

## March at Marble Canyon

The GCHS met at the old Marble Canyon Lodge, a historic building south of the highway at Marble Canyon. A bright sunny day, cool temperatures in the mid-50s; the sun felt good. Lee Albertson introduced our guests: first George Steck, renowned Grand Canyon hiker and author. George and his wife Helen (a hiker herself) came all the way from Albuquerque, New Mexico, for this event.

George presented his slides of "Marble Canyon Hiking" in 1977 and again in 1982. Steck along with wife Helen and friends Don and

Adair Peterson (who were also in attendance this day), and a few other friends and family, started out in early September 1977 for a 40-day hike from Lee's Ferry to Lava Falls. Steck tried not to think of it as 40 days, but as only a 5-day trip where



yesterday didn't matter, tomorrow hasn't come yet, and the day before yesterday was long forgotten, and the day after tomorrow is too far away. Every day was a search for cold water; but they only found warm or warmer water. Turned out their biggest problem was that the caches were left too far from their route, and too much time and energy was taken in retrieving them. But they had everything they wanted...margarita mix, artichoke hearts, and Oreos cookies. They entertained themselves with the passing boats/rafts by finding different methods to beg for beer: Last chance to dispose of excess beer... May your port-a-potty explode if you don't give us beer...May your oars go limp if you don't have beer.

*...continued on page 5*

## Wyoming to Mexico

In May 1999, Tom Barry began a river journey originating in the snow-covered Wind River Mountains of western Wyoming. He was a team member in a majestic river expedition, navigating 1,600 miles down the Green and Colorado Rivers, from Wyoming to Mexico.



Against all odds, Steve Savage and Tom had secured the permits required to travel through the restricted canyons of Lodore, Desolation-Gray, Cataract, and Grand, in the appropriate dated sequence. The odds of obtaining these four permits in the dated sequence are one in 500,000.

Their expedition began at an elevation of 8,100 feet above sea level, in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming. Their final destination was Morelos Dam, at an elevation of 80 feet above sea level. During their 1,600-mile journey, they descended 8,020 vertical feet.

Steve Savage and Tom each piloted a 19-foot Zodiac inflatable raft. Throughout their 1,600 river miles, they explored the river canyons of Flaming Gorge, Red, Browns, Lodore, Whirlpool, Split Mountain, Desolation, Gray, Labyrinth, Stillwater, Cataract, Narrow, Glen, Grand, Black and Topock Gorge. Their route carried them consecutively through or along the borders of Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, back into Utah, Arizona, Nevada, California and on into Mexico.

Along the riparian corridor of the Green-Colorado Rivers, they watched for bald eagles, golden eagles, osprey, red-tailed hawks, peregrine falcons, California condors, vultures, great blue herons, owls, bears, wolves, pronghorn antelope, deer, elk moose, mountain lions, wild horses, wild burros, coyote, desert bighorn sheep, and beaver.

*...continued on page 6*



## GCHS Scholarship Award

The officers have made their selection for the award of the annual GCHS Scholarship. We received three applications, all of whom qualified for the award.

The recipient is Steve Buckley of Flagstaff 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. Previous awards have been for variety of historical and anthropological projects in the Grand Canyon Region. This is a bit more significant in that this is the first year we offered the scholarship for an environmental project.

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."

## Letter of Thanks

4/12/03

Dear Al and Members of the Committee,

I wanted to offer a small token of my appreciation for my selection as this year's recipient of the GCHS scholarship. This award comes at a great time, and will now allow me the opportunity to finish my research and begin writing at the outset of the summer, a prospect I am very excited to pursue.

This is a great honor for me, one that I am very grateful to receive. Thank you again.

Steve Buckley

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## Thanks to our Members

Along with the renewal of membership, several members have contributed additional dollars as gifts or as contributions to the scholarship fund:

Dorothy Waldrof

We appreciate your generosity. Thank you.

\* \* \* \* \*

## New Members

Robert Greene – Santa Fe NM

## 2003 Programs/Outings

### **May 17: Tolchaco – Violence, Courage, Justice.**

The first offering of the Museum of Northern Arizona's 75th Anniversary year is a new exhibit that highlights the last and perhaps one of the bloodiest incidents in the so-called "range wars" between Navajo deer hunters and white ranchers in northern Arizona. Tolchaco -- Violence, Courage, Justice opened in January 2003. Through historic photos from the turn of the 20th century, it depicts Navajo, Hopi, and Anglo life in the Arizona Territory. This exhibit closes on May 18, 2003.

The Museum has exhibits relating to anthropology, biology, geology, and fine art. The Museum has permanent exhibits in five galleries and changing exhibits in three additional galleries.

Time: 10:30 AM

Place: Museum of Northern Arizona  
3101 North Fort Valley Road  
Flagstaff  
(3 miles north on U.S. Hwy 180)

Docent-led tour starts promptly at 11:00 AM, and lasts from 45 to 60 minutes.

Fee to Museum is \$3.50 each or free with MNA membership or MNA guest pass.

