

Mormon Mountain: Hike It for
the Ponderosas & Wildflowers

Historic Schools: Converting
Old Classrooms Into Art Studios

Best Drive on the North Rim?
The Forest Road to Timp Point

ARIZONA

HIGHWAYS

AUGUST 2010

ESCAPE · EXPLORE · EXPERIENCE

BEST OF AZ 50 OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS

featuring

PHOTOGRAPHY, NATURE,
ADVENTURE, LODGING,
DINING, FAMILY GETAWAYS,
HISTORY & CULTURE

plus

BIG TREES:
A PORTFOLIO THAT
EVEN PAUL BUNYAN
WOULD APPRECIATE



Best Cover Material

West Fork, Black River

When selecting an image for this month's cover, we had one objective: find something that looks idyllic — the kind of place you'd want to escape to in August. Tom Danielsen's shot of the Black River is exactly what we had in mind. We think it's the kind of photograph that "takes you there." Go ahead, have another look. Can't you just picture yourself lazing around in the cool grass and listening to the trickle of the river as it meanders through the lush forest? That's what we thought. Great job, Tom. This is the best.

FEATURES

14 BEST OF AZ

There's no way of putting together a definitive list of the best of everything. Especially in a place like Arizona, where the range of people, places and things is as vast as the Grand Canyon. Nevertheless, in our ongoing effort to steer you toward the state's superlatives, we present our second-annual *Best of AZ* package.

BY KELLY KRAMER

30 BRANCHING OUT

Admittedly, the most impressive tree in North America — maybe the world — is the General Sherman. Nothing compares to the giant sequoia in California's Sierra Nevada. It's amazing, but so are some of the cottonwoods, sycamores, ponderosas and junipers in Arizona. In this month's portfolio, we showcase a sizable collection of the state's mightiest trees.

A PORTFOLIO EDITED BY PAUL BUNYAN

42 OLD SCHOOLS

Thomas Wolfe said you can't go home again, but school's a different subject, particularly as it relates to elementary, junior high and high schools from the early 20th century. Across the United States, these classic old buildings are being repurposed into art spaces and other public venues. It's even happening here in Arizona.

BY JACKIE DISHNER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD MAACK

48 HOW TO DEAL

Local artwork isn't hard to find. Throughout Arizona, Native Americans can be found selling their jewelry, paintings and pottery at roadside stands, trading posts and galleries. It's accessible, which might be why the general public perceives Indian art like Mexican art, where bartering is a part of the equation. In the Southwest, that's not the case.

BY SUZANNE WRIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF KIDA

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People, places and things from around the state, including Tucson's best gelato spot, according to Olympic gold medalist Kerri Strug; the weird nature of the tarantula hawk; and a restaurant in Sedona that's so good you'll forget about the surrounding red rocks — for an hour or so, anyway.

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North Rim Viewpoints: Timp Point, North Timp Point, Parissawampitts Point ... they're not as well known as some of the other Canyon viewpoints, but they're equally impressive.

54 HIKE OF THE MONTH

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▶ After a monsoon storm passes through, a rainbow arcs over the landscape of the Little Colorado River Valley, west of Springerville. PHOTOGRAPH BY HARTMUT KANNEGIESSER

FRONT COVER A New Mexican checkermallow blooms on the banks of the West Fork of the Black River in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM DANIELSEN

BACK COVER Oddly shaped hoodoos dominate the badlands near Page in Northern Arizona. PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE STOCKING

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Visit our website for details on weekend getaways, hiking, lodging, dining, photography workshops, slideshows and more. Also, check out our blog for daily posts on just about anything related to travel in Arizona, including road closures, environmental news, festivals and other valuable info we couldn't fit in the magazine.

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Like us on Facebook and get a behind-the-scenes look at *Arizona Highways*, along with exclusive photos, trivia contests, quirky news and more.

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JEFF KIDA

A couple of months ago, I had an opportunity to work with some journalism students on the Hopi Nation. The kids, the culture, the surrounding landscape ... it was an incredible experience. The experience of a lifetime. Then, about a week later, I was at the other end of the state, in Nogales, where I had an opportunity to spend some time with 94-year-old Paul Bond, the legendary boot maker who's done custom work for everyone from John Wayne to Ralph Lauren. It was an incredible experience. The experience of a lifetime.

As editor of *Arizona Highways*, I have the privilege of meeting all kinds of fascinating people. I also get to explore the state's magnificent backcountry. I'm out there a lot, which inspires people to ask: "What's your favorite place in Arizona?"

It's impossible to answer that question — there's no way to narrow it down to just one. When I'm in the Bear Wallow Wilderness, that's my favorite place. When I'm in Ramsey Canyon, that's my favorite place. And later this month, when I'm up on the North Rim, the Grand Canyon Lodge will be my favorite place. That is, until I ride my mountain bike out to Timp Point, which is featured in this month's *Scenic Drive*, and pitch my tent at DeMotte Campground, which is featured in this month's cover story.

The campground, which sits amid a spectacular meadow on the Kaibab Plateau, is one of 50 people, places and things in our second-annual "Best of Arizona" issue. We've named DeMotte the "Best Place to Go Where Seldom Is Heard a Discouraging Word." Bear Wallow is on the list, too, and so are Ramsey Canyon, Coal Mine Canyon and Bass Canyon. There's more than canyons, though. *Best of AZ* is a mix of things that fall into one of seven categories: lodging, dining, adventure, history & culture, photography, nature and family getaways.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum ("Best Way to Have a G'day, Mate") is one of our favorite family getaways. There's a long list of reasons to visit this unique state park, but we like it because of its Australian Desert, which, as the name suggests, is an area bursting with plants from Down Under, including "Mr. Big." The name is appropriate. Mr. Big is a massive red gum eucalyptus tree that was planted in 1926 and is now more than 140 feet tall. In fact, Mr. Big is so big that he sits atop the registry of big trees as the largest red gum eucalyptus in the United States." The tree is the high

point of the Australian Desert, and a focal point in this month's portfolio.

The theme of the portfolio — "big trees" — was inspired by an enormous cottonwood that grows at the east entrance of Aravaipa Canyon. After seeing it, I thought for sure it had to be the biggest of its kind in Arizona. It's not. There's an even bigger cottonwood down in Patagonia. That tree made the opening spread of the portfolio. When you look at it, look closely. There's a woman standing at the base of the tree. It'll give you some idea of just how big that tree really is.

Equally impressive is an alligator juniper in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, along with an Arizona sycamore in Ramsey Canyon, which isn't just a giant, but an ancient giant that dates back to 1760. That's not as old as the bristlecone pines on Humphreys Peak, but it's a lot older than the oldest schools in Arizona. And some of those are pretty old. What's left of them, anyway.

Like a lot of historic buildings, many of the old schools in our state have been bulldozed or left in disrepair. Not all of them, however. Some, like the Curley School in Ajo and the old Jerome High School, are being preserved and repurposed as public art spaces. As Jackie Dishner writes in *Old Schools*, "Where wooden desks with empty inkwells once lined creaky-floored classrooms lit up by 8-foot-tall windows, you now see paint-splattered easels, recycled art supplies and creative types painting, designing, writing, producing — creating art in some form or another."

Our story focuses on a handful of projects around Arizona, and they're impressive. They're good for communities, they're good for artists and they're good for historic preservation. Although the thought of going back to school can be a little unnerving, I hope you'll reward these efforts and check them out. You may not have the experience of a lifetime, but if it's even half as interesting as a school visit on the Hopi Nation, you'll be glad you went.

ROBERT STIEVE, editor

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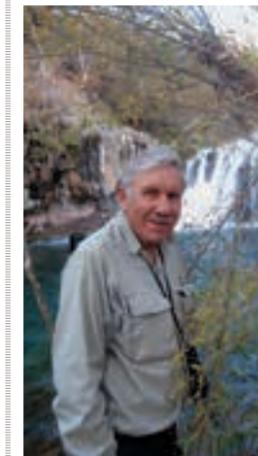
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PRODUCED IN THE USA

JILL SCHILDHOUSE

Jill Schildhouse wrote her first book when she was in fourth grade and was chosen to represent her school at a Young Author's Conference. "From then on, I knew writing was my passion," she says. In this month's *Journal* (page 8), Schildhouse writes about Prescott's Pleasant Street Inn Bed & Breakfast, which she describes as a place "wonderfully untouched by society." "I should spend less time traveling out of state and more time enjoying the many local sights I've yet to see," she adds. Having worked as a writer and an editor, Schildhouse has worn many hats, but her favorite is that of a writer. "When I'm writing, I feel a great sense of creativity and freedom," she says. Her work has also appeared in *Muscle & Performance* and *Vim & Vigor*.



TOM DANIELSEN

Whether he's canoeing down Utah's Green River or visiting Arizona's Indian reservations, there's one thing Tom Danielsen never leaves at home — his camera. "I love photographing beautiful scenery, especially Indian ruins," he says. "We have so many different tribes and groups here." Danielsen also enjoys hiking in Arizona because it gives him an opportunity to photograph places most people rarely see. "They just don't realize that scenery like that exists here," he says about this month's cover photo, which he captured while hiking along the Black River in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. Danielsen is a longtime contributor to *Arizona Highways*. His images have also appeared in *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian* books and the Jim Henson cartoon *Muppet Babies*.

JACKIE DISHNER

A full-time writer and motivational speaker, Jackie Dishner has made a living out of telling other people's stories. "I tell people to dig inside themselves and find their motivation," she says. "I love helping people tap into their inner strengths." Dishner, who moved to Yuma from Indiana when she was 12, has since traveled to every corner of Arizona and found her own motivation in one of the state's more isolated places. It was a visit to the small town of Ajo that inspired *Old Schools* (page 42), a story about an ongoing movement to convert historic schools into artists' spaces. "I'm drawn to stories that get you out of the city," she says. "Anything that takes me outside of my normal routine is ideal." Dishner is a regular contributor to *Arizona Highways*.



ARIZONA
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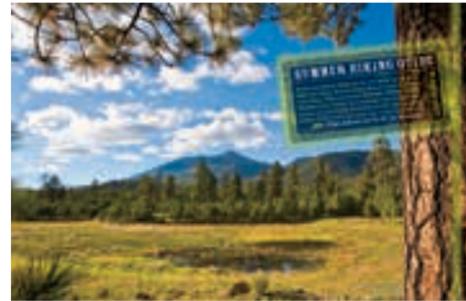


ARIZONA HIGHWAYS TV

If you like what you see in this magazine every month, check out *Arizona Highways Television*, an Emmy Award-winning program hosted by former news anchor Robin Sewell. For broadcast times, visit our website, www.arizonahighways.com, and click the *Arizona Highways Television* link on our home page.

SCHOOL BELL

I loved your article about the Bell Trail [*Summer Hiking Guide*, June 2010]. I walked it last Thursday with 29 of the 6th graders from Beaver Creek School, located in Rimrock. Yesterday, the 8th graders went, and on Wednesday, it's the 7th graders' turn. It's like a rite of passage for the



June 2010

kids at Beaver Creek School. It's been a tradition for many years that on the last week or two of school the 6th through 8th graders go with Coach on the Bell Trail for the day. At Bell Crossing (locally known as "The Crack") they're allowed to swim and jump off the big red-rock boulders. They first have to prove they can handle the hike by running the wash (2 miles round-trip) at the school within the allotted time, and when they reach the crack they have to prove they can swim. It's a fun tradition that I love being a small part of.

LYNN LEONARD, RIMROCK, ARIZONA

WALK THIS WAY

I love your magazine. The best thing I ever did was subscribe several years ago. I do have a question on hiking trails. Are there any kinds of trails that would accommodate a walker? I have a whole list of scenic drives that I'll be taking now that I'm retired, but it would sure be nice to get out of the car and be able to walk a short distance.

JAN PARRENT, PHOENIX

EDITOR'S NOTE: That's a great question, Ms. Parrent, one we've been asked many times. As a result, we've created a place on our website (www.arizonahighways.com) that lists handicap-accessible trails, all of which will accommodate a walker.

arizonahighways.com) that lists handicap-accessible trails, all of which will accommodate a walker.

CLOSED ENCOUNTER

A few issues back you published an article on Williamson Valley Road. We recently had an opportunity to travel this road via ATV, taking it as far as the junction with CR125. We then turned right onto CR125 hoping to access Anvil Rock Road and thus return to where we parked our truck and trailer, only to find the road blocked by a locked gate approximately 10 miles from the junction. We were disappointed we couldn't complete our trip as planned and had to return the way we came. We've encountered gates previously in our journeys, but always close them again after passing through — as I believe most of us who enjoy traveling the back roads do. We enjoy your magazine, and especially the articles on back-road travel.

CLARE JONES, KINGMAN, ARIZONA

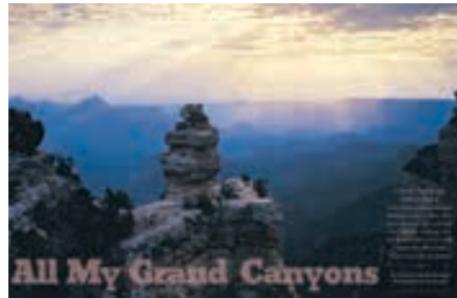
WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

I've enjoyed *Arizona Highways* for many years, starting when I lived in Arizona. This year, I decided to share past issues with my doctor's office. The next time I went in for an appointment, I looked for the magazines in the reception room and they weren't there. To my surprise, I found them in every examination room, where they'd been left by patients. Thank you for sharing all that Arizona beauty with us. What a great way to start and end the day.

GERTRUDE MORGAN, HEMET, CALIFORNIA

THUMBS UP, CHUCK

I was reading the May 2010 issue today, enjoying all the wonders of our Grand Canyon through the pages that are so beautifully presented. I knew you held Charles Bowden in high regard. However, I didn't truly appreciate him — his thoughts and words — until I read his article, *All*



May 2010

My Grand Canyons. As he carried us back through his life and experiences with the Canyon, I found myself remembering, too. I recalled my first visit there when very young ... I remembered hearing my dad play the *Grand Canyon Suite*. As I travel down my life's journey, one thing I've learned is how very precious our memories of wonderful experiences are. Thanks for the memories.

