

Grand Canyon Historical Society, Inc.

To develop and promote appreciation, understanding and education of the earlier history of the inhabitants and important events of the Grand Canyon and surrounding area.

The Bulletin

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www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

September 2006

The Spirit of Grand Canyon

Bob Audretsch entertained and educated the small group of GCHS members with his presentation *The Spirit of Grand Canyon* at the Shrine of the Ages on August 19.

Bob began his talk by sharing his personal history at Grand Canyon. His uncle, Casimar Pultorak, died in a snowstorm while hiking the Bright Angel Trail in February of 1939. Bob's early training was as a historian and he worked as a librarian for 19 years. He first hiked in Grand Canyon in 1977 and began working there in 1988. He is currently working as an interpretive ranger.

A few years ago he was preparing a program with a geological theme. Wanting to learn what the first explorers had to say about the geology of the Canyon he read from Powell's and Stanton's reports among many others. He was surprised to find many passages in these early works that read as beautifully as any poetry he had ever seen. He dug deeper and found even more examples from the writings of other adventurers, poets and artists. From these findings he decided to develop a program featuring these golden words.

Using a pamphlet he assembled Bob would introduce a certain author or poet and explain a bit about this individuals wanderings at the Canyon. A paragraph or so would be read aloud and Bob invited us to share our understanding of what the author was expressing. Bob had about twenty of these excerpts in his pamphlet. We took turns with the reading. After the program Bob invited us to take the pamphlets home with us.

Bob presents this wonderful program occasionally as part of the evening interpretive series at Grand Canyon. Check the schedule when you are at the Park next and maybe you will be fortunate enough to make up for what you missed at our August outing.

[Article and photo by Mike Coltrin]



2006 Outings

September 16 – *nothing scheduled* *

October 21 – *Annual Board Meeting* held at Flagstaff City Library Community Room, 300 W Aspen from 10:00 AM until 12:30 PM.

November 18 – *Seeking Summits Below the Rim: The Stories and History of Climbing in Grand Canyon*, by Mathieu Brown (2005 GCHS Scholarship recipient). Seeking Summits is a project to document the stories of early climbing in Grand Canyon. Despite the prolific activity of a handful of climbers little has been publicly written and documented on their pursuits. Like any time period in Grand Canyon history, that of the early summiteers carries its own perspectives and adds value and depth to our collective understanding of the Grand Canyon and its influence on the human individual and regional meaning. Although not publicly documented, the knowledge of early Grand Canyon climbing remains rich. It is held in the journals, letters, photographs, and memories of the individuals active in the pursuit. Luckily, many of these stories have yet to vanish and sit waiting to be uncovered and rediscovered from the climbers themselves on a local and regional scale.

December – *No meeting.*

* Many members of the GCHS have been busy preparing for the January 2007 History Symposium and will be working diligently in September to finalize the details. Therefore, we have been unable to reschedule an activity for its members for September. Don't fret; I'm sure you can find something else to do. For instance, you might consider making a weekend trip to Prescott for:

- September 16, 10:00AM-4:00PM: **The Fifth Edition of the Prescott Book Festival** will be held on the beautiful grounds of Sharlot Hall Museum. For more information, go to www.Sharlot.org.
- September 17, 1:00-2:30PM: Grand Canyon Community Lecture Series presents **Andre Potochnik on Glen Canyon Dam: Ecosystem Impacts and the Scientific Search for Solutions** at the Sharlot Hall Museum. For more information, go to www.GrandCanyon.org.

Elect Your Board

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following Pioneers as possible Board members:

Board Member Candidates

Keith Green – Keith is completing a 3-year term on the board. He came to the Grand Canyon fresh out of college in 1972, just for a summer job. He fell in love with the canyon so much that he stayed for most of these 31 years. From 1975-85, he lived at Phantom Ranch watching history happen at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. In college, he had minored in history, and saw the importance of the history of Phantom Ranch. He has collected and written oral stories about Phantom Ranch which he hopes to publish someday. Now he is an interpretive ranger at the South Rim. Occasionally he gets down to Phantom and regales visitors with stories of the old Phantom Ranch. Saving the history and telling the stories of the bottom is his passion. He has been involved with the Grand Canyon Historical Society since the early 1990s.

