

Cabin #310: It Comes With  
the Best View in the World

MartAnne's: Another Good  
Reason to Head to Flagstaff

If You Have a Car, Truck or  
SUV, Go Straight to Page 44

# ARIZONA

## HIGHWAYS

ESCAPE · EXPLORE · EXPERIENCE

JUNE 2010

# summer hiking guide

Our favorite places  
to hit the trail!

*plus*

**DAROL KUBACZ:  
NO LEGS? NO PROBLEM!  
THIS GUY WILL INSPIRE YOU  
TO GET OFF THE COUCH**

*and*

**THE ARIZONA TRAIL:  
819 MILES YOU'LL WANT  
TO WRITE HOME ABOUT**

**WHY CLIVE CUSSLER  
WANTS TO EXPLORE  
THE COLORADO RIVER**





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Krysta and Maryal. Those are the two hikers on our cover. They love hiking. We love hiking. Most everyone in Arizona loves hiking. Thus, our annual *Summer Hiking Guide*. Whether you're looking for a strenuous trek at the Grand Canyon or a moderate stroll through the bird-watching capital of the world, this state has a trail for everyone.

BY ROBERT STIEVE

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There are many ways to explore Arizona. For some, reading this magazine is enough. For others, back roads, hikes and houseboats do the trick. And then there are the extremists who need spine-tingling adventure. In this month's portfolio, you'll get a glimpse into their world.

### 34 ON THE TRAIL

There are only nine National Scenic Trails in the United States. The newest runs the length of Arizona, from Mexico in the south to Utah in the north. Although the Appalachian Trail is better known, no other trail offers the geographic diversity of the Arizona Trail. It's exactly what the trail's founding father had in mind.

BY LISA SCHNEBLY HEIDINGER

### 40 UPHILL STRUGGLE?

At a glance, there's a tendency to feel sorry for Darol Kubacz. Don't. He certainly doesn't. After losing the use of his legs, this remarkable man from Phoenix could have parked himself on the couch. Instead, he mastered a strange machine and rode it all the way to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro. No legs, no problem.

BY ROGER NAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRENDAN MOORE

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## GET MORE ONLINE

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Visit our Web site 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.

 [www.facebook.com/azhighways](http://www.facebook.com/azhighways)

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

► The simple beauty of a doubting mariposa lily can be found in the juniper scrubland of Tonto National Forest, below the Mogollon Rim. PHOTOGRAPH BY NICK BEREZENKO

**FRONT COVER** Maryal Miller (left) and Krysta Powers enjoy a summer day on Fern Mountain in the Coconino National Forest, northwest of Flagstaff. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BEAN

**BACK COVER** Monument Valley stretches across the landscape beneath Hunt's Mesa in Northern Arizona. PHOTOGRAPH BY DEREK VON BRIESEN



JEFF KIDA

It was a long day for Maryal and Krysta. Shooting a cover always takes awhile, but when you're at the mercy of Mother Nature, the process can drag on until you're blue in the face. Literally. Just ask Maryal.

It wasn't supposed to be that way. It was supposed to be sunny, quick and easy, but by the time photographer Tom Bean had fired off the last of several hundred shots, the sun was down, the temperature had dropped into the low 40s, and our cover-model hikers were half-frozen. And that was just at the end of the day. For at least eight hours before the frigid denouement, they'd been exposed to rain, bumpy dirt roads, detours, more rain, a location change, Mike and Ikes for lunch, another round of rain, and a long trek to the top of a rocky mountain. Of course, they never complained. Like just about everyone else in Arizona, Maryal and Krysta love hiking, even when they're being followed by storm clouds and a relentless camera crew.

The result of their effort, and the effort of an entire team behind the scenes, is our third-annual *Summer Hiking Guide*. In it, we'll tell you about 10 of our favorite trails. Some are simple, some are strenuous and the rest are somewhere in between. The Maxwell Trail falls into the latter category. Located at the upper end of the West Clear Creek Wilderness Area, the short hike goes from a transition zone of ponderosas, Douglas firs and Gambel oaks to a riparian zone of red-osier dogwoods, ash, willows and box elders. The placid creek at the bottom of the canyon is the carrot juice at the end of the stick. This trail is a must.

For something a little more challenging, something that'll get your motor running, there's the North Kaibab Trail. It's strenuous — and then some — but the return on investment is tenfold. As you'll see, the views of the Grand Canyon from this trail are incredible. That said, scenic beauty is a common denominator on most trails in Arizona, which is why June 5 is worth mentioning. That's the day the American Hiking Society will celebrate its 18th Annual National Trails Day. In all, more than 1,500 events will take place around the country, including trail maintenance, hiking, biking, horseback-riding and more. For details on what's happening in Arizona, call 800-972-8608 or visit [www.americanhiking.org](http://www.americanhiking.org). If you're a hiker, mark this date on your calendar. Meantime, for inspiration, check out our story on Darol Kubacz.

ARIZONA  
HIGHWAYS TELEVISION



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 Web site, [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com), and click the *Arizona Highways Television* link on our home page.

Darol isn't the most famous hiker in the world, but he's certainly one of the most impressive. At a glance, there's a good chance you'll feel sorry for him; however, by the time you've finished reading his inspirational story in *Uphill Struggle?*, your pity will likely turn inward and you'll realize that he's accomplished more without legs than most people accomplish with two. In his mind, he had no choice.

After breaking his back in the Army, Darol was paralyzed from the middle of his chest down. At that point, he could have parked himself on the couch with a bowl of Mike and Ikes, but instead, he figured out a way to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, along with most of the major routes in Arizona, including parts of the Arizona Trail (see related story, page 34). Although Darol wasn't with us on the day we shot this cover, I have no doubt he'd have led the way, and when June 5 rolls around, I'm sure he'll be doing something spectacular. After all, it's National Trails Day, and there's not another hiker in Arizona who appreciates the sport more than Darol Kubacz.

FOR MORE HIKES, BREAK THE CODE

Bar codes have been around since the 1960s. They're nothing new. This month, however, we become one of the first magazines in the country to use them as a way of connecting our publication and Web site to your smartphone. The process is pretty simple. All you have to do is pick up your phone, photograph the bar code, and off you go. In this case, the 2D bar code will take you to the hiking page of our Web site. But that's just the beginning. In addition, we'll be using bar codes on other pages in the magazine to help you access more information about our stories. Although this technology probably seems a little gimmicky and superfluous, you might as well get used to it — 2D bar codes will be popping up everywhere. Here's how to get started:



1. On your iPhone, download the application called QuickMark (for the Droid, download ScanLife).
2. Launch the application and position the barcode within the viewfinder on your phone — it'll automatically connect.

ROBERT STIEVE, editor

Follow me on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/azhighways](http://www.twitter.com/azhighways).

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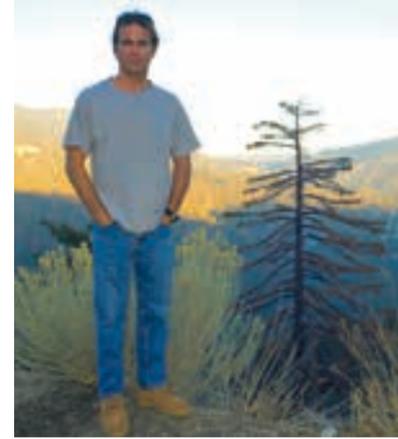
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BRENDAN MOORE

Photographer Brendan Moore grew up in Florida, making photographs with his Polaroid Swinger. When he joined the Navy after high school, an inspiring trip to Antarctica rekindled his love for the art. That's when he traded his Swinger for a Nikon. The rest is history. "I just realized I loved taking pictures, and I was foolish enough to say, 'Hey, I can make a living out of this,'" Moore says. When he's not shooting for *Time*, *U.S. News & World Report* or *The Boston Globe*, Moore works to capture the stories behind everyday people. After photographing paraplegic hiker Darol Kubacz (see *Uphill Struggle?*, page 40), Moore says he can't get enough of Kubacz's story. "He's showing people they can do so much more than they ever thought they could. He's quite an inspiring guy."



LISA SCHNEBLY HEIDINGER

Writer Lisa Schnebly Heidinger is a living piece of Arizona history. The great-granddaughter of Red Rock Country's namesake, Sedona Schnebly, Heidinger began writing for this magazine 20 years ago, but says her piece on the Arizona Trail (*On the Trail*, page 34) was particularly challenging. "This was, in some ways, the most difficult piece I've ever done for *Arizona Highways* because [trail founder] Dale Shewalter passed away while I was writing it," she explains. Ultimately, the story became a kind of tribute. Heidinger, who lives in the metro Phoenix area, describes herself as a "reluctant expat from outside Maricopa County."



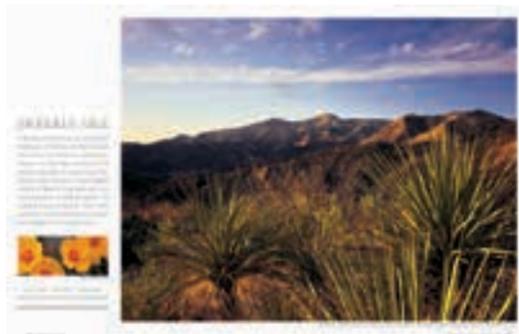
JACKI MIELER

In her 20-plus years as an Arizona resident, Jacki Mieler has developed a knack for the art of diner-hopping. "My travel memories are woven around the meals I've had at local diners, with that one signature dish serving as my own personal pushpin on the map for that town," she says. "Food is one of the foundations of travel, and local diners give you the chance to slow down and connect with the authentic side of any destination." When Mieler isn't busy frequenting Northern Arizona's foodie havens, she's trying to figure out how to run at an elevation of 7,000 feet and ride her bike to work without getting grease on her legs. Jacki's piece on MartAnne's in Flagstaff (see page 7) is her first story for *Arizona Highways*.

**THE HIGHLANDS LOWDOWN**

Congratulations on the beautiful photos and article about the Tumacacori Highlands in Arizona and Rancho Esmeralda in Sonora [*Emerald Isle*, February 2010]. I've lived and hiked in this area for over 30 years and marvel that it has, for the most part, managed to remain wild. For too long the border dividing this amazing biome has created a mindset that Southern Arizona and Northern Sonora are two separate worlds that only intersect with regard to the drug trade. Sergio Avila's work on both sides of the border is helping to reverse this to the benefit of both the people and wildlife of the region.

DAVID COURTLAND, NOGALES, ARIZONA



February 2010

Another outstanding article with Jack Dykinga's stunning photos; well written and of special interest to those of us who live in the shadow of the Tumacacori Highlands [*Emerald Isle*, February 2010]. Now, if only we could get the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Bill passed, we could actually do something constructive in the endless battle to help these magnificent cats survive. Sponsored by U.S. Representative Raúl Grijalva and supported by a majority of local businesses and residents, it seeks further protection of the 84,000 acres already part of Coronado National Forest. Wonderful presentations such as yours certainly help. Thank you so much.

NICHOLAS J. BLESER, TUMACACORI, ARIZONA

**NO DIVING!**

Love the magazine; love Arizona. Going through a few back issues, I noticed the "High Dive" photo in the October 2009 issue. I was lucky enough to visit Havasu that same month. I'm sad that you featured this photo of someone diving into the falls. There are signs all around forbidding this risky behavior, and the diver clearly disregards the rules of the Havasupai Tribe. Please don't encourage this!

KIM GIRARD, ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** You're absolutely right, Kim. Although our photographer assured us that there weren't any signs posted when he took the photograph in 2007, we should have double-checked before running the image. It's imperative that all rules are obeyed, including the Leave No Trace Ethics (see page 47).