FRANCEEN DAPRATO, SUN LAKES, ARIZONA



May 2010

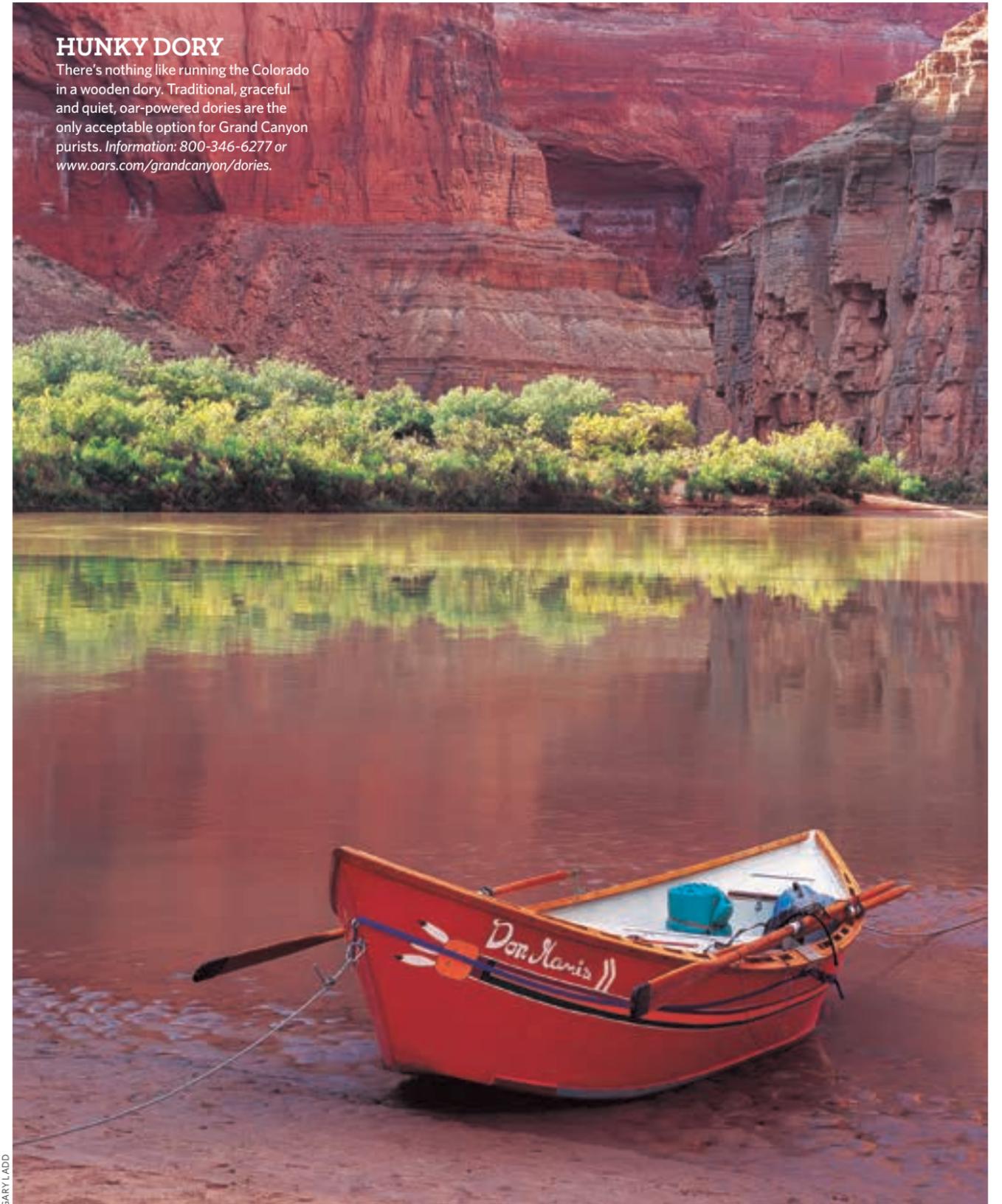
LITERALLY SPEAKING

In your May 2010 issue, an article in *The Journal* identified the coyote as *Apetitius giganticus*. Even though this may have been a tongue-in-cheek reference to Wile E. Coyote of cartoon fame, the actual Linnaean name for the coyote is *Canis latrans*. I'm thinking that you wouldn't want an unsuspecting reader to mistakenly use your information in the wrong context.

DAVID R. WASHBAU, FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA

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GARY LADD



PETER SCHWEKER

Branch Manager

Mary Stuever witnessed the worst fire disaster in Arizona history. She didn't leave with the firetrucks, though. Instead, she spent the next 5 years planting trees and restoring the fire-ravaged landscape.

By DAVID SCHWARTZ

FROM THE FRONT LINES, veteran forester Mary Stuever witnessed the devastation that was the

WHITE MOUNTAINS

Rodeo-Chediski Fire — a wind-whipped blaze that turned nearly a half-million acres of prime forest in East-Central Arizona into an ugly, blackened moonscape during the summer of 2002.

Stuever was touched deeply by the damage to the land and the impact on its people.

Then she decided to take matters into her own hands. She would spend the next 5 years working for the White Mountain Apache Tribe, planting trees and educating, and breathing new life into the fire-ravaged landscape for all to see.

"It was an amazing job," says Stuever, 51, who now lives in a log cabin made of Utah spruce near Albuquerque, New Mexico. "I went to bed every night knowing that I made a difference in someone's life or in restoring the land."

Her experiences in Arizona and the surrounding region are chronicled in a new book, *The Forester's Log: Musings From the Woods*, a collection of columns penned

during a career that started when the fresh-faced youth became a ranger in New Mexico in 1978.

She would go on to hike 2,000 miles along the Continental Divide from New Mexico to Old Faithful in Yellowstone before graduating with a forestry degree from Oklahoma State University.

The outdoors were never far away from Stuever. She worked for state and federal agencies in Arizona and New Mexico and as a private consultant, spending time in the field and teaching about the ecosystems that make up the forests.

Her work continues today. Stuever is a forester in New Mexico. She's a firefighter. She remains passionate about what it takes to manage the vast acreage of forestland scattered throughout the Southwest.

"There has to be a long-term commitment," Stuever says. "There is no instant, overnight fix. And it requires a lot of resources that we haven't yet been given."

Stuever says the effort begins with responsible thinning of the nation's cluttered, thick forests. That includes using natural fires and prescribed burns as weapons in the fight.

"We've kept fire out of our forests for so long that the density is unnatural," she says. "We also have to go in and cut out trees. There's too much fuel out there."

But with all her concern comes hope — much like what she found upon her return to the scene of the Rodeo-Chediski Fire last year. Grass was taking hold; trees were stretching into the air.

"That's amazing stuff," she says. "It shows what can happen when you do things right."

PRATT'S

Q&A



Kerri Strug Olympic Gold Medalist

Growing up in Arizona, what were your favorite outdoor activities?

I enjoyed being with my family. We'd hike the Grand Canyon and swim in the summer. I really liked bike-riding in my neighborhood with my dad.

Talk about Tucson. Tucson is just home. It's where my parents are. I love everything about it, whether it's the warm weather or the beautiful mountains. When you associate [a place] with home, it's always very special for a lot of different reasons.

If you were trying to persuade the Olympic committee to hold the games in Arizona, what would your argument be? Lots of open space, beautiful sunsets, kind people... but I don't think we're big enough for something like that! We don't have the venues or infrastructure, but it would be nice, nonetheless.

What Arizona restaurant would you give a gold medal? I love Vivace, Beyond Bread and Frost Gelato in Tucson. Vivace is a fancy Italian restaurant, so I'd give it the gold medal.

Best place to live in Arizona? I'd prefer Tucson, to be near my parents, family and friends.

— Dave Pratt is the author of *Behind the Mic: 30 Years in Radio*

Flowers Power

Take a well-known chef, a menu that combines New American technique with a touch of grandma, surround it with the red rocks of Sedona, and you've got Fournos, Ivan Flowers' spectacular 24-seat bistro.

By MARYAL MILLER

Five-star chef Ivan Flowers has earned his chops, and then some. He's overseen the kitchens of Sedona's L'Auberge and Phoenix's Different Pointe of View and T. Cooks, to name a few. But he's not resting on his laurels. The menu at Fournos, Flowers' latest venture, is just as seductive as his creations of yore.

"To me, cooking is driven by how delicious you can make your cuisine for your guests every time they enter that door," says Flowers, who serves as owner, prep cook and executive chef. "Lose this and you lose yourself as a chef."

Of his unassuming, 24-seat bistro-style eatery in West Sedona, he quips: "I think of it as a birth-control pill. Small, but highly effective."

It's not the kind of thing you'd expect to hear from a decorated chef, but Flowers is anything but stuffy. He's more of an epicurean rebel-with-a-cause. Case in point: On off-days, he trades his toque for a bandana, and loves riding his Harley with his wife, Tracy. But as his cooking reveals, his presence in the kitchen is perfectly polished and top-notch.

He's dubbed the cuisine at Fournos as "Declectic," a "delicious and eclectic French, Italian, Mediterranean and New American technique with a touch of grandma." That description, however, hardly does his cooking justice. Example: Flowers says that if you're only going to have one of his dishes, let it be the duck, three ways — a chocolate balsamic breast, a sweet-chili-glazed confit and a white-truffle duck pate. (Don't worry leaf-eaters, if you're salivating like a hyena on the hunt as you read this, we won't tell anyone.)

The duck notwithstanding, Flowers' favorite dish is the creamy, mushroom-infused lobster bisque. Why? Because "it makes you want to smoke a cigarette after eating it," he says. He's so not priggish.

Whatever you order, pace yourself, because as Flowers has engineered it, the experience at Fournos is much more of a gradual

descent into flavor ecstasy than a rapid free-fall that starts and stops with the main course. In fact, the warm, fresh bread with pesto, Parmesan and garlic dipping sauce that Tracy diligently delivers before every meal,

SEDONA

paired with a recommendation from the carefully curated selection of boutique wines, might be reason enough to return.

You'll want to hang on for the entire ride, though. The roasted mushrooms with garlic appetizer — it's drizzled in brandy and sprinkled with *rocca parmigiano* — is a must, and the simple Caesar salad with creamy garlic *limoncello* dressing could be hailed an epic experience. And then there are the entres, which change seasonally. These are Flowers' *piece de resistance*, and they only tighten Fournos' stranglehold.

For the carnivorous crowd, if you're lucky enough to see the duck or slowly braised Kurabuto pork *osso buco* with cider-roasted apple-herb orzo on the menu, order immediately. For vegetarians, go for the fresh far-falle pasta with oven-roasted tomatoes and mushrooms in a tomato al fresco sauce. But you're not done yet. You can't leave without sampling one of Tracy's desserts, particularly the blissfully light, fluffy tiramisu. It's not necessarily declectic, but it's definitely a classic. Like everything else at Fournos.

Fournos is located at 3000 Highway 89A in Sedona. For more information, call 928-282-3331.



PAUL MARKOW



NICK BEREZENKO

A Pleasant Evening

With a name like Pleasant Street Inn Bed and Breakfast, expectations are high among visitors to this historic home in downtown Prescott. It's not the name, though, that makes this place so charming — it's Jeanne Watkins, the innkeeper.

By JILL SCHILDHOUSE

INNKEEPER JEANNE WATKINS is most likely the first person you'll see when you arrive at Pleasant Street Inn Bed and Breakfast. She'll be quick to hand over a set of keys so that you can come and go as you please, but at first, you won't want to go anywhere — the green 1906 Victorian house is just *that* inviting. Nevertheless, Watkins will start playing tour guide by circling must-see local attractions on a colorful map. The inn, which is located in Prescott's historic district, is within easy walking distance of Courthouse Plaza, popular restaurants, galleries, boutiques, museums and, of course, Whiskey Row.

Before Watkins purchased the house in 2003 — at its current location on the corner of South Pleasant Street and Goodwin — it spent 84 years at 232 S. Marina Street. In 1990, the city of Prescott chose South Marina for its new police station, so instead of destroying the 3,500-square-foot house, the city moved it four blocks to its present location. The interior was refitted with new plumbing and wiring, and the building as a whole was remodeled into a bed and breakfast. The 100-year-old molding, doors and staircase, as well as the 10-foot ceilings, were preserved to display the home's history.

With two bedrooms and two suites, all with private bathrooms, you're guaranteed a comfortable stay. Upstairs, the romantic Pine View Suite has a bay window, fireplace, full-size sofa bed and small TV in the sitting room, a king-size bed in the bedroom and a large,

double-sink bathroom with tub and shower. The interior design is impressive, too, but most visitors find it hard to focus on the eclectic mix of Asian and Native American décor because they're captivated by the thoughtful touches Watkins has peppered throughout the rooms to ensure that every need is met: There are terry robes in the closet, a bottle opener and glasses on a side table, a vase of fresh flowers, and a mini-fridge stocked with bottled water, although Watkins swears the tap water is delicious.

Because of Watkins' hospitality, you might feel guilty for not wanting to pry yourself out of bed in the morning. But coming down the stairs to the smell of freshly brewed coffee and the sounds of piano music playing softly in the background is a worthy tradeoff. And biting into almond-topped french toast, sausage links and a medley of fresh fruit, while sharing tales of the previous night's adventures with Watkins and the other guests, makes it easy to understand why this inn was destined to move to Pleasant Street. It doesn't get any more pleasurable than this.

Pleasant Street Inn is located at 142 S. Pleasant Street in Prescott. For more information, call 877-226-7128.

Standout Photography

Longtime *Arizona Highways* photographer Tom Bean says the best photos are sometimes serendipitous. For example, you never know when you might stumble upon a lone pine in a grove of aspens.

By JEFF KIDA, photo editor

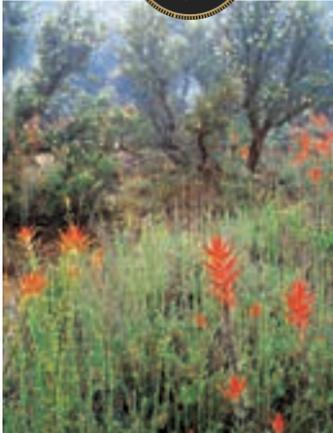


Aspen grove along the Inner Basin Trail near Flagstaff. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BEAN

WHEN FLAGSTAFF-BASED PHOTOGRAPHER TOM BEAN headed to the Inner Basin Trail on an August afternoon, he didn't have any preconceived notions about what type of image he wanted to make. That morning, he saw summer monsoon clouds building up over the San Francisco Peaks and knew the soft light they provided could lead to some interesting photographs. Using a 24-105 zoom lens at a 50-mm focal length, Bean composed the elements within the frame, relying on both textures and colors. "What attracted me to this scene was the conifer. In a way it tells a story, which is what happens with these aspen groves. The conifer is a different shape, it's a different color and it's a different age. Its size suggests emerging youth among these mature aspen trees. That contrast was interesting to me." Bean adds that being open to your surroundings is key. "This was a found image. I didn't go out with a set idea of [photographing] something I'd imagined. Basically, [the process] is more like hunting."

