

The Mutant Hummingbird  
of Pinal County: It's Freaky

How Prescott Ended Up in  
the Game of *Trivial Pursuit*

A Medicine Woman Who  
Works Magic on Anyone

# ARIZONA

## HIGHWAYS

ESCAPE · EXPLORE · EXPERIENCE

JULY 2009

# Flagstaff

The Ultimate Guide to  
Arizona's High Country

featuring

Lodging, Dining,  
Recreation & More.  
A Lot More!

+ Restaurants

HART PRAIRIE:  
AN ECO-VACATION  
IN ARIZONA'S GREAT  
NORTH WOODS

features

14 FLAGSTAFF:  
A COMFORTABLE ALTITUDE

Sitting in Phoenix or Tucson or any of the other desert cities in the middle of summer, one thought comes to mind: Why am I not in Flagstaff? Cool temperatures, even cooler surroundings ... this historic mountain town is the ultimate high-elevation destination. From vintage hotels, charming B&Bs and barbecue joints to hiking, biking and a mother lode of Mother Nature, there's something for everyone.

BY KELLY KRAMER

28 IT'S ALL UPHILL

From just about anywhere in Arizona, a trip to Flagstaff means a gain in elevation, and with that come cooler temperatures, verdant meadows, evergreen forests, spectacular wildflowers and, of course, mountain vistas. In this month's portfolio, you'll see all of those things and more.

BY ROBERT McDONALD

38 A CHANGE OF HART

Change, it's been said, is good. In the case of Hart Prairie Preserve near Flagstaff, change is a matter of survival. That's why The Nature Conservancy sponsors volunteer weekends where participants work to re-create the old-growth forest that existed before the area was logged.

BY LISA SCHNEBLY HEIDINGER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER SCHWEPKER

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www.arizonahighways.com

TALK TO US: In this month's issue, we focus on Flagstaff (see page 14). We cover a lot of ground — where to get a great burger, where to go mountain biking — but we also understand we've left out some local favorites. Tell us what we've missed. We can be reached at editor@arizonahighways.com.

GET MORE ONLINE:

- + While you're in Flagstaff, you might want to hit the trail. For some great area hikes, and others around the state, visit our extensive "Hiking Guide."
- + Get details on some of this month's biggest events, including statewide July Fourth celebrations, in our "Events Calendar."
- + Want more photography? Check out the 40 finalists in our online photography contest. See "Photo Contest."



▶ A gauzy mist envelops a field of wildflowers as the volcanic cinder cone of Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument rises in the background. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BEAN

FRONT COVER Summer thunderstorm clouds shroud the San Francisco Peaks, while the range's Inner Basin bursts with color from the blooms of Western sneeze-weed. PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT McDONALD

BACK COVER A hiker takes a break near the Coconino National Forest's Sunset Trail. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BEAN



KRISTEN GRUBER

**ROBERT McDONALD**

At 72 years young, longtime *Arizona Highways* photographer Robert McDonald is no stranger to adventure. In fact, some of the images for this month's portfolio (*It's All Uphill*, page 28) required a trek of several miles and several thousand feet in

elevation. "Making those images required backpacking, camping and carrying camera equipment — a 60- to 65-pound load," McDonald says. "Fifteen years ago, when I made those particular photos, I could carry that kind of load, although it was, at times, exhausting. Of course, back then, I did have the company of my beloved and now departed Labrador, Cocoa. He carried his own food and water in a doggy pack." In addition to *Arizona Highways*, McDonald's work appears in *Audubon* and *Browntrout* calendars.

**THE NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY TEAM**

A mechanical engineering and photography student at NAU, Cole Johnson has always looked at Flagstaff's Hotel Monte Vista (*Flagstaff: A Comfortable Altitude*, page 14) with a sense of pride. "I don't think you'll find a hotel like that in any other town," he says. "That's the thing about Flagstaff, we have a very strong connection to our past. The 'Monte V,' as the locals call it, housed stars from the early days of filmmaking. Having looked at this downtown staple throughout my college years at NAU, I jumped at the chance to take pictures of it. I tried to capture the warmth of the sign's red glow, while keeping the mysteriousness of it — it's rumored to be haunted." For Madison Kirkman (not pictured), there's no mystery about her experience. Five years ago, she thumbed through an issue of *Arizona Highways* and dreamed of having one of her images published in the magazine. This month, that dream comes true as the 21-year-old NAU student's shot of a vintage Flagstaff steam engine makes it into the cover story. "I started taking photos in middle school, then realized in high school that it was truly my passion ... or rather, obsession. Since then, I've filled my life with as many cameras, darkrooms, photos and influences as I could," Kirkman says. "When one of my photography teachers, Peter Schwepker, mentioned the opportunity to photograph for and possibly be published in *Arizona Highways*, I jumped at the chance."

LEFT TO RIGHT: Kara Hamilton, Cole Johnson (in back), Toni Snelling, Peter Schwepker, Mitch Arnett and Michael Thiel.



TOM ALEXANDER

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Lisa Schnebly Heidinger, who spent a weekend in the mountains with The Nature Conservancy.

Unlike Mr. McDonald, Lisa wasn't there with a camera. She was there with a pair of gloves and a pickax as part of a volunteer weekend where participants work to re-create the old-growth forest that once existed in Hart Prairie. In *A Change of Hart*, she recounts her experience, which included sleeping in a historic cabin. Although the whole thing sounds like an excuse for tree-huggers to get together and listen to Neil Young music, the program is open to anyone who's interested in restoring the natural habitat.

Whether you listen to Perry Como or Colbie Caillat, this is one of those things you'll end up writing home about. And if nothing else, it's an opportunity to spend a few days in the mountains, where the nights are cool, the stars are bright ... and talk about a room with a view. It's definitely better than the Air Supply Room. And maybe even better than Room 408.

