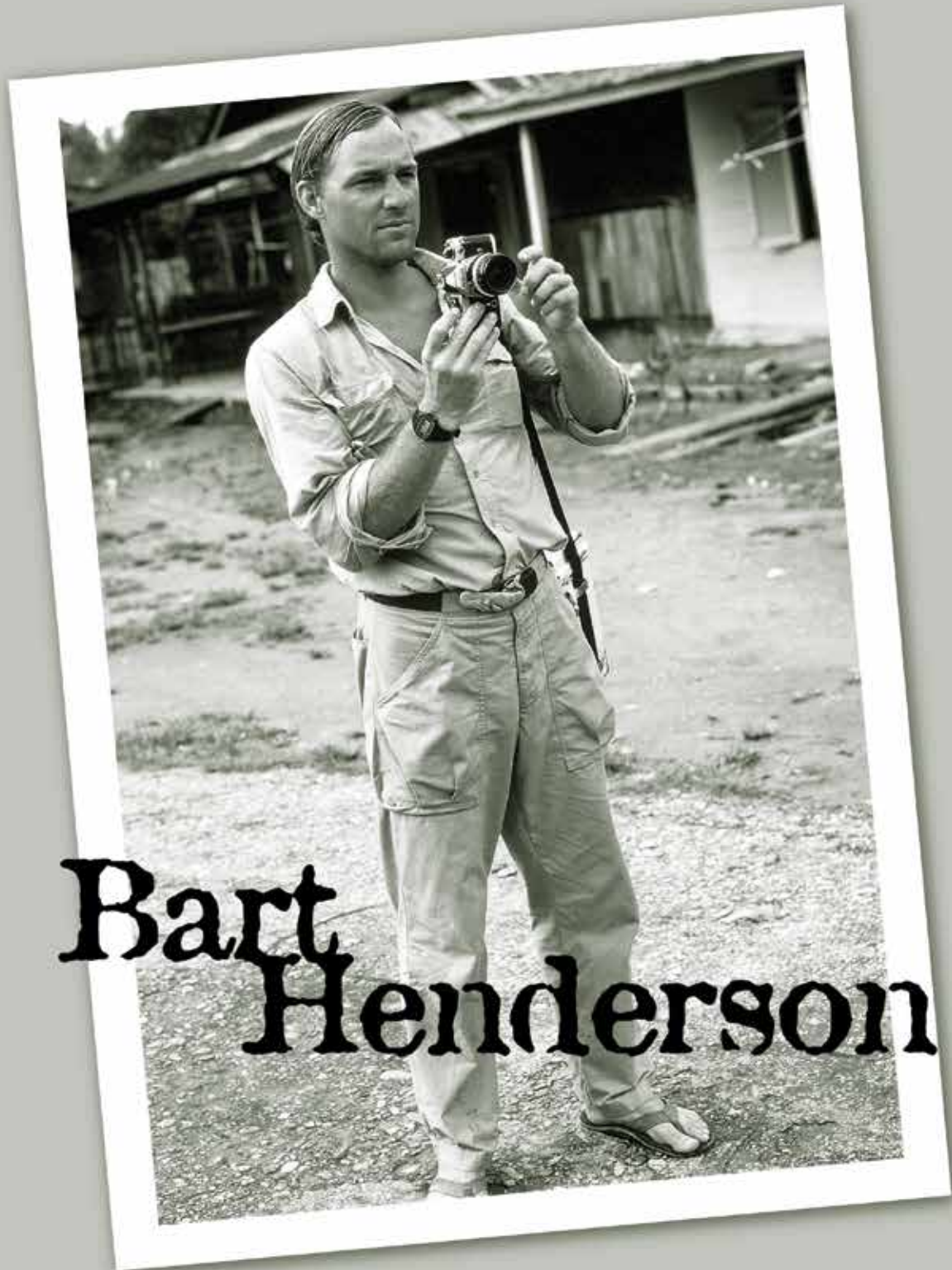


# boatman's quarterly review

the journal of Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc | volume 19 number 1 | spring 2006



**Bart  
Henderson**

Prez Blurb • Powell Society • Farewells • Final Thoughts • Epinephrine Update  
Katie & Martin • Adopt-a-Boatman • Conservation Program • GCY  
Whale Foundation • Thanks • Big Waters and Desert • Oral History Survey  
Grand Age of Rocks Part One • Grand Canyon Semester

## boatman's quarterly review

...is published more or less quarterly  
by and for Grand Canyon River Guides.

Grand Canyon River Guides  
is a nonprofit organization dedicated to

*Protecting Grand Canyon  
Setting the highest standards for the river profession  
Celebrating the unique spirit of the river community  
Providing the best possible river experience*

General Meetings are held each Spring and Fall. Our Board of Directors Meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of each month. All innocent bystanders are urged to attend. Call for details.

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Our editorial policy, such as it is: provide an open forum. We need articles, poetry, stories, drawings, photos, opinions, suggestions, gripes, comics, etc. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc.

Written submissions should be less than 1500 words and, if possible, be sent on a cd, zip disk or by email. Microsoft Word files are best but we can translate most programs. Include postpaid return envelope if you want your disk or submission returned.

Deadlines for submissions are the 1st of February, May, August and November. Thanks.

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## Presidential Blurbatum

WHILE WE ARE NOT exactly experiencing the dead of winter in the Southwest, there seems to be a good chance that the upper basin areas will continue to receive the lion's share of the basin's snowpack. La Niña seems to be alive and standing up for herself quite nicely against the wishes of all of the would-be skiers in Northern Arizona. Let's hope that the undammed rivers flow for resource and recreation use come this Spring. The 2006 forecast for our stretch of the Colorado seems to once again be for minimal release totals and headway is being made on developing drought management procedures for dam operations. For basin hydrology information, check out Tom Ryan's info at [www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/cs/gcd.html](http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/cs/gcd.html) or check your email from GCRG. Lynn does a great job at keeping us posted of expected flow conditions for the Canyon run. If you are interested in a snowpack map, go to the BQR's upper basin website [www.usbr.gov/uc/water/notice/snowpack.html](http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/notice/snowpack.html).

I hope you enjoy reading the BQR. I had the occasion to leaf through some of the "News" that GCRG

put out over ten years ago. While the scope and the format have changed, the basic information about what concerns us as river runners and lovers of all things Grand Canyon is still here. And, yes, while zealous intensity of young groups is exciting and often eye-catching, the persistent plodding of dedicated, if a bit staid, organizations can form the backbone of change from



*Garth Bundy—Go Man, Go!*

working within. I could not imagine getting much done without both types. So, whatever your type, if something strikes your fancy and you want to share it, or something else has been giving you a dull ache and you want to work on it, let us know.

*Joe Pollock*

# The Powell Society

THE POWELL SOCIETY was an interesting assemblage of kindred souls: geologists, doctors, lawyers and professionals from Boulder and Denver, Colorado. A collection of free spirits, they had never taken life too seriously. But one day, relaxing in the shade by the riverbank below Powell Point, Dave Gaskill suggested that the Powell Society “get serious.” He and George Simmons proposed a geological log and river guide of the entire Colorado River from Green River to Lake Meade. At that time the best map and information was from the river survey.

They selected the name “Powell Society” on their application to participate in the Bureau of Reclamation’s 1958 river trip to commemorate the Ninetieth Anniversary of John Wesley Powell’s passing through what is now the site of Flaming Gorge Dam. The commemoration was the idea of well-known Denver attorney Jerry Hart. The trip couldn’t be conducted on the Hundredth Anniversary because of the dam construction at Flaming Gorge. It was probably the last transit of Flaming Gorge before the coffer dam materials, piled along the sides of the river canyon, were pushed together to close the channel.

Society members George Simmons and Dave Gaskill became aware of Gene Shoemaker’s plan to repeat Powell’s trip of 1868 and replicate all of Hiller’s photographs of the Powell trip. The USGS, Smithsonian Institution and the National Geographic Society sponsored the trip. Gene Shoemaker was a famous astro-geologist who combined his knowledge of geology and river running. (The publication “In the Footsteps of John Wesley Powell,” was published in 1987, and began photo matching work that continues.)

Simmons and Gaskill proposed to Gene that they join the trip and create geological river logs for six segments of the Colorado River. The Society’s proposal was accepted and Gene Shoemaker, Dave Gaskill, Phil Hayes and Felix Mutschler spent the entire summer running the Colorado River in ten-man rafts from Green River to Lake Meade. Several other members of the Powell Society joined in various segments of the trip. The Society marked the Hundredth Anniversary of the parting at Separation Rapid in the Grand Canyon, with commemorative, postmarked letters.

USGS funds were originally budgeted to publish the comparison photographs as a professional paper. Ultimately the money budgeted was not available and

the Powell Society, working with Johnson Press of Boulder participated in the publishing of the book *In the Footsteps of John Wesley Powell*. In the meantime the Society published their river logs:

- Dinosaur National Monument and Vicinity by Hayes and Simmons
- Desolation and Grey Canyons by Mutschler
- Labyrinth, Stillwater and Cataract Canyons by Mutschler
- Marble and Grand Canyon by Simmons and Gaskill
- Yampa Supplement

The Yampa supplement was eventually incorporated into the Dinosaur publication. Most of these river guides are out of print. Mackay Marine and Outdoor Supply of Murray, Utah have recently republished the Desolation and Grey Volume. Although the river maps are small, one can follow the progress down the river through detailed descriptions. The guides locate and rate all of the rapids, rating them on the one to ten Colorado River Rating System. Thus the ratings are open to some individual interpretation, but they provide historic insight on the old silt-laden Colorado and the present day river.

The authors, now retired, are well-known geologists. David Gaskill lives west of Denver, Colorado. Since his retirement from the USGS George Simmons has served as a NPS volunteer in Big Bend, Cataract and the Uinta Mountains. Felix Mutschler, recently deceased, was a Professor of Geology at Eastern Washington University. Phil Hayes lives near Grand Junction, Colorado. Non-geologists who have contributed to the work of the Powell Society include Parkman T. Brooks of Ketchum, Idaho; Bob Gaskill of Winona, Kansas; Dr. George Ogura of Denver, Colorado; Marvis Ogura who organized the lecture programs, and Dr. Henry W. Toll Jr., of Denver, who is still in contact with this “interesting assemblage of free spirits!”

*Herm Hoops*

#### REFERENCES:

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POWELL SOCIETY RIVER GUIDE BOOKS

# Farewells

MARY KAY ALLEN

NOVEMBER 29, 1956–JANUARY 31, 2006

**T**HE SPIRIT OF MARY ALLEN, river guide extraordinaire, was dancing with the pictographs in Horseshoe Canyon when her body succumbed to colon cancer on January 31, 2006. Losing Mary is cause for deep sadness to all who knew her, but we also rejoice in a life well lived!

Mary had a great love for the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon that only a fellow guide could understand. The hard work, long days, worries and responsibilities were nothing compared to the joy and contentment she found on the river. She often remarked that it was a privilege to be able to spend so much of her time in such an amazing place. She also considered it a privilege to know and work with the great people in the guiding community.

Mary was a loyal Colorado River and Trail Expeditions (CRATE) guide for more than twenty years, working mostly as a senior trip leader in the Grand Canyon. She also led many trips on the Tatshenshini and Alsek rivers in Alaska; had numerous trips through Desolation, Cataract, and Westwater; and did her share of Moab and Green River dailies. Her last river trip was down the Grand Canyon in June of 2004. While staging her next trip, Mary fell from the boat trailer and broke her foot. The injury sidelined her for the rest of the season. The cancer diagnosis in November of 2004, and the subsequent year-long chemotherapy regimen, prevented her from running trips in 2005, although she never gave up on the idea of climbing back in the boatman's box.

A woman of superb class and style, Mary was well read, knowledgeable, curious, and an avid explorer. Her interests ranged from ornithology to botany to archaeology to horse whispering. She was an artist and a photographer and she knew how to tell a good story. She was a rock art scholar who documented many sites that were previously unrecorded. She loved to hike, and after her first round of chemotherapy she couldn't wait until she was strong enough to start tramping across the landscape again. In recent years, Mary took

up horsemanship and took pride in training her horse, Dakota, to play basketball and do other tricks.

Mary's experience and longevity as a professional river guide was remarkable. She ran paddle rafts, row boats, and motor rigs. She was a great trip leader, not only because of her boating skills, which were exemplary; or her knowledge, which was substantial; or her unquestioned leadership abilities; but because of her genuine affection for people—passengers, crew, and peers. She made everybody feel good. According to her co-workers, she was “fun” and “funny,” and her enthusiasm was contagious. On one occasion, she was running

with Walker Mackay as the second boatman. They had decided they wanted to get breakfast over quickly, so they could do a long hike that morning. As they were hurriedly cooking up a storm, Walker looked over at Mary and said, “Mary, you're on fire.” She laughed and proudly replied, “Yeah, I'm moving pretty fast.” “No, I mean, you are on fire—your shirt is burning!” Mary looked down, and sure enough the corner of her shirt had caught fire

when she leaned across the stove. As she smothered the flames, she noted, “Well, I may not be as fast as I thought, but I'm still smoking!”

Upon receiving the cancer diagnosis, Mary never felt self-pity or complained about her fate. Instead, she began an amazing series of adventures, sandwiched between fortnightly courses of chemotherapy. In the last year she has gone hiking, riding, and packing in the Canadian Rockies, Jackson Hole, Capital Reef, Snow Canyon, and Colorado. She took watercolor classes, attended horse training seminars, and was the official family photographer at the weddings of two nieces and a nephew. In a final burst of adventure, she achieved a long-held dream by going to Oaxaca for the Day of the Dead celebrations, and then to the Galapagos Islands with the Mackay family and several of her favorite river passengers. Mary never gave up on life, but when the time came, she accepted death with dignity and grace. May her spirit dance forever in all the special places she knew, but especially in her beloved Grand Canyon.

*Vicki Mackay*



## FRED BURKE

FRED BURKE, FOUNDER OF Arizona River Runners hit the trail for the last time on November 10, 2005. Fred was best known as the owner of Arizona River Runners (ARR) and Vermilion Cliffs (vc) though most don't realize this was only one chapter in an extraordinary life which started in the Kern River Valley of California in 1917. Fred attended a one room schoolhouse for eight years. Impatient for life he ran away from home to become a cowboy up in the Sierras. He learned "the code of the west" where a man's word is his bond and about ranching, a lifestyle he lived throughout his life.

At age twenty, he moved to Bakersfield, entered the Kern County Rodeo and won the saddle bronc contest. A rodeo cowboy was born! In those rodeo days he was lucky to make \$5/day. After a failed rodeo deal in Florida he decided to hitchhike back to California. With no money in his pocket he ended up in an Alabama jail for vagrancy. Those ten days in jail, were an experience that stayed with him the rest of his life. He slowly made his way to Tucson and finally caught a break when a guy picked him up and gave him bus fare to get back to California. In Fred's words, "That started me off helpin' people. No matter how far you get down to the bottom of the heap, everything's gone to hell, there's somebody who'll come along and help you."

At this point Fred realized that being a cowboy was great but no way to get ahead so he joined the horse cavalry. Now he was making the big money, \$20 a month. He got married for the first time and then applied to Officer's Candidate School. He graduated a "ninety-day-wonder" Second Lieutenant and returned to the Tenth Mountain Division. Fred became a Captain in charge of the 250 mules used to support the division in WWII and fought at Riva Ridge. As part of the Marshall Plan he oversaw as well as transported about 1400 horses and mules to Turkey. He spent time in Korea and three years in Japan before returning to Fort Huachuca in Arizona. When he mustered out he was the last soldier to do so with the M.O.S. of "Mule Packer".

Before retiring he entered the cattle business.

He married Carol his lifetime partner in 1960 and they ran cattle until Fred got the political bug. He was elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 1962 from Cochise County. He served as the Chairman of the House Fish and Game Committee and served on the Appropriations, Labor and Livestock and Public Lands Committees. The following term he was defeated politically and had lost his shirt in the cattle business too. He and Carol were broke and ended up at Lees Ferry measuring the water for the USGS. As Fred said, "...we went up there to lick our wounds and stumbled around and found this acorn." The "acorn" was river running.

Fred's first river trip was with Hatch in 1966. When he and Carol tried to tell Ted how he could do it better Ted said, "Why don't you start your own company?" And that is just what they did. With the help of close friends, and some army surplus boats from the Quist brothers Arizona River Runners was born in 1969. Fred was 52. Later they bought Vermilion Cliffs Lodge and headquartered out of there. He and



Carol ran it all like a ranch where room and board was part of the deal and everyone was expected to pitch in on the chores like fixing the water line. Those of us fortunate enough to have been part of that history will never forget it. Fred and Carol treated all of us like family and were the first outfitter to provide health insurance for their boatmen.

Fred remained active in issues surrounding the management of the Colorado River, public lands and cattle issues. His livestock experience led to an appointment to the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Board. In 2000 Fred was "Most Honored Packer" at the Bishop, California Mule Days Celebration. Fred had an extraordinary life which Lew Steiger chronicled in Fred's autobiography *Pitch 'til You Win*. For a copy contact Pam\_Whitney@direcway.com. Ride-On and farewell Freddie, we'll miss you.

*Tim & Pam Whitney*

## Final Thoughts on the CRMP

**T**HE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT of the Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) has been published and the new management directives will be implemented in 2007. The exact details of the transition are not in, but we understand that the Commercial Operating Requirements for 2006 will not entail any substantive changes. While there will be no further opportunities for official public comment, Grand Canyon River Guides feels it behooves us to outline our understanding of, and position toward the new management plan for the river corridor.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Colorado River Management Plan reflected several changes from the Draft EIS that resulted from the Park's consideration of "substantive comments." Drifter, Lynn and the entire team of folks that help put our comments together deserve a big round of applause. Many of Grand Canyon River Guides' comments were considered substantive and were given due consideration. We also applaud the efforts of all GCRG members who commented on the plan. Your thoughts clearly demonstrated how much you care about this precious resource, and your efforts made it a better document.