IT'S A BREEZE

Have you ever tried to shoot summer wildflowers in breezy conditions? It's not easy, but there are two methods that work. If you don't need much depth of field (a sharp focus



throughout the frame), open your lens aperture as wide as you can. If that doesn't do the trick, raise your ISO (sensor sensitivity). Most DSLRs will render good image quality up to 800 ISO. Either technique allows you to increase the camera's shutter speed in order to arrest motion in your photos.



ADDITIONAL READING: Look for our book, *Arizona Highways Photography Guide*, available at bookstores and www.arizonahighways.com.

ONLINE

For more photography tips and other information, visit www.arizonahighways.com and click "Photo Tips."



NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY CLINE LIBRARY

The Grand Master

For more than a century, a who's who of talented artists have been making paintings of the Grand Canyon. Few, however, have achieved the notoriety of Thomas Moran.

By SALLY BENFORD

BY THE TIME ARTIST Thomas Moran made his first trip to the Grand Canyon with Major John Wesley Powell in the summer of 1873, he was already famous for his landscapes of the American West. The year before, Congress had purchased his massive painting, *Grand Cañon of the Yellowstone*, for \$10,000 — a large sum at the time.

Yet, when Moran saw the Grand Canyon, he was even more inspired than he'd been at Yellowstone. He wrote to his wife, Mary, "The whole gorge for miles lay beneath us and it was by far the most awfully grand and impressive scene that I have ever yet seen."

Two years later, the artist duplicated his Yellowstone success, selling *The Chasm of the Colorado*, the painting that resulted from his Grand Canyon trip, to Congress for another \$10,000. And that was

just the beginning of Moran's relationship with the natural wonder.

Moran continued his painting excursions throughout the West, and soon the Grand Canyon became a favorite destination. In 1892, the Santa Fe Railroad hired Moran to paint various scenes of the Canyon, which the railroad reproduced on promotional materials — calendars, menus, posters and brochures — for Eastern tourists, hoping they'd buy a train ticket and head West to see the region's dramatic landscapes. After Moran's wife died in 1900, the artist spent the next 25 years traveling to Arizona, producing hundreds of different representations of the Canyon's magnificent vistas for the Santa Fe. At one point, Moran became so closely tied to the Canyon that the railroad used an image of the artist in their advertisements. Moran's renderings set the standard for other landscape artists, who, for more than a century, have fostered an appreciation of the natural wonder.

Although it was Moran's Yellowstone sketches, drawings and paintings from 1871 that helped convince Congress to protect portions of the American landscape as "a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of people," the Grand Canyon was his greatest source of inspiration. Years after he first saw it, he wrote, "Of all places on Earth, the great canyon of Arizona is the most inspiring in its pictorial possibilities."

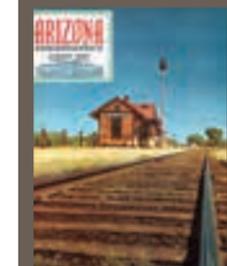
Nearly 5 million people visit the Grand Canyon each year, including hundreds of artists, some of whom can be seen in action beginning next month during the Grand Canyon Celebration of Art, a weeklong event that features some of today's top landscape artists. The event is sponsored by the Grand Canyon Association, and takes place from September 11 to November 28 on the South Rim.

This month in history

■ Work began in August 1928 on the restoration of the then-Governor's Mansion in Prescott. Historian Sharlot Hall enlisted the help of Flagstaff lumber moguls Michael and Timothy Riordan to work on the project.

■ President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Casa Grande Ruins a national monument on August 3, 1918.

■ Southern Arizona pioneer Pete Kitchen died on August 5, 1895. Kitchen came to the Arizona Territory in 1854 and established his ranch, El Potrero, which became a haven from Apache Indian attacks along the dangerous road between Tucson and Mexico.



50 years ago IN ARIZONA HIGHWAYS

Our August 1960 issue had a kind of UFO quality to it. Among other things, it featured a piece on Lowell Observatory's search for potential life on Mars and another story on the state's ghost towns, both of which captured Arizona's eerie individuality.

For more information on the Celebration of Art, call 800-858-2808 or visit www.grandcanyon.org.

The Sting Tarantula hawks have a scary name and a scarier reputation. Human beings needn't worry much, but if you're a spider, you'd better watch your back. And abdomen. By KELLY KRAMER

Tarantula Hawk is a psychedelic rock band from San Diego. Really. More familiar to the Average Joe, however, is the tarantula hawk, the variety of spider wasp that uses its arachnid namesake as a creepy nursery.

The wasp is found wherever tarantulas live, which means it's common in Arizona and across the Southwest. A "nectivorous" insect, the tarantula hawk is a connoisseur of fruit and, reportedly, it'll even get a little loopy after consuming a fermented feast.

Christopher Starr, in his article *A Pain Scale for Bee, Wasp and Ant Stings*, gave the taran-

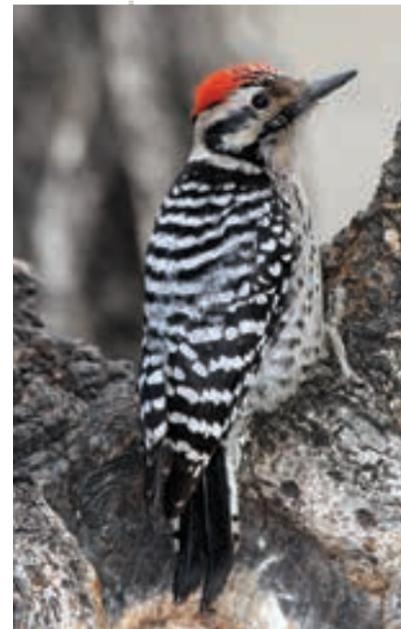
tula hawk a designation of four, on a scale of one to four, which means if a t-hawk stings you, at the very least, you'll cry, and at the very worst, you'll probably wish you'd been run over by a herd of wildebeests instead. Luckily, the pain typically subsides within 3 minutes, but it's easy to see why the tarantula hawk has only a few predators, including roadrunners.

Male wasps engage in a bizarre behavior known as hill-topping, wherein they perch themselves on the tallest vegetation in any given area in an effort to survey mate-ready females. It's a demonstration of bravado, for sure, but when it comes to genuine daring, the girls usually fall for it.

Female wasps, which can measure up to 2 inches in length, seek out tarantulas by smell. Once the wasp has honed in on a suitable victim, she'll sting the spider, thus paralyzing it. If the spider puts up a fight, the tarantula hawk will flip the spider onto its back with a takedown that's reminiscent of something you might see in a televised cage-fight. Occasionally, tired from the attack, the female wasp will drain the spider of much of its body fluid and drag it into its own burrow, where she'll lay a single egg on the stunned spider's abdomen.

Once the larva grows, it begins to feed on the spider, developing rapidly until the infant wasp busts open the spider's abdomen and proceeds to eat the rest of the spider's innards. Thus, a baby tarantula hawk is born. It's not glamorous, but some might consider it psychedelic.

nature factoid



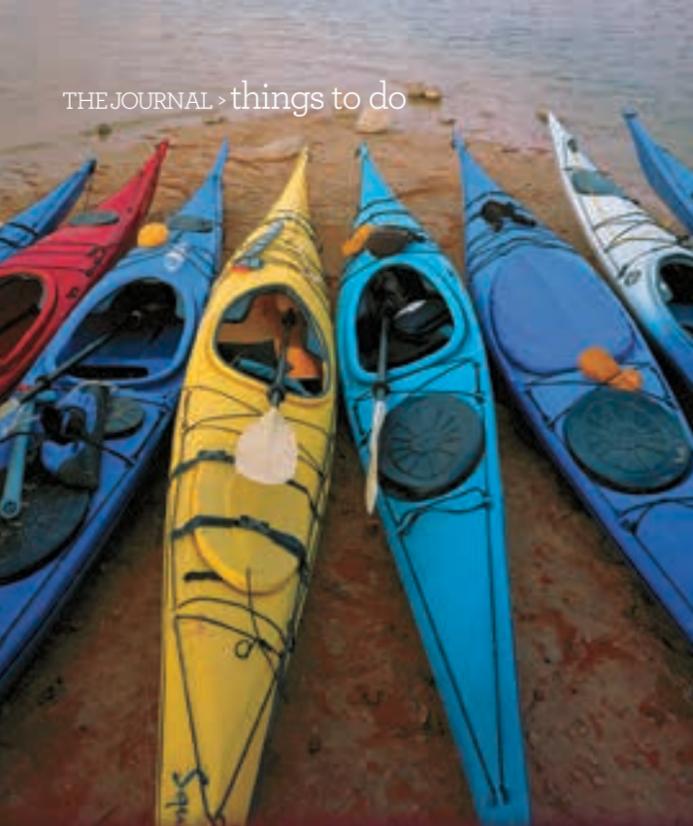
BRUCE D. TAUBERT

Red Head

Cactus wrens aren't the only birds that nest inside saguaros. The ladderback woodpecker is also a fan of the cactus, but won't scoff at cottonwood, pine or mesquite trees, either. Similar in appearance to a Nuttall's woodpecker, the ladderback boasts a black-and-white face and spotted flanks. Males are crowned with a patch of red feathers.

GEORGE ANDREJKO





GARY LADD

River Regatta

AUGUST 14
BULLHEAD CITY

The theme for this year's regatta is Rockin' on the River. Arrive by Friday evening for the Ye Gotta Regatta Party, which features live music, carnival games and food. On Saturday, enjoy a lazy 8-mile float or build a creative, nonmotorized float and parade down the Colorado River. The Flotilla Monster Bash in Rotary Park follows. *Information: 928-763-0158 or www.bullheadregatta.com.*



MICHELE MOUNTAIN

Navajo Festival of Arts and Culture

AUGUST 7-8 FLAGSTAFF

This show at the Museum of Northern Arizona features more than 70 Navajo artists, storytellers and cultural interpreters. You'll find basket makers, rug weavers, silversmiths, potters, painters and storytellers creating works on-site. Plus, you can learn about the Navajo "Beauty Way," hike with a Navajo ethnobotanist and watch the Pollen Trail Dancers. *Information: 928-774-5213 or www.musnaz.org.*



KEVIN ZARMER

Photo Workshop

GRAND CANYON

The spectacular fall color along the Grand Canyon's North Rim provides wonderful opportunities to photograph the golden aspens, scrub oaks and evergreens that cling to the Canyon's cliffs. During this workshop, which takes place September 29-October 3, Peter Ensenberger, *Arizona Highways'* former director of photography, will lead participants to the perfect places to capture the vibrant reds, bronzes and golds along the rim, and the golden sunsets that cast brooding shadows in the Canyon's recesses. *Information: 888-790-7042 or www.friendsofhighways.com.*

Prickly Pear Fruit Harvest

AUGUST 14, 22 TUCSON



Prickly pear fruit ripens for harvest in August. At Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, you can learn how the beautiful red fruit is turned into jelly and frozen sorbet, and how the pads become *nopalitos*, a Mexican food staple. *Information: 520-883-3086 or www.desertmuseum.org.*

Jazz Summit

AUGUST 27-29 PRESCOTT

Jazz aficionados should head to Prescott for "A Jazz Party of the First Order." The event's lineup features Fred Radke, leader of the Harry James Orchestra; Mike Vax, leader of the Stan Kenton Alumni Band; and Dennis Rowland, a vocalist from the Count Basie Band. Performances take place at Hassayampa Inn and St. Michael's Hotel. *Information: 928-771-1268 or www.bigbandjazz.net/calendar/prescottjazz2010.asp.*

In the Mood

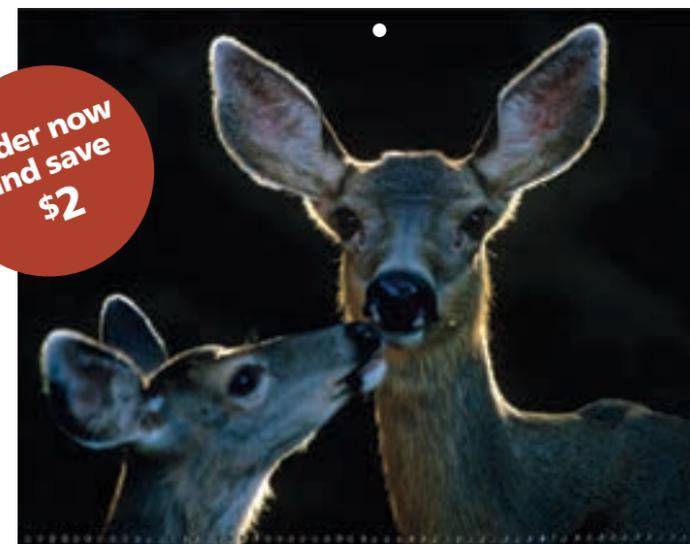
AUGUST 1-15 PHOENIX

Explore the glamour and sophistication of 1940s American fashion during this exhibition at Phoenix Art Museum. Drawn primarily from the museum's permanent collection, the exhibit explores the role that women and fashion played during World War II. *Information: 602-257-1222 or www.phxart.org.*



KEN HOWIE

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It's Wild!

