

HELP US HELP OUR STATE PARKS | see p. 17

# ARIZONA

HIGHWAYS

ESCAPE · EXPLORE · EXPERIENCE

MAY 2011

A SPECIAL

## STATE PARKS GUIDE

FEATURING: 31 PARKS & NATURAL AREAS,  
12 THINGS EVERYONE SHOULD DO BEFORE THEY DIE,  
35 AMAZING PHOTOS, 1 VERY USEFUL MAP ...

Slide Rock State Park

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The Road to Chocolate Falls | Going Green in the Catalinas  
Another Way to Get Your Kicks on Route 66

INSIDE

- 2 EDITOR'S LETTER
- 3 CONTRIBUTORS
- 4 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

5 THE JOURNAL

People, places and things from around the state, including the impressive makeover of a dumpy motel on Historic Route 66, the comeback of the black-footed ferret, and Meghan McCain's three favorite things about Sedona.

18 THE STATE OF OUR STATE PARKS

It's been a rough road for Arizona's state parks. Last year, more than a dozen parks were nearly shuttered because of the economy, and there were reports that the entire parks system was in danger of collapse. Fortunately, town and tribal governments, friends groups and volunteers stepped in to help, but that's not enough. There are different theories on how to save the parks. What happens next remains a mystery.

BY KATHY MONTGOMERY

24 A WALK IN THE PARKS

From the world-famous landscapes of Red Rock to the majestic saguaros of Lost Dutchman, Arizona's 31 state parks and natural areas offer photographers, hikers, nature-lovers and everybody else an endless opportunity to do what they do. These are *your* parks. Get out and enjoy them.

A PORTFOLIO EDITED BY JEFF KIDA

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



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



40 STATE SECRETS

The stalagmites of Kartchner Caverns are not a secret. Not even close. The park's hummingbird garden, however, is more or less undiscovered. It's a hidden gem, and so are some of the other unknowns at Arizona's 31 state parks and natural areas. They're all worth experiencing, but if we were putting together a bucket list of a dozen things to do this year, this would be it.

BY KATHY MONTGOMERY

48 OFF THE WALL

At press time, nearly 25,000 people were connected to *Arizona Highways* via Facebook and Twitter. That's a lot of people. People who are committed to the magazine and, presumably, to the things we cover. So, when we were looking for some feedback on Arizona's state parks, we went to the wall and asked our Facebook followers to post their best recollections.

EDITED BY KELLY KRAMER

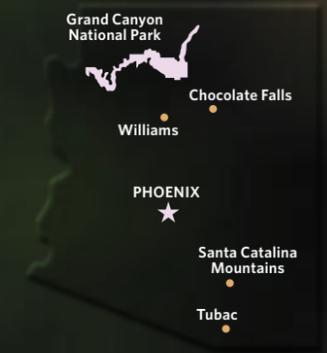
52 SCENIC DRIVE

Indian Road 6910: The road is rough, but the reward of seeing the smooth water of Chocolate Falls is well worth a few bumps and thuds.

54 HIKE OF THE MONTH

Green Mountain Trail: Ponderosa pines, Douglas firs and Arizona cypress are three big sources of green on this colorful trail.

56 WHERE IS THIS?



POINTS OF INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE. FOR THE LOCATION OF ALL 31 STATE PARKS, SEE PAGE 20.

▶ A male great egret displays its elegant white plumage. | BRUCED. TAUBERT

FRONT COVER Slide Rock State Park remains open to visitors along Oak Creek north of Sedona. | DEREK VON BRIESEN

BACK COVER The coyote is Arizona's most common predator. | TIM FITZHARRIS

Photographic Prints Available

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## We're on a Mission

This wasn't supposed to be a "state parks issue." Until the last minute, we had an entirely different cover story planned — something we'll move to 2012. We stopped the presses, so to speak, because we're on a mission: a mission to help save our state parks.

As a headline, that might sound altruistic, but it's not. We're not doing this issue as a way of riding in on a white horse. We're doing it because it's our responsibility. It's right there, in our mission statement: "To encourage travel within Arizona by publishing magazines about the state ... ." It's something we've been doing for decades, and Arizona's state parks are at the heart of what we do. Kartchner Caverns, Tonto Natural Bridge, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Homolovi Ruins, the Verde River Greenway ... there are 31 state parks and natural areas in Arizona, and it's our job, through words and photographs, to inspire residents and out-of-state visitors to visit them. It's our mission.

Lost Dutchman State Park is one of the 31. It's also one of 13 state parks that nearly closed last year after a state budget crisis triggered legislative sweeps of the State Parks Department — at press time, \$71.7 million had been swept since FY 2009. Unfortunately, park closures are still a possibility, and losing any one of them would be akin to Baskin-Robbins losing one of its 31 flavors — can you imagine walking up to the counter and not finding mint chocolate chip? That's the analogy to our state parks, and Arizona isn't alone. California, Florida, New York ... many states are dealing with similar challenges.

On the bright side, in Arizona at least, grassroots efforts have made a difference. As Kathy Montgomery writes in *The State of Our State Parks*: "Interested groups around the state rallied. Town and tribal governments stepped in to manage some parks. Friends groups raised money. Volunteers stood in the gap to do work rangers once did. At Lost Dutchman, [volunteers] helped organize the Friends of Lost Dutchman State Park, which raised \$26,000. It kept the park open."

What happens next is anybody's guess, but you can read about some of the possi-



PAUL MARKOW

bilities in Kathy's story. Meantime, we're taking this opportunity to do what we're supposed to do — showcase Arizona — and perhaps nothing accomplishes that better than the beautiful photos in this month's portfolio. Just look at Derek von Briesen's shot of Dead Horse Ranch State Park on page 24. Or George Stocking's shot of Catalina State Park on page 28. Or any of the images in *A Walk in the Park*. Although we didn't have room to illustrate all 31 parks in this piece, we do show off some places you may have never been: Alamo Lake, River Island, Patagonia. And there are more parks in *State Secrets*, our story about a state parks bucket list.

In Arizona, a list like that could go on and on, but we've narrowed it to a dozen things everyone should do before they die. Or at least before they're too old to travel. Better yet, try banging it out before the end of the year. And begin with one of the moonlight hikes at Red Rock State Park. The interpretive hikes, which are led by naturalists, run from April through October. Now is the perfect time to go. The natural hot springs at Roper Lake State Park are nice this time of year, too. And so are the cool waters of Slide Rock, which ranks as one of the most popular parks in the state. We know that because of our Facebook fans.

The research isn't scientific, but when we asked our fans to post their favorite memories on our wall, Slide Rock was among the best-loved. For Nora Anna of New York, the memory was of her niece enjoying Mother Nature's inimitable water slide: "She kept sliding over and over again until she was blue with chill from the water." In *Off the Wall*, you'll hear from some of our other fans, some of whom, we'd like to think, were inspired by *Arizona Highways*. After all, when it comes to our state parks, we're on a mission.

### WANT TO HELP OUR STATE PARKS?

Here's how: For every \$24 subscription (1 year) to *Arizona Highways*, we'll donate \$5 to the Arizona State Parks Foundation. It's easy, and it will make a difference. To learn more, scan this QR code with your smart phone or visit [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com).



ROBERT STIEVE, editor

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800-543-5432  
[www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com)

**Publisher**  
WIN HOLDEN

**Editor**  
ROBERT STIEVE

**Senior Editor**  
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**Editorial Administrator**  
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**Information Technology**  
CINDY BORMANIS

**Corporate or Trade Sales**  
602-712-2019

**Sponsorship Sales Representation**  
ERNIE MULHOLLAND  
EMM MEDIA SERVICES LLC  
602-971-6260  
ernicmm13@gmail.com

**Letters to the Editor**  
editor@arizonahighways.com  
2039 W. Lewis Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85009

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### KATHY MONTGOMERY

Like many Arizonans, writer Kathy Montgomery is concerned about the possible closing of some of Arizona's state parks. But it wasn't until working on this month's cover story (see *The State of Our State Parks*, page 18) that she realized she hadn't been doing her part to protect them. "If I care about the parks, I need to get out and visit them as often as possible," she says. And so she is, including some of her old favorites, like Boyce Thompson Arboretum and Sonoita Creek State Natural Area. But she isn't stopping there. This summer, she plans on visiting even more parks and making up for lost time. Montgomery is a frequent contributor to *Arizona Highways*.

### AMY ABRAMS

When writer Amy Abrams interviewed former Paradise Valley Mayor Ed Lowry for this month's *Journal* profile (see *Mainstream Adventurer*, page 6), she didn't know what to expect. "I encountered a rarity — a practiced and poetic storyteller, the kind who captivates with anecdotes that not only make you laugh, but leave you with a broader view of life," she says. For 47 consecutive summers, Lowry has guided a group of friends through the Grand Canyon's thrilling whitewater rapids, keeping his commitment to do what he loves most — experiencing and sharing the glory of nature. Abrams, who has written hundreds of articles for national and regional publications, including *Native Peoples* and *Southwest Art*, learned a lot from Lowry during the interview, but mostly, she says, she's going to make time to reconnect with nature.



SUZANNE MATHIA

### DEREK VON BRIESEN

When photographer Derek von Briesen learned to swim at the age of 3, it was at Will Rogers State Beach in Southern California. A few years later, he'd catch his first wave surfing at the same state park. At 16, driver's license in hand, he set out to discover the California coast, where more state parks beckoned. So, naturally, when he migrated to Arizona in 2002, he sought out the state parks as photo subjects, and many of his images appear in this month's portfolio (see *A Walk in the Parks*, page 24). "Arizona has an amazing parks system," von Briesen says. "Although there are still many to explore, I guess Slide Rock in Oak Creek Canyon is my favorite. It's simply one of the prettiest stretches of Oak Creek. Get there early, stay late and take in the sinuous Supai sandstone curves, the waterfalls, riffles and reflective pools, the light bouncing from the towering walls of the canyon. It's magic." In addition to *Arizona Highways*, von Briesen's work has also appeared in *National Geographic* and *USA Today*.

## ARIZONA HIGHWAYS TELEVISION

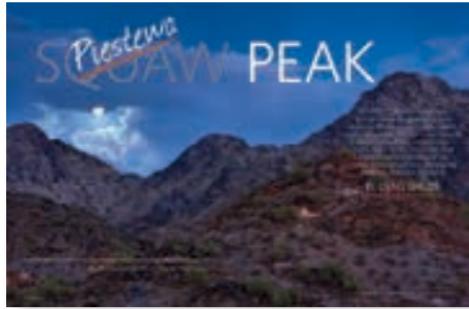


ARIZONA HIGHWAYS TV

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

**PEAK PERFORMANCE**

A heartfelt thanks for your article and photographs on Piestewa Peak [February 2011], as it acutely took me back to my first days of living in Phoenix. The mountain, then called Squaw Peak, made for a companion of sorts during an initially lonesome



February 2011

time, as I hiked it mornings before the day's summer heat pierced the city. I now have an appreciation for the dedication of people such as Dottie Gilbert, who made Piestewa into a lush refuge for wildlife and hikers alike. Craig Childs and Suzanne Mathia perfectly captured the eerie beauty of the mountain. May Lori Piestewa's daughters find some solace in the mountain that bears their mother's name.

KATE ROYAL, DENVER

**THE EYES HAVE IT**

I had no idea what Arizona was all about until I started reading *Arizona Highways* last fall. The catchy, color-splashed cover of your October 2010 issue proved irresistible to my



October 2010

wonderstruck eyes. This was an Arizona I really wasn't familiar with, coming from a mostly desert region

near Sierra Vista. Now, I'm inspired to explore more of my home range, which, thanks to your magazine and its vibrant photography and well-written articles, has been expanded to include the entire state. I'm excited about planning for my trips, and I've already made a start with Sedona and the wild beauty of the Prescott National Forest.

KIMIE GILL, SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

**PLANE WRONG**

My husband and I love Arizona. Our vacations are mostly centered on the great places in your state. We live in a beautiful area in the east county of San Diego. It's also in a flight path for small commercial planes, private planes, helicopters and military jets. On normal days there are usually four to five planes in the sky at a time, and I listen hard to hear if I can find even 30 seconds without the sound of an engine. I'm sorry you would promote biplane tours over some of the quietest places on earth [*Weekend Getaways*, January 2011]. Experiencing beauty



January 2011

takes in all of our senses, not just the visual. The sound of nature is harder and harder to find these days. Please don't encourage more use of noisy airplanes in areas that hold some of the greatest beauty and exquisite lack of modern noise.

JEAN KAIWI, SAN DIEGO

**NO WAFFLING WHATSOEVER**

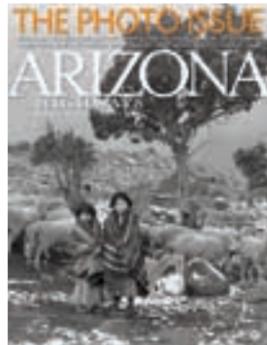
As a 90-year-old Belgian reader, I am probably your oldest fan abroad. A few years ago I got a subscription as a present. Since then I have been looking forward to the next wonderful

issue with ever-growing impatience. I have the most beautiful memories of Arizona after visiting it in 1976: my stay with the Hopi Indians, the shock of my life when first viewing the Grand Canyon, and, of course, Hoover Dam with its stylish winged figures, which are carved on my retina. In one of the tiniest countries of the world, you succeed in making me want to visit Arizona again.

FRANCOISE FROMONT, ANTWERP, BELGIUM

**FROM ARIZONA TO AFGHANISTAN**

My wife recently sent me a packet of magazines, taking three weeks to arrive. This is the first time she inserted *Arizona Highways* (September 2010), usually coveting them for our



September 2010

guest bedroom for visiting friends to enjoy. I've been working in Afghanistan for the past 21 months. My Afghan staff hardly understands why I give a longing and daily look at the *Arizona Highways* calendar. I take it off the wall each month and show it to them, saying, "Look at this place, I've been here, this place is not far from where I live, such a beautiful place." The September portfolio, *A Goldwater Family Album*, really dug into me. When I saw "Big Country," a photograph of a place in the White Mountains, I thought to myself, *I think I have stood in the same place as the photographer and captured the same image in my mind.* To be reminded of the place and to be taken back a moment ... I appreciate it. I hope that someday the Afghan people will have the opportunity to appreciate their beautiful country.