Positive changes from the Draft to the Final EIS include the continued allowance of day-use at the Little Colorado, the abandonment of the single point all-user registration system as well as the rejection of the adjustable split allocation of user days between commercial and non-commercial groups. Apparently there was not much sense in closing access to our beautiful swim rapid on the Little Colorado. However, be aware of a gerrymandered off limits area around the mouth. There should be a map forthcoming showing where the closures are. The single point all-user system suggested in the Draft EIS was removed. The idea was unworkable and the two sectors will continue to be administered separately. Also, the allocation of user days between commercial and non-commercial sectors will remain constant at the levels set by the CRMP. The Board of GCRG encouraged both of these decisions. Commercial and non-commercial permits are, in Drifter's words, "apples and oranges." Lastly, one enormous step forward is the eventual transition from the Private Waiting List to a weighted lottery system for privately outfitted trips. This development along with the 50/50 split between private and commercial use should really help dispel much of the contentiousness that has plagued Grand Canyon for years.

The following reflect our views on portions of the plan that did not change in response to GCRG's comments on the Draft CRMP:

### INCREASED USE

Increased use and the timing of such use will be the most significant and potentially impactful changes in the management of the river corridor. Although there has been some discussion among GCRG board members as to the possible ramifications of increased use, and whether or not the current quiet winter months are truly needed to help the Canyon rest, the overall consensus is that we should keep a close watch on Canyon resources to prevent their degradation. We have discussed possible ways to quantify impacts to visitor experience (especially crowding) and are interested in helping the Park to develop these plans.

In response to comments on the Draft EIS regarding the increase in use, the Park points to its plan to spread peak use so as to lower the total use at any given time. The Park contends that it is the intensity of use that contributes the most considerable wear and tear on the resource. This seems debatable especially in light of the non-renewable nature of cultural resources and the increase in user discretionary time. In any event, we will want to keep our eyes peeled down there, as always, for signs of negative impacts.

The River Guides, although opposed to the increase in overall visitor use, are nevertheless committed to help make the new plan a success. Our position is that user education is always the best way to prevent any degradation to the resource, either natural or cultural. We are hopeful that the Park will reduce resource problems through communication and cooperation. Education and interpretation, in our opinion, are more effective, and more in keeping with the spirit of the National Parks, than any attempt to rely on enforcement against violations after the fact.

### MONITORING

Inadequate funding for monitoring is a reality that the Park recognizes. In response to comments regarding the lack of definite funding sources to thoroughly monitor changes stemming from the increase in use, the Park states that possible funding may come from many sources. GCRG feels that sufficient and stable funding sources coupled with clearly delineated plans for the monitoring of Park resources should be integral to the overall plan. While this is not the case, we recognize the increasing importance of monitoring both natural and cultural resources and, as above, are

interested in the development of Park plans to monitor for negative impacts.

#### ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

There are references to the use of “an adaptive management approach” to altering the management plan if and when changes are deemed necessary. GCRG encourages the Park to change its management of the river corridor to adapt to conditions on the ground. Although the form of this approach is not clear, we trust that Park management will use this caveat to protect the Park from negative impacts. River guides may have an important role to play in this approach. As the largest group to run the Canyon on a consistent basis, we have the ability to see changes as they are occurring and can inform Park management.

#### GLEN CANYON DAM

The draft and final EIS contain references to Glen Canyon Dam and the recognition of its inherent and overwhelming effects on the river corridor. Separating management of river and river corridor use from Park involvement in the Adaptive Management Program

of Glen Canyon Dam is viewed by the River Guides as an expediency used by the Park in order to produce the final plan in a timely manner. Discussion amongst GCRG members indicates that we may feel inclined to encourage the Park to engage more actively in promoting dam management actions that produce effects closer to the wild and primitive conditions for which Grand Canyon National Park was established.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of issues covered by the management plan or our positions on those issues. Grand Canyon National Park deserves praise for the completion of the gargantuan task that produced the new CRMP. We encourage the Park to continue to develop clearer plans for funding of monitoring activities as well as educational programs that will help forestall damage to any of the precious resources in and around the Canyon corridor. Grand Canyon River Guides looks forward to working with the Park to protect and preserve our natural and cultural resources over the long term.

*Joe Pollock*  
PRESIDENT GCRG

## That Grand Canyon Plant Guide

ON THE MORNING OF January 3RD, a small box left the Federal Express office in Flagstaff, Arizona. Inside of the box, pages and pages of text accompanied 320 color photographs and line drawings of our favorite plants that grow the lower elevations of Grand Canyon. Tossed and tussled, the box made a long journey to Missoula, Montana, where the contents were pulled from the cardboard case by the hands of our lovely editor, Jennifer Carey. Jenn works for Mountain Press Publishing Company, a publisher that you may know best because of their Roadside Geology books.

This is it folks! We will have the page proofs in March and the Grand Canyon plant guide will be in print by fall 2006. It has been an extensive journey for all of us. Without the support from the Grand Canyon community and the contributions of all of you, this book project would not have been possible. We thank all of the photographers and artists who donated their images at little to no cost. Fifty-seven photographers and artists from all over the country, including professionals and amateurs, commercial passengers and river guides, submitted over 1500 images. Of these, 320 were chosen for inclusion in the book. We are also

indebted to our 35 plus writers and reviewers, as their hours of research provided the content for the 200 plus plant descriptions. Thank you all for your effort.

Many thanks to our funders who made it possible to support artists by covering costs of film, developing, and supplies. Grand Canyon Conservation Fund, Arizona Native Plant Society, Flagstaff Cultural Partners, and T&E Inc. awarded generous grants to our non-profit endeavor. Thank you to Lynn Hamilton at Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc. for cutting those checks as our fiscal agent. Of the little profit that may result from book sales, half will be donated to Grand Canyon River Guides, Inc. and the other half will be used to reimburse expenses incurred during the project, after which this portion will also be donated to non-profit organizations related to Grand Canyon.

*The Charley's Angels of Botany:  
Lori Makarick, Kate Watters, & Kristin Huisinga*

# Epinephrine Law Update

**T**HE PREVIOUS ISSUE OF the *Boatman's Quarterly Review* included an article about the administration of epinephrine to treat severe allergic reactions, possible legislation, and what that might mean for river guides. The article also indicated that State Representative Doug Quelland was personally committed to addressing this life and death issue through legislation, and momentum was building. Indeed it has. Arizona Bill #2110 is currently moving through the House of Representatives and reads as follows:

**Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:**

**Section 1. Title 36, chapter 21.1, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 36-2226, to read: 36-2226. Emergency administration of epinephrine by good Samaritans; exemption from civil liability.**

- A. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a person may administer epinephrine to another person who is suffering from a severe allergic reaction if the person acts in good faith and without compensation for the act of administering the epinephrine and a health professional who is qualified to administer epinephrine is not immediately available.**
- B. A person who administers epinephrine pursuant to Subsection A is not subject to civil liability for any personal injury that results from that act.**

This bill has since been amended by the House Judiciary Committee to add the following stipulation: **"This exemption does not apply if the person is negligent in the administration of epinephrine."**

Of course, the scope and effectiveness of any law are a function of the language used and the possible interpretation of that language. An initial draft of this legislation included the qualifier, "without compensation," similar to the Good Samaritan statute. After consultation with Dr. Michelle Grua, the wording was later changed to "without compensation for the act of administering the epinephrine" in order to broaden the applicability to include people like river guides and camp counselors who are paid to do their jobs and shoulder the responsibility for their clients' health and well being. The revised language dispels civil liability because there would be no direct billing of the victim for the administration of the epinephrine.

We concluded our previous article on this subject with a request for thoughts from our members regarding the efficacy of legalizing the administration of epinephrine. Our article also acknowledged that divergent opinions on the issue exist within the river community,

and ironically the responses we received by email reflect those opposing viewpoints:

**EMAIL #1:**

*Forget the law—it'll come with a whole bunch of regulations. It seems to me less likely that a guide will be sued if she/he uses epinephrine when it is not specifically allowed, than if she doesn't use it after they pass a law with the expectation for her to use it. Said another way, guides are better off in a legal fog than if they draw attention to it with a law. Who's going to prosecute someone for using epi anyway? The AMA? The State of Arizona? C'mon man. Guides are more likely to get sued by the family of a victim—so, is it more likely they died from too much epi or the lack of it? Odds are it's the lack that kills them, and guides are more likely to get sued for NOT using it. The litigious relatives are more likely to win against us if there is a legal expectation that we should use it. It's better to be breaking the law in an extraordinary circumstance with good intentions, than defending against pre-set expectations that may not match the circumstances. With a law, you're likely to have to explain to the jury why you ran out.*

**EMAIL #2:**

*I believe that if any opponent to the idea of guides being authorized to administer epinephrine on the river were to consider for only a moment their feelings if a loved one needed the shot and were denied it because of legal concerns they would realize how stupid blocking the idea to permit guides to use this life-saving remedy is. I have a grandson allergic to bee stings and I bless the availability of the epi-pen. If there is anything I can offer to help get this authorization established, please let me know.*

Hopefully, the simplicity of the proposed bill may serve to quell the concerns of those individuals who would prefer that the epi conundrum remains a grey area. The gist is essentially this: if a person administers epinephrine in an emergency situation because they feel it's warranted, and there is no other medical authority on site, they can do so without being subject to liability concerns as long as they act in good faith and without negligence. There are no attendant regulations or required training, nor is there any expectation that people should carry or use epinephrine.

Quite a number of states have enacted epinephrine legislation, and Arizona was bound to travel down this road eventually. However, it took the personal initiative and commitment shown by both Representative Quelland and Dr. Grua to move this issue beyond the theoretical, clearly demonstrating the power of the individual to enact change. As an organization, Grand



Canyon River Guides' role is to keep our members informed by presenting a balanced view of both sides of this issue. River guides have a responsibility as well—to question, and to carefully weigh this information against their value systems and the realities of the guiding profession in Grand Canyon.

Lynn Hamilton  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Editorial Note

THE INTRODUCTION TO THE ARTICLE, *The Administration of Epinephrine—To Legalize Or Not* in the last issue of the BQR (page 12, Volume 18:4) has raised some important questions about the difference between toxic reactions and anaphylaxis, and the necessity of differentiating between the two. Wilderness First Responder classes are currently the proper venue for gaining this important information. The point remains however, that river guides must act quickly in medical emergencies based on their best knowledge and expertise (and without the assistance of an authorizing physician). This underscores the main thrust of our article—a law regarding the administration of epinephrine could conceivably provide very necessary clarification at a time when it's most needed: a life and death situation.



## GCRG Members Katie Lee and Martin Litton Honored

AS PART OF THEIR Southwest Literature Project, on December 8, 2005 the Tucson-Pima Public Library honored Katie Lee with a lifetime achievement award at the Fifth Annual Lawrence Clark Powell Lecture. Author Chuck Bowden introduced Katie and presented the award. Katie's book *Sandstone Seduction* is still receiving rave reviews, and *All My Rivers Are Gone* will be re-released later this year by Fretwater Press under a new title.

On February 2, 2006, in Scottsdale, the Grand Canyon Trust honored Martin Litton with the John Wesley Powell Award. It is only the third time this award has been given. Bruce Babbitt and Stewart Udall were the two previous recipients. The award is presented "to an exceptional individual or institution that has accomplished significant conservation for the Grand Canyon and the Colorado Plateau." In 2004, at age 87, Martin broke his own record for oldest to operate a boat on a Grand Canyon river trip. Last year, Martin renewed his GCRG membership at the Lifetime level at 88 years of age; let's hope that he gets more than his money's worth.

Richard Quartaroli



Martin Litton in Grand Canyon, 1984.  
NAU.PH:97.46.B9.57, P.T. Reilly photo.  
Courtesy of NAU Cline Library Special Collections



Katie Lee in Glen Canyon, 1954.  
NAU.PH:99.3.1.5.3, Tad Nichols photo.  
Courtesy of NAU Cline Library Special Collections

## Adopt-a-Boatman

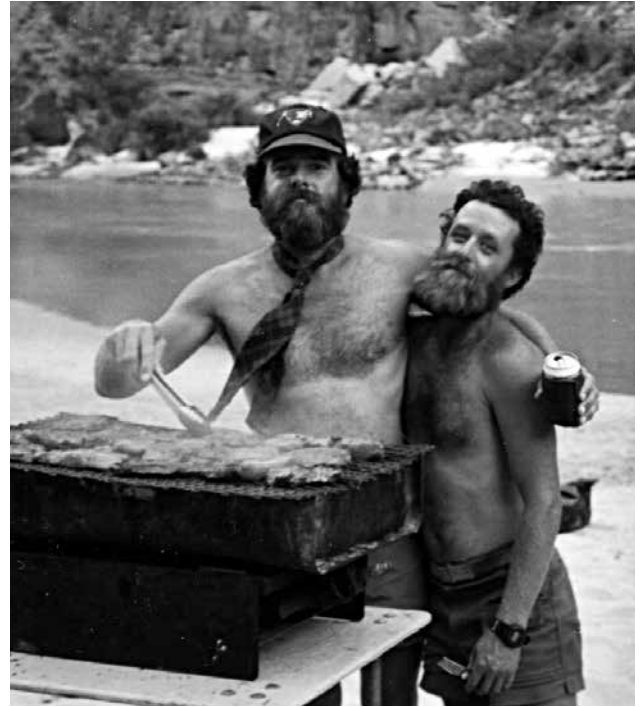
**C**HARITY FOR RIVER GUIDES? Well sorry, no, but the title got your attention, didn't it? Adopt-a-Boatman is the name of a new fundraising program we've devised to produce additional oral histories of river runners in Grand Canyon. As you are most likely aware, the Colorado River Runners Oral History Project continually requires funding infusions in order to keep the program moving forward, and Adopt-a-Boatman seems an eminently sensible way to involve our members in that process. We realize that GCRG members like to make suggestions about possible interview subjects which can range from the more "historical" to the contemporary. This new program will enable you to put your money where your mouth is, so to speak.

We estimate that the average expenses associated with producing an oral history to be approximately \$750 (travel, interviewer, equipment, transcription, editing for publication; curation, long-term storage, digitization, and online presence are gratis due to cooperation with NAU Cline Library Special Collections and Archives, <http://www.nau.edu/library/speccoll/index.html>). Through the Adopt-a-Boatman program, folks will be able to stipulate the interviewee if they donate \$500 (self-nominations are acceptable too). Therefore, the initial \$500 donation would set the stage while allowing other members to step up and become co-sponsors of that particular interview by donating funds in \$50 increments to get us to that \$750 level. Some grants require matching donations, so the Adopt-a-Boatman program will also allow us to leverage those funds more effectively.

Once the interviews are completed and published in the *BQR*, the primary sponsor and co-sponsors will be acknowledged. However, it is important to note that while we perceive the greatest value of oral histories lies in capturing those reminiscences, GCRG cannot always promise prompt publication. Both the interview process and the public presentation of these interviews in each issue of the *Boatman's Quarterly Review* are at the discretion of our outstanding interviewer/sound recordist, Lew Steiger. Scheduling challenges both for Lew and the interviewees, responsibilities to other funders, and many other factors come into play. In order to address any possible lag time between the interview process and publication of the oral history, GCRG will also include the names of our sponsors and co-sponsors annually in the fall edition of the *BQR* as part of our Major Contributor List. Our goal is to produce, from start to publication, at least one interview per year.

You can credit Richard "Q" Quartaroli, GCRG past president and current Special Collections Librarian at NAU's Cline Library, repository for the oral histories, both for the idea and the inaugural donation. The idea origi-

nated at last year's GTS when Q was giving a presentation on the oral history project, and two folks shouted out



Q and Whitney, July 14, 1988—"Lava Fallies" on the "But do you love me?" trip.  
Photo by The Hitchhikes and Neener Sisters

"interview Martha Clark" (who had actually just been interviewed). Q has been donating \$500 annually for some years, but without stipulation. As his new brain-child, the Adopt-a-Boatman program will provide focus and build interest through a cooperative program that challenges each of you to become involved in its success.

The first Adopt-a-Boatman subject will be Tim Whitney. Whitney ran his first Grand Canyon river run in 1973 with brother Bob on a Fort Lee trip. He worked for Fort Lee Expeditions and Sobek, and still runs with Arizona River Runners; he and his lovely wife Pam Manning Whitney (who managed ARR for Fred and Carol Burke) own Rivers and Oceans: A Travel Company, booking Colorado River trips. Whitney was a founding member of GCRG, an original rep for ARR, on the inaugural Board of Directors, and tied with Martin Litton for the 1992 Michael Jacobs Award. But way more than that, he can tell a story. Have you ever heard the one about Tim camped near Deer Creek, with the "scentless" spotted skunk and the ham steak? Well, when he tells the story, he plays all three parts! (The ham steak performance, itself, being worthy of an Oscar

for Best-Supporting Actor.)

We're absolutely tickled to report that the Adopt-a-Boatman project is off to a running start. The Tim Whitney oral history endeavor has already reached its \$750 goal through the following generous contributions:

Richard Quartaroli    Sponsor  
Michael Denoyer      Co-Sponsor  
Neal "Bear" Shapiro    Co-Sponsor

We will keep a running notation of names/donations on our website, [www.gcr.org](http://www.gcr.org) so that you will know when we have reached our goal for a particular interview subject. We will also post a list of previous interviewees, along with their status. Our plan is to complete one Adopt-a-Boatman project before moving on to the next in order to simplify program management, but you can donate at any time. Since this is a new effort, we might need to tweak the policies as we go. Updates will be provided in the Boatman's Quarterly Review as well.

Of course we realize that \$500 is a chunk of change,

so an alternate route is to get 10 or 15 friends together and sponsor an interview subject (10 x \$50 = \$500; 15 x \$50 = \$750). Co-sponsors can also give more than the \$50 suggested donation as these fine fellows have obviously done. We're flexible—our only goal is to continue the expansion of what has become one of the most extensive oral history collections in existence.

River running is both your passion and, for many, your heritage. Everybody is worthy of an interview, but lack of funding is the main obstacle. Adopt-a-Boatman affords you an opportunity to become personally involved in preserving those special memories before they are lost. Please help support the new Adopt-a-Boatman project today!