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ARIZONA
HIGHWAYS

BEST

Unless you're über-omniscient or an arrogant know-it-all, there's no way of putting together a definitive list of the best of everything. Especially in a place like Arizona, where the range of people, places and things is as vast as the Grand Canyon. Nevertheless, in our ongoing effort to steer you toward the state's superlatives, we present our second-annual *Best of AZ* package. From the beefiest bratwurst to the best place to shack up with the stars, this is our take on the best places to eat, stay and play in Arizona. **By Kelly Kramer**

OF AZ

Best Place to Worship an Icon at Sunset

Saguaro National Park, Tucson
If you're going to make a photograph that represents Arizona, you might as well combine two of the things that most people associate with the state — saguaros and sunsets. When it comes to finding the former, your best bet is the national park with the cactus in its name. Saguaros are protected at Saguaro National Park, where you'll find plenty of the giants waiting to be photographed, as well as 10 species of threatened, endangered or sensitive plants. When it comes to finding spectacular sunsets, all you have to do is sit back, enjoy the scenery and wait. *Information: 520-733-5153 or www.nps.gov/sagu.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK DYKINGA





Broad-tailed hummingbird

BRUCED TAUBERT

Best Place to Increase Your Speed ↑

Ramsey Canyon, Sierra Vista

D.H. Lawrence imagined hummingbirds racing down avenues in an otherwise dumb, primeval world, “before anything had a soul, while life was a heave of matter, half inanimate.” In Ramsey Canyon, as many as 14 species of hummingbirds buzz about, racing above spring-fed streams and around giant sycamores. Because their wings flutter between 15 and 200 times per second, you’ll have to move quickly to capture them on film or in pixels, but with a fast shutter speed, you’ll have better luck photographing the tiny fliers. Opt for a slow shutter speed instead, and your avenues will be void of hummingbirds. *Information: 520-378-2785 or www.nature.org.*

Best Bet for an Odd Experience

Etherton Gallery, Tucson

The Odd Fellows believe in simple principles — friendship, love and truth, to name a few. They’re principles that are often celebrated through photography. Thus, it makes sense for Tucson’s landmark Odd Fellows Hall to house the Etherton Gallery. The building dates to 1914, and some of the photographs housed therein are vintage, too, including the works of Ansel Adams and Harry Callahan. Contemporary exhibitions feature the work of regional artists such as Luis Jimenez and James G. Davis, as well as *Arizona Highways* photographer Jack Dykinga. There’s nothing odd about that. *Information: 520-624-7370 or www.ethertongallery.com.*

Best Opportunity for High-Altitude Peer Review

Flagstaff Photography Club

What’s so great about Thursday? It’s Friday Eve and the day-before-the-day-before-the-weekend. It’s the day 30 *Rock* airs on NBC. It’s also the day the Flagstaff Photography Club meets — every third and fifth Thursday of the month, anyway. The club, which has been encouraging local photographers since 1991, sponsors themed critique sessions, quarterly “photo of the month” contests and guest speakers. If you’re into high-altitude shooting, TiVo Tina Fey and join the club. *Information: www.flagstaffphotographyclub.com.*



Best Way to Play the Slots

Arizona Highways Slot Canyons Photo Workshop

Hosted by former *Arizona Highways* Director of Photography Peter Ensenberger, this four-day workshop explores some of the state’s most stunning geologic formations — slot canyons. From Upper Antelope Canyon and the Paria Bluffs to Horseshoe Bend and Waterholes Canyon, photographers will have the opportunity to capture amazing colors and textures. And, thanks to Ensenberger’s expert instruction, everyone will walk away a winner. *Information: 602-712-2004 or www.friendsofhighways.com.*

DEREK VON BRIESEN

BEST OF PHOTOGRAPHY



DAVID MUENCH

Best Place to Shoot in the Shadow of a Legend ↑

Bear Wallow Wilderness Area, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

It isn’t easy being the son of a legend. Just ask Julian Lennon. No matter what you do, chances are, your efforts will fall short of pop’s. Josef Muench was a brilliant photographer, and he left a big pair of shoes for his son David to fill, which he did. If you’re a frequent reader of *Arizona Highways*, you know that both men have played a major role in the magazine’s legacy. Although their styles differ, their photographs are equally spectacular. There’s no guarantee you’ll be able to shoot like a Muench, but if you want to give it a shot, head to one of David’s favorite places to photograph: Bear Wallow Wilderness Area. *Information: 928-339-5000 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf.*

Best Place to See the Lighting on the Walls →

Phoenix City Grille, Phoenix

You’ll find cheeseburgers and horseradish mashed potatoes at Phoenix City Grille, along with pot roast and roasted root vegetables. But for photography lovers, the real meat and potatoes at this Central Phoenix hangout is on the walls. Framed photographs celebrate the history of the nation’s 48th state. Don your glasses to read the menu, then keep them on to scope out the Grille’s great collection. *Information: 602-266-3001 or www.phoenixcitygrille.com.*



JEFF KIDA

BEST OF
LODGING

Best Place to Juke Like the Duke

Saddlerock Ranch, Sedona

Many travelers have hung their hats at Saddlerock Ranch, including John Wayne, who frequented the ranch when he was filming in the Sedona area. Constructed from native materials in the 1920s, Saddlerock backs up to the Coconino National Forest and is within a short walking distance of one of Sedona's famed energy vortexes, the Airport Vortex. Recently restored by new managers, the ranch features red-rock walls, timber-beam ceilings, flagstone floors and natural rock fireplaces, as well as a plaque that proclaims it one of Sedona's historic landmarks. The ranch is beautiful, romantic, rich with history and wired. *Information: 928-203-6465.*



LAURENCE PARENT

Best Way to Have a Little Hart

Hart Prairie Preserve, near Flagstaff

A community of Bebb willow trees makes Hart Prairie Preserve special. Well, the willows and the porcupines and the prairie dogs and the deer and the elk. That's why The Nature Conservancy works so hard to protect it. It's possible to stay among the Bebb's by booking a night or two at one of the six cabins on preserve property. The largest is known as "The Homestead," and it dates to the 1870s, when European settlers built it as a stop along the Grand Canyon State Route. Today, the renovated cabin features two bedrooms and an indoor restroom with a shower. *Information: 928-774-8892 or www.nature.org*



Best Opportunity to Dream in Black-and-White

Wigwam Motel, Holbrook

Chester E. Lewis saw his first wigwam village when he passed through Cave City, Kentucky, in 1938. The motel, the brainchild of Frank Redford, featured 15 teepees and a playground. Lewis was so inspired he decided to create his own village right here in Arizona, and in 1950, he built Wigwam Village No. 6 along Route 66 in Holbrook, having purchased the design rights from Redford. Today, guests can stay in one of 15 concrete-and-steel teepees, which feature small bathrooms, restored hickory furniture, double beds and window-mounted air conditioners. They're retro, and so are the cars parked around the property. Check them out while you're checking in. *Information: 928-524-3048 or www.galerie-kokopelli.com/wigwam.*



FRANK ZULLO

Best Place to Shack Up With the Stars

Kitt Peak National Observatory, southwest of Tucson

We're talking about real stars here, not celestial bodies like Brad Pitt. At Kitt Peak National Observatory, on the Tohono O'odham Nation, small groups can register for overnight programs that include exoplanet exploration, astrophotography and an asteroid quest. The multiday programs include lodging in Kitt Peak dormitories, as well as meals and plenty of space rocks, planets and stars. Dreamy. *Information: 520-318-8726 or www.noao.edu.*

Best Reason to Sleep With a Light On

Hassayampa Inn, Prescott

Faith Summers likes to stay at the Hassayampa Inn. That's a problem, because Faith is not of the earthly realm. Legend has it that Faith hung herself after her brand-new husband went out for cigarettes one night during their honeymoon in 1927 and never returned. That happened in room 426, and ever since, people have reported feeling Faith's presence in the hotel. One Internet rumor says the ghost of the betrayed bride likes to give women foot massages. Apparently she prefers to give men nightmares. If you're into doppelganger dreams, book a night in room 426, but if you're afraid of things that go bump in the night, you might want to leave the light on. *Information: 928-778-9434 or www.hassayampainn.com.*

RICHARD MAACK



Lobby, Hassayampa Inn



TOM BEAN

Best Beer Without a Buzz

Mr. D'z Route 66 Diner, Kingman

If you visit Mr. D'z, there are three things that should make their way from the menu to your belly: The first is the bacon cheeseburger — all of the servers say it's the must-eat entrée. The second is the banana split — need we say more? The third is Mr. D'z's world-famous root beer. "How world famous is it?" you ask. Well, Oprah liked it so much she ordered gallons of it for her audience. *Oprah*. That's saying something, and there's definitely something special about the sweet drink at Mr. D'z. It's cold and creamy and kind of like drinking a bunch of caramel candies — only better. Sure, if you follow our rules, you'll have to secretly loosen your belt while your companions aren't looking, but who cares? Oprah would approve. *Information: 928-718-0066 or www.mrdzrt66diner.com.*

Best Buds

Desert Rain Café, Sells

All of the ingredients on the menu at Desert Rain Café are indigenous to the Tohono O'odham people. That means you'll find plenty of mesquite meal, prickly pear and agave. You'll also encounter the cholla bud. Known for its smoky, citrusy flavor, the bud makes an appearance in the café's pico de gallo, created by chefs at Tucson's Canyon Ranch. The cholla bud is also esteemed for its blood-sugar-lowering qualities, like so many of the foods native to the Sonoran Desert. Hearty and healthy? That's one heckuva bud. *Information: 520-383-4918 or www.desertraincafe.com.*

Best Bet for Cheap Eats

Molcas Mexican Grill, Tucson

Molcas may be a taco stand, but it's not just a taco stand. It's a place where you'll find homemade chicken flautas topped with smooth sour cream and salsa verde, steak quesadillas, fresh lemonade and Sonoran hot dogs — bun-busting creations topped with beans, chili or you name it. The prices are sweet, too. Perhaps best of all, you won't find anything on the menu that breaks the bank. In fact, you won't find anything that costs more than \$5. *Information: 520-295-4466.*



EDWARD MCCAIN



DAVID ZICKI

Lori & Jude Leonard, Miz Zip's

Best Bets for Experiencing the Upper Crust ↑

Miz Zip's, Flagstaff/Apple Annie's, Willcox

This is a category that can't have just one winner. That's because it has to do with pie, and around here, pie is sacred. So, we picked two "bests," one in Northern Arizona and another in Southern Arizona. Flagstaff's Miz Zip's is vintage — it opened in 1954 — but its pies are as fresh as the day they were baked: today. Order a slice of lemon meringue and it'll tickle your taste buds, especially if it's topped with a scoop of melting, coat-your-tongue creamy vanilla ice cream. Some 350 miles away, Apple Annie's in Willcox serves up some serious pie, too. That makes sense, considering that Annie's is an orchard, where apples, peaches and pears are queens. Sweet. *Information: Miz Zip's, 928-526-0104; Apple Annie's, 520-384-2084 or www.applannies.com.*

Best Way to Beat the Heat and Get Chile

Sal & Teresa's Mexican Restaurant, Show Low

Some like it hot. If you live in Show Low or vacation there, chances are you don't, which is why you've touched down in the cool White Mountains town. But that's only with regard to the weather. When it comes to red chile, Show Low residents and visitors like it smokin', so they visit Sal & Teresa's Mexican Restaurant. Consistently referred to as having the "best food on the mountain," this family owned hangout is known for its red chile, whether it's piled inside a burrito or atop chiles rellenos. And, you can get it for a steal — slap down \$7.95, and roll away with a red chile burro, taco, rice and beans in your belly. Doggie bags are free of charge. *Information: 928-537-0230.*

Best Place to Go Dutch

Byler's Amish Kitchen, Black Canyon City

Breakfast at Byler's Amish Kitchen is kind of like breakfast in your grandma's kitchen with your extended family. Everyone's friendly, windows are dressed in lace and the food's fresh, hot and just plain good. You'll find homemade toast that you can smother with Byler's special peanut butter spread (PB, marshmallow topping and maple syrup), spicy sausage scrambles, arteries-be-damned gravy and pie. It, too, is homemade, and man, it's awesome. It even prompted one visitor to exclaim, "If being Amish means eating like this, I'm throwing away my car keys." It's a point well taken, but keep the keys — you'll need them for the drive to Byler's. *Information: 623-374-9330.*



Jason Corman

JEFF KIDA



Best of the Wurst

The Pork Shop, Queen Creek

Say you need to feed an army of people from Wisconsin — people who really, really, really love bratwurst. You could: A) hit the local grocery store for a few packs of Johnsonvilles, or B) hit The Pork Shop in Queen Creek, where you could get a pound of fresh, savory brats for just \$3.99. If you needed 10 pounds to feed a small army, you'd only spend \$39.90. That's not too shabby, and neither are the rest of the shop's offerings — everything from hickory-smoked bacon and Arizona summer sausage to Iowa-cut chops and Russian salami. And if the brats just aren't enough to keep your guests happy, you could try the "Half Hog," \$200 worth of ribs, sausage, ham, chorizo and pork steaks that give a whole new meaning to the phrase "pigging out." *Information: 480-987-0101 or www.theporkshopaz.com.*



JEFF KIDA

Best Dam Diving ↑

Hoover Dam

Although scuba diving is prohibited directly below Hoover Dam, the waters of Lake Mead on the Colorado River midway from the dam to the area between Willow Beach, on the Arizona side, and Eldorado Canyon, on the Nevada side, are known for their incredible clarity. There, the current reaches speeds between 3 and 12 mph — nothing too rough, but enough to get you moving. In Boulder Basin, it's possible to explore "the boulder islands," large cement tanks used during the construction of the dam. Three miles south of the dam, you'll find Ringbolt Rapids. There, the water's ... well, rapid. This area is for experienced divers only, and a hand-held buddy line and surface support boat are mandatory. *Information: 702-293-8990 or www.nps.gov/lake.*

Best Terrain-ing Wheels

Arizona ATV Adventures, Phoenix, Tucson & Sedona

It's no secret that ATVs can go where passenger cars cannot — into, across and through some pretty rugged topography. Thanks to Arizona ATV Adventures, you, too, can explore some of the state's tough terrain. Guided expeditions traverse Phoenix, Sedona and Tucson, and include a certified instructor, helmets, gloves, goggles, water and snacks. Among the highlights are Box Canyon, Skeleton Bone Mountain and West Sedona Valley. *Information: 800-242-6335 or www.arizonaoutdooradventures.com.*