SCOTT BEESON, TUCSON



**Hang Loose!**

There's a lot to do in and around Flagstaff. Some people hike Humphreys Peak, some people explore the many great restaurants, and some people, like this woman, hang out on the limestone cliffs south of town. *Information: Flagstaff Convention & Visitors Bureau, 800-842-7293 or www.flagstaffarizona.org*

KERRICK JAMES



COURTESY ED LOWRY

## Mainstream Adventurer

Ed Lowry loves the Colorado River. A lot. That's why he's been leading excursions along the West's most famous waterway for the past 47 summers. He's not just a river guide, though; the 79-year-old adventurer also serves as erudite lecturer, part-time chef and captivating storyteller.

By AMY ABRAMS

THE EVENING COCKTAIL SOIRÉE in Marble Canyon sets the tone for the expedition party's upcoming weeklong escapade

— riding the rapids down the Colorado River. Despite living out of a boat, sleeping on the ground, and occasionally encountering scorpions and snakes, the party participants will not exactly be rough-

ing it. They'll linger over bacon and eggs for breakfast, enjoy a sizzling steak for dinner and, on day four of their journey, celebrate with a tequila party.

After being on a pontoon boat for 190 miles as the water winds between immense walls of primordial rock and through dozens of thrilling whitewater rapids, this group of 28 travelers will

emerge wholly transformed at Diamond Creek. It's often said that there's no more exhilarating way to see the Grand Canyon than from the bottom up.

Their venerable host is Ed Lowry, who possesses a unique distinction that makes him perfectly qualified as their guide. For the past 47 summers, without missing one annual trip, Lowry has headed an expedition party along this spectacular stretch of river. At age 79, Lowry serves as tour leader, erudite lecturer, part-time chef and captivating storyteller around the campfire each night.

His long-standing role as Grand Canyon guide occurred more by accident than by design. Almost 50 years ago, when the Bureau of Reclamation threatened to build a dam, potentially halting further river runs, Lowry embarked on his first white-water trip. Although Congress ultimately relinquished the plan, Lowry began his lifelong enchantment with one of Mother Nature's most magnificent designs and Arizona's greatest treasure.

"It's hard to imagine, but I was one of only about 400 folks who had ever rafted that remarkable stretch of river in 1965," Lowry says. Today, many more ride the rapids through the Canyon. In fact, approximately 10,000 people make the trip annually.

People often ask Lowry what keeps him going back to the Grand Canyon year after year. He explains that change is a permanent resident there. "Whether it's sunrise, sunset, a storm or a full moon quietly shining down on the layers of time, there's always something novel to behold," he says.

For Lowry and most visitors to the Canyon, the destination also possesses the promise of a spiritual epiphany. "It's a magical and transformative journey," he says. He adds that the trip is one of self-awakening and renewal. "The rocks rising from the river are 2 billion years old," he explains. "It certainly heightens your humility and the realization that we're merely guests here on the planet."

Indeed, Lowry's soft-spoken and humble demeanor is antithetical to his impressive list of accomplishments within the greater Phoenix community over the past 50 years. There, he has served as a high-powered attorney (after graduating from Stanford Law School), mayor of the Town of Para-

dise Valley for three terms, president of the world-renowned Heard Museum, president of the Scottsdale Bar Association, and chairman of the Arizona State Commission on Uniform State Laws.

Well-known within Phoenix's political and legal circles, Lowry culls a guest list for his Grand Canyon excursions that encompasses a who's who of Arizona residents, as well as visitors from all over the country. Among the most notable, Barry Goldwater joined Lowry's jaunt to the Canyon in the summer of 1993. It would be the last trip to one of his favorite locales for Arizona's five-term senator and one-time presidential nominee.

Famed Arizona painter Merrill Mahaffey runs the river with Lowry year after year. This summer will mark Mahaffey's 28th trip. "Those river trips with Lowry changed my life," the artist says. While Mahaffey had painted the Canyon from its rim, it wasn't until Lowry encouraged him to experience the Canyon from the perspective of the river that Mahaffey's paintings were showcased in the collections of the country's most prominent museums.

The highlights of the journey for Mahaffey are destinations favored by many participants, and include Saddle Canyon, where red-rock cliffs turn scarlet

Ed Lowry (left) and Barry Goldwater in the Grand Canyon, June 1993.



COURTESY ED LOWRY

in shadow and rise more than 3,000 feet above the river. They also include the three pounding waterfalls at Deer Creek, one of which plunges more than 100 feet to the river below. Meandering through historic ruins tucked within the Grand Canyon's walls and hiking among towering cliffs of ancient rock also rank among the most memorable experiences for trip participants.

Lowry has hosted more than 1,200 people over the years, and all of them heard about the trip through word of mouth. Lowry has never advertised the annual excursions. "Participants are my friends, and friends of friends, and family members, too," he explains. "What are really wonderful are the lifelong friendships forged from folks who never met before. We're a family for those days on the river, and it's always hard to say goodbye at week's end."

Though often reluctant to relinquish their laptops and iPhones, few people are ever in a hurry to rejoin the fast-paced world after their journey. "It's endearing to see how each person's façade melts away once removed from civilization," Lowry says.

It's a trip that most attendees long remember and relish. One year, Lowry received a letter from a participant many months after the trip had ended. It read: "No vacation will ever measure up. Thanks for ruining all my future vacations."

## P R A T T ' S

# Q & A



**Meghan McCain**  
Author, *Dirty Sexy Politics*

In 10 words or less, describe Arizona. Home. In every conceivable way.

If you could have any sandwich in Arizona named after your father, Senator John McCain, what would it be?

I don't think it would be a sandwich. I think the dry ribs he makes should be named after him.

Three favorite things about Sedona? Obviously, our cabin would be the first favorite thing. Second, the red rocks, because they are so beautiful, and I find them very healing and relaxing. I always go to Sedona and spend a day downtown whenever I need to relax — it's where I hibernated and hid from the world after the election. Third, the Red Planet Diner. It was my favorite place to get milkshakes growing up, and it satisfies all of my UFO curiosities.

Page Springs wineries: thumbs up, thumbs down or no thumbs at all? Thumbs up! I love that Page Springs is making a move to become a winery destination.

Say you wanted to show Arizona off to a tour group of other political children. Where would you take them?

This is a really hard question, but I think I would start off by showing them around Old Town Scottsdale. Then we'd go get some Mexican food at Tee Pee in Phoenix and drive up to Sedona to look at the red rocks and go to Slide Rock State Park. But really, there is so much to see and do in Arizona that it's hard to narrow it down.

Equate your father to an Arizona landmark. That is really hard! I'd have to go with the Grand Canyon — just because they're both tough and classic Arizona in every way.

If you could change one stereotype about Arizona, what would it be?

That it's sandy and that there are tumbleweeds everywhere. That couldn't be further from what Arizona looks like, especially Phoenix, where I grew up.

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



PAUL MARKOW

## Motel 66

When the city of Williams condemned the Lodge on Route 66, no one expected a resurrection. But along came Rob Samsky, who brought the vintage motel back to life, and in the process, created an elegant property that harkens back to the heyday of the Mother Road.

By ROGER NAYLOR

ACHIEVING A DREAM IS like completing a great road trip. No matter how careful the planning, you sometimes take an unexpected route to arrive at your destination. Welcome to Rob Samsky's world. What he wanted was a mountain cabin, someplace where he and his family could escape the desert heat. What he ended up with was one of the pre-eminent motels in Williams — the stylish and casually elegant Lodge on Route 66.

While searching for a simple cabin on a foray to the high country in 2002, Samsky came across a ramshackle motel for sale. Surprising even himself, he bought it. The motel, a vintage motor court right on Historic Route 66, had been condemned by the city, but that didn't scare off Samsky, who began an almost unimaginable rehabilitation project. First, he installed his family, because what better source of cheap labor than blood relatives? He now had his little mountain cabin. It just happened to have 28 rooms.

Setting out to design an affordable motel while recapturing an era of sophistication and comfort, Samsky applied high standards to each detail. He gutted and then lovingly restored everything, from the fixtures to the frame. Wood used in the renovation was taken from the surrounding forest and run through the local sawmill. Many of the original rooms were combined to make suites.

The Lodge on Route 66 opened in June 2004 and hearkened back to something that had long been missing from Williams. Travelers on the road dubbed the "Main Street of America" now had family run luxury lodging again. The Lodge was in the forefront of the renaissance for downtown Williams, one of the most well-preserved small-town cores in the state with

a powerful Route 66 heritage.

Samsky sacrificed none of the property's historic charm in creating the Lodge. Guests can still park in front of their rooms in the classic motor-court tradition. The exterior exudes a Southwestern feel, with an open courtyard surrounding a lovely covered cabana that's anchored by large wooden pillars. Rustic chairs are positioned along the walkway, creating an old-fashioned chat-with-your-fellow-travelers vibe.

In the rooms, guests are welcomed by an array of amenities, including travertine flooring and countertops, solid-wood furniture, flat-screen TVs, plush beds and luxurious linens. Suites include a sleeper sofa, wood kitchen cabinets, a stainless-steel refrigerator, a dining nook and fireplaces. Spend a little time inside, and other homey details become apparent, like the designer-style lighting and interior archways.

Complimentary breakfast is served each morning on the cabana, where guests can relax at the edge of Historic Route 66 as the soft flow of traffic streams past — fellow travelers on road trips or folks chasing dreams of their own.

The Lodge on Route 66 is located at 200 E. Route 66 in Williams. For more information, call 928-635-4534 or visit [www.thelodgeonroute66.com](http://www.thelodgeonroute66.com).

## Made in the Shade

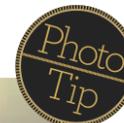
The best landscape photography is usually shot with early morning or late-afternoon light, but sometimes those times aren't an option. When the sun is high, shade becomes critical, forcing photographers like George Stocking to get creative.

By JEFF KIDA, photo editor



Wildflowers in an aspen meadow on the north side of the San Francisco Peaks. | GEORGE STOCKING

WHILE PHOTOGRAPHER GEORGE STOCKING was exploring Arizona's high country last summer, he discovered this meadow filled with orange sneezeweed and lupines. The grass shimmered in the sunlight, and Stocking immediately started looking for a place to set up his camera. Even though it was late in the afternoon, the sun was still fairly high in the sky — shooting into strong backlight would be challenging. If he shot from a high angle, looking down toward the flowers and grasses, he could shade his lens, as long as he didn't use a lens that was too wide. Technically, this approach worked, but he didn't feel that it made a very interesting photograph. So, Stocking used the shadow of an aspen tree to act as a natural lens shade. This allowed him to get down low into the sunlit flowers and make them prominent in the image. He then stopped-down his 28 mm lens to f/18 in order to carry the depth of field throughout the frame.



TOM BEAN

### GREEN MEANS GO

A little-known but invaluable focusing trick is the "green dot." The green dot appears in the viewfinder whenever an object is in focus. It works in the manual-focus mode in all cameras, and in the autofocus mode in many of today's DSLRs. If you don't trust your eyes, you can usually count on the green dot.



ADDITIONAL READING: Look for our book *Arizona Highways Photography Guide*, available at bookstores and [www.arizona-highways.com/books](http://www.arizona-highways.com/books).

### ONLINE

For more photography tips, visit [www.arizona-highways.com/photography.asp](http://www.arizona-highways.com/photography.asp).

## Arizona: 1932-1941

In Arizona's third decade of statehood, voters sent a woman to Congress for the first time, while another woman, Winnie Ruth Judd, made headlines as the brutal "Trunk Murderess."

By JANA BOMMERSBACH

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In February 2012, Arizona will celebrate 100 years of statehood, and *Arizona Highways* will publish a special Centennial issue. Leading up to that milestone, we're presenting a 10-part history of the state. This is Part 3.

THE 1930S WERE HARD on America, and the situation in Arizona was no different. The Great Depression meant widespread unemployment, closed mines, falling farm prices, bread lines and a tourism industry that had all but disappeared — the only regular visitors were transients who were fleeing harsh winters elsewhere. Things were so bad that by the fall of 1932, the state teachers college in Flagstaff was bartering with students for rooms and books, accepting hay, potatoes and eggs in lieu of hard-to-find cash.

Eventually, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal put people back to work with the Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps. Bridges, roads and hospitals were built, historical buildings were restored, arts and writing projects were financed, and camps for children were created in Yuma, Douglas, Tucson, Nogales, Phoenix and Prescott.

On December 26, 1933, Arizona Governor Benjamin B. Moeur sent a Yuletide telegram to FDR: "All Arizona is behind you; more power to your wonderful mind, your high courage and your humanitarian attitude toward mankind."

Arizona's progressive streak continued

in 1933, when the state elected its first woman to Congress. Ironically, Isabella Greenway's fellow women in Arizona couldn't yet serve on juries — that wouldn't happen until 1936.

Although Arizona was garnering some national attention between 1932 and 1941, it wasn't the kind of publicity the state wanted. The infamous "trunk murderess" case of Winnie Ruth Judd became a national obsession. Judd was accused of killing her best friends on October 16, 1931, cutting up one of the bodies and stowing both corpses in the baggage she took on a train to Los Angeles.

On February 9, 1932, Judd was convicted and sentenced to death, but was instead remanded to the insane asylum in Phoenix, where she stayed in the headlines for decades, escaping seven times before she was paroled in 1972.