*Lynn Hamilton*

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### Waking

A dream of another place haunts me when I wake  
To an impossible depth of starlight  
To rock walls lit by  
A day that has not arrived  
And a night that is not gone  
I am not sure to which bank my boat is tied  
Or at what point along in my journey  
Or which journey

The air is cold and I do not wish to rise  
But I am no longer a child  
And must  
Rise

I cannot remember the tracks I made  
To arrive here  
On this mystery river  
This dream of waking  
This wildness

*Benjie Howard*

## Colorado River Conservation Program— Seven-Year Synopsis

**H**ELLO TO ALL. It has been a few years since the Colorado River Conservation Program (CRCP) was the focus of an article in the BQR. The last time I wrote for this publication the program was relatively new and there were some questions concerning what it was and what the long-term goals were. Now, with the program entering its eighth season, we have come much further than anyone could have foreseen. By December 1, 2006, we should have 24 total trips completed. Considering that the original contract called for twelve trips, I think we have exceeded expectation. We managed to run eighteen trips before exhausting the original funds contracted for the program. In the original contract, it was outfitter money that went to the park, which was then funneled to pay for them. In order to schedule more trips, we have been introduced to a stop-and-go pattern when we ran out of money, forcing us to find funds left over from some other NPS project that failed. This has put some strain on the continued existence of the CRCP. Enough of a strain that I feel it necessary to inform everyone of what this whole thing has been about and why it is important to make an effort to continue it.

For those who have never heard of this before, here is a brief explanation. In the early '80s, the back-country/wilderness coordinator for Grand Canyon was a man named Kim Crumbo. Doubtless, many of you have heard of this legendary figure. Kim was acutely aware that the river corridor was mandated preserved and protected by the National Park Service, but also realized there was a hurdle in keeping this from happening properly. As in many government-financed programs, this obstacle was the lack of sufficient funds. In order to properly maintain the corridor, Kim needed to conduct two 21-day winter "resource management" trips during the course of every fiscal year. The problem is that it is difficult to pay for food, gas, equipment, but most of all to find the wages necessary to pay 24 employees for 21 days at a time. One trip alone would cost more than \$50,000. That money simply didn't exist (and still doesn't). The answer to the problem was simple: turn the program into a symbiotic, volunteer relationship with the outfitters and guides. Have the outfitters provide a boat here, a boat there, and give some new people the opportunity to operate a craft through the canyon. In turn, they would help do the work on river while under park service supervision. They wouldn't get paid anything, but they would have the chance to

get some experience so that they could get a guide's license, as well as the chance to form first-hand relationships with park service employees and supervisors. Kim quickly realized that your trip overhead changes dramatically when you don't have to pay anybody, and it worked out fine because everybody got something out of the deal.

Things were working well. The park got a lot of work done for pennies, and a lot of really cool people, many of who are still around, got their start in Grand Canyon doing these trips. Then in 1998 two things happened that threatened to end the program altogether. One was Kim's departure from the park, and the second was the encroachment of our litigious society into the volunteer programs within the park. Prior to 1998, the NPS had always bore the responsibility for medical evacuations and injuries acquired on river. At this point in time, however, the trend for accountability overshadowed the benefit of free work and the NPS announced they would no longer accept the responsibility for the resource management program. What this meant was that outfitters would now accept the responsibility that had previously belonged to the NPS. If that wasn't enough, it was also decreed that all participating outfitter personnel would have to be accredited in the same manner as those who conduct a professional river trip (i.e. WFR course, CPR, a current guides license, and drug tests.) No longer could non-card carrying personnel operate the boats. Under these auspices, it would be next to impossible to find anyone who would work for nothing. As far as could be seen, the resource management program was dead, and an era was over.

This was when Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association (GCROA) entered the arena. People like Rob Elliott, and Bill Gloeckler saw the benefit of Crumbo's vision, and presented the idea to the remainder of the outfitting community. Lo and behold, they thought that it was worth the effort to keep it going! A non-profit program called the Colorado River Conservation Program (a subsidiary of the Colorado River Fund [CRF]) was created, and a \$451,000 contract was drafted between the NPS and GCROA, which included a schedule for twelve trips, each given to a different outfitter. Twelve outfitters signed this contract, as well did the NPS. In order to give guides some incentive, wages were introduced for the first time. At \$85 per day, the wages have never been good, but this exists in order to maintain the non-profit status of the program. (As a side note to

the guides, this has been a point of debate that has been pursued more than once, but to no avail. It is what it is, and “it” is better than nothing. Trust me when I tell you that no one is getting rich in the CRCP.)

The final piece to the puzzle was to find and hire a project manager. I was hired in the spring of 1999 to help in the organization and documentation of all the trips. I was the obvious choice, as I had been involved with the whole process since the Crumbo days, and simply was more experienced than anyone else. I didn't need a degree. I just needed stamina. I have helped organize the trips between the outfitters and the NPS, sometimes finding guides, cooks, equipment, etc., but mostly in the capacity of documentation. A trip report is part of the job description, and I have been responsible for making sure that one is filed for every trip conducted. I have tried to go on as many of the trips as I could. Several times this hasn't proven possible, so in my absence the trip leaders from their respective outfitters have helped me out. Thanks to you all. You know who you are. All of these documents are available to anyone and are on file at GCROA's offices, at the NPS Science Center and at my home office here in Flagstaff.

As I said before, we have done 22 trips since 1999, and should have 24 finished by December 2006. At this point in the program, we only continue when money is found that can be used towards the CRCP. There has not been a major contract written since the original 1999 document. What this means is that many of the outfitters never know if they will do a CRF/CRCP trip until two months before the fact. This makes spring trips difficult to fill, because most outfitters are hard pressed to get a trip together for February or March when they are first approached in January. This happens often because the park usually releases the next year's launch schedule immediately before the holidays, and this is when no one is around. Therefore it tends to be a bit of a surprise when an outfitter returns from vacation and is confronted with having to do a 21-day trip in eight weeks, and none of their guides are around. The guides that may be in town looking for work must have all their credentials up to date, and if they don't work for the sponsoring outfitter, then they have to go through that outfitters hiring process, which may mean orientation classes and certainly requires a drug test. Without the NPS, outfitters, or guides committing to a long-term goal, each trip must be dealt with individually. Trying to get everyone committed in eight weeks or less is getting more difficult, to the point that I fear for the continuation of the program. I am writing this article to show what it is that we have done, and to try to convince everyone that this is an endeavor worth pursuing. We really should get a new contract and keep this alive for an extended period of time. I could use my own words to describe what this program means to us, but

I believe that those of another CRCP participant would be more effective. The following is an excerpt from a memorandum sent to the Superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park from Cydney B. Martin, Director For Indian Affairs, IMR and authenticated by: Vivian Admundson, NPS 2/25/04:

I was also impressed with your program that uses the Colorado River Fund to support resource-related trips on the river. It is accomplishing resource projects that would be difficult or impossible to undertake on park patrol trips, and prohibitively expensive to contract. Almost more importantly, it is obvious that these trips foster a partnership between commercial guides and the park. By participating in park resource projects the guides become advocates and educators for the park; able to inform not only their commercial passengers about resource values, but also their fellow guides. Word passes quickly within the guide community and this is a terrific way for them to develop a personal investment in park goals and a personal relationship with park staff. We should use this program as an example for other parks to follow.

I like the sound of that. “We should use this program as an example for other parks to follow”. Wouldn't it be a grand feather in everyone's cap if the entire nation's national park service adopted a program between the government and park concessionaires, paid by the concessionaires, in a cooperative effort for the preservation of the resource? All participants of this program have a right to be proud of what they have done, but it's not time to rest on your laurels. Think of the possibility that is presented here. Despite all the changes that have happened from Crumbo's original vision, it is still a great idea. After these next two trips we will be out of money and looking for a new source. This shouldn't be happening. I agree that we could continue to rev up the program for another two or three trips every time that some leftover money gets infused into the program, but wouldn't it be easier if we all had a long-term contract with a solid budget behind it? This was the original foundation for this program, but it no longer exists, and I fear that this present situation will kill it. I don't think this is what everyone wants. I truly believe that the NPS and GCROA want to keep this going, and despite the low wage, the response from the guiding community has been favorable. One hundred and seventy nine guides have taken part in this, and I think they found the experience educational and rewarding.

Therefore, what I am asking the guides to do is this: Talk to the guides in your company who have taken part in these trips and see what they have to say. If enough

of you find it favorable and worth the effort to keep this going, then talk to your respective outfitters and see what they have to say. If enough outfitters get together and present this to the park service, the park will listen. They should, because they're getting a great deal for the money spent. I think that if the guides want this, we can help make it happen.

From the Crumbo days till now, no program of this type has existed in any national park, and no program has done more to foster a positive, cooperative atmosphere between the NPS and park concessionaires. Everyone benefits from this, and all appearances suggest that we all want to keep it. In order to do this it requires outfitter funds to stay within the park and be used in this direction, and also suggests that a long-term contract be written to minimize any confusion for the NPS, the outfitters, and the guides that will run the program. Clearly, if this program comes to an end, it is because we chose that to happen.

*Brian Hansen*  
CRCP PROJECT MANAGER

#### COMPLETED WORK

As of March 1, 2006, 22 cooperative resource trips of various durations have been completed. The level of cooperation between organizations that use the resource and took advantage of the program exceeded original expectations. What follows is a list of all departments and the numbers of personnel that have participated in the CRCP program since the spring of 1999.

#### NPS GRAND CANYON DEPARTMENTS—209 PERSONNEL:

Archaeology  
Backcountry Office  
Center For Disease Control (CDC)  
Compliance Office  
Hydrology  
NAGPRA  
Ranger  
Revegetation  
Trails  
Western Area Center For Conservation (WACC)  
Wildlife

#### NPS LAKE MEAD DEPARTMENTS—TWO PERSONNEL:

Ranger

#### NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE DEPARTMENTS—FIFTY PERSONNEL:

Cultural  
Hydrology  
Revegetation  
NAGPRA

#### RIVER OUTFITTERS—179 PERSONNEL:

ARR  
AZRA  
CANX  
Canyoners  
CRATE  
Diamond  
GCE  
High Desert  
Moki-Mac  
OARS  
Outdoors Unlimited  
Tour West  
Western  
Wilderness

#### ARCHAEOLOGY

- Beamer's Cabin Assessment and reinforcement (two trips)
- Finding of three previously unknown artifacts
- Two site cleanups for removal of non-biodegradable matting
- Three trips for installation of Zuni checkpoints
- Three roasting pit excavations
- 363 corridor sites monitored
- 123 river corridor sites mapped
- Three sites of pictograph/petroglyph reproduction drawings including 104 handprint drawings in Deer Creek narrows
- 93 river corridor site surveys with total station including the first coordinated classification of all sites at Unkar Delta.
- One trip for Hualapai Nation to monitor all sites from Phantom Ranch to Diamond Creek.
- One full trip for discussion between all members of the Programmatic Association of Native American Tribes in dealing with Native American Graves and Repatriation Act issues.
- One trip to discuss and monitor issues surrounding the boat restoration program for the Western Area Center for Conservation (WACC).
- One trip to map thirty sites at Deer Creek valley for further investigation as to their purpose (irrigation systems?)
- Two trips using new "Polygon Mapping System" for surface-visible ruins

#### REVEGETATION

- 42 major Ravenna grass eradication sites—unknown number of minor sites with 815 confirmed plants removed
- Four SWEMP (Southwestern Exotic Mapping Program) efforts made at Stone Creek.

- One attempt to monitor a remote site at Matkatamiba without use of a helicopter for purpose of Minimum Tool Rule.
- 53.52 miles of canyons monitored for initial tamarisk survey
- Four trips with installation of fifty-plus photo check points for tamarisk growth monitoring.
- 2560 feet of multiple trails revegetated
- Eighty gallons of seeds gathered for germination on south rim
- Three camelthorn eradication sessions at Crystal Creek
- Four Russian Olive eradications
- Ten Sow Thistle eradications
- Two Sahara Mustard eradications
- One Tree of Heaven elimination at Kanab Creek
- One camelthorn transect at 222 mile
- 100 plus beach surveys for non-native species
- Tens of thousands of tamarisk trees, saplings, and seedlings removed from many side canyons throughout the entire corridor

#### TRAILS

- Two three-tiered log retaining walls
- 37 rock checks
- Rock walls built: one two-tiered at 30-feet, one two-tiered at 10-feet, four-tiered at 12-feet, two at 5-feet, three three-tiered at 10-feet, three five-tiered at 15-feet, one two-tiered at 20-feet
- Rock stairs built: six eight-step, one 14-step, one 15-step, one 19-step, one ten-step, two three-step, 13 single step
- 11.24 miles of trail cleared of debris (rocked)
- 19.625 miles of trail surveyed for damage including the surveys for Nankoweap reconstruction project
- 3.25 miles of trail delineation
- Three boat landing reconstructions
- Six gullies total of 150 feet refilled
- Seven backcountry toilet maintenance stops
- Eight camp clean-up sites including the sifting of eighteen fire pits
- Removal of hundreds of pounds of garbage from river corridor including twelve automobile tires

#### WILDLIFE

- Nine trips monitoring bighorn sheep
- Four trips monitoring bald eagles
- Six scat transects/collection areas
- One trip monitoring beaver (Diamond Creek to Pearce Ferry)
- Three five-point mountain lion transects installed
- Two Condor sightings
- Three Golden Eagle sightings
- One Pygmy Owl sighting.
- Two Harrier Hawk sightings

- Three trips monitoring Spotted Owl
- Four Redtail Hawk sightings

#### HYDROLOGY (NPS)

- Five trips monitoring side streams
- One full trip to monitor and analyze as many source springs as possible in order to gather data for the upcoming hydrological map of the Grand Canyon region
- One trip for CDC (Center For Disease Control) to sample river for traces of the Norovirus

#### NATIVE AMERICAN

##### CULTURAL:

- Three trips monitoring 36 sites

##### HYDROLOGY:

- Two trips monitoring nine sites.

##### VEGETATION:

- One trip monitoring one site.
- Six 50-meter general vegetation transects
- One trip for Photo Point Installation at National Canyon for Tamarisk survey

##### WILDLIFE:

- Two trips general visual monitoring

##### NAGPRA:

- Three trips monitoring several sites concerning the Native American Graves Repatriation Act issues

## GCY Update

*I think GCY is a treasure in our community; our students are so fortunate to be able to witness the beautiful and historical surroundings in such a positive, active, hands-on way. Thank you! —FROM A 2005 PARENT EVALUATION*

USUALLY THE WINTER PROVIDES a bit of downtime for us at Grand Canyon Youth (GCY), but this winter we've been working hard updating systems such as our application process, database and trip coordinator training. We will also be unveiling a new and improved website this spring. Our Grand Canyon Youth Corps service-learning clubs at Flagstaff High School, Flagstaff Middle School, and Northland Preparatory Academy have been keeping us active in the community with a variety of service projects including getting younger kids excited about science at the Festival of Science and making fleece blankets for homeless women and children.

With our expanding programs we've outgrown our wonderful little office space in the house shared with Grand Canyon River Guides and have moved a couple of blocks away to 309 Bonito Avenue (behind the big blue house on the west side of the street). This space has two offices and some warehouse space we lovingly call the "clubhouse". The staff and Board of Grand Canyon Youth want to extend our deepest gratitude to Lynn Hamilton and Grand Canyon River Guides for supporting GCY in immeasurable ways since our inception. Lynn was an invaluable help to me when I first arrived in Flagstaff and GCY wouldn't be where it is today without her help! Thanks!

### 2006 SEASON

The Grand Canyon Youth 2006 season runs March through August and is filled with lots of exciting river programs. New trips include programs with Winslow High School where guides/teachers Gretchen Youngmans and John Napier have been doing a smashing job of putting together

a great group. In addition, at the request of many Flagstaff parents we'll be running a three-week middle school summer program in conjunction with the Willow Bend Environmental Education Center and the Flagstaff Youth Volunteer Corps. The program will include two off river weeks doing service-learning projects and environmental education activities. The program ends with a seven-day San Juan River trip. Please help spread the word about our programs to any middle or high school aged youth!



*Grand Canyon Youth is helping to train the guides of the future.*



*Youth from Grand Canyon Youth Corp made fleece blankets for homeless women and children.*

### GUIDES, DRIVERS, VOLUNTEERS AND MORE!

With our increased number of trips comes an increase in the number of qualified guides interested in working with young people. Our guide needs run the spectrum from snout drivers and paddle guides for our Diamond Down trips to Utah licensed guides for the San Juan. We are also looking for qualified drivers to help this season. Both guides and drivers are paid. GCY is also looking for some volunteers to help with mid-season tasks that includes helping to pack sleep kits, fixing equipment and much more. If you are interested in being a guide, driver or volunteer, please give us a call or drop us an email. Also, if you have some lightly used or still functional river gear hanging around your

garage that you'd be interested in donating to GCY, give us a holler and thank you to all those who responded to our wish-list in a past BQR.

### OUR UPDATED CONTACT INFO

Stop by and say hi if you're in the neighborhood and learn more about our programs and how you can help!  
OFFICE: 309 Bonito Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
MAILING: Please send all mail to P.O. Box 23376, Flagstaff, AZ 86002  
PHONE: Still the same: 928-773-7921  
EMAIL: [Info@gcyouth.org](mailto:Info@gcyouth.org)  
WEBSITE: [www.gcyouth.org](http://www.gcyouth.org)

*Emma Wharton*

grand canyon river guides



# Back of the Boat— The Whale Foundation News Bulletin

## THE 4TH ANNUAL WINGDING

ON FEBRUARY 4TH almost 400 participants had fun, enjoyed Martha Stewart's culinary magic, heard good music, and enthusiastically supported the live and silent auctions. One hundred and fifty items and many raffle prizes contributed to the Whale Foundation's mission to assist the guiding community in various ways. Special thanks go to our event sponsors including; Arizona River Runners, Nate and Annette Avery, Michelle Grua, Brad and Laura Nicol, Mark & Rachel Thatcher/*rēva*, Dan and Alida Dierker, Rob Elliot, Rich and Doreen Evans, John and Deb Ledington, Joan Mitrius, Dan and Kris Downs, Ted Dwyer, Bob and Ursula Gaylord, Dan and Melissa Giovale, Roman and Puka Lewicky, Jim Marzolf, Phil Williams and Shannon Clark, Kent Winkler, Ken Epstein and Karen Holder, Mark and Linda Giesecke, Bert and Karen McKinnon and Lulu Santamaria. Thank you also to all the wonderful volunteers and donors who made the event so successful. See you next year!

