

Community Service Project

On Saturday, August 21, a small but enthusiastically energized group representing the Grand Canyon Hikers & Backpackers Association and the Grand Canyon Historical Society reported for a day of community service to Grand Canyon National Park. Many thanks are needed for Leah McGinnis and Nick Hardigg, who did the planning and organizing for this event. Jennifer Chain, manager of the Grand Canyon Recreation Center and Sherry Schmidt, National Park Service maintenance worker, were also on hand to help with the day's activities.

It was an absolutely gorgeous day and amazingly, for August, not too warm. There were two projects planned. One was landscaping on the grounds of the Grand Canyon Recreation Center, and the other was a trash pick-up along the rim from the West Rim interchange back towards the Village. Sherry coordinated that event. Ann Reynolds, from Prescott, commented at how thankful people were to see the trash being picked up along the edge of the canyon. Many people stopped to thank them for their efforts.

Meanwhile, back at the Recreation Center, a group of pitchfork and shovel wielding volunteers spread wood chips throughout the area at the front of the Recreation Center. Arizona Public Service had been conducting a tree removal and trimming project along power line roads at Grand Canyon. This debris had been run through a chipper, and the fresh wood chips had been deposited in piles in front of the Recreation Center at the beginning of the summer. Nick had not been able to obtain a work crew prior to this, so he was as excited as a kid with a new bike to have us out there letting the chips fall where they may!

Some local Grand Canyon School students also stopped by to help. Nick even coerced a few Recreation Center employees into coming out to help. Some edging work was also completed along the sidewalk that leads into the Center, which involved moving telephone pole pieces and large rocks. Luckily, this part of the project was led by physical therapist Tom Martin, so no one was in danger of throwing out their back! We successfully spread 3 huge piles of chips. Although there was certainly more to do, what was done made a much more attractive appearance to the front of the Center.

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GCHS Outings for 2004

September 18: *Harvey: The Adventures, Tragedies and Legacy of Grand Canyon's Greatest Hiker* by Elias Butler and Tom Myers. Held in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Prescott Book Festival.

John Harvey Butchart (1907-2002) walked over more of Grand Canyon than any other alive or dead. The father, husband and college professor began teaching at Northern Arizona University in 1944, visited Grand Canyon not long after, and quickly developed a compelling obsession: to become the authority on Grand Canyon's then-unknown backcountry. Over the next four decades, he hiked over 12,000 miles in the Canyon, eventually publishing three guidebooks that hikers still use today for the wealth of backcountry information. Harvey's name is synonymous with hard-core, remote and exciting off-trail exploration in Grand Canyon.

Tom Myers and Elias Butler have teamed up to write the definitive biography on Harvey Butchart, expected to be published in 2005.

Elias Butler is a journalist as well as a photographer, whose works have appeared in publications like *National Geographic Adventure Magazine*, *Arizona Highways*, *Backpacker Magazine*, *Plateau Journal* and *High Country News*.

Tom Myers is also the co-author of *Fateful Journey - Injury and Death on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon* (along with Christopher C. Becker and Lawrence E. Stevens) and the co-author of *Over the Edge - Death in Grand Canyon* (along with Michael Ghiglieri).

Lecture: 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Place: Sharlot Hall Museum conference hall
415 W. Gurley - Prescott
(2 blocks west of the Courthouse Plaza)

After the lecture, spend some time on the Sharlot Hall grounds visiting other authors and book vendors before heading for your favorite watering hole.

Note--Also at the Sharlot Hall Museum on September 18: Marc Pearsall will also be presenting the book *The Grand Canyon Railway; Sixty Years in Color, Historic Color Photographs and Text from 1946 to 2003*, which he co-authored with Al Richmond; and Joe Schwieterman, author of *When the Railroad Leaves Town*, will be talking about the history of the railroad in the Prescott area.

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2004 Outings...continued from page 1

October 16: Annual Board Meeting. The annual board meeting of the GCHS will be held at the Flagstaff Public Library meeting room from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Immediately following the meeting, we will walk or drive one block to Las Manzanitas, a Mexican restaurant in downtown Flagstaff for lunch and visiting time. *(Nancy Green, October Outing Leader)*

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

December: No outing.

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Nick provided burgers and hot dogs for lunch with all the trimmings. Jennifer was kind enough to cook them up for us on the Center's grill. It was pleasant to get out of the sun for a while and eat in the cool shade on the patio. Many thanks go to the hard-working volunteers that day.

[Article by Nancy Green]

A Special Friendship

Our friendship with Bill and Sibyl Suran began in 1980 and continues today. We had visited Arizona for business conventions on previous occasions. The first time we had extended our vacation time and driven north as far as Flagstaff, on our way to the Grand Canyon, but it snowed overnight and we had rented a Pinto so decided to head south to Tucson instead, not wanting to take a chance of snow at the Grand Canyon. After all, we were two easterners in unfamiliar territory. Besides, we had already had more snow and ice than usual back home and warm sunshine won out.

On other visits to Phoenix, we had only a few days of our own time to tour bits of southern Arizona and began to wonder how people had made the change from other parts of the country to Arizona, so we wrote to the newspaper asking for comments on that subject. We had a response from a couple who had moved to Prescott Valley from Maine, and still correspond with them, and we received a response from Sibyl Suran telling how she and Bill had fallen in love with Flagstaff and decided that would be their home.

In 1980, we met Bill and Sibyl and they introduced us to Flagstaff, the Grand Canyon (with a picnic on the rim in February), Wupatki, Walnut Canyon, etc., and our friendship began. A year or two later, our nephew and family moved to Tucson and our annual vacation destination was Arizona, spending time in both Tucson and Flagstaff, always with a stop in Sedona, and we could understand how someone could acclimate to Arizona.

