

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

July 2011

2011 Outings

Saturday, November 5th 9am to noon, Annual Board Meeting. East Flagstaff Public Library Community Meeting Room, 3000 N. Fourth Street, (near the junction with Cedar Ave).

January 26-29, 2012 GRAND CANYON HISTORY SYMPOSIUM III

Please check our web site for outings updates:
<http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/>

2012 History Symposium Update

Planning for the Third History Symposium is moving along. Many excellent proposal presentations were received; reviewing will most likely continue up to the August 15th review deadline. This year there will be no concurrent sessions, but there will be an additional session Sunday morning in the Community Building. The evening keynote speakers will be Wayne Ranney (Friday) and Brad Dimock (Saturday).

We still need volunteers to help out during the Symposium. If you are interested, please contact Lee Albertson at albertson1213@cox.net

Registration will be **online**, starting **October 15th**. Check for updates on the GCHS Symposium web site:
<http://www.grandcanyonhistory.org/symposium.html>

2011 Annual Picnic



Members Enjoy Picnic Goodies at Shoshone Point

The annual Grand Canyon Historical Society picnic was held on Saturday, July 16th at Shoshone Point on the South Rim. We had 15 members in attendance and all had a good time. The facilities at Shoshone Point have recently been upgraded and now include a very nice large covered ramada with a cement floor and new picnic

tables, as well as new grills. The weather was perfect - mostly clear with a slight breeze - and the ramada provided some nice shade in which to relax, chat, eat a hotdog, and enjoy the spectacular view of the Canyon. The **Grand Canyon Hall of Fame Award** was presented by Al Richmond and Erik Berg to **James W. Shirley** (deceased) and **William 'Bill' Brookins**. Board member John Azar received the **Pioneer Award**. More details on these awards follow.

Hall of Fame Awards - James W. Shirley and Bill Brookins



Al Richmond, Bill Brookins, Erik Berg

The Grand Canyon Historical Society and the National Park Service hereby give recognition to those individuals who have selflessly contributed to the betterment of the Grand Canyon community in years past. This fourteenth annual award names two individuals who have shown exemplary service to the Grand Canyon community. The recipients have made personal contributions of money, time, and/or work over a period of many years. Previous recipients of the award and current residents have recommended these honorees. The names of the recipients will be engraved on the permanent plaque housed in the Shrine of Ages.

One recipient is deceased and happily the other one is still with us. The awardees this year are **William "Bill" Brookins** and **James W. Shirley** (deceased). A short biography for each follows below.

Bill Brookins always finds time to help. Just name the project in the Grand Canyon community or Tusayan and

Bill is almost certain to be involved. Kolb Studio, Boy Scouts, Toys for Tots, and Rotary are among those that have benefited from his talents. Bill's woodworking skills are such that local charities and fundraisers have come to count on him to provide handcrafted furniture for their events. Bill bears a striking resemblance to Santa Claus and consequently he assumes the role of the Jolly Elf during the season for events and parties. His generosity with his time, and personal commitment to the community have earned him recognition as the embodiment of year-round Christmas spirit. Somehow Bill always seems to know who or what project needs help, and he appears on scene to offer his services. We have all benefited from his example.

James W. Shirley served as manager of Babbitt's General Store for many years. As was the case in small towns, the store became the daily meeting place and Jim presided over the discussions, which gave him good insight into the needs of the community and its residents. His intimate knowledge of the people and his natural leadership led to initiation of many projects and to his getting help to those who needed it most. When he was unable to acquire ethnic food for some of his customers, he worked with the ladies of the Legion Auxiliary to provide cooking classes using American recipes. Jim always found time to work with the Boy Scouts and, although never a member, he participated in the many projects initiated by the American Legion's John Ivens Post. All who knew him said that Jim's efforts made the Grand Canyon community a better place.

Pioneer Award - John Azar

The Grand Canyon Historical Society's 2011 Pioneer Award was awarded in absentia to John Azar on July 16, 2011:

*For his efforts to preserve Grand Canyon's historic cabins. Since 1993, John has steadily devoted hundreds of hours to the preservation of historic Grand Canyon cabins. As an architect and master carpenter, John has donated his expertise in both areas in exchange for knowing these timeless, historic structures will remain for posterity. Not only has he done it without fanfare or praise, he frequently tackles these remote, isolated projects alone;

*For his education and outreach work. John routinely leads volunteer and youth groups who work on his preservation projects. He also shares his work through field visits and presentations. On all of these occasions, John imparts his knowledge and appreciation of Grand Canyon history, and helps instill a sense of stewardship for historic resources;

*For his recent work at Pasture Wash Ranger Station, where John combined his dedication with his outreach skills. There, John worked closely with Grand Canyon Youth and the NPS to preserve a deteriorated cabin on

the verge of demolition;

*For his contributions to the knowledge of Grand Canyon history through his original research, and writing;

*For his original contributions to the Grand Canyon Historical Society's History Symposiums, as well as his service as a volunteer at each symposium; and

*For his contributions and achievements as a member of the Grand Canyon Historical Society, including his service as a Board Member and Officer, his leadership on many service projects, and his ongoing work as Outings Coordinator to organize and lead Society outings.