## 2006 SPRING HEALTH FAIR

The Whale Foundation will be hosting a Health Fair at the spring gts March 25TH at the Hatch River Expeditions warehouse at Cliff Dwellers in Marble Canyon. We will have medical professionals on hand to perform free screenings for a variety of maladies such as skin cancer, high blood pressure, oral examinations, diabetes and more. There will also be a few vouchers available for a free mammogram if you're over age forty and have never been tested.

## KENTON GRUA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established to benefit Grand Canyon guides pursuing post-secondary education, degree or non-degree at an accredited institution and is available to Grand Canyon river guides demonstrating financial need and an educational goal. An application is available on our website at [www.whalefoundation.org](http://www.whalefoundation.org). *The deadline for applications is June 1, 2006.*

## LIAISON PROGRAM

The Health Services Committee, held a training session in October and twenty guides volunteered to be liaisons within their companies to the wf's outreach services. It was presented again February 4TH with fifteen attending. Dick McCallum, Chris Wright, and Dr. Norm Hanson led the discussions and many positive comments were received from the attendees. In 2006 the Health Services Committee will be hosting this popular "Active Listening Seminar" from time to time to help guides and outfitters hone communication skills with their passengers and each other. Check for the next scheduled seminar on the Current Events page at [www.whalefoundation.org](http://www.whalefoundation.org).

## THE WHALE FOUNDATION

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 855 Flagstaff, AZ 86002-0855  
TOLL FREE ON CALL HELP LINE: 866-773-0773  
BUSINESS PHONE: 928-774-9440  
WEBSITE: [www.whalefoundation.org](http://www.whalefoundation.org)  
EMAIL: [info@whalefoundation.org](mailto:info@whalefoundation.org)

## 2006 WingDing Snapshots



See more intriguing photos on the Whale Foundation website, [www.whalefoundation.org](http://www.whalefoundation.org).

# The Whale Foundation Presents— Hitting the Wall: Metaphors from the Canyon for Mental Health

*The run through the rapids felt like a ride on edge of chaos. Giant waves, holes, skimming along the base of an awesome cliff. I wondered aloud how it was that we did not hit the wall. The Guide said, "...try to think like the river."*

**T**HERE IS A FAMILIAR ADAGE ABOUT how Science excels in dissecting the natural world, whereas Poets (and an occasional River Guide!) may excel in putting the pieces back together. Sometimes, only a metaphor or work of art has sufficient power to comprehend and integrate the countless relationships and events which comprise a whole experience. In like manner, the concept of mental health is something more than a listing of parts, and certainly more than just the absence of disease. Mental health is experienced by each of us in our own way, and for most people it is a prized possession. It molds our experience of who we are, shaping relationships with our loves and fears, with our strengths and handicaps, with our commitments and careers, with our communities of family and friends, and even our relationship with the larger natural world. Perhaps most often it is experienced as a sense of well-being...of being in-tune and effectively connected with our internal (inside the head) and external (outside the head) environments.

The state of health of the River Community is self-selected in several ways by the high level of physical and mental demands of the work and the environment. Those who cannot meet these demands are less likely to come, or to stay for very long. Nevertheless, it is a human community with human vulnerabilities. The Whale Foundation arose on realization that problems of health do occur with some frequency for which there were scarce resources of assistance relevant to the unique setting and needs of the River Community. Examples of conditions of mental health which come to the attention of the Health Services Committee include depression, addictions, family strife, reactions and adjustments to crises occurring on the river, situations where mutual respect has been violated in relationships (AKA harassment), and problems arising in the transition of careers. Each of these in their own ways can become an example of mental health hitting the wall, with distortion or loss of ability to stay effectively connected or in tune with the things that matter in our physical, mental, social and natural worlds of function. The following comments pertain chiefly to depression.

Depression is fundamentally a problem of regulating emotion. Brief depressive moods and grievings occur in

the course of life of most everyone. Major depression is different. It is defined by its intensity, duration, recurrences. It can dominate or constrict function at any or all levels of living, which may include severe dampening of physical and emotional energies, constriction of range and flexibility of thinking and feeling, and inability to sustain open relationships with people and events which occur outside of ourselves. It tends to cluster in families. It is one of the most common conditions, along with substance abuse and schizophrenia associated with thinking about suicide, and with deaths by suicide.

Neuroscience models of brain function, emotion and behavior, have greatly expanded in recent years. The models for depression are no longer confined to simple notions such as chemical imbalance. The regulation of mood and emotion has roots deep in the structure of the brain, and deep in the evolutionary history of animals. Long before the appearance of human computer-like intellect and memory, mood and emotion were the most important means for adaptation and interaction with life's conditions. Intellect and reason of course expand greatly the choices, but they still operate only in partnership and with the energy provided by emotion.

Genes are the substrate from which all life forms develop; but in a larger sense our heritage also includes the natural and human environment. Genes function only in the context of an environment which can nurture and interact; and each influences the life and function of the other. Major depression tends to cluster in families. Studies now indicate that within those affected families, the direct influence of genes on risk for depression is approximately thirty percent for men, and forty percent for women (For comparison, risk for depression in the general unselected population ranges from five to ten percent.) To put this another way, even if a person is well endowed with "depressive genes," there is still a sixty to seventy percent environmental effect upon whether or not a depression will actually occur. Some aspects of this interaction have been demonstrated in studies of specific genes which regulate brain circuits of emotion, and which have been observed to turn-on and turn-off during interaction with environmental events. These events include exposure to chemicals and drugs, physical trauma and neglect, and even modes of thinking and expectations (which in turn may be representations of culture and social environments). These studies are early and small, but certainly suggest a very complex and holistic model of relationships for understanding mental health.

*A geologist friend, veteran of many river trips, tells of her deep sense of humility every time she comes here. No one owns the canyon. We are all visitors; but the canyon gives and gives...usually something big for everyone.*

Hitting the wall of familiarity and security of usual experience invites a person to think outside the box. A force for reordering the usual ways we think and believe and act in relationship with our natural worlds. We often respond with fear and seek to restore security of the old order. The Greek roots of the word "crisis" mean "a time to decide," forcing a choice between denial and defensiveness on one hand, or on the other hand acceptance, with an expectation that it will be possible to explore novel ways of adapting to change. Acceptance seems to require at least a small dose of humility.

Anyone who has experienced serious depression will say, "Easier said than done". Depression can lock-down ability to recognize another way. The first line of response to the crisis may naturally consist of trying harder in doing the things that we know best. The intellectual tries to out-think it. The person oriented to action may try to work it off. The athlete trains with even more intensity. Transient relief through substance use becomes substance abuse, further impairing the capacity to adapt. When these efforts fail, exhaustion and hopelessness are amplified. The terms of survival are increasingly perceived as being all or none.

*Feet stuck in red muck  
Knees quivering creeping along the ledge.  
"I don't think I would have made it without a Helping Hand."  
No pushing or pulling, nor barking directions  
Steady and quiet, it led me through.*

The essence of effective therapy, regardless of form, might well be described as a helping hand. Counseling or psychotherapy with a professional may focus on new ways of thinking about problems, and of dealing with emotions and relationships. Medical therapy may consist of taking an antidepressant medication to aid the brain in reregulating mood to a more flexible state. There is some evidence that psychological and medical therapies may complement each other, (i.e. Stabilization of brain mood-circuits aids ability to think, and changing a pattern of thinking aids in stabilizing the brain's circuits for regulating mood.) How well do these methods work? And, are there not serious risks?

Repeated studies demonstrate certain degrees of effectiveness of either one or both of these approaches, with approximately seventy percent of persons reporting significant lessening of depressive symptoms and improvements in conducting their lives. A smaller proportion, approximately thirty percent, report complete resolution of symptoms within a six month

period. Clearly, therapies are not cure-alls, but most often do provide some wiggle-room, allowing a person to renegotiate "the edge of the ledge," to then hopefully continue to build from there. Response to treatment is almost always gradual, over a period of several weeks to months. Someone observed that changing the course of depression was similar to changing the direction and temperament of a legislature: Complex systems seem universally stubborn and entrenched!

All helping hands come with some risks and potential side effects, whether psychological or medical. The act of accepting help opens a window of vulnerability to the potential power of another person, or power of medication over which we initially may not have much control. There is risk that a helper could be misguided, and vulnerability could be abused. The training and standards of the professional therapist strive to prevent this: the safety of the patient comes first. Medication side effects vary greatly person to person: from nothing at all, to benign annoyance, to being intolerable. Some of these sensitivities appear related to presence or absence of certain genes, to dosage of the medicine, and to other contributing physical conditions. Competitive athletes often are endowed with an exquisite sensitive sense of their physical well-being, they never stop tuning it up. Side effects of medication, added on top of physical and motivational problems of depression, can be especially difficult burden for them to tolerate. There have been concerns that antidepressants could increase the risk suicide, at least early in course of treatment. The most recent large statistical follow-up surveys of adults and adolescents do not support this concern. The largest number of suicide attempts occurred during the week prior to starting treatment with an antidepressant, and gradually decreased over the weeks that followed. Again, the effects of therapy take time.

*Mark Twain took Huck Finn and Jim down the Mississippi, a journey that Huck wished would never have to end. It became an American classic about the "rivers of life". Metaphors help keep us whole and real. There are some fortunate people, who have opportunity to live the metaphor, day to day. Keep them coming!*

*Norm Hanson*

## The Final Run

Much like a tribe of semi-nomad people,  
Some band of mid-aged warriors in a common test,  
Each quick to lay a claim to windy campsite,  
Grouped as family for some days, at best.

The daybreak comes, with pump and conch and feasting,  
The blue tents fall—in an ecstasy of fumbling,  
The piles of poles and bags takes shape against the sand,  
With weary warriors to the water stumbling.

Ten blue bags, and six of those, and heavy boxes now,  
More sacks, the food, the tables, and the stove,  
Haste—make haste !—to morning's destination rowing,  
Through the daybreak to some quiet saving cove.

The transformation thus complete—a final check,  
Our homes the ballast now for tiny ships,  
“Snap the caribiner here... not there!” and fasten down,  
For fear the oarsman in the torrent slips.

Prickly things and aches and minor cuts. The boatman  
tries to act concerned, between his frequent sips,  
Then presses on with daily work, regaling us  
With tales of other long-forgotten river trips.

Near day's end, we gather close again as one,  
To talk and tell and drink and swear and lie,  
To speak of things we learned or should have learned,  
If time had just permitted, by and by.

Indeed, as life o'er takes us all, who would not pay  
A dearly sum... to pull up short and scout this journey's end ?  
But river Life, alas,... it bears no sandy point  
For observation there—no saving bend.

No chance to see what lies beyond the rumble-roar,  
On faith alone we wander to the water's top,  
In hopes our entry, late, but well-positioned, will  
In some way unexplained protect us from a hellish drop.

One can only hope for time to read the currents,  
Scouting waters for each other when we can,  
And nerve to face our fears with equal courage,  
As consequence so dire awaits aborted plan.

Vishnu, though, will little note nor long remember,  
Whether we approach in darkness or in sun,  
Nor how we strain to read the water's subtle eddies,  
As we're carried slowly forward to The Final Run.

The lizard with the reddish neck makes little note,  
Observing from his place upon the wall.  
The bighorn sheep cares even less, it seems...  
And Vishnu Schist... cares not at all.

*Charles Walker 6/03*

# Fundraising Thanks!

**H**EARTFELT SUPPORT—that's the greatest gift that members can offer to an organization such as ours. The generosity of GCRG members is continually demonstrated by your passionate commitment to our goals revolving around the protection of all that makes the Colorado River experience through Grand Canyon unique. In an increasingly complex and uncertain world, the beauty and purity that Grand Canyon embodies become all the more precious and worthy of both celebration and preservation. As we begin another year, it behooves us to look back and acknowledge many of you for your staunch support of those ideals. As always, we treasure each and every one of our members whether they appear on a fundraising list, or whether they faithfully pay their membership dues every year. Your support helps GCRG enormously and we know how truly fortunate we are. Our apologies for anyone we may have inadvertently missed in the lists below. Please let us know.

## YEAR-END FUNDRAISING DRIVE

These funds are considered unrestricted, allowing GCRG the flexibility to direct them to areas where they are most needed. This year, GCRG raised over \$12,000 for our coffers, keeping this organization and our many programs healthy and well-supported. The list below represents all donations received around the end of the year, both solicited and unsolicited. We thank you all as well as all of those who have contributed throughout the year!

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Howard Kalt	Henry Wenner (in memory
Joyce Knutson	of Dr. Bill Wenner)
Irene Kosinski (in memory	Greg Woodall
of Chet Kosinski)	Judy Zaunbrecher

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

(CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AFTER 7/1/05)

The Circle of Friends fundraising drive provides an annual infusion of monetary support specifically for the *Boatman's Quarterly Review*. Volume 18 :3 of the BQR included the listing of all Circle of Friends (COF) donations from its beginning last April until July 1<sup>ST</sup>. The list below takes up where that left off, detailing contributions received after July 1<sup>ST</sup> (the beginning of our fiscal year). However, in order to understand how enormously effective the COF has been, we are proud to announce that we have raised over \$17,000 since this funding cycle began! What a boon for this publication. Our success in maintaining the high quality of our newsletter is also your success. It's never too late to make a tax-deductible contribution. The Circle of Friends fundraising cycle will begin again in April, so look for that letter in the mail and reach for your checkbook for an eminently worthy cause. Our many thanks to all COF contributors for your strong support of this publication!

## STEWARDS (\$1000-\$2,499)

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#### PROGRAM SUPPORT/GENERAL SUPPORT

We rely on grants from a variety of wonderful funders to support our programs and our organization. The list below reflects those major funders, corporations and individuals who have contributed since July 1st, 2005

(the beginning of our fiscal year). We thank all of you for helping to make GCRG and our many programs strong and effective!

#### Foundation and Corporate Support

Arizona Humanities Council (Oral History Project)  
 Ceres Foundation (general support)  
 Flagstaff Cultural Partners (*Boatman's Quarterly Review*)  
 Grand Canyon Conservation Fund (Adopt-a-Beach, gts, Adaptive Management Program)  
 McJunkin Corporation (general support)  
 Teva (GCRG Fall Meeting 2005)  
 Walton Family Foundation (*Boatman's Quarterly Review*)

#### INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROGRAMS

Richard Quartaroli (Adopt-a-Boatman Program—check out the article in this issue about our new fundraising initiative!)

## Over the Edge—Over 100k in Print!

**O**VER THE EDGE: DEATH IN GRAND CANYON (Puma Press, 2001), by two GCRG members, Michael Ghiglieri and Tom Myers, is in its fourteenth printing, resulting in over 133,000 copies in print. It is difficult to determine whether this might be the top-selling Grand Canyon book or not. Myers has heard that Colin Fletcher's *The Man Who Walked through Time* hit one-quarter million, in perhaps four printings, but queries to the publisher have failed. According to Earl Spamer's online *A Bibliography of the Grand Canyon and Lower Colorado River* (<http://www/grandcanyonbiblio.org>), N. H. Darton's *Story of the Grand Canyon* is the longest continuously in-print Grand Canyon/Colorado River title, fifty editions from 1917–1987 (seventy years). Second is Ellsworth Kolb's *Through the Grand Canyon from Wyoming to Mexico*, 1914–1971 (57 years), 27 variants with Macmillan imprint (two in 1989 were paperback reprints with the University of Arizona Press, and don't contribute to the continuous status; see "Variants on a Tome: A Journey Through the Grand Canyon," by Richard

D. Quartaroli, in *The Brave Ones: The Journals & Letters of the 1911-1912 Expedition Down the Green & Colorado Rivers* by Ellsworth L. Kolb and Emery C. Kolb, including the *Journal of Hubert R. Lauzon*, transcribed and edited by William C. Suran, Fretwater Press, 2003). Eddie McKee's *Ancient Landscapes of the Grand Canyon Region* is third, 1931–1985 (54 years), in thirty editions. There are no known print numbers for Darton and McKee, but for Kolb each printing was about 2,000 or less, with a total of probably less than 50,000.

If *Over the Edge* continues similar sales, the authors should hike past *The Man Who Walked Through Time* by the end of the decade. Congrats, Michael and Tom! To order: Puma Press, PO Box 30998, Flagstaff, AZ 86003; 928-213-9299; or Five Quail Books, [www.GrandCanyonBooks.com](http://www.GrandCanyonBooks.com), [5quail@GrandCanyon-Books.com](mailto:5quail@GrandCanyon-Books.com), 928-776-9955.

Richard Quartaroli

# On Introspect and Balance, Big Waters and Desert

IGUAZU FALLS, ARGENTINA/BRAZIL, JULY 2004:

**M**OTIONLESS, I STOOD in the wake and mist of white noise/white water. My perspective halfway up the falls (with hundreds of feet above and below me it seemed) of the water's quintessential strength and insurmountable volume ricocheted to my core. The high tones of spraying mist blended deeper into the rumbling bass of epic motion and I quivered. A tear or two left my eyes, but if anyone were around they wouldn't have known; my face already filled with droplets from the mist.

The resonance of el Agua vibrated along with all the thirsty molecules in my mind. No longer desert dried, but rainy season saturated, I traveled in my heart... not to where I had been these past six months (equatorial Amazon, Mata Atlantica) but to that place far and away, where redrock rimrock scrapes against horizon, blue moon casts pallid shadows into canyon depths, and water rumbles and rages when its torrents are let loose. Where waters recede just as suddenly, and saturated mud cracks glisten with iridescence among the house-sized boulders, bones of bighorn, and gnarled branches of juniper.

I left the Amazon, its sprawling green and hot thick air the month before to satiate other curiosities in the southern reaches of the country. Skin tones went from brown to light, accents changed (the "r" appeared in pronunciation), floodplains gave rise to hills and mountains and I danced to Samba in the streets of Rio de Janeiro. I stayed on a farm for two weeks in the mountains and rode horses for transport. I froze my ass off in a hut with frigid nights of six degrees Celsius. I traveled the city of Black Gold (Ouro Preto) and basked in the romance and warmth of the coastal town Buzios (Bones).