**TOE TO TOW**

In the interview with Tanya Tucker [February 2010], she is quoted about her family buying chiles in toe sacks. I believe that would be a *tow* sack.

JIM TWEEDLE, EL PASO, TEXAS



February 2010

**BECAUSE OF ALL THE GRIPING**

My grandfather, Bill Windes, would have enjoyed the article *What's With the Names?* [February 2010]. You see, it was he who named the place "Gripe, Arizona." Granddad worked at Arizona state agricultural inspection stations (such as the one near Solomonville) from the late '20s until the early '40s. He even wrote an article about the work these stations performed, which appeared in the July 1937 issue of *Arizona Highways*.

In an effort to keep insect pests out

of Arizona, inspectors investigated every auto entering the state very thoroughly, to the point of making travelers open their baggage. Needless to say, many people were less than happy with these diligent searches and didn't hesitate to vocalize their dissatisfaction. According to his memoirs, after one complaint-heavy day, my exasperated grandfather told another inspector, "You know, they should call this place 'Gripe, Arizona!'" Inspector Dick Wann heard this and immediately constructed a sign out of ocotillo sticks for the front of the station. It read: "Gripe, Arizona."

ANDY WINDES, LAS VEGAS

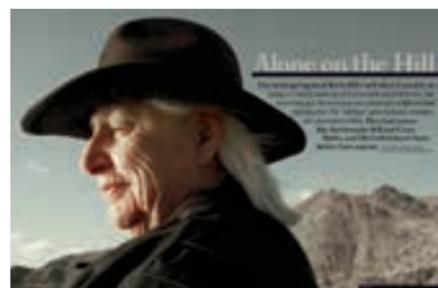


July 1937

**THUMBS UP**

I'm an executive at a startup company. It's a life filled with numbers, stress, virtual relationships and living an Avatarian existence. What I love is the road and adventure. I don't get to have that. My compromise is thumbing through *Arizona Highways* and wishing to be there among the photos. Writer Kathy Montgomery's tale [*Alone on the Hill*, February 2010] was simply the best. She captured the space, time and spirit perfectly. How do I know? It's where I go once in a while — to find space, time, solitude and spirit. I cannot write, I'm not a photographer. My memory will fade. But I have this article. It really is a beautiful piece.

KENT YAMADA, PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA



February 2010



**Lounging Lizard**

May is a great time to bask in the Arizona sun, just like this collared lizard, which is one of 49 lizard species in the state. To learn more about lizards and other Arizona wildlife species, visit the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson. *Information:* 520-883-2702 or [www.desertmuseum.org](http://www.desertmuseum.org).

SUZANNE MATHIA

**contact us**

If you have thoughts or comments about anything in *Arizona Highways*, we'd love to hear from you. We can be reached at [editor@arizona-highways.com](mailto:editor@arizona-highways.com), or by mail at 2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009. For more information, visit [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com).



PAUL MARKOW

appointments as a biology professor at Mesa Community College and as a research professor at Arizona State University. When he's not in the classroom, out in the field or in a laboratory, Holycross is at the computer in his ASU office. For the past several years, he's been writing field guides about the animals that have captivated him since he caught a garter snake as a child — he kept it as a pet and named it Sir Hiss.

His most recent publications include *A Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles in Arizona* and *A Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles in Maricopa County*, both of which were published by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The books were coauthored with Thomas Brennan, a high school biology teacher and amateur herpetologist who volunteers in Holycross' lab.

According to Holycross, it wasn't easy beating the brush for critters that excel at the arts of camouflage and retreat. Consider the story of the Mexican garter snake that was photographed for the cover of the book: "I stood waist deep in water with my camera for more than an hour as Tom held the snake by the tail," Holycross recalls. "She wouldn't hold still. Just as my knees started to lock up, she froze. At that

moment, the clouds parted and a beam of sunlight lit up the side of her face. I could barely hold the camera I was so excited."

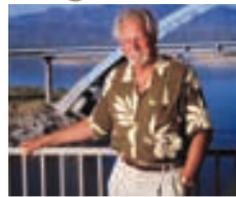
Making the job even more difficult is the fact that many Arizona reptiles and amphibians are disappearing from their natural habitat. The aquatic Mexican garter snake, for example, is now endangered, in part because of the non-native crayfish that have invaded the snakes' stream habitats.

Ironically, many of the species are declining as the public's interest in them is growing. Arizona has become a mecca for amateur herpetologists, who, much like bird-watchers, are interested in spotting amphibians and reptiles in their natural environment. To help satisfy the need for more information, Holycross is writing a monograph on the snakes of Arizona.

"You can bet that when people from Iowa come here on vacation and see a western diamondback rattlesnake under a saguaro, that's what they're going to be talking about at Christmas that year," he says. "It's part of the draw of Arizona."

PRATT'S

Q&A



TOM STORY

Clive Cussler Author/ Adventurer

Is there a secret spot in Arizona you'd like to explore? I did some research and found out the first steamboat on the Colorado River in the 1950s was called *Uncle Sam*, and that it ran up and down the river, then finally sank near Yuma. I'd like to explore it sometime in the winter.

If you were trying to impress your literary colleagues, where in Arizona would you take them? It would be fun to go down to Tombstone and Bisbee to visit the mines and the old towns.

What's your favorite season in Arizona? Autumn and spring. The weather is so nice. I like to sit outside in my yard and have a cigar and drink some wine.

What's the best local food to fuel up with before an adventure? My favorite restaurant is T. Cook's at the Royal Palms in Phoenix. Chef Lee is a master cook.

If you could incorporate an Arizona figure, either living or dead, into one of your novels, who would you choose? I guess it's a tossup between Barry Goldwater and Wyatt Earp. Goldwater accomplished so much in his lifetime, and Earp was just ... a legend.

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

House on Fire

It's known as "The House That Chilaquiles Built," and when you sample the signature dish, you'll understand why MartAnne's is the hottest Mexican restaurant in downtown Flagstaff.

By JACKI MIELER

The sign out front declares it "The House That Chilaquiles Built," and judging by the hungry masses waiting patiently outside, you'll at once know this is a house you want to enter. If a restaurant can define a community, then MartAnne's sums up Flagstaff in a nutshell: colorful, generous and a little bit spicy.

Anne Martinez bought the restaurant after waiting tables across the street for 15 years. She inherited a clientele hungry for a hearty Mexican breakfast, but the most important person in her new venture literally came with the building. Ms. Alice had worked in that very spot since

the 1960s and passed down many of the recipes that Martinez still uses today.

Ms. Alice's legacy lives on through the pork green chile, and the well-worn dent her feet impressed on the floor in front of the grill. It's the same dent where Martinez stands every day, keeping an eye on regulars and turning out colorful, handmade Mexican food in generous portions.

"If I didn't cook it, you didn't eat here," says Martinez. "If I'm not here, we're closed."

MartAnne's does serve lunch, but one look at the all-day breakfast menu will have you throwing caution to the culinary wind and ordering eggs at noon. The legendary chilaquiles start with fried corn tortillas layered with scrambled eggs, cheese, onions and a choice between green-tomatillo- and red-chile sauce. Add tender pork green chile and you have the Fratelliquiles, named after the brothers who own Flagstaff's Fratelli Pizza.

The ingredients are always the same, but the dish named after Martinez's on-again, off-again boyfriend Jerry evolves along with their relationship. Even though it's currently called *Jerry el Mujeriego*, or Jerry the Womanizer, the creamy pork green-chile enchilada topped with eggs will make you beg her to take him back.

The deep flavors of the red and green sauces are best sopped up with the warm tortilla and homemade hash browns, rice and beans that accompany breakfast. Venture into the lunch menu and you'll be rewarded with a rich, spicy green posole.

If you can take your eyes off the food, you'll notice the walls adorned with Mexican *calavera*, or Dia de los Muertos-inspired skull paintings. Artist Emma Gardner has worked with Martinez since the beginning, and now sells the paintings, which were originally hung to liven up the restaurant.

Don't be deterred by the crowd that gathers outside MartAnne's nearly every morning. The regulars will tell you there is no list; you just have to wait your turn. So, embrace the inevitable wait, grab a cup of coffee from a nearby shop, and savor a little bit of Flagstaff until it's your turn to step inside "The House."

MartAnne's is located at 10 N. San Francisco Street in Flagstaff. For more information, call 928-773-4701.



PAUL MARKOW

Snake Charmer

ASU professor Andy Holycross isn't afraid of snakes. Or lizards or salamanders or anything else that slithers around on the ground. He's mesmerized by them. In fact, he's written the book on reptiles and amphibians.

By ADELHEID FISCHER

WHEN IT COMES TO reptiles and amphibians, only Texas rivals Arizona for the nation's top spot in terms of diversity. But if you're looking for a positive ID or

just wanting to read more about Arizona's famous collection of snakes, lizards, frogs, turtles, salamanders and tortoises, you'd have better luck surfing eBay for a book than scanning the shelves of your local bookstore, says Andy Holycross. Most guidebooks are out of print, and even if you do come across one, he adds, its content is usually outdated. Holycross is working to change that. He holds dual



GRAND CANYON N.P. MUSEUM COLLECTION

## Something Grand

Although El Tovar and the South Rim get most of the attention, the Grand Canyon Lodge and its rustic cabins make the north side equally impressive. If you factor in the quiet, the north side is even better.

By ROBERT STIEVE

TO SAY THAT A room has the best view in the world is saying something — to say the least. That said, Cabin No. 310 on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon outshines all the rest. If there were a cabin at the top of Half Dome in Yosemite or Angel's Landing in Zion, well ... maybe Cabin No. 310 wouldn't be such a slam-dunk, but that's not the case. And so, with its rustic splendor and unparalleled views of the Seventh Natural Wonder, this cabin is the one. It's that simple. Getting a reservation, however ... not so easy.

Like Phantom Ranch at the bottom of the Canyon and El Tovar on the South Rim, the best cabins on the north side tend to fill up at least a year in advance. Fortunately, there aren't any bad options up north. All of the cabins and motel rooms, which serve as the "lodging" component of the Grand Canyon Lodge, are close to the rim. Therefore, no matter where you lay your head, you're never more than a few minutes' walk from the main lodge itself, which is even more impressive than its sister to the south.

Built by the Union Pacific Railroad in 1928, the Grand Canyon Lodge, a national historic landmark, clings to the edge of its namesake — literally — making it possible to relax on the observation decks and drink in the incredible views of the Canyon without ever getting your feet dirty. Even if you're too earthy-crunchy for the stereotypical "lodge scene," dust yourself off and take a stroll through this historic beauty. What you'll see is the second installment of the lodge. The original was destroyed by fire in 1932, and then rebuilt using native stones and logs to mirror the Kaibab Limestone cliffs of the Canyon below. It's remarkable.

In addition to the observation decks and the massive indoor lounge with floor-to-ceiling picture windows, the

main lodge features an excellent restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, and an auditorium where rangers extol the virtues of the North Rim. About the only thing you can't do at the main lodge is sleep. For that, there's Cabin No. 310 and dozens of close-seconds, like No. 306 (pictured).

The lodge and its cabins, some of which include front porches, wooden rockers, fireplaces and kitchenettes, are managed by Forever Resorts, a company based in Scottsdale. To the average visitor, that might seem unimportant, but to Mother Nature, it's a big deal. Here's why: In addition to maintaining the Smokey Bear ambience and north woods nature of the village, Forever Resorts is going green in a big way. Among other things, 75 percent of the trash on the North Rim is now being sorted for recycling, and all laundry is being done off-site, thus preserving the area's most precious resource of all: water.

Although most of these efforts are taking place behind the scenes, in many ways, they're just as impressive as the natural and manmade wonders you'll see in front of you. It's not enough for Cabin No. 310 to have the best view in the world; the park around it has to measure up too, and in this case, it certainly does.

