

SUMMER HIKING GUIDE

ARIZONA

HIGHWAYS

ESCAPE · EXPLORE · EXPERIENCE

JUNE 2011

10 OF OUR
FAVORITE
PLACES
TO HIT
THE TRAIL

**The Howling Winds:
A Portfolio by George Stocking**

**The Stunning Resurrection
of Prescott's Opera House**

**Williamson Valley Road:
Simple, Scenic and Sublime**

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People, places and things from around the state, including our continuing coverage of Arizona's Centennial, a mountain lodge in a place that might surprise you, and why the Dining Room at El Tovar is more than just a pretty face.

18 SUMMER HIKING GUIDE

Hiking is a year-round activity in Arizona. At *Arizona Highways*, we're fond of all four seasons, but summer might be our favorite. Thus, our annual *Summer Hiking Guide*. Whether you're looking for an easy stroll in the White Mountains or a strenuous climb to the top of the Mogollon Rim, Arizona has a hike for everyone.

BY ROBERT STIEVE

30 THE HOWLING WINDS

Although "monsoon" is a word usually associated with the Indian Ocean, similar weather patterns exist in other parts of the world, including Arizona, where winds shift to a south or southeasterly direction in the summer, allowing moisture from the Sea of Cortes and the Gulf of Mexico to stream into the state. As you'll see in this month's portfolio, that shift can produce some radical weather.

A PORTFOLIO BY GEORGE STOCKING

42 JUST ADD WATER

Moisture is a precious commodity in Arizona. Even the name of the state sounds arid. Add a bit of water, however, and the environment becomes magical. In fact, if Arizona had more water, it would have less diversity. Ironically, it's the isolated nature of water that leads to Arizona's abundance of life.

BY CRAIG CHILDS

50 THIS OLD HOUSE

Like so many theaters built at the turn of the last century, the Elks Opera House in Prescott has been through a number of changes. At one point, it even played the role of movie theater. But thanks to an extensive and meticulous restoration, live performances are once again taking center stage.

BY RACHELLE SPARKS

52 SCENIC DRIVE

Williamson Valley Road: Sharp turns, steep grades, wide-open spaces, breathtaking views ... this route is the epitome of a scenic drive.

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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.

Storm clouds reflect warm light over Four Peaks Wilderness northeast of Phoenix.
| GEORGE STOCKING

FRONT COVER Molly Smith and Editor Robert Stieve hike the West Fork Black River Trail.
| PAUL MARKOW

BACK COVER An Anna's hummingbird sits alert and ready on her colorful nest.
| JOHN CANCALOSI

Photographic Prints Available

Prints of some photographs in this issue are available for purchase. To view options, visit www.arizonahighwaysprints.com. For more information, call 866-962-1191.



City Kids and the Great Outdoors

Next week I'll be hiking with some fourth-graders. It's a group of about 60 kids from Madison Traditional Academy in Phoenix. My friend Lynn is a teacher there, and a few months ago, on a whim, she asked if I'd be willing to lead her students on a hike. I think she thought I'd say no — *there's no way he'll agree to something like this!* — but I didn't think twice. Any excuse to hit the trail. Plus, it seemed like a great way to introduce a group of city kids to the great outdoors. That's part of our mission at *Arizona Highways*, and that's how Molly Smith ended up on our cover.

Molly is a city kid, too. And a student. She's a sophomore at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at ASU, which is where I teach magazine writing and serve as a mentor to freshman students. Molly was my mentee last year. The gist of the mentorship program is to give journalism students some real-world experience. Because my world often involves hiking, and because Molly is a talented young photographer, I invited her to the White Mountains for this month's cover shoot. I knew that photographer Paul Markow and Photo Editor Jeff Kida would give her some incredible lessons in camera work, and I knew she'd be captivated by the West Fork Black River Trail. It's one of the best in the state, and it's one of 10 in our fourth-annual *Summer Hiking Guide*.

The West Fork is easy. There's very little elevation change, and it's only 6 miles round-trip. The Boynton Canyon Trail in Sedona is a breeze, too. But not everything in this issue is easy. For something a lot more challenging, there's the A.B. Young Trail. On a list of the 50 best hikes in Arizona, a half-dozen would be in the Red Rock/Secret Mountain Wilderness, including A.B. Young. Although it's less than 5 miles round-trip, it climbs more than 1,600 feet in 1.6 miles via 33 switchbacks. It's one of the first hikes you should do this summer. Weather permitting.

Although rattlesnakes and rockslides are on the list of things to worry about in the wilderness, lightning is a much bigger concern. It can be deadly, but it can also be beautiful, as George Stocking illustrates in *The Howling Winds*, a portfolio that



PAUL MARKOW

features Arizona's summer monsoons. Like the monsoons in the Indian Ocean, the Arizona monsoon is caused by a wind shift, which, in our case, allows moisture from the Sea of Cortes and the Gulf of Mexico to stream into the state. It can produce some radical weather, including thunder, lightning and, most importantly, rain.

Moisture, of course, is a rare commodity in Arizona. As Craig Childs writes in *Just Add Water*: "Even in the wettest part of the state, the forested uplands around the White Mountains, water is glorious and rare. Across a couple thousand square miles of watersheds is a smattering of moisture compared to what you would find in the Ozarks over such a distance."

Ironically, he adds: "If Arizona had more water, it would, in fact, have less diversity. It is the isolated nature of water that leads to profusion."

That's the crux of Craig's essay, which celebrates water and the places that have it. Places like Hannagan Creek, which "purls through meadows and aspens," and Tonto and Haigler creeks, which "pour into Hellsgate Wilderness through intimate and hard-cut chasms." And places like the West Fork of the Black River, which not only nourishes an alpine forest of white pines, blue spruce and Douglas firs, but also makes a great place for a summer hike or a photo shoot. Put it on your list, and when you go, take along 50 or 60 fourth-graders. Their teacher will be grateful, and it'll give the kids a great introduction to the great outdoors.



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.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

On June 4, the American Hiking Society will celebrate its 19th annual National Trails Day. This year's theme, "Made With All Natural Ingredients," encourages all Americans to get outside and experience Mother Nature. For details on what's happening in Arizona, visit www.americanhiking.org.

ROBERT STIEVE, editor

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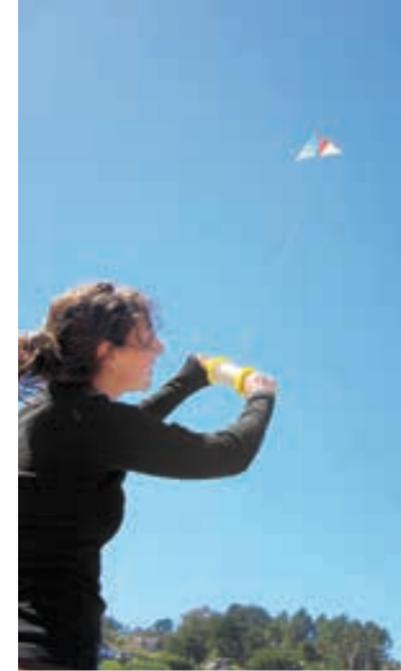
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LEAH DURAN

Writer Leah Duran splits her time between conservation work and journalism. Last fall, she worked on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, and while having dinner in El Tovar's acclaimed restaurant, she was fascinated by the menus she saw from 1908. "It was interesting to eat in a place filled with such history," she says. The Arizona State University graduate has worked at several national monuments, and continues to do work with the National Park Service. For this month's issue, Duran wrote about the El Tovar Dining Room (*Tables With a View*, page 14) and the Hualapai Mountain Resort near Kingman (*The Natural Choice*, page 8). She also wrote this month's nature feature (*He'll Poke Your Eye Out!*, page 15). Duran is a frequent contributor to *Arizona Highways*. She also writes for *SPIN* magazine.



GEORGE STOCKING

While traveling across Arizona to make photographs of monsoon storms for this month's portfolio (*The Howling Winds*, page 30), George Stocking used a variety of methods to predict storm locations. "I would sit at home watching the radar and visible satellite on the Internet," he says. "I'd watch where the storm would form, start tracking its direction, make my best guess and take off, chasing the big storm cells." The perils of storm season involved everything from lightning to snakes. "I fended off a strike from a 4-foot-long diamondback rattlesnake with my tripod," he says. Stocking is a frequent contributor to *Arizona Highways*.

CRAIG CHILDS

Although he now lives in Colorado, essayist Craig Childs says his heart is in his home state of Arizona. He also says that his time as a river guide helped him appreciate the rivers and streams that are so important to the state's ecosystem.



"Most people outside of Arizona, they think of deserts and desolation, but I know Arizona for its water," he says. When he isn't traveling or writing, Childs says he's raising his family and figuring out where to go next. This month, Childs writes about water's critical role in maintaining life in Arizona (*Just Add Water*, page 42). In addition to *Arizona Highways*, Childs' work has appeared in *Men's Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times* and *The New York Times*.

— Interviewed by Daniel Jacka

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, and click the *Arizona Highways Television* link on our home page.

THANK YOU, SIR

I'm 96 years old. I subscribed to *Arizona Highways* from 1958 until last year. For some unknown reason, I let it expire. I would like to resubscribe. Please send me a subscription order.

BERN GREGORY, FLORISSANT, MISSOURI



April 2011

FOWL SHOT

This morning I read your article about the best restaurants in Arizona [April 2011]. I live in Prescott and decided to go to breakfast at Rooster's for some of their famed corned beef hash, as mentioned in your story. When my wife and I arrived, there were no cars in the lot and there was a big "for sale" sign on the front window. I guess even their good food couldn't save them in this great recession.

JIM EDMISTON, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

EDITOR'S NOTE: We apologize for any inconvenience. Unfortunately, Rooster's closed after our issue had already gone to press.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

I get my copy of *Arizona Highways* sent to Switzerland, and I love the armchair travel it inspires. I've noticed, though, that U.S. magazines and newspapers, online or print, tend more and more to not expect readers to think! An example that made me smile (but also cringe) in the April 2011 issue: "Photographer Paul Markow ate his heart out, figuratively, during the photo shoot for this month's cover story." OK, I know this story was

about mouthwatering food, but did you seriously think your readers might believe that Paul (crazed by the sight and smell of the delicious food) would literally tear his heart out of his chest and devour it? Just saying.

REGINA MOSSIMAN, SCHOENENBERG, SWITZERLAND

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

Has *Arizona Highways* ever done a photo spread by visitors? I mean, people who come from out-of-state or out-of-country (like me) who believe — in a delusional way, perhaps — that they have taken some impressive photos of Arizona landscapes. I've just returned from nine days in Arizona (probably my eighth or ninth visit). I would rate none of my photos this time as *Highways*-worthy. Even so, has the magazine ever hosted photos that tell a story as to why visitors trek to Arizona, and sometimes move to the state?

MIKE PETTAPIECE, BURLINGTON, ONTARIO

EDITOR'S NOTE: Although we've never done a feature story quite like that, we do host an annual online photography contest. The winning photographs, as well as many of the finalists, are featured every year in our September issue. For information, visit www.arizonahighways.com/photography.asp.



March 2011

ANOTHER STORY

The Lucky Spurs [March 2011] by J.P.S. Brown is one of the best ever in *Arizona Highways*. How about a few more stories by Mr. Brown?