But here at the falls, straddling the border of Brazil and Argentina, I knew I was ready for something familiar once again, to be stretched out and dried from the streets that the rains turned to rivers every afternoon, to return to the crunch of dry earth beneath sandaled feet, to walk between sandstone boulders, to delight in the discovery of a seep and maidenhair fern behind a crevice in a rock, to roll with travertine and drink in Mojave dusk after a rainstorm. To be again in a land that folds and faults, and reflects my folds and faults with time and memory.

\* \* \*

Not until a few months later did I realize how strongly my energies were driven to return to Arizona. While

living in the Brazilian Amazon I did dream of redstone landscapes, but I was also present, I lived equatorially, traveled by boat often and did what I came there to do (study sustainable development and volunteer with a couple NGO's). Yet what I fully realized one afternoon while on Ihla Marajó (the largest fluvial island in the world, near the mouth of the Amazon) and reading the book *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight*, was that I wanted to be and work at home. To give myself to the landscapes and people that formed and shaped my thoughts and ideas. I had started a romance of work and study while previously living in Flagstaff and I knew that I wanted to return in some capacity, not only to selfishly indulge myself in that landscape, but to work where I knew my efforts would be pure of heart and reason.

And somehow, through luck, fate, and dreaming I got there. Seven months after I returned from Brazil, after I stood in front of that big water on the border of Argentina and Brazil, I found myself floating in a raft, learning how to row, and then, a short while later, rowing my own boat, learning, making mistakes, making friends, growing, and hopefully beginning to give back a little of what I've received—striking a balance.

*Ellen Wyoming*

*Ellen Wyoming just spent her first summer working down in the Canyon as a Grand Canyon Youth Volunteer and as a baggage boatman for Canyon Explorations/Expeditions. She is currently teaching at the Gore Range Natural Science School near Vail, Colorado. She is hoping to be back for the CanEx training trip this spring and for the end of the season after her teaching contract is completed.*



# Oral History Survey 2005/2006

**G**RAND CANYON RIVER GUIDES' oral history project has been generously funded in part by a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council. These funds have assisted with the public presentation of five oral history interviews through the *Boatman's Quarterly Review* and have increased accessibility at Northern Arizona University's Cline Library. The Colorado River Runners Oral History Project now proudly represents one of the most extensive oral history collections in existence. We consider these important "voices" to be critical to understanding the rich human history of the Colorado River. We also believe that these oral histories live and breathe with a freshness that is a function of

the immediacy of human thought. Now, GCRG would like *your* views on the value of these oral history segments. Please help us out by filling out this form—fold it per instructions on the back, and mail it back to us. This information will only be used for project evaluation purposes, and your help will be invaluable towards that end.

We anticipate multiple benefits stemming from this oral history program. Please let us know which of these benefits has been met (check as many as you feel apply to *you*):

This oral history project has:

- increased my knowledge of river history in Grand Canyon.
- deepened my appreciation for the contributions of these unique individuals.
- strengthened my connection to the river community.
- fueled my desire for river stewardship and advocacy.
- preserved my ties to the river and the river experience.

How do you view the quality of these oral history interviews as presented in the BQR?

- excellent       very good       average       below average

Would you like this oral history project to continue?

- yes       no

Do you have suggestions for future oral history subjects?

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Do you have any suggestions on ways to improve future interviews?

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Any other comments about our oral history project?

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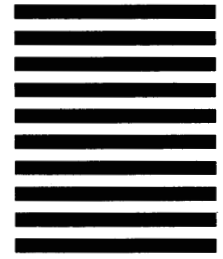
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- 6) No stamp is required, but if you want to help us save some money, your stamp is appreciated!

# The Grand Age of Rocks Part 1—Numeric Ages for Rocks Exposed within Grand Canyon

*This is the first of a series of three articles about the age of rocks exposed within Grand Canyon. This article presents a compilation of “best” numeric ages for Grand Canyon’s major rock units. The second article will provide more details on the age and overall geology of rocks exposed in Grand Canyon. And finally, a third article will explore the science of geologic dating. The subsequent articles will be published in future editions of BQR.*

**G**RAND CANYON IS ONE OF THE best places in the world to gain a sense of geologic, or “deep,” time because the canyon exposes a great swath of geologic history. Rocks exposed in Grand Canyon are truly ancient, ranging from 1840 million years old (or 1.84 billion years old) to 270 million years old. The Grand Canyon landscape is geologically young, carved within just the last six million years. There are younger geologic deposits in Grand Canyon too, like the Ice Age fossils found in caves, a 1000-year-old lava flow in the western canyon, and even the debris flow deposits that form each year.

Yet, it is the canyon’s rock walls that allow people to develop their greatest perspective on geologic time because of these rocks’ immense age, their fossil record, and because these rocks formed in environments so different than those found in northern Arizona today. With a rock record spanning more than 1500 million years, Grand Canyon is truly a panoramic view into the geologic past.

Nonetheless, how geologists determine the age of rocks is a mystery to many members of the public, and even to some river guides and others who share the canyon’s geologic story. It is natural to wonder “*How do you know that?*” when a geologist says a Grand Canyon rock formed 270 million years ago. Further confusion arises when one publication or geologist says, for example, that the Kaibab Formation is 270 million years old and another says 255 million years old. The same questions arise for the other rocks at Grand Canyon. *Which ages are more correct, and why?*

We hope this series of articles will answer these questions. We’ve developed a list of the “best” numeric ages for rocks exposed in Grand Canyon based on the scientific literature, and short primer on geologic dating methods and how they were applied to Grand Canyon rocks. We also describe three “sets” or “packages” of Grand Canyon rocks, each with unique geologic histories.

## DATING ROCKS

Peeking ahead to the third article, geologists use two major approaches to determine the age of rocks: *relative dating* and *absolute age determinations*. Relative dating

determines the *order* in which a sequence of geologic events occurred, but does not determine exactly when they happened. The simplest method of relative dating is the Law of Superposition: rocks on top must be younger than rock layers below because sedimentary rocks are stacked up subsequently.

Absolute age determinations are numeric and identify the time in years *when* specific events happened, such as the formation of a rock. Radiometric dating is the most commonly used type of absolute age determination in geology. It takes advantage of the decay of radioisotopes naturally present in rocks.

Both types of dating methods are important in different geologic situations and have been used together to discern the ages of individual rock units exposed in Grand Canyon (Table 1). Articles in future editions of BQR will provide more details on geologic dating techniques and how these techniques were applied to Grand Canyon.

## THE NUMERIC AGES OF ROCKS EXPOSED IN GRAND CANYON

Most of the rocks exposed in Grand Canyon, including nearly all the sedimentary rocks, cannot be radiometrically dated, and so absolute age determinations are not available for these rocks. However, through fossil correlation, relative age relationships, and other information, geologists can determine their geologic age, such as a period (like “Permian” or “Cambrian”) from the Geologic Time Scale. For example, the geologic literature reports that the Kaibab Formation formed during the Permian Period, more specifically, during the Late Early Permian in the Roadian or Leonardian age. These terms are very accurate and meaningful to a geologist, but they do not say how old the Kaibab Formation is in numerical terms (such as 270 million years), and mean little to folks who don’t have the Geologic Time Scale memorized. Hence, using numerical ages are essential in dealing with general audiences. Even though they may not find a description of the Kaibab Formation as “Late Early Permian” or “Roadian” meaningful, they could comprehend a numeric value of 270 million years old (at least to the degree that geologic time is understandable to humans). They may not know that Cambrian rocks are older than Permian rocks, but will intuitively know that 525 million years old rocks are older than 270 million years old rocks.

We compiled a set of numeric ages for Grand Canyon rocks for interpretive purposes (Table 1) as a shorthand or translation for the public of the

**Table 1: Numeric ages for rocks exposed in Grand Canyon National Park**

Set	Formation	Chronostratigraphic Age	Numeric Age [Geologic Time Scale 2004 (ICS)]	Notes	
Layered Paleozoic Rocks	Kaibab Formation	Early Middle Permian	270 m.y.		
	Toroweap Formation	Late Early Permian	273 m.y.		
	Coconino Sandstone	Early Permian	275 m.y.		
	Hermit Formation	Early Permian	280 m.y.		
	Supai Group	Esplanade Sandstone	Early Permian	315–285 m.y.	Range in age for the Supai Group reflects the long period of deposition for this group and significant unconformities within the group.
		Wescogame Fm	Late Pennsylvanian		
		Manakacha Fm	Early Pennsylvanian		
		Watahomigi Fm	Early Pennsylvanian		
	Surprise Canyon Formation	Late Mississippian	320 m.y.		
	Redwall Limestone	late Early – Middle Miss.	340 m.y.		
Temple Butte Formation	Middle – Late Devonian	385 m.y.			
Tonto Group	Muav Limestone	Middle Cambrian	505 m.y.	Deposition of the Tonto Group began earlier in the western Grand Canyon.	
	Bright Angel Shale	Early – Middle Cambrian	515 m.y.		
	Tapeats Sandstone	Early Cambrian	525 m.y.		
Grand Canyon Supergroup Rocks	Sixtymile Formation	Neoproterozoic	≤ 740 m.y.	Most numeric ages for the Supergroup were obtained via radiometric dates on volcanic ash beds, lava flows and other datable rocks within the sequence. There are no numeric ages available for the Sixtymile Fm., but it is inferred not to be much younger than the Chuar Group, although Karlstrom thinks that the Sixtymile Fm. may be as young as 725 m.y. based on correlation to the “Snowball Earth.” Because this proposed age is not as substantiated as the other numeric ages in this compilation, we left the upper boundary for Supergroup at 740 m.y., which is close to the youngest reliable date from the Chuar Group	
	Chuar Group	Neoproterozoic	770 – 740 m.y.		
	Nankoweap Formation	Neoproterozoic	900 m.y.		
	Unkar Group	Mesoproterozoic	1200 – 1100 m.y.		
Vishnu Basement Rocks	Vishnu, Brahma, and Rama Schists; most plutonic rocks	Paleoproterozoic	1750 – 1680 m.y. (~1700 m.y.)	Deposition of the sedimentary and volcanic precursors to the metamorphic rocks occurred predominantly 1750 – 1730 m.y. 1700 m.y. is the time of peak metamorphism and can be used if a single number for the crystalline basement rocks is needed. Some plutonic (igneous) rocks (e.g. the Quartermaster Pluton) in the Lower Granite Gorge are significantly younger at ~ 1400 m.y.	
	Elves Chasm Pluton	Paleoproterozoic	1840 m.y.	U-Pb dating on zircons for the crystallization age of the pluton (1840 ± 1 m.y.). The Elves Chasm Pluton is the “basement for the basement” and is substantially older than other dated rocks in the Inner Gorge.	

geologic age of the rocks. To develop this chart, we relied on the geologic ages reported in the professional literature and used the most up-to-date geologic time scales (specifically, the International Stratigraphic Chart [2004], and Geologic Time Scale [2004]), and used absolute age determinations whenever possible. For example, we used the reported Leonardian and/or Roadian (subdivisions of the Permian Period) age of the Kaibab Formation and the Geologic Time Scale (2004) to determine that the Kaibab Formation is approximately 270 million years old. We used a similar process for all of the rock units in Table 1 that lacked absolute (radiometric) ages. We also consulted with geologists who have worked on Grand Canyon rocks (notably with Dr. Ronald Blakey at Northern Arizona University, who works with Mesozoic and Paleozoic rocks of the Colorado Plateau, and Dr. Michael Timmons, at the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, who researches the Precambrian Grand Canyon Supergroup).

Our goal in making this compilation was to be as accurate as possible in assigning numeric ages, even

though it was impossible to be entirely precise. Additionally, where the science allowed, we wanted to have rounded numbers (they’re just easier to learn and remember). Of course, assigning a single numeric age can be misleading, since it may take millions of years to deposit some formations. Numeric ages are an important translation for the public to understand rocks at Grand Canyon. It is our hope that people who interpret the age of Grand Canyon rocks, including river guides, other tour guides, and rangers, will use these numeric ages. We believe that they are as accurate and as precise as possible, at least, until the next refinement of the Geologic Time Scale, additional stratigraphic fieldwork, or new age determinations of rocks exposed within Grand Canyon.

**SUMMARY**

Table 1 contains what we believe are the most accurate numeric values for the age of rocks exposed in Grand Canyon. Of course, without further information on the geology of Grand Canyon rocks and geologic dating techniques, Table 1 is just a list of names and numbers.

In the next two articles in this series, we elaborate on the geology of Grand Canyon, and the science of geologic dating techniques. We hope all of this information will increase your understanding of the canyon's geology, and even let you answer the question "*How do you know that?*" when someone wonders how geologists can say a rock is millions, or even billions, of years old.

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## Grand Canyon Semester 2005

**G**RAND CANYON SEMESTER (GCS) is an experiential and multidisciplinary college credit program made possible by a unique partnership between Northern Arizona University and Grand Canyon National Park. Students typically take three required courses in park management, geology and independent study, and as many as four electives in subjects such as archeology, southwest history, political science, wilderness studies and even art and aesthetics, all focused on the Grand Canyon and its setting amongst the greater Colorado Plateau. We attempt to integrate course curriculum and demonstrate the interrelationships between science, policy, and nature; with an eye toward the challenges facing a place that has so many different meanings to so many different people.

The program, founded by geologist Chuck Barnes, is in its seventh Fall semester, but made its first appearance for a single semester in 1974. Students in the program live together, work together and travel together, experiencing the Canyon as a community. Courses have a strong field component. This year's highlights include trips to the North Rim, Toroweap, Pipe Spring National Monument, Lees Ferry, the Hopi Mesas and Wupatki. Students hike to Keet Seel, up Mount Humphreys and backpack the Escalante Route, all the while inundated with geology, geography, history, archeology, botany and anything else we could think of. They are challenged to balance rigorous academic coursework with many days away from their campus home. We encourage them to immerse themselves in the people and places that make the Grand Canyon what it is.

Few people have spent as much time immersed in the Canyon physically, intellectually and even emotionally as the people who comprise GCRG. Over the last seven semesters many past and present river guides such as Michael Collier, Larry Stevens, Richard Quartaroli and others have delivered presentations to students, headed up field trips, assisted with independent studies and inspired students to get to know and become part of this landscape. The program is eternally grateful for the tremendous support and encouragement the Grand Canyon community offers. If not for their gifts of time and energy, and their willingness to share, this program

would undoubtedly fall short of its goal of attaching people to landscape.

Thanks to the efforts of Grand Canyon National Park employees such as Jacob Fillion and Tom Pittenger five of the past seven semesters GCS has been able to offer students the extraordinary experience of going down the Colorado River through Grand Canyon. Each trip, like each semester, has been different but all have had an emphasis on education and a strong service and research component. This year's remarkable October trip offered several unique and unforgettable events.

One of the objectives of the GCS river trip is always to make the trip as participatory and integrated as possible.

We figure it is school after all and students ought to be learning as much as they can. To help make students the experts of their own semester and keep the rest of us quiet some of the time, the students delivered presentations at various points of interest along the way. We were graced with heaps of knowledge at Stanton's Cave, Vacey's Paradise, and the Hopi Salt Mines, followed by great stories of boat flips in Lava and debris flows at Crystal. Each night we divided into revolving groups to cover all of the various

camp duties such as cooking, clean-up, water, groover, and fire. Field plant identification occurred throughout the day and geology became the focus of our morning sessions. All of this accumulated knowledge was put to use during student day when below Lava, the students ran the entire day, from rigging and operating boats (under the close supervision of territorial boatman of course), to making meals and organizing activities.

Grand Canyon Semester hopes to become a more permanent fixture on the Colorado Plateau. We also hope to have continued and increased involvement from the community in which the Semester takes place. However, we cannot accomplish any of this without students. If you know of someone who would be a good fit for this experience please tell them about it. For information they can check out the website at [www.grandcanyonsemester.nau.edu](http://www.grandcanyonsemester.nau.edu) or e-mail us at [grandcanyonsemester@nau.edu](mailto:grandcanyonsemester@nau.edu).

*Mathieu Brown and Kirstin Heins*



*Students and instructors scout Lava Falls.  
Photo by Dave McVillie*

## Bart Henderson

**STEIGER:** So how about just a quick big picture overview of your entire river-running career? (laughter)

**HENDERSON:** Well, I guess it starts out back in...my father was a contractor in Vernal; some of the carpenters that worked for him were early Grand Canyon river guides. Back in the fifties and the sixties, river guides didn't have that much work, because there weren't that many trips, so most of the guides needed other employment, and a lot of 'em worked for my dad; so as a kid, I sat around the job sites and listened to those guys tell their stories about Grand Canyon, Cataract Canyon, the Green River and the Yampa. Hatch was one of the earliest river companies around. A lot of the early guides were from Vernal. So I grew up in that environment. Also, according to my Uncle, Chuck Henderson, he was with Bus Hatch on his first river trip.

**STEIGER:** On his first river trip ever?

**HENDERSON:** Bus and Chuck were close friends in Vernal. Chuck just passed away a couple of years ago—and a few years before he died, he told me a story over dinner that I had never heard before. He told me that in the mid-to latter thirties somewhere, a guy showed up in Vernal, he had come down the river in a boat he'd built in Green River, Wyoming. He was going to retrace Powell's trip, basically, all the way down through to California. Some rich guy from the East had hired him to build the boat, and be his boatman on the expedition. But then at the last minute the guy didn't show up... Chuck couldn't remember what the guy's name was, but he said he recalled that he was from Mexican Hat. So the guy shows up at Chuck's gas station in Vernal, looking for work because he's broke and needed to earn some money to buy food so he can get back on his boat and row on home to Mexican Hat...Chuck owned the old rock gas station in the middle of town. So anyway, Chuck gave him some work, he liked the kid, and was amazed by his story, so they went out to check out his boat, and decided it looked like fun. In the end, Chuck and Bus Hatch and one of the Swains I think... somehow they got together and bought the boat from him.

**STEIGER:** Bought the boat from him and said, "You can just go home?"

**HENDERSON:** No they gave him a ride I think, down to Book Cliffs somewhere. I think there was a train then that went from a mine there over to Grand Junction, where he could catch a ride and get home. Anyway, it was kind of a wild story, and Chuck didn't remember all the details, but that was kind of the basis of it. He said that he thought it was in the thirties sometime.