On a more positive note, Arizona's third decade of statehood saw architect Frank Lloyd Wright build Taliesin West, his Arizona home and school, on 800 acres in northeast Scottsdale. Wright purchased the land for a mere \$3.50 an acre, and Taliesin West remains a school today, as well as one of the state's major tourist attractions. Another modern tourist hotspot, Old Tucson, was constructed by 1939. Since then, Hollywood has used the Wild West town in more than 300 films, including *Arizona*, which starred Jean Arthur and William Holden.

Although the clouds of war loomed as Arizona entered the 1940s, the nation's demands for Arizona cotton, copper and cattle led to the first economic relief in years. Of course, December 7, 1941, will forever be remembered as a "day that will live in infamy," but it had an even more personal effect on the nation's newest state. Its beloved namesake, the *USS Arizona*, sank in Pearl Harbor, carrying 1,177 officers and men to their deaths, including eight Arizonans. It remains at the bottom of the harbor today.

"Trunk Murderess" Winnie Ruth Judd (seated, left) was sentenced on February 9, 1932. | ARIZONA STATE ARCHIVES

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The average cost of a new home in 1932 was \$6,510.
- Babe Ruth hit the 714th and final home run of his career in 1935.
- In 1938, the federally mandated minimum wage was 40 cents per hour for a 44-hour workweek.
- The purchase price of a brand-new Philco refrigerator in 1940 was \$239.
- The two biggest films of 1941 were *Citizen Kane* and *Dumbo*.



ARIZONA STATE ARCHIVES



NICK BEREZENKO

## ARIZONA: THEN & NOW

IN 1937, THE SPRINGVILLE post office (top photo), which also housed other government offices, was the hub of activity in the small town in the White Mountains. In 1939, artist Robert Kittredge installed a plaster relief on an interior wall titled *Apache Chiefs Geronimo and Vittorio* as part of the New Deal art resurgence. Although Geronimo wasn't a chief, the artwork was impressive, and the plaster relief is still intact today, as is the building itself, wherein mail to and from zip code 85938 is sorted and sent on its way, come snow, rain, heat or gloom of night.

## IN THE NEWS

Headlines from *The Arizona Republic*  
1932 - 1941

February 12, 1932

"Best of Western Buckaroos Enter 'Out Wickenburg Way'; Great Rodeo Opens Today"

August 8, 1933

"Ratification is Decisive; Midnight Count Shows Wets 34,548, Drys 10,151"

[The primary election vote made Arizona the 21st state to vote for the repeal of Prohibition.]

October 30, 1933

"Navajo to Seek Self Rule Control of Natural Resources"

January 25, 1934

"Tucson Nabs Killer Band; John Dillinger and Aides Fail to Offer Fight; Trio of Women is Taken With Gangsters; Long Sought; Gems, Currency of \$48,000 Seized"

September 30, 1935

"President Dedicates Dam; WPS Allots \$2,619,075 for Projects in Arizona; Twenty Thousand to Gather for Event"

March 29, 1939

"Miss Lombard and Gable Wed in Kingman; Famous Film Couple Plans Short Visit at Boulder Dam"

October 12, 1940

"Tom Mix Dies in Car Crash Near Florence; Screen and Circus Star is Pinned Under Auto"





## THE HAYS CATTLE CO. EST. 1912

*Peebles Valley, Arizona*

BY DANIEL JACKA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SCOTT BAXTER

When John Hays wasn't working as a state senator, he was herding cattle at his Peebles Valley ranch. Hays' grandfather bought the land in Arizona in 1912, and used it as a complement to the California headquarters of the Hays Cattle Co. Although a large piece of the company has since been sold, Hays maintains 500 acres. "It's more of a hobby than a ranch," he says. At 82, Hays, whom Scott Baxter photographed last November, has seen the population grow around him, but the ranch still survives. "The man we've sold it to has maintained it. Not much has changed, except for the better."



EDITOR'S NOTE: "100 Years, 100 Ranchers" has been designated an official Centennial Legacy Project. Every month, we'll be featuring one of the ranchers. It's part of our own Centennial coverage, which will continue through February 2012. For more information about "100 Years, 100 Ranchers," visit [www.100years100ranchers.com](http://www.100years100ranchers.com).



TIM FULLER

## Going Deutsch

Located on historic ranch property in Tubac, Stables Ranch Grille specializes in *German*, not Spanish, cuisine. It's a little surprising for a menu in a border-town restaurant, but the chefs in the kitchen are wholehearted about their sausages, sauerkraut and pan-fried potatoes.

By KATHY MONTGOMERY

ful old buildings that would not look out of place in Mexico. But who am I to judge? One look around tells me it's working.

Set against the backdrop of the Santa Rita Mountains, Tubac Golf Resort was once part of a 400-acre ranch established in 1789 by Spanish cattleman Don Toribio de Otero. The resort dates to 1959 and an investment group that is rumored to have included Bing Crosby. Movie buffs know it as the setting for the 1996 film *Tin Cup*, which starred Kevin Costner.

To its credit, the resort has made good use of the ranch's historic structures. Stables is named for the building in which it was built. The restaurant's front room, with its stone floors and tables separated by the remnants of stalls, feels Old World and intimate. The back room, added later, feels open and spacious, thanks to three floor-to-ceiling arched windows.

With menu items like garlic sautéed shrimp with Serrano ham, sherry and Spanish olive oil, Stables feels surprisingly upscale and urban given its rural setting. Perhaps that's thanks to a partnership that includes Eric Flatt and John Malcom, who own both Tonto Bar & Grill and Cartwright's in Cave Creek. But the heart and soul of the place (and its German menu, it turns out) are thanks to managing partner Ernie Andreas, whose bona fides include a stint at The Lodge at Pebble Beach, as well as gigs all over Europe, Asia and Africa.

Andreas, who grew up near Frankfurt, developed the German menu once he realized that Southern Arizona is home to a surprisingly large number of German Americans. He based his seasonal menu on the foods he grew up with, like German sausages in onion beer sauce with sauerkraut and potato salad, and sour braised beef with fresh kohlrabi and pan-fried potatoes. There's also a sampling of German beers to wash it all down. The idea has been a runaway hit, filling tables Sunday through Tuesday nights during the normally slow summer months.

I'm completely won over. If there's any better surprise on a summer evening, I don't know what it is.

Except, maybe, getting caught in an unexpected storm.

Stables Ranch Grille is located at One Otero Road in Tubac. For more information, call 520-398-2678 or visit [www.stablesranchgrille.com](http://www.stablesranchgrille.com).

## Making a Comeback

Black-footed ferrets are few and far between, but their situation is a lot better than it was in 1985, when only 18 of them existed in North America. Since then, thanks to an Arizona-based captive-breeding program, the elusive mammals are making a comeback. BY AMANDA FRUZYNSKI

If the Lone Ranger were reincarnated in animal form, he'd likely come back as a black-footed ferret. There's the matching black eye masks, of course, but the ferret's preference for working alone would also sit well with the Lone Ranger.

Like many cowboys, most black-footed ferrets are solitary animals, preferring to wander alone unless it's mating season. They're also hard to sneak up on — like some cowboys — because they're nocturnal and they're among the most endangered mammals in North America.

Your best chance of seeing one is wherever you find prairie dogs — the majority of a black-footed ferret's diet consists of that burrowing rodent.

The ferret's scarcity dates back to the latter part of the 20th century, when prairie-

dog populations took a massive hit because farmers viewed them as destructive. Without food, the ferret population also plummeted, and by 1985, only 18 black-footed ferrets existed in North America. In an effort to save the species, the survivors were put into a captive-breeding program.

In Arizona, black-footed ferrets hadn't been seen since the late 1930s, but in 1996, Aubrey Valley, which is located outside of Seligman, became the fourth site in the United States to be selected for a reintroduction program. And like before, the ferrets' main food source is prairie dogs, specifically

Gunnison prairie dogs, the only species that exists in the state. They're typically found north of the Mogollon Rim and south of the Colorado River.

As the population slowly recovers, the Arizona Game and Fish Department is working hard to measure the growth by leading volunteers on "spotlighting" trips in the spring and fall. As the name suggests, spotlights are pointed into burrows. If there's a ferret inside, the emerald-green eyes of the 18- to 24-inch mammal will shine. Biologists then capture the animals to determine whether they're from the captive-born population or whether they were born in the wild. Wild-born ferrets are tagged for future reference and released to burrow.

It's a slow process, and the animals are still at risk, but thanks to the efforts of biologists and volunteers, black-footed ferrets aren't quite ready to ride off into the sunset.

## nature factoid



BRUCE D. TAUBERT

## Tooting Their Own Horns

Named for the conspicuous "horn" atop their bodies, Sphinx moth caterpillars look dangerous, but c'mon, they're only caterpillars. When disturbed, they elevate their heads and assume a stance that vaguely resembles the Egyptian Sphinx. Gardeners and farmers aren't too keen on the feisty fellows. With their voracious appetites for leaves, Sphinx moth caterpillars can wipe out entire crops in just a few days.

BRUCE D. TAUBERT



I'M SURPRISED BY THE crowd in the dining room at Stables Ranch Grille at Tubac Golf Resort. It's Monday night and pouring rain. Drenched from an unexpected summer downpour, I'm grateful for having made an early reservation when the hostess leads my husband and me past full tables to seats by a window where we watch the storm play over a picturesque field with a pond bordered by fat, leafy cottonwoods and a cow grazing leisurely along a split-rail fence.

My next surprise is the soft, chewy pretzels tucked between more traditional offerings in our breadbasket.

"For German night," our server explains, pointing to a menu insert listing a host of German specialties.

It's the last thing I expect to find here, in a border-town resort, surrounded by beauti-



**"Life is Peachy"  
Peach Festival**

MAY 14-15 AND 21-22  
QUEEN CREEK

For 70 years, Schnepf Farms has been producing extraordinary peaches for Arizona. Get in on the action and eat a peach, play peach "pit spit" and participate in peach-pie-eating contests, then watch celebrity chef demonstrations and peach culinary cook-offs. After all that, head out to the orchard to pick your own peaches. *Information: 480-283-3612 or www.schnepffarms.com*



DAVID HALGRIMSON

**Photo Workshop &  
Photoshop Seminar**

AUGUST 12-15 GRAND CANYON

Views of the Grand Canyon's spectacular vistas have inspired artists and photographers for more than 100 years. The Canyon's viewpoints become even more dramatic when summer storms drift over its ridges and cliffs, making this the best time of year to capture the power of nature. Award-winning photographer Gary Ladd's workshop offers exciting and unpredictable photo opportunities, while Photoshop expert Steve Burger's afternoon labs present easy step-by-step instructions on how to maximize photos. *Information: 888-790-7042 or www.friendsofzhighways.com*

FOSKETT PHOTOGRAPHY

**26th Annual Tucson Folk Festival**

APRIL 30-MAY 1 TUCSON

More than 110 acts provide 20 hours of music, dance and entertainment on four stages at this event, which includes a songwriting competition, a young-artists' stage, workshops, and food and craft vendors. This volunteer-produced event is one of the largest free festivals in the country. *Information: www.tkma.org*



PAUL & JOYCE BERQUIST

**"Learn Your Lizards"**

MAY 14 SUPERIOR

Join "Wild Man" Phil Rakoci at Boyce Thompson Arboretum for the "Learn Your Lizards" guided walk, which begins at 8:30 a.m. Look for a half-dozen of the most common species of native lizards on a walk around the arboretum's 1.5-mile Main Trail. The best part? There's a good chance of spotting one of the park's resident Gila monsters. *Information: 520-689-2811 or www.ag.arizona.edu/bta*



RICHARD MACK

**Riordan Mansion Tour**

MAY 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26  
FLAGSTAFF

Built in 1904 as adjoining homes for two brothers of the Riordan family, the 40-room Riordan Mansion is one of Flagstaff's points of pride, and it's one of Arizona's most popular state parks. The building, which was designed by Charles Whittlesey, is an excellent example of Arts and Crafts architecture. *Information: 928-779-4395 or www.azstateparks.com/parks/rima*



JIM MARSHALL

**Arizona Highways Travel Show**

MAY 14-15 PHOENIX

The third-annual Arizona Highways Travel Show is a great place to learn about the state's main attractions, as well as events and travel opportunities that are less familiar. Among other destinations, you'll learn about the Colorado River communities, road trips on Historic Route 66, the Grand Canyon, the beauty and tranquility of Sedona, the history and culture of Tucson, and so much more. *Information: www.arizonahighwaystravelshow.com* — Compiled by Nikki Kimbel

# HELP US ... HELP OUR STATE PARKS!



Picacho Peak State Park | GEORGE STOCKING

Like every other state in the country, Arizona is dealing with a budget crisis. As a state-owned publication, *Arizona Highways* has felt the impact, and so have our Arizona State Parks. In an effort to weather the storm, we're teaming up with our park colleagues to help ensure that Arizona, through the pages of our magazine and the state's 31 parks, remains open and accessible to residents and visitors alike.

**HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

For every \$24 subscription (1 year) to *Arizona Highways*, we'll donate \$5 to the Arizona State Parks Foundation! It's easy, and it *will* make a difference.





STATE  
PARKS GUIDE  
2011

# THE STATE OF OUR STATE PARKS

It's been a rough road for Arizona's state parks. Last year, more than a dozen parks were nearly shuttered because of the economy, and there were reports that the entire parks system was in danger of collapse. Fortunately, town and tribal governments, friends groups and volunteers stepped in to help, but that's not enough. There are different theories on how to save the parks. What happens next remains a mystery.

By **KATHY MONTGOMERY**

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The Superstition Mountains catch the day's last light,  
as seen from Lost Dutchman State Park. | GEORGE STOCKING

Gabrielle Warner wrinkles her pink, freckled nose and, with chubby fingers, teases apart the furry owl pellet laid out in front of her on lavender construction paper.

Four more kids from the Apache Junction branch of the Boys and Girls Club sit around the picnic table in identical postures, wearing identical, fluorescent-green T-shirts. These desert detectives came out to Lost Dutchman State Park to uncover clues about the diet of the barn owl.

