

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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June 2005

Carving Grand Canyon

At the May 14 GCHS outing in Flagstaff, geologist and author Wayne Ranney started and ended his presentation to members and guests with the statement: *The Colorado River(s) carved the Grand Canyon!* During the presentation, Wayne talked about the Old River (8 million years old), and the New River (6 million years old) and how the Old and New Rivers carved the Canyon.



Wayne gave a brief summary of the major geological research projects that have been done on the Colorado River Basin and Grand Canyon during the last 147 years. With each research, additional information is documented and published. On a number of occasions, a new theory is presented to explain the additional information.

In 1858, Lieutenant Joseph Christmas Ives led the first official expedition in the Grand Canyon. Professor John Strong Newberry was on the Ives expedition. In 1861, Newberry published his view: the Grand Canyon was carved by water – the Colorado River. In 1875, John Wesley Powell studied the Colorado River and the major tributaries and built on Professor Newberry's theories.

From 1882 to 1901 there were four major studies. In 1882, Clarence Dutton presented his theory that there were two erosions: one erosion that created the Grand Staircase and one that created the Grand Canyon. Charles D. Walcott (1890) studied the Marble Canyon area and believed the Colorado followed the Butte Fault from Nankoweap drainage to the Little Colorado River. S. F. Emmons (1897) challenged Powell's theories. Emmons studied the River and the landscape as a system. William Morris Davis (1901) believed that the faults were older than the Colorado River.

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2005 Outings

June 11 - Annual Shoshone Point PotLuck Picnic.

Members from across the country converge at the Canyon's edge for a potluck of good food, friendly faces and lively conversation. From the main entrance, take the East Rim Drive, continue east about 1.5 miles beyond the road to Yaki Point, and turn left into a parking area and look for the yellow gate, which will be unlocked by 11:00 AM. Hot dogs, buns and condiments will be provided by the GCHS.

Where: Shoshone Point South Rim, Grand Canyon
When: 11:00 AM – yellow gate unlocked
12:00 Noon – Picnic
1:30 PM – Awards

Because of the restriction on moving picnic tables, you may want to bring a chair and shade. Parking will be limited; please carpool or plan to walk from the parking lot. Everyone should bring: • a dish to share (i.e. casserole or desert); • their own drinks; • individual table service; • and, if desired, some meat to barbecue. Table cloths and briquettes for the barbecue will be provided.

[Linda Anderson, event coordinator]

June 12 - 18: Jacob Lake Barn and Ranger Station Restoration Project. As part of the centennial celebration of the National Forest Service, North Kaibab Ranger District archaeologist Connie Reid and experienced cabin restoration coordinator John Azar applied for and were granted federal funds for the historical restoration of the Jacob Lake barn and ranger station. Anyone interested in volunteering their time or making a monetary donation, please email John Azar for more information at Tontowalk2003@yahoo.com.

July 16 - Annual North Rim Campout. Spend a day (and a night) in the North Kaibab Forest with fellow Canyon adventurers. [John Azar, event coordinator]

August 20 - Community Service Project at the Grand Canyon NPS Library. We will assist Librarian Susan Eubank with barcoding the entire book collection, which entails one group that will be physically putting barcodes on books and another group that will be entering those barcodes into the computer. We might also put labels on the books, if necessary. We will meet Susan at 9:00 at the Grand Canyon National Park Library in the Park Headquarters building. (If you come in the park by Mather Point, take a right at the intersection where the left-hand turn would take you to the store and post office. Parking is in front of the Shrine of the Ages.) Lunch will be provided. [Nancy Green, event coordinator]

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Carving the Canyon...continued from page 1

After a 33 year break, Eliot Blackwelder (1934) challenged the previous theories and his views set a new "plateau" for geologists to study and understand. Chester Longwell (1946) built on the research of Blackwelder.