**STEIGER:** There was that story about Bus Hatch and Frank Swain and Parley Galloway—them getting the plans from Parley Galloway. Did you ever hear that

story? Well, Parley was in jail for nonsupport and said he'd build 'em these boats, but then he skipped out on 'em as soon as they let him go. And they named those boats *What Next?*, *Don't Know*, and *Who Cares?* But I wonder if this was before that, or after that? Must have been before that, if they had to buy this boat from this guy.

**HENDERSON:** Yeah, I've heard that story, too. Brad Dimock and I talked a bit about it, and we tried to figure it out. This is just the story Chuck told Dad and I over dinner one night. After Brad and I talked about it, a couple of years later, I got really curious, and I went back and asked Chuck, "You remember that story you told me?" He said, "Well, kinda sounds familiar," but by then he couldn't remember anything of it anymore. Then within a year or two, Chuck didn't remember much of anything.

**STEIGER:** Alzheimer's? (**HENDERSON:** Yes.) Oh, man.

**HENDERSON:** Yeah. So I never got to get any more of the details out of it, but that is my recollection of that dinnertime story about Chuck. The reason I tell it, is because it's a bit of river runnin' family history. My dad and one of his close friends, Russ Cottle, just after the war bought ten ten-man rafts, for \$100 or \$200. I mean, they were twenty, 25 bucks apiece. They ran river trips, and the family rule was you couldn't go until you were twelve. So I had to wait 'til I was twelve years old before I could get off on any river trips with 'em. But then I started runnin' the Green River. Then, the day after I graduated from high school, I got a job with the Forest Service to patrol the Green River below Flaming Gorge Reservoir, from Flaming Gorge Dam, down to Little Hole, and Brown's Park. I got that job because Cecil Massey—you may remember Dennis Massey?

**STEIGER:** I remember hearin' of him, I never met him.

**HENDERSON:** Cecil Massey is Dennis' dad; and Cecil was the foreman on most of my dad's construction jobs, so I knew Cecil really well. Cecil and Glade Ross were close friends, because Glade Ross was one of the early Grand Canyon guides for Hatch too. Glade Ross was in charge of the river program for the Forest Service up there. So Cecil and Glade helped me get that job in 1969. So I worked with those guys, working on the Green River for a while, and then got a chance to go row a Hatch trip through Lodore late in that summer, and decided that was the better way to go. So the next year I went to work for Hatch, and worked on the Green and the Yampa, and then towards the end of that first season, I guess it would have been 1970, I think...I went down to do my first trip in the Grand Canyon. It was a garbage pick-up trip. It was one of those trips at the end of the season, where Hatch put on a couple of boats,

Whitewater put on a boat, and ARTA put on a boat, and the Sierra Club provided the manpower. We just ran the boats. I was runnin' with Rodney Paulsen. I was his swamper. Russell Sullivan, Dave Burkson [phonetic], and Moldy [Dave Moulton] were on the other Hatch boat. But that first day, when we pulled into the bat caves at Marble Canyon, it was the end of the season, and everybody was there. The first person I met was Pat Conley. We pulled up, Pat Conley crawled out from under a boat he was patchin'. And within a few hours, I met Whale, I met Skip Jones, I met Rich Bangs, Tim Means, Breck O'Neill, Pete Resnick. Everybody was there, 'cause it was the end of the season, and they were gettin' the gear ready to put away. A bunch of other people. If I thought about it a few minutes, I'd probably remember a few more of the people that were there that first day. I think back on that now, and think about what a cast of characters it was. Bryce Mackey was there too. Yeah, it was a pretty wild first day. We hung out a few days, gettin' the



Bart Henderson in Grand Canyon, 1977.  
photo by David Hinshaw

trip together, and then set off. The Whitewater boat was run by John Foster. The ARTA boat was run by—I can't remember the guy's name, but he was on...that ARTA boat that flipped in Lava, the one that was on the cover of *Life* magazine...I can't remember the guy's name. I remember his claim to fame was that if you looked at that picture, he's the guy that you see bailin' off the boat. Anyway, he was on that boat. That was a great trip, we had a great time. That's the start of my career. And then I came back up to Vernal. I wanted Ted to let me come down and just run the Grand Canyon, but he said he wanted me to stay up and run Lodore and Yampa for a bit longer. So I said, "Well, I'm gonna have to go find my own way down the Grand Canyon, 'cause I'm spoiled now." That's when I came down. I think that's probably when I met you, too, because I came in and landed at Vermilion Cliffs and hung out at vc. And then Fred Burke, of Arizona River Runners, gave me a trip in the spring, and I just freelanced the next few years. I worked for Fred, and ran some trips for Hatch, ran some trips for Whitewater. I think I ran twelve trips that first season, just freelancin' motor trips...Bill Gloeckler took me under his wing and got me some trips. Yeah, it was just a great time. That was sort of my start. I did that for a while, I had a 650 Triumph motorcycle, and ended up at Fort Lee Co. living down at Lees Ferry for a while. Then I ended up goin' up to work for Dave Kloepfer when he bought Harris Boat Trips, and worked for him for a few years, and still did a few trips for other companies at the time, too. Then started rowing, did some OARS trips and Wilderness World trips. Worked a bunch of Wilderness World trips with Jimmy Hendrick and Tom Olsen and that gang, and had a great time runnin' those trips.

But in 1973 Rich Bangs called me and asked me if I wanted to go run the Omo with him in Ethiopia. He had the idea that he wanted to start a river company and run trips in Africa. So it took me about two and a half seconds to say yes to that proposition, and so I ended up going' over and doing the Omo and the Awash and the Gaba that first year in 1973. We had a wild time there. They'd been over the year before and done one Omo trip, but now they wanted to go back and do it with clients and start this company.

**STEIGER:** So they started in '72, doin' that?

**HENDERSON:** Might have all been in the same year, early in the year, and then later in the year. I can't remember exactly when the first trip was, time-wise. Anyway, I think that was '73 that we went over and did those trips. And that was the start of Sobek, really. We went back the next few years and continued to run the Omo and explore other trips, and expanded out. I went to New Zealand the next year, in '74, to explore rivers there, and ran a dozen rivers in New Zealand, and had a great time pokin' around there. Then went to Alaska



in '76 and explored the Tatshenshini. Stan Boor and myself, and Rich Bangs, some other friends, got together and did that trip, and fell in love with the area. And that's sort of what guided my life after that a lot, 'cause that's where I sort of ended up settlin' into. For a lot of years, I would spend just a couple of months, two and a half, three months, in Alaska, and then the rest of the time would be down runnin' the Bio Bio in Chile, or some other trips. Guided some of Sobek's other trips in Hawaii. We did the Alas exploratory in Sumatra. Sobek was just such a great venue to get to explore a lot of places in the world. It opened a lot of doors for travel, and it was a real amazing lifestyle that I'm sure we all thought would continue and grow. But it lasted a decade or fifteen years or so, and then it kind of died out. In the beginning, the model was that the same core crew would move around the world and run all the different trips. But gradually, as it got bigger, they settled on individual crews that stayed in places, so they didn't ship us around so much. That kind of traveling guide lifestyle dwindled out a bit. I'm sure somebody's still doin' it somewhere, but not nearly to the extent we had it...There's boating everywhere now. But instead of just being Sobek, now there's Australian companies and companies from all over the world. Every place has their own companies.

**STEIGER:** And companies can just book a local trip, a local crew, and not have to fund the travel.

**HENDERSON:** Yeah, they don't have to pay to send us around anymore. I'm sure that's one of the reasons why they probably never made any money in the beginning. It makes sense. But it was great for us. (chuckles) We had the lifestyle. Those early exploratory days, they were wild times. I look back and look at that film that we made on the Omo in 1973. I look at it now and I think, "God, no wonder they didn't take us seriously—we were just a bunch of hippie kids!" (laughs)

**STEIGER:** Yeah, those were wild. I want to go back and talk about a bunch of this stuff, but movin' along with the big résumé, big picture, so Sobek, there was the early glory days in Grand Canyon, and then fifteen years spent travelin' the world for Sobek, basically.

**(HENDERSON: Uh-huh.)** And then what happened?

**HENDERSON:** Well, gradually the operation that I started in Alaska for Sobek...I managed the operation for Sobek in Alaska for a long time. But I started a little river company up in Haines, Chilkat Guides. It sort of began as a social experiment for an ailing town where the logging mills had closed down. The people there were in a dilemma as to what to do, and I said I thought that adventure tourism would be a great thing for Haines. Nobody believed it, and so I started this company, just to show people that it could be an economic avenue for the town. I bought a boat and hired a guide, and then I went out on the Tatshenshini all summer, and I'd come back between trips and

find out how they did. I think the first year we took 25 people down the river, or something like that on the Chilkat River, just doin' day trips on the Chilkat. And then the next year we took fifty people, and actually ended up buyin' a truck to run it, so we didn't have to, like, borrow a truck...One-boat, one-guide, one-day trip. It was just a summer gig.

**STEIGER:** And the customers were people that were just passin' through?

**HENDERSON:** Yeah. And then after a few years we started gettin' some...small cruise ships started landing at Haines. I convinced them that they ought to sell my raft trip. That kind of launched us into another realm of things, to start dealin' with the cruise ships. The cruise line business grew exponentially over the next few years, and I was able to convince the cruise lines—they were very skeptical at first, because they sort of thought, "Well, we just take the elderly, and they're not really—our clientele's not really into rafting." I convinced them that they would be, and it was a great success. They found out that their elderly clients and everybody else on board really loved it.

**STEIGER:** They were dyin' to get off that boat by the time they got up there.

**HENDERSON:** Exactly. Now, if you can get your trip sold onboard, it's a big deal. There's hundreds of adventure offerings on these ships nowadays in Alaska. We grew from that first year of takin' 25 people, to this year we took over 45,000 people on trips.

**STEIGER:** Forty-five thousand?! Chilkat Guides?

**HENDERSON:** Yeah.

**STEIGER:** Holy moly.

\* \* \*

**STEIGER:** So, back to Grand Canyon...I remember you whippin' around—I had forgot about your motorcycle. That was a pretty glorious time there. That was like '72—or you started in '70? That trash trip was...

**(HENDERSON: Seems to me like that trash trip was the last trip of 1970.)** And those were outside rigs, still? Floors in 'em and all that stuff? You guys had to bail those things?

**HENDERSON:** Yeah, my first trips with Hatch were all on those outside rigs. I'm not sure, but I think that Dave Leseberg and I might have run the last tail-draggers down the river. That was kind of a wild deal, because Hatch had pretty much shifted everything to the inside rigs, cut the floors out. He had a few tail-draggers just hangin' around at the bat caves there, at Marble Canyon, just in case. Right at the end of the season, he had a trip that was scheduled to pick up the passengers at Phantom Ranch. The guides had loaded up and taken off in the morning, and then about noon, the passengers showed up at Lees Ferry. So Ted was like, "Oh! Well, hold on."

And he realized, I guess, it was his mistake. So he jumped in his plane and flew over the trip, they were just above House Rock, and dropped 'em a note, said, "Hold the horses! Stay where you are!" So then they rigged up three outside rigs—three?—four?—I think there were four outside rigs. I think it was a four-boat trip—I think it was forty passengers. Might have been more than that. There might have been like sixty passengers, I don't know. It was a big trip. Anyway, he ran these four outside rigs down, and they caught up to them and transferred everybody onto the boats with the food and the gear and guides, and then they just tied those four boats up, above House Rock, and just left 'em, figured, "Well, we'll deal with those later." I can't remember if they hiked out, or if they rode on down to Phantom with 'em. But anyway, for some reason, these boats are tied up there. Well, Ted had fired Dave Leseberg already. I think Dave was over in Boulder City. Wasn't he from Boulder City? (STEIGER: Is he Earl Leseberg's kid?) Yeah. He was a wild man. But anyway, Ted needed somebody to run these boats out, and he decided we could go down and roll up two of the boats, and put 'em inside two of the other boats, and two guides could run 'em out. I was just freelancin', so he said, "Here's a trip for you." So he's lookin' for somebody else, and there wasn't anybody else around, so he called Leseberg and said, "Okay, Leseberg, I've got one more trip for ya', but this is your last trip!" (laughter) (STEIGER: Maybe he shouldn't have told him that!) Maybe he shouldn't have said that, 'cause...Leseberg showed up with his brother's fiancé as a swamper. We hitched a ride down with one of Hatch's trips headed down, and we got down there and the guides that were on the trip helped us roll up two of the boats, and we loaded one onto each of the other boats, and they went on downstream, and Leseberg and I headed downstream, runnin' those two boats. It was a bit of a disaster on Leseberg's boat. (laughter) He ripped the floor out right away. I'm sure... he says it wasn't intentional, but I know that he really wanted to get rid of all those floors. (laughter) He cut the floor out of his right away. I continued to run mine as it was. (STEIGER: So it's just you on that boat by yourself?) I was all by myself on the boat...Yeah, I was trying to make nice clean dry runs, and doing pretty good. We started out with a spare motor each. Dave busted his first engine in Hance or somewhere, and put on his spare. We made it down to Upset. Dave hit his engine and busted the lower unit on his second engine, makin' a turnaround run in Upset. So we pulled over down at the bottom. I caught up to him and hooked onto him and pulled over. We were pulled over. There's a real small camp right below Upset on the left at the time, and I think it's kinda gone now.

STEIGER: Upset Hotel. You need a rubber boat. It's rocky there.

HENDERSON: And we were tied up there, tryin' to

figure out—I was basically givin' him my spare engine. We heard an airplane comin' up the canyon. It sounded like it was low. We watched for a minute, and sure enough, around the corner, ten feet off the water, comes an airplane, twin-engine airplane.

STEIGER: Dave's dad?

HENDERSON: Dave's brother. (laughter) And he's like ten feet off the deck and he buzzes us.

STEIGER: What's he's doin'?

HENDERSON: Comin' to buzz us. We had his fiancé on board.

STEIGER: Keep an eye on things there, yeah.

HENDERSON: He comes and buzzes us. I mean, you know how deep and narrow the canyon is. And he's ten feet off the water, right below Upset. In a twin-engine plane. "Rrrrrrr," comes right over the top of us. We hit the deck. I mean, it's scary to have a plane fly over you that low right there. We were laughin' about it, and Dave goes, "He'll be back." Sure enough, a few minutes later, here he comes back, and buzzes us again, down, and disappears around the corner!

...Those outside rigs were exciting. You held onto a bucking strap that ran underneath your leg, and tucked your toe under another strap, and you held on. Every time you'd go up over a big wave or into a hole—you're the last man on crack-the-whip...You could barely see over the load. That's why we did a lot of turnaround runs...The first time I ran a boat myself, I was runnin' one of those. I ran Jim Ernst's boat out from Phantom Ranch. He hiked out. It was my second trip down there in the canyon. Jim Ernst was the guide, he said, "Okay, you're runnin' this out, I'm hikin' out." We had about six or seven boats. Jimmy Hall was along, and he'd run a few more trips than me, but not very many. So he was the senior guide, kind of the nominal leader on the thing. We left Phantom Ranch, and the water was really low—really low. We got down to Horn Creek, and Amil Quayle was there. He was one of the greats—he was a Western River guide. A really good boatman. He was just ready to pull out as we pulled in, and we stopped and talked. He was shakin' his head, goin' "Oh, it looks bad." He tried to make a right-to-left run and swamped his engine right at the top and just drifted sideways right up against that big rock at the bottom on the right...He had that big "J-rig" wrapped up against that rock. It was an ugly scene. It was really pinned up against there. The water was pushin' like it was tryin' to tip it over. (STEIGER: And now there wasn't any right sneak in there anymore either.) Well, we had to get him off first. We had to get him out of there somehow. Luckily, there was a whole bunch of us. We had no passengers, just a whole bunch of guides. And so we were all down there pushin' and pullin' and tuggin' and scratchin' our heads and our butts. We finally can't figure out what to do, and we're all just kinda standin' there lookin' at it, standin' on the



*April 1977 training trip—running the ledge in Lava at 500 cfs. Photo by David Hinshaw*

rock. And all off a sudden, this big surge comes up, and just picks the boat up and washes it off, all by itself. We had nothin' to do with it. Just all of a sudden the river decided it was time to let it go, you know. So he was off and down, sittin' in the eddy at the bottom. And so we started comin' down through one at a time. The first couple of our boats that went through—again, just these little outside rigs. There were a few inside rigs—but being a first year guide, I got to run an outside rig there. So anyway, the first couple of boats made it through, got a bit hammered but they made it through and didn't tip over and didn't break anything. I came down through, and the first big wave hit me and just took me right off the back of the boat and into the water. It was all green and bubbles. I popped up and I was right next to the engine. Luckily, the engine had died, because I was right next to it. I remember grabbin' ahold of it and climbin' right up on the engine. Just as I got back up...I was just goin' into the big hole. Just as I get up onto it, my boat just plunges into that big hole and just flipped me, threw me forward about twenty feet up the boat. I landed up in the duffel pile up in the middle. (laughs)

But the other thing is, we didn't run motors through all those rapids. We had rowin' frames on 'em. In Crystal

and Upset and Lava, those boats had two rowin' frames on 'em. You'd help each other out and double up and get one guy on each rowin' frame, and we'd row the boats through. So we'd just make sneak runs and run 'em down the side, prop the engines up. That's how we got through those. It wasn't 'til shortly after I got there that guys started figurin' out that you could do these turn-around runs where you'd come down and sort of back through those slots in Crystal and Upset, and even in Lava. Even Lava was a turn-around run when I first started. They were exciting. There were exciting runs in those days. We broke our share of engines and props.

**STEIGER:** Hatch had this reputation when I started. It was like, "Oh, those Hatch guys are all really good." It was sort of like, "They know how to go backwards." Now, after talking to some of these guys, you realize, those old Hatch boats weren't all that great to hit stuff in." (laughter) So therefore...(**HENDERSON:** You could flip those little boats. No side tubes on a 33-foot—not much wider than a rowin' rig.) No, and even takin' a big hit you could feel it, you would suffer. So you didn't really want to...