Grand Canyon Lodge, which is open mid-May through mid-October, is located at Bright Angel Point on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. For more information, call 877-386-4383 or visit [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).

## Color Commentary

In a place like Arizona, where the colors of nature are out of this world, it's hard to imagine a time when you'd want to wipe it out. But, it happens, and when it's right, there's nothing like black and white.

By JEFF KIDA, photo editor



IN FEBRUARY, WE PUBLISHED a photo tip that dealt with converting digital color files to black-and-white images. Since then, we've gotten a lot of e-mails asking for more about the process and how to get the best results. A photo of Hunt's Mesa in Monument Valley by Suzanne Mathia illustrates it best. Here's how she works: "When I set out on a photo trip, it's like going fishing. I don't care if I catch anything or not, I just enjoy the process," she says. "I plan my trips around seasons and weather conditions, and off I go. I usually don't use polarizers or graduated neutral density filters, which I call 'overcorrecting' filters. I feel I'm better off making adjustments in postproduction. When I saw this Hunt's Mesa image, I knew it had great possibilities because of the clouds and light, and almost immediately wondered how it would look in black and white. So, I gave it a shot and immediately

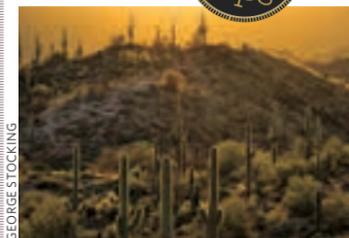


liked what I saw. Whenever I get serious about a black-and-white conversion, I use a program called Silver Efex Pro. It does everything Photo-shop does, but in my opinion, with greater ease."

TOP AND ABOVE: Monument Valley from Hunt's Mesa. PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUZANNE MATHIA

### SHADOW BOXES

People not accustomed to making photos in the Sonoran Desert are often disappointed with their panoramic photographs. Unless you shoot very close to sunrise or sunset, you'll find that the contrast range



between sun and shadow is far too great for a film or digital camera to record in a single image. If your goal is to show a detailed landscape, simply crop the brightest portion of your frame — the sky. By doing this, you'll better emphasize the dominant elements of your photo.



ADDITIONAL READING: Look for *Arizona Highways Photography Guide*, available at bookstores and [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com).

### ONLINE

For more photography tips and other information, visit [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com) and click "Photo Tips."



REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM IMAGES OF AMERICA: FLAGSTAFF BY JAMES E. BABBITT & JOHN G. DEGRAFF III

## A Familiar Name

The Babbitt family has been a household name in Northern Arizona since 1886. So, when it came time to commission a book about Flagstaff, who better to write it than a Babbitt?

By KELLY KRAMER

JAMES E. BABBITT'S GRANDFATHER knew a thing or two about the grocery business. After running a successful store on Cincinnati's Price Hill, it seemed only natural that he'd open a grocery when he and his four brothers came to Flagstaff on the railroad in 1886. But the Babbitt boys had a bigger idea — cattle ranching.

"That was a very tough business for a variety of reasons," Jim Babbitt says. "They lost money in the early years, and their financial backer, Gerhardt Verkamp, encouraged the brothers to diversify with something they knew how to do."

So, in 1889, the Babbitts built a sandstone building in downtown Flagstaff, and the 30-by-70-foot grocery quickly became a popular destination for settlers and visitors alike. It expanded rap-

idly over the years until, at one point, it became the largest mercantile in Arizona. The store also supplied goods, including saddles, oil lamps, food and hardware, to Indian trading posts across Northeastern Arizona, several of which were also managed by the Babbitts.

Today, Jim Babbitt runs a successful retail operation out of the very same building, and the cattle business, which eventually did flourish, operates the same way it did in the 1800s — without the assistance of modern, motorized aids.

Images of the Babbitt Brothers store are just a few of the 180 vintage photographs that appear in *Images of America: Flagstaff*, which was co-authored by Jim Babbitt and John G. DeGraff III. Although many of the photographs in the book come from the authors' personal collections, Babbitt and DeGraff also drew from the special collection at Northern Arizona University, Lowell Observatory, the Museum of Northern Arizona and the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson.

"I always had so much going on that I didn't think I could tackle a project like this," Babbitt says. "But more than a year-and-a-half ago, I cleared my calendar and talked to the publisher again. I set my own deadline and the book was born."

Many of the book's images hold special sentimental value for Babbitt, but one stands out as his favorite — the photograph of Mount Agassiz that appears just before the table of contents.

"The photo was taken by Alexander Gardner, who was the official photographer for the Kansas Pacific Railway survey," Babbitt says. "He took the first shot of what is now the Flagstaff area. It resonates because it shows nothing but the forest and the grasslands and the mountain. There's no evidence of any human occupation. That's the thing that's changed so much about Flagstaff over the years — it's experienced such radical growth."

*Images of America: Flagstaff* is available at local bookstores and [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com).

## This month in history

■ Luke Air Force Base, named for Arizona's World War I flying ace Lieutenant Frank Luke Jr., was dedicated in June 1941.

■ Apache scout Al Sieber was shot in the leg at San Carlos on June 1, 1887, when he tried to arrest the Apache Kid, a renegade scout who worked under him at the time. Sieber was disabled for life.

■ On June 22, 1881, a barrel of whiskey being measured by a bartender who was smoking a cigar exploded at the Arcade Saloon in Tombstone. More than 60 businesses were destroyed by the resulting fire.

## Hoooo Goes There?

Western screech owls are loud, very loud, but for the most part, they keep a low profile, lying in wait for small mammals they can attack with their deadly claws.

By MARK CRUDUP

Should you ever be walking through the woods, sometime after dark, and you feel like you're being watched, you probably are. Not by Jason or Freddie or Chucky, but by a western screech owl.

The owls, which have eyes that emit a yellowish glow and heads that can pivot nearly 360 degrees, are best known for their trademark screech. Characterized by bird-watchers as a series of accelerating notes — similar to a pingpong ball bouncing to a stop — the owls use these calls to communicate with one another, especially during mating rituals.

Although it would make an impressive battle cry, when hunting, the birds actually sit quietly in trees, watching for prey. Because of their grayish chests and the thin black markings on their bellies, the 7- to 13-inch birds are well camouflaged and often

mistaken for branches.

Surviving mostly on insects, scorpions and small mammals, the owl tackles its prey with its long claws and attacks with its sharp beak. After the prey is dead, it's devoured whole. Later, the bones and the fur are regurgitated in the form of small pellets.

Unlike bobcats and other animals in the woods, western screech owls typically mate for life. Females lay from two to five eggs at a time and stay with them during incubation, while the males gather food. Although most owls build nests in tree holes chiseled out by woodpeckers, some are finding refuge in the manmade birdhouses that are being installed by conservationists in an effort to protect the population. Like many species that range across the western United States, habitat loss is a real concern. And for at least one owl, it's something to screech about.

## nature factoid



BRUCE D. TAUBERT

### Green With Envy

Sonoran green toads aren't picky. They'll live in valleys and *bajadas* along the Lower Colorado River or in semidesert grasslands, wherever they can find delicacies like winged termites, ants, moths and beetles on which to feed. These green- and yellow-speckled amphibians are prolific breeders, often mating for one to three nights in cattle pools or rain puddles, where they lay up to 200 eggs at a time.



TOM VEZO

50 years ago

IN ARIZONA HIGHWAYS



Our June 1960 issue featured the ultimate summer vacation destination: The Grand Canyon. Among other things, the issue explored the Canyon's "white-water highways," as well as the Bright Angel Creek Trail and several other spectacular routes.



**Warbirds Fly-In**

JUNE 26  
VALLE

Warbird planes take to the sky over Valle Airport near the Grand Canyon during this annual event. Hosted by The Planes of Fame Air Museum, the fête allows aviation buffs to watch vintage aircraft in action, as well as view classic and World War II-era airplanes, including General MacArthur's transport plane, a Lockheed Constellation. *Information: 928-635-1000 or www.planesoffame.org.*

FRANK MORMILLO



GARY LADD

**Photo Workshop**

GRAND CANYON

Longtime *Arizona Highways* contributor Gary Ladd has timed this workshop to coincide with dramatic summer monsoon storms at the Grand Canyon. Unpredictable and exciting photographic opportunities abound at Arizona's most photographed landscape. The Grand Canyon Photoshop Seminar, which takes place August 13-16, also offers detailed instruction on how to maximize the impact of your photographs from Photoshop expert Steve Burger. *Information: 888-790-7042 or www.friendsofhighways.com.*



TOM BEAN



JEFF KIDA

**Passport Weekend**

JUNE 4-6 FLAGSTAFF

Kick off the summer with an *Arizona Highways* special event, "Passport to Flagstaff." The celebration coincides with First Friday Art Walk at downtown Flagstaff's Heritage Square, where visitors can join the folks from *Arizona Highways* throughout the weekend for a variety of activities and events, including movies on the square, music, photography workshops and exhibits. More than 100 retailers, restaurants,

hotels and attractions will offer special discounts to passport participants. *Information: www.arizonahighways.com.*



Enjoy the high country during this event at the Pine-Strawberry Community Center in downtown Pine. Featuring music, arts and crafts, and, of course, strawberry treats of all kinds, the festival also includes beautiful quilts, which are presented at the Strawberry Patchers Quilt Show. *Information: 928-474-4515 or www.rimcountrychamber.com.*

**Strawberry Festival**

JUNE 12-13 PINE

**Titan Tour**

JUNE 5, 19  
SAHUARITA

Stand on the front line of the Cold War at the Titan Missile Museum, an Arizona Historic Landmark. During the museum's "Beyond the Blastdoor Tour," explore areas of the missile site that are normally closed to the public. Check out where the crews ate and slept, then descend 100 feet underground, where you'll stand directly beneath an actual Titan II missile. *Information: 520-625-7736 or www.titanmissilemuseum.org.*



TITAN MISSILE MUSEUM



MARTY CORDANO

**Dragonfly Walk**

JUNE 5 SUPERIOR

Spend the morning scanning the skies of the Boyce Thompson Arboretum for dragonflies: blue-eyed darners, red flame skimmers and the vivid purple roseate skimmer. For an up-close look at these insect predators, pack binoculars for this one-hour walk near Queen Creek and Ayer Lake. *Information: 520-689-2811 or www.btarboretum.org/events.html.*

ARIZONA  
HIGHWAYS

p r e s e n t s

**PASSPORT to FLAGSTAFF**

*June 4-6, 2010*

Join *Arizona Highways* magazine for music, movies, hiking and more. Plus, receive great deals on retail, dining, hotels and attractions throughout the weekend with your "passport."

For event details and to print your passport, visit: [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com).

In partnership with the Flagstaff Downtown Business Alliance and the Flagstaff Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For more information on this bar code, see page 2.





# SUMMER HIKING GUIDE

BY ROBERT STEVE

Krysta and Maryal. Those are the two hikers on our cover. They love hiking. We love hiking. Most everyone in Arizona loves hiking. Thus, our annual Summer Hiking Guide. Whether you're looking for a strenuous trek at the Grand Canyon or a moderate stroll through the bird-watching capital of the world, this state has a trail for everyone. What follows are 10 of our favorites.