During the 1940s and 1950s there were four major researches. Donald Babenroth and Arthur Strahler (1945) studied the relationship of the Colorado River and the Kaibab formation. Herbert Gregory's (1947) studies resulted in his understanding that the Colorado River was a "young river." Don Elston (1950s) mapped the uranium deposits on the Colorado Plateau. Charles Hunt (1956) recognized the strong evidence of the northeast flow of water to freshwater lakes in the Colorado Plateau.

Dr. Edwin McKee chaired the Symposium on the Cenozoic Geology of the Colorado Plateau in Arizona (1967). The geologists who attended the symposium agreed that the "Colorado River and the Grand Canyon may have formed from the integration of two separate and distinct river systems."

At the end of the 20th century there was not a widely accepted theory on the Grand Canyon's origin. New and/or changing ideas plus new technology (accurate dating techniques and images from space that could now be digitized and viewed) has resulted in new interest in the study of the origin of the Grand Canyon. A Symposium on the Origin of the Colorado River (June 2000) resulted in general agreement on a number of issues. Wayne indicated "the Colorado River carved the Grand Canyon." But the questions still remain: How? When?

The presentation by Wayne probably wetted the appetite for those individuals who attended the presentation. I would recommend that those individuals who love the Grand Canyon read the book *Carving Grand Canyon – Evidence, Theories, and Mystery* by Wayne. When you read the book, you should keep score: Old River versus New River!

[Article and photo by Lee and Shirley Albertson]



September 17 – Mountain Lying Down: An Environmental History of the Kaibab Plateau by Steve Buckley. Buckley is the 2003 Scholarship recipient for his master's thesis project: *Mountain Lying Down: An Environmental History of the Kaibab Plateau*. This is our first award for an environmental history. His introduction to the application was "Presently, there is no environmental history of the Kaibab Plateau. The isolated geologic upwarp, which serves as the northern barrier to the Grand Canyon between Kanab Canyon and Marble Canyon, is a true sky island. This breadth of land mass has provided for a rich history of human use. From early archeological evidence and inferences from known patterns, human habitation has had an effect on the larger ecological system of the Kaibab. The famous Kaibab deer herd and the ecological lesson it taught concerning the extirpation of predators, is but one remarkable note from a complex past. The Kaibab, as it is known, is a derivative of the original Paiute word, kaibabits, meaning "mountain lying down." The name was given by Major John Wesley Powell in the course of his exploration in the 1870s. Until such time it had been commonly known as Buckskin Mountain. It is the ecological story of this mountain I wish to tell." Presentation at 1:00 PM in Screening Room A in the NAU Cline Library in Flagstaff. For those arriving early, you may find some members gathering at 11:30 AM for lunch at Busters Restaurant. [Mike Coltrin, event coordinator]

October 15 - Annual Board Meeting [Mike Coltrin, event coordinator]

November 19 – 100th Anniversary of the USFS by Cathie Schmidlin of the Williams office of the Kaibab Forest Service. Cathie will be discussing the USFS and how it relates to Grand Canyon history at 1:00 PM in the Cline Library Media Center, Viewing Room A, at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. (If you get to Flagstaff early, you may find some early-bird GCHS members at Busters Restaurant at 11:30 AM). [Nancy Green, event coordinator]