Jim Ohlman – Jim is completing a 3-year term on the board. He has been involved with the Grand Canyon Historical Society for years, an avid hiker - so much so in fact that he hiked, and was actually able to keep up, with Harvey Butchart. He also extensively researched and hiked the historical area of 1919 tramway from Hopi Point to Shiva Temple to the North Rim. Jim also edited J. D. Green's book, *Hiking in the Grand Canyon Backcountry*.

Amanda Zeman lives and works at Grand Canyon National Park, where she is a cultural resource specialist. She works with the park's historical architect, Bob Powell, in the maintenance and rehabilitation of historic properties throughout the park. She earned a Masters Degree from Cornell University in historic preservation. She formerly worked in historic preservation at Petrified Forest National Park, and is the author and coordinator of many canyon historic reports, including a cultural landscape study of Grand Canyon's Mission 66 period.

Write-In

– Again this year, we have provided space for write-in candidates. Write in the name of a member who you believe is compassionate about the mission of the GCHS and who might be interested in serving on the GCHS Board. Or, write in your name if you would like to be considered.

If a write-in is not selected or is unable to serve this year, we will be certain to include them in the process next year.

Current Board Members and Officers

ELECTED in 2005 – Term: 2006, 2007, 2008

- Beverly Loomis bloomis@ag.arizona.edu
- George Billingsley..... Gors@bml.com
- Susan Billingsley..... Gors@bml.com

ELECTED in 2004 – Term: 2005, 2006, 2007

- Lee Albertson Albertson1213@msn.com
- Todd Berger..... TBerger@grandcanyon.org
- Mike Coltrin Coltrin1@cox.net

* ELECTED in 2003 – Term: 2004, 2005, 2006

- Mike Anderson ** MAnderson@GrandCanyon.org
- Keith Green Keith_Green@nps.gov
- Jim Ohlman JOhlman@PeabodyEnergy.com

OFFICERS

President: Mike Anderson

Vice President: Mike Coltrin

Treasurer: Susan Billingsley

Secretary: Todd Berger

Pioneer Award: George Billingsley, Chairperson

Outings Coordinator: Mike Coltrin

Membership Committee Chair: Dan Cassidy

* Rotating off the Board in October.

** Currently serving a second consecutive term. [Board members are eligible to serve two (2) consecutive terms and will not again be eligible for election until one year has passed from their last term of office. (By-Laws, Article IV.1)]