- I n M e m o r i a m -

SARA JANE  
COLE-GILMORE

On April 13, 2009, the *Arizona Highways* family lost one of its matriarchs. Sara Jane Cole-Gilmore — those who knew her called her Sally — spent more than 30 years at the magazine. In that time, she wore several hats, but perhaps more than anything, she served as the resident historian — she knew everything there was to know about *Arizona Highways*. Her hard work and dedication helped establish the worldwide reputation of this magazine, and her legacy will live on its pages. Thank you, Sally.



ROBERT STIEVE, *editor*

Room 408. That's where Bogie slept. It's a nice room if you can get it. So is the "John Wayne Room." Even the "Air Supply Room" isn't bad. It comes with a haunting echo of mind-numbing '80s music, but at the Hotel Monte Vista, you take what you can get, because rooms in downtown Flagstaff are in short supply.

Of course, when Humphrey Bogart stayed there in the early '40s, he didn't have to wait in line. All he had to do was learn his lines. Like most of the other celebs who've stayed at the historic hotel — Clark Gable, Bing Crosby, Jane Russell — Bogie was in town to work on a movie. The next time you rent *Casablanca*, watch closely, some of the scenes were filmed at the Monte Vista.

Sixty-some years later, things at the hotel are about the same as they were back in Bogie's day. The rooms, the saloon, the lobby. In fact, other than the arrival of a few microbreweries and a New Age shop or two, downtown as a whole is the same small-town sanctuary it's always been. That's why we've dedicated this month's issue to Flagstaff. Well, that and the cool temperatures and the arts and the culture and the history and the restaurants and the Mother Nature and on and on and on. Here's lookin' at you, kid.

In addition to the Monte V, as the locals call it, we'll tell you about some of the other places to stay, as well as where to eat and what to do. It's a long list, which is something writer Kelly Kramer quickly realized as she was putting together the outline for the story. At one point, she even called to ask, "Is there any chance we could dedicate the August issue to Flagstaff, too?"

That wasn't an option, but as you'll see in *A Comfortable Altitude*, we've managed to squeeze in enough to keep you busy for a while. Among the things that did make the list is Schultz Pass Road, a 26-mile route that cuts through the heart of the San Francisco Peaks. If you've never been, pile in the car and hit the road. That's what Robert McDonald does every chance he gets. He's not sightseeing, though. He's working.

For decades, we've been fortunate enough to feature some of the best landscape photographers in the world, and when it comes to shooting the San Francisco Peaks, Robert McDonald is second-to-none. In this month's portfolio, you'll see for yourself. Like all great photographers, his images make you feel as if you're there. They're breathtaking. For an even closer look, you might want to walk in the footsteps of



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. Now in its fifth season, the show does with audio and video what we do with ink and paper — it showcases the people, places and things of the Grand Canyon State, from the spectacular landscapes and colorful history to the fascinating culture and endless adventure. And that's just the beginning. "For me, the show is about more than just the destinations," Robin says. "It's about the people behind the scenes. It's their stories

that make the destinations so interesting." Indeed, there's a reason this show wins so many awards — it's second-to-none, and we're proud to have our name on it. Take a look. For broadcast times, visit our Web site, [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com), and click the *Arizona Highways Television* link on our home page.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

My compliments to *Arizona Highways* for Nikki Buchanan's recent article on restaurants [*Best Restaurants*, April 2009]. Very interesting and well done — it makes me long to visit my home state again.

TIM RALSTON, NORCROSS, GEORGIA



**PRICE POINTS**

Before I became a subscriber to *Arizona Highways*, and I've been one for a long time, I regularly pawed through my aunt's copies of your magazine when each new edition arrived. That was in the late '40s and '50s. So, while I enjoy all aspects of the magazine, the "50 Years Ago in *Arizona Highways*" column is particularly evocative. Can you tell me what the per-copy price of the February 1959 magazine was? My recollection is that the annual subscription rate was something like \$7.50 — inexpensive even by 1959 standards — making the price per copy about \$0.65. Is that right?

TED MACDERMOTT, AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Thanks for your longtime support, Mr. MacDermott. We sincerely appreciate that. In 1959, an annual subscription cost \$3.50, and individual copies cost 40 cents.

**METEOR RIGHT**

In your reference to Meteor Crater [*Iconic Arizona*, February 2009], the paragraph under the photograph reads: "Modern scientists estimate that the impact of the meteor ... ." As you've probably heard from other readers, that's not the correct terminology. Meteors do not strike the sur-

face of Earth. The crater was caused by a "meteorite."

WALTER THOMPSON, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

**HISTORY RE-BUFF**

Regarding your story about internment camps [*The Journal*, March 2009], I met then first lady Eleanor Roosevelt soon after I was commissioned in the Army Air Corps. I found her to be friendly, charming and intelligent, but woefully uninformed in some matters. No butter or sugar on the Japanese internees' tables? Goodness gracious! The greatest hardship she ever endured in her pampered life was if the temperature of her bath was not drawn to suit her taste. Executive Order 9066 has been excoriated as inhumane, hailed as a great preventive measure, or somewhere in between. It would be difficult to convince me that FDR took the wrong stance in that matter.

BOB KUNZMAN, YUMA



March 2009

**TUNED IN**

In a recent issue, we asked readers to share their thoughts on *Arizona Highways* Television.

Yes, we watch it! We Tivo it! The photography and information are essential for living in this wonderful state. We especially love the wildflower stories every year. Thanks for giving us flower names and locations. There are so many beautiful places to see in Arizona, but we could never find some of the really cool places without you telling us about them — in both the magazine and on the TV

show. We began traveling out here in 2003 and fell in love with all of Arizona; two years ago we moved to Page. Your magazine will be a part of our household from now on, no matter where we live. Keep up the good work. And kudos to Robin Sewell!