December - No meeting

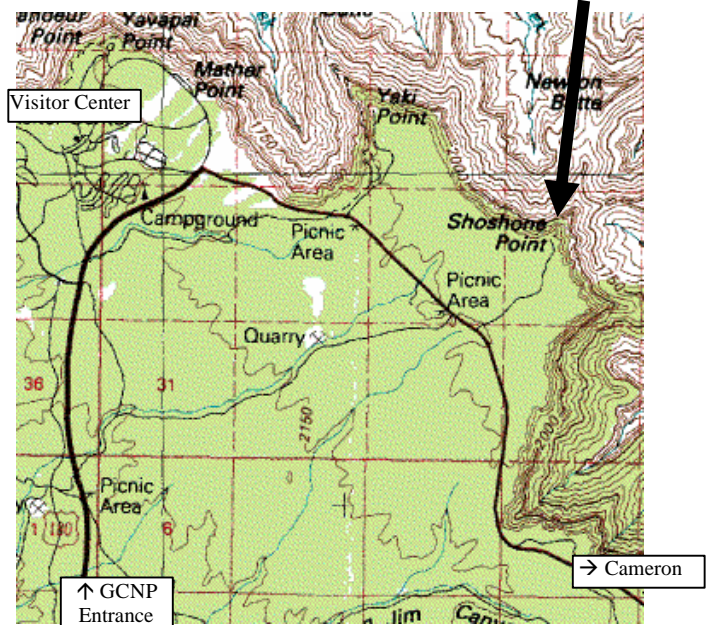
Welcome New Members

Thomas Wilson – Windham NH
Peggy Taylor – Flagstaff AZ

Join the Pioneers for the biggest event of the year at the Annual Picnic on June 11. The picnic will be at Shoshone Point (but, if it is moved, a notice will be posted at the entrance station and at Shoshone Point gate).

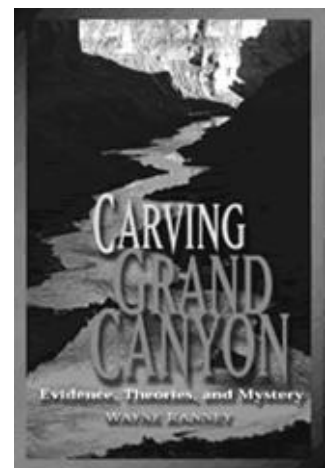
To get to Shoshone Point from the main entrance:

- Take the East Rim Drive
- About 1.5 miles beyond the road to Yaki Point, turn left into a parking area and look for the yellow gate



**New Grand Canyon Association Publication...
Carving Grand Canyon:
Evidence, Theories, and Mystery**

The Grand Canyon Association has published another great resource on the history of the Colorado River and Grand Canyon. *Carving Grand Canyon* by Wayne Ranney is described on the GCA web page... "*Carving Grand Canyon* highlights the intriguing ideas and innovative theories that geologists have developed over time. The story of the evolution of a fascinating landscape is told in an engaging style that non-scientists will find inviting." Available in pictorial gatefold paperback, 160 pages, illustrated, at www.GrandCanyon.org.



Wayne Ranney, Pam Frazier (editor) and the Grand Canyon Association have done another excellent job!

May Outing Attendees

With the help of a guest spot on the NPR radio program, Wayne Ranney of Flagstaff pulled in several non-members interested in the carving of the Canyon. Those who attended May's program were:

From Flagstaff:

Harold Duncan
Cathy Ann Trotta
Bill Bishop
Glenn Clark
Bev Loomis
Jim Medlock & Sharon Brown
(visiting from Washington)

Don Lago
Dave & Alice & Sylvia Monet

Tom Martin
Mike Bruton
Mary DelGiorgio
Arnold Nouis
Carolyn Castleman
Jim & Kathy McCarty

From Prescott:

Fred & Andrew Schaffner
Dan & Diane Cassidy

From Tempe:

Harry Myers
Lee Albertson



Wayne Ranney speaking to GCHS members and guests at May outing in Flagstaff.

[Photo by Lee Albertson]

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Historical Restoration Project – Jacob Lake Barn and Ranger Station

As part of the centennial celebration of the National Forest Service, federal funds were set aside for historical restoration projects. Forty million dollars was allocated by Congress to be used on historic buildings and trails in our national forests. In conjunction with the North Kaibab Ranger District, archaeologist Connie Reid and John Azar applied for a portion of these funds, and their request was granted. One of the requirements for the funding was that it had to be matched by a partner. In the name of the Grand Canyon Historical Society, John pledged \$500 and one week of volunteer work for the restoration of the historic Jacob Lake Barn and Ranger Station. The work will be performed the week of June 12 through June 18. Anyone interested in volunteering their time or making a monetary donation, please email John for more information at Tontowalk2003@yahoo.com.

Outings/Programs: If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2005 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.

Grand Canyon Historical Society

P.O. Box 10067

Prescott, Arizona 86304-0067

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