



**Wayne Ranney – Pioneer Award**  
**2018 GRAND CANYON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PIONEER AWARD**  
 Presented with appreciation to Wayne Ranney for:

- His six years of service to the Grand Canyon Historical Society (GCHS) as Board member, with five years serving as President to help the Society mature and professionalize;
- Facilitating cooperation between the GCHS, the National Park Service, and surviving family members in achieving National Historic Landmark status for the 1956 Grand Canyon TWA/United Airlines Aviation Accident Site;
- His award-winning books, lectures, blog postings and training sessions that are exceptional for their scholarly content, and written or delivered in a style that appeals to scientists and lay persons alike, helping them to develop a greater appreciation for, and understanding of, the landscape development of the Grand Canyon region;
- Two books deserving special commendation about Grand Canyon National Park and receiving awards are “Carving Grand Canyon” and “Ancient Landscapes of the Colorado Plateau,” published by the Grand Canyon Association;
- Recognition by other organizations for exemplary skills as a geologic writer and interpreter, including the 2018 Geosciences in the Media Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the 2016 and 2014 Geosciences in the Media Award from the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists.

- His commitment and volunteerism to other Boards in the Grand Canyon region including 10 years with the Museum of Northern Arizona, and 8 years with the Flagstaff Festival of Science;
- Three years of service as a National Park Service volunteer, back-country ranger and trail crew leader in Grand Canyon National Park, and five years of service with the Student Conservation Association as trail crew leader in Capitol Reef, Zion, Chiricahua and Big Bend national parks;
- Having completed over 100 river trips and over 400 guided hikes through Grand Canyon, sharing his insights and knowledge with many thousands of visitors, park interpreters and residents.

Granted this 7th day of July 2018 At Grand Canyon National Park

**SOUTHERN UTAH NEWS**

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Wayne Ranney with his wife Helen at Shoshone Point, Grand Canyon.

## Grand Canyon Historical Society presents 2018 Pioneer Award to geologist and author Wayne Ranney

The Grand Canyon Historical Society presented their highest honor, the Pioneer Award, to long-time Grand Canyon geologist and author Wayne Ranney at their annual July picnic at Shoshone Point.

Ranney was recognized for his numerous contributions, which include over 40 years of study, river and trail guiding, teaching, lectures and leadership to non-profit organizations.

The award is presented annually to a living individual who has *"made a significant and lasting contribution to the understanding of, and knowledge about, the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River."*

Historical Society President Dave Mortenson presented the award to Ranney and thanked him for helping the Society mature and professionalize during the six years he served the organization as a board member and five years as its president.

Mortenson noted Ranney's important role in facilitating cooperation between the Grand Canyon Historical Society, the National Park Service, and surviving family members in achieving National Historic Landmark status in 2014 for the *1956 Grand Canyon TWA/United Airlines Aviation Accident Site*. The Park Service has since erected a plaque honoring the designation that is prominently displayed

at Desert View

After receiving the Pioneer Award, Ranney emotionally shared, "I feel privileged in being associated with the hundreds of members who volunteer and donate to our scholarship funds, and who share in my undying love of the Grand Canyon and its history. Standing on the rim of this amazing canyon, I am reminded of the people whom I have had the joy to work with in sharing and preserving the amazing history in this outstanding landscape. Thank you for this honor."

Grand Canyon Historical Society Vice-President Haley Johnson read aloud to the 50 picnic attendees from the text printed on the award plaque. The words highlighted the numerous ways Ranney contributed to an increase in our understanding of the canyon, including his commitment and volunteerism to other boards in the Grand Canyon region, 10 years with the Museum of Northern Arizona, and eight years with the Flagstaff Festival of Science.

Ranney served for three years in the 1970s as a National Park Service volunteer, backcountry ranger and trail crew leader in Grand Canyon National Park, and five years in the 1980s with the Student Conservation Association as trail crew leader in Capitol Reef, Zion, Chiricahua and Big Bend national parks.

Having completed over 100 river trips and over 400-guided hikes through Grand Canyon, Ranney has shared his insights and knowledge of the canyon with many thousands of visitors, park interpreters and residents.

Johnson also spoke about two books Ranney wrote that deserve special commendation, *"Carving Grand Canyon"* and *"Ancient Landscapes of the Colorado Plateau,"* both published by the Grand Canyon Association.

These two books have served countless visitors, residents, guides and interpreters in helping them develop a better understanding of regional landscape development, as well as the history of evolving ideas through more than 150 years of scientific study.

Johnson mentioned recent other awards Ranney has received of regional and national significance for his exemplary skills as a geologic writer and interpreter. These include the 2018 Geosciences in the Media Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and the 2016 and 2014 Geosciences in the Media Award from the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists.

The Pioneer Award was given at the Grand Canyon Historical Society Annual picnic in July. Next year's picnic will again be held at Shoshone Point on Saturday, July 13.