John Azar

Tom Myers provided the award committee with this anecdote to illustrate John's dedication:
Most recently, he worked on the initial phases of restoring the Pasture Wash Ranger Station. Last summer, I witnessed John's efforts first-hand when my son and I joined him as well as Jacob Fillion, and kids from Grand Canyon Youth, in assisting with the project. John assigned us duties while he quietly and diligently worked on the more technical and tedious repairs to shore-up the structure. John also supplied the tools—his own—as well as quite a bit of building material from his home in Fredonia. But what impressed me most was what I saw after coming back from a day hike the next afternoon. It was hours after the GCY folks had packed up and headed back to the Village. A monsoon storm had blown in, but there was John, all

alone but still working in the silent drizzle. It was a rather forlorn scene with the dilapidated cabin, but he cheerfully said he would be there plugging away for a couple more days before buttoning things up. It was an obvious "labor of love."

Congratulations John!

Call for Board Nominees

The GCHS will be electing new members to the board this fall to serve a three-year term. If you are interested in being a nominee for the board or know somebody who would be a good candidate, please send a nominee submission (including a brief bio) to GCHS Secretary Amy Horn riconamy@msn.com and President Erik Berg eoberg@cox.net by **September 10th**.

Board members do not need to have any special qualifications beyond a love of the Grand Canyon and its history and a willingness to provide some time and expertise to the support of the Grand Canyon Historical Society. Board member duties including providing input on key board decisions, electing officers, selecting scholarship and award recipients, and helping to arrange or support outings and other activities. Board members do not necessarily need to live in Flagstaff or at Grand Canyon, as most activities are done informally through phone and email with a single annual board meeting in Flagstaff (next meeting on Saturday, Nov 5th). Having an active board and officers is critical to maintaining a healthy and active society – please consider joining!

Phantom Ranch Photos Wanted

I am under contract to write a book on Phantom Ranch history and am looking for photos and other interesting Phantom Ranch items. All items will be returned to the owners. Any photos, etc. used in the book will be graciously attributed to the owners. Feel free to email or phone me. Thanks so much.

Bob Audretsch, 928-714-0499
bob41@grand-canyon.az.us

GCA Community Lecture Series

The Grand Canyon Association has several upcoming lectures of interest. A complete listing with details is at: <http://www.grandcanyon.org/events/lectureseries.asp>

Seth Muller *Canyon Crossing: Experiencing Grand Canyon from Rim to Rim*

Fri August 19th 7pm Willow Canyon Outdoors, Kanab, UT.

Sat August 20th 8pm Grand Canyon North Rim Lodge.

Wayne Ranney *Ancient Landscapes of the Grand Canyon Region*

Fri August 19th 8pm Grand Canyon North Rim Lodge.

Windy Bunn *Managing Fire to Restore and Maintain Grand Canyon's Forests*

Sun, September 11th 2pm Prescott Public Library.

Thurs Sept 22nd 7pm NAU Cline Library, Flagstaff.

Tom Myers and Michael Ghiglieri *Lessons from Life and Death in Grand Canyon*

Sun Oct 9th 2pm Prescott Public Library.

Thurs Nov 17th 7pm NAU Cline Library, Flagstaff.

Submit Your Stories for Ol' Pioneer

The *Ol' Pioneer* is the Society's magazine featuring stories, photos, and letters of historical relevance to the Grand Canyon. Submit your stories, photos, etc to the editor, Mary Williams at:

Mary Williams

4880 Weatherford Rd

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Phone: 928-779-3377

mary@marywilliamsdesign.com

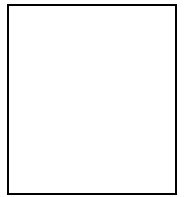
Grand Canyon Historical Society

P.O. Box 31405

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Outings/Programs: If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2011 Outings Coordinator** at **TontoWalk@gmail.com**.

The Bulletin welcomes comments, stories, or reflections and remembrances.

Please send them to: **kgreig@yahoo.com**