Lunch: After completion of tour. If the weather is good, bring a sack lunch and we'll enjoy the Museum grounds in their picnic area. If the weather is unstable, we'll regroup at a restaurant of choice of those attending.

### **June 7: Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point.**

The Annual Grand Canyon Historical Society Picnic at Shoshone Point is one of the highlights of the year. This year an added attraction may be Condors enjoying the Spring weather and soaring above the area checking out the picnic.

The Annual Picnic is a time for:

- Long-time Society members and new members to gather and renew friendships and start new ones.
- A representative of the Park Service to give us an update of projects and activities.
- The Pioneer Award to be presented to an individual that has made significant contributions to the understanding of and knowledge about the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

• Public service awards to be presented.

Please plan to attend - enjoy the fellowship, an opportunity to have an unobstructed view of the Canyon, check out the Condors, and (of course) eat.

For directions to Shoshone Point, time, and what to bring (remember the Sunscreen!) see article page 4.

**July 4-5:** North Rim Camp Out at the old Jacob Lake Ranger Station. Plan for a barbeque on Friday evening and presentations on Saturday by representatives of the Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument, and North Kaibab Ranger District.

**August:** No meeting.

**September:** "Anita Mine and the Railroad History" by Al Richmond.

**October:** Flagstaff (board meeting, slide presentation).

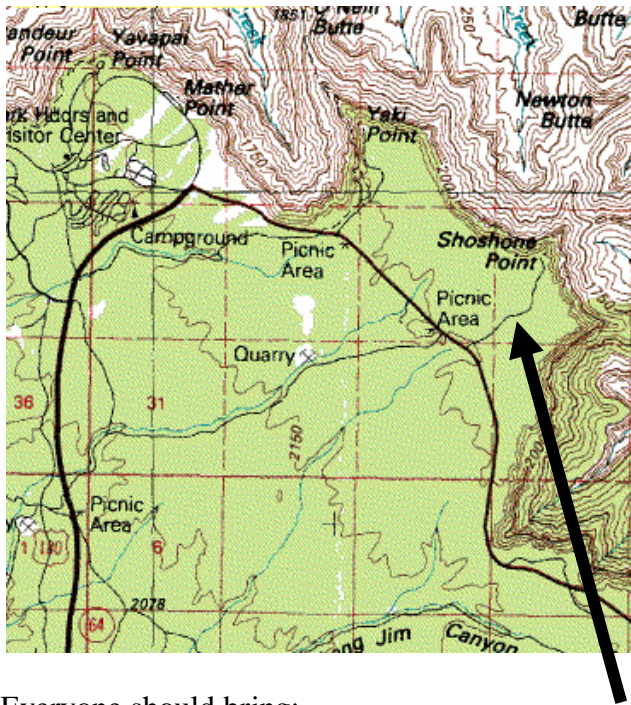
**November:** Phoenix (museum or other).

December: **No meeting.**

## June Outing: Annual Picnic

Join the Pioneers for the biggest event of the year at the Annual Picnic at Shoshone Point on June 7.

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.



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. The fire will be ready by 12:00 Noon.

## March Outing Attendance

A cool and sunny day at Marble Canyon brought John Azar from his new residence in Fredonia and Gary Ladd, the photographer from Page, to see his good friend George Steck. Dave Monet drove from Flagstaff to enjoy the speakers, and Don and Adair Peterson drove all the way from Albuquerque to enjoy their friend's slide show and talk. A good crowd of about 20 attended this event.

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## April Outing Attendance

Our April 19 GCHS meeting in Prescott was held on a beautiful sunny day at the Sharlot Hall Museum Granite Creek Center, after the Dinner Bell restaurant served us an excellent lunch. Only a small group arrived to enjoy Tom Barry's slide show. Some of the Society's members were enjoying an Easter hike in the Canyon on the South Bass Trail, hence the light attendance. We enjoyed the company of Mr. & Mrs. Rodgers, who lived at the Grand Canyon from 1935 to 1942; they claimed to have helped dig the Canyon. Nancy Green came from Grand Canyon Village; her husband, Keith missed the event as he was "rangering" at Phantom Ranch. And Tom Carmony drove up from Tempe.

2002 Picnickers



## Marble Canyon...continued from page 1

George had a friend Robert from Germany who wanted to be the first to traverse both the north and south sides -- down Green River Utah to Colorado, then Cataract Canyon to Lake Powell on north side, and then Lake Mead to Moab on south side. So, George showed more slide of when he joined Robert in September 1982 for the Lee's Ferry to Lake Mead leg of the trip, ending just before Thanksgiving.

The excellent color slides were enjoyed along with the special George Steck wit.

P.S. George first went through Marble Canyon in 1957 with George White.

Next, Chris Parish Project Director of the Condor Release Program for The Peregrine Fund presented an enthusiastic update on the condors, including some entertaining pictures of these misunderstood creatures.