After several years of visiting, we started thinking how nice it would be if we could rent a "closet" somewhere so we would not have to pack so many clothes each time. A few years later, we found a town home in Tucson, purchased it, and had our "closet" for future visits, until we moved here permanently in 1994.

Through the years, the Surans and we have corresponded. They even visited us in New England to enjoy some of the sights. They have introduced us to so many wonderful areas of northern Arizona that we may never have visited, and our memories of those experiences are rich with visits to Monument Valley, Kayenta and Third Mesa, Canyon DeChelly, Page, Lake Powell, and so many other places. We have traveled north and they have traveled south and the letters journey between the two. Their friendship has been very special. They encouraged us to join the Grand Canyon Pioneers, now Grand Canyon Historical Society, and to attend meetings when we could. We have truly enjoyed the meetings and programs we have attended, and the Ol' Pioneers we have met.

As the saying goes..."You never know what might be around the next bend in your life" or words to that effect. Keep an open mind and you may be as fortunate as we have been. Our friendship with Bill and Sibyl has certainly been, and continues to be, a priceless experience.

*Audrey and Dick Watts
Tucson, Arizona
August 10, 2004*

Elect Your Board

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

Board Member Candidates

Lee Albertson

– Lee is the current president of GCHS and has served in the past as GCHS president and secretary. He was instrumental in establishing the GCHS Pioneer Award, and is a contributor to *The Ol' Pioneer*. Lee has backpacked in the Grand Canyon and other national parks.

Todd Berger

– Todd is the current chair for the GCHS Pioneer Award. He is the managing editor for the Grand Canyon Association, as well as a freelance author, photographer and editor. Todd recently co-authored the second edition of *The Insider's Guide to Grand Canyon and Northern Arizona* and he is the author or co-author of two additional books, as well as the editor of 11 anthologies.

Mike Coltrin

– Mike has been an avid hiker for over 20 years and has had many adventures hiking in Grand Canyon. He was one of the founding members of the Grand Canyon Hikers & Backpackers Association. Mike has attended a number of functions of the Historical Society since joining a few years ago. He also is a VIP (Volunteer in the Park) for the Canyon District rangers. His tour of duties includes Cottonwood Camp, Phantom Ranch, and South Bass trailhead. Mike has demonstrated a love for Grand Canyon and a willingness to be of service, and he has been a contributor to *The Ol' Pioneer*.

Write-In

– 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 2003 – Term: 2004, 2005, 2006

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

ELECTED in 2002 – Term: 2003, 2004, 2005

- Linda Anderson * LindaA@GrandCanyon.org
- Gale Burak N. Woodstock, NH

ELECTED in 2001 – Term: 2002, 2003, 2004

- Nancy Green NGreen@apscc.org
- Mary Hoover 928-635-2010
- Dr. Tom Myers GCDOC1@AOL.COM
- Carolyn Castleman AZlady2@juno.com

OFFICERS

President: Lee Albertson
Vice President: Keith Green
Treasurer: Linda Anderson
Secretary: Nancy Green
Pioneer Award: Todd Berger, Chairperson
Outings Coordinator: Keith Green
Assistant Outings Coordinator: Nancy Green

Those rotating off the Board in October are:

Carolyn Castleman
Nancy Green
Mary Hoover
Dr. Tom Myers

* 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)]

Article IV.6 of the By-Laws 6: At all meetings of the Board of Directors a majority of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

For a copy of the By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation, go to Membership on the GCHS web site at:
www.GrandCanyonHistory.org

The mission of the Grand Canyon Historical Society is to study and preserve the history of sites, historical photographs and artifacts of Grand Canyon and surrounding areas; and to support the restoration of sites and buildings at Grand Canyon National Park.

▶ Please complete the inserted ballot and return to Nancy Green by October 1 ◀

Members Updates

Gale Burak received a visit by Keith & Nancy Green in July at her home in North Woodstock, New Hampshire. Although arthritis has slowed Gale's walking, there is nothing slow about her memory or her ability to tell stories. She regaled Keith & Nancy for the day and one-half they were there with her Canyon memories dating back to the 1940s when she worked at the mine in Havasupai, through her Harvey Girl days in Ash Fork, to all her years hiking in Grand Canyon. Anyone who makes it to New Hampshire and loves the Grand Canyon should make an effort to stop by to see her. Gale misses talking with people who appreciate the Canyon as much as she does, and we all miss her and her stories.

Bill & Sibyl Suran will be leaving Arizona for Birmingham, Alabama, in September to live closer to their children. We will miss both of them at the outings. Bill & Sibyl, please keep in touch with us.

George W. Kyte passed away in 2003. Mr. Kyte was a life member of the Grand Canyon Pioneers Society, and was a history professor at NAU from 1966 until his retirement in 1985.

Letters

Dear Lee,

We just received and really enjoyed reading *The Ol'Pioneer*. It is packed with all sorts of interesting facts and history plus the great turnout you had for The Shoshone Picnic, 60+ that is impressive. We surely remember the one that was moved to Cameron because of the excessive white chilly stuff. That was the only one we made for Shoshone and it was moved.

You should be very proud of *The Ol'Pioneer*. When a person receives it, they don't want to put it down until they have read it cover to cover. It seems to get better with every issue. Keep up the great work.

All the best,

John Turnbull
Hawthorne, California
July 13, 2004

Dear Editor,

We are enclosing an article for possible inclusion in *The Bulletin* of the Grand Canyon Historical Society regarding our friendship with Bill and Sibyl Suran. We're enjoying both *The Bulletin* and *The Ol' Pioneer*. Keep up the good work.

Audrey Watts and Dick Watts
Tucson, Arizona
August 16, 2004

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; 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

09-04

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