As they work, they refer to laminated charts taped to the picnic table. With each new discovery, they shout to one of three park volunteers.

Gabrielle leans over the table, one sneaker-clad foot tucked up underneath herself.

"Look!" she cries, freeing a tiny bone. She holds it up for Mitzi Rhinehart's inspection. Mitzi looks delighted, her smile lit by polka dots of sunlight streaming through her straw hat.

"Oh goodie!" Mitzi says. "It's like unwrapping a present. Look. Those are teeth!"

"Teeth?"

"See? Aren't they tiny? We've got a whole head here. Where do you suppose that would go?"

Gabrielle slides the bone down the chart, looking for a match. She stops next to a rodent's jawbone. It's a perfect fit.

Gabrielle and her friends have Mitzi to thank for the morning's

activities. A longtime park volunteer, planning and organizing programs is part of what Mitzi does. It's because of her efforts that Lost Dutchman still offers programs like this one. It's because of her efforts, in part, that the park is open at all.

Lost Dutchman is one of 13 state parks that nearly closed last year after a state budget crisis triggered legislative sweeps of Parks Department funds. Four additional parks had already closed after previous cuts. By the time this story went to press, the Parks Department had lost \$71.7 million to sweeps since the 2009 fiscal year. Reports warned that the entire state parks system was in danger of collapse.

Interested groups around the state rallied. Town and tribal governments stepped in to manage some parks. Friends groups raised money. Volunteers stood in the gap to do work rangers once did. At Lost Dutchman, Mitzi helped organize the Friends of Lost Dutchman State Park, which raised \$26,000. It kept the park open.

At press time, only five parks remained shuttered, and two of those had plans to reopen. Five parks were being operated by an entity other than the Parks Department. Nine others were run with the support of partners, five of them on a reduced schedule.

The next steps remained a mystery.

**According to a study** by the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University, the state parks movement of the early 20th

century sought to develop properties to fill the gap between highly developed city parks and largely undeveloped national parks, protect state resources and boost local economies. But with so much public land, Arizonans were slow to warm to the idea. A 1941 National Park Service study saw no need for a state parks system in Arizona.

Even so, a State Parks Association formed in 1950. It began pushing for a state parks system to curb vandalism of historic landmarks. It also pushed for a system because every other state had one. A 1957 law created the Arizona State Parks Board to "select, acquire, preserve, establish and maintain areas of natural features, scenic beauty, historical and scientific interest, and zoos and botanical gardens for the education, pleasure, recreation and health of the people." Tubac Presidio, donated the following year, became Arizona's first state park.

A federal program gave a push to state parks in the 1960s. But Arizona State Parks' biggest growth took place in the 1980s, spurred by a task force recommendation to systematically acquire and develop state parks to promote tourism.

Today, Arizona State Parks lists 31 parks and natural areas on its website. The nonprofit Arizona State Parks Foundation raises funds and awareness for state parks, and encourages friends groups.

Arizona State Parks' financial woes began long before the current crisis. According to the Morrison Institute, the trouble started during legislative sweeps of 2003. Money intended for capital improvements went instead to operations. The department hasn't had a meaningful capital budget since. Unmet capital needs now total more than \$150 million.

Even before the December 2009 sweeps that triggered the vote to close 13 parks, a governor's task force declared the entire state parks system "in imminent danger of complete collapse as a result of financial starvation during most of this decade."

The governor's panel and the Morrison Institute both concluded that the system could not be stabilized without a source of reliable, sustainable funding.

Part of the problem is the parks budget itself. Over the years, legislation and voter initiatives created about a dozen revenue sources. Each has a different formula. Most are protected or restricted. All this adds up to a budget that is confusing and difficult to administer.

To complicate matters, beginning in the 1960s, the Parks Department became steward to a number of grant programs that don't benefit state parks directly. These grants make it look like the department has more money than it actually does.

The question becomes: With the state struggling to provide basic services, should we worry about state parks? Executive Director Renee Bahl says yes. Aside from their recreational value, aside from their role in preserving our state's history and scenic places, Bahl notes that the state has invested a quarter-billion dollars in Arizona's state parks system.

"Even in difficult financial times, that's not something you should just give away or ignore," she says.

Perhaps more importantly, Bahl says the collapse of the state parks system would devastate tourism.

In 2007, Northern Arizona University calculated the economic impact of 27 Arizona state parks. It found that, directly and indirectly, the parks contributed more than \$266 million to Arizona's economy. That included 3,347 jobs and more than \$22 million in taxes to state and local governments.

A report released in January found that visitation at state parks had decreased by nearly 4 percent since the NAU study, the result of the recession and changes in park operations. Visitor spending,

## helping hands

One person can make a difference. That's what Mitzi Rhinehart taught Steve Jakubowski.

Jakubowski was assistant park manager at Lost Dutchman State Park when Mitzi walked through the gates nine years ago. He describes her as an energetic, spunky woman with a "get on the train or get out of the way" attitude.

One of State Parks' 800 volunteers, Mitzi embraced her duties.

"I was just right for it," she recalls. "People want to know, 'Where do I go to the post office? Where's the picnic ground?' I knew, because I'd been coming here for years."

By 2007, budget cuts had taken a toll on the park's public programs. After a long career in libraries, Mitzi knew how to put together programs and promote them. So she lined up volunteers to talk about birds and bats and history. She booked musicians.

"One guy could do yodeling, which was a riot," she recalls.

She wrote to newspapers and chambers of commerce. She designed posters and fliers, and got other volunteers to distribute them.

When she heard the park would close, she helped organize Friends of Lost Dutchman State Park.

"She was the instigator," Jakubowski says. "She got the ball rolling, set it up, pursued it and kept at it."

The group raised enough money to keep the park open.

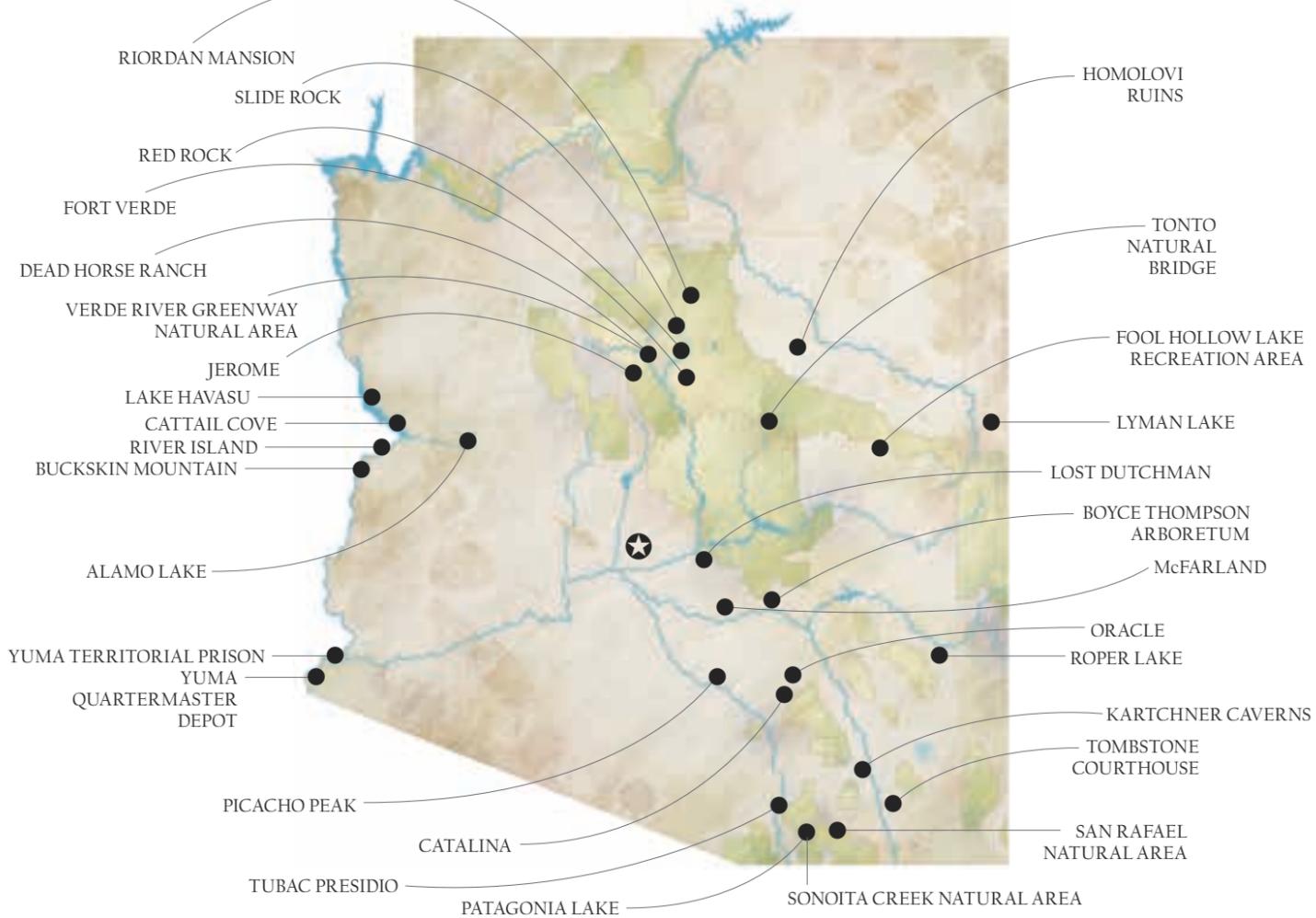
Nicole Armstrong-Best, who runs the volunteer program for State Parks, says with deep cuts to State Parks' staff, there are parks that would be closed if not for such volunteers.

"They were essential a year ago," she says. "Now they are vital."

Volunteer Mitzi Rhinehart explains the contents of an owl pellet to Gabrielle Warner at Lost Dutchman State Park. | MOLLY SMITH



### ARIZONA STATE PARKS & NATURAL AREAS



# open & shut

Here are the parks that were open, or scheduled to reopen, as of February 2011. Check the Arizona State Parks website at [www.azstateparks.com](http://www.azstateparks.com) for current information.

## Parks Never Closed

Buckskin Mountain State Park  
Catalina State Park  
Cattail Cove State Park  
Dead Horse Ranch State Park  
(including Verde River Greenway State Natural Area)  
Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area  
Kartchner Caverns State Park  
Lake Havasu State Park  
Patagonia Lake State Park  
(including Sonoita Creek Natural Area)  
River Island State Park  
Slide Rock State Park

## Parks Operated by Arizona State Parks Staff Through Partnership Support

Alamo Lake State Park  
Fort Verde State Park (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays)  
Homolovi Ruins State Park  
Jerome State Historic Park (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays)  
Lost Dutchman State Park

Picacho Peak State Park  
Red Rock State Park  
Riordan Mansion State Historic Park (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays)  
Roper Lake State Park  
Tonto Natural Bridge State Park (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays)

## Parks Operated by Partners Without Arizona State Parks Staff

Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park  
McFarland State Historic Park  
Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park  
Tubac Presidio State Historic Park  
Yuma Prison State Historic Park  
Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park

## Closed Parks

Lyman Lake State Park  
Oracle State Park  
San Rafael State Natural Area

mended a registration fee of \$15 on noncommercial vehicles to support the parks. The fee would give Arizona residents free admission to state parks and include an opt-out provision. Even at 50 percent participation, the panel expected the fee to generate about \$40 million per year, enough to operate the parks and pay for the most critical capital needs.

The panel liked the vehicle tax idea because it would give Arizona residents a direct benefit. Funding would also increase with the population, allowing the system to grow with demand. But proposed legislation failed to get the support of lawmakers who saw it as a tax increase.

A proposal to sell Lake Havasu State Park also received little support, both in the Legislature and at State Parks, because the loss of that park's revenue would devastate the entire system.

As this article went to press, the scenarios that seemed most likely were some sort of agency reorganization and privatization.

In its report, the Morrison Institute called Arizona's cultural and recreational infrastructure outdated. Arizona's economy and the role of government were shifting dramatically, possibly permanently, it said. "It is hard to deny that the old ways of doing business do not seem to be working."

The study noted that Arizona's state parks include a larger than average number of historical and cultural sites, which are expensive to maintain and attract fewer visitors. It recommended that State Parks look at alternatives for smaller, less-visited sites, such as working

with local governments, creating partnerships or ceding them entirely to another public agency. This is, in fact, what it did. But while State Parks saw these as temporary measures, there seems to be support in the Legislature to make the changes permanent.

"There are nine parks that are making money for the rest of them," says Senator Steve Pierce, majority whip and vice chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee. "Some of those need to be weeded out. Some of those need to be partnerships. Those that are not making money, if the residents of those towns want to keep them open, they're going to have to help do that. And they are."

There also seems to be Legislative support for agency reorganization, perhaps combining State Parks with other natural resource agencies, such as agriculture, water resources and environmental quality, as Utah and Colorado have done.

More recently, the governor's Commission on Privatization and Efficiency released a broad, preliminary recommendation that State Parks privatize some concessions or contract private companies to run certain parks entirely, citing the Forest Service in Arizona as a successful model. At press time, COPE's final report had not been published.

The State Parks Foundation commissioned its own study of privatization and efficiency. The report by PROS Consulting, released in January, recommended that State Parks adopt more private-sector

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

**VISIT A STATE PARK. Gate fees and other revenues keep the system operating. Visit [www.azstateparks.com](http://www.azstateparks.com) for more information.**

**VOLUNTEER. Volunteers do everything from office work to trail maintenance to scientific research, depending on their backgrounds and interests. Some live on site. Submit an online application at [www.azstateparks.com/volunteer](http://www.azstateparks.com/volunteer).**

**SUBSCRIBE TO ARIZONA HIGHWAYS. Five dollars of every \$24 subscription is donated to the Arizona State Parks Foundation. Visit [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com) to learn more.**

principles. These include operating some parks on a reduced schedule or seasonally — not in response to budget cuts, but as standard operating procedure — reducing little-used services, and employing more contract and seasonal labor.