MARK MURRAY, RESTON, VIRGINIA

MAGIC INGREDIENTS

I have never written to the editor of a magazine, but it is a pleasure to me

to say thank you for *Arizona Highways*. The whole magazine is magic and shows the fantastic nature you have the pleasure to have nearby and the mastery of your photographers. It is a work of art. [By the way], I am a reader of the digital version of *Arizona Highways*.

CARLOS TICHMANN, MUNICH, GERMANY



November 2010

HOW SUSAN WEST WAS WON

I've lived in Arizona since the age of 7, so I've been fortunate enough to see much of what Arizona has to offer. Growing up, we visited many places and took many scenic drives throughout this beautiful state. I

found myself revisiting these places with my own daughter, and I still enjoy visiting them when I'm able. Not only are the sights of Arizona breathtaking, but they each have their own special memory of times past. This is why I enjoy *Arizona Highways* and look forward to every issue. The photographs are breathtaking, the stories are fascinating, and there's usually a memory or two tucked in there somewhere. It would be awesome if you would have an issue devoted to "then and now" Arizona. It would be interesting to see how time has changed Arizona, if at all.

SUSAN WEST, GOODYEAR, ARIZONA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks Susan. Coincidentally, we did a "then and now" issue in November 2010. It was so popular that we're planning on doing it again in 2012.



GUY SCHMICKLE

Up, Up and Away

Monument Valley's world-famous landscape is quite a sight from terra firma, but it's even more impressive from the wild blue yonder. For information about hot-air ballooning and other tours on the Navajo Indian Reservation, visit www.navajonationparks.org.

The Mudslinger

Like Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, artist Don Reitz is a maverick of sorts. But instead of slinging a pistol, he's made a name for himself by slinging mud — literally. At age 82, he's regarded as one of the 12 greatest living ceramists in the world.

By AMY ABRAMS

WHAT MAKES A MAVERICK? In art-making, it requires out-and-out rule-breaking.

CLARKDALE

After decades of going against the grain, with nil or little recognition, fame rarely follows these

fearless innovators. Occasionally, the world takes notice. Such is the story of Don Reitz, one of the most famous and influential ceramists in the world today, who lives, works and plays on 40 glorious acres in Northern Arizona.

With a wry smile, Reitz refers to his artistic medium of choice as “dirt.” Indeed, clay is simply mud, dug up from the ground. Yet, while Reitz jokes about making art from mud, the splendor of nature, abundant in his rural Arizona setting, inspires his artwork. In Clarkdale, Reitz's home and art studio, as well as seven kilns that are used to fire his ceramic pieces, are bounded and protected by pristine wilderness beside the Verde River. “I'm surrounded by red rocks and Native American ruins, which are an endless supply of energy,” he says.

Reitz, who recently turned 82, recalls a childhood love of nature — building elaborate dirt dams and sketching with sticks in the earth. His affinity for the natural world was also prompted by a before-school job of running trap lines in the Delaware River to sell his catch for pocket change. During those early school years, a diagnosis of dyslexia explained Reitz's poor grades, even though his teachers often deemed him intelligent and creative.

After initially doing odd jobs for a living — logger, fisherman, meat-cutter — Reitz ultimately found his calling after enrolling in art school, where his original devotion to painting was soon relegated to clay. After completing his master's degree at New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, he accepted a teaching position at the University of Wisconsin, where he would stay for 27 years before relocating to Arizona, following an impromptu trip to visit a colleague at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

Once settled in Arizona, Reitz practiced wood-firing with the same zeal for which he'd pursued salt-firing, a kiln technique he almost single-handedly revived, creating a new and bold range of colors and textures, and receiving international recognition. In 2002, he was awarded one of the highest honors in his field from the American Craft Council, following many other accolades, including designation as one of the top 12



Don Reitz's 230-pound sculpture titled *Tower* is 52 inches tall and 14 inches wide. The sculpture took three weeks to assemble, seven days to wood-fire in his Japanese *anagama* kiln, and another 10 days to cool. The piece gets its multihued natural glaze from pine, oak and hickory ashes during the firing.

greatest living ceramists in the world by *Ceramics Monthly*.

Showcased in some of the country's most prominent museums and collected across the globe, Reitz's artworks are not only revered for their technique, but have garnered acclaim for their raw emotional power, largely derived from a catastrophic experience: At the height of his career, a near-fatal truck accident left the artist laid up and ill over many months — the habitually proclaimed “artist's suffering” that would promote authenticity in his art-making, revealing his deepest emotional core. An additional, almost unbearable blow — his beloved niece's diagnosis of cancer — sank him further still. Intent on continuing his craft

while bedridden, Reitz began drawing narratives on small slabs of clay, largely inspired by drawings he'd exchanged through the mail with his niece. “If I am in pain or in love, I put it out there. What man can't understand, what he fears, he puts on the walls, so he can better understand it,” says Reitz of his creative self-expression.

When able to return to his deeply missed ceramics studio, Reitz incorporated the new narrative style into his work, entering a prolific phase of art-making. These powerful clay vessels, plates, pitchers and wall sculptures reveal an outpouring of emotion, displaying the artist's grief, joy, anger, courage and fear.

Always seeking new challenges, Reitz still devotes his strong artistic energy to large-scale pieces. When a clay pipe factory, Mission Clay Products in Phoenix, invited the artist to “come by and check it out,” Reitz wound up with an 1,800-pound, 8-foot-long pipe delivered to his property upon his request. “I've always been interested in the fusing of art and industry, although the size of this was a bit intimidating,” Reitz says with a laugh. Thus began a new series titled *The Pipe Dream*, which showcases Reitz's energetic and emotive designs on the massive cylindrical clay “canvases.”

Because he is reputed among his peers and students as a captivating teacher, easily expressive of his feelings, Reitz's workshops have culled large numbers of artists eager to learn his techniques and get a first-hand glimpse of his charismatic working style. While teaching his craft, he's really teaching them about living — about letting go, about not being afraid of life's inevitable challenges — key characteristics of any creative endeavor. In this way, the artist has served as a mentor to thousands of ceramics artists building their own careers.

For more information, visit www.donreitz.com.

P R A T T ' S

Q & A



Stephen Drew Shortstop, Arizona Diamondbacks

When you're not busy turning double plays for the Arizona Diamondbacks, where do you like to go?

When I have time off, I like to get away outside of Phoenix, particularly to Lake Pleasant. I love to fish and hunt and look at the scenic views.

What do you love most about Arizona?

I love Arizona because it's a family oriented place. My older brother, J.D., plays in Boston. Around here, you have a bunch of restaurants, but they're not so jampacked and things are more spread out. That makes for much easier travel.

Speaking of restaurants, where do you like to go after a game?

There are a few places I frequent, including Mastro's Steakhouse in Scottsdale. For more of an upscale Mexican food place, there's The Mission in Scottsdale. Those two and Sapporo round out my top three. Good times and good food.

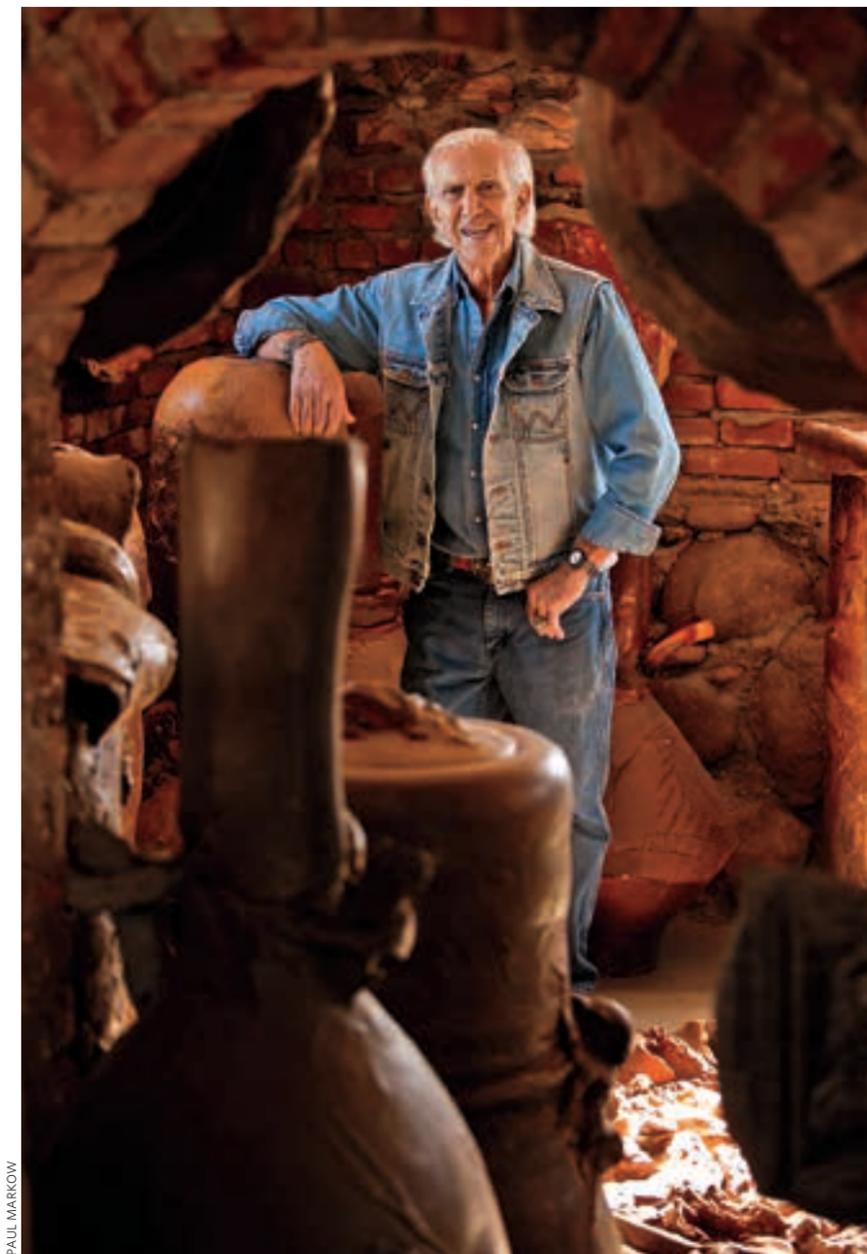
If someone told you to “take a hike,” where would you go?

I'd love to hike, but my days off are normally when it's pretty hot. I also have my 19-month-old child running around, so hiking can make for a fun day, but a draining day, as well.

If you could pick an Arizona sports icon to be your neighbor, who would it be?

Luis “Gonzo” Gonzales. As a teammate of his, I was able to pick his brain. I know he's a great guy, and he's done a lot for the community.

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



PAUL MARKOW

The Natural Choice

Deer, bears and elk take center stage in the eight rooms at Hualapai Mountain Resort, but the nature theme doesn't stop there. Everything at this place in the pines, from the wall-sized paintings to the cast-iron towel racks, echoes the great outdoors.

By LEAH DURAN

LOCATED 12 MILES FROM Historic Route 66 in Kingman, Hualapai Mountain Resort beckons visitors with a dirt road that leads into the cool, soothing embrace of ponderosa pines and, ultimately, toward the peak of Hualapai Mountain.