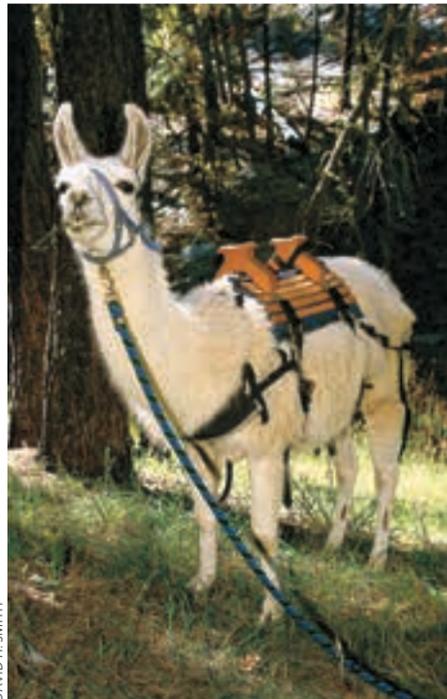
DON B. STEVENSON

Best Reason to Relive the '80s

Mail Trail 84, Coconino National Forest

When the tiny frontier town of Union Park opened its first post office in 1884, it also got a new name — Payson. With the new post office came a need to extend the existing mail route from Camp Verde, some 50 miles east. Thus, the mail trail was born. Contractor and mail rider Ash Nebeker created the trail, which was used to run mail — as well as medicine, dry goods and whiskey — until Arizona was granted statehood in 1912. Today, it's possible to retrace the tracks of Nebeker and other mail trail riders on foot or on horseback. Be forewarned, though, Mail Trail 84 is strenuous, and there are no reliable water sources along the way. *Information: 928-527-3600 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/recreation.*

BEST OF ADVENTURE



DAVID H. SMITH

Best Reason to Pack It Up ↑

Llama hiking, Strawberry

Llamas are fuzzy and friendly — kind of like a hug with legs. They're also excellent pack animals, which is why Fossil Creek Llama Ranch offers guided hikes with the South American camelids. During the half-day treks, you'll travel along the Mogollon Rim, exploring Fossil Creek, a stunning natural travertine spring, as well as Indian ruins and the perimeter of Tonto National Forest. The llamas do all of the heavy lifting, so you can just kick back in your boots and enjoy the scenery. Back at the ranch, check out the petting zoo and Fossil Creek Creamery, home to artisan goat's milk cheeses and fudge. *Information: 928-476-5178 or www.ranchatfossilcreek.com.*

RICHARD MAACK

Best Excuse for Having Helmet Hair

Twisted Trailz Motorcycle Tours, Phoenix

Sure, it's easy to explore Arizona in a car or from the air, but consider exploring the state on two wheels. Twisted Trailz offers multiday motorcycle excursions that make it possible to cruise the Old West (Tombstone, Bisbee and Tucson), the Grand Canyon or the red-rock areas of Sedona. Other tours cover the Painted Desert and Monument Valley, and a weeklong adventure includes stops in Prescott, Jerome, Williams, the Grand Canyon, Flagstaff, Payson, Show Low and more. History and the wind at your back ... two great reasons to hit the road. *Information: 602-795-8888 or www.twistedtrailz.com.*

Best Place to Go Camping Without a Tent

Bouldering at Oak Flat Campground, Superior

At Oak Flat Campground, just 4 miles east of Superior, you'll be caught between a rock and a hard place. That is, you'll be surrounded by the rocky, rolling hills of Devil's Canyon — the perfect setting for scrambling, climbing and bouldering. In the springtime, it's also a great place to see wildflowers. The campground itself is speckled with huge, shady oak trees and is home to a variety of wildlife. Should you decide to stay the night after a day of rockin' and rollin', be sure to pack out what you pack in — there's no trash service at the site. *Information: 928-402-6200 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/recreation.*

Best Spot to Wade Around

Lee's Ferry

Lee's Ferry is the only spot in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area where water revelers can drive straight up to the Colorado River. That's a good thing, especially if you're lugging fishing equipment. With abundant bass, crappie, walleye, channel catfish and trout populations, Lee's Ferry is a fisherman's haven, and because live bait and barbed artificial lures are prohibited, fly fishermen will feel right at home casting in the cool waters of the Colorado. *Information: 928-608-6200 or www.nps.gov/glca.*

Best Way to Witness Strokes of Genius

Celebration of Art, Grand Canyon National Park

Now in its second year, the Grand Canyon Celebration of Art pairs one of the world's most beautiful places with some of the world's finest painters. The artists gather at the Canyon's South Rim for a paint-off, of sorts, working *en plein air*. Think Bruce Aiken, Curt Walters and Merrill Mahaffey in a battle of the brushes. This year's event takes place September 11-18, and proceeds benefit the Grand Canyon Association. *Information: 928-863-3877 or www.grandcanyon.org/celebration.asp.*



Michael Obermeyer paints *en plein air* at the Grand Canyon.

WILLIAM S. BROOKINS

Best Bet for Loafing Around

Piki bread at the Heard Museum, Phoenix

During the Heard Museum's Indian Fair & Market each spring, visitors can taste traditional Hopi piki bread. Made from blue cornmeal mixed with water and the ashes of native bushes or juniper, the bread — a nearly translucent sheet that's often rolled loosely into a scroll-like loaf — is baked on a flat stone coated in watermelon seed, sunflower or squash seed oil. Traditionally, the bread is prepared by women during various phases of a romantic relationship, then eaten by the happy couple on their wedding day. Visitors, however, can enjoy it without any commitment. *Information: 602-252-8848 or www.heard.org/events.* →



JERRY JACKA



TOM BEAN

Best Thing About Congress ↑

Fox Theatre, Tucson

On April 11, 1930, the Fox Theatre opened on West Congress Street in Tucson. Consider it the party of the decade. The street was shut down and waxed for dancing, live bands played, trolleys carted revelers all over downtown, and roughly 3,000 people enjoyed a MovieTone short titled *Chasing Rainbows*, as well as a Mickey Mouse cartoon. It was the start of a 40-year run as Tucson's major entertainment center. After several renovations and remodels, the theater faced a period of decline and abandonment, but thanks to the efforts of former patrons and culture buffs, the grand venue — which holds a spot on the National Register of Historic Places — has been restored and now hosts acts from around the globe. *Information: 520-547-3040 or www.foxtucsontheatre.org.*

Best Place to Climb the Ladder in Yavapai County

Groom Creek Loop Trail, Prescott

The Spruce Mountain Lookout Tower is your reward for having climbed 1,300 feet along the Groom Creek Loop Trail. The tower, which dates to 1936, is open from May to October, whenever a ranger's around to man it. When open, it's almost mandatory that you climb its ladder. You might run into Space, the tower's watchdog, and, according to *Arizona Highways* contributor Maryal Miller, "by climbing the ladder, you'll fully experience the crisp air, the vacant whisper of the wind sifting through the open windows, and the ethereal views of hilly Prescott Valley, Mingus and Granite mountains, and the San Francisco Peaks to the north." Plus, it's a great place to take a breather before you make your 1,300-foot descent. *Information: 928-443-8000 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott.*

Best Bet for a Good Buy

Hubbell Trading Post rug auction, Ganado

When you visit the Southwest, certain things have a kitschy-souvenir appeal — scorpions under glass, "snakes" in a can, miniature cactuses. But if you're a serious collector or art aficionado, you might consider visiting Hubbell Trading Post during its semiannual auction. There, Navajo rugs, Hopi kachina dolls, pottery, baskets, concho belts, jewelry, cradleboards and fetishes go to the highest bidder. The best part? Proceeds benefit the post and help provide scholarships to Navajo and Hopi college students. *Information: www.friendsofhubbell.org.*

Best Place to Stare at a Rock

Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff

In Northern Arizona, Winona is a rock — a space rock that plummeted from the sky and likely scared the day-lights out of Sinaguan residents of the prehistoric Elden Pueblo. When it landed, the locals ceremoniously buried it beneath a stone cist. Most likely, they believed the rock had special significance, although it's impossible to identify exactly what. Today, the Winona meteorite is on display at the Museum of Northern Arizona, and museum director Dr. Robert Breunig says it was quite a find when archaeologists uncovered it in 1928. "A meteorite that was buried in such a special way isn't something you discover every day," he says. *Information: 928-774-5213 or www.musnaz.org.*



EDWARD MCCAIN



Fairy slipper

BEST OF
NATURE

Best Example of “Anything a Greenhouse Can Do, Mother Nature Can Do Better”

Arizona’s native orchids

Arizona is its own hothouse — literally and figuratively. At least 10 varieties of orchids grow in the Arizona wilderness. You’ll find fairy slipper orchids in the shade of the White Mountains, bog orchids in the high elevations of the Lukachukai and Pinaleno mountains, coral root orchids in the pine and spruce forests of the Santa Catalinas, and adder’s mouth orchids in the Chiricahuas. Now that’s some real flower power. *Information:* www.orchidsocietyaz.org.

RONALD A. COLEMAN

Best Poolside View in the Great Outdoors

Romero Pools, Oro Valley

You won’t find cabana boys or fruity drinks at Romero Pools, but you will find cool, natural pools amid beautiful Sonoran Desert scenery. Tucked away within Catalina State Park, the pools can be accessed via the Romero Canyon Trail, a 7.2-mile trek through riparian canyons, creosote, ocotillos and saguaros. Who needs cabana boys when the scenery is this stunning? By the way, before you pack up and go, pick up the phone. Like many state parks in Arizona, this one could fall victim to legislative budget cuts. *Information:* 520-628-5798 or www.azstateparks.com/parks/cata.

Best Opportunity to Be Blown Away

Wupatki National Monument, near Flagstaff

There’s a lot to see at Wupatki National Monument, including the amazing Moenkopi sandstone homes of the ancient Sinaguan and Puebloan people. But there are also some pretty interesting natural wonders at the monument, including an unlikely and unusual blowhole. Located near the amphitheater, the hole is an opening in the Kaibab limestone that “breathes,” thanks to air moving through interconnected underground cavities. It’s weird. And cool. *Information:* 928-679-2365 or www.nps.gov/wupa.

Best Place to Go Where Seldom Is Heard a Discouraging Word

DeMotte Campground, North Rim, Grand Canyon

At DeMotte Campground, near the Grand Canyon’s North Rim, the deer play and the skies are not cloudy all day. There are also miles of hiking trails, beautiful meadows and, of course, the North Rim itself, which yawns just 7 miles south of the site. This is a place to revel in nature, sleep under the stars and get elevated — the campground rests around 8,500 feet above sea level. It’s hard to hear a discouraging word up that high. *Information:* www.fs.fed.us/r3/kai.

Best Opportunity to Rub Elbows With Elephant Feet

Navajo Nation

Just east of the town of Red Lake on the Navajo Nation, you might cast a glance out your window to the north side of U.S. Route 160 and do a double take, shocked to find two bodiless pachyderm *pieds*. But don’t be alarmed and think you’re in *The Twilight Zone*. They’re really just sandstone pillars, shaped and sanded over time by the elements to form elephant feet. There’s no formal visitors center at the site, but you will find Navajo merchants selling handmade jewelry and other crafts. *Information:* www.explorenavajo.com.

Best Place to Catch a Glimpse of a Critter You Won’t Find in Florida

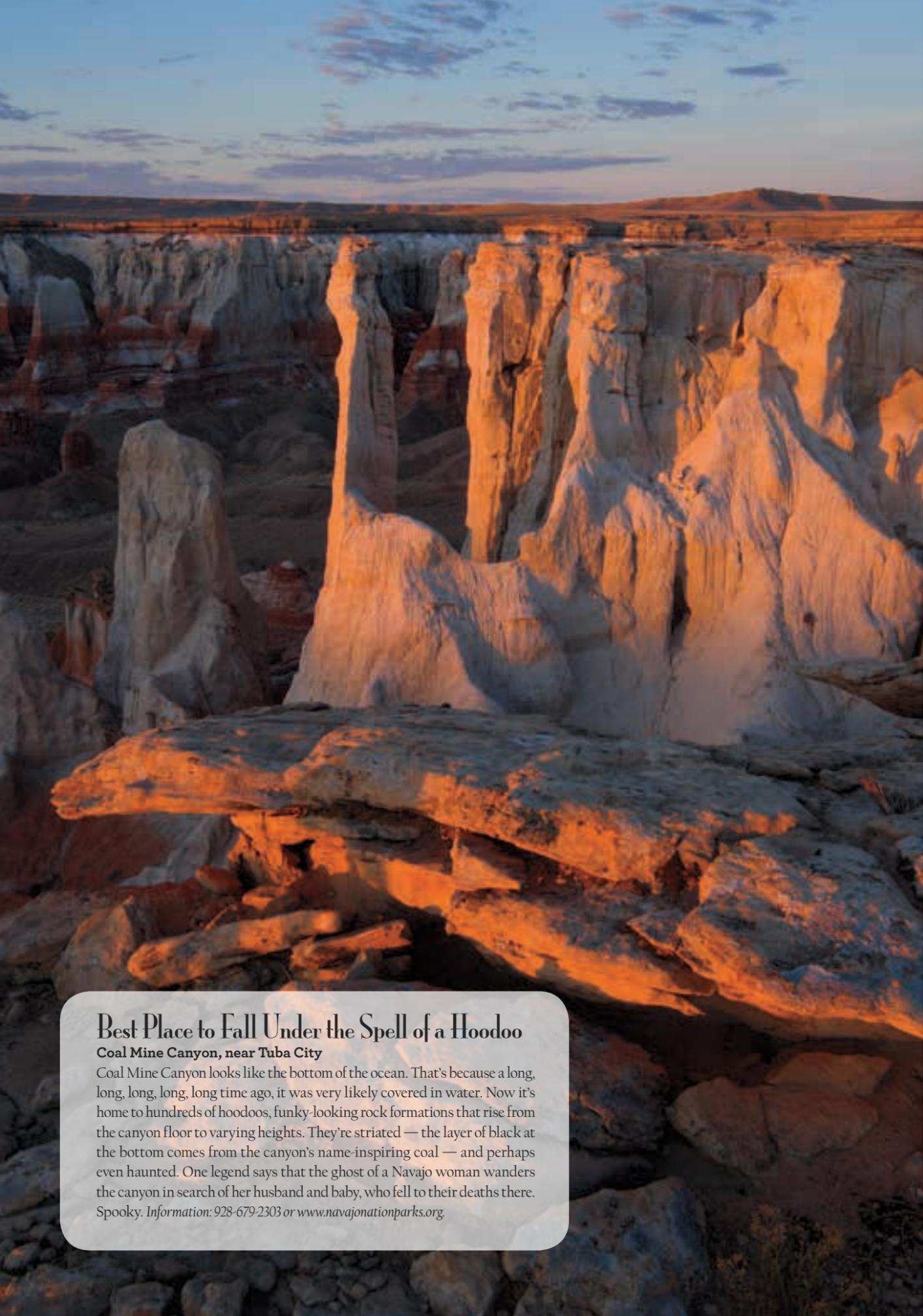
Bass Canyon, Muleshoe Ranch, near Willcox

Seven permanently flowing streams create an impressive watershed at Muleshoe Ranch, and thanks to The Nature Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management and the Coronado National Forest, the area and its abundant wildlife are well-protected. That includes coatimundi, funny little raccoon-like critters that populate the canyons of desert mountain forests, including Bass Canyon. You’ll hear the social creatures chattering in trees and foraging for manzanita berries, and don’t be surprised if you find them watching you — they’re a little nosy. *Information:* 520-212-4295 or www.nature.org.