Condors have up to a 9-1/2 foot wingspan, brown to red eyes, and brown to pink head and feet with no feathers; they live 50 to 70 years, and are not fearful of humans. They feed only on dead animals, including cattle, rabbits, bighorn sheep, etc. Condors are strict scavengers; they find their food visually often by investigating the activity of ravens, coyotes, eagles and other scavengers.

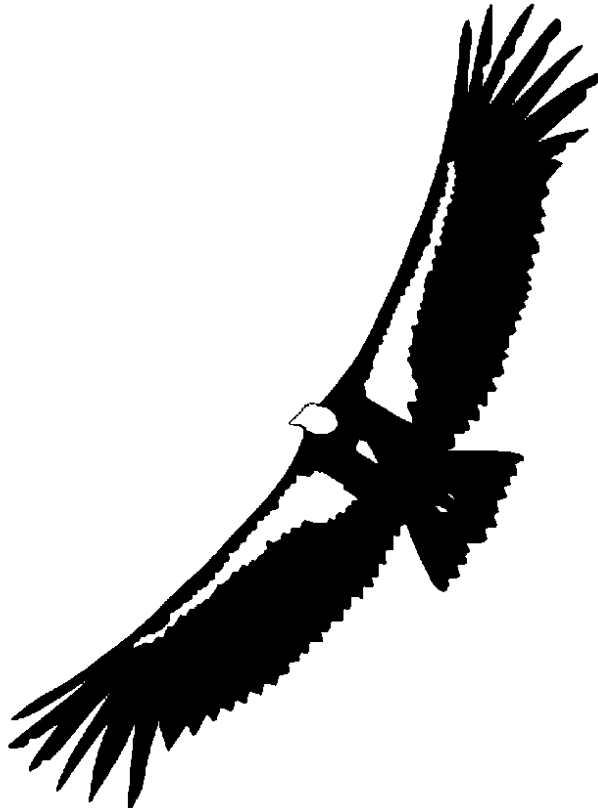
The program is still supplying supplemental carcasses on the rim for young and for clean food (lead-free). Chris explained that condors digest bones so they also digest lead pellets. Because the source of the lead is unknown and because the condors are protected only by Article 10-J of the Endangered Species Act, whatever is causing the availability of lead cannot be changed.

The total population was down to 22 individuals in 1982. The first release of 6 condors was in December 1996. Today there are now 61 condors, with 36 out in the wild. The large birds can be observed at the South Rim of Grand Canyon and off/over the Vermillion Cliffs near Marble Canyon.

Chris says we should look for chicks around the Battleship formation and Dana Butte. The young leave the nest full grown at six months of age, but may be dependent on their parents for more than a year.

Chris, a large man and former football player, is obviously deeply involved with the program to reintroduce the California condor to Northern Arizona. It was a pleasure to watch and hear him enthusiastically speak on the subject. This was another excellent presentation.

More information and updates on the condor releases are on the web at:  
<http://www.peregrinefund.org>



## Wyoming to Mexico...continued from page 1

They found 11 dams blocking the channel of the Green-Colorado Rivers along their route. They were required to portage around each dam. A reservoir is formed behind each dam. Lake Powell reservoir is the largest, created by Glen Canyon Dam. Lake Powell stores 27 million acre-feet of water, has a surface area of 250 square miles, and reaches 186 miles from Glen Canyon Dam upstream into Cataract Canyon.

Their boats were oar-powered through all stretches of flowing river, including 500 rapids. To cross the larger reservoirs and traverse anticipated headwinds from the southwest, they also used small outboard motors.

The entire expedition, from the alpine headwaters of the Green River in Wyoming, to the arid Sonoran Desert in Northern Mexico, required 82 river days. On the 82nd day, they completed their 1,600-mile adventure at the face of Morelos Dam, Baja-Sonora Mexico. This geographic point in Mexico marked the end of their majestic voyage down the Green-Colorado Rivers. Morelos Dam also marked the end of the Mighty Colorado River. Before the development

of dams, irrigation and distant municipal water supplies, the Colorado flowed wild for another 150 miles, pouring into the Sea of Cortez, Mexico. Today, below Morelos Dam, the ancient riverbed is bone dry. One day, when the Colorado River dams are removed, the Rio Colorado will once again flow the Sea of Cortez, delivering the rich nutrients that the estuary, sea and ocean once obtained from the river.

At some points of their expedition, they retraced the paths of historic river explorers John Wesley Powell (1869), Ellsworth and Emory Kolb (1911), Buzz Holmstrom (1937), and the modern-day pioneer of southwest exploration, Colin Fletcher (1990).

Throughout the 82-day expedition, Tom conducted an avian and wildlife survey, documenting and recording the fauna along their riparian corridor. Some of this data was delivered to various state and federal wildlife agencies for research and analysis, and wildlife studies.

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**Outings/Programs:** If you have a suggestion for a future outing/program or a question about an upcoming event, contact the **2003 Outings Coordinator:** John Azar, PO Box 1121, Fredonia AZ 86022; phone 928-643-6423; email: TontoWalk@msn.com.

**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.

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