K I N G M A N With honey-hued pine décor and an abundance of sunshine through large windows, the resort's accommodations exude an aura of warmth and coziness akin to a New England log cabin, but one that's nestled at an elevation of 7,000 feet.



PAUL MARKOW

A snapshot on the shower curtain reads "Roughing It," but here, your stay is anything but. Without being pretentious, the resort presents a refined, coordinated appearance that reminds guests that they are indeed on vacation.

The decorations reflect the landscape, and the resort's eight rooms pay homage to three large mammals: deer, bears and elk. Everything, from the wall-sized paintings by local artists to the cast-iron towel racks, echoes a natural theme. For the resort's most luxurious experience, book the Bear's Den room, which features a private patio, flat-screen satellite TV and gas fireplace. Imported Italian river rock frames the shower, complementing the interior's earthy mints, creams and ambers. For visitors more of the camping persuasion, the resort also offers 14 sites for RVs. Weddings and community events are commonplace on the 8-acre property.

Owner Ron Kutil has been remodeling Hualapai Mountain Resort since he purchased it in 2004. His personal touches appear in the rustic, hand-carved furniture and wood-inlaid ceilings. In the spacious dining room, Kutil built the fireplace and replaced a disco ball and gray paint with local pelts and pictures. The bar, which opens to a patio where guests can enjoy live music in the summer, formerly served as four motel rooms. "When I bought it, there were still bathtubs behind the bar," he says.

These days, guests might catch Kutil bartending or cooking Sunday's breakfast buffet. The resort's menu is extensive and fresh, boasting wild-caught salmon, hand-cut Black Angus beef, and homemade sauces and dressings. If you're compelled to work off some of those delicious calories, nearby Hualapai Mountain Park features hiking trails, including one to the mountain's 8,417-foot summit. At the resort, visitors can watch birds and the sun's daily displays of color, and elk are permanent dwellers on the grass just outside the yawning windows of the dining room.

The goal of Hualapai Mountain Resort is "basically to relax and get in touch with yourself," Kutil says. If that means getting in touch with nature, as well, Hualapai Mountain Resort presents the right formula for rejuvenation.

Hualapai Mountain Resort is located at 4525 Hualapai Mountain Road in Kingman. For more information, call 928-757-3545 or visit www.hmresort.net.



A macro photograph of a dandelion. | SUZANNE MATHIA

That Was a Close One

Although most landscape photographers spend most of their time shooting panoramic images, every once in a while they like to zoom in on something a little smaller — something like a dandelion, for example.

By JEFF KIDA, photo editor

AFTER THE MAGIC LIGHT of early morning had faded into harsh midday sun, Suzanne Mathia decided to explore some of the meadows on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. She saw what appeared to be giant dandelions (western salsify) that had gone to seed. They reminded her of her childhood — picking dandelions, blowing the wispy white heads into the wind and watching them float away like little umbrellas. After finding a stand in the shadows, she used her 100 mm macro lens to zoom in on the dandelion. She also used a tripod and worked at the closest possible focusing distances. Mathia shot many frames from different angles and at different f-stops, giving her greater and lesser depths of field. This image was made at f/5 at 1/6 of a second.



GEORGE STOCKING

GOING THE DISTANCE

To capture the greatest depth of field, focus one-third of the way into your image — the hyperfocal distance. When the lens is focused at that distance, the depth of field extends from half the hyperfocal distance to infinity. To be more precise, use a depth of field calculator or a smart phone app such as DOFMaster: www.dofmaster.com.



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

ONLINE

For more photography tips, visit www.arizona-highways.com/photography.asp.

Arizona: 1942-1951

In Arizona's fourth decade of statehood, Navajo Code Talkers play a major role in World War II; Motorola opens its first plant in Phoenix, ushering in the city's high-tech industry; and the state population reaches 500,000.

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 4.

ARIZONA WAS FRONT AND CENTER as the United States entered World War II. No state in the nation sent such a variety of men and women to serve. From the vast Navajo Indian Reservation in northeastern Arizona came the Navajo Code Talkers. Using their native language, they developed a code that the Japanese couldn't break. The Code Talkers became one of the great American stories of the war and played a major role in the nation's success in the South Pacific.

In 1945, another Native American from Arizona made history. Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from the Gila River Indian Reservation, was among the men photographed in the iconic image of the U.S. flag being raised at Iwo Jima.

Ironically, none of those Native Americans had the right to vote as they risked their lives for the nation. In 1928, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a voting restriction on reservation Indians, saying they were under "guardianship" of the federal government and therefore didn't qualify as voting citizens. It wasn't until 1948 that Native people got the right to vote, and one of the plaintiffs in that landmark case was Frank Harrison, a Mojave Apache from the Fort McDowell Reservation in Arizona. Harrison was a World War II veteran.

Despite the heroics of its citizens, Arizona had only one Medal of Honor winner from

World War II: Sylvester Herrera, who was born in Mexico but later became a Phoenix resident. Herrera wasn't the only Phoenician to garner accolades. Bill Mauldin, who graduated from Phoenix Union High School and went on to become a cartoonist for *The Arizona Republic*, won a Pulitzer Prize for his sketches of foot soldiers in Sicily during the war while serving as a staff member of *Stars and Stripes*.

Meanwhile, two Japanese internment camps were built in Arizona as the nation segregated its Japanese citizens, overlooking the fact that many of those families had sons wearing the American uniform and fighting for this country. In Papago Park, the government also built a camp that housed German prisoners of war.

In the spring of 1942, General George Patton organized a training center at the Thunderbird Air Field near Glendale that trained Chinese, French, English and American pilots. By war's end, Phoenix was bookended with Air Force bases renowned for their pilot training: Luke Air Force Base (named for World War I flying ace Lieutenant Frank Luke Jr.) in Glendale, and Williams Air Force Base in Mesa.

At the time, many young airmen vowed that if they ever lived through the war, they'd return to sunny, citrus-filled Arizona — and many of them did, creating a population boom that continues to the present day.

In 1948, Motorola built its first plant in Phoenix, launching the city's high-tech industry. That same year, Lieutenant General Barton Kyle Yount saw the need for returning veterans to learn about business in foreign countries. And so, for \$1, he bought the old Thunderbird Field as surplus property and established an international business school that eventually became the Thunderbird School of Global Management. Today it's regarded as one of the top three graduate business schools in the world.

The headlines notwithstanding, Arizona was still a relatively quiet place in the 1940s — in 1940, its entire population was just 499,000. By 1950, however, that number had increased by more than 50 percent to 750,000. Even bigger gains — much bigger gains — were ahead.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The first digital computer, ENIAC, was completed in 1945 and weighed 30 tons.
- In 1942 *Bambi* became one of the top 10 movies of the decade.
- A new home cost \$3,920 in 1940. By 1949, the average home cost \$7,450.
- Percy L. Spencer invented the microwave oven in 1946.
- A bottle of aspirin (100 count) cost an average of 76 cents in the 1940s.



Navajo Code Talkers Preston Toledo, left, and Frank Toledo served in the South Pacific in 1943. | ARIZONA STATE ARCHIVES



ARIZONA STATE ARCHIVES



CRAIG SMITH

ARIZONA: THEN & NOW

THE LUHRS TOWER, AN art-deco skyscraper at First Avenue and Jefferson Street in downtown Phoenix, was constructed by businessman George Luhrs in 1929. By 1945, when the photograph on

the left was made, it was a major office building. In 1960, the tower appeared in Alfred Hitchcock's movie *Psycho*, looming behind Janet Leigh as she crossed the street.

IN THE NEWS

Headlines from 1942 - 1951

January 17, 1942

"Farm Women Play Big Part In War Effort."

[*The Tucson Daily Citizen* reported on a conference asking women to stay on the farm "instead of seeking defense plant jobs."]

March 5, 1943

"Meat Ration May Increase By Year End."

[*The Arizona Republic* reported on the hope that allotments would increase from the weekly 1.75 pounds per person.]

April 23, 1946

"7,000 Warbirds 'Rest' Near Kingman."

[*The Arizona Republic* notes that an old airfield in northwestern Arizona had become the final resting place for surplus fighters.]

February 20, 1943

"Arizonan Collects Life for Slaying."

[*The Arizona Republic* reported the gas chamber execution of James C. Rawlins for murdering a neighbor's child. He'd been on death row for six months.]

March 8, 1945

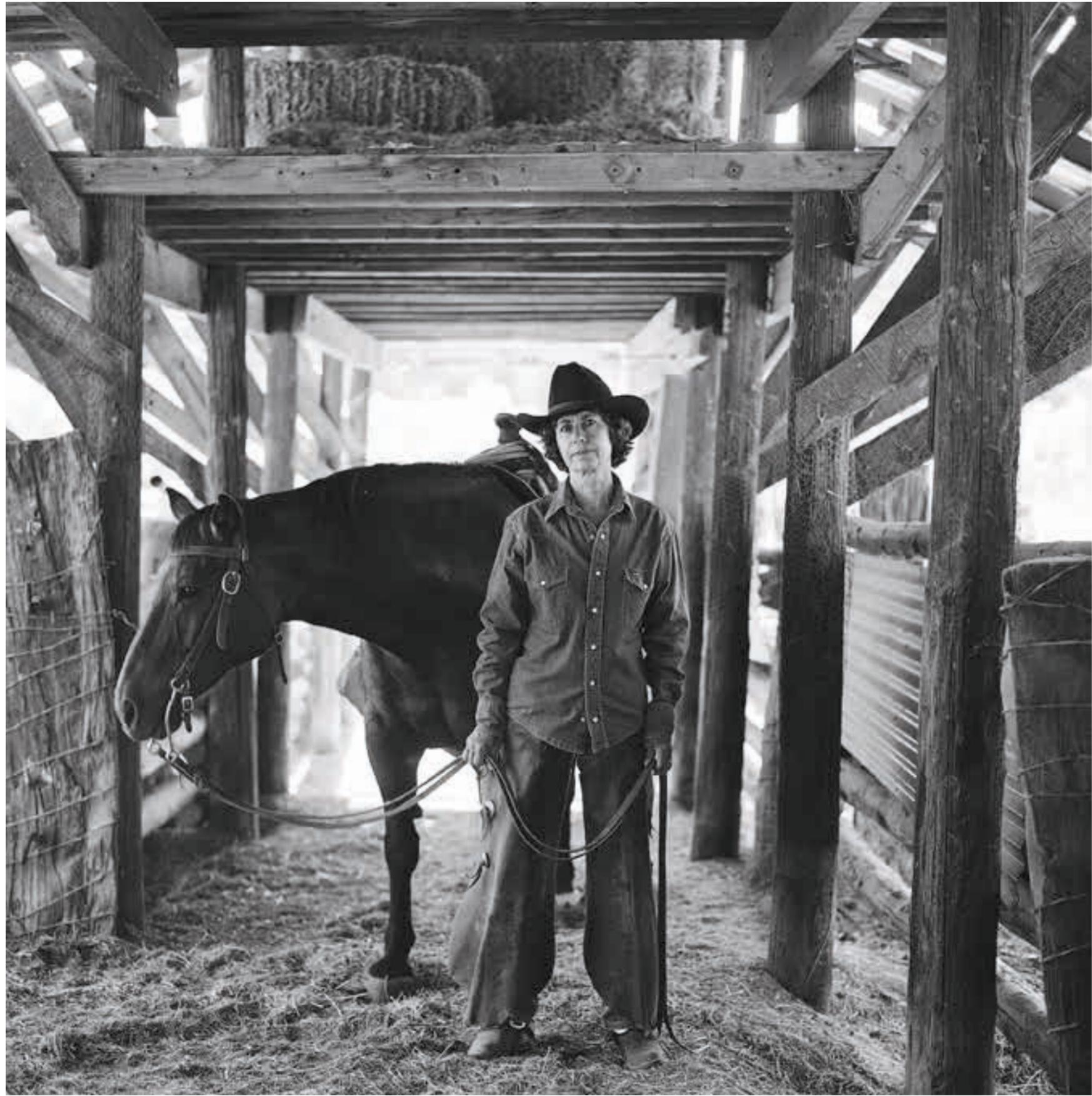
"Arizona Will Stay on Present Time for Remainder of Year."