Functions like retail, hospitality and food service can be outsourced to private companies in parks where there are favorable conditions. In some parks, partnerships with nonprofits or public agencies make more sense. The best solution for privatization, the report said, is to transition State Parks to a quasi-governmental entity such as a parks authority or special district.

At press time, the Foundation planned to propose a governor-appointed task force to oversee the next steps. Meanwhile, State Parks had sent out requests for information to assess private-sector interest in State Parks concessions. The State Parks Board had just given authority to issue a request for proposals to operate the lodge at Tonto National Bridge and to move ahead with a potential private-sector marina development in the Lake Havasu area.

"When State Parks was founded, I don't believe anybody expected it was going to make a profit," says State Parks Board Chairwoman Tracy Westerhausen. "This economy is forcing people to rethink that, for better or worse. We're entering into a new era where we're going to have to work to that goal as hard as we can."

She feels "cautiously optimistic" about the future of state parks, in part because so many people rallied to support them.

Pierce also sounds optimistic. "In the last 100 years, there have been

a lot of good programs, well-intended when they started out," he says. "Now we're going to have to see if we can afford all of them."

"I will say this is all temporary. Nothing's going to be damaged. Nothing's going to be outright sold and given to developers. ... There are going to be reforms that are going to be good in the long run. I think studies are being done, and it's going to get better and the parks are all going to be whole."

**Meanwhile**, back at Lost Dutchman State Park, the desert detectives have finished their work. With the Superstitions as a backdrop, they line up for a group photo.

"What do you say?" asks Judy Borey of the Boys and Girls Club.

In unison, they shout: "THANK YOU!"

## Help Us Help Our State Parks

Our state parks are struggling. That's why *Arizona Highways* is teaming up with our park colleagues to help ensure that Arizona, through the pages of our magazine and the state's 31 parks, remains open and accessible to residents and visitors alike. Here's how you can help: For every \$24 subscription (1 year) to *Arizona Highways*, we'll donate \$5 to the Arizona State Parks Foundation. To learn more, scan this QR code with your smart phone or visit [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com).



Lyman Lake State Park | RANDY PRENTICE



Buckskin Mountain State Park | PAUL GILL



# A WALK IN THE PARKS

From the world-famous landscapes of Red Rock to the majestic saguaros of Lost Dutchman, Arizona's 31 state parks and natural areas offer photographers, hikers, nature-lovers and everybody else an endless opportunity to do what they do. These are *your* parks. Get out and enjoy them. **A PORTFOLIO EDITED BY JEFF KIDA**



Dead Horse Ranch  
DEREK VON BRIESEN

*“The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough.”*

— RABINDRANATH TAGORE



### Boyce Thompson Arboretum

The giant swallowtail butterfly is native to Arizona. | GEORGE RAYMOND



#### **Alamo Lake State Park**

LOCATION: North of Wenden  
WHAT TO DO: Fishing, wildlife-watching, hiking, picnicking, boating  
INFORMATION: 928-669-2088;  
[www.azstateparks.com/parks/alamo](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/alamo)

#### **Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park**

LOCATION: Superior  
WHAT TO DO: Walking, wildlife-watching, photography, educational offerings and classes  
INFORMATION: 520-689-2811;  
[www.azstateparks.com/parks/both](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/both)

#### **Buckskin Mountain State Park**

LOCATION: Parker  
WHAT TO DO: Camping, basketball, volleyball, fishing  
INFORMATION: 928-667-3231;  
[www.azstateparks.com/parks/bumo](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/bumo)

#### **Catalina State Park**

LOCATION: North of Tucson  
WHAT TO DO: Hiking, picnicking, wildlife-watching  
INFORMATION: 520-628-5798;  
[www.azstateparks.com/parks/catalina](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/catalina)

#### **Cattail Cove State Park**

LOCATION: Lake Havasu City  
WHAT TO DO: Swimming, fishing, water sports, camping, sailing  
INFORMATION: 928-855-1223;  
[www.azstateparks.com/parks/cattail](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/cattail)



### Alamo Lake

GEORGE RAYMOND

*“The West is color. Its colors are animal rather than vegetable,  
the colors of earth and sunlight and ripeness.” –JESSAMYN WEST*





Red Rock  
DEREK VON BRIESEN

“The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.” —JOHN MUIR

**Dead Horse Ranch State Park**

LOCATION: Cottonwood  
WHAT TO DO: Bird-watching, hiking, camping, canoeing, picnicking, fishing  
INFORMATION: 928-634-5283; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/deho](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/deho)

**Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area**

LOCATION: Show Low  
WHAT TO DO: Camping, picnicking, wildlife-watching, fishing, boating  
INFORMATION: 928-537-3680; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/foho](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/foho)

**Fort Verde State Historic Park**

LOCATION: Camp Verde  
WHAT TO DO: Educational programs, museum tours, interpretive exhibits  
INFORMATION: 928-567-3275; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/fove](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/fove)

Arizona's  
**31**  
STATE  
PARKS

**Homolovi**

**Ruins State Park**

LOCATION: Winslow  
WHAT TO DO: Hiking, camping, museum tours  
INFORMATION: 928-289-4106; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/horu](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/horu)

**Jerome State Historic Park**

LOCATION: Jerome  
WHAT TO DO: Video presentations, museum tours  
INFORMATION: 928-634-5381; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/jero](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/jero)

**Kartchner Caverns State Park**

LOCATION: Benson  
WHAT TO DO: Cave exploration, interactive displays  
INFORMATION: 520-586-2283; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/kaca](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/kaca)

**Lake Havasu State Park**

LOCATION: Lake Havasu City  
WHAT TO DO: Boating, camping, water sports  
INFORMATION: 928-855-2784; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/laha](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/laha)

**Lost Dutchman State Park**

LOCATION: Apache Junction  
WHAT TO DO: Hiking, rock-climbing, wildlife-watching, camping  
INFORMATION: 480-982-4485; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/lodu](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/lodu)

**Lyman Lake State Park**

(closed at press time)  
LOCATION: St. Johns  
WHAT TO DO: Fishing, picnicking, guided tours, cabin or yurt rentals  
INFORMATION: 928-337-4441; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/lyla](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/lyla)



Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Common fiddleneck | MOREY K. MILBRADT

*“People from a planet without  
flowers would think we must  
be mad with joy the whole time  
to have such things about us.”*

— IRIS MURDOCH

Picacho Peak

LAURENCE PARENT



*“To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug.”* —HELEN KELLER

**McFarland State Historic Park**

LOCATION: Florence  
WHAT TO DO: Guided walking tours, war camp exhibits, picnicking  
INFORMATION: 520-868-5216; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/mcfa](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/mcfa)

**Oracle State Park**

*(closed at press time)*  
LOCATION: Oracle  
WHAT TO DO: Wildlife-watching, hiking, biking, horseback-riding, touring Kannally Ranch House  
INFORMATION: 520-896-2425; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/orac](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/orac)

**Patagonia Lake State Park**

LOCATION: Patagonia  
WHAT TO DO: Fishing, waterskiing, boating, swimming, picnicking, hiking, camping  
INFORMATION: 520-287-6965; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/pala](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/pala)

**Picacho Peak State Park**

LOCATION: Picacho  
WHAT TO DO: Hiking, rock-climbing, biking, camping, picnicking  
INFORMATION: 520-466-3183; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/pipe](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/pipe)

**Red Rock State Park**

LOCATION: Sedona  
WHAT TO DO: Self-guided or ranger-led interpretive walks, hiking  
INFORMATION: 928-282-6907; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/rero](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/rero)

**Riordan Mansion State Historic Park**

LOCATION: Flagstaff  
WHAT TO DO: Tours, special events  
INFORMATION: 928-779-4395; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/rima](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/rima)

**River Island State Park**

LOCATION: Parker  
WHAT TO DO: Camping, fishing, boating, water sports, picnicking  
INFORMATION: 928-667-3386; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/riis](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/riis)

**Roper Lake State Park**

LOCATION: South of Safford  
WHAT TO DO: Fishing, mineral springs, bird-watching, hiking  
INFORMATION: 928-428-6760; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/rola](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/rola)

Arizona's  
**31**  
STATE  
PARKS

Fool Hollow Lake

NICK BEREZENKO



Dead Horse Ranch

Tuzigoot National Monument in the background. | GEORGE H.H. HUEY

“Know where to find the sunrise and sunset times and note how the sky looks at those times, at least once.”

— MARILYN VOS SAVANT



Lake Havasu

MOREY K. MILBRADT

**San Rafael State Natural Area**

(closed at press time)

LOCATION: Patagonia

WHAT TO DO: Wildlife-watching, exploring

INFORMATION: 520-394-2447; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/sara](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/sara)

**Slide Rock State Park**

LOCATION: Sedona

WHAT TO DO: Swimming, water-sliding, hiking, picnicking

INFORMATION: 928-282-3034; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/slro](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/slro)

Arizona's  
**31**  
STATE  
PARKS

**Sonoita Creek State Natural Area**

LOCATION: Patagonia

WHAT TO DO: Horseback-riding, hiking, wildlife-watching, educational programs

INFORMATION: 520-287-2791; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/socr](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/socr)

**Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park**

LOCATION: Tombstone

WHAT TO DO: Tours, special events  
INFORMATION: 520-457-3311; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/toco](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/toco)

**Tonto Natural Bridge State Park**

LOCATION: Payson

WHAT TO DO: Hiking, picnicking, exploring

INFORMATION: 928-476-4202; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/tona](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/tona)

**Tubac Presidio State Historic Park**

LOCATION: Tubac

WHAT TO DO: Tours, special events  
INFORMATION: 520-398-2252; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/tupr](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/tupr)

**Verde River Greenway State Natural Area**

LOCATION: Cottonwood

WHAT TO DO: Hiking, biking, swimming, canoeing, fishing  
INFORMATION: 928-639-0312; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/veri](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/veri)

**Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park**

LOCATION: Yuma

WHAT TO DO: Tours, special events  
INFORMATION: 928-783-0071; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/yuqu](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/yuqu)

**Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park**

LOCATION: Yuma

WHAT TO DO: Tours, special events  
INFORMATION: 928-783-4771; [www.azstateparks.com/parks/yute](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/yute)



River Island

PAUL GILL



Patagonia Lake

JACKDYKINGA



# STATE SECRETS



The stalagmites of Kartchner Caverns are not a secret. Not even close. The park's hummingbird garden, however, is more or less undiscovered. It's a hidden gem, and so are some of the other unknowns at Arizona's 31 state parks and natural areas. They're all worth experiencing, but if we were putting together a bucket list of a dozen things to do this year, this would be it.

By KATHY MONTGOMERY

## 1.

### MOONWALK AMONG RED ROCKS *Red Rock State Park*

See Sedona in a new light on one of Red Rock State Park's popular moonlight hikes. The easy, two-hour interpretive hikes begin at dusk. Naturalists lead hikers along the juniper- and piñon-pine-forested trails of this 286-acre nature preserve to a viewing point in time for sunset, when Sedona's famous red-rock formations deepen and glow with the fading light. Distant coyotes yip and howl as the moon rises like a beacon over Cathedral Rock, spilling light onto Oak Creek. It's a marvelous light for a moondance. Hikes are held during the full moon from April through October. Reservations are required.  
*Information: 928-282-6907 or www.azstateparks.com/parks/rero*

A woman who met David Gowan when he was in his 80s remembered him as a grouchy old man and a bit of a mooch. Whatever his failings, we owe him the discovery of the natural travertine bridge northwest of Payson that is one of Arizona's best-loved treasures. The prospector stumbled across Tonto Natural Bridge while running from Apache Indians in 1877. He eluded them by hiding inside a cave in the 400-foot-long tunnel under the bridge. Today, the Gowan Trail marks a steep descent from the surrounding valley to an observation deck with an inspiring view of the bridge, cooled with mist from a waterfall cascading more than 100 feet from the top. Spring makes a good time to troll the tunnel, a tricky scramble across sometimes slippery boulders.

## 2.

### FLEE THE HEAT *Tonto Natural Bridge State Park*

Sunlight streams in from the openings, illuminating tranquil pools. Droplets fall like raindrops. It makes for one cool escape.  
*Information: 928-476-4202 or www.azstateparks.com/parks/tona*

NICK BEZEMKO

## 3.

### CURE WHAT AILS YOU *Roper Lake State Park*

The Safford area contains a number of natural hot springs, where water heated underground returns to the surface. The reputed healing properties of springs like these spawned a string of day spas in the area that take advantage of the mineral waters, which are naturally heated to between 96 and 100 degrees year-round. For an alternative to these commercial establishments, you can drown your sorrows in the natural stone hot tub at Roper Lake State Park. With restrooms and changing facilities nearby, the open-air tub is located on the Mariah Mesa nature trail. Think of it as your path to recovery.  
*Information: 928-428-6760 or www.azstateparks.com/parks/rola*



TOM DANIELSEN

# 4.

## MAKE A STAR TREK *Lost Dutchman State Park*

Arizona has some famously dark skies, which are an astronomer's dream. But it's not always easy or practical to get to those remote locations. Lost Dutchman State Park, at the base of the Superstition Mountains, makes a nice compromise. It's close enough to Phoenix for a quick evening of stargazing. It's also just far enough, and the desert air just forgiving enough, for the stars to really shine. Summer is the best time to see the Milky Way, which glows ribbon-like from north to south. That's also when Scorpius the scorpion, that most desert of constellations, becomes visible, having chased Orion the hunter from the sky.

*Information: 480-982-4485 or [www.azstateparks.com/parks/lodu](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/lodu)*

# 5.

## CAVE IN *Kartchner Caverns State Park*

If you've somehow resisted this crown jewel of the Arizona state parks system, yield to the impulse to visit. This pristine, living cave draws visitors from all over the world, and with good reason. Kartchner's stalactites and stalagmites are generally described with superlatives like world's longest (soda straw), Arizona's tallest and most massive (column). Reviewers use words like "spectacular," "breathtaking" and "most extraordinary." What too often fails to get mentioned is the park's beautiful setting at the base of the Whetstone Mountains south of Benson. Picnickers and campers watch monsoons roll across the landscape in summer or relax in the hummingbird garden, the air thick with the tiny, jewel-like birds in spring and fall.