KATHY PHIPPS, PAGE



CENTER FOR SOUTHWEST STUDIES

Fort Defiance School

**OLD SCHOOL**

You printed a letter from John M. Wigglesworth in your March 2009 issue telling of his experience as a student at Fort Defiance. His letter brought up many old memories for me. I, too, attended grammar school at Fort Defiance, but years later in the 1930s. By then there was a two-room school with husband-and-wife teachers. Their names were John and Mildred Herrera. After the 8th grade, we all went off to boarding school. Last year I took my children and grandchildren to Fort Defiance to show them where I grew up. I looked for the old school, but couldn't find it. There must be a large alumni group of that school. I wonder if anyone has a photograph of the old schoolhouse.

JAMES R. HELMS JR., ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA

**YEARN TO RETURN, AYE**

I love the magazine and look forward to receiving each issue. With each edition that arrives, I yearn to return to Arizona. I especially love exploring the Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area (Coyote Buttes in particular), and enjoyed the March 2009 photo on page 5 in *The Journal*. Keep up the awesome work!

EARL FAWCETT, CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA



DAVID WALLACE

**Down The River**

A climber rappels down a waterfall in Crystal Canyon along the San Carlos River. This is just one of many recreational opportunities on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. Information: 928-475-3213 or [www.sancharlosapache.com](http://www.sancharlosapache.com).



MARK PETERMAN

## Miracle Worker

Belen Stoneman has a gift, but don't expect this Native American healer to pat herself on the back.

By KERIDWEN CORNELIUS

BELEN STONEMAN IS A medium between different worlds: spiritual and physical, Native American and non-native, living and dead. Visit her at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort's Aji Spa expecting a massage with a few Native American touches — maybe a creosote wrap, perhaps a few incantations to Mother Earth — and you'll get more than you bargained for.

Stoneman, 49, is a medicine woman, though she'd never bestow such an honorific on herself. "I'm just a facilitator," she says. "The No. 1 rule for me is that Creator God and the spirits do everything."

Five years ago, she began as cultural ambassador at Wild Horse Pass, Arizona's only Native American-owned resort, and two years ago became a healer at Aji

Spa. In both roles, it's been Stoneman's goal to teach non-natives about Akimel O'odham culture.

"Everything [at the spa] has the flair of who we are — all the words and protocol," Stoneman says. "I want people to get an idea of who we are, that we're not hokey."

Stoneman wears traditional dress and walks barefoot through the spa's hushed hallways. Her soothing voice and inner smile act like a lullaby, making anyone in her presence feel relaxed and happy.

She begins healings by asking clients what's weighing on their minds. Then, she says, "I pray over them, and I ask their spirit for permission [to heal them], because everyone has spirits and guides and angels, whether they believe it or not."

She smears them with creosote balm, checks their bodies' balance of elements (earth, fire, water, air) and, through a combination of massage and something more mysterious, releases the tension, fear and sadness from their bodies. These are ancient techniques, but they're passed on to only a select few.

When she was a little girl living in the Gila River Community, Stoneman's family discovered she had a gift. "I used to see spirits," she says. "I used to see old people who passed on, and I would talk to them.

I knew something was going to happen before it would happen. I tried to be in denial of it, but when you're in denial, it gets stronger."

She studied under medicine men and women on other reservations, earning the title of healer among her people. She could have kept doing healings quietly out of her home, but, she says, her spirit told her she should share her gift outside the community.

Her family objected, but after several years of negotiating, she finally told them: "There are other people who need this. The elders didn't turn away people. Don't they say we're supposed to share?"

And so, through Stoneman, non-natives can get a better sense of Native American spirituality, their own spirits and maybe even their futures.

"It makes me feel good when a non-native person wants to be healed, that they trust and believe enough that they are willing to go to a person in this field," Stoneman says. And when their spirit releases and allows her to heal them, she says, "They're going to leave feeling wonderful."

For information, call 602-225-0100 or visit [www.wildhorsepassresort.com](http://www.wildhorsepassresort.com).

PRATT'S

## Q&A



**Kirk Gibson**  
Bench Coach,  
Arizona  
Diamondbacks

**If you were trying to convince Tommy Lasorda that Arizona is one of the most beautiful places in the world, where would you take him?**

Everybody knows how fond Tommy Lasorda is of pasta, so the first thing I'd do is take him out for a night on the town in Old Town Scottsdale. There are a lot of great Italian places there, and we could probably convince him to keep coming back to Arizona.

**Favorite spring training ballpark in Arizona?**

Scottsdale Stadium has a great atmosphere. They get a lot of our fans out there, and it's usually a sold-out game. After the game, there are several great places to go around the park.

**Who would do a better job of steering a raft through the rapids on the Colorado River: Stephen Drew or Justin Upton?**

Stephen Drew. He's an avid hunter and fisherman, so his outdoor experience would probably benefit him on the rapids. Plus, if we got stranded someplace, he'd be able to get us some food.

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

## Out of the Blue

The Blue Buddha Sushi Lounge in Page defies expectations. It also serves up a mean tempura Oreo. That's right. Tempura Oreo. Sweet.

By KERIDWEN CORNELIUS

If you find yourself in Page with a hankering for steak served on a red-checked tablecloth, you don't need our help. This meat-and-potatoes town is your oyster. If, however, you find yourself in northernmost Arizona yearning for yellowtail sashimi, we'll let you in on a little secret: Blue Buddha Sushi Lounge.

Expect the unexpected at Blue Buddha. Open the door of this unassuming strip mall restaurant and you'll think that a warp in the space-time continuum has transported you to a club in Manhattan. Groovy music gently pulses through a Zen-like space that's jazzed up with a glittering bar and funky light fixtures.

Yet the aesthetics actually work for Page: the turquoise walls and cushy orange chairs evoke neighboring Lake Powell's color palette of sky, water and russet sandstone. The bubbly shadows on the walls and river-rock bar echo the aquatic motif. And in the do-it-yourself spirit of the town, everything was built by the owner and his employees.

"We wanted to bring something different to the town," says owner/operator Twist Thompson. "We knew there was a population looking for more culture, so we went out on a limb."