[*The Arizona Republic* reported that Governor Sidney P. Osborn signed a bill that kept Arizona from going on daylight saving time.]

January 10, 1947

"Astrologer Seeking to Locate Here Is Told to Remain Away."

[*The Yuma Daily Sun* reports that officials cited a city ordinance that said astrologers and fortune-tellers were not allowed in the city as a rebuke to a California woman.]



VM RANCH, EST. 1897

Blue, Arizona

BY KELLY KRAMER | PHOTOGRAPHS BY SCOTT BAXTER

Rose Awtrey says she was born into ranching. It makes sense, considering that her grandparents, Toles and Lou Ella Cosper, settled on a piece of land on the Blue River in 1897 and began herding cattle there, even though there were no allotments. Instead, area ranchers simply agreed on boundaries. Later, Awtrey's aunt and then her parents purchased the land. Now, Awtrey owns it. "I've never known much of anything else [but ranching]," she says. "I love cows and I love making a living off this land that I love so much. It's very rewarding to move cattle to a fresh pasture or supply them with salt and supplement, and to save a newborn baby calf that might have died without assistance." Baxter made this photograph of Awtrey and her horse, Choppo, at the Lazy YJ Ranch, which she managed, approximately 20 miles south of Alpine.



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.



PAUL MARKOW

Tables With a View

There are a lot of things to like about the El Tovar Dining Room — historic architecture, Native American details, culinary excellence — but nothing beats the room's views of the Seventh Natural Wonder.

By LEAH DURAN

A CENTURY AGO, YOUR dinner fare at El Tovar Dining Room and Lounge might have consisted of corned ox tongue and pickled vegetables. Though you won't find those items on the menu today, you can still enjoy the same view of the Grand Canyon that travelers experienced when the hotel opened in 1905. Ten tables face the Seventh Natural Wonder, and for the lucky few who get to sit there, the scenery is even more impressive than the menu.

GRAND CANYON

To please a wide variety of culinary tourists, dishes are centered on classic Continental cuisine with a Southwestern influence, says Matthew McTigue, El Tovar's executive chef. "People come here expecting the Wild West, so we try to balance the menu."

Meanwhile, traces of the past linger on the Mimbreno dinnerware, which replicates the fine china used on the Santa Fe Railway that once brought travelers to the Grand Canyon. Architect Mary Colter, who designed the nearby Hopi House and other Grand Canyon buildings, sketched the Native American-inspired patterns.

For special occasions, guests can request El Tovar's private dining room, which is lined with the same dark, rich hues of Oregon pine that frame the high ceilings of the main dining area. Legend has it that the room was created for President Theodore Roosevelt, a champion of national parks. The walls are banded with red stencils of deer, painted by longtime server Thomas Ratz in the style of the pictographs found at the top of Bright Angel Trail.

Like the geologic wonder to the north, the breakfast menu at El Tovar is hearty, and ranges from traditional pancakes and waffles to the more exotic polenta corncakes with prickly pear-pistachio butter. Dinner can be substantial, too. Be sure to try the fresh catch of the day or any of the Black Angus selections. The meat comes from Creekstone Farms, a Kansas company that runs an all-natural beef program.

"It's the kind of stuff high-end restaurants in Manhattan are going to because it's that good of a product," says McTigue, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in New

York. Items with sustainable or organic ingredients are marked on the menu.

Another good option and a house favorite is the green-chile chicken soup with Arizona Gunslinger hot sauce. To quell the heat, the restaurant's wine list boasts 94 choices, all but one of which are domestic. There's beer, too, including some impressive choices from the Grand Canyon Brewing Co. in Williams. The best beverage, however, might be the Belgian hot chocolate — it's topped with bittersweet chips that are melted into real whipped cream and whole milk. For more sugar, satisfy your dessert cravings with pies and cheesecakes that mimic the seasons. The signature Desert Napoleon offers baked, cinnamon-dusted flour tortillas that emerge out of *sabayon*, a dessert that's spiked with Marsala wine.

No matter when you visit El Tovar, which has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1974, be sure to make dinner reservations — they can be made up to six months in advance with a room reservation or 30 days in advance without one. And while you're waiting for your table, relax on the veranda and let the majesty of the Canyon suffuse you.

El Tovar Dining Room and Lounge is located on the Grand Canyon's South Rim. For more information, call 928-638-2631 or visit www.grandcanyonlodges.com/dining.

He'll Poke Your Eye Out! Although porcupines aren't as common in Arizona as they used to be, they're as prickly as ever. If you see one, count yourself lucky and keep your distance. Those 30,000 quills could ruin your day. BY LEAH DURAN

Count yourself lucky if you see an Arizona porcupine. "Because they're so thinly distributed, you're not likely to see one anywhere except the Grand Canyon," says Dave Brown, an adjunct professor of biology at Arizona State University.

A century ago, things were different. According to Brown, the unusually high porcupine populations of the early to middle 1900s were likely the result of predator control — specifically, of mountain lions, the porcupine's primary enemy. Today, those practices are no longer in place. "Mountain lions are more common than they used to be," Brown says, adding that the increase has allowed porcupine numbers to return to normal.

Nevertheless, these solitary, nocturnal

critters are well equipped to defend themselves. Porcupine translates as "spiny pig," from the Latin *porcus*, meaning "hog," and *spina*, meaning "thorn" or "spine." Contrary to its name — which has changed over the years from such variations as portepyn and porkenpick — the porcupine is the second-largest rodent in the United States, next to the beaver. Adults weigh up to 40 pounds and are 2 to 3 feet in length, with a sizeable tail for climbing trees. Porcupines wear a coat of ivory-colored quills and gray hairs that turn charcoal on the back and nose.

The mere sight of a porcupine's 30,000 raised quills — the barbs are 4 inches long — should be enough to make a mountain lion or any other predator reconsider its meal. Porcupines will also chatter their teeth and

emit a foul odor. Their quills, however, are a last line of defense. Popular myth aside, they are not shot like arrows; instead, these hollow lances detach on contact and lodge into the attacker.

You're most likely to spot a porcupine munching on grasses in a summer meadow. During the winter, when fresh greenery is scarce, porcupines feed on the new shoots and inner bark of pines, including ponderosas. In doing so, porcupines can stunt tree growth or kill a tree through girdling, by which they strip a ring of bark around the tree's base and sever the flow of nutrients.

In the 1920s, foresters were concerned about the danger porcupines posed to Arizona's ponderosa forests and took measures to reduce populations, including the use of poison in Flagstaff. It wasn't until 1972, when porcupines were no longer regarded as a threat, that they were they protected.

If you happen to see a porcupine, admire from a distance, lest you get more than a view of sharp quills.

nature factoid



BRUCED TAUBERT

Slow Motions

Considered one of the Southwest's most beloved creatures, the desert tortoise has learned to beat the heat in Arizona by digging underground burrows. With the ability to withstand ground temperatures of 140 degrees or higher, these native reptiles spend 95 percent of their life underground. Aboveground, they tend to be found on steep, rocky slopes.



TIM FITZHARRIS



GERIEVINE

Summer Flashlight Tours

JUNE 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 PHOENIX

Grab a flashlight and experience the mysteries of the Sonoran Desert at night. Nighthawks, snakes, insects and night-blooming flowers are among the things you might see during this special event at Desert Botanical Garden, which is located in Papago Park. The tours, which are recommended for families and children of all ages, take place on Thursdays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. *Information: 480-941-1225 or www.dbg.org*

Snowball Slide

JUNE 11
FLAGSTAFF

Head for the cool temperatures of Northern Arizona and get even cooler during Flagstaff's Annual Snowball Slide, which begins at noon at Flagstaff City Hall. Although the snowballs aren't real, the activities and prizes are. Enjoy music, food, raffles and children's activities. *Information: 928-526-5447 or www.assistanceleagueflag.org*



LYNETTE TRITEL

Photo Workshop

SEPTEMBER 7-11
NAVAJOLAND

Join Arizona Highways Photo Editor Jeff Kida as he shares his knowledge of the Navajo people and their environment. From Chinle to Canyon de Chelly and then on to the Navajo Nation Fair, this workshop teaches the crucial elements of photography while providing an opportunity to capture the culture and natural beauty of Navajoland. *Information: 888-790-7042 or www.friendsofhighways.com*

Family Fun Day

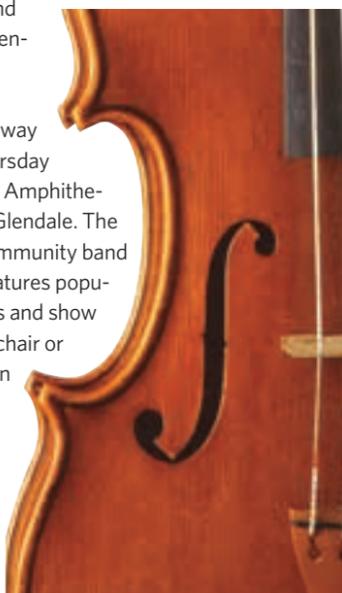
JUNE 18 KINGMAN

Locomotive Park in historic downtown Kingman is the place to see Western re-enactments and shootouts, with live music between performances. There will be vendors, food and art displays, as well. The shows begin at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. *Information: 928-203-1479 or www.kingmantourism.org*

Summer Band Concert Series

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 GLENDALE

Make plans to attend the 45th Annual Glendale Summer Band concert series. The concerts get under way at 8 p.m. every Thursday at the Murphy Park Amphitheater in Downtown Glendale. The longest-running community band event in Arizona features popular marches, ballads and show tunes. Take a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening under the stars. Admission and parking are free. *Information: 623-930-4500 or www.glendaleaz.com*



PRESCOTT BLUEGRASS EVENTS ASSN.