*Information: 520-586-4100 (information), 520-586-2283 (reservations) or [www.azstateparks.com/parks/kaca](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/kaca)*

# 6.

## MAROON YOURSELF *Cattail Cove State Park*

As far as campgrounds on Lake Havasu go, the one at Cattail Cove State Park is among the nicest. Located about 15 miles south of Lake Havasu City, the campground occupies a scenic spot with views of California's Whipple Mountains. With a four-lane boat ramp and buoyed-off swimming area, it's just far enough from Lake Havasu City to create a quieter, family friendly community. But let's face it, sometimes you don't want to see quite so much of your fellow man. For even more privacy in a natural setting, try one of the park's primitive campsites. Accessible only by boat, the sandy, tree-shaded sites scattered along the east shore might not be as remote as Gilligan's Island, but once you're there, your cares will cast away.

*Information: 928-855-1223 or [www.azstateparks.com/parks/caco](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/caco)*

PAUL GILL



GEORGE RAYMOND

DAVID ELMS JR.



# 7.

## FLOAT YOUR BOAT Verde River Greenway State Natural Area

The 170-mile Verde River is one of Arizona's natural beauties. The state's only federally designated Wild and Scenic River is host to rare and endangered plants and animals, including Arizona cliff rose, river otters and Southwestern bald eagles. The Verde River Greenway State Natural Area protects 6 miles of this important natural resource between the Tuzigoot and Bridgeport bridges. The best way to explore it is to get on the water. The state provides paddle maps for canoeing the waterway — the maps include detailed directions and a description of what you'll find along the way. As the name suggests, the state has kept the area in its natural state, so there are no facilities. But you can find camping, restrooms and day-use areas at the adjacent Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood.

Information: 928-639-0312 or [www.azstateparks.com/parks/veri](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/veri)

RANDY PRENTICE



# 8.

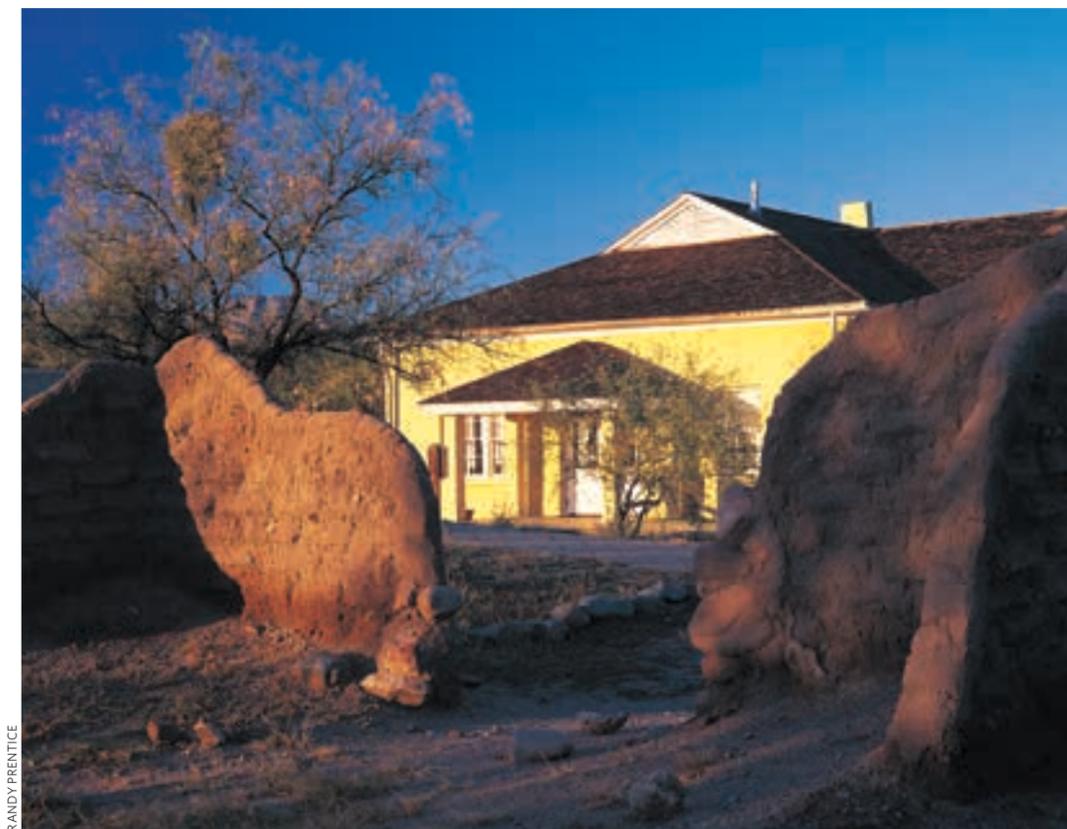
## GO OLD SCHOOL Tubac Presidio State Historic Park

True or false: When you tell your kids you used to walk 5 miles to school — uphill both ways, of course — they roll their eyes. Most likely the answer is true. Some things kids have to learn for themselves. That's why the "Day in the 1885 Schoolhouse Program" at Tubac Presidio State Historic Park is so cool. For one day, kids can attend an 1885-era class at the Old Tubac School. They prepare by making individual chalkboards and fashioning lunch pails from coffee cans and wire. On class day, the bus drops students off far enough away from the one-room adobe schoolhouse to "walk" to school (though, sadly, not 5 miles and not uphill). There, they recite the Pledge of Allegiance to a flag with 38 stars, play marbles at recess and study period textbooks. It might be the only day they don't give you any lip. The prescribed punishment for "quarreling" in 1885 was five lashes. Don't roll your eyes. It's true.

Information: 520-398-2252 or [www.azstateparks.com/parks/tupr](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/tupr)

GEORGE H. H. HUEY

RANDY PRENTICE



# 9.

## PAY YOUR RESPECTS Homolovi Ruins State Park

This state park's Anasazi pueblos are considered sacred to the Hopi people. But Homolovi Ruins State Park also contains the site of a 19th century Mormon settlement. Led by Lot Smith, the pioneers built Sunset Fort there and established the first post office on the Little Colorado River, which operated from 1876 to 1887. What remains is a small cemetery, marked with a historical marker. The headstones tell their sad tales, among them that Lot Smith, the last to leave in 1888, lost three children in just over three years, two of them within months of each other. Sunset Cemetery also includes the graves of babies who did not live long enough to be given names. Photograph or sketch the markers, but don't make rubbings, which can wear away the stones.

Information: 928-289-4106 or [www.azstateparks.com/parks/horu](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/horu)

*“All colors are the friends of their neighbors and the lovers of their opposites.”* — MARC CHAGALL

# 10.

## TAKE YOUR PICK *Slide Rock State Park*

These days, Slide Rock State Park in Oak Creek Canyon is best known for its natural water slide, but before it became nature's theme park, Slide Rock was a working apple farm. The apple orchards that Frank Pendley began planting in 1912 feature the poetic-sounding Maiden's Blush, Rome Beauty and White Winter Pearmain varieties. The orchards are especially lovely in the spring, when fragrant white blooms blanket the more than 300 trees. Some years, when the fall harvest is exceptionally bountiful, rangers open the orchard to the public for picking.

Information: 928-282-3034 or [www.azstateparks.com/parks/slro](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/slro)

# 11.

## INDULGE YOUR INNER COWBOY *Catalina State Park*

Nothing says “Western” like a saguaro. The tall, stately succulents grow only in the Sonoran Desert, a swath of land stretching from Central Arizona into Mexico. Maybe that's why they're such a staple of Western films and TV shows. With 5,000 saguaros lining its foothills and canyons, Catalina State Park just might be the best place to feed your Lone Ranger fantasies. Located at the base of the Santa Catalina Mountains near Tucson, the park offers miles of equestrian trails leading into the adjacent Coronado National Forest. An equestrian center provides a staging area for horse owners, with plenty of trailer parking. In need of a steed? The nearby Pusch Ridge Stables can put you in the saddle. Just don't stay in it too long or you'll soon be walking like John Wayne.

Information: 520-628-5798, [www.azstateparks.com/parks/cata](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/cata) or [www.puschridgestables.com](http://www.puschridgestables.com)

RANDY PRENTICE



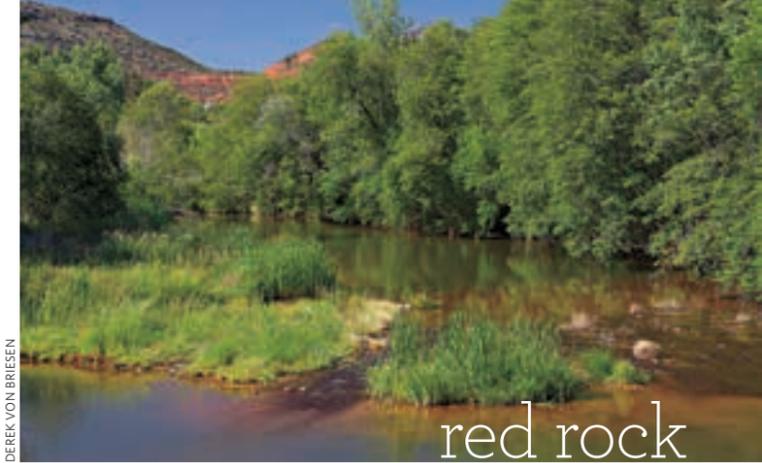
DAVID ELMS JR.

# 12.

## MAKE MERRY *Riordan Mansion State Historic Park*

During the holidays, historic Riordan Mansion in Flagstaff decks its halls with wreaths, garlands and all the trappings of Christmas that the Riordan family might have used 100 years ago. The staff tries to reproduce the towering fir tree captured in an old family photo. Students from a local Catholic school make the tree ornaments, things like popcorn garland, and green-and-red paper chains. Tour guides explain the traditions behind the decorations. By lighting candles in the windows, Catholic families like the Riordans hoped Joseph and Mary, looking for a spot to lie down, would see the glow and choose their home. The flowers of the poinsettias represent the star of Bethlehem. The Yule log, brought in on Christmas Eve, was kept burning for 12 hours. If it didn't light on the first try, it meant trouble ahead.

Information: 928-779-4395 or [www.azstateparks.com/parks/rima](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/rima)



DEREK VON BRIESEN

red rock

# off the wall

At press time, nearly 25,000 people were connected to *Arizona Highways* via Facebook and Twitter. That's a lot of people. People who are committed to the magazine and, presumably, to the things we cover. So, when we were looking for some feedback on Arizona's state parks, we went to the wall and asked our Facebook followers to post their best recollections. Here are some of our favorites. **edited by kelly kramer**

“When we toured **Kartchner Caverns State Park**, my husband and I were awed by the magnificent formations we discovered in this long-hidden cave. But for my son, it was all about the buttons. He was an energetic boy, and I was concerned he might have trouble with the no-touching rule established to preserve the 'living' cave. We were delighted that our spry and entertaining tour guide, undoubtedly a grandmother, took one look at our curious lad and knew exactly what to do. 'I need your help,' she cooed to Malachai. 'To keep the cave healthy, we need to turn off the lights when we leave each area. When I ask you to, could you push the button to turn the lights off for me?' She instantly transformed an exuberant boy into her A-number-one assistant, making him part of the magic.”

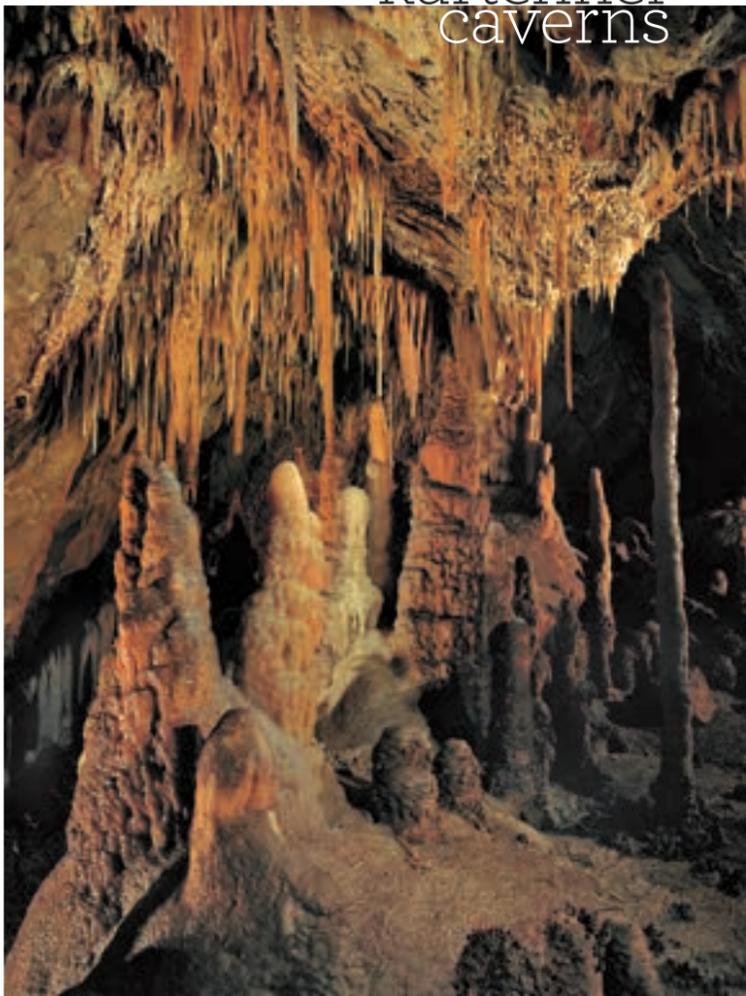
—Gwen Henson Payne  
Tempe, Arizona

“I'm from Wisconsin, where the air is heavy and the light is either green or white. I first walked through Arizona's **Red Rock State Park** in 2006, my first stop after leaving the Phoenix airport. I was at once struck by how weightless the air appeared and how red and yellow the light was. There was a group of laughing and shouting kids, and yet the surroundings remained quiet and still. The red rocks absorbed the sound, and I found myself wanting to whisper. The scent along the footpaths was so soothing, dry and clean. It was mesmerizing.”