Coatomundi

BRUCED TAUBERT



Best Place to Fall Under the Spell of a Hoodoo

Coal Mine Canyon, near Tuba City

Coal Mine Canyon looks like the bottom of the ocean. That’s because a long, long, long, long time ago, it was very likely covered in water. Now it’s home to hundreds of hoodoos, funky-looking rock formations that rise from the canyon floor to varying heights. They’re striated — the layer of black at the bottom comes from the canyon’s name-inspiring coal — and perhaps even haunted. One legend says that the ghost of a Navajo woman wanders the canyon in search of her husband and baby, who fell to their deaths there. Spooky. *Information:* 928-679-2303 or www.navajonationalparks.org.

GEORGE STOCKING

Best Place to Flip a Disc

McPherson Park, Flagstaff

If you're not into putting tiny white balls into tiny terrestrial holes, try disc golf and launch Frisbees into airborne baskets instead. It's hip, it has its own professional organization — the PDGA or Professional Disc Golf Association — and it's pretty popular in Flagstaff. Work on your game at the city's McPherson Park, where moderate terrain and amazing views of the San Francisco Peaks make for a seriously sweet setting. *Information: 928-774-5281 or www.flagstaff.az.gov.*

Best Way to Have a G'day, Mate →

Australian Desert, Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park, Superior

There's a lot to see at Boyce Thompson Arboretum, from herbs and legumes to cactuses and a children's garden. But if you want to get a feel for being Down Under without the



JEFF KIDA

ultralong flight, visit the Australian Desert area. There, you'll be surrounded by the plants that call Australia home, including trees like "Mr. Big," a massive red gum eucalyptus. The big man on campus was planted in 1926 and is now more than 140 feet tall. He also holds a place on the registry of big trees as the largest individual tree of this species in the United States. (See related story, page 30.) *Information: 520-689-2811 or www.azstateparks.com/parks/both.*



Best Place to See a Dog and No-Pony Show

Prairie Dog Compound, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson

Prairie dogs are Mother Nature's jesters. They dance and dart and roll around like furry little jumping beans, and visitors to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum can get front-row seats for the antics. There, black-tailed prairie dogs roam around the Desert Grassland exhibit, free to explore and burrow to their little hearts' content, while gleeful guests can belly up to the exhibit's clear glass walls to watch. *Information: 520-883-2702 or www.desertmuseum.org.*

JEFF KIDA

Best Place to Think Pink

Pink Jeep Tours, Sedona

If you haven't seen them, chances are you've heard of them — the famous pink jeeps that cart Sedona visitors over and around the area's even more famous red rocks. This year, Pink Jeep Tours celebrates its 50th anniversary. It's an impressive milestone, and to celebrate, the company is offering three tours of the Sedona area — "Broken Arrow," "Ancient Ruins" and "Diamondback Gulch." One even descends the "road of no return." Buckle your seatbelt and hit the road. When it comes to adventure, pink's the word. *Information: 800-873-3662 or www.pinkjeep.com.*



JEAN M. DAVIES



Best Way to See Lemmon Trees

Mount Lemmon Skyride, near Tucson

It snows in Tucson. Really, it does. That's why Mount Lemmon Ski Valley exists, and its runs are open from mid-December to early April. When the snow melts, the chairlift sheds its wintry veil and operates as a scenic skyride, carting visitors to a forested summit of 9,157 feet. Way up there, the air is clear, and views of the Santa Catalinas, the San Pedro Valley, the Reef of Rocks and the city of Tucson loom large. It's heavenly. *Information: 520-576-1400 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/forest/recreation.*

Best Reason to Head Out and Drive In

Apache Drive-In Theatre, Globe

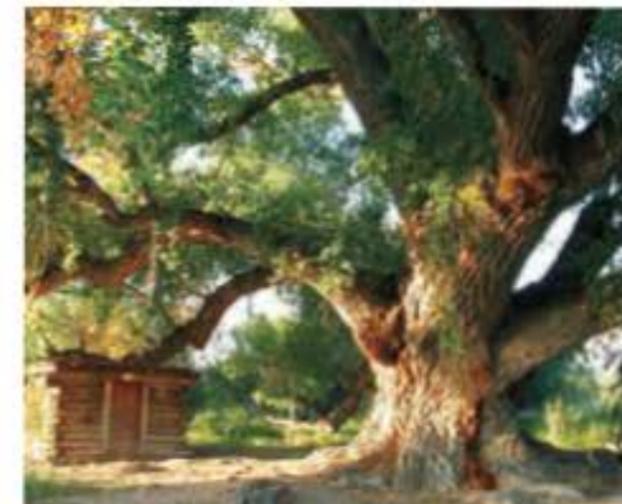
The only operational single-screen drive-in theater in Arizona, the Apache is a throwback to the movie-going days of yore. It has a 160-car capacity, and film sound comes via AM radio. The best part? The Apache only charges \$15 per vehicle. So, pile your buddies into your VW bug, head to Globe and enjoy the show. *Information: 928-425-4511 or http://apache.holliscinemas.com.* ■



Branching Out

A portfolio
edited by
Paul Bunyan

Admittedly, the most impressive tree in North America — maybe the world — is the General Sherman. Nothing compares to the giant sequoia in California's Sierra Nevada. It's amazing, but so are some of the cottonwoods, sycamores, ponderosas and junipers in Arizona. In this month's portfolio, we showcase a sizable collection of the state's mightiest trees.



PRECEDING PANEL:
One of Arizona's champion trees, a Fremont cottonwood near Patagonia, has a circumference of 504 inches and stands 92 feet tall. It's thought to be the world's largest Fremont cottonwood tree.
PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE BLY

LEFT:
Crimson cardinal flowers and maidenhair ferns grow among the massive roots of a cottonwood tree in Fossil Springs Wilderness.
PHOTOGRAPH BY NICK BEREZENKO

ABOVE:
The Fremont cottonwood tree that stands outside San Pedro House near Sierra Vista is more than 100 years old.
PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE BLY



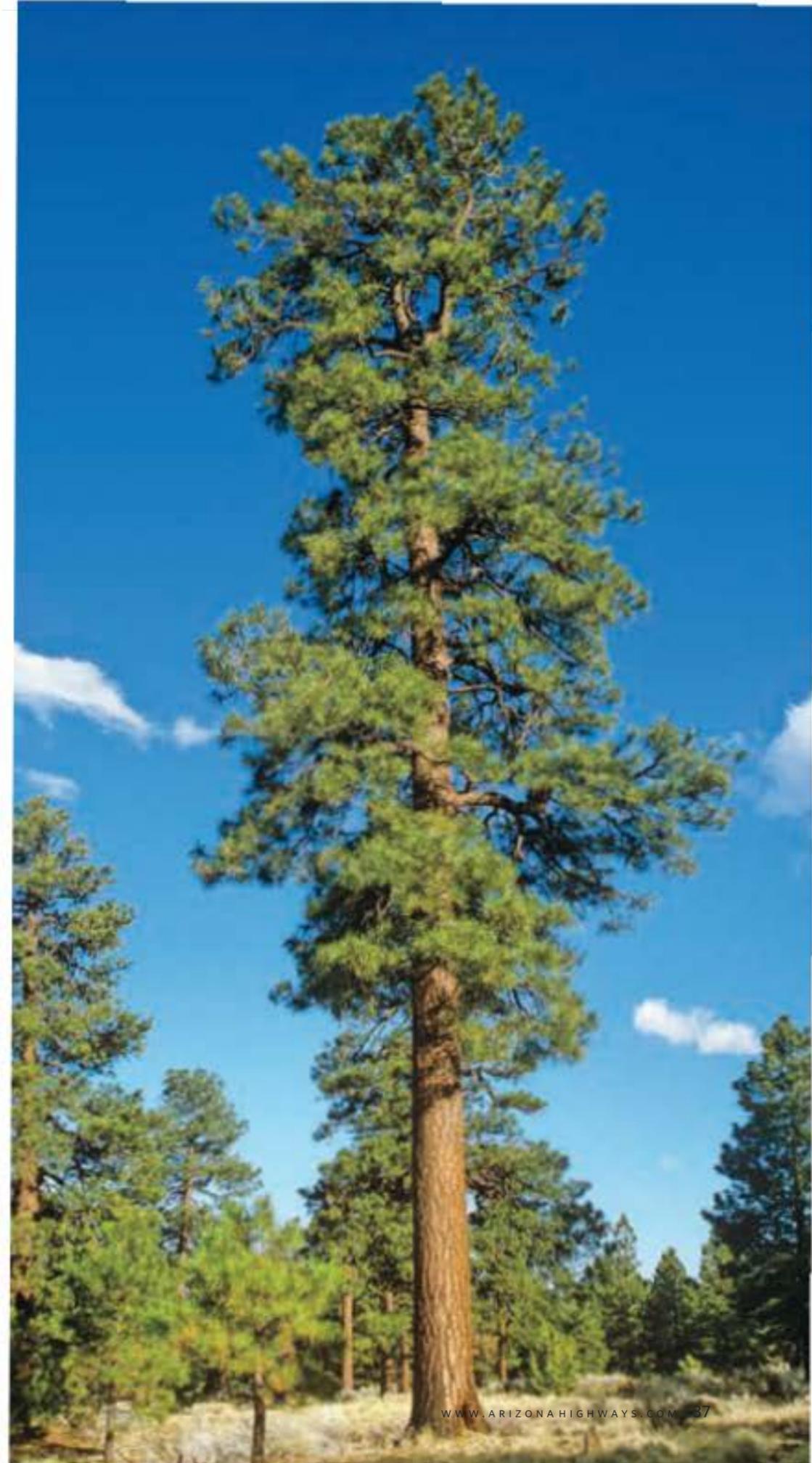
Located in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, this enormous alligator juniper tree's deep bark fissures illustrate how the species was named.
PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK DYKINGA





BELOW:
Although the trunks of these aspens don't look immense, consider the fact that all of these trees sprouted from a single gigantic root system that is hidden underground.
PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BEAN

RIGHT:
Ponderosa pine trees reach an average height of 100 to 160 feet and can live 400 to 500 years. Arizona's Mogollon Rim is home to the largest contiguous stand of ponderosa pines in the world.
PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BEAN



To order a print of this photograph, call 866-962-1191 or visit www.arizonahighwaysprints.com.





PRECEDING PANEL:
Known as "Mr. Big," this eucalyptus tree thrives at Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park near Superior. From mid-March through late September, turkey vultures roost in the park's eucalyptus grove.
PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF KIDA

LEFT:
Based on tree-ring samples, this giant sycamore tree, which resides at The Nature Conservancy in Ramsey Canyon, dates to 1760.
PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE BLY

ABOVE:
A Utah juniper spreads out at Trailview Overlook on the Grand Canyon's South Rim.
PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BEAN



Old Schools

By Jackie Dishner

Thomas Wolfe said you can't go home again, but school's a different subject, particularly as it relates to elementary, junior high and high schools from the early 20th century. Across the United States, these classic old buildings are being repurposed into art spaces and other public venues. It's even happening here in Arizona.

Photos by Richard Maack



THE OLD JEROME HIGH SCHOOL

On the first Saturday of the month, when you exit the Art Walk trolley in front of what is known as the old Jerome High School on State Route 89A, you'll first see the Anderson-Mandette Gallery — 20,000 square feet of gallery, studio and office space. No longer packed with hurried high school students trying to get to class on time, the wide hallways are now filled with paintings, sculptures, self-portraits and prints. Robin Anderson and his wife, Margo Mandette, arrived in the early '80s, long after the school had closed, to work there.

They lease all that space from the old mining company, now known as United Verde Exploration, which had once owned the whole town. Formerly the Old Mingus Art Center, this building was completed in 1923 as part of what was then the Jerome High School. Prior to that, the building served as the town hospital, which may explain why Mandette believes she's seen the ghost of a young boy in the stairwells. "Perhaps he died here," she says.

When they first arrived, she says the building looked like it was being used as the city dump. The whole complex — all four buildings — had sat empty for more than 10 years. Only a jeweler and a sculptor worked there. Garbage littered the floors. But after touring the building, the couple decided it was solid enough to fix. They cleaned, disinfected and painted the interior. They also hung new

doors before moving in. This didn't please the artists who were already there. Unhappy that the new guys had stolen the ambience, they moved out. That left Anderson and Mandette with the entire building all to themselves. It's been that way ever since.

But they're not the only artists on campus. Tour the entire complex of working artist studios — no living quarters there — to see interesting work of all kinds: original beaded jewelry, landscape photography, oil paintings and mixed-media in Building A; installation art and a framer in the former shop building; clothing, textiles and an artist who paints the Grand Canyon in Building B. You'll also meet a fine-art framer, an eco-minded furniture designer and a recording artist who plays exotic instruments. More than 14 artists work there, but not all of them show their work. The on-site cobbler keeps to herself.

Because the building is down the hill from Jerome proper, you'll either take the trolley, which runs only during Art Walk events, or drive your car to get there. So it's not uncommon for tourists to bypass the school altogether, creating both a benefit and a bane for the artists.

Kim Hoshal, a landscape photographer, and her recording artist husband, William, set up shop there less than 2 years ago. They found out about the open space from Mark Hemleben, who's been painting there for 14 years.

They like it because they pay less than 50 cents per square foot.

"You're just attracted to the history of the building. This place was a flophouse before it became an artists' space," says Hoshal, who helps maintain the plants in the community atrium at the top of the stairs.

Vicki Day, a textile artist who shares space with her brother Derryl Day, the Grand Canyon painter, and a milliner named Sandy Brown, prefers being farther from the crowds.