Schultz Creek Trail offers long-reaching views of the San Francisco Peaks. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BEAN

## SCHULTZ CREEK TRAIL

### COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST

If you're looking for a quick getaway, this is it. Schultz Pass represents one of the state's shortest distances from civilization to wilderness. Long before the arrival in Flagstaff of MartAnne's (see page 7), Oregano's and Wildflower Bread Co., the pass served as a shortcut from the settlements in the eastern part of the community to downtown Flag. Today, it provides easy access to the cool pines of the San Francisco Peaks. The road that passes through the pass makes a terrific scenic drive, but, as always, things are more enjoyable on foot, and there's no better hike than the Schultz Creek Trail. The easy path, which has ups and downs, but nothing difficult, parallels one of several intermittent drainages that carry water from the surrounding mountains. During the spring snowmelt, water is usually one of the sideshows. In the summer, monsoon rains can have the same effect. Regardless of whether or not there's water, the trail is beautiful, and if you're lucky enough to be out there on a weekday, when all is quiet, you might even hear the vibratory sounds of the hermit thrush. It's something you'll never forget. Same goes for the hike itself, which serves as a connecting trail between the Rocky Ridge Trail at the south end of the pass and the Sunset Trail to the north near Schultz Tank. Although downtown Flagstaff is just a few miles away, you'd never know it. This quick getaway takes you from pizza to pine needles in no time.

**LENGTH:** 7 miles round-trip

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy

**ELEVATION:** 7,200 to 7,800 feet

**DIRECTIONS:** From Flagstaff, go north on U.S. Route 180 for 2 miles to Forest Road 420 (Schultz Pass Road), turn right, and continue on FR 420 for about a mile to a gate and cattle guard. From there, turn right and go down the hill toward Schultz Creek. The trailhead is at the north end of the parking lot.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Accessible to all vehicles

**DOGS ALLOWED:** Yes

**USGS MAPS:** Humphreys Peak, Flagstaff West

**INFORMATION:** Peaks Ranger Station, 928-526-0866 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino)

## BELL TRAIL

### WET BEAVER WILDERNESS

This is one of those trails the locals like to keep to themselves for fear it'll be inundated by city mice searching for a dose of the great outdoors. However, unlike the Colonel's recipe, the secret's out. It's been out. Nevertheless, this trail is never too crowded. You won't be alone, but you won't be stuck in a conga line of neophytes, either. Like many of the trails around Sedona, the Bell Trail is doable any time of year. In the summer, Wet Beaver Creek, which parallels the trail, offers an ideal respite from the heat. Although the trail doesn't intersect the creek until Bell Crossing, there are a number of side trails that'll take you down to the water, which runs year-round and is home to smallmouth bass and trout. About a mile in, the trail leads to the boundary of Wet Beaver Wilderness Area, which was established in 1984 and encompasses 6,000 acres. Eventually, the trail climbs to a narrow bench that runs along the canyon's north wall.

It's the perfect place to kick back, listen to the creek and eat a Zone bar. From there, the path drops down to the canyon bottom, where it finally fords the creek at Bell Crossing. Although the trail continues for another 1.5 miles to the south rim, this is the obvious turnaround point. In the summer, it's a great place to take your shoes off. You won't be alone, but you won't care.

**LENGTH:** 6.6 miles round-trip (to Bell Crossing)

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy

**ELEVATION:** 3,820 to 4,100 feet

**DIRECTIONS:** From Phoenix, take Interstate 17 north to the Sedona exit (Exit 298) and turn right onto Forest Road 618. Continue on FR 618 for 1.5 miles to the old Beaver Creek Ranger Station turnoff, turn left and continue a quarter-mile to the trailhead parking lot.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Accessible to all vehicles

**DOGS ALLOWED:** Yes

**USGS MAP:** Casner Butte

**INFORMATION:** Red Rock Ranger Station, 928-282-4119 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino)

## WOODS CANYON LAKE

### MOGOLLON RIM

Hiking isn't usually something that's done on the spur of the moment. Gear, maps, vehicle requirements, trailhead directions, physical conditioning ... there's a lot to consider before hitting the trail. The Woods Canyon Lake Trail is one of the exceptions. Naturally, a little planning is necessary, but for the most part, you could wake up on a Saturday morning, expecting to lounge around watching reruns of *This Old House*, and then think to yourself: *I've gotta get off the couch and do something.* With about as much effort as it would take to walk around the block, you could head to Woods Canyon Lake. The road is paved all the way to the water — you could make the drive on a moped — and the trail itself is easy, requiring nothing more than a good pair of tennies, some sunscreen and a big bottle of water. That's about it. Well, you might want to throw on some pants, too, but you get the point. The trail, which begins by crossing the dam near the Spillway Campground, is well-marked and ranks as one of the most beautiful trails on the Mogollon Rim. That's saying something, of course, but it measures up. Ponderosa pines, Douglas firs, Gambel oaks, bracken ferns, wild roses ... that's what you'll see along the trail, which often skirts the shoreline. Eventually, the trail joins the Rocky Point Nature Trail and circles back. Along with the rocks and the trees, there's a good chance you'll see an array of birds and maybe even a beaver. Regardless, you'll be glad you rolled off the couch — the scenery at Woods Canyon Lake is much better than watching Norm Abram install a floor joist.

**LENGTH:** 5 miles round-trip

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

**ELEVATION:** 7,513 to 7,554 feet

**DIRECTIONS:** From Payson, go east on State Route 260 past Kohl's Ranch to Forest Road 300 where SR 260 tops out on the Mogollon Rim. Turn left onto FR 300 and follow the signs to Woods Canyon Lake.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Accessible to all vehicles

**DOGS ALLOWED:** Yes

**USGS MAP:** Woods Canyon

**INFORMATION:** Springerville Ranger Station, 928-333-4301 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf)



The trail at Woods Canyon Lake offers pine-scented mountain breezes. PHOTOGRAPH BY NICK BEREZENKO

To order a print of this photograph, call 866-962-1191 or visit [www.arizonahighwaysprints.com](http://www.arizonahighwaysprints.com).



## ECHO CANYON LOOP

### CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT

**Walking in circles is usually discouraged, but not when it comes to hikes.** Loop hikes are great because they're generally easy to follow and you never have to retrace your steps. Echo Canyon Loop is no exception. Like most loops, there's no right or wrong turn on this trail. That said, most people opt for the counterclockwise route because it's a little easier. Either way, you'll come across four trail junctions on this hike, so you'll need to pay attention. As you'll see, it's easy to get distracted in the Chiricahuas. The spectacular rock formations and the migratory birds will have you looking this way and that. From the trailhead, the counterclockwise route hits its first junction almost immediately. Take a right and head downhill to an area known as Wall Street, which features several secret grottoes and passageways. Stay on the trail, but know that they're out there. Just beyond Wall Street is Echo Park, a gorgeous area dominated by Apache pines, Douglas firs and Arizona cypress. You probably won't be tired, but this is a great place to kick back and take a break. The next segment of the loop cuts through Rhyolite Canyon along the Hailstone Trail. It's drier and hotter there, so make sure you have enough water. A third junction connects Hailstone to the Ed Riggs Trail, which winds back to the trailhead. Before you get there, though, you'll see a side trail that leads to Massai Point. It's less than a quarter-mile to the point, and the views up there are well worth the extra steps. After all, on a trail where walking in circles is OK, there's certainly nothing wrong with getting sidetracked as well.

**LENGTH:** 3.5 miles round-trip  
**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

Echo Canyon Loop in Chiricahua National Monument passes some of Arizona's most interesting rock formations. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BEAN

**ELEVATION:** 6,780 to 6,330 feet

**DIRECTIONS:** The trailhead is located at the Echo Canyon Trail Parking Area, 5.5 miles past the Chiricahua National Monument visitors center on Bonita Canyon Drive.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Accessible to all vehicles

**PETS ALLOWED:** No

**USGS MAP:** Cochise Head

**INFORMATION:** Chiricahua National Monument, 520-824-3560 or [www.nps.gov/chir](http://www.nps.gov/chir)

## HINKLE SPRING TRAIL

### BLUE RANGE PRIMITIVE AREA

**Of the 75 primitive areas in the United States that were set aside for protection in the 1930s, "the Blue," as it's known by the locals, is the only one that hasn't yet been reclassified as wilderness.** It's a political issue, not a matter of scenic beauty. In fact, this is arguably the most beautiful place in Arizona, and the Hinkle Spring Trail is a great way to see it. Among other things, the views of Blue River Canyon are amazing. In addition, the primitive area is home to emerald-green alpine meadows, waves of wildflowers, and endless groves of ponderosa pines, spruce, firs and aspens. And the fauna is equally impressive. Keep your eyes peeled for black bears, elk, mountain lions, bighorn sheep and even Mexican gray wolves. The best place to begin this hike is at its lower access point along the Blue River. From there, the trail climbs, sometimes gradually, sometimes steeply, to the canyon's east rim. Initially, it follows the course of Cow Canyon,

one of the major side canyons along this stretch of the Blue. Then, the trail leaves the canyon for the rocky high ground that separates Cow Creek and Steeple Creek. This is where the views are the best. Like many of the trails in the area, Hinkle Spring was built and is still used to move cattle — in this case between the canyon floor and upland pastures above the rim. The trail ends at its junction with the Bonanza Bill Trail. When you get there, don't be surprised if you feel an urge to write your congressman and insist on wilderness protection for the Blue. It deserves it.

**LENGTH:** 9 miles round-trip

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

**ELEVATION:** 5,700 to 7,220 feet

**DIRECTIONS:** From Alpine, drive east on U.S. Route 180 for 3.5 miles to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn right (south) and continue 21.3 miles to the Hinkle Spring Trailhead, which is on the left (east) side of the road.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** High-clearance vehicle recommended

**DOGS ALLOWED:** Yes

**USGS MAP:** Blue

**INFORMATION:** Alpine Ranger District, 928-339-5000 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf)

## MAXWELL TRAIL

### WEST CLEAR CREEK WILDERNESS

**It takes anywhere from 80 to 100 years for an aluminum can to disappear on its own.** They're biodegradable, but it takes forever. Even a banana peel can take up to two years. That's the first lesson you'll learn on the Maxwell Trail, courtesy of a yellow metal

sign tacked to the information board at the trailhead. The trail itself, which is located at the upper end of the West Clear Creek Wilderness Area, begins with a series of steep switchbacks. Through the trees, you'll catch a glimpse of the lush canyon below. Like many trails on the Mogollon Rim, this one is rocky and loose in places. It's steep, too, so be careful. After about 25 minutes, you'll catch the first sounds of the creek. This is the carrot juice at the end of the stick ... the highlight of the hike. In all, it's about 45 minutes from top to bottom — longer on the way out — and along the way you'll go from a transition zone of ponderosas, Douglas firs and Gambel oaks to a riparian zone of red-osier dogwoods, ash, willows and box elders. The trail ends at the creek, which provides habitat for bluegills, chubs and suckers. Dragonflies like the moisture, as well. And so will you. The sound of the creek, the sunlight dancing off the water, the grass, the shrubs, the trees surrounded by large rock walls ... that's the climax of the Maxwell Trail. Drink it in, and pack your garbage out. Remember, it takes forever for some of that stuff to biodegrade.