**HENDERSON:** Especially backwards. You were the first one into the hole! When you missed that turnaround

run in Crystal, and you backed into—the old Crystal—you backed into that hole, it wasn't pleasant. (STEIGER: Did that happen to you?) No, but I watched it happen to a few. Actually it did happen to me once, but I wasn't runnin' the boat—I was with Whale. I was actually doin' a hike, and I wanted to catch a ride. I'd hiked down into Hermit, and I wanted to hike out from Havasu. Whale was on a trip, and he said, "I'll give you a ride down." So Whale was givin' me a ride from Hermit down to Havasu. He had this rig—it was called the bobtail rig. It was an inside rig, but, the back round of the 33-foot had been ripped out. So they just sewed 'em off—they were just bobtailed. That back was just open. Whale thought that was a cool rig and he liked that. So Whale volunteered to run it. I think he was involved in rippin' the end of the boat out, and there mighta been a little bit of guilt on his part to make it seem like it was okay, you know. I forget exactly. It had gotten ripped out when the boat was wrapped on a rock, and they got a line tied clear around the whole back doughnut. Then they tied the rope to another boat and then they got a run at it, and they were gonna yank 'em off the rock. (laughter) (STEIGER: Got a little too big of a run.) Got enough momentum, all it did was just rip the whole...So that became the bobtail rig.

Well, on this trip I was ridin' with Whale, he came down and made the turn, but didn't get the ferry angle, and backed right into the big hole in Crystal—at a big stage, too. It was one of the closest times to flippin' I ever did in a motor rig. I just remember hangin' on and just droppin' down into that hole and just...I mean, it was a mountain of water, and you're just backin' under that mountain, and you drop into it. It seems like we were fifty-feet underwater, just gettin' hammered there. The boat came up, turned sideways, and somehow we got out, we didn't tip over. But it was a spooky ride. That was the only time I backed through one of those big holes, I think. (STEIGER: Did Whale bluff his way through it?) Oh, yeah, you know Whale, he just laughed it off and shrugged his shoulders. Happens to the best of us. That old hole at Crystal, though, that was a monster. I got into that hole a couple of times.

\* \* \*

HENDERSON: My first rowing trip in the canyon was in an old army ten-man. We did a thirty-day private trip in a ten-man, two ten-mans. It was me and Bill Gloeckler—me and a girlfriend, and Bill and Georgia. Bill and Georgia hiked out at Havasu, and Mark Jensen came in and rowed that boat out. That was Mark's first rowing experience, really. We pulled out of Havasu in the dark. We left Havasu about ten o'clock at night in the dark. (STEIGER: What was the theory on that?) HENDERSON: It just seemed like the right thing to do at

the time. (laughter) There were a bunch of us in the mouth of Havasu. Pete Resnick was there, and Breck...I think they were on a private trip, too. Yeah, 'cause Breck pulled out with us, too. I think Mark and I and Breck all pulled out of there in the dark...They might have actually been, technically, a training trip.

STEIGER: And how was that? How'd that go, learnin' how to row?

HENDERSON: Well, it worked out fine. We went down a little ways and Breck pulled over onto a sandbar to camp, he and his girlfriend. Then Mark and I continued a ways, until Mark's girlfriend was too freaked out, and so they pulled over. But we went on down, and I rowed right down to...went on down to the top of Lava and pulled in right at the top of Lava, on the right-hand side and slept. Got up in the morning and waited and waited and waited for Mark to show up. I was sittin' there on the bank, watchin' upstream, and I saw him finally come around the corner, up a half-mile above the rapid—you know where you first come around the corner. You come around the corner and you first hear the rapid, you know. I see Mark stand up, and I can tell he's heard the rapid. This is his first trip. (STEIGER: First trip ever?) HENDERSON: In the canyon. But he's heard the stories. No, I take it back, it was his second trip. He'd done a training trip with Dave Kloepfer on a motor rig, so he knew what was coming up, but he hadn't rowed yet. This is his first foray in rowing. So he pulls right over to the left side, soon as he hears it. He's a half-mile up there. I'm wavin' my arm for him to come down. I see him walkin' down the bank, he comes down and he yells across, "Can I make it over before the rapid?" (laughter) So he gets in his boat, and he rows straight across the river, then rows along the bank comin' down. (laughter) He gets down there, and we walk down. Well, when he first gets there, I'm ready to go. I've been ready to go for an hour or two. So I said, "Well, are you ready? Let's go for it." He goes, "Aren't we gonna look at it?!" I told him, "What do you want to look at it for? It'll just scare you." (laughter) He said, "No, no, I gotta look at it, I gotta look at it." I said, "Okay, it's not gonna make any difference."

And so we walked up and stood there on the right side and looked at it. And I said, "Okay, you come around here, and we're just gonna go down the right side here. It's just a karma check. You got good karma today, you'll come out right-side up. And if you've done anything bad, maybe you'll come out upside down." So we looked at it for an hour or so, until we were both ready to throw up. And we went up and jumped in our boats and rowed right down the right side. Tiny little tubes in the ten-man, you know...You gotta fill 'em up right away. You just submarine 'em into the "V" wave, and you're just completely full. You come out, you're standin' up in 'em, chest deep in water, floatin' in your

lifejacket. Yeah, we both made it through just fine and partied at the bottom, but that was quite the adventure for Mark, I'm sure. He started at Havasu, so really, that was his first rapid that he rowed. (laughter)

\* \* \*

**STEIGER:** Well, Sobek I guess is a whole 'nother chapter, but it is part of all this deal, too. I know you could talk about that for days, everything that's happened there. I mean, you've seen the whole world through doin' that, haven't you?

**HENDERSON:** Well, nobody's seen the whole world, but a lot of the world...Like we were talking about before, it was such a golden era for river guiding—not only having somebody pay us to cruise around the world, to see the world, but we were exploring. Those early Ethiopia trips and stuff, man, we were out there. You know, you were with us. (**STEIGER:** I remember vividly when Slade and Yost flipped on that trip, we're puttin' the pieces back together from that, and it's like, "Oh shit! We lost all the lunch and four dinners!") It was like day four of an eighteen-day trip that should have been 25-days, on account of the water. I remember right then you were like, "Okay, time to start fishin'!" (laughter) "Guess we'd better catch some fish here.") Yeah. And then catchin' that electric catfish. That was so funny. Whenever I think about you, I always remember that catfish thing. That was such a wild experience for me to pull that fish up out of the water and get knocked right on my butt. Just stunned. I had no idea such a thing existed. But yeah, catchin' all those fish, it was not a matter of want, it was a matter of necessity. We wouldn't have made it without all those fish. We caught and ate fish every day...And, you know, it really taught me a lot about human nature—watching how people deal with crisis and challenges and emergencies. Watchin' boats get bitten by hippos! My boat was the first boat to get bitten by a hippo on that very first trip that I did on the Omo. Up to that point, we thought the hippos were just big, timid, run-from-you creatures. But all of a sudden we discovered that they were pretty vicious. The hippo that grabbed my boat, he shook our boat like a dog shakin' a rag. We were lucky we could hang onto the boat. I mean, it was such violent shaking, he was throwing the boat around. I'm sittin' in the middle, and he's got his big ol' jaws clamped onto the boat, right at the oar lock. And the oar lock is holdin' up one of his gums, so I can see into his teeth. I could reach out and touch him on the nose. Mean-lookin' eyes, You could hear the air escapin' and the boat startin' to deflate around us. Then you could see the hippo was done shaking us, and he was trying to get away, but his teeth were stuck in the material of the raft because those boats were Vladimir's first early...the Holcomb boats. Yeah, these were new

Holcomb boats to start out with. (**STEIGER:** Which they didn't hold air all that good, right?) They didn't because just before that trip, we'd done the Gaba River and lost them all, and then retrieved them. When we lost 'em on the Gaba, they had gotten all pinned on one rock, and just shook in the force of the water for a week before we got 'em out. And then we patched 'em all up and went down the Omo with 'em. So they already didn't hold air. But now mine really didn't hold air. (**STEIGER:** Those were hard to patch, too.) Well, we used every bit of glue and patchin' material that we had, to put my boat back together. A week or ten days later when John Yost's boat got bitten by a hippo, by the second bite we had no glue and no patchin' material, no way to repair it. So we just had to abandon that boat because it was toast. (**STEIGER:** Because that was the end of the patch kit.)



Bart holding up a "fish dinner" he caught on the Omo, 1977.  
Photo by David Hinshaw



*Omo River trip passengers and locals pushing the DC3, that had come to retrieve them, out of the mud and back onto the "runway" during a break in the weather. Photo by David Hinshaw*

Yeah. (STEIGER: So what did that teach you about people in crises?)

HENDERSON: Well, it was just interesting to see how good guides rise to the occasion. When times get tougher, the good guides and good people just react better. Instead of freezing up or panicking, they deal with situations in the way that they have to be dealt with. Like on the trip you were on, when the two boats flipped and you've got all these people in the water, and you've got the ones that are just, "Take me, Jesus." Just floatin' away, not participating in their own rescue, let alone anybody else's rescue—just giving it up. I wouldn't be alive today if that was the way I treated it, I'm sure. There were plenty of times, like on that Gaba trip, when we lost all the boats and everything.

STEIGER: How'd you lose 'em?

HENDERSON: The Gaba was the first trip we did, before the Omo. We went up to the steep mountain river—small, ragin', whitewater river. We scouted what we could, this first big drop. But because it was the first big drop, nobody really wanted to portage the first rapid. Lookin' back on it, we certainly should have. It was a wild little chute comin' into it that wound through this narrow little gorge, and then poured over a waterfall into a big trough between the pour-over and the face

of a big giant boulder, and then there was a wall on the other side of the channel. You could see a route, and if you were in the center, you'd make it; but if you were too far left, you'd flip into the wall on the left; and if you're too far right, you fell between the pour-over and this big rock wall, the side of a giant boulder. So out of three boats, one went left and flipped; and one went down the center and stayed right-side up, but got hung up on a log jam at the bottom; and my boat went too far right, over the waterfall, and I flipped. We lost both the boats that flipped—just disappeared downstream in this fast water. Of course everybody was just strugglin' to get out. Just to survive. I was underwater for a long time. I didn't think I was ever gonna come out. Finally when I did pop up, I was right at the top of a big wave in the tail waves. I could see that I was gonna either go under that log jam and the boat that was hung up there, or I was gonna be on top of that boat, one or the other. And just as I'm comin' up to the boat, Jim Slade happened to turn around...he saw me, he just reached around to point and to say, "There's Bart." I crawled right up his arm and into the boat. So I was into the boat next to him, before anybody even saw me comin'. But my boat had already long since gone downstream, while I was just washin' around in the hole. We regrouped and



*The Polaroid camera provoked an interesting (entirely non-verbal) series of communications by means of finger-pointing. None of the ladies had ever seen their own image in a mirror or photograph, so none recognized themselves, but recognized everyone else.*  
*Photo by David Hinshaw*

gathered almost everybody up, but we'd lost one. Angus McCloud, we never did find him.

So then we had only one boat, so not everyone could go on downstream. I had a severely sprained ankle. Everybody that was beat up was not very likely to go on. We chose the strongest to go on, really. So four guys went on downstream to try and locate Angus and find the boats. They only made it about another mile and a half or two miles downstream, until they flipped that boat too and lost it. Then they hiked out, too. So we all hiked out and regrouped back at a little village a few miles up the road from where we'd started. A week later, we got a plane to fly down over the river, a mission plane that was in Ethiopia at the time, to fly over the river to see if they could spot Angus. They didn't spot Angus, but they spotted the boats, all hung up in the same spot. So we cut a little trail down to 'em and got 'em off the rocks and brought 'em back to Addis Ababa and patched up what we could, and had one more boat that was comin' over to join us for the Omo, 'cause we needed four boats for the Omo. So we had one good boat. (STEIGER: So the Omo, you had a trip sold.) Right. (STEIGER: And the Gaba, you were doin' the scout trip.) Exploratory, yeah, right.

**STEIGER:** So you didn't really have a choice of—you had to do this trip anyway. (HENDERSON: Yeah.) Was it hard to go out again for you, after somethin' like that?

**HENDERSON:** Ah, no. Not really. It was exciting. It was all in the challenge then. I mean, it was scary, anytime you set off on somethin' you haven't done before. But Rich and John had been down the Omo once by then, and we knew it was doable. We knew there were some big rapids on it and stuff, but we'd deal with it. It was exciting, all new to me, and still pretty new to them. They remembered some of the things, but 300 and some odd miles of river, you don't remember it all by seein' it one time, and seein' it at a different water level. So yeah, it was just explorin' and gettin' off and explorin' the side canyons and the waterfalls, and learnin' to deal with all the crocodiles and hippos and the wildlife and the snakes and everything; the diseases; and then the people—just the whole social interaction with the people down there.

In their first trip, they really hadn't seen many people, because they were there at a time when the people were not at the river. So our trip was really the first time when we really encountered the people for the first time. So that whole interaction with the people on that first Omo trip was a first for them and for us. I

mean, their first reaction was usually to run, when they'd see us comin' down the river.

**STEIGER:** God, I remember, I'll never forget seein' those guys and bein' all scared. "Oh, look, they've got guns!" Then you get up close and you realize they're these old World War II rifles and the barrels are jammed with mud, and they don't have any bullets. Thank God!

**HENDERSON:** Yeah, the intimidation factor is half of it. From a distance you don't know if the gun works or whether it doesn't, so it's effective. It protects 'em just in an intimidation way. Yeah, those were exciting days and exciting trips.

**STEIGER:** Really exciting.

**HENDERSON:** And the same thing...we started runnin' the Bio Bio, just like in the early days of the Grand Canyon, it takes a while to sort out all the runs and the rapids, and figure 'em all out, how's the best way to navi-

gate the rapids. So all these rivers that we pioneered, you know, we were figurin' all those runs out. A lot of it was school of hard knocks, and a lot of it was just gettin' in there with the right guy with the right pair of eyes to look at it in a different way. We'd kind of settle into runnin' things one way, and then some new guy, Brad Dimock or somebody'd show up, and say, "Well, how about this other way here?," you know. Gradually you sort out the best way to run things, and to rig things, and not just run the rapids, but runnin' the whole trips. So it was an exciting era to be part of. Certainly the golden age of it was right then, the beginning.

**STEIGER:** So it was Africa for you, and then Alaska was next?

**HENDERSON:** For me, it was Africa first, and then New Zealand, and then Alaska, and then South America, and

then... (**STEIGER:** Which was the Bio Bio?) Just the Bio Bio for me, but they did some other trips down there—Sobek did—that I wasn't involved in.

**STEIGER:** Did you do the Zambezi? Did you get in on that?

**HENDERSON:** I got in on the Zambezi and the Takazay. The Takazay was the latest one we did, just a few years back. But the Kilembero and Rufiji in Tanzania, that was another exciting early-day trip, that Stan Boor and Conrad [Hirsch] pioneered first. And then I did several of the early trips there. That river had even more hippos and crocodiles, it was in the middle of the Selous Game Reserve—a lot more wildlife and a lot more hippos. I mean, probably ten times the number of hippos and crocodiles that the Omo had. So, it was just a matter of survival, learning to survive the hippos and the crocs. For a long time, I don't think we had a trip down that river that didn't get a hippo bite. I mean, virtually every trip down got a hippo bite eventually. It was just so many hippos that that's what you did all day long, was dodge hippos all day...I can remember at least twice havin' hippos come up underneath my boat on the Kilembero. Basically, you're standin' on the hippo's back. I mean, when he comes up under your boat, you've got that sixteenth of an inch of floor rubber between you and the hippo—that's not much. You're basically standin' on his back, and his head swivels out of the water, he tries to bite the boat. I remember twice havin' scratches on the boat from their teeth. The angle that they're trying to bite, they couldn't quite get ahold of the boat...But we watched a couple of boats gettin' the bite and gettin' shook around. And since it'd happened to me



Using Bart's lens for a mirror.  
Photo by David Hinshaw



on the Omo, I knew what they were goin' through. It's always spooky.

Crocodiles, big crocodiles. I had one trip where we had just finished a long portage on the Kilebero. We had a portage that would take us three days to get around this big waterfall on that river. We'd just finished the last carry, and it was just getting dark, and I went down to this little trough of water that was—you'd think it's got to be a safe place, it's in the middle of a waterfall, the exit goes out in the middle of a waterfall, and just a little long trough of water, and I'd bathed in it before. I thought that's the one safe place. "I need a bath. I don't care if it is almost dark." Just as I jumped into the water, my feet hit the bottom, and at the same time my feet hit the bottom, this trough of water I'm jumpin' into just erupts. This crocodile is laying in the bottom of this trough, and I must have landed right in front of his nose, because he was goin' for the river, and he hit me in the back of the legs, basically knocked my legs out from under me. But the trough was just wide enough that I could kind of hang onto the side. And this crocodile is twelve, thirteen, fourteen feet long—a huge crocodile—is goin' out between my legs... Oh, he's in a panic. But water's flyin' everywhere, my feet are hittin' him, my legs are hittin' him, and his tail comes through, his tail's whackin' at me, and he's just swimmin' with the tail, not tryin' to hit me with it I don't think, but he's hittin' me with it and the whole thing is over in two seconds. Such an adrenaline rush! In the end I was just kind of sittin' there, spread-eagled over the top of this trough, a foot and a hand on each side. Took hours for the adrenaline to come down. So they were exciting times, learnin' about that stuff.

**STEIGER:** Yeah, it's amazing that so many—I mean, statistically, there's probably most of those turned out pretty good. You don't see as many people hurt or killed as somebody might expect, I think.

**HENDERSON:** Yeah. I mean, when I look back on 'em, I'm amazed at how well we did.

**STEIGER:** I guess there was that guy, Lou Greenwald, now, he got lost before that. Was he lost before you got there?

**HENDERSON:** Oh, no, Lou was with us on our very first, on the Gaba trip. Lou was on my boat when we flipped on the Gaba. It was me and Gary Mercado and Lou Greenwald on my boat when we flipped. Lou was part of those early days. He was on that first Omo trip too. And then he was drowned on the Blue Nile. Blue Nile was a killer. I never did do the Blue Nile... Bad rapids, bad people, a lot of fatalities from gunshots, and the shifta, the banditos that live along there.

**STEIGER:** But they still do trips every now and again.

**HENDERSON:** Well, they just did. IMAX Theater, the exploration that Rich Bangs and Pasquale Skitoru—they just did a trip where they went all the way to the Medi-

terranean Ocean, from Lake Tanna all the way down to the Mediterranean Ocean, the whole thing.