Chaparral MusicFest 2011

JUNE 3-12 PRESCOTT

There's something for every musical taste during the fifth annual Chaparral MusicFest. Enjoy family concerts, master classes, recitals, two youth camps (Suzuki and Choir), an adult choral workshop and a chamber music workshop, plus a "New Music Arizona" concert, featuring music by Arizona composers and their muses. *Information: 928-777-8663 or www.chaparralmusicfest.org*

— Compiled by Nikki Kimbel

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SUMMER HIKING GUIDE

▶▶▶ Hiking is a year-round activity in Arizona – desert trails in the winter, mountain trails in the summer, and everything else somewhere in between. At *Arizona Highways*, we're fond of all four seasons, but summer might be our favorite. Thus, our annual *Summer Hiking Guide*. Whether you're looking for an easy stroll in the White Mountains or a strenuous climb to the top of the Mogollon Rim, Arizona has a hike for everyone. What follows are 10 of our favorites.

by ROBERT STIEVE ▶▶▶

The West Fork Black River Trail, an easy 6-mile trek, meanders through alpine forests and high-country meadows. | PAUL GILL



A.B. YOUNG TRAIL *Oak Creek Canyon*

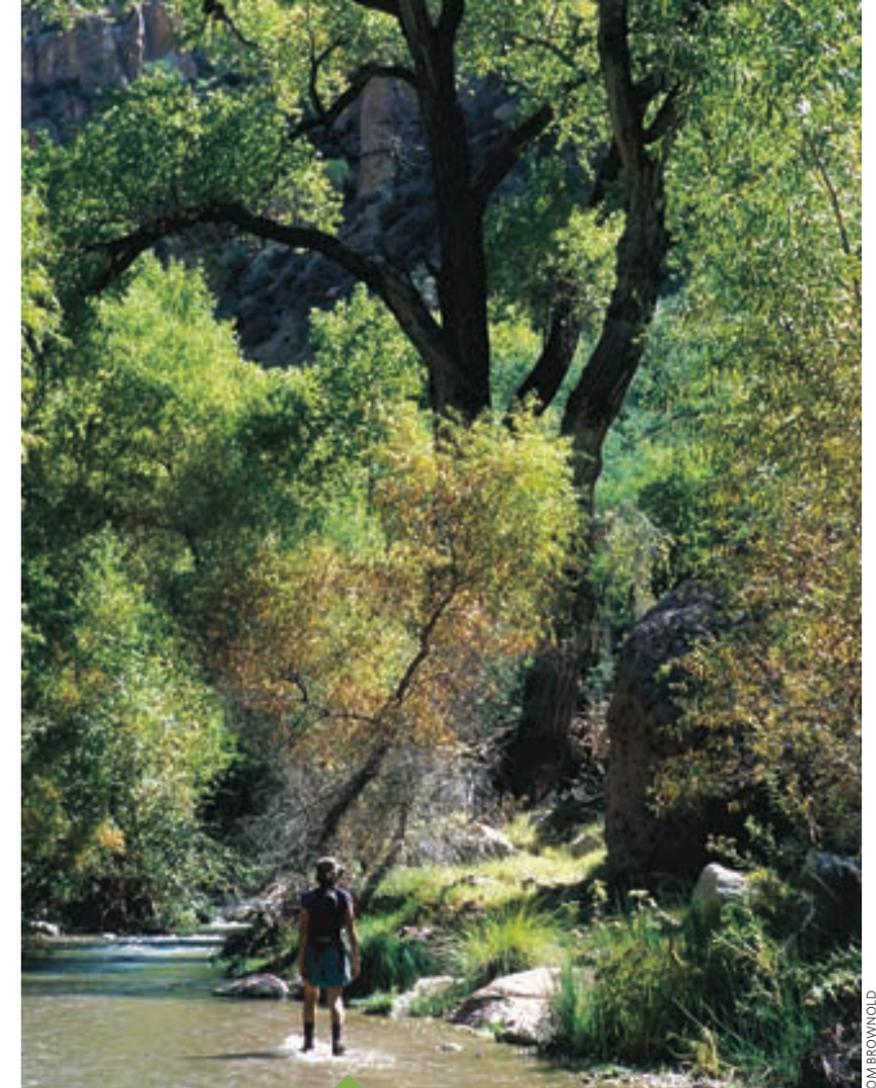
On a list of the 50 best hikes in Arizona, a half-dozen would be in the Red Rock/Secret Mountain Wilderness, including this one, which is also known as the East Pocket Trail. In addition to classic Sedona scenery, the trail offers a good workout as it climbs 1,600 feet in 1.6 miles via 33 switchbacks from Oak Creek to the rim of Oak Creek Canyon. The ascent winds through an exposed area of oaks and manzanitas before arriving at a forest of lush ponderosas on the rim. The last 0.8 miles to the East Pocket Lookout Tower are hard to follow, but if you look for the cairns and blaze marks, you'll get where you're going.

TRAIL GUIDE

- > **Length:** 4.8 miles round-trip
- > **Difficulty:** Strenuous
- > **Elevation:** 5,200 to 7,196 feet
- > **Directions:** From Sedona, drive north on State Route 89A for 8.5 miles to the Bootlegger Campground, where the hike begins.
- > **Special Consideration:** A \$5 Red Rock parking pass (per vehicle) is required.
- > **Vehicle Requirements:** None
- > **Dogs Allowed:** Yes (on a leash)
- > **Horses Allowed:** No
- > **USGS Maps:** Munds Park, Wilson Mountain
- > **Information:** Red Rock Ranger District, 928-282-4119 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino

FOOT NOTE: The A.B. Young Trail is believed to have been built in the 1800s by C.S. "Bear" Howard as a route for moving livestock up to summer pastures on the rim of Oak Creek Canyon. The trail was reconstructed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps under the supervision of A.B. Young. The East Pocket Lookout Tower is one of the few remaining wooden fire towers in Arizona.

DEREK VON BRIESEN



TOM BROWNOLD

ARAVAIPA CANYON TRAIL *Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness*

Although temperatures can top 100 degrees in the summer, the perennial nature of Aravaipa Creek makes this hike doable this time of year. The water also makes this one of the most diverse riparian areas in Arizona. Sycamores, cottonwoods, oaks ... if you like trees, you'll love this hike, which begins with a short trail that leads from the trailhead down to the creek. From there, there's no established trail. The route simply parallels the streambed, and along the way your feet will get wet, so be prepared — because of the rocks, sturdy boots are better than river sandals. Because the scenic canyon is 11 miles long, day-hikers are advised to turn around after a few miles or exchange car keys with hikers coming in from the trailhead on the east end.

TRAIL GUIDE

- > **Length:** 11 miles one way
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate

- > **Elevation:** 2,600 to 3,100 feet
- > **Directions:** From Winkelman, drive south on State Route 77 for 11 miles to Aravaipa Road, turn east, and continue 12 miles to the west trailhead.
- > **Special Consideration:** The Bureau of Land Management limits the number of hikers to 50 per day, and a permit is required.
- > **Vehicle Requirements:** None
- > **Dogs Allowed:** No
- > **Horses Allowed:** Yes; however, horses cannot remain in the canyon overnight.
- > **USGS Maps:** Brandenburg Mountain, Booger Canyon
- > **Information:** Bureau of Land Management, 928-348-4400 or www.blm.gov/az

FOOT NOTE: The Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness, which encompasses 19,410 acres and ranges in elevation from 2,600 to 4,900 feet, is home to a wide range of mammals. Keep your eyes peeled for bighorn sheep, coatimundis, white-tailed deer, mountain lions, black bears and ringtails. In addition, more than 200 birds species have been seen in the canyon, including bald eagles and peregrine falcons.

ASPEN LOOP TRAIL *Santa Catalina Mountains*

Despite the name, aspens aren't necessarily the highlight of this hike. It's the collection of trees as a whole that makes it so special. In fact, you might want to pack an Arizona tree guide for this trail, which features Douglas firs, white firs, silverleaf oaks and more. The loop is formed by two trails, the Marshall Gulch Trail and the Aspen Trail. If you want to save the aspens for last, begin with the Marshall Gulch Trail and hike in a counterclockwise direction. After 1.2 miles, the trail intersects with the Aspen Trail, which heads south and follows a dry ridgeline dominated by ponderosa pines. In addition to the yellow bellies, this stretch offers some wonderful views of the southern end of the Santa Catalina Mountains.

TRAIL GUIDE

> **Length:** 3.7 miles round-trip

- > **Difficulty:** Easy
- > **Elevation:** 7,410 to 8,100 feet
- > **Directions:** From Tanque Verde Road in Tucson, drive 4.2 miles on Catalina Highway to the Forest Service boundary and continue 26 miles to the Marshall Gulch Picnic Area.
- > **Vehicle Requirements:** None
- > **Special Consideration:** A \$5 parking pass (per vehicle) is required.
- > **Dogs Allowed:** Yes (on a leash)
- > **Horses Allowed:** Yes
- > **USGS Map:** Mount Lemmon
- > **Information:** Santa Catalina Ranger District, 520-749-8700 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado

FOOT NOTE: The Santa Catalina Mountains are known as *Babat Duag* ("Frog Mountain") to the Tohono O'odham, the native people of the area. In 1697, Father Eusebio Francisco Kino, who was in the region to establish missions, reportedly named the range for his sister, Santa Katarina. That spelling held for nearly 150 years before being changed to Catalina.



SUZANNE MATHIA



LARRY LINDAHL

BOYNTON CANYON TRAIL *Red Rock/Secret Mountain Wilderness*



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, scan this QR code with your smart phone or visit www.arizonahighways.com/books.



Box canyons are common in the Sedona area, but unless you're wearing a backpack or flying an ultralight, they're usually not an option for the average day-hiker. One of the exceptions is Boynton Canyon, which is scenic, mystic and located just off the paved road that leads to the Enchantment Resort. For the first mile, the easy-to-follow trail skirts the edge of the resort, but after that it leaves all signs of civilization and drops down into the canyon. In addition to the alleged energy force of this "vortex," the canyon features towering red sandstone walls, ponderosa pines, Douglas

firs and a viewpoint that offers a close-up look at nearby Bear Mountain.

TRAIL GUIDE

- > **Length:** 5 miles round-trip
- > **Difficulty:** Easy
- > **Elevation:** 4,600 to 5,100 feet
- > **Directions:** From Sedona, go south on State Route 89A for 3.2 miles to Dry Creek Road, turn right and continue 3 miles to Boynton Pass Road. Turn left and continue 2 miles to the Boynton Canyon Trailhead on the right side of the road.
- > **Special Consideration:** A \$5 Red Rock parking pass (per vehicle) is required.

- > **Vehicle Requirements:** None
- > **Dogs Allowed:** Yes (on a leash)
- > **Horses Allowed:** Yes
- > **USGS Maps:** Wilson Mountain, Loy Butte
- > **Information:** Red Rock Ranger District, 928-282-4119 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino

FOOT NOTE: Boynton Canyon is one of six known vortex sites in the Sedona area. The other five are Airport Mesa, Bell Rock, Cathedral Rock, Chapel of the Holy Cross and Schnebly Hill Road. Even in Sedona, it's hard to get a straight answer on what a vortex is. However, most New Age disciples will tell you it's a place where the Earth is exceptionally alive and healthy with an increased energy that amplifies whatever is taken into it.



HIGHLINE TRAIL *Mogollon Rim*

Designated as a National Recreation Trail in 1979, the Highline Trail was established in 1870 to link the various homesteads and ranches under the Mogollon Rim. In addition, the portion of the trail from the Pine Trailhead to the Washington Park Trailhead is part of the Arizona Trail, an 819-mile route that runs the length of the state from Utah to Mexico. Because the Highline Trail is 51 miles one way, the entire route isn't an option for day-hikers, but shorter segments from either the Pine Trailhead or the 260 Trailhead are. Like most hikes at higher elevations, the forest of pines, spruce and firs offers a nice respite from the summer heat. In addition, the Highline Trail offers some spectacular vistas to the south, east and west, as well as an opportunity to get your feet wet in Tonto Creek (pictured, right).