**LENGTH:** 1.4 miles round-trip

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

**ELEVATION:** 6,710 to 6,089 feet

**DIRECTIONS:** From Clints Well at the junction of State Route 87 and Forest Highway 3, drive north on FH 3 for approximately 7 miles to Forest Road 81. Turn left (west) onto FR 81 and continue approximately 4 miles to Forest Road 81E. Go left on FR 81E to the end of the road, which is where the trailhead is located.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** High-clearance vehicle required

**DOGS ALLOWED:** Yes

**USGS MAP:** Calloway Butte

**INFORMATION:** Mogollon Rim Ranger Station, 928-477-2255 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino)



The Maxwell Trail wanders through old-growth forest along the Mogollon Rim. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BROWNOLD



The North Kaibab Trail winds around the magnificent Redwall limestone cliffs of the Grand Canyon.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BROWNOLD

## NORTH KAIBAB TRAIL

### NORTH RIM, GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

**There's no shortage of great hikes on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon: Widforss, Uncle Jim, Ken Patrick.** Most, however, at least in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon Lodge, stay up top and stick to the woods. You'll get some great views of the Canyon, but those trails won't take you down. The North Kaibab Trail is the exception. If you really want to experience the Seventh Natural Wonder, this is your best option. But before you get started, there's something you need to understand: Even though this trail winds for 14 miles to Phantom Ranch, the farthest you should ever go on a day hike is to Roaring Springs. It's a 10-mile round-tripper, and like all Canyon hikes, the trek down is easy, but coming out ... well, the North Kaibab will kill you, but what a way to go. From the trailhead, you'll begin with about 15 minutes of switchbacking down to the Coconino Overlook. If you haven't taken the time to gaze at the wonder before you, now is a good time. What you're seeing is Roaring Springs Canyon, one of many side canyons in the Grand Canyon. From this point, the trail winds downhill and, after about 2 hours from the beginning, you'll come to the mouth of the canyon and an intersection. To the right is the route to Cottonwood Camp and Phantom Ranch. To the left is Roaring Springs, which is 10 minutes away. At this point, you'll have dropped almost 3,000 feet in elevation. There are some picnic tables and a restroom at Roaring Springs. You should use the facilities, but you should also take off your backpack and enjoy the surroundings. When you're in Maui, you expect waterfalls like this, but not in the Grand Canyon. It's spectacular. Swallow it up, figuratively, and remember: You still have 5 miles and 3,000 uphill feet ahead of you.

**LENGTH:** 10 miles round-trip (to Roaring Springs)

**DIFFICULTY:** Strenuous

**ELEVATION:** 8,250 to 5,250 feet

**DIRECTIONS:** From the Grand Canyon Lodge on the North Rim, drive north for 3 miles to the signed right turn for the North Kaibab Trailhead.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Accessible to all vehicles

**DOGS ALLOWED:** No

**USGS MAPS:** Bright Angel Point, Phantom Ranch

**INFORMATION:** Backcountry Office, Grand Canyon National Park, 928-638-7875 or [nps.gov/grca](http://nps.gov/grca)

## ARCADIA TRAIL

### PINALEÑO MOUNTAINS

**Bright Angel, North Kaibab, South Kaibab, Escudilla ... of the elite hikes in Arizona, all four of those make the top 10, which is why they've been designated National Recreation Trails.** Lesser-known, but equally impressive, is the Arcadia Trail in the Pinaleno Mountains. It, too, has the NRT designation, in part because of its spectacular views, but also for its geologic, biologic and ecologic diversity. The Pinalenos are the highest of Southeastern Arizona's sky islands, and the Arcadia Trail is its crown jewel. The hike can be kicked off from one of two campgrounds: Shannon or Arcadia. This listing begins at Arcadia, which means the uphill half comes first. From the trailhead, the route winds through a ponderosa pine forest

and begins a series of switchbacks that lead to a ravine of riparian species, including box elder and bigtooth maple. In the summer, look for wildflowers, too, along with black bears and white-tailed deer. From the ravine, the trail leads back into the ponderosas and eventually comes to a long series of switchbacks. This is the most grueling stretch — in 1.5 miles you'll climb more than 1,000 feet. Moving up, just beyond the intersection with the Noon Creek Ridge Trail (stay left for Arcadia), you'll come to a saddle, which marks the high point of the hike. This is a good place to check out the views, which have NRT written all over them. From there, the trail drops gradually to the Shannon Campground, which is surrounded by stands of Douglas firs, Englemann spruce and quaking aspens, all of which makes this one of the most scenic and rewarding trails in the state. As you'll see, it belongs right up there with the Kaibabs.

**LENGTH:** 10.2 miles round-trip

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

**ELEVATION:** 6,700 to 9,500 feet

**DIRECTIONS:** From Safford, drive south for 8 miles on U.S. Route 191 to State Route 366 (the Swift Trail). Turn right (southwest) onto Route 366 and drive 11.7 miles to the Upper Arcadia Campground. The trailhead is at the rear of the campground.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Accessible to all vehicles

**DOGS ALLOWED:** Yes

**USGS MAP:** Mount Graham

**INFORMATION:** Safford Ranger District, 928-428-4150 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado)

## HAMBURG TRAIL

### RAMSEY CANYON

**Don't let the name fool you.** This trail has nothing to do with sauerkraut, strudel or Sergeant Schultz. The name comes from Henry Hamburg, a prospector from St. Louis who developed a mining camp at the head of Ramsey Canyon. Adding to the confusion is the fact that most people refer to this hike as the Ramsey Canyon Trail. Nomenclature notwithstanding, this is one of the most scenic and diverse hikes in Arizona. It starts at the parking lot of The Nature Conservancy's Ramsey Canyon Preserve, which ranks as one of the best bird-watching sites in the world. Because the trail crosses the preserve, you'll have to obtain a permit from the Conservancy (available at the visitors center at the trailhead) and, if you're hiking on a weekend or a holiday, you'll want to call in advance to reserve a spot in their parking lot. The only parking in this canyon is at the preserve, where spaces are extremely limited and in very high demand. The first mile of the trail is on Nature Conservancy property, where you'll no doubt have a lot of bird-watchers for company. At the upper limit of the preserve, some steep switchbacks take you into the Coronado National Forest and the Miller Peak Wilderness. Your reward for climbing this far is a good overlook of lower Ramsey Canyon and the San Pedro Valley. Above the switchbacks, the trail drops back down to the creek and follows it through a riparian zone as lush and as beautiful as any you'll find in the Southwest. There, small waterfalls and rock cascades tumble past gnarly sycamores and lacy-limbed firs to add to the picturesque nature of the area. The trail crosses the stream many times as you climb toward the upper elevations of the Huachuca Mountains. Eventually,



The trail through the West Fork of Oak Creek offers close-up views of Oak Creek Canyon's carved sandstone walls. PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY LINDAHL

you'll come to the remains of old mining digs and leveled home sites that were once a part of the mining settlement of Hamburg. Although the trail continues to the junction with the Crest Trail, this is the turnaround point for this listing. If you happen to have some strudel or sauerkraut in your backpack, now would be a good time to enjoy it.

**LENGTH:** 5.6 miles round-trip

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

**ELEVATION:** 5,498 to 6,826 feet

**DIRECTIONS:** Drive 6 miles south of Sierra Vista on State Route 92 to Ramsey Canyon Road. Follow Ramsey Canyon Road 3.5 miles to The Nature Conservancy's Ramsey Canyon Preserve parking area and trailhead. Parking reservations are required for weekend and holiday visits. Weekday parking is on a space-available basis. Because the preserve is on private property, a permit is required to hike across it to the Hamburg Trailhead. The preserve is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATION:** Access fees are \$5 per person or \$3 for Nature Conservancy members and residents of Cochise County.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Accessible to all vehicles

**DOGS ALLOWED:** No

**USGS MAP:** Miller Peak

**INFORMATION:** The Nature Conservancy, 520-378-0311 or [www.nature.org/arizona](http://www.nature.org/arizona)

## WEST FORK TRAIL

### OAK CREEK CANYON

If you're looking for solitude, this hike won't deliver. On weekends and holidays, literally hundreds of people will be in your way. However, in the same way you don't avoid the Grand Canyon just because 4.5 million people a year visit the park, you don't want to leave the West Fork of Oak Creek off your to-do list. There are many reasons

this is the most popular trail in the Coconino National Forest: the towering cliffs of Coconino Sandstone, the Douglas firs and box elders and bigtooth maples, the perennial stream, the wild grapes, the mule deer, and the list goes on. That's why the federal government designated the canyon's first 6 miles, which includes the trail, a Research Natural Area in 1931. The ecosystem is extraordinary. Another reason people flock to the West Fork is because it's easy to access and easy to enjoy. That said, the trail does require some agility and a willingness to get your feet wet. There are steppingstones in most places, but there are no guarantees. The first 3 miles of the trail are well-marked. After that, the last mile tends to be overgrown and even climbs out of the canyon at one point. The good news is that most people give up and head back before they get to this point. At the 4-mile mark, a decent-sized pool marks the end of the trail. This is the turnaround point, although, it is possible to keep on trucking to the other end of the canyon. In all, it's a 14-mile trek, and you'll be drenched before it's all over. If you want solitude, that's the way to go. Otherwise, turn back, put up with the people and enjoy one of Arizona's best summer hikes.

**LENGTH:** 8 miles round-trip

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy

**ELEVATION:** 5,400 to 5,600 feet

**DIRECTIONS:** From the junction of state routes 89A and 179 in Sedona, drive 9.5 miles north on SR 89A to the Call of the Canyon parking area, which is where you'll find the trailhead.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATION:** The Forest Service requires a \$5 parking permit along the highway or a \$10 per vehicle (up to five people) parking permit in the Call of the Canyon parking area.

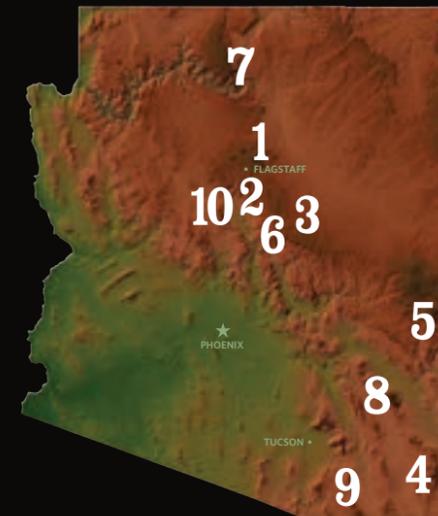
**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Accessible to all vehicles

**DOGS ALLOWED:** Yes

**USGS MAPS:** Dutton Hill, Mountaineer, Wilson Mountain, Munds Park

**INFORMATION:** Red Rock Ranger District, 928-282-4119 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino)

## SUMMER HIKING GUIDE LOCATOR MAP



- 1 **SCHULTZ CREEK TRAIL**  
COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST
- 2 **BELL TRAIL**  
WET BEAVER WILDERNESS
- 3 **WOODS CANYON LAKE**  
MOGOLLON RIM
- 4 **ECHO CANYON LOOP**  
CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT
- 5 **HINKLE SPRING TRAIL**  
BLUE RANGE PRIMITIVE AREA
- 6 **MAXWELL TRAIL**  
WEST CLEAR CREEK WILDERNESS
- 7 **NORTH KAIBAB TRAIL**  
NORTH RIM, GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK
- 8 **ARCADIA TRAIL**  
PINALAÑO MOUNTAINS
- 9 **HAMBURG TRAIL**  
RAMSEY CANYON
- 10 **WEST FORK TRAIL**  
OAK CREEK CANYON



# Out for adventure

A P O R T F O L I O There are many ways to explore Arizona. For some, reading this magazine is enough. For others, back roads, hikes and houseboats do the trick. And then there are the extremists – the rock-climbing, whitewater-running risk-takers who aren't about to go on a nature walk. They need spine-tingling adventure, and as you'll see in this month's portfolio, the Grand Canyon State has plenty to offer.

A rock-climber takes a leap of faith at Grand Canyon National Park.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE EDWARDS

To order a print of this photograph, call 866-962-1191 or visit [www.arizonahighwaysprints.com](http://www.arizonahighwaysprints.com).