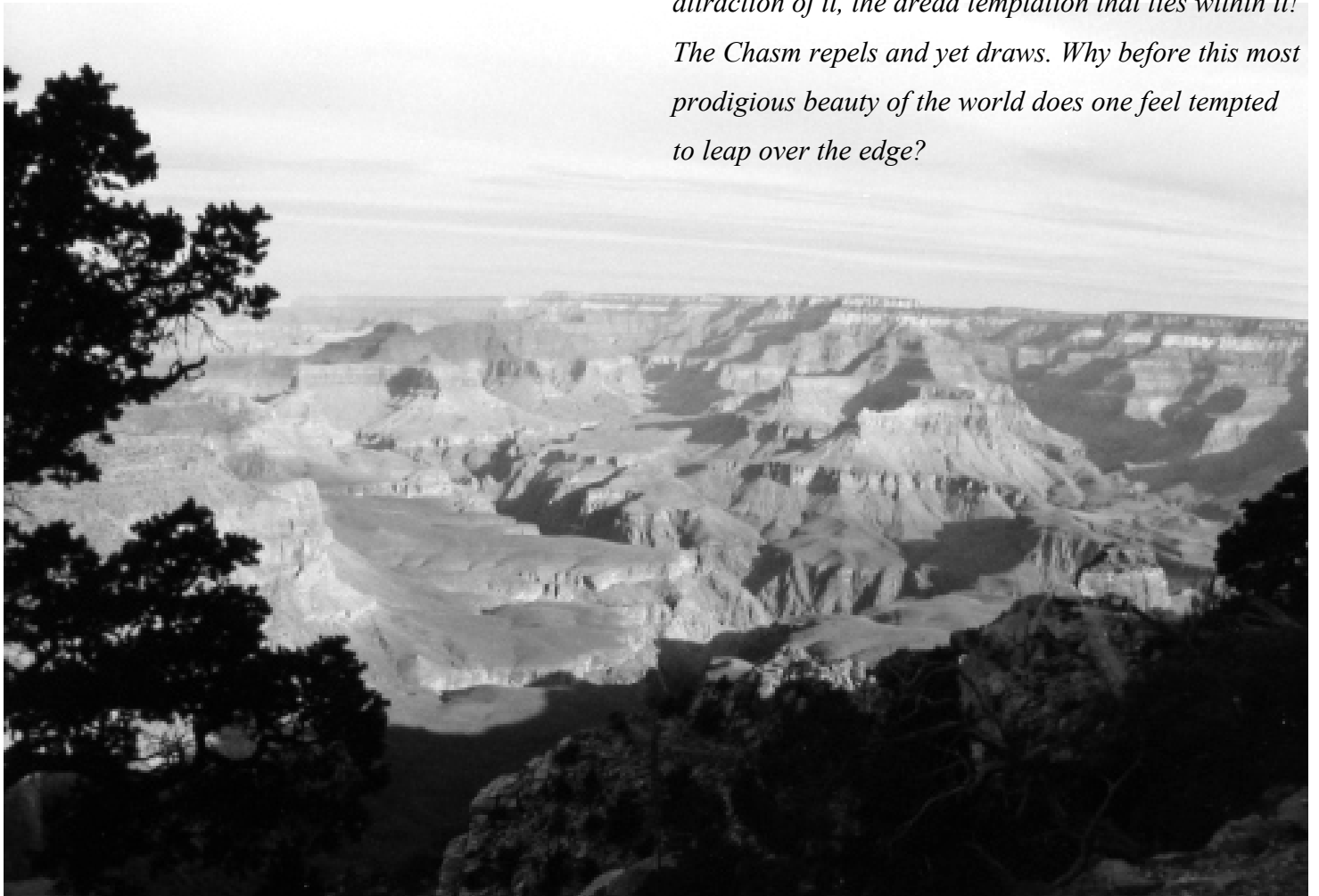
**Please
complete the inserted ballot
and
return it to
Todd Berger by October 1**

August Outing Attendance



While the attendance was disappointing, the program was excellent at the August 19 outing of the Grand Canyon Historical Society. Attending Bob Audretsch's program were: Bev Loomis from Flagstaff, Dan and Carol Smith from Phoenix and Mike Coltrin from Tucson.

[Photo by Mike Coltrin]



[Photo by Diane Cassidy]

Canyon Reflections

submitted by Traci Wyrick

A VIEW FROM THE RIM
excerpt from John C. Van Dyke's
THE GRAND CANYON OF THE COLORADO,
1920

The unexpected happens at the Canyon. Surprise, wonder, amazement are looked for, but one hardly counts upon fear. The great abyss, without hint or warning, opens before your feet. For the moment, the Earth seems cleft in twain and you are left standing at the brink. As you pause there momentarily, the rock platforms down below seem to heave, the buttes sway; even the opposite Rim of the Canyon undulates slightly. The depth yawns to engulf you. Instinctively you shrink back...And, worse than that, the mad attraction of it, the dread temptation that lies within it! The Chasm repels and yet draws. Why before this most prodigious beauty of the world does one feel tempted to leap over the edge?

Grand Canyon Historical Society

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**It is time to elect three new board members.
Complete and return your ballot today.**

Outings/Programs: If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2006 Outings Coordinator:** Mike Coltrin, 2041 West Brichta Drive, Tucson AZ 85745; phone: 520-624-1831; email: Coltrin1@cox.net.
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.