"It's very quiet here, and the views of the hills and Sedona out my window inspire me. We also draw on the inspiration of each other," she says.

Joel Boswell, a former general contractor turned oil painter who just moved into Building A last July, sums it up with this: "There aren't many venues for creating in a space with other artists."

For more information: www.jeromechamber.com/pages/events.

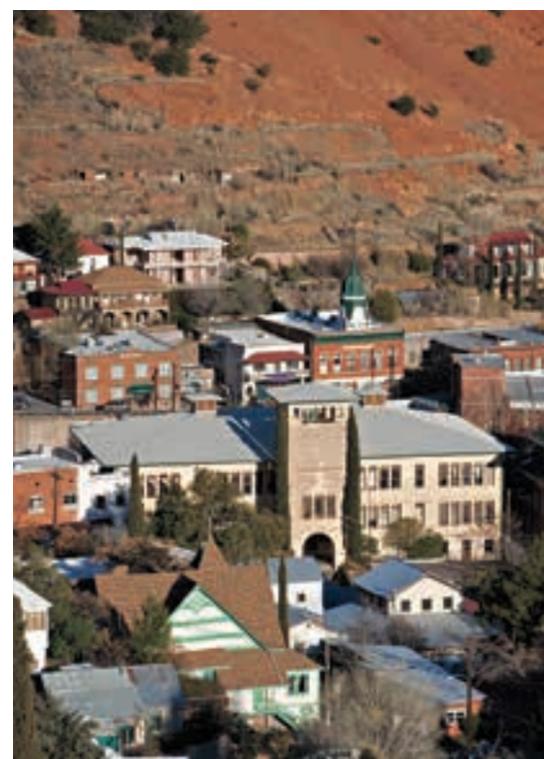
BISBEE'S CENTRAL SCHOOL PROJECT

Drive along State Route 80 through Mule Pass Tunnel, and you'll soon see Bisbee's historic district on your left. Postpone the usual stops: Main Street, the Copper Queen Hotel, Brewery Gulch. Instead, look for the large, yellowing hidden gem around the corner — the historic Central School (circa 1905) on Howell Avenue. In 1985, 10 years after it had been abandoned, the transformation began at what is now a co-op called the Central School Project, a nonprofit arts and cultural organization.

Its mission: to preserve and adapt the historic school as a cultural center, to foster appreciation for the arts, and to provide affordable creative space for working artists. Twenty-five years later, the public is regularly invited to staged productions, poetry readings and other arts events. A public radio station broadcasts from the main floor. And space is available for less than 20 cents a square foot.

Twenty artists, led by executive director Melissa Holden, co-own and work on-site. Since the average space is 750 square feet, rent is only \$150. This bargain comes with a requirement that the artists help organize regular events.

If you go, you'll see this ragamuffin of a building needs work. The foundation is



cracked. The windows need replacing. The exterior is fading. A fundraising campaign has 4 years to raise the \$500,000 needed to do the work. Regardless, the artists don't seem to mind that there are only two bathrooms in the whole building. Nor do they mind the whirring sounds of the old boiler in the background.

"It's the original, and it keeps the place warm," says Holden, who gladly shows off the 80-seat auditorium. Stacks of cushions — in all colors and fabrics — at the entrance warn you to grab one for whatever two-hour journey awaits you on the wooden chairs.

If you peek into Sam Woolcott's space, you'll see she's kept intact the chalkboards from the building's earlier days. She also teaches art in her studio once a week. Woolcott, who is self-taught, co-owns a gallery in town called Sam-Poe on Main Street. That's where you'll find samples of her step paintings. She's painted all nine sets of the famous Bisbee steps. She also paints on recycled materials, such as wood

PRECEDING PANEL AND OPPOSITE PAGE: Once teeming with teenagers, the old Jerome High School is home to Anderson-Mandette Gallery, and serves as studio space for 14 artists.

ABOVE AND LEFT: Bisbee's former historic school is now a nonprofit arts and cultural organization, known as the Central School Project.

pieces and sandpaper. Step inside the studio and she'll let you give it a try.

Last year, the school began a visiting artist program, inviting artists from all over the country to use the public studio for 3 weeks at a time. Artists who accept work in the studio also offer an art talk and end their visit with an exhibition.

"We do all the marketing," Holden says, "because we want people to know we're here." For more information: www.centralschoolproject.org.

THE CURLEY SCHOOL IN AJO

The most exciting of these converted schools might be the least expected of them all — the Curley School Project in Ajo. The Spanish Revival campus, built in 1919 to

serve the copper miners' children, closed 7 years after the open-pit mine shut down in 1985. A rebirth occurred in 2007, when the copper-framed entrance opened to a small group of artists looking for an inexpensive place to live and work.

They'd seen the ads on Craigslist: "Live-work studios for as little as \$375 a month."

Mari Kaestle, who now teaches the free yoga class in the school's indoor-outdoor auditorium, was one of the artists who applied. Dressed in bluejean shorts and a tank top, red rubber flip-flops on her feet, and a red bandana tied around her head, she carries shears in her hands as she crops off a green branch on the paloverde tree in the courtyard. At the Curley School, artists can volunteer time in the garden for a decrease in rent.

The former puppeteer worked in New York and Los Angeles before arriving in Ajo via Tucson. The 64-year-old says she prefers the quiet life, creating tarot dolls in her newly remodeled three-bedroom apartment.

As a little girl, Kaestle says, her dreams were filled with the letter A.

"It was a long time getting here, but I made it," she says, pointing behind her at Ajo Mountain, a big white A painted on its side.

"Ajo is the perfect place to manifest things," she says. "If you need something, it shows up."

Previously known mostly for two things — Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and as a gas stop for RVers and weekenders crossing the border en route to some beach bumming in Rocky Point, Mexico — Ajo is now an emerging artists' colony.

You have to look hard to find the school. Heading south on State Route 85, look to your right as you round the curve at the town plaza. The school's arches front a coffeehouse and library at the old train depot facing the open pit mine. The big beige building in front of A Mountain sits two blocks from the highway, behind a white Catholic church on one side, a Protestant church on the other. Surrounded by rundown houses and tiny bungalows, the school's stucco siding, red-tile roof and domed bell tower suggest it was the town's center of activity at one time.

But Ajo is not new to artists. They've been coming to the "edge of the universe" since after the mine closed because this part of



the Sonoran Desert offers exactly what they need — color, light and a peaceful environment. "I came to visit a friend, stayed for a few days, and the next thing you know, I bought a house," is a frequently told story.

In fact, it was one of those artist transplants, Tracy Taft, who, in 2001, helped form the nonprofit International Sonoran Desert Alliance that would raise the nearly \$10 million it would take to save the then-decaying Curley School. With grants from more than a dozen entities, volunteer efforts from the community, and the creation of sustainable profit-making projects, the ISDA purchased 12 buildings on more than 7 acres, and the town plaza.

Taft and staff have turned the space into 30 low-income apartments for working artists. Only three of them are vacant. Gallery space is open to the public, and the auditorium rents for \$75 a day.

"We're in the black," Taft says, owing

the success to affordable artist housing and community support. This works both ways, she explains. The microenterprise center they've developed caters to campus artists in need of prints, posters or microloans, and the public is welcome to use the facility housed in the school's former cafeteria. A free GED program includes lessons on how to create and sell mosaic-tile art. It's taught to the general public, too. Even the school's organic vegetable garden was created for public use. And the hidden gem — an elevator — is the only one in town.

"Kids come in to ride it all the time," Taft says.

Future plans for this award-winning project call for a retreat center to open in the next year or two, more pomegranate trees than they could possibly harvest for the preserves they want to sell, and high expectations to divert that Mexico-bound traffic.

For more information: www.curleyschool.com.



A PRIMER ON OTHER SCHOOL PROJECTS

● Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum

1000 Plaza Avenue, Miami

This Classical Revival building once served only the Hispanic and Native American populations in the copper mining town of Miami. The former school now serves the entire public as a museum, showcasing the mining region's cultural diversity and influence, and also houses a local couple's ceramic art. *Information: www.globemiamichamber.com.*

● Clemenceau Public School

1 N. Willard Street, Cottonwood

This was the former school for the miners' children who lived in the company town called Clemenceau, where James Douglas built his smelter. The town shut down with the mine and became part of Cottonwood. Illustrating Verde Valley history, the museum that occupies the old school houses local artifacts and mining town displays. The highlight is the model-train display. *Information: www.clemenceaumuseum.org.*

● Graham County Historical Society Museum

3430 W. Main Street, Thatcher

This museum, which is located in the old Thatcher Public School, houses a large assortment of antiques and collectibles donated by the local residents: a working player piano, farming and ranching equipment, vintage clothing, Native American pottery and a Valley National Bank display. *Information: www.grahammuseum.org.*



● Monroe School

215 N. 7th Street, Phoenix

Another Classical Revival building erected in the early 1900s, this former elementary school has morphed into the Children's Museum of Phoenix. It offers regular arts-related classes, workshops and programming, among many other exhibits and displays. *Information: www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org.*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Clemenceau Museum exterior, Cottonwood; Clemenceau Museum interior; Bullion Plaza Cultural Center, Miami; Graham County Historical Society, Thatcher; former Monroe School, now the Children's Museum of Phoenix.

How to

DEAL

Local artwork isn't hard to find. Throughout Arizona, Native Americans can be found selling their jewelry, paintings and pottery at roadside stands, trading posts, powwows, pueblos and galleries. It's accessible, which might be why the general public perceives Indian art like Mexican art, where bartering is a part of the equation. In the Southwest, that's not the case. Here, haggling can be either a time-honored tradition or a minefield of cultural insensitivity.



T

he bus kicks up puffs of red dust before disgorging its passengers from New York, Ohio, Florida and Oregon onto the reservation ground. Mostly middle-aged and white, they're tentative and curious, plucking handcrafted pieces from wooden tables, gesturing excitedly and comparing items. There's a buzz of discovery and pending acquisition among the would-be buyers. Several tourists offer words of appreciation to the artist, a young woman who stands silently behind the table, ready to sell her creations. Then one man simultaneously brandishes an item and reaches for his wallet before declaring in a too-loud voice: "I'll give you \$40 for this." There's an uncomfortable silence. The vendor simply ignores the man, making change for others who have paid full price. I wince as this scene unfolds. Is my reaction justified?



When we travel, many of us want to buy a memento, something unique and handmade, a touchstone of our experience that we can proudly show off to friends and family. But often in our enthusiasm to procure such treasures, we unwittingly trample on unspoken customs and cause unintended grief. Haggling can be a time-honored tradition or a minefield of cultural insensitivity. Can dickering ever be a win-win? Do the rules change when you're dealing directly with the artist versus a gallery? Is it possible to bargain with respect?

"This can become quite a sensitive issue," says Wendy Weston, director of American Indian relations at the Heard Museum in Phoenix. "I think the most important point to remember is to treat these people with the same respect you'd treat a small-business owner. I personally don't practice bargaining with artists, nor would I go to the jewelry counter in a large department store and expect to bargain. Native entrepreneurs operate these cottage industries and support families with their sales. I lived life as an artist for some time, and I priced my wares reasonably. Because of this, whenever someone attempted to bargain with me, I wouldn't participate."

Heard Museum's Annual Indian Fair & Market offers Indian artists a venue to sell their work, such as Santa Clara pottery.

According to the University of Arizona's Economic Development Research Program, Arizona is home to more than 250,000 Native Americans on 23 reservations representing 21 tribes — more than any other state. Potential buyers will encounter Native American crafts at roadside stands, state fairs, trading posts, powwows, pueblos, reservations and galleries. There are also multiple classes of artists. They run the gamut from top-of-the-line artisans who produce one-of-a-

By Suzanne Wright ❁ Photographs by Jeff Kida



ABOVE: Native American flutist Travis Terry demonstrates his hand-carved flutes in Canyon de Chelly.

LEFT: Effie Yazzie carries on the Navajo beadwork tradition by showcasing her turquoise and bead jewelry, which she creates at her Monument Valley home.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Evalena Henry, of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, creates a hand-woven basket.

kind collectibles worth thousands of dollars to mass-produced pieces that might include components from Asia or the local Kmart. And, bargaining is not as culturally embraced among all Native Americans — there are differing attitudes among various tribes.

Emerson Quannie, a Hopi and owner of Southwest Native American Promotions, promotes art shows in the Southwest and personally knows more than 1,800 traditional and contemporary artists.

“In some ways, the general public has perceived Indian art like Mexican art, where they barter all the time,” he says. “True artists won’t barter, and you won’t see very many good artists selling out of their homes. I tell them to set a price and stick with it. You don’t go to the grocery store or department store and barter.”

He acknowledges that a lot of artists face limitations — they don’t have the skills to market their artwork or the means for a booth at a show or a car to get to a gallery — and may be more apt to bargain. Quannie concedes that purchasing art can be awkward if you don’t

approach — appreciating the artwork, asking questions about who made it, seeing the value the artist put into it, giving the salesperson the idea that they would really like to own it — that encourages us to share what the piece is all about. In the spirit of educating, we explain the symbols, which are part of the work’s appeal, tradition and artistry. I find a lot of the Western world has forgotten about storytelling, and we share that with the buyer.”

In Peshlakai’s experience, about 50 percent of Americans try to negotiate, while the other half buy the item at the quoted price. Some customers recognize something as “worth every penny,” while others lack a point of reference for pricing, undervaluing how time-consuming beadwork or quilting can be.

“The best buyers are other artists,” she says. “Those with the deepest pockets often have the least understanding.”

What about art — especially jewelry — that is unmarked? Does it have a fixed price or is it fair game for bargaining? Peshlakai says that

know the rules of engagement.

“Start by showing interest, talking with the artist and asking questions,” he says.

Tina Peshlakai is an artist’s representative who helps potters, jewelers, silversmiths, beadworkers, doll makers, basket makers, weavers and moccasin makers to market their works. She’s aware of the cultural differences between artist and patron, and knows how that can contribute to misunderstandings during a transaction. Her advice echoes that of Quannie.

“The first impression of how someone looks at the art is everything, in terms of how the negotiation will unfold,” she says. “When [the buyer] has a certain

jewelry has a “high turnover rate,” and many pieces are priced with a felt-tipped marker. With handling, repolishing and buffing, the price often rubs off, but artisans “know the cost off the tops of their heads.”