—Kris Nichols  
Whitewater, Wisconsin

“During our 2006 vacation, we visited **Red Rock State Park** in Sedona. A 'Moonlight Hike' [see *State Secrets*, page 4] is available at the park, so we went on the two-hour organized hike with natu-

DAVID ELMS JR.



kartchner  
caverns



“Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads.”

—HENRY DAVID THOREAU

slide rock

DEREK VON BRIESEN

ralist guides. They made sure we had water and flashlights before we left the visitors center. We hiked on a hard paved trail that took us on a bridge over Oak Creek, then continued on a dirt trail. The climb was very easy. The sun was setting as we hiked out to a ridge with a scenic overlook with a bench to rest. Because it was a cloudy night, the moon didn't fully come out, but gave an eerie glow through the clouds. As we headed back, we used the flashlights to find our way to the visitors center. We could hear creatures stirring along the sides of the trail and found two large toads and one small tarantula.”

—Marsha Prescott  
Port Deposit, Maryland

“After driving down a snowy Oak Creek Canyon last December, our family of three made an impromptu visit to **Slide Rock State Park** in Sedona. Although the park is most popular in the summer, when people come from all over to hike, swim and slide down the smooth rocks in the creek, we decided to go anyway, since we were passing by. I'm so glad we did. The overall impression I remember from this visit is stillness. It was quite cold, but we enjoyed a peaceful walk along the water and over the rocks. Since we had the place nearly all to ourselves, I was able to get some beautiful photos of the creek. As we walked back down the main

path to the parking area, a view of the old apple orchard with the snow-topped mountains above particularly struck me.”

—Leslie Boucher  
Gold Canyon, Arizona

“We live in New York, near New York City. My niece was not quite 10 years old when we took her to Arizona for her first time. Being a typical 10-year-old, she looked at the Grand Canyon like the Spaniards. 'It's a big hole in the ground,' she said. I thought it would be a very long trip until we got to Sedona, where we introduced her to **Slide Rock State Park**. After her first trip through the sluice, she was

hooked. We tried to explain: 'It's not Disney. There's no off button on the ride.' She didn't care at all. She didn't care that the rocks were bumpy or that the water was so cold. She kept sliding over and over again until she was blue with chill from the water. That was seven days before the tragedy of September 11, 2001. By God's good grace, we're all OK and here to talk about it. Everyone who lived through that day was changed somehow forever. It was certainly the end of innocence for my niece, which makes our memories of Slide Rock State Park that much sweeter.”

—Nora Anna  
Suffolk County, New York

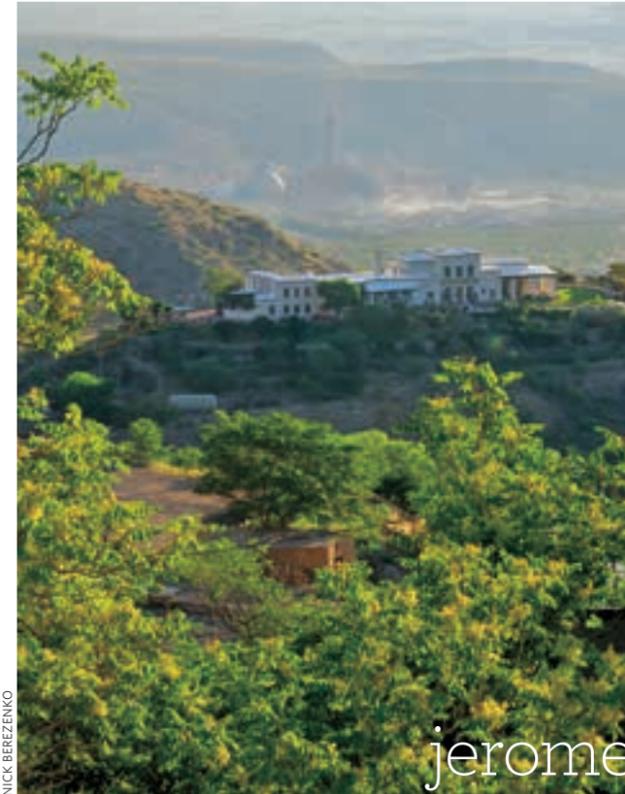
“Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man.”

— STEWART UDALL



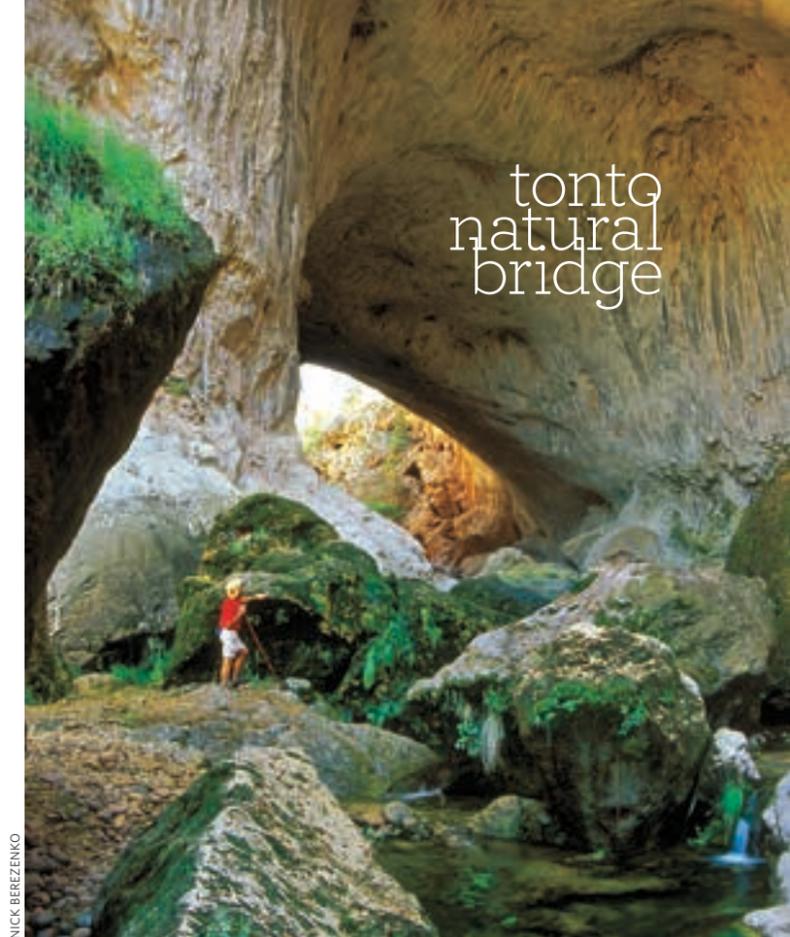
catalina

RANDY PRENTICE



NICK BEREZENKO

jerome



tonto  
natural  
bridge

NICK BEREZENKO



MOREY K. MILBRADT

oracle

“In March of last year, a friend and I decided to hike to Romero Pools via **Catalina State Park**. The wet winter resulted in us having to ford a heavy stream as we ascended the trail, delighted by carpets of radiant wildflowers and thunderous waterfalls set against the backdrop of still-melting snow atop Mount Lemmon. In a word: breathtaking. Once we got to the pools, we delighted in homemade egg salad sandwiches as the cool water soothed our souls. It was a truly perfect day.”

— Jeremy Christopher  
Oro Valley, Arizona

“I read my first *Arizona Highways* in a cold, damp Ohio basement in 1958. There, on the back page, was a picture of a prickly pear cactus with some melting snow and water trickling by. My mind wandered and wondered how that could be, and I thought, *Someday, I'll find that spot*. In 1970, I made my one-way trip to Phoenix with no regrets and soon discovered **Jerome State Historic Park**. Spring atop Mingus Mountain is awesome. Once, while backpacking, I saw both the sunrise and sunset from there. Some years, I've felt like a tour guide taking visiting family and friends throughout Arizona to enjoy our little part of heaven.”

— Steve Yannone, Phoenix

“I have many memories of Arizona's state parks, but my favorite is probably from my first visit to **Oracle State Park**. I remember driving up the road, my jaw dropping as I saw the vista of the mesas overlooking the San Pedro River. I'd never been farther up the Copper Corridor than Oracle. It gave me a hunger to see the rest of it, which I did within the year. Then, we went to the Kannally Ranch House Shop & Museum. I remember thinking that I'd love to have lived there.”

— Julian Greene  
Sonoita, Arizona

“I visited **Tonto Natural Bridge State Park** with a friend from Fountain Hills last August. The hike down to the creek was steep but not difficult. The hike up was ... well, hot! It was one of the most beautiful places I've seen. We just don't have sights like that in Philadelphia. Rainbows adorn the falling water and dangling vegetation. I could have sat and watched and listened to the falling water all day. We had a great time exploring the slippery, wet rocks throughout the cave.”

— Pam Poust, Philadelphia

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## INDIAN ROAD 6910 The road is rough, but the reward of seeing the smooth water of Chocolate Falls is well worth a few bumps and thuds.

BY JOBETH JAMISON  
PHOTOGRAPH BY SHANE MCDERMOTT

When it comes to waterfalls in Arizona, the first thought for most people is Havasu Falls, and rightfully so. However, the Colorado River is fed by another watery wonder: Grand Falls. Although it's a lesser-known kid sister, Grand Falls is more accessible than Havasu, and it's about the last thing you'd expect to encounter in

the arid expanse of Navajoland.

"Mud Falls," as Grand Falls is sometimes called, is fed exclusively by snowmelt and rainfall, so it often runs low, or it doesn't run at all. The falls, though they look like something created by Willy Wonka, were formed when lava from a nearby crater created a dam in the Little Colorado River and rerouted the flow. The falls are where the new route rejoins the old one. After a rainy spring or late-summer monsoons, enough water usually passes through the falls' red-dirt path to create a muddy cascade. In the wake of a wet winter, the 185-foot drop can resemble a chocolate Niagara Falls, making it aesthetically delicious and worth the "grading" drive.

The first 35 miles from Flagstaff are comfortably paved — first eastbound along Interstate 40, then north along Winona and Leupp roads, where you will catch glimpses of the area's cinder mines. These shaved volcanic cones reveal

layers of ages-old burgundy, black and caramel rocks.

After passing through the little town of Winona, Leupp Road (where keen mileage calculation should begin) leads to the Navajo Indian Reservation. There, the signs of human life are pleasantly fewer while signs of the area's unique geological history abound. The road bends past untouched cinder cones and craters that tower up into an otherwise even landscape, interrupting distant views of the San Francisco Peaks.

About 17 miles from the start of Leupp Road, signs for the Grand Falls Bible Church start to appear. The church and the falls are on different roads and are many miles apart, but it's a good time to pay close attention to the odometer and mileposts. Indian Road 6910 materializes approximately 20.3 miles down Leupp Road, between Mileposts 5 and 6. Keep in mind, there is a small, official Indian Road sign, but it's hard to see in advance.

After taking a left onto the unpaved road, there's a sprinkling of small hills and rock outcroppings, but for the most part the land is dry and flat as far as the eye can see. You'll struggle with the idea that any semblance of water exists anywhere along this road. Another struggle is the steering wheel. Although Indian 6910 looks smooth, it's painfully graded and can be dangerous at high speeds. Fortunately, the need to soak up the solitude and beauty of Navajoland will trump the need for speed.

After 9.4 miles, and after passing Indian Road 70, a series of side-by-side dirt roads veer off to the left. Picnic-table ramadas and the likely existence of other vehicles are clues that something is out there, but it's still hard to imagine. Only after you've parked your car and walked the short distance to the overlook will you believe that Grand Falls actually exists. But there it is, very different from Havasu Falls, but impressive nonetheless.



**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, visit [www.arizonahighways.com/books](http://www.arizonahighways.com/books).

After rain or sufficient snowmelt, Grand Falls lives up to its other name: "Chocolate Falls."



### tour guide

Note: Mileages are approximate.

**LENGTH:** 47 miles one way

**DIRECTIONS:** From Flagstaff, drive east on Interstate 40 to Winona Road (Exit 211) and turn left (north). Follow Winona Road to Leupp Road and turn right. Follow Leupp Road for 20.3 miles to Indian Road 6910 (unmarked) between Mileposts 5 and 6. Take a left onto the unpaved road and drive east for 9.5 miles. Do not cross the river. Turn left onto an unmarked road and follow it to the overlook (approximately 0.2 miles).

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** A high-clearance vehicle is recommended. The road is graded, but very rough and slow-going. Snow, ice, deep water and mud may be present.

**TRAVEL ADVISORY:** Grand Falls is located on the Navajo Indian Reservation, where it's illegal to travel off designated roads. Proceed respectfully. There are no barriers or fences, so keep dogs leashed and children in hand.

**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:** Navajo Division of Transportation, 928-871-6498

 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. ■

**ONLINE** For more scenic drives in Arizona, visit [www.arizonahighways.com/outdoors/drives.asp](http://www.arizonahighways.com/outdoors/drives.asp).



## GREEN MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Ponderosa pines, Douglas firs and Arizona cypress are three big sources of green on this colorful trail.

BY ROBERT STIEVE

Vermont has the Green Mountains. It's a beautiful range that includes a premier ski resort and a long stretch of the Appalachian Trail. In New England, green is everywhere. In Arizona, despite the stereotype, there's plenty of green, and there's even a Green Mountain. It's

not as well-known as the one in Vermont, but it's scenic, and you won't need snowshoes to hike it in the spring.