TRAIL GUIDE

- > **Length:** 51 miles one way
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate
- > **Elevation:** 5,417 (Pine Trailhead) to 6,620 feet (260 Trailhead)
- > **Directions:** From Payson, go north on State Route 87 for 15 miles to the Pine Trailhead, which is on the east side of the highway at Forest Road 297.
- > **Vehicle Requirements:** None
- > **Dogs Allowed:** Yes (on a leash)
- > **Horses Allowed:** Yes
- > **USGS Maps:** Pine, Kehl Ridge, Dove Canyon, Knoll Lake, Diamond Point, Promontory Butte, Woods Canyon
- > **Information:** Payson Ranger District, 928-474-7900 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto

FOOT NOTE: Writer Zane Grey built a cabin close to where the Highline Trail crosses Tonto Creek. The cabin, which was built in the 1920s and was destroyed by the Dude Fire in 1990, was a historic landmark of sorts. The acclaimed author of *Riders of the Purple Sage* and other famous Western novels penned many of his classics at the cabin. Today, a replica cabin is open for tours in nearby Payson.



INDIAN SPRING TRAIL

White Mountains

When it comes to summer hiking, few places, if any, are better than the White Mountains, and there are plenty of scenic hikes in the area, including the Indian Spring Trail, which loops through the alpine forests surrounding Big Lake. Heading in a clockwise direction, the loop quickly comes to a side trail that leads to Big Lake Lookout Tower — it's worth the effort. The rest of the route winds through Engelmann spruce, blue spruce and aspens, as well as several small meadows. In addition, there are two springs along the trail (Spillman Spring and Indian Spring) and an intersection with the West Fork Black River Trail (see page 28).

TRAIL GUIDE

- > **Length:** 7.5 miles round-trip
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate
- > **Elevation:** 9,100 to 8,600 feet
- > **Directions:** From Eagar, drive west on State Route 260 for 3 miles to State Route 261. Turn south onto SR 261 and drive 18 miles to State Route 273. Turn left onto SR 273 and continue for 2.5 miles to Forest Road 249. Continue straight on FR 249 for less than a mile to Forest Road 249E, turn right, and continue a half-mile to the trailhead.
- > **Vehicle Requirements:** None
- > **Dogs Allowed:** Yes (on a leash)
- > **Horses Allowed:** No
- > **USGS Map:** Big Lake South
- > **Information:** Springerville Ranger District, 928-333-6200 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf

FOOT NOTE: The White Mountains, including the area around Big Lake, are home to the Mexican gray wolf. The endangered species, which is the rarest subspecies of the gray wolf in the United States, was reintroduced to the area on March 29, 1998. Although the wolves are not aggressive toward humans, they could be curious and might not retreat if they're approached. If you see one, count yourself lucky and keep your distance.





KACHINA TRAIL *San Francisco Peaks*

Peak-baggers love the San Francisco Peaks for obvious reasons. For hikers looking for something a little different, there's the Kachina Trail, which forgoes the summits in favor of the old-growth forests that make this wilderness so appealing in the summer. The first few miles of this route pass through a mature grove of aspens and ferns, which give way to massive Douglas firs and eventually ponderosa pines as the trail winds around the south-facing slopes of Agassiz and Fremont peaks. It's scenic every step of the way, and there's a good chance

of seeing wildlife, including elk and mule deer. The turnaround point is where the Kachina Trail intersects with the Weatherford Trail.

TRAIL GUIDE

- > **Length:** 10 miles round-trip
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate
- > **Elevation:** 9,200 to 8,000 feet
- > **Directions:** From Flagstaff, drive north on U.S. Route 180 for 7 miles to Forest Road 516 (Snowbowl Road), turn right and continue another 6.3 miles to the lower parking lot. The trailhead is at the far end of the lot.

- > **Vehicle Requirements:** None
- > **Dogs Allowed:** Yes (on a leash)
- > **Horses Allowed:** Yes
- > **USGS Map:** Humphreys Peak
- > **Information:** Flagstaff Ranger District, 928-526-0866 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino

FOOT NOTE: In the 1880s, biologist C. Hart Merriam used the San Francisco Peaks as the site for much of his pioneering work in how plant and animal life varies based on elevation. The result of his effort was something he called "life zones." The San Francisco Peaks, he discovered, included life zones equivalent to those in Sonora, Mexico (at the base of the mountains), and the Arctic (at the summit of Humphreys Peak), as well as multiple life zones in between.

PINE CANYON TRAIL *Mogollon Rim*

With this hike, you can take either the hard route or the easy route. The latter begins at the northern trailhead off of Forest Road 6038 in the Coconino National Forest and heads downhill to the Pine Trailhead. The reverse, of course, is the hard route. A third option is to use a car-shuttle system and cut the distance in half. Whichever route you choose, this trail cuts through one of the most verdant canyons in the area. Look for Rocky Mountain maples, alders and oaks along the creek; mixed conifers on the canyon walls; and wildflowers such as yellow columbines among the many dripping springs. From the Pine Trailhead, the route ascends 2,000 feet through Pine Canyon to the top of the Mogollon Rim.

TRAIL GUIDE

- > **Length:** 16 miles round-trip
- > **Difficulty:** Strenuous
- > **Elevation:** 5,417 to 7,245 feet
- > **Directions:** From Payson, go north on State Route 87 for 15 miles to the Pine Trailhead, which is on the east side of the highway at Forest Road 297.
- > **Vehicle Requirements:** None
- > **Dogs Allowed:** Yes (on a leash)
- > **Horses Allowed:** Yes
- > **USGS Maps:** Buckhead Mesa, Pine
- > **Information:** Payson Ranger District, 928-474-7900 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto

FOOT NOTE: Before Arizona was part of the U.S. territory, the land was overseen by the royal crown of Spain. The king appointed governors to certain areas in the New World, and Don Juan Ignacio Flores Mogollon, the governor of New Mexico, was in charge of this area during the early part of the 18th century. By the time the land was acquired by the United States, the name "Mogollon" had appeared on maps for 100 years, so the decision was made to keep it.

TOM BEAN

NICK BERZENIKO





PAUL MARKOW

WEST FORK BLACK RIVER TRAIL *White Mountains*

This trail, which was built for mountain-bikers as well as hikers, is one of the easiest and most scenic hikes in Arizona. It winds through a thick forest of ponderosa pines, white pines, Engelmann spruce, blue spruce, Douglas firs and quaking aspens, and passes by a couple of lush meadows before arriving at the West Fork of the Black River. Although it looks more like a creek, it is a river, and it gives life to a montane riparian zone that's reminiscent of something you'd see in Montana. It's a great place to take your boots off, get your feet wet and enjoy some peace and quiet.

TRAIL GUIDE

- > **Length:** 6 miles round-trip
- > **Difficulty:** Easy
- > **Elevation:** 9,106 to 8,681 feet
- > **Directions:** From Pinetop, drive east on State Route 260 for 22 miles to State Route 273, turn right and drive south for 18.5 miles to Forest Road 8115 (follow the signs to Big Lake). Turn right onto FR 8115 and drive 2.5 miles to Forest Road 249E. Turn right onto FR 249E and drive 0.2 miles to Forest Road 68, turn left, and continue 1.2 miles to the trailhead on the right.
- > **Vehicle Requirements:** None
- > **Dogs Allowed:** Yes (on a leash)
- > **Horses Allowed:** No
- > **USGS Map:** Big Lake South
- > **Information:** Springerville Ranger District, 928-333-6200 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf

FOOT NOTE: The West Fork of the Black River is one of the few places in Arizona where the Apache trout (*Oncorhynchus apache*) exists. It's the state fish, and it's one of only two trout species native to Arizona – the other is the Gila trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae*). Once on the verge of extinction, the Apache trout is making a comeback in much of its historic range in the White Mountains after decades of cooperative protection and recovery efforts. The Apache trout is found nowhere else in the world.



SUZANNE MATHIA

WHITE HOUSE RUIN TRAIL *Canyon de Chelly*

Not every hike has a payoff. This one does. White House Ruin, which gets its name from a section of white plastered wall, was built by Ancestral Puebloans almost a thousand years ago. The trail that leads there is special not only because of where it goes, but also because it's the only place within Canyon de Chelly that can be hiked without a ranger or an authorized Navajo guide. The trailhead is located about 6 miles from the visitors center in Canyon de Chelly National Monument. From there, the route descends about 500 feet down to the canyon floor. The ruin is located across Canyon de Chelly wash. Stay on the established trail and do not go beyond the site without an authorized guide.

TRAIL GUIDE

- > **Length:** 2.5 miles round-trip
- > **Difficulty:** Moderate
- > **Elevation:** 6,000 to 5,500 feet
- > **Directions:** From Flagstaff, drive east on Interstate 40 for 149 miles to U.S. Route 191, turn north, and continue 76 miles on U.S. 191 to Canyon de Chelly National Monument.
- > **Vehicle Requirements:** None
- > **Dogs Allowed:** No
- > **Horses Allowed:** No
- > **USGS Map:** Del Muerto
- > **Information:** Canyon de Chelly National Monument, 928-674-5500 or www.nps.gov/cach

FOOT NOTE: Lodging within Canyon de Chelly National Monument is available only at the historic Thunderbird Lodge, a 73-room motel that originally served as a trading post operated by Charles and Samuel Day beginning in 1896. The restaurant, which is located in the original trading post, serves Navajo-style meals seven days a week.



SUZANNE MATHIA

THE HOWLING WINDS

Although “monsoon” is a word usually associated with the Indian Ocean – it’s used to describe a seasonal wind shift – similar weather patterns exist in other parts of the world, including Arizona, where, during the summer months, winds shift to a south or southeasterly direction, thus allowing moisture from the Sea of Cortes and the Gulf of Mexico to stream into the state. This shift, known as the “Arizona monsoon,” can produce some radical weather: wind, rain, thunder, lightning. It’s a nice change of pace for a state that’s mostly sunny.

A PORTFOLIO BY GEORGE STOCKING

*“We cannot command Nature
except by obeying her.”*

— FRANCIS BACON

Grand Canyon ridges are backlit in places and obscured in others as sheets of monsoon rain create an epic scene.

*“There are some things you learn
best in calm, and some in storm.”*
— WILLA CATHER



A cactus community, long accustomed to the effects of monsoons, awaits the rain near Florence.

“A change in the weather is sufficient to re-create the world and ourselves.”

— MARCEL PROUST



A monsoon rain saturates the sandstone in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument (left). In the Superstition Mountains (right), heavy storm clouds build over the range.



“There will be a rain dance Friday night, weather permitting.”

— GEORGE CARLIN



A distant lightning strike links a monsoon cloud with the thirsty desert floor just after sunset near Coal Mine Canyon.

“When it looked like the sun wasn’t going to shine anymore, there’s a rainbow in the clouds.”

— MAYA ANGELOU

A post-storm rainbow
forms near Kendrick Peak,
north of Flagstaff. ■



JUST ADD WATER

Moisture is a precious commodity in Arizona. Even the name of the state sounds arid. Add a bit of water, however, and the environment becomes magical. In fact, if Arizona had more water, it would have less diversity. Ironically, it's the isolated nature of water that leads to Arizona's abundance of life.

An aerial photograph reveals the turquoise blue of the Little Colorado River flowing into the Colorado River.
| TED GRUSSING

BY
CRAIG
CHILDS

There are parts of Arizona where you can smell water a mile off. In the south, bordering Mexico, the springs of Quitobaquito have a marshy scent, while rainwater pockets in canyon country near the Utah border can smell like ice freshly melted on clean pavement.

Water in this state is different than it is in most. Unlike the abundant greens of the Eastern Seaboard or the Pacific Northwest, Arizona has pockets and bands of floral color, pinpoints and streamers of water. Here, water is at a visible premium. Any appearance of it, in any form, is sublime.

Even in the wettest part of the state, the forested uplands around the White Mountains, water is glorious and rare. Across a couple thousand square miles of watersheds is a smattering of moisture compared to what you would find in the Ozarks over such a distance. Yet each place is a spectacle. Hannagan Creek purls through meadows and aspens. The twin rivers — the Black and the White — mumble and twist through piney woods on the Fort Apache and San Carlos Indian reservations. The Blue shoots due south through broad valleys, matching the straight-edged border of nearby New Mexico.

Arizona likely got its name from both the abundance and absence of water. It comes from a Tohono O’odham term, *ali sonak*, meaning small spring, or from a reversal of the Spanish term *zona arida*, dry zone. It probably came from both, or many. When you say the name of the state, it just sounds dry. Add a bit of water and it becomes magical.

Diving sharply from the southward edge of the Mogollon Rim, there are creeks running out of the high country like sisters side-by-side: Cherry, Canyon, Cibecue. Tonto and Haigler creeks pour into the Hellsgate Wilderness through intimate and hard-cut chasms. These rim creeks have their own distinctiveness. In fact, every bend, every mile, bears its own striking personality. Near its shady headwaters, Canyon Creek runs thin across smooth, brown stones, lichen-eaten spruce trees fallen in its path. Sixty miles downstream, the same creek is a chain of tepid waterfalls skimming across granite as smooth as marble as they fall into the desert.

The one I remember most is Valentine Canyon. Not even a creek, Valentine is a bone-dry gully that smells of warm butterscotch come July, ponderosas all around it leaking sap. My dad used to take me up there when I was a kid. We would come to a place we knew, a curious crop of green grass where we would get down on our knees and lift a stone out of the moss. Beneath that stone ran a cord of clear water, a small, underground stream. Never did I find it dry. We would cup our hands and drink, like drinking from the belly of the Earth.

That is what water is like in Arizona.

The Little Colorado River spills its unique blue water over travertine terraces not far from its confluence with the Colorado River. | NICK BEREZENKO



“Water is the driving force of all nature.”
— LEONARDO DA VINCI



(one of the most enjoyable outfits on the river). Two of us reached the edge of the Canyon's biggest rapid, Lava Falls, and decided to run it in a tottery craft known as a "shredder." Straddling two inflatable pontoons strapped together, we dug wildly at the water with paddles, lining ourselves up on the left side of the oncoming rapid. The thing about Lava Falls is that you cannot see it until you are there. You only hear its maddening roar, staring at a point where the river turns to an edge. Ten feet from the drop, we both swiftly stowed our paddles and dove for it, clutching the pontoons like monkeys on a log. We went over.

There was no sense in trying to paddle from here on. Lava Falls is a giant froth-hole. Reactionary waves clash into each other from every direction, and a single hole opens up that you want to avoid at all costs. Best we could do was hold on and hope we did well setting ourselves up.

We did not do well. At the first lateral wave, before even reaching the meat of the rapid, we flipped. The shredder landed upside-down, and I do not remember much of what it looked like after that. I grabbed a strap and held on so that the churn would not pull me down. Waves slammed left and right, and I chopped breaths out of the air when I could. I kicked hard to raise myself on a wave crest to see around, and all I saw was the shredder being sucked into a violent impact with a black boulder in a right-hand current. My eyes widened as I sputtered water, not quite ready to be crushed at the hands of a widow-maker rock.

Maybe we did a better job setting up for this rapid than I had thought, because the shredder veered just far enough left that it swept away from the boulder. I spotted my companion's hand crawling up the rubber across from me. He had grabbed a hold, too, and together we rode out of a rapid that lasted no more than 30 seconds. We floated into the downstream swirl of Lava Falls. The water calmed and spun. Two bearded guys laughing and hollering, we climbed on the capsized shredder. Water ran out of our hair. We were now bona fide members of what they call the Lava Falls Swim Team. The nearest raft in our group swept in and tossed us each a beer to celebrate. We cracked open the beers and slammed them together, froth on froth.

Meanwhile, all around us lifted cactus-studded escarpments. The canyon's sharp edges outlined a sky so blue you could sell it in a Sedona art gallery. The river felt nothing like a mountain river, the kind most people know around rafts and rapids. This was a big, muddy, violent swath through a dry, hard piece of Earth.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Early morning light strikes Granite Falls Rapid at Mile 93 on the Colorado River. | GARY LADD

LEFT: Tonto Creek cascades down granite rocks below Bear Flat in Central Arizona. | NICK BEREZENKO

BELOW: The Black River cuts rapidly past a canyon wall on the San Carlos Indian Reservation. | DEREK VON BRIESEN



Every creek aims for the nearest low point, and for a state that is one-third desert, that low point is often in a place that does not see much water. Off the backside of the Mogollon Rim, both Chevelon and Clear creeks — another set of twins — wind northward. Their paths carve through a gently sloped desert plain, setting a deep cursive script across the landscape.

These creeks come glittering toward the Painted Desert, passing beneath panels of ancient rock art carved into low, bending cliffs. Pecked into brown patina on the rock are images of humans, animals, and bizarre rectilinear shapes from centuries ago. They are here because of the water.

Eventually, these two waterways reach the Little Colorado, a river that is sometimes near-dry and other times runs at voracious flood stage. Where it cuts through solid stone, the Little Colorado plunges magnificently toward the Grand Canyon. It comes down into a cathedral-like gorge, and when it is clear, it runs a turquoise-blue fed by travertine springs. When turbid, the river is a flood-driven mass of fine minerals, water thick as gravy. As they say, too thick to drink, too thin to plow.

Those months of the year when the Little Colorado floods, it meets the big Colorado River and turns the larger river opaque and reddish-brown. Snaking down the floor of the Grand Canyon, the Colorado seems even wilder now, dressed in the muddy sheen of the incoming Little Colorado.

I once paddled through the Grand Canyon when the Colorado ran this color. I was with the hayseed tequila boys working for Moki Mac

The Colorado is the biggest river in the state. Along its 277-mile length through the Grand Canyon it is met by more than 600 tributary canyons, some hung with moss and ferns: Fern Glen Canyon, Elves Chasm, Silver Grotto. I do not go to the Grand Canyon for its river alone. I go for its side canyons, which are bound by desert, yet display flowers and trickling springs, places where even orchids grow.

Water occurs in the deep places because canyons cut into the Earth's strata, opening underground aquifers and pockets of hidden water, which flow out the nearest crack or hole. This is not just an effect of the Grand Canyon. The entire state is riddled with canyons that do this. Wherever the Earth is cut, you will find water, somewhere.



“Perhaps the truth depends on a walk around the lake.” — WALLACE STEVENS

Go into the back of the great sandstone coves hollowed out of Canyon de Chelly and you will find seeps and springs, maidenhair ferns clutched to dampness. Inside some of these shaded alcoves, you can hold out a water bottle and catch a dribble coming out of the naturally carved bedrock ceiling, a gallon a minute of cool, fresh water filtered by miles of underground sandstone.

And Sabino Canyon, eroded out of the Santa Catalina Mountains near Tucson, positively rumbles at times as groundwater emerges from the metamorphic core of Southern Arizona. A veritable river plunges into the desert, waterfall after waterfall, an oasis in the classic sense.

Fish live in some of these precipitous desert streams, tiny darts of silver called dace. These fish miraculously survive when flash floods rip through steep canyons, tearing out trees and boulders. For a long time, it was a mystery as to how the dace could survive. Then, researchers put the fish into an artificial flume and studied their responses to violent water pulses. The dace immediately shot to the sides of the flume where they found a skim of slower current that kept them from being washed away. When similar fish not bred in the desert were put through the same experiment, they were all flushed out. Thus, a certain kind of water has bred its own innate fish behavior.

Because these streams hit the gravel-filled desert *bajada* below, and tend to disappear, these fish become isolated. They cannot swim from one drainage to the next. Individual springs and solitary drainages have evolved with their own unique species or subspecies of dace, each one left there since the last ice age, when waterways were more connected. If Arizona had more water, it would, in fact, have less diversity. It is the isolated nature of water that leads to profusion.

once came to a big, flowing spring below a row of ancient cliff dwellings in the central, ancient-Sinaguan part of the state. I climbed down to where the water flowed into a hole in the ground, a dark mouth draped in roots. Reaching inside the hole, I pushed roots aside, just curious to see where the water went, when I spied a small, painted Hopi prayer stick with feathers hung from the top. The stick had been a recent addition, something a person had reached back and planted deep inside to mark a sacred place.

This was 150 miles from the Hopi Reservation, yet it was clearly marked as a memory. This spring had been important eight centuries ago when the cliff dwellings were constructed, and it is still important today, part of an ancient landscape of water.

Each water source has its own story, be it one told by a painted prayer stick or by the genetic lineage of dace. The bloody Graham-Tewksbury Feud between sheep and cattle ranchers was fought across the east-central upland waterways in the late 1800s. Father Eusebio Francisco Kino painstakingly mapped *tinaja* waterholes he had encountered along the Camino del Diablo in the late 1600s. You might have your own stories, cannonballing into Oak Creek in the summer, finding pools of shiny, black tadpoles in the Superstition Mountains. You end up knowing this landscape by its water. It is the aridity that makes water matter, bringing it into the clearest focus. ■



OPPOSITE PAGE: Cottonwood trees and saguaro cactuses share the desert and its water at Quitobaquito Springs in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. | JACK DYKINGA
ABOVE: Haigler Creek winds through the Conglomerate Box near the Chamberlain Trail in the Tonto National Forest. | NICK BEREZENKO

This Old House

Like so many theaters built at the turn of the last century, the Elks Opera House in Prescott has been through a number of changes. At one point, it even played the role of movie theater. But thanks to an extensive and meticulous restoration, live performances are once again taking center stage.

by
Rachelle Sparks

Looking down from the balcony of Prescott's newly renovated Elks Opera House is like watching colors from an old movie drip through time — spreading across the barrel ceiling and down the walls, forming a vintage yet modern-day masterpiece.

This is a renovation success story, and it began by digging into the theater's past. By studying layers of canvas and paint, the restoration team was able to interpret the mysterious grays of century-old photos and ultimately reproduce the deep golds, greens and burgundies that existed when the stately theater opened to the public in the early 1900s.

