise for Grand Canyon information.

There is a vertical file of historical information. This is a static collection, but a treasure trove. There also is a section of historical newspaper articles filed by subject.

As with every librarian’s worst nightmare, there is a plethora of uncataloged materials that Susan will be working on. Right now, they are stored in the attic.

In 1994, the Grand Canyon Community Library burned to the ground. Unfortunately, Mary Jane Colter’s private collection was stored there. Sara Stebbins and other NPS staff recovered what they could and brought it to the Park Service library. Most were badly fire and water damaged, but Susan seems to think that some of them can be cleaned up and restored.



Susan ended the day by allowing us to look through rare and historic books. There was a weather journal kept by the interpretive staff in 1942, showing that today’s weather is remarkably the same as that date in history.

Our thanks to Susan Eubank for sharing and explaining this gem of a library.

*[Article submitted by Nancy Green;  
photos by Diane Cassidy]*

## Scholarship Fund Donations

Thank you, all of you, for your generous gift to the GCHS Scholarship Fund:

Lee Albertson – Tempe AZ  
Charles Bongo – Flagstaff AZ  
Tom Carmony – Tempe AZ  
Dale & Carolyn Castleman – Peoria AZ  
Ethel Cole – Cottonwood AZ  
Laura Cole – Williams AZ  
Irene Ennis. – Walnut Creek CA  
Mike Ford – Lees Summit MO  
Keith Green – Grand Canyon AZ  
Dr. & Mrs. J. Kirschvink – Phoenix AZ  
Mike Mahanay – Seattle WA  
Jim & Janece Ohlman – Kayenta AZ  
Richard Quartaroli – Flagstaff AZ  
Charles Schulz – Carefree AZ  
Josephine Scheier – Lake Havasu City AZ  
Nancy Tardy – Henderson NV  
Steve Verkamp – Flagstaff AZ

---

## Pioneer Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2004 Grand Canyon Historical Society Pioneer Award.

The Society wants to honor an individual who has made a significant contribution to the understanding of and knowledge about the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River in such areas as geology, creation, river running, backcountry hiking, photography, history, administration, etc.; that is, any area that advances knowledge of the Grand Canyon.

Previous recipients of the Pioneer Award:

- 2003 - George Billingsley
- 2002 - William "Bill" Suran
- 1999 - George Steck
- 1998 - Gale Burak
- 1997 - Harvey Butchart

To make a nomination, simply submit the individual's name and their accomplishments and/or contributions that have advanced our knowledge of the Grand Canyon to:

Todd Berger  
P.O. Box 148 - Grand Canyon AZ 86023  
boddttodd@grand-canyon.az.us

Nominations must be received before April 1, 2004.

## GCHS Scholarship

The Grand Canyon Historical Society's scholarship supports research involving history, historic or environmental preservation in the Grand Canyon region.

Any NAU graduate student doing work in the above fields of research is eligible. Eligible projects include: Any work that results in 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 historical preservation of any historical site, photographs, documents, or diaries with origins in the Grand Canyon region.

To have the project considered complete, one or more of the following end products must be included: (1) Submission of a paper suitable for publication to GCHS by December 1. (2) Presentation of a paper at a legitimate conference with a copy of the paper to GCHS. The copy must be presented to GCHS by December 1 with presentation scheduled at the earliest possible meeting of the conference. (3) A thesis or dissertation of which component parts resulted from the research with a copy of the included work presented to GCHS by December 1. (4) Historical preservation of photographs, documents or diaries requires at least delivery of a photocopy of the items in question to GCHS by December 1. Preservation of actual items is preferred. (5) Site research requires a completed nomination or submission of material to GCHS by December 1 for inclusion in a nomination of the site to the National Register of Historic Places.

Papers and/or items submitted as a result of research will become a part of the GCHS Collection in the Special Collections and Archives at NAU's Cline Library for use by anyone doing research in those subjects involving the Grand Canyon region.

Applications for the GCHS Scholarship may be submitted no later than February 27, 2004, to:

Al Richmond  
Northern Arizona University  
P.O. Box 5765  
Flagstaff AZ 86011

Information may be obtained by writing Al at : al.richmond@nau.edu. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded in April.

## 2004 Outings ...continued from page 1

**April 16-18: Tour of Phantom Ranch.** The tour of Phantom Ranch begins at 7:30 PM. on April 16. Henry Karpenski, a local historian, has been all over the Kaibab Suspension Bridge. He will narrate the first PowerPoint presentation ever at the bottom of the Grand Canyon that evening at the little amphitheater between the ranch and the Phantom Ranger Station.

The next morning, after your breakfast, Mike Anderson, Pam Cox (Phantom interpretive ranger), and Keith Green will lead an in-depth tour of the history and reality of the entirety of Phantom Ranch.

On the evening of April 17 at 7:30 PM, Mike Anderson will narrate a PowerPoint presentation about his research on the trails. This also will be at the amphitheater.

The next day, we hike out.

Those who made the deadline for reservations through Keith will be staying in the Trail Crew Bunkhouse the nights of April 16 and 17. The cost will be \$5 per night.

**May 15:** Author Craig Childs (*tentative*)  
-- John Azar, May Outing Leader

**June 19:** Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point, South Rim Grand Canyon  
-- Linda Anderson, June Outing Leader

**July 17:** Annual Campout at Jacob Lake, North Rim Grand Canyon  
-- John Azar, July Outing Leader

**August 21:** Annual Community Project (such as the Grand Canyon Cemetery clean-up) (*tentative*)  
-- Mike Coltrin, August Outing Leader

**September 18:** Harvey Butchart book by Tom Myers  
-- Tom Myers, September Outing Leader

**October 16:** Annual Board Meeting  
-- Nancy Green, October Outing Leader

**November 20:** Search and Rescues Director Ken Phillips (*tentative*)  
-- Tom Myers, November Outing Leader

**December:** No meeting

---

**Outings/Programs:** If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2004 Outings Coordinator:** Keith Green, PO Box 1986, Grand Canyon AZ 86023-1986; phone 928-638-0666; email: Keith\_Green@nps.gov.

**The Bulletin** welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances. Please send them to Diane Cassidy at 2112 Demerse Avenue, Prescott, AZ 86301; email: Pioneers@GrandCanyonHistory.org.

Grand Canyon Historical Society

P.O. Box 10067

Prescott, Arizona 86304-0067

02-04

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PRESCOTT, AZ  
PERMIT #43