So is bartering ever acceptable?

Yes, within reason, she says.

“I’d like to be approached by someone who says, ‘I love this piece and would like to take it home. Can you give me a 10 percent discount

for cash?’ Or, if I’ve carried an item for two or three years, I’ll talk business. But anything beyond 25 percent off the marked price is not reasonable. The artist will feel insulted.”

Bruce McGee, director of retail sales for the Heard Museum and bookstore, believes it hurts the integrity of artists when you start bargaining from established prices. He counsels would-be buyers to understand the artist, the price structure and short-term gains versus long-term consequences before they bargain.

“An artist has worked long and hard on a piece, so [if you bargain], you undercut his or her efforts,” he says. “And you’ve devalued the pieces of previous buyers. A lot of people do so out of greed. They want to say, ‘I bought it at this price.’ It’s nothing to brag about when you take away an artist’s established income.”

“The first impression of how someone looks at the art is everything, in terms of how the negotiation will unfold.”

But integrity is a two-way street between artist and patron.

McGee says a buyer should do his or her homework — “education is everything” — and ensure the artist’s work hasn’t slipped in quality, that it is, indeed, worth the asking price.

Another consideration in bargaining is whether your purchase is a one-time transaction or one of several as an avid collector of a particular artist.

“Down the road, the artist won’t give you their best piece if you’ve haggled,” McGee says. “They’ll give you something they want to get rid of. At the Heard, we maintain relationships with the artists and their families. All successful galleries and collectors operate the same way.”

Peshlakai agrees that both artist and patron benefit from a successful deal.

“It’s ultimately about making a decent living. I think what we do in the Southwest as Native Americans is pretty unique.” ■

Bartering Basics

Bartering requires balance. It’s the art of playing fair without getting scammed. It’s not easy, but there are a few tips that’ll help you through the process.

- ❖ **Do your research.** It pays — both psychologically and economically — to understand the fair market value of the artwork you’re interested in. Consult guidebooks, tourism offices, the Internet, museums and libraries to become a knowledgeable buyer.

- ❖ **Establish rapport.** Express curiosity, maintain a positive attitude and ask thoughtful questions. The seller will appreciate genuine interest.

- ❖ **Barter only when you’re serious.** In order to avoid bruised feelings, only bargain if you’re sincere about purchasing the piece. Otherwise, don’t waste your time or the merchant’s.

- ❖ **Exercise restraint.** Don’t offer 10 percent of a stated price; this will insult the seller. Make polite inquiries about possible cash or volume discounts, then let the seller respond. Be patient and persistent but low-key.

- ❖ **Consider the source.** Negotiating with an affluent gallery owner is different than haggling with an artist who is barely making ends meet. Small savings to buyers are often consequential to sellers.

- ❖ **Enlist your travel guide.** If you’re traveling with a local guide who understands the culture, ask him or her to help you reach a fair price.

- ❖ **Trust your gut.** If you love something and can afford it, buy it and avoid the gut-wrenching agony of “the one that got away.”





NORTH RIM VIEWPOINTS Timp Point, North Timp Point, Parissawampitts Point ... they're not as well known as some of the other Canyon viewpoints, but they're equally impressive.

BY ROBERT STIEVE

There's a thought that crosses the minds of almost every first-time visitor to the Grand Canyon: *Imagine being the explorer who discovered this natural wonder. One minute you're riding a horse across the high plains, and then suddenly...WHO! How incredible it must have been to stand alone on the rim, with no previous knowledge of the Canyon's existence.*

Today, with 5 million people a year descending on the national park, that kind of solitude is hard to find. It's not impossible, though. You just have to know where to go, and that's where this month's scenic drive comes in.

Naturally, if you're willing to hoof it, there are hundreds,

even thousands, of places where you can find some peace and quiet in the Grand Canyon, but to find one that's reachable by car is a little more challenging. Timp Point is one of the few. It's isolated, to be sure, and it's also scenic — the panoramas from the point are unlike any you've ever seen of the Canyon. Although Timp Point is the payoff, the drive out there is pretty spectacular too.

The route begins at Jacob Lake, which, at an elevation of 7,920 feet, is a cool and idyllic place to pitch a tent or rent a room. Especially in August. It's also the home of the Kaibab Plateau Visitors Center. You'll want to stop in, stock up on maps and get the lay of the land.

From there, follow State Route 67 — one of the most scenic drives in Arizona — south for 27.5 miles through postcard landscapes of ponderosa pines, aspens, spruce and broad green meadows to Forest Road 22. Turn right onto FR 22 and continue for 10.5 miles to Forest Road 206. Turn left onto FR 206 and continue south for 3.5 miles to Forest Road 214. There, you can either make a side trip out to Parissawampitts Point, from which you can see Tapeats Amphitheater and Fishtail Mesa, or

continue south toward Timp Point. It's a 16-mile round-trip detour to Parissawampitts, but it's well worth the effort. Either way, from the junction of FR 206 and FR 214, continue south on FR 206 for a little more than a mile to Forest Road 271.

The countryside along all of these easy-to-follow dirt roads is classic Kaibab National Forest: lush evergreens, aspens, summer grasses and wildflowers. The fauna is impressive, too. In addition to deer and turkeys and mountain lions, keep your eyes peeled for Kaibab squirrels, which are shy, dark animals with tufted ears and bushy white tails.

Moving along, turn right onto FR 271 and drive for about 5 miles to a junction with Forest Road 271A, which leads to North Timp Point, another worthy diversion that offers views (with binoculars) of Thunder River, a large spring that gushes from an opening in the north wall of Tapeats Canyon. To get to Timp Point, stay left on FR 271 and continue for another 3 miles. This is the end of the road — the quiet place with the booming payoff.

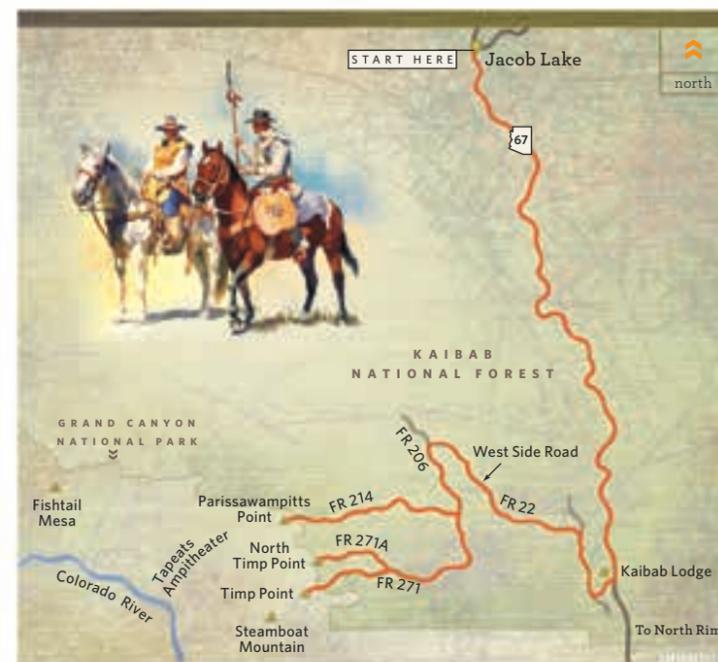
Admittedly, there are more famous viewpoints along the Canyon's various rims — Cape Final, Bright Angel Point, Yaki Point — but Timp Point ranks right up there. Along with the 270-degree panoramas of the Seventh Natural Wonder, you'll also see Steamboat Mountain rising up from the Canyon floor. What you won't see are people, which makes Timp Point an ideal place to imagine what it was like to discover the Grand Canyon. Enjoy the views, and plan on staying awhile. There's nothing like standing alone on an isolated Canyon rim. ■



JACKDYKINGA



ADDITIONAL READING: For more scenic drives, pick up a copy of our book, *The Back Roads*. Now in its fifth edition, the book (\$19.95) features 40 of the state's most scenic drives. To order a copy, call 800-543-5432 or visit www.arizonahighways.com.



KEVIN KIBSEY

tour guide

Note: Mileages are approximate.

LENGTH: 73 miles one way (from Jacob Lake to Timp Point, including side trips to Parissawampitts Point and North Timp Point)

DIRECTIONS: From Jacob Lake, drive south on State Route 67 for 27.5 miles to Forest Road 22 (some maps identify this as Forest Road 422 or West Side Road). Turn right (west) onto FR 22 and continue 10.5 miles to a Y-junction with Forest Road 206. Turn left (south) onto FR 206 and continue south for 3.5 miles to Forest Road 214. There you can either detour for 8 miles (one way) on FR 214 to Parissawampitts Point or continue south on FR 206 for 1.5 miles to Forest Road 271. Go west on FR 271 for 5 miles to Forest Road 271A. There you can either detour 3 miles (one way) on FR 271A to North Timp Point or continue west on FR 271 for 3 miles to Timp Point.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS: Unless rain or snow is present, this route is accessible to all vehicles.

WARNING: Back-road travel can be hazardous, so be aware of weather and road conditions. Carry plenty of water. Don't travel alone and let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.

INFORMATION: Kaibab Plateau Visitors Center, 928-643-7298 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/kai

511 Travelers in Arizona can visit www.az511.gov or dial 511 to get information on road closures, construction, delays, weather and more. ■

RIGHT AND OPPOSITE PAGE: Timp Point and North Timp Point offer some of the most beautiful vistas within Grand Canyon National Park.



MOREY K. MILBRADT



MORMON MOUNTAIN TRAIL Along with views of Mormon Lake, this quiet hike features an old-growth forest of ponderosa pines and several meadows that will likely be awash with wildflowers.

BY ROBERT STIEVE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM BEAN

Ponderosa pines can get old. Not in the figurative sense of, “Eh, if I see one more ponderosa, I’m going to scream,” but literally old. Some can live up to 500 years. Compared to bristlecone pines, that’s nothing, but in Northern Arizona, it’s impressive. That’s why old-growth forests like the one surrounding the Mormon Lake Trail are so special.

Like all old and well-established forests, this one is made up of big trees, snags (large, standing dead trees), downed logs, clumps of younger trees, seedlings and small clearings. The snags in particular are vital to the survival of the forest because they provide habitat for birds and other small creatures, which then become food for the resident hawks, eagles, bears, coyotes and foxes. It’s all part of a sophisticated ecosystem, and you’ll get a firsthand look on this hike.

The quiet trail begins at the rear of the group-camp area at Dairy Springs Campground. For the first few minutes, the trail overlaps a self-guided nature trail in the campground. Before long, though, you’ll come to a gate, beyond which is an intersection with the Arizona Trail. In case you’re wondering, it’s 28.4 miles from this point to Flagstaff, and the Arizona Trail as a whole is 819 miles from Utah to Mexico. But you’re not taking the Arizona

Trail. Not now, anyway. Instead, you’re going straight.

After about 15 or 20 minutes, the forest of mixed conifers and oaks opens up briefly, offering your first glimpse of Mormon Lake, as well as the grassy flats and forest-covered hills that surround it. Depending on the time of year, and what the weather’s been like, the lake may or may not have water in it. Either way, you’ll get your bearings. You’ll also see signs of elk, which use this trail to get wherever it is they’re going. Yet another highlight as you move along is the abundance of wildflowers. Initially, you’ll see a few flowers springing up among the trees, but when you hit the 60-minute mark of the hike, you’ll come to a small grassy meadow that’s often flooded with lupines and more.

Just beyond the meadow, the first aspen appears off to the right. There are a few others along the way, but this is primarily a ponderosa forest. By the way, you can tell the age of a ponderosa by its bark. For the first 120 to 150 years of its life, its bark is blackish. As it gets older, the bark changes to a yellowish-red color and forms the flat “plates” you’re familiar with.

The trail stays much the same for the next half-hour, climbing gradually through the pines and occasional aspens. Then, after about an hour and a half, the underbrush thickens with grasses and shrubs. This is your best bet for seeing an elk. Heed the advice of Elmer Fudd and you might get lucky.

From there, it’s a quick scamper to a large meadow that marks the end of the trail. At this point, you can either turn around and head back or follow Forest Road 648 to the 8,449-foot summit of Mormon Mountain. If you have the energy, you might as well go to the top. Among other things, it’ll give you a little more time to appreciate the special nature of this old-growth forest. ■



Scenery along the Mormon Mountain Trail includes distant vistas of the San Francisco Peaks (below), as well as an up-close look at local wildlife (right).



trail guide

- LENGTH:** 6 miles round-trip
- DIFFICULTY:** Moderate
- ELEVATION:** 7,200 to 8,449 feet
- DIRECTIONS:** From Flagstaff, go south on Forest Highway 3 for 20 miles to the intersection with Forest Road 90. Turn right (west) onto FR 90 and drive 3.5 miles to the Montezuma Lodge turnoff. Drive 0.6 miles to the trailhead. All roads are paved except the last 0.6 miles.
- VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Accessible to all vehicles
- DOGS ALLOWED:** Yes, on a leash
- USGS MAPS:** Mormon Lake, Mormon Mountain
- INFORMATION:** Peaks/Mormon Lake Ranger Districts, 928-526-0866 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino
- LEAVE-NO-TRACE ETHICS:**
 - Plan ahead and be prepared.
 - Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
 - Dispose of waste properly and pack out your trash.
 - Leave what you find.
 - Respect wildlife and minimize impact.
 - Be considerate of others.



where
is this?

On the Water- front

BY SALLY BENFORD
PHOTOGRAPH BY
NICK BEREZENKO

You could say
that the more
things change,
the more they
stay the same.

In this place
where old
meets new, dual
bridges built
more than 100
years apart
essentially
serve the same
purpose. Now
permanently
flooded, the
waterway was
once known
for its frequent
100-year floods,
and, in Greek
mythology,
its host city's
name refers to
an idyllic place
where gods
went for rest
and relaxation.



June 2010 Answer:
Besh-Ba-Gowah.
Congratulations to
our winner, James
Corbett of Columbia,
Missouri.



Win a collection of our most popular books! To enter, correctly identify the location featured above and e-mail your answer to editor@arizonahighways.com — type "Where Is This?" in the subject line. Entries can also be sent to 2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009. Please include your name, address and phone number. One winner will be chosen in a random drawing of qualified entries. Entries must be postmarked by August 15, 2010. Only the winner will be notified. The correct answer will be posted in our October issue and online at www.arizonahighways.com beginning September 15.

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