In addition, original stenciling hidden beneath the aged layers became models for exact, hand-painted replications that now grace the walls. Ornamental plasterwork was re-created based on original, cast-plaster moldings dug up during the renovation. Nearly 1,000 tin ceiling tiles, rusted and warped with age, were stripped, repainted and hand-pounded back

into shape. Every detail, from the floor to the ceiling, the chandelier to the opera boxes, was flawlessly restored,

renovated or preserved with historical and architectural accuracy.

"We don't like to guess," says Bill Otwell, an architect for Otwell & Associates, the firm behind the theater's restoration. "We like to have confirmation before putting a historical element back."

He says the building's "good bones," which were reinforced with new wood and steel beams by Haley Construction Co., are the reason the opera house stands strong today. But it's more than just a solid structure.

"This beautiful theater is the heart of the community," says Elisabeth Ruffner, a longtime Prescott resident, historian and chair of the Capital Campaign for the Elks Opera House restoration.

Like so many theaters built at the turn of the last century, this one, which now features gold-leaf design, detailed plasterwork, a proscenium arch and elegant drapery, has seen a number of changes.

Over the years, it evolved from a live-per-

formance theater in 1905 to a silent-film house in 1910 to a wide-screen theater in the 1940s, when movies were all the rage. It remained a movie theater until the early 1980s, when live performances, once again, took center stage.

Perhaps the biggest change during that evolution was the removal of four ornate opera boxes, which were torn down in the 1940s to make room for the movie screen. That move took away "the character and originality of the theater," according to Mic Fenech, the director of administrative services for the city of Prescott, which owns the building. The theater's splendor and elegance were boarded-up behind wooden panels "until the Elks Opera House Foundation was able to raise close to \$2 million to do this beautiful restoration," Fenech adds.

Today, that restoration takes visitors on a guided tour of the last 100 years.

"As you walk into the theater through the first lobby and then through the second, you're going from about 1928, through 1915, and into the 1905 theater," Fenech says. "It's like walking back in time."

It's a form of time travel that's especially meaningful to the hometown crowd. "They've lived their lives here," Fenech says of longtime Prescott residents. "Maybe they had their first kiss here or their first date."

Jody Drake is on that list, and her fondest memory of visiting the Elks Theatre takes her back to the early 1970s.

"We'd just seen *The Cowboys*, one of the most romantic movies ever made," says Drake, a Prescott native whose husband proposed to her outside the theater in 1972. "He said, 'We're really good buddies. We ought to get married.' That's about as romantic as it gets."

There are hundreds of stories like hers, and thanks to the meticulous renovation and preservation of what some people call "Prescott's jewel," more stories are yet to come.

"It's a dream come true for this community," Ruffner says.

— *The Elks Opera House is located at 117 E. Gurley Street in Prescott. For information, call 928-777-1367 or visit www.elksoperahouse.com.*

Prescott's newly renovated Elks Opera House displays fresh color and grandeur (right and above). | NICK BEREZENKO

The façade (below, right) is shown circa 1910. | SHARLOT HALL MUSEUM





WILLIAMSON VALLEY ROAD
Sharp turns, steep grades, wide-open spaces, breathtaking views ... this route is the epitome of a scenic drive.

BY ROGER NAYLOR
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
NICK BEREZENKO

As soon as you start down Williamson Valley Road, an official sign warns of “narrow roads, sharp turns and steep grades.” The trouble with highway signs is they tell only a portion of the story.

Yes, the road might be narrow in places, but that just leaves more room for wild country, rolling grasslands and juniper-clad hills. Yes, some of the curves are sharp, but most are not. Most are swooping curves flowing across the Arizona highlands. Most are languid, seductive curves luring you onward. To be completely accurate, the sign should also

warn drivers of wide-open spaces, of idyllic settings far from civilization, and endless, breathtaking views.

Williamson Valley Road begins in Seligman, the birthplace of Historic Route 66. Allow yourself some time to explore the character-rich town, then take the frontage road south of Interstate 40. After a half-mile, the pavement ends and doesn't resume for 47 miles. Yet for a dirt road, this one is surprisingly smooth and can be easily navigated by passenger sedans.

The first portion of the road crosses sweeping plains fringed by the thrust of modest mountains. An immense beast of a sky drapes this country, where tall grass shimmers in the sun's haze. It seems entirely appropriate that the first animals you're likely to see are a herd of buffalo grazing in the fields of a hilltop ranch. They appear right at home on this remote and quiet prairie.

Big ranches stretch across the Williamson Valley. The buffaloes are behind a fence, but this is open range country, and you'll spot herds of horses and cattle, some right at the edge of the road. Drive with

care. Pronghorns can sometimes be seen standing in deep grass, looking lithe and poised to vanish in a twinkling.

Despite the warning of steep grades, the rise to higher elevation is so subtle as to go unnoticed. Only the increasing number of junipers gives it away. Soon, forests of Utah junipers and piñon pines replace the grassy slopes. To the west is the Juniper Mesa Wilderness, a broad tableland shaggy with trees. To access the wilderness and a trio of hiking trails, turn right onto Walnut Creek Road, which junctions with Williamson Valley at about the 34-mile mark of the road trip.

A trestle bridge crosses Walnut Creek, named for the many Arizona walnut trees lining its banks. Ranch houses hunker peacefully under shady branches. Soon the clusters of junipers thin out and grasslands re-emerge. Just as your wheels touch pavement again, the toothy crest of Granite Mountain dominates the skyline. As you approach the mountain, ranches give way to ranchettes and finally to the suburbs of Prescott wrapped around its mighty flanks.



BELOW: Williamson Valley Road winds its way south from Interstate 40 through piñon pines in the hills near Chino Valley.

RIGHT: Approaching Prescott, drivers get a broad view of Mingus Mountain across the valley to the east.



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.



KEVIN KIBSEY

tour guide 

Note: Mileages are approximate.

LENGTH: 68 miles one way

DIRECTIONS: From Seligman, go south on Williamson Valley Road, also called Yavapai County Road 5, and continue south to Prescott.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS: Williamson Valley Road is accessible to all vehicles, but should be avoided in wet weather.

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: Prescott National Forest, Chino Valley Ranger District, 928-777-2200 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott

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



WOODS CANYON LAKE LOOP

The best hikes in Arizona are usually hard to get to. This gorgeous loop is one of the exceptions.

BY ROBERT STIEVE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY NICK BEREZENKO

Hiking isn't usually something that's done on the spur of the moment. Gear, maps, vehicle requirements, trailhead directions, physical conditioning ... there's a lot to consider before hitting the trail. The Woods Canyon Lake Loop is one of the exceptions.

Naturally, a little planning is necessary, but for the most part, you could wake up on a Saturday morning, expecting to lounge around watching reruns of *This Old House*, and then think to yourself: *I've gotta get off the couch and do something.* With about as much effort as it would take to walk around the block, you could head to Woods Canyon Lake. The drive is simple and the trail is easy, requiring nothing more than a good pair of tennies, some sunscreen and a big bottle of water. That's about it.

The trail begins at the Spillway Campground, which is one of the best in Arizona if you can commandeer a site. Adjacent to it is a small parking area, but the space there is limited. A better option is to drive all the way to the lake and park in the lot at the general store.

From there, head east and follow the signs

BELOW AND RIGHT: The Woods Canyon Lake Loop trail is an easy 5-mile round-trip that circles one of Arizona's most accessible lakes.



toward the amphitheater. Beyond the small structure are some random trails — there's no main trail at the outset — that wind for a few minutes to the campground. Once you get there, veer left toward the lake and look for the Spillway Dam, which is a long, narrow mound of dirt with red rocks on the lake side and green grass on the opposite slope. You'll know it when you see it.

Hop on the dirt path that crosses the dam and head for the woods, which is home to ponderosa pines, Douglas firs, Gambel oaks, bracken ferns, wild roses and this spectacular trail, which is one of the easiest and best on the Mogollon Rim.

Within minutes of entering the forest, you'll start seeing plastic blue markers tacked to the trees. Although it's virtually impossible to get lost on this trail, which parallels the shoreline for its entire length, the markers come in handy for those hikers who are directionally challenged and need some reassurance.

In addition to the blue diamonds, the forest brings an unexpected measure of solitude. Woods Canyon Lake was built for recreation, and it can feel congested at times, but the noise disappears quickly beyond the dam, and after about 10 minutes you'll come to a short side trail that leads to the water. Just beyond that junction is a tall ponderosa that's used as a nesting site by great blue herons — look for heron chicks in June.

The trail continues in a counterclockwise direction with some gentle ups and downs, but the most you'll ever climb at a time is the equivalent of three flights of stairs. This is an easy trail that conjures up images of Walden Pond. It's not as serene as what Thoreau must have experienced, but by modern standards, it's pretty peaceful.

About 45 minutes into the hike, the trail winds to the end of a slough, where you'll see a small creek that feeds the lake. The area around the creek is green, grassy and gorgeous, and it might be the most beautiful place on the trail.

From there, the trail climbs a series of railroad ties toward a bald eagle protection zone. Because eagles like to nest along this shoreline, the trail is detoured around the area from March 1 through August 31. The rest of the route continues around the lake and back to the boat landing. It's not a long hike, and you won't have worked up much of a sweat, but you'll be glad you rolled off the couch. Nothing against *This Old House*, but the scenery at Woods Canyon Lake is much more interesting than watching Norm Abram install a floor joist. See for yourself.



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.



trail guide

- LENGTH: 5 miles round-trip
- DIFFICULTY: Easy
- ELEVATION: 7,534 to 7,574 feet
- DIRECTIONS: From Payson, drive east on State Route 260 past Kohls Ranch to where the road tops out on the Mogollon Rim. Turn left onto Forest Road 300 and follow the signs for 5 miles to Woods Canyon Lake. Park in the lot adjacent to the general store and the boat landing.
- VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS: None
- DOGS ALLOWED: Yes
- HORSES ALLOWED: No
- USGS MAP: Woods Canyon
- INFORMATION: Black Mesa Ranger District, 928-535-7300 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf
- LEAVE-NO-TRACE PRINCIPLES:
 - Plan ahead and be prepared.
 - Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
 - Dispose of waste properly and pack out all of your trash.
 - Leave what you find.
 - Respect wildlife and minimize impact.
 - Be considerate of others. ■

KEVIN KIBSEY

where
is this?

On the Fence

BY KELLY KRAMER
PHOTOGRAPH
BY JEFF KIDA

Flowers aren't uncommon in places like this, where people go for quiet solitude or to share in something spiritual. But these flowers are bound to last much longer than the fresh-cut variety. You'll find them adorning the courtyard at this historic house of worship. Constructed in the 1770s, it was part of a Spanish fort. Now, after undergoing major renovations in two separate centuries, it remains an impressive tribute to its hometown's Spanish missionary heritage.



April 2011 Answer:
The Mauretta B.
Thomas Memorial
Bridge. Congratulations
to our winner,
Joe Craig of Little
Rock, Arkansas.



Win a collection of our most popular books! To enter, correctly identify the location featured above and e-mail your answer to editor@arizonahighways.com — type "Where Is This?" in the subject line. Entries can also be sent to 2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009 (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 June 15, 2011. Only the winner will be notified. The correct answer will be posted in our August issue and online at www.arizonahighways.com beginning July 15.



Catalina State Park is just
one of Arizona's wonders.



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