The Green Mountain Trail is one of many great options in the Santa Catalina Mountains. Like other nearby trails, this one can be done as a one-way hike using a car-shuttle system, or as a round-tripper. The upper trailhead is located at the San Pedro Vista and the lower trailhead is at the General Hitchcock Campground. For this listing, the route begins up top at San Pedro, where there's a good-sized parking lot.

The trail kicks off on the east

side of the lot, and within a few minutes, it intersects a side trail that leads to the top of Green Mountain. Stay left and gear up for a series of steep switchbacks that pass by another side trail (Brush Corral) and wind around the mountain for which the trail is named. Up to this point, the surrounding forest is primarily ponderosa pines and Douglas firs. It's lush and green. Moving on, the evergreens are replaced by oaks, manzanitas, yuccas and beargrass. The change is noticeable, and so are the spectacular views to the northeast. This is a good place to use the "panoramic" setting on your camera.

After about 30 minutes, you'll come to another spur of the Brush Corral Trail. Stay right and keep your ears tuned for the sounds of mountain-bikers. Although Bob Marley used to sing, "my feet is my only carriage," not everyone travels that way, mon. Hard-core bikers love the downhill run of the Green Mountain Trail, and it's a good idea to step aside when you hear them coming.

From that intersection, the trail switchbacks uphill over some rocks and boulders, including two massive cornerstones that serve as trail sentries. Just beyond them is yet another trail intersection (Maverick Springs) and a formation known as Bear Saddle, which sits at an elevation of 6,950 feet and serves as the head of Bear Canyon. At the saddle, the route can be a little confusing. Your instincts will tell you to veer slightly left; however, that's the wrong way — that route is a secondary trail that leads to Guthrie Mountain. Instead, you'll want to make an almost 90-degree turn to the right. This is the continuation of the Green Mountain



**ADDITIONAL READING:** For more hikes, pick up a copy of our newest book, *Arizona Highways Hiking Guide*, which features 52 of the state's best trails — one for each weekend of the year, sorted by seasons. To order a copy, visit [www.arizonahighways.com/books](http://www.arizonahighways.com/books).

BELOW: A view looking toward Green Mountain. | RANDY PRENTICE



### trail guide

**LENGTH:** 7.8 miles round-trip

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

**ELEVATION:** 6,000 to 7,300 feet

**DIRECTIONS:** From Tanque Verde Road in Tucson, drive 4.2 miles on Catalina Highway to the Forest Service boundary and continue 17.5 miles to the San Pedro Vista.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATION:** A \$5 day pass (per vehicle) is required.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** None

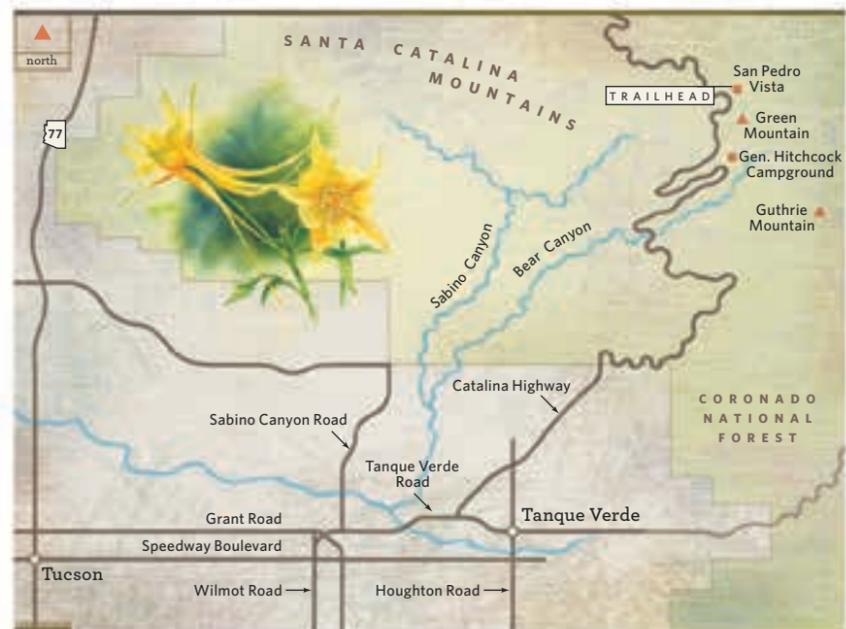
**DOGS ALLOWED:** Yes (on a leash)

**USGS MAP:** Mount Bigelow

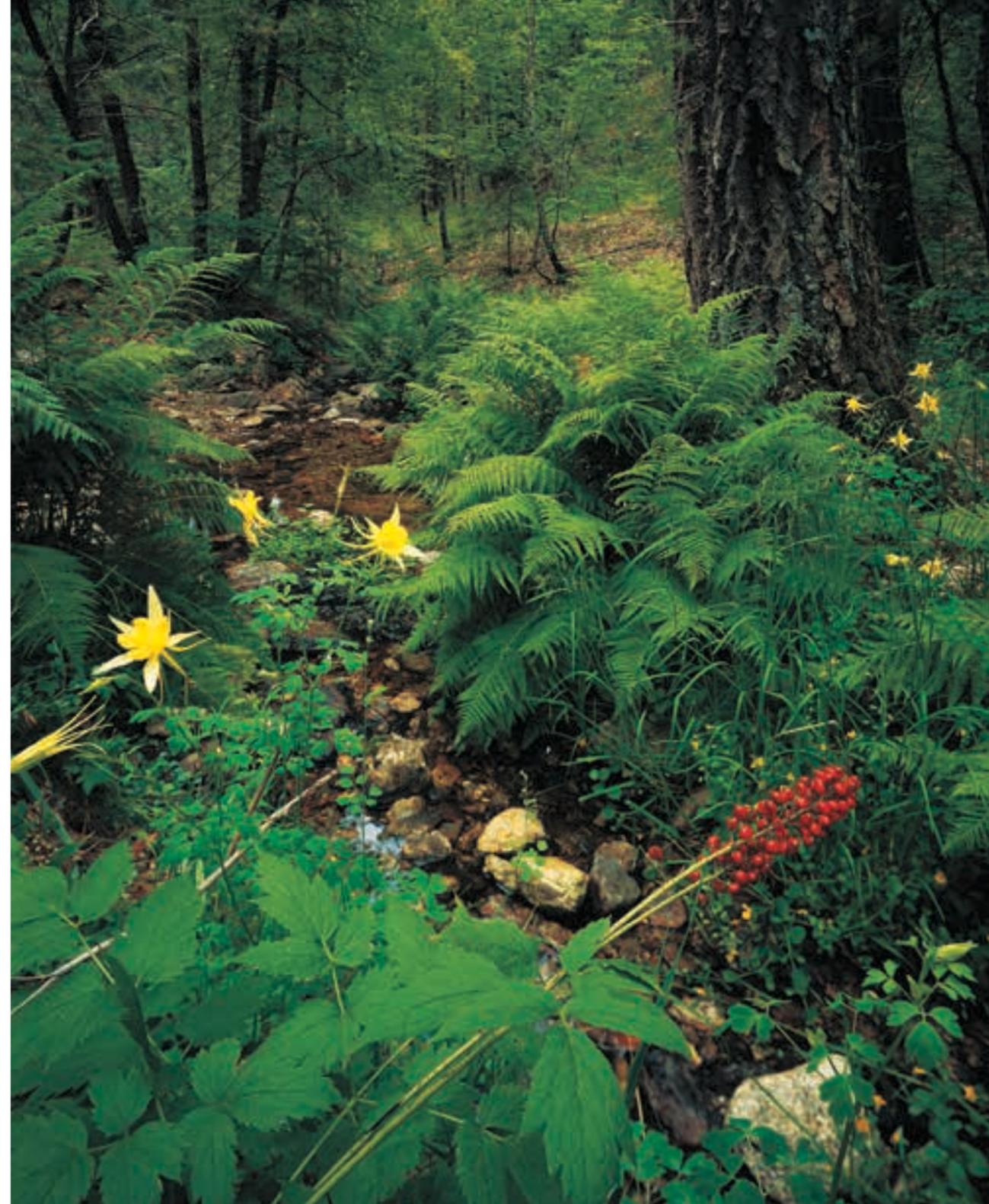
**INFORMATION:** Santa Catalina Ranger District, 520-749-8700 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado)

**LEAVE-NO-TRACE PRINCIPLES:**

- 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



ABOVE: Yellow columbines in bloom amid ferns and Douglas firs. | JACK DYKINGA

Trail, which follows Bear Canyon for just under 2 miles to the General Hitchcock Campground. This homestretch is probably the most beautiful part of the trail. The scenic vistas will have disappeared, but you'll be surrounded, once again, by ponderosas and Douglas firs, as well as Arizona cypress. You'll also cross over a series of large flat rocks reminiscent of something you might see on the Paria Plateau in Northern Arizona.

Eventually, after several crossings of Bear Creek and

passing some mammoth ponderosas, the trail bottoms out and parallels the wash to the campground. As you approach on the pine-needle-cushioned footpath, veer toward the 20-foot-tall concrete water tank and look for the notches on the trees and the nearby trailhead sign. The campground will be obvious, but you'll need this bearing for the return trip. Before you take off, park yourself at one of the picnic tables, refuel, and enjoy the lush green forest around you. It's not Vermont, but it sure could be. ■

where  
is this?

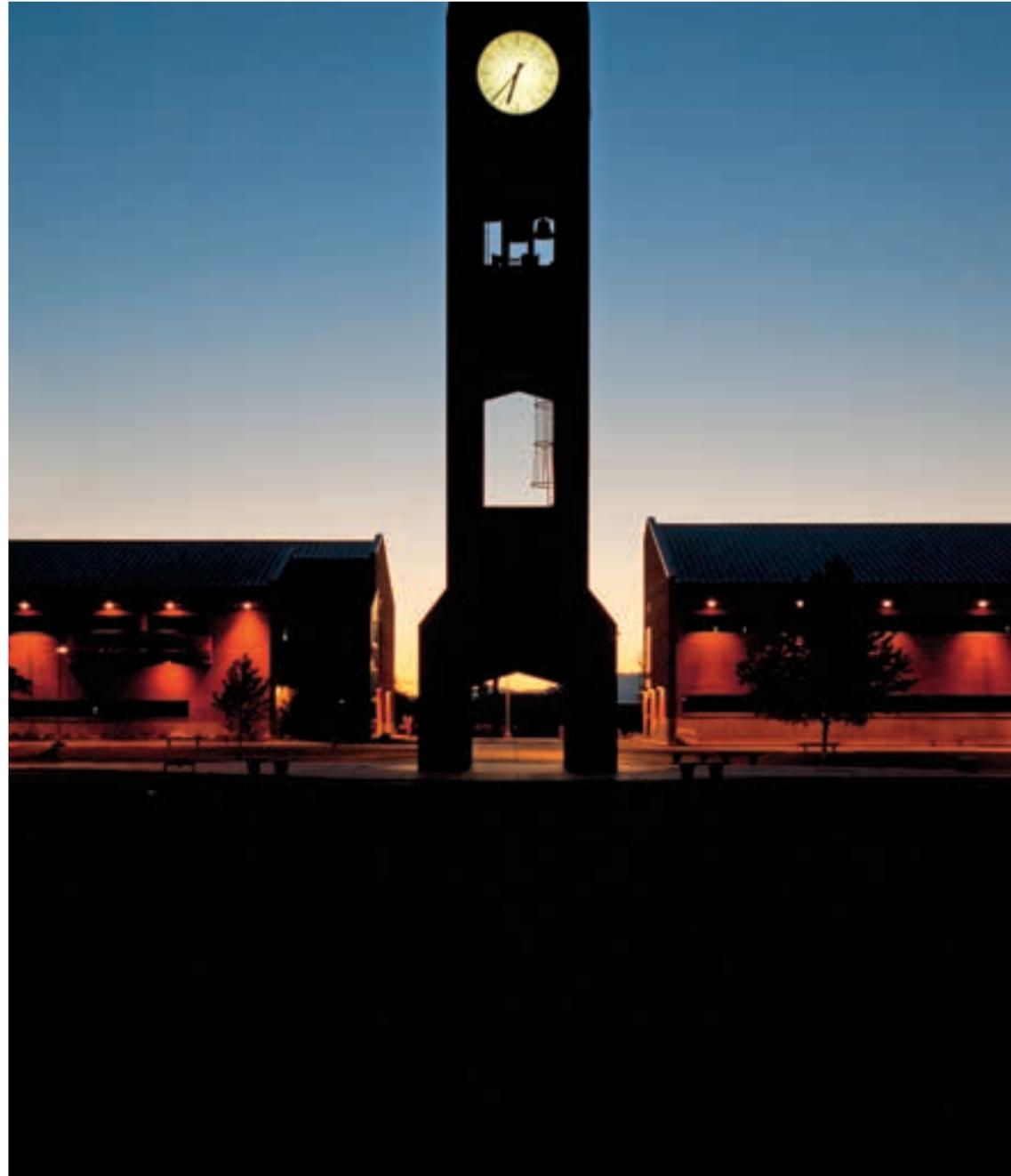
## That's the Spirit

BY ROBERT STIEVE  
PHOTOGRAPH  
BY TOM BEAN

In Apache culture, the mountain spirit known as the Ga'an Dancer possesses a positive energy that's used to protect the people from illness and fight off evil forces. This replica, which is made of bronze, plays a similar role as it protects modern Apaches from surrounding linebackers and inspires everyone who passes by to expand their minds and broaden their knowledge.



March 2011 Answer: Memorial Bell Tower, Eastern Arizona College. Congratulations to our winner, Glenda Alexander of Gilbert, Arizona.



**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 (write "Where Is This?" on the envelope). 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 May 15, 2011. Only the winner will be notified. The correct answer will be posted in our July issue and online at [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com) beginning June 15.



Catalina State Park is just  
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