Thompson attended the Sushi Chef Institute in Los Angeles and

Blue Buddha Sushi Lounge is located at 815 N. Navajo Drive in Page. For more information, call 928-645-2161.

PAGE

trained his three sushi chefs in authentic Japanese sushi-making. You'll find the usual favorites here: fresh and delicious sushi and sashimi, miso soup and a selection of sakes. And those who balk at raw can dip their chopsticks into one of several noodle bowls studded with (cooked) chicken, beef or shrimp.

Yet Blue Buddha doesn't attempt to imitate the mom-and-pop sushi joints of Tokyo. For example, if you're feeling daring, you could peruse the bamboo-constructed menu while sipping a Zen Snow Conetini (a Blue Curaçao snowball floating in citrus vodka and green tea), whet your appetite with spicy tuna jalapeño poppers, continue with a Castle Rock or Lake Rider sushi roll, and cap it all off with shockingly good tempura Oreos smothered in vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce.

You read it right: tempura Oreos. Sounds like a freak of nature, but it will change your life. Or at least your expectations of a sushi restaurant in Page.



GARY LADD



KERRICK JAMES

## Reservation Required

There's only one place in the world where you can see Monument Valley from your hotel balcony, and it's on the Navajo Nation, at a place called The View.

By **ROGER NAYLOR**

MANY WORDS HAVE BEEN used to describe the epic desolation of Monument Valley, but "comfortable" isn't usually among them. The View Hotel changes all that.

Perched on a mesa amid towering monoliths, the View is the first hotel built inside Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, and as you might expect, it offers luxurious access to the mythic backdrop of John Ford Westerns. Indeed, now you can sip coffee from your own private balcony and watch the bones of the land drenched in the shimmering light of sunrise.

"I wanted to create a place so people could come from all over the world, or just around the corner, to experience this sacred place, and Native American culture as well," says Armanda Ortega, owner of The View. Armanda is a member of the Ortega family, Navajos long known for their entrepreneurial spirit.

"When you're in Monument Valley you feel like you're in touch with a different part of the world," she says. "I'm glad people are able to enjoy it now for longer than a day."

Designed to exist in harmony with the magnificent surroundings, the hotel stands only three stories tall, a low contour conforming to the mesa that overlooks the valley. The exterior's reddish hue blends with the rock. Energy-efficient windows, additional insulation and low-flow water devices also enhance the hotel's eco-friendly credentials.

Yet soul-nudging splendor defines The View. Rooms face east,

each with a sheltered balcony framing an up-close panorama of iconic formations — the Mittens and Merrick Butte. In a state with no shortage of dramatic settings, this one is hard to beat.

When you're not sitting mesmerized in your room, you'll want to consider a Navajo-led tour and discover an array of hidden wonders. The View provides a complete list of available tours. Hotel guests can also hike the Wildcat Trail, a dazzling loop that curls among the sand and the silence around the base of West Mitten.

Ortega understands the desire to connect to this startling landscape.

"Just before opening, my mom and her whole family came out. My uncles were building railings, and my aunts were inside doing the things we needed to do. We awoke before the sun rose and all went outside. We took our corn pollen and prayed, and it was truly a moment I'll never forget. When you wake up with that sun, it's an indescribable feeling."

And now it's an extremely comfortable one, as well, courtesy of The View Hotel.

The View Hotel is located in Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park. For more information, call 435-727-5555 or visit [www.monumentvalleyview.com](http://www.monumentvalleyview.com).

## Class Project

This month, instead of just going to the usual well of photographers, we looked to the students at Northern Arizona University.

By the way, they passed with flying colors.

By **JEFF KIDA**, photo editor

From Ansel Adams and Josef Muench in the early days to David Muench and Jack Dykinga today, our contributors' list reads like a who's who of landscape photographers. George Stocking, Kate Thompson, Randy Prentice, Edward McCain, Claire Curran, Nick Berezenko, Larry Lindahl ... the list goes on. Peter Schwepker is on there, too. In addition to his many contributions to this magazine (see *A Change of Hart*, page 38), Peter teaches photojournalism at Northern Arizona University.

A few months ago, I had a chance to speak to his class, and I was impressed with the work his students are doing. Clearly, they're learning from the master, which left me feeling optimistic about the future of photojournalism. In fact, about a week after my trip to NAU, I was in a planning meeting with our editor and art director — we were discussing our "Flagstaff" issue, the one you're holding now — and I mentioned how good these kids were, and how we might be able to use them in some way for this issue.

Robert and Barb liked the idea, so I called Peter and discussed the possibilities. We decided to keep it simple by giving them a list and cutting them loose. After we hung up, Peter posted an online challenge to his students: "Gain real-world photography experience by shooting for *Arizona Highways*, staying mindful of a firm deadline and keeping up with such professional

responsibilities as obtaining appropriate permissions."

Of course, there were no guarantees that any of their images would make the final cut — that's one of those real-world realities — but we made it clear we'd treat them exactly as we'd treat the men and women in the first paragraph of this column. And that included paying them our standard rates.

Turns out, the students embraced the opportunity, and by the time they were finished, we had some great images to work with. We also got some wonderful feedback from them.

Madison Kirkman, who shot the old Baldwin steam engine on page 24, wrote, "I shot until I couldn't move my hands anymore because of the cold, and until I couldn't stand the trains passing within 10 yards of me."

What Madison learned — this was an educational experience, after all — is that photography is an art made up of mostly hard work and long hours spent in less-than-ideal conditions. It's rarely easy, but the carrot at the end of the stick is getting published, and Madison has now been published. This time, it was *Arizona Highways*, but there will be other assignments. She's very good. Like many of her classmates.

Thanks to all of you who took the time to traipse around and shoot for us. Although we didn't use everyone's work, we did use a few, and we were impressed all around.