Wesley Smith takes on the fury of the Colorado River's Lava Falls, the strongest rapid on the river. PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE EDWARDS



RIGHT: At sunset, a paraglider soars above the cinder cones of the San Francisco Volcanic Field in Northern Arizona. PHOTOGRAPH BY KATE THOMPSON

ABOVE: Miles Kunkel leads a climb up the steep overhangs of the limestone cliffs at Jacks Canyon near Winslow. PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL HATCHER





Near Flagstaff, the weather-stained basalt columns of Paradise Forks provide a challenge for adventure-seeking climber Miles Kunkel. PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL HATCHER



Turnabout's fair play as a pair of mountain-bikers carry their rides over red slick-rock boulders in Sedona. PHOTOGRAPH BY DUGALD BREMNER ■

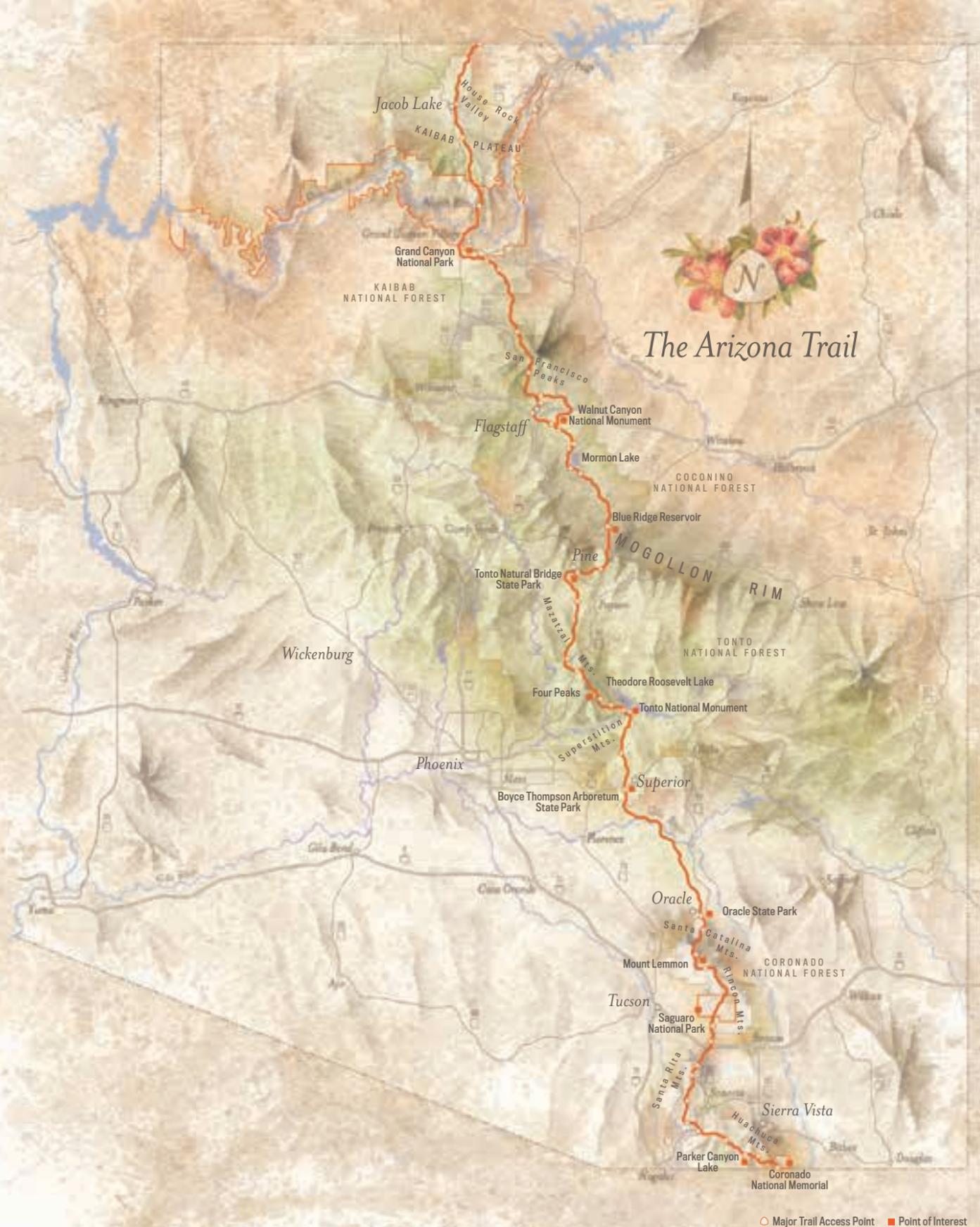


# *On the* TRAIL

*There are only nine National Scenic Trails in the United States. The newest runs the length of Arizona, from Mexico in the south to Utah in the north. Although the Appalachian Trail is better known, no other trail offers the geographic diversity of the Arizona Trail. It's exactly what the trail's founding father had in mind.*

by LISA SCHNEBLY HEIDINGER

Gabrielle von Mazo and Kenneth Cline hike the Arizona Trail along the edge of the Mogollon Rim under a sky filled with monsoon clouds. PHOTOGRAPH BY NICK BEREZENKO



The Arizona Trail is Dale Shewalter's 819-mile dream come true. It's been 20 years since I tagged along on his first horseback ride on what was then an infant route. And it's been 30 years since he got the idea that such a thing could exist. Visiting his sister in Tucson, he'd hike to a peak in the mountains surrounding the city, and wonder what route would connect those other peaks to the one he was on.

"Then one night," he recalled, "I was dangling my legs over the Mogollon Rim, and looking east and west under the moonrise, and wondered how far it went. I was determined to walk the length of it, and it turned out to be a pretty long walk: 450 miles."

That led to an even longer walk: from the Coronado National Monument on the Arizona-Mexico border, near where the first Europeans crossed into what is now Arizona, all the way to the Utah border. It was the beginning of the ninth National Scenic Trail in the United States, and the first designated as such since 1983.

Shewalter, who died of cancer in January 2010 at the age of 59, appreciated the irony that he initially came to Arizona from northern Illinois purely for mercenary reasons: to finance a grubstake that would let him walk the Appalachian Trail. With a geophysicist background, he came West looking for copper-mining work.

"In 6 weeks," he said, "I was so infatuated with the Sonoran Desert, and the other life zones we have here, I lost any interest I had in going anywhere else. I wanted to learn more about this wild country."

Although he continued teaching grade school, Shewalter began incorporating his epic hikes into class lessons. Later, when he got the idea for the Arizona Trail, he began working full time with the Forest Service. From there, it was a matter of stitching together existing sections of trails and working with various governmental agencies to create the route.

Twenty years ago, while he and I were making a television documentary about the new trail, we began at Coronado National Monument, where he talked about coming up with the idea. We followed the trail to Parker Can-

yon Lake, into the Sonoita area, and then continued to Mount Lemmon near Tucson. Over the mountain to the north, the route passes Arizona's oldest remaining post office building — American Flag. There, Shewalter and a party of riders embarked on their first trail ride since the Arizona Trail was officially created in 1988.

We watched Shewalter stride nimbly

across boulders in the shallow Verde River, describing the difficulty of selecting good water crossings for the trail. We interviewed him at the Pine trailhead, a pivotal location for equestrians because of its open access and corrals. In a sudden spring snowstorm, we held a scarf over the camera to videotape him walking the Flagstaff city trail section. And we stumbled after him in House Rock Valley,



KEVIN KIBSEY

The late Dale Shewalter, founding father of the Arizona Trail, surveys part of the trail that runs below the San Francisco Peaks. PHOTOGRAPH BY CHUCK WASHBURN



tired and dazed at the sparse splendor of the landscape near trail's end.

Of course, even pioneers don't act alone. Madeleine, Shewalter's wife of several decades, and their son, Zane, made the long journey with him.

"She's been extra supportive, and she's done numerous trail activities," he once explained. "Zane sort of grew up with the trail. Madeleine and I have had opportunities to live out our childhood dreams of exploring the American West on horseback."

Shewalter credited rancher Dean Prichard for relighting his dormant passion for riding. Prichard owned the ranch formerly belonging to Wild Bill Cody, near Oracle Ridge, when the two first met. Prichard, an early steward who was interviewed for the documentary, said he was ecstatic to be involved.

"I used to roam those mountains as a kid," he said. "I felt both joyous and guilty, because it should be shared, this great fantastic adventure of being here. Then I heard about Dale

Shewalter, and I was hoping for those magic words, the Cody Trail or Oracle Ridge Trail, and I heard them."

Over the years, others answered the call to become part of creating and stewarding the Arizona Trail. Annual gatherings at Mormon Lake were started. In 1994, the Arizona Trail Association was formed, and since then, thousands of volunteers have joined. Eventually, there was more work than Shewalter could handle, so, in 2006, Dave Hicks was hired as executive director.

Fit, tanned and genial, Hicks surprised himself a little by taking early retirement from the city of Phoenix.

"I was looking for more than a routine job, so I retired in 2000," he says. "Eight months later, I hiked the Arizona Trail south to north, and fell in love."

Going home five times during the 10-week trek, Hicks began speaking to groups about his trip, and quickly connected with Shewalter. "Dale had such a poetic way of saying

Blue Ridge Reservoir, which spills into East Clear Creek, offers a quiet respite along the 819-mile Arizona Trail that runs through Arizona from Utah to Mexico. PHOTOGRAPH BY RANDY PRENTICE

things," Hicks says. "Positionwise, he was on the board of directors, and a trail steward, but what we're doing now is his vision. I try to work as he did, never going over someone's head or getting too pushy. Dale set a good tone, and the Arizona Trail board still operates that way. Those land managers are our bosses, and we know that."

Hicks doesn't accept any salary, and signs his letters and e-mails with titles in an order he believes is appropriate: "hiker and executive director." Hicks wants to serve the trail, not dominate it.

While it was Hicks who testified before Congress to obtain the National Scenic Trails status, he shifts the credit back to Dale.

"It's like a football team getting 10, 15, 20 yards, and then one player makes the touchdown," he says. "If all those other people

hadn't done what they did, I wouldn't have been there. But it was a thrill — I was proud to carry it over the goal line."

Now, Hicks' focus is overseeing the trail's completion. People have been able to hike and ride the Arizona Trail for years — bushwhacking a little here and there while agreements with various agencies are reached about right-of-way and trail construction. There are only a few stubborn sections — too rugged and too far away to be completed by volunteers on day trips — standing in the way of a unified ribbon. Hicks expects the last few miles to be completed in the next few years.

The Arizona Trail offers multiple experiences and infinite types of vistas. Near the northern terminus lies the cliff country of the Arizona Strip, with upthrusts and stark walls displaying every possible striation of red and brown, broken by both the timeless stain of desert varnish and the ancient artistry of early tribes.

The transition zone of the Mazatzal Mountains brought out Shewalter's poetic leanings: "Millions of years ago there was an ocean from the east and an ocean from the west, and this was a resistant ridge; an island. If you can get in your mind the Colorado Plateau dancing with the desert, this is where two geologic provinces meet and have a soiree."

On some sections, Arizona Trail users can go several days without passing another hiker. The reward of seeing Parker Canyon Lake like an oasis in the southern section may be a solitary experience. On the other end of the spectrum is the very obvious beauty of the Grand Canyon, which is almost always seen with hundreds of others.

However, even that small section of the trail offers a multitude of vistas, sunlight and shadows dancing in its depths. Some of nature's finest work is on display in the Canyon, created by its primary artists: water, wind and time.

But even there, prosaic concerns may surface. Hicks chuckles about a story he'd heard about a determined mountain biker. "You can't bike through the Grand Canyon, so this guy carried his bike the whole way," Hicks says. "He kept getting stopped by rangers, and pointed out over and over, he wasn't riding."

Unlike the early years of Grand Canyon explorers, when each person who completed the route received a number, the Arizona Trail doesn't have an official count, in part because

so many people hike it in sections. Hicks can rattle off a list of names of people who have completed the trail, but there isn't extra credit there. The Arizona Trail belongs to everyone.

When asked about his favorite section of the trail, Hicks won't answer. Shewalter felt the same way: "I hesitate because there are so many small places in between," Shewalter said. "Some of the better-known that a person might find to be a real delight — geology, viewpoint, integrated with experience."

"My analogy is that it's like going to the

avoid capture, while their women wept what turned into the fabled Apache Tears. Another highlight is Picketpost Mountain, from which early cavalry scouts used mirrors to communicate in Morse code.

Like Shewalter, Hicks says that he never really knew Arizona until he followed the trail. Reviewing maps of the 43 sections on the Arizona Trail Web site can be humbling to someone who feels well-versed in Arizona geography. With the exception of the Grand Canyon, each section mentions some location



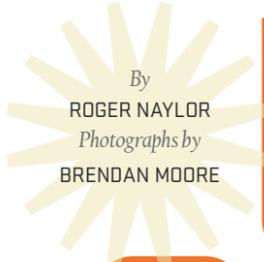
The trail passes through diverse ecosystems that include a variety of wildlife species such as elk and bighorn sheep. PHOTOGRAPHS BY C.K. LORENZ

completely unfamiliar: White Horse Hill, Chapel Mountain, Hardscrabble Mesa, Italian Trap and Cornucopia Trail, to name a few.

In the television documentary we made about the Arizona Trail two decades ago, the last segment opens with a shot of the Kaibab Trailhead near House Rock Valley and these words: "In some ways this is the beginning, and the end, of the trail. It's the beginning because this was the first part of the Arizona Trail to be dedicated; it's the end because it hits the Utah border just north of here."

There's a monument in Flagstaff's Buffalo Park that's dedicated to Shewalter. It marks not only the Arizona Trail, but also the place where its founding father successfully helped block road construction, and where he and Madeleine were married. Shortly before he died, he said: "It's quite a flattering plaque. It's a humbling place. It was an honor because of the people who did it. I couldn't be more delighted than to sit there and contemplate the San Francisco Peaks. I still feel quite positive I'll be back on the trail." ■

► For more information, call 602-252-4794 or visit [www.aztrail.org](http://www.aztrail.org)



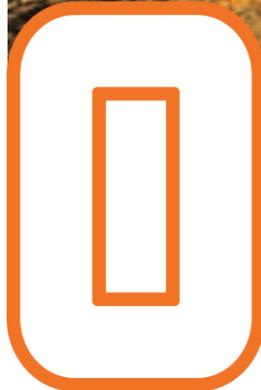
By  
ROGER NAYLOR  
Photographs by  
BRENDAN MOORE

# Uphill Struggle?

At a glance, there's a tendency to feel sorry for Darol Kubacz. Don't. He certainly doesn't. After losing the use of his legs, this remarkable man from Phoenix could have parked himself on the couch. Instead, he mastered a strange machine and rode it all the way to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro. No legs, no problem. After all, it's all about the journey, not the destination.



Avid hiker Darol Kubacz hits the trail in his special three-wheel all-terrain handcycle.



On a trail, I'm no slouch. I'm not some kind of Jeremiah Johnson/Grizzly Adams woodsman who takes to the wilderness and lives off the land. I just like to hike. A lot.

User-friendly climate and easy access to trails make Arizona a biped's paradise. If hiking isn't our official state pastime, it should be. By putting boots to soil, pinning eyes on the horizon and plunging forward into wild country, I reap benefits, both healthy and spiritual. In 2009, I logged more than 1,200 trail miles. So, needless to say, I was mildly embarrassed to receive trail tips — and good ones — from a guy who can't walk.

We were taking a breather in a grove of creosote and cholla in the Dreamy Draw Recreation Area of Phoenix, and Darol Kubacz was giving me the lowdown on one of his favorite trails in my area. One I didn't even know about.

"It's a rocky double track that goes up the side of this ridge above Camp Verde, and you get great views and go through a nice change of vegetation," he explained.

I knew the info was golden because Kubacz speaks from experience. He may not walk, but he's one of the most avid hikers I've ever had the pleasure of sweating beside on a trail.

In 1993, while in the Army, Kubacz broke his back in a training accident and lost the use of his legs. A T-4 paraplegic, he's paralyzed from the midchest down, but retains full use of his arms and shoulders. And it's those beefy muscles that propel Kubacz on trails across Arizona, Colorado and even up the side of Africa's tallest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro.

He covers ground in a three-wheel all-terrain handcycle. The low-slung beast sports two wheels in front and one in the rear. Kubacz assumes a near-prone position, face down. He tucks his legs back and straps them in, while leaning forward with his upper body being sup-



Kubacz founded Freedom for Life, a nonprofit foundation that promotes outdoor activities and wilderness adventures for people with disabilities.

ported by a chest pad. He hand-cranks the pedals. There are handlebars for steering with brakes and gearshifts mounted on them. Additionally, the chest pad pivots and is connected by cables to the steering mechanism, allowing Kubacz to maneuver while pedaling uphill.

"Finding this bike gave me a sense of freedom," Kubacz says. "It allowed me to go places that I thought would be forever closed off to me. For years, I drove by these mountains and wished I could explore them. But until the guy that built this bike came along, it wasn't a possibility. You, on your feet, you just get to show up and start hiking. Now I'm kind of like you again. All I have to do is show up and start hiking."

He moves at a quick, steady pace, seamlessly navigating curves and changes in grade. Whenever we reach a junction, Kubacz suggests taking the sketchier-looking trail. Anything with thrusts of jagged stone and stretches of loose scree piques his interest. If the trail razor-edges an abyss, it's impossible to hold him back.

I began paying more attention to landscape details because of the

impact they have on Kubacz. Bulky stones and protruding ledges that I step over without a glance present him with major tests.

"On some trails I have to stop to think, to negotiate certain sections," Kubacz says. "When you're low to the ground, you have to weigh a lot of variables. When I come to an impasse, maybe a big rock blocking the trail, that rock becomes the most important thing in my world. It's a challenge, and then once I'm able to overcome that, I'm eager for the next one. It's like a fix. I just want more and more."

His passion extends beyond the satisfaction of physical conquests. We compare notes on animal encounters, plant sightings and desert habitat. We discuss everything from wildflowers to geology. The man is attuned to his surroundings.

"There was a time when it was as difficult for me to accept the fact I wasn't going to be able to explore nature the way I was before I was injured as it was to accept the fact that I couldn't use my legs anymore.

"To go for years believing that I wasn't going to go hiking again was

really hard to swallow. And then to have the opportunity to experience it, but in this new way, was like receiving a whole other life."

Kubacz has some experience with other lives. Always extremely active, he rehabilitated quickly from his spinal-cord injury. Afterward he moved to Colorado and took up snow-skiing, water-skiing and scuba-diving. He worked for the Forest Service, helping to develop trails that are easier to access for those with disabilities. He did as much exploring as he could from his radically modified wheelchair.

Then, in 2003, Kubacz suffered a broken neck in a ski-jumping accident. In some ways, it was a more difficult recovery than the spinal-cord injury. Wearing a large halo brace, he was virtually helpless for several months, and grew progressively weaker. The experience inspired him to undertake a couple of new chapters. He decided to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, and he established Freedom for Life, a nonprofit organization that introduces people with disabilities to outdoor sports and wilderness adventures.

He tackled Mount Kilimanjaro, which soars to an elevation of 19,340 feet, not once but twice. In 2006, he climbed above 16,000 feet before being forced to turn back with pulmonary edema, an excessive buildup of fluid in the lungs often brought on by high altitudes. His 2008 ascent took him to an elevation of approximately 18,700 feet, all achieved under his own power. Although he didn't quite reach the summit, his goal to provide an example and raise awareness for disabled veterans proved to be an unqualified success.

Freedom for Life is designed to inspire people to live their lives to the fullest. Over the years, the foundation has acquired several all-terrain handcycles, and Kubacz organizes scheduled hiking events for people with disabilities. There's no fee, no RSVP. He just puts the word out and then shows up with the equipment and a friendly bunch of volunteers.

"The opportunity is there. All somebody has to do is be willing," Kubacz says. "For some people, the possibility of getting on this weird-looking bike and going out hiking is unimaginable. If we can just get them to show up, then they're going to be on the bike and going down the trail and seeing the desert like they never have before. And we hope it's a life-changing experience."

Many of the volunteers are trail-loving folks who have encountered Kubacz in the Arizona outback, and that itself can be a life-changing experience. Just imagine the scenario. You're crouched somewhere under the subtle shade of a paloverde tree, congratulating yourself for a long, arduous hike into brutal country, and suddenly you spot something low to the ground and moving fast — this missile of a guy skimming over the same trail that just kicked your butt: *What the... he seems to be pedaling with his HANDS.*

Naturally, a little conversation ensues and it takes just a matter of seconds before you know that this is someone worth hanging out with. Kubacz tends to pull people into his orbit, in a very positive way.

**"For some people, the possibility of getting on this weird-looking bike and going out hiking is unimaginable. We hope it's a life-changing experience."**

I attended a recent Freedom for Life outing. We gathered in Phoenix's South Mountain Park near the Pima Canyon Trailhead. Two dozen people milled about the picnic ramada, munching bagels, prepping equipment and swapping news. Families, friends and volunteers were all part of the easy camaraderie. And then Kubacz asked who was ready to roll.

Among the physically challenged community, there were more hikers than machines, so Kubacz elected to stay behind. Corbin Beau, Kelly McCall, Dan Molitor and Chad Guzman eagerly mounted up. All were experienced with the equipment except for McCall, who was making her first foray aboard the handcycle.

We strung out along the trail, each maintaining a comfortable pace. The path is wide but cracked and broken in places. I could tell they were students of the "Kubacz School of Self-Challenge" because when we came to the first twisted runt of a trail, they turned and sped down it without hesitation.

We pushed deeper into hardscrabble country, leaving the crowd behind as we swooped through washes and scaled cactus-strewn ridges. Finally, we reached a point where I knew we had to turn back. The trail tumbled down an arroyo in a narrow chute with brutally sharp curves and a steep drop-off. The guys checked with McCall, but it wasn't necessary. "Let's do it," she said.

Riding the brake hard, she slow-scooted down the trail. The guys acted as spotters warning her of "floaters" — a scenario in which a front wheel lifts off the ground but not enough to tip the bike over. Half the bike seemed to hang over the edge before she found purchase and zoomed to the bottom.

After that dicey ordeal, scrambling to the top of a mesa for big vistas was a snap. While soaking up the panorama and the elation of the hikers, we caught sight of a guy sitting in the middle of the rock-gouged main trail. It was Darol. Worried about McCall, Kubacz had covered the unforgiving turf in his wheelchair.

"I was training for Kilimanjaro and was way up on the backside of Humphreys Peak in Flagstaff," Kubacz later told me. "We're 5 to 6 hours into the hike, and there's this really steep drop-off I'm trying to straddle. These bikes can be tippy, and I'm trying to adjust my body weight so I don't go over the edge. I'm not afraid of dying, but it just takes a really long time to drag yourself back up a mountain.

"I'm making about 2 inches per minute when this guy comes hiking downhill and demands to know what I'm doing and what I'm riding. I explained I was injured in the line of duty and can't use my legs, and this is how I hike. Well, then he started going off on how unreasonable it was for me to be there, and it was unreasonable to think I could make that hike and that I should go someplace more reasonable.

"So I thanked him for the advice, but I don't think I'll be taking it. If you don't see limits, then there aren't any. My idea of what's reasonable may not be the same as yours."

I kept my mouth shut, but all the while I was thinking, *Pal, your idea of reasonable is like nobody else's.* We eventually made plans to hike Kubacz's secret trail in my area. We haven't hiked it yet, but when we do and when we're done, we'll find a quiet saloon and drink a beer. And at some point, I'm sure we'll toast to the inherent beauty of unreasonableness. ■

▶ For more information about Freedom for Life, visit [www.fflffoundation.org](http://www.fflffoundation.org).



**RED HILL ROAD** This rustic road, which winds from Beaverhead to Alpine via the Blue River, offers a visual feast, but drivers are encouraged to keep their eyes on the road.

BY JILL SCHILDHOUSE

If the hustle and bustle of summer has you yearning for an escape, it's time to take the drive from Beaverhead to Alpine via the Blue River. And an escape is exactly what you'll get — think aspen and fir trees, wildlife, crisp air and unexpected rock formations, all with a mountainous backdrop. In fact, this area is so remote, you might not even come upon another traveler, let alone a gas station, your entire trip.

This 37-mile drive through

the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, on the eastern end of the White Mountains, begins on U.S. Route 191, roughly 8 miles north of Hannagan Meadow, at an elevation of about 9,000 feet. Look for the turnoff on the east side of the highway. Forest Road 567, or Red Hill Road, requires a sharp right turn when you approach from the south. Don't be disheartened by the cautionary "Primitive Road" sign you'll immediately encounter. Although the narrow road is made of dirt and you'll negotiate several hairpin turns, a slow and steady approach will keep you out of harm's way. Take extra caution if it's rained recently — any moisture can make the road slippery.

The next sign you'll notice explains that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service chose this largely unpopulated area as a place to reintroduce Mexican gray wolves in 1998. Have no fear — you're much more likely to spot a deer, squirrel, cow or elk than a wolf. Once you

pass an open meadow and a few private property signs in the first mile, you'll come to several clearings where it's possible to set up camp about 500 feet back from the road, but to explore these offshoots, you'll need a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

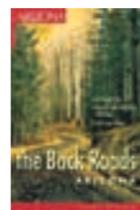
As you continue, the road slowly winds, rises and falls as it meanders out of the forest. Mile 4, however, marks the beginning of the sharp curves you'll maneuver over the next 9 miles. Although the unlucky driver of this trip won't have much of an opportunity to enjoy the views while concentrating on the road, passengers will be treated to the majestic mountain peaks — on a clear day, you can see ridges in nearby New Mexico — and rugged terrain on one side of the vehicle, deep canyons on the other. Just after the 7-mile mark, you'll begin a winding descent that leads to a pull-out, perfect for looking up at a rock formation reminiscent of Sedona's Cathedral Rock.

After a few more miles of twists and turns, you'll come to Mile Marker 12 and the long-anticipated Blue Crossing. The crossing is firm and water flow is usually light — barring a recent rain or melting snow — so while most vehicles will have no trouble crossing, a high-clearance vehicle is recommended.

After crossing the river, you'll come to Forest Road 281. Turn left and take this wider dirt road 24 miles to Alpine, the nearest community, or turn right to explore more of Blue River country. Whichever way you choose, it'll be many miles until you find a much-needed carwash. ■

**LEFT:** The region is home to a variety of wildlife, including mule deer. PHOTOGRAPH BY C.K. LORENZ

**ABOVE:** Early morning dew settles on a spider web at Hannagan Meadow in Eastern Arizona's White Mountains. PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY LINDAHL



**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](http://www.arizonahighways.com).

To order a print of this photograph, call 866-962-1191 or visit [www.arizonahighwaysprints.com](http://www.arizonahighwaysprints.com).



KEVIN KIBSEY

tour guide

Note: Mileages are approximate.

**LENGTH:** 37 miles one way

**DIRECTIONS:** From Hannagan Meadow drive 8 miles north on U.S. Route 191 to Forest Service Road 567 (Red Hill Road) and turn right. Continue on FR 567 for 13 miles to Blue Crossing and cross the river. Turn left onto Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road) for a 24-mile drive to Alpine, or turn right onto FR 281 for a 10-mile drive southward along the river.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** A high-clearance vehicle is recommended.

**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:** Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, 928-333-4301 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/)

**511** Travelers in Arizona can visit [www.az511.gov](http://www.az511.gov) or dial 511 to get information on road closures, construction, delays, weather and more. ■





**ARIZONA TRAIL** Of all the routes along the Arizona Trail, segment No. 34 in the San Francisco Peaks is the best bet for summer.

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROBERT STIEVE

**"f**ew are altogether deaf to the preaching of pine trees. Their sermons on the mountains go to our hearts; and if people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish."

John Muir, the renowned conservationist who wrote those words in January 1896, had strong convictions about the persuasive nature of Mother Nature. Although he never set foot on the San Francisco Peaks segment of the Arizona Trail — it wasn't even conceived until a century after his quote — he would have loved it for its accessibility. After all, the more people you can get into the woods the better, and this trail makes it easy. If you can walk across the street, you can handle this hike. Put it on your list, and when you go, listen to the pine trees. The aspens and the ferns might have something to say, as well.

The San Francisco Peaks segment of the Arizona Trail is segment No. 34 — there are 43 segments in all that make up the 819-mile trail. If you were to hike the entire Peaks segment from Schultz Pass to Cedar Ranch, you'd wrack up 32.3 miles. Every mile is worthwhile, but this month's hike covers only a segment of the segment, from Aspen Corner to Forest Road 418.

The trail begins at Aspen Corner, about three-quarters of the way up Snowbowl Road. For the first 10 or 15 minutes, the trail winds through a lush forest of pines and aspens. That's what the majority of the hike is like, but one of the exceptions comes before you even work up a sweat. About a quarter-mile in, the trail goes from the woods to a vast meadow, beyond which are some clas-

Fern, aspen and pine groves line the San Francisco Peaks segment of the Arizona Trail (right and below).



sic views of the San Francisco Peaks. On most hikes in Arizona, the mountains take center stage. They're a big part of this trail, too, but it's the greens of the grasses and the ferns and the aspen leaves and Muir's pine trees that stand out most.

Back in the woods, the terrain and the elevation remain constant. And so does the scenic beauty. It goes from gorgeous to gorgeous to gorgeous. Everywhere you look you're going to see something you want in your camera, including a gnarly old ponderosa about halfway in that ranks as one of the oldest and largest pine trees on the trail. If you're going to heed Muir's advice, this is the tree to listen to.

From there, the trail continues to the turnaround point at FR 418. Although this trail is rated easy, it still requires 15 miles of hiking at an elevation of around 9,000 feet. You'll be worn out by the time you get back, but if you were paying attention along the way, you'll have grown more than just tired. On this trail in particular, it seems unlikely that John Muir could have been wrong. ■

trail guide

**LENGTH:** 15 miles round-trip

**DIFFICULTY:** Easy

**ELEVATION:** 8,800 to 9,000 feet

**DIRECTIONS:** From Flagstaff, drive north on U.S. Route 180 for 7 miles to Forest Road 516 (Snowbowl Road), turn right and continue another 7 miles to the parking area.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Accessible to all vehicles

**USGS MAP:** Humphreys Peak

**INFORMATION:** Peaks Ranger District, 928-526-0866 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino](http://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.



KEVIN KIBSEY

where  
is this?

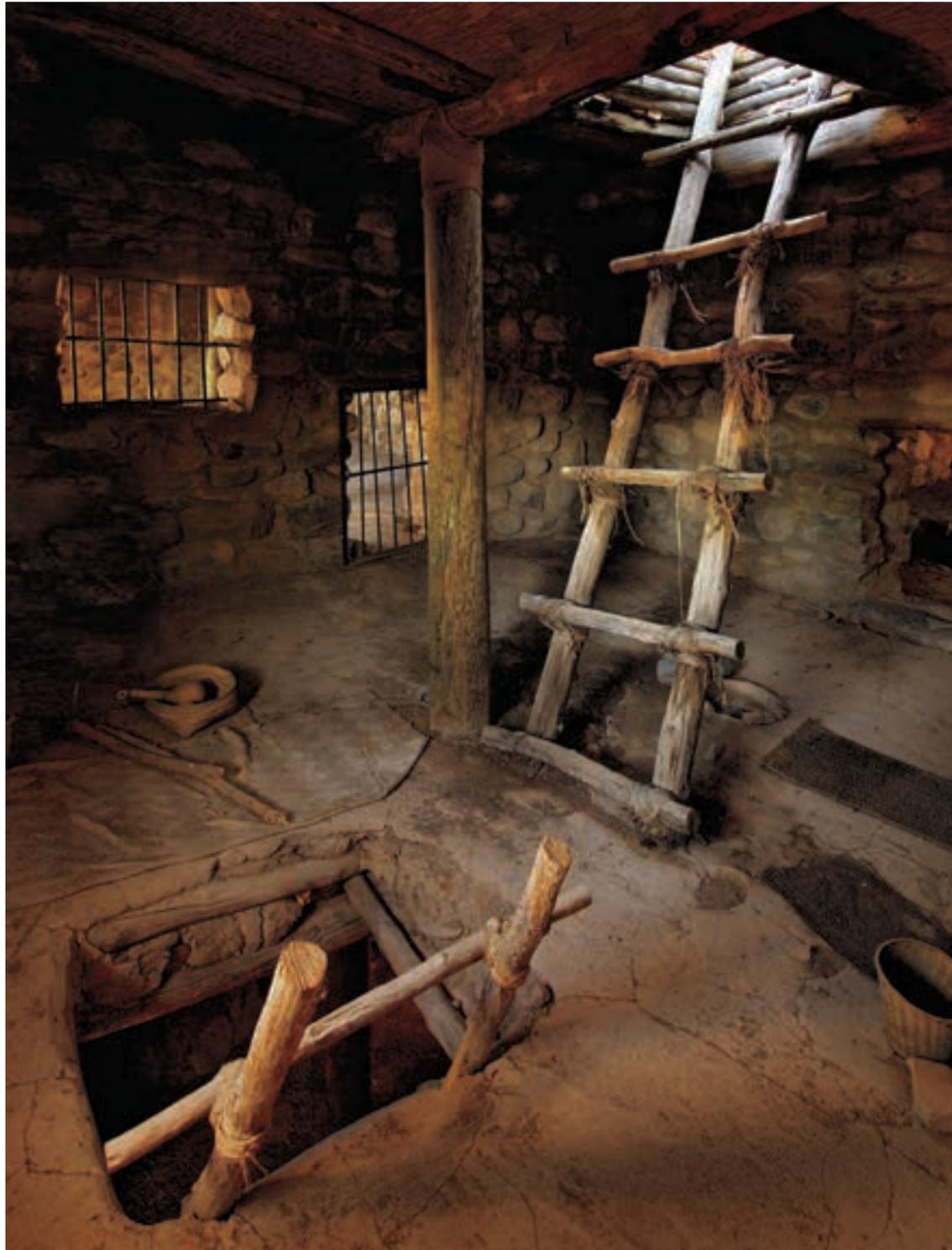
## Through the Roof

BY ROBERT STIEVE  
PHOTOGRAPH BY  
RICHARD MAACK

Christopher Columbus gets a lot of credit for "discovering America." However, he hadn't even been born yet when this 200-room dwelling was first occupied by peaceful farmers and traders. Had he sailed a couple of centuries earlier, and somehow managed to cross paths with the farmers, he might have described them as "salt of the Earth." Later, when writing home about his trip, he would have pointed out that the name of the ancient village means "place of metal," which makes sense considering where it's located.



April 2010 Answer:  
Tumacacori.  
Congratulations to our  
winner, Myra Quinn of  
Fort Worth, Texas.



**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](mailto: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 June 15, 2010. Only the winner will be notified. The correct answer will be posted in our August issue and online at [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com) beginning July 15.



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Photography by Jackie Alpers

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