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**STEIGER:** Your website is great. [homepage.mac.com/rbartelow/] You've really got some great pictures there. I hope someday you'll do a book or something like that.

**HENDERSON:** You know, the one thing I'd like to participate in would be a collaborative effort with some of the other guides—especially some of the other Sobek guides—to put together our stories, along with photographs of the early Sobek days.

**STEIGER:** That should be done, because like you say, that was unique.

**HENDERSON:** Yeah, and you know, if we wait very long, there won't be enough of us left to do it. (chuckles)

**STEIGER:** Yeah. Or we won't remember, except for selective... "Remember that time that you guys flipped those boats?" "Nah!"

**HENDERSON:** "I don't remember that!" (laughter) "I don't remember it that way, anyway." I'm sure even today, it'd be fun to get together and tell the stories and just have everybody tell it from how they remember it.

**STEIGER:** Yeah. Well, everybody sees it different, that's for sure.

**HENDERSON:** And everybody'll remember it different, 'cause everybody's told the stories in a different way over the years. And you know, in the telling, pretty soon it's the telling that you remember, not the actual happening.

**STEIGER:** Oh, yeah, if you revise it enough. Definitely smooth it out.

**HENDERSON:** That's one of the great parts about guiding, is learning to tell stories, isn't it? (chuckles)

**STEIGER:** Oh yeah!... Well, actually, it's part tellin' stories, and then part hearin' 'em. That's half the fun for me—and not just about river runnin'. I mean, I love hearin' the stories of everybody. You think about all of the people, for me, that I've gotten to come in contact with—just amazing characters.

**HENDERSON:** Yeah, phenomenal. That's been such an incredibly valuable part of my life, being a guide. I remember thinking early on in my career that everybody knows somethin' I don't know. Every person on this planet knows a bunch of things I don't know. I've always enjoyed that aspect of guiding, just meeting new people and different guides and the great personalities that we've guided with over the years, the clients that we've managed to take. I mean, just brilliant people that we've come across—people that are just classic humans on the planet that come through our lives, through our guiding business.

**STEIGER:** Yeah, early on in the game I decided, "You know what? It's not my function to judge anybody. I'm



Bart, home in Alaska.

just gonna carry you down the river.” That made it a lot easier for me. “I’m gonna carry you down the river and take an interest in your story, and you can tell me whatever it is you want to.”

So now you’re an outfitter and you started this little company that started with one boat in a broke little town up there, that needed resurrection, and you tell me at the front of this deal that you guys took 45,000 people down on some kind of adventure last year. Perspective-wise, what did that do to you, havin’ to be the “Ted Hatch of Alaska”? What’s that like?

**HENDERSON:** Oh, it’s been a great learning experience for me. I didn’t know anything about business to speak of. It’s just somethin’ like learnin’ a new river. Learnin’ how to run a business, how the whole process works, of dealing with permits and governments and concession contracts, and contracts with cruise lines, and hiring, and all the laws you have to know about. It gives you a huge appreciation for the people that we worked for back when we were just kids on the river, havin’ a great time, and not a care in the world. I certainly have a much greater appreciation now for what they did for us, what Fred and Ted and Don Harris and Ken Sleight and Tony Sparks and all those guys that we worked for—George Wendt and Vladimir—what they did to make it possible for us to have the life and the career and the great times we had.

We definitely didn’t appreciate enough about what they did for us. That’s the one thing that I realize now is that I owe a huge debt to those guys, because they did great things for us, that we never realized, just by creating the business that we were privileged to get the fun part of—and in the background and stuff, makin’ sure that it all worked, dealin’ with the different government agencies that were out there. That’s certainly not the fun part of the business, that the guiding part is...It’s been a great thing for me, because guiding is a lifestyle job that you can’t—it’s difficult to get far enough ahead to really make a nest egg for your retirement and your older years when you’re not going to be able to guide anymore—not going to want to, whatever.

**STEIGER:** I think it’s more “not going to be able to,” in my experience. I just go back and forth between, “I can’t afford to do this anymore,” and “Nope, I don’t care. I don’t want to give it up yet.” (laughs) (**HENDERSON:** Yeah, exactly.) Because there’s nothing else that’s this much fun.

**HENDERSON:** Exactly. I don’t feel like I’m ready to give it up. Guiding is still in my blood, and it’s still something I want to do. I hope that I can do it as long as I’m alive. I look at Georgie...and Martin Litton—people that it was a big part of their lives. And I just hope that that’s how I can be, too.

**STEIGER:** So Haines, when you started this thing, you had some loggers and some fishermen up there, and that was about the size of it?

**HENDERSON:** Uh-huh. The logging mill shut down and there was a public meeting in town one day about the future of Haines, where it should go. I stood up and said, “Well, I think there’s great potential in guiding and river trips and wilderness adventure, and it’s worth gettin’ into. It’s a business you can develop.” Somebody stood up and said, “We don’t care what you think! You don’t live here in the winter, so we don’t care what you think.” It just kinda made me mad, because they didn’t care. This guy said, “You’re from California, we don’t care.” Kinda made me mad, because I’ve never lived in California in my life.” So I...just kind of out of a commitment to show ’em that it was possible, is what got me started. Now it just kinda grew on its own despite me, for a long time, until it finally got to a size where I really couldn’t ignore it anymore. (chuckles)... Chilkat Guides is the largest employer in town.

**STEIGER:** Well, I’ve got about five more minutes of tape here, and then I’ll stop torturing you. I mean, I could listen to you all day, I really could. I ended up talkin’ to Vladimir and Kyle and those guys, and we ran ten hours of tape.

**HENDERSON:** Yeah. Was Jimmy [Hendrick] there with Vladimir? I ran into Jimmy on a trip on the

North Slope, up on the Kongakut last year—not this past summer, but the summer before. He and Robby Pitagora were on a trip. It was just great fun to run into him out there. We sat down and talked about the old Wilderness World days, 'cause he and I, he was guidin' for 'em the same time I was, and I remember runnin' a lot of trips with Jimmy. (STEIGER: Oh man, what a character.) And Whale. It was Jimmy and Whale and me and Tom Olsen...Floyd Stevens. (STEIGER: That was a sweet company, great system.) Ronn Hayes was still guidin' and running trips. Bobby Jensen was there in those days. (STEIGER: So many chapters, it's like each company has its own little chapters.) Oh, yeah. And I started runnin' a lot of trips for OARS. For quite a few years I ran most of my trips for OARS, runnin' with that whole crew: Big Bruce...Slade and Skip Horner and...Oh, who else was on that? Terry Brian, Sam Street. When I first started, Sam was runnin' the thing. (STEIGER: And then he became Sam West.) Sam West, yeah. And, you know, the Harris boat trip era, runnin' with Dave Kloepfer. That was a whole era in itself, too. And then the small one-boat trips. Harris Boat Trips. That was a great company, great guy to work for. It was mostly me and Stan Hollister and Dave Kloepfer—that was kind of the company. And then when Harris Boat Trips sold, then I went over and started to work for Ken Sleight, and worked with Ken in his last few years of runnin' the Grand Canyon before he turned it over to his son. (STEIGER: Boy, you really got around!) Yeah. So I was runnin' with him, I was runnin' with Kim Crumbo. Yeah, and workin' with you guys at ARR in the beginning, livin' down at Lees Ferry and Vermilion Cliffs. Talk about a cast of characters! I mean, holy moly! (STEIGER: Oh, Vermilion Cliffs was great!) Yeah. Ross and Pete and Breck... (STEIGER: Moody.) And Moody. Rich Bangs would filter through there once in a while. Basically it was a hub for everybody, all the companies. Vermilion Cliffs was where it was happenin' in those days.

STEIGER: Yeah. Well, Bledsoe lived there, and Joe Tonsmeier, and Kloepfer, Al Harris, Claire Quist—everybody. Oh, man, those were really good days.

HENDERSON: Yeah, for sure. Then we got the whole Upper Colorado scene with the Cataract Canyon days, too, that we haven't even talked about. I spent a lot of time up there, too. In fact, I almost bought half of Sidewinder Expeditions...I had it all lined up to buy half of that company, and then I decided, no, Alaska was the place to be. That was the frontier. That's the great thing about bein' in Alaska for me is that it's the frontier. It is. When I arrived there...I mean, Sobek and Chilkat Guides are the first raft companies in Alaska. We were the first ones in. So it's just been neat to be on the pioneering front with

Sobek first in Africa, and all around the world where we were, and also in Alaska, and just following that through, to the maturity that it is now. I mean, taking Chilkat Guides from nothing, to taking 45,000–55,000 people a year, has just been a fascinating trip. But again, it's the frontier out there. It's only your own imagination that holds you back, you know. As long as you've got your imagination active and the dream and the drive, you can make it on the frontier. It's a little harder in the city, but you can make it on the frontier.

STEIGER: How much more frontier do we have left out there?

HENDERSON: There's always a frontier. There's always a frontier—it's just a matter of findin' out where it is, and havin' the balls to go find it. Not only to go find it, but to go live in it. There's still plenty. There's frontiers that'll last our lifetimes.

STEIGER: Oh, yeah?

HENDERSON: And I plan to live a long time.

STEIGER: Yeah!

HENDERSON: At least a thousand. (laughter)

STEIGER: Yeah, that'd be handy, wouldn't it?

Cover photo:

*The photo was taken on the Sobek International Sumatra Expedition to make a video program, "Running The River of the Red Ape," starring Dr. Ghiglieri and Dave Shore with Michael Walker and the Domar Italians, sponsored by Brancamenta. Bart was the expedition cook, and commandeered the hotel kitchen in Medan to make fifty pounds of granola. This photo was taken at the debouchement of the Alas River into the Indian Ocean. National Geographic sent photographer Nick Nichols and all our film was bought and developed by National Geographic. Jim Slade and Richard Bangs were on the trip. The village in the background was swept way in the tidal wave of Christmastime 2004. The wave at this location has been estimated to have been between fifty and 75-foot tall when it struck land.*

John Kramer

Note: This oral history project is made possible by a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council (AHC). The results of this project do not necessarily represent the view of AHC or the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Arizona Humanities Council

## Get Set for the GTS!

**T**IME IS POSITIVELY WHIZZING BY, and the Guides Training Seminar land and river sessions are just around the corner. Here's a sneak peak at the way things are shaping up:

### GUIDES TRAINING SEMINAR, LAND SESSION 2006 (MARCH 25-26, 2005, HATCH RIVER EXPEDITIONS WAREHOUSE IN MARBLE CANYON, AZ)

Come and learn about the fossil record in Grand Canyon, Hualapai cultural resources, Glen Canyon Dam releases, NPS archaeology, Precambrian geology, springs and travertines, system responses to increasing water temperatures, the mysterious Hum Wooley, CRMP implementation, and the 1954 Life Magazine trip (with slides!). But that's the mere tip of the proverbial iceberg. The GTS land session will feature even more science, human history, program updates from related non-profit organizations, and scintillating topics than you can possibly imagine. The Whale Foundation will also be hosting their third annual Health Fair with free health screenings, testing vouchers, a chance to speak directly with "river docs" and perhaps your best opportunity to get your health up-to-speed before the river season hits. Culinary queen Martha Clark Stewart will be cooking up a storm, a band will get things hoppin' on Saturday night, and you'll get a chance to reconnect with all your river friends before the season starts. The ridiculously low cost for such a fabulously educational and fun weekend is only \$35—you can pay in advance or at the event (unless you work for an outfitter, in which case, they pick up the tab). You can't afford not to go! The GTS land session is open to anyone and everyone. Bring a small camp chair, a mug, and dress warmly and in layers. You can either camp or stay at one of the local lodges. We'll post the GTS land agenda on our website, [www.gcr.org](http://www.gcr.org) when it is available so check it out. See you there!

### GUIDES TRAINING SEMINAR, RIVER SESSION 2006 (UPPER HALF, MARCH 28-APRIL 3 AND LOWER HALF, APRIL 3-11)

The incredible speaker line up looks too good to be true. The upper half features Brad Dimock and Richard Quartaroli (human history), Jorgen Visbak (#200 on Marston's list and participant in the 1954 Life Magazine trip that also included historic folks like Dock Marston, Bill Belknap, Willie Taylor, and Rod Sanderson), Karl Karlstrom and Laura Crossey (geology), Amy Horn (archaeology), and Lisa Gelczis (small mammals and herps). The lower half speakers are Richard Quartaroli and Jorgen Visbak, Geoff Carpenter (reptiles and

amphibians), Fred Phillips (vegetation), Peter Huntoon (landslide events, caves, springs hydrology, geology), Larry Stevens (biology), and Sam Rector (water chemistry). Unbelievable, wouldn't you say? It gets better—Martha Clark Stewart is the Trip Leader. I would imagine that you're slapping yourself silly right now if you haven't already signed up because our roster may be full by the time this newsletter is published. You can always contact GCRG to make sure, but if that's the case, you'll just have to deal with your GTS envy by signing up promptly next year for the best cooperative training trip in Grand Canyon. Cost is \$175 for the upper half, and \$195 for the lower half. If sponsored, your outfitter will pick up that tab. If not, better check the previous BQR issue or our website for freelance requirements. It doesn't matter a hill of beans if you're a new guide, or you've been around for many moons, you really must make time for it, because the GTS is the absolute best!

Of course, the Guides Training Seminar wouldn't be possible without the help and support of our wonderful GTS partners: the commercial river outfitters, the Grand Canyon Conservation Fund (a non-profit program established and managed by the Grand Canyon river outfitters), the Grand Canyon Association, Grand Canyon National Park, and Teva. We certainly thank our staunch supporters, laudable speakers, and GTS worker-bees for making it all happen. Put it all together and you get a magical combination of painless education, community building and loads of fun. That's the Guides Training Seminar, and *you* can be a part of it!

*Lynn Hamilton*

Wilderness First Aid Courses 2006  
Sponsored by Grand Canyon River Guides  
Desert Medicine Institute (Dr. Tom Myers & Dr. Michelle Grua)

**WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER**—March 27–April 3, 2006 (eight-day course)

- Prerequisite: None
- Location: Flagstaff, AZ (exact location to be determined)
- Lodging & Meals: On your own
- Certification: 3-year WFR certification and 2-year CPR certification
- Cost: \$435

Class size is strictly limited for the GCRG/DMI Review & WFR classes. Send your \$50 non-refundable deposit with the application below to us at PO Box 1934, Flagstaff, AZ 86002 to hold a space. Checks can be made payable to GCRG. If you work for an outfitter who pays a hundred percent of course costs, just send in the registration form by itself and we'll take care of the rest. The courses are already filling, so act now! GCRG reserves the right to cancel any classes due to insufficient enrollment. Call the GCRG office at (928) 773-1075 with any questions.

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## Job Announcement

**A**NGEL'S GATE TOURS is looking for experienced Grand Canyon guides to lead sightseeing tours, day hikes and the occasional back-packing trip in Grand Canyon. We are specifically recruiting experienced Grand Canyon boatman and other Grand Canyon backcountry professionals. Please contact us if you meet the following requirements:

- Minimum WFR (preferred) or WAFB certified, with CPR. (More advanced medical certifications are also acceptable).
  - Good driving record. (One minor ticket is usually okay.)
  - Must be able to pass Arizona DOT physical.
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  - Hiking experience on all South Rim trails.

This is an excellent opportunity for a Grand Canyon backcountry professional that needs to spend more time in town due to family, children, dog or other constraints. The majority of our tours and hikes depart from and return to Flagstaff daily. Please visit our website at [www.AngelsGateTours.com](http://www.AngelsGateTours.com) and call (928) 856-1698 to schedule an interview. Angel's Gate Tours is an EOE.

# Canyon Country Community Lecture Series

**F**OR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, the Grand Canyon Association (GCA), NAU Cline Library, and NAU's Grand Canyon Semester, with Coconino Community College's Colorado Plateau Studies recently joining, have sponsored the Canyon Country Community Lecture Series in Flagstaff, AZ at the Cline Library (currently, one Wednesday a month, 7:00–8:30 P.M. during the Spring and Fall Semesters). Those lectures have expanded to the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott, AZ, occasionally at Grand Canyon National Park, and now at the Glendale Foothills Library, Glendale, AZ. The spring series has already started, but there are a few more to come, with the fall lineup being finalized.

April 19—Chris Coder—*Apaches in the Northland: A*

*Brief Look at the Dilzhe'e People*

May 3—Dan Driskill—*The 1956 Grand Canyon Air Disaster: The Legends, Legacies, and Mysteries of TWA Flight 2 and United Flight 718*

September 27—Christa Sadler—*River of Time: Grand Canyon Boatmen Stories*

October 18—Tom Paradis—*Flagstaff's "America Tour": Interpreting American Cultural Landscapes in the Mountain Town*

November 8 or 15—Andre Potochnik—*Glen Canyon Dam: Ecosystem Damage and The Scientific Search for Solutions*

For more information, please contact GCA: 928-638-7033; [www.grandcanyon.org](http://www.grandcanyon.org) .

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# Why Does the Take-out Crew Always Seem So Weird?



Harry Aleson towing Nevills Expedition across Lake Mead, August, 1942.  
From "High, Wide, and Handsome: The River Journals of Norman D. Nevills,"  
Roy Webb, editor  
Photo courtesy of University of Utah Special Collections

From 1940 through 1949, Norman Nevills and Harry Aleson had a most peculiar relationship—at first cooperative, later competitive. Aleson initially agreed to tow Nevills's trips across Lake Mead. On his first attempt in 1940, Aleson lost his boat while hiking Separation Canyon. A pair of

Aleson's underwear hanging from a bush upstream alerted Nevills to pull in and rescue Aleson. In this photo, Aleson, in his motorboat UP CANYON, is towing Nevills's 1942 expedition across the reservoir. Again, underwear and eccentricity remain the common themes.

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Thanks to all you poets, photographers, writers, artists, and to all of you who send us stuff. Don't ever stop. Special thanks to the Walton Family Foundation, Arizona Humanities Council, "Circle of Friends" contributors, Flagstaff Cultural Partners and innumerable GCRG members for their generous and much appreciated support of this publication.

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## boatman's quarterly review

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