MADISON KIRKMAN, NAU STUDENT

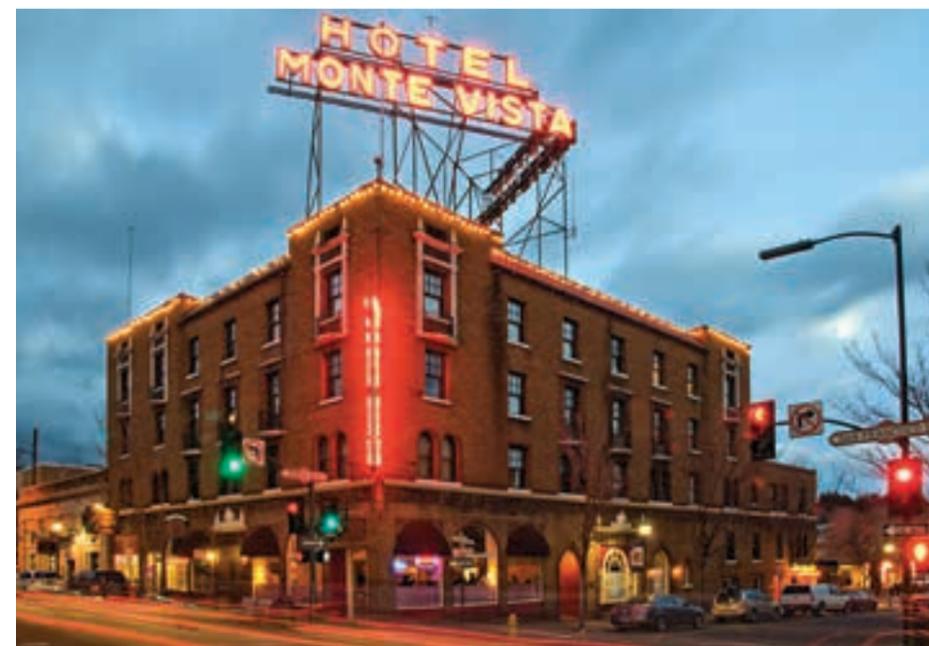
Laura Sauerman, a Karma restaurant employee, offers up a colorful and delicious tray of sushi, sake, and sides.

### PLAN AND PREPARE

In photography, nothing beats preparation. First, study and become knowledgeable about your camera gear. When you're comfortable with your equipment, it allows you to be creative. Second, scout your shot. If it's a specific location, check the light in the morning and the evening, and ask yourself: Is one season better than another? Third, learn to be patient. Even with good planning, nature operates on her schedule, not yours.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Look for *Arizona Highways Photography Guide*, available at bookstores and [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com).



MITCHELL ARNETT, NAU STUDENT

### ONLINE

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



Prescott Rodeo, 1910

ARIZONA STATE LIBRARY

## Rodeo Crown

Payson, Pecos and Cheyenne came close, but it was Prescott that wrangled the honor of being the world's oldest rodeo.

By SALLY BENFORD

QUESTION: What annual Arizona event showed up as a question in Trivial Pursuit?

- a. Barrett-Jackson car auction
- b. Cactus League baseball
- c. Fiesta Bowl
- d. None of the above

The correct answer is "d." None of the above. In the 1985 version of the popular board game, a question read:

**PRESCOTT** "What rough-and-tumble Western sport was first formalized in Prescott, Arizona?" The answer, of course, was "rodeo," and today, the Prescott Rodeo is billed as the "World's Oldest Rodeo."

It began in 1888, when the town fathers included a "cowboy

contest" in Prescott's July Fourth Frontier Days celebration, hoping to entice people to come into town from nearby farms and ranches. It worked.

That year, cowboys and spectators were thrilled with contests that included bronco riding, cow-horse racing and steer roping. Juan Leivas, a cowboy from nearby Date Creek Ranch, took the honor as "Best Cowboy." Claiming the title of "World's Oldest Rodeo," however, wasn't that simple for Arizona's original Territorial capital.

For years, Prescott wrangled with a number of towns that claimed to have held the first rodeo, including Pecos, Texas; Cheyenne, Wyoming; and, closer to home, Payson. The town of Pecos held a cowboy contest on July 4, 1883, calling it the first, but according to Prescott officials, the contest wasn't formally documented. Cheyenne's rodeo began in 1897, nine years after Prescott's. And, like Pecos, Payson's first several cowboy tournaments weren't documented. However, the town has hosted events every year since 1884, making Payson's event the "World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo."

Drawing on its rich — and strictly American — tradition, Prescott took center stage in the 1972 movie *Junior Bonner*, starring Steve McQueen. Written by Prescott native Jeb Rosebrook and filmed on location, the story focused on McQueen's character as an aging rodeo rider who comes home to Prescott to compete in the town's annual Frontier Days Rodeo.

This month, images of cowboys astride bucking broncs will still ride high at Prescott's most-anticipated event, now in its 122nd year. Small-town Western ambience fills the streets, while top PRCA rodeo talent fills the bill at the arena.

## This month in history

■ On July 17, 1871, Quechan Indians revolted against Spanish occupation near the Colorado River at Yuma, destroying Spanish missions and dwellings, and killing 50 people, including Franciscan missionary Father Francisco Tomás Garcés.

■ The last major confrontation between Apache Indians and the U.S. Army occurred on July 17, 1882, at the Battle of Big Dry Wash, near East Clear Creek on the Mogollon Rim.

■ On July 20, 1942, the Poston Relocation Camp, south of Parker, opened for the confinement of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

This year's event takes place June 29-July 5. For information, call 866-407-6336 or visit [www.worldsoldestoredo.com](http://www.worldsoldestoredo.com).

**Birds of a Feather?** As a general rule, members of the animal kingdom typically mate with their own kind, but not always. Among the most adventurous are hummingbirds. By JOCELYN BURAS

Things didn't work out with Lyle Lovett and Julia Roberts, but in some cases, opposites really do attract. Consider the unlikely pairing of two adventurous hummingbirds — one a broad-billed and the other a violet-crowned. Turns out, they were more than just friends. In fact, they hooked up and hatched an egg, and their offspring, which was originally spotted in 2006, was recently seen again at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum in Superior.

As strange as it might sound, this hybrid hummer isn't the first of its kind. Hummingbirds are notorious for hybridizing. But this combination is significant because it's been more than a century since the last violet-crowned and broad-billed hybrid was spotted in the area.

Naturally — or unnaturally, depending on your point of view — the hybrid has become the star of Superior, attracting birders, photographers and freak-show aficionados from all over. A couple of followers have even given the bird a nickname, suggesting that "hybrid hummingbird" didn't really suit this particular

hummer's ostentatious appeal.

Paul Wolterbeek, the arboretum's volunteer coordinator, says he and co-worker Gonzalo Ruiz, a native of Mexico, came up with the name while carpooling to work.

"I asked Gonzalo what they'd call a ladies' man back in his hometown — you know, the flashy, irresistible guy who always has his suits perfectly creased and looks impeccable," Wolterbeek says.

"'Oh,' Gonzalo answered, 'El Catrin, the dancer.'"

The name stuck, and as you'll see, the "dancer" takes after both parents.

In most cases, broad-billed hummingbirds are relatively small, with a wide tail and a striking, metallic blue-green breast. The violet-crowned birds are much larger, and have a snow-white neck with a violet cap and an olive green body. El Catrin (below) inherited his intense, iridescent blue color and gray tips from his broad-billed parent, while his size and white markings suggest family ties to the violet-crowned parent.

Native to low, wooded canyons, broad-billed hummingbirds are frequent visitors to the arboretum, as well as other parts of Southern Arizona and Central Mexico. Violet-crowned hummingbirds, however, are found predominantly in Mexico

and reach the edge of their breeding range in Southern

**SUPERIOR**

Arizona, making them rare for the area. To date, the arboretum has no recorded history of a violet-crowned sighting.

Sheri Williamson of the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory says it's difficult to pinpoint what caused the parents of El Catrin to mate, but speculates it was likely a case of female compromise.

According to Williamson, the violet-crowned hummer was probably a female pioneer that wandered out of her native area. Unable to find another violet-crowned male to mate with, she was forced to consider another option.

"Once she prepares her nest, her biological clock is ticking," Williamson says. "If she doesn't find Mr. Right in time, she'll lose an opportunity to reproduce, so she may settle for Mr. Right Now, a male of another species."

Information: Boyce Thompson Arboretum, 520-689-2811 or [www.pr.state.az.us/parks/both](http://www.pr.state.az.us/parks/both).

## nature factoid



BRUCE D. TAUBERT

### Something Fishy

So named because of its silvery-blue hue and its preference for rocky streams and rivers, the blue-headed sucker fish is found most commonly in water with a bit of a current — like the headwaters of the Colorado River. It's most easily identified by its bulbous snouts and large mouths, as well as its broad upper lips.

PHILIP LOWE



**50 years ago**  
IN ARIZONA HIGHWAYS

The July 1959 issue of *Arizona Highways* showcased the history of Arizona's Indian tribes, along with their traditions of dance, rodeo and cradle-boarding. The issue also featured Hopi artist Kacha Honawah, who provided detailed illustrations of the Hopi Niman ceremony, which is held during late summer.



JWESTPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

### Fourth of July Festivities

JULY 4  
STATEWIDE

There are many places to get a dose of patriotic pride this year. Check out the annual "firing of the anvil" in Taylor, the coaster race in Bisbee, the rodeo in Prescott or the small-town barbecue and ice cream social in Williams. Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff and other towns have celebrations as well. *Information: www.arizonahighways.com.*

### White Mountains Roundup

JULY 24-26  
SHOW LOW



ALEC PEARCE

This month, head to the high country for the annual White Mountains Roundup, held in conjunction with the National Day of the Cowboy. Along with a cowboy supper and Western art show, this year's celebration

features cowboy poets and musicians during the Saturday afternoon performance, which takes place at the Show Low High School auditorium. *Information: www.whitemountainsroundup.com.*

### Photography Workshop

Autumn in Arizona is special. To learn about the best places to photograph fall color, sign up for our workshop, "Autumn at the North Rim," with Peter Ensenberger. The dates are September 30-October 4. You'll visit the Grand Canyon and Kaibab National Forest, and learn to make awe-inspiring images along the way. *Information: 888-790-7042 or www.friends ofazhighways.com.*



JEFF KIDA

### 1890s Cow Town Festival

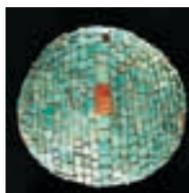
JULY 25 APACHE JUNCTION

Celebrate the Old West during this festival at Goldfield Ghost Town, which features the Earp-Holliday Mustache and Beard Contest and the Fast Draw Shootout. Other festivities include a parade, an old-fashioned medicine show, a longhorn cattle drive, cowboy poets, food, entertainment and a Kids Corral. *Information: 480-982-4131 or www.goldfieldghosttown.com/events/dayofcowboy.html.*

### Set in Stone

JULY 1-31 TUCSON

For more than 2,000 years, gems, minerals, copper and even seashells were carried along well-established trade routes in the Southwest. *Set in Stone*, an exhibit at the Arizona State Museum, spotlights that history with more than 800 objects, including Native American jewelry, mining tools, photographs and recordings. *Information: 520-621-6302 or www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/exhibits/index.shtml.*



ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM



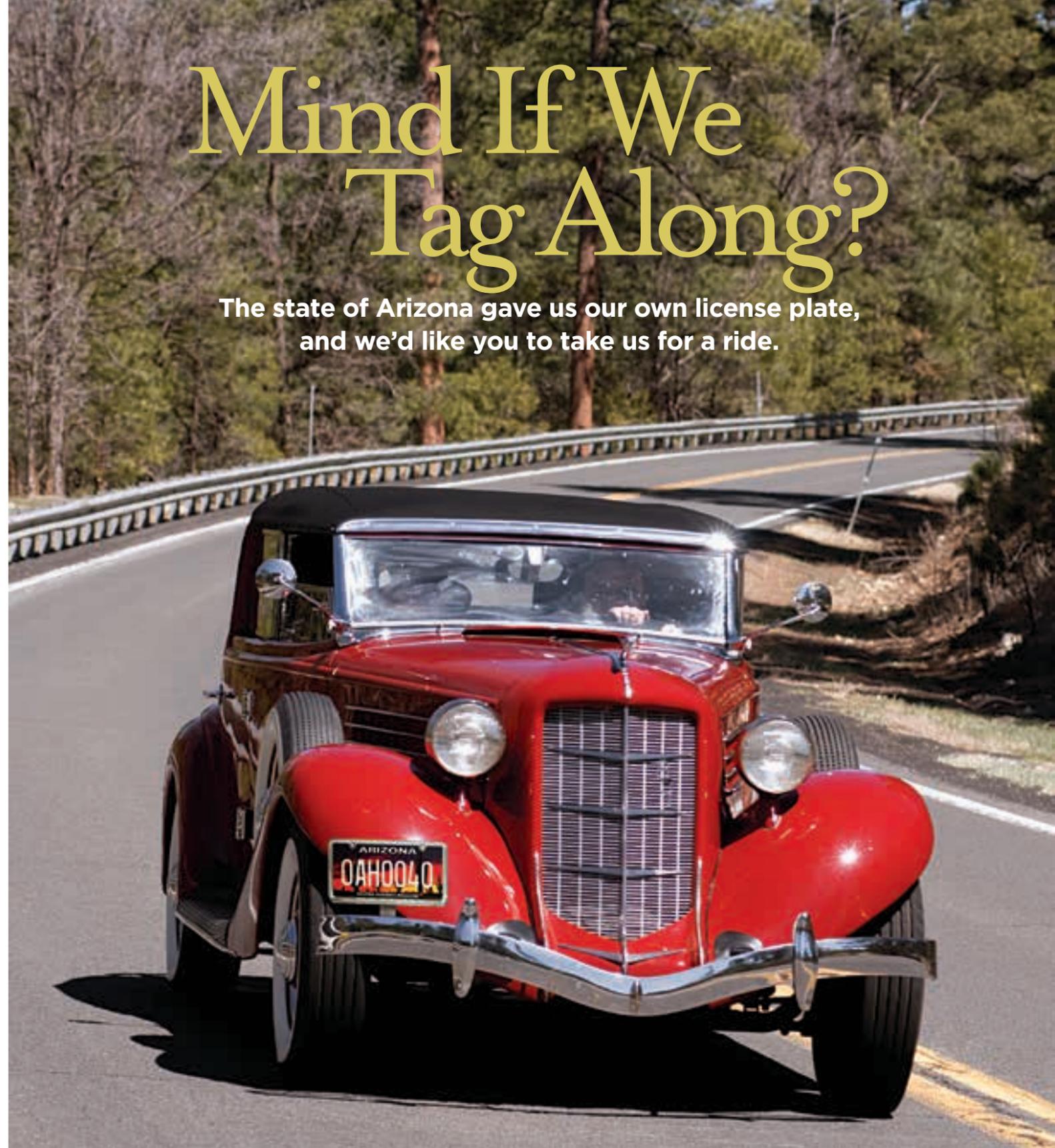
### Mountain Man Triathlon

JULY 19 FLAGSTAFF

In the mood for a swim, bike and run amid the cool pines of Northern Arizona? The Mountain Man Triathlon takes place 9 miles south of Flagstaff, along Lake Mary Road, and offers fresh air and beautiful vistas of the San Francisco Peaks. *Information: www.mountainmanevents.com/mountainmantriathlon.htm.* ■

# Mind If We Tag Along?

The state of Arizona gave us our own license plate, and we'd like you to take us for a ride.



To order an official Arizona Highways license plate, visit [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com) and click the license plate icon on our home page. Proceeds help support our mission of promoting tourism in Arizona.



# ARIZONA HIGHWAYS



# FLAGSTAFF

## A COMFORTABLE ALTITUDE

Sitting in Phoenix or Tucson or any of the other desert cities in the middle of summer, one thought comes to mind: **Why am I not in Flagstaff?** Cool temperatures, even cooler surroundings ... this historic mountain town is the ultimate high-elevation destination. From vintage hotels, charming B&Bs and barbecue joints to hiking, biking and a mother lode of Mother Nature, there's something for everyone.

What follows are some of our favorites, and most are within walking distance of downtown.

**BY KELLY  
KRAMER**

Bright purple asters carpet a meadow in the approaches to the San Francisco Peaks, north of Flagstaff.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT McDONALD

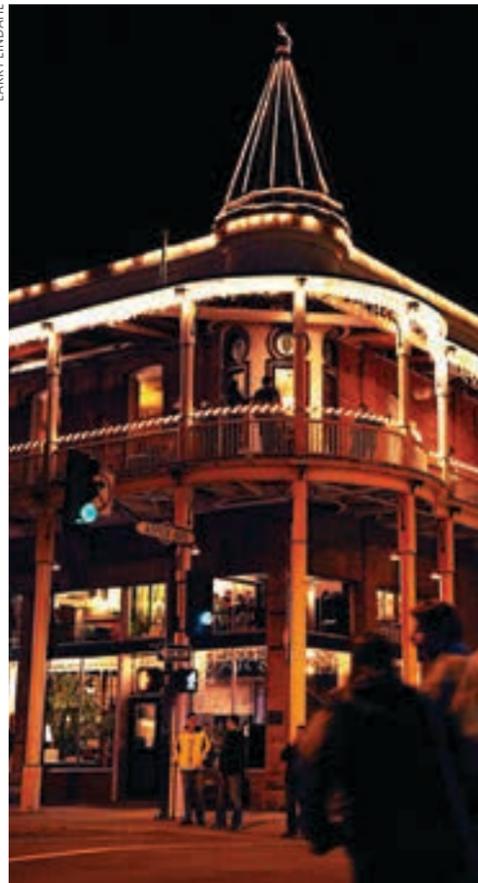
# WHERE TO STAY IN FLAGSTAFF

## HOTEL MONTE VISTA

The Monte Vista is one of a handful of historic hotels in Flagstaff. Opened in 1927, the downtown destination quickly became a go-to lodge for railway travelers, bank robbers and movie stars — Esther Williams, Bob Hope, Carole Lombard and Gary Cooper among them. The 50-room hotel has been updated with some modern amenities like cable television, showers and telephone service, but it remains a draw for history buffs, due to a few paranormal guests. Rumor has it that the ghosts of wounded bank robbers, a baby in the basement and an ominous bellboy haunt the premises.

*The Hotel Monte Vista is located at 100 N. San Francisco Street. Call 800-545-3068 or visit [www.hotelmontevista.com](http://www.hotelmontevista.com).*

LARRY LINDAHL



## HOTEL WEATHERFORD

Another of Flagstaff's antique hotels, the Weatherford was a favorite of Western novelist Zane Grey — so much so that in 1997, hotel proprietors opened a ballroom in his honor. In one of his most famous novels, *Call of the Canyon*, Grey mentioned a fireplace that hadn't been used or even seen in decades. Because of the book, it was rediscovered behind partitions in the hotel's restaurant (Charly's). A pet project of John Weatherford, a developer who also oversaw the construction of the town's New Weatherford Opera House — now the Orpheum — the hotel opened in 1900. Today, it's a favorite stop for travelers with a penchant for history and literature.

*Hotel Weatherford is located at 23 N. Leroux Street. Call 928-779-1919 or visit [www.weatherfordhotel.com](http://www.weatherfordhotel.com).*



DAVE EDWARDS

## ASPEN INN BED & BREAKFAST

Not all of the Earps were outlaws and vagabonds. In fact, Wyatt's cousin, C.B. Wilson, was fairly tame, and in 1912 he built what would become the Aspen Inn Bed & Breakfast. The home is located five minutes from downtown Flagstaff and maintains plenty of historic charm in its Peach, Wyatt, Emily and Wilson rooms. Breakfast is served daily between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m., and provides the perfect start for day trips to Walnut Canyon or the Grand Canyon. In the evening, relax and play a game or two in the inn's spacious living room.

*Aspen Inn Bed & Breakfast is located at 218 N. Elden Street. Call 888-999-4110 or visit [www.flagstaffbedbreakfast.com](http://www.flagstaffbedbreakfast.com).*



## DID YOU KNOW? OLYMPIC ASPIRATIONS

Over the years, Northern Arizona University's Center for High Altitude Training, which is now closed, hosted approximately 6,000 athletes from 41 different countries. Those athletes won 191 Olympic and Paralympic medals in the past three Olympic games.

➔ Keep going. More great stuff about Flagstaff.

# 1,000 YEARS IN THE MAKING

A timeline of Flagstaff and the surrounding beauty of Northern Arizona.

### 1040-1100

A volcano erupts in the San Francisco Peaks, forming Sunset Crater, north of Flagstaff.



TOM BEAN



KEVIN KIBSEY

### 1629

Franciscan friars visit the Hopi mesas in an effort to minister to the Native people there. The friars give the San Francisco Peaks their name, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

### 1540-1550

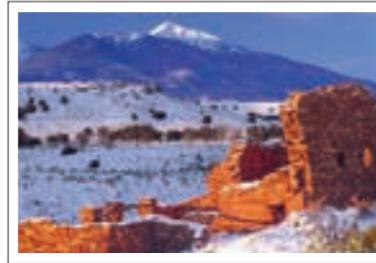
Spanish explorers under the command of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado visited Northern Arizona near the Hopi mesas, searching for the "Seven Cities of Gold."

### 1848

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is signed, acquiring the land that eventually becomes Arizona.

### 1850

President Millard Fillmore signs the first Railroad Land Grant Act.



ROBERT McDONALD



### 1853

Lieutenant Amiel Weeks Whipple leads an expedition to scout possible routes for the transcontinental railroad. While searching for water, party members discover a spring named for Antoine Leroux. Today, the spring is a source for Flagstaff's water supply.

### 1851

A party of Army Corps of Topographical Engineers, led by Captain Lorenzo Sitgreaves, discovers the ruins at Wupatki, north of Flagstaff.

### 1857-1860

Lieutenant Edward Fitzgerald Beale constructs a wagon road across New Mexico and Arizona. The Beale Road passes by the San Francisco Peaks, drawing emigrants on their way to California.



DAVE EDWARDS

**WHERE TO STAY** IN FLAGSTAFF

**ENGLAND HOUSE  
BED & BREAKFAST**

Built by master stonecutter William England and his wife, Barbara Michelbach-England, in 1902, the England House features stunning workmanship, including pressed-tin ceilings and Coconino and Moenkopi stones. In 1976, the National Trust for Historic Preservation proclaimed England House “clearly among the most outstanding homes in Flagstaff.” Today, the home is a draw for travelers with an appreciation for French antiques, velvet couches, afternoon tea and unobscured views of the stars from the B&B’s comfortable deck.

England House B&B is located at 614 W. Santa Fe Avenue. Call 877-214-7350 or visit [www.englishhouseandb.com](http://www.englishhouseandb.com).

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**LIGHTS, CAMERA,  
SNOWSTORM**

In 1912, Flagstaff nearly became the movie capital of the world. That’s when Cecil B. DeMille came looking for a location where outdoor shooting would be feasible year-round. Alas, a snowstorm drove the legendary director farther west.



PARAMOUNT STUDIOS



NICK BEREZENKO

**THE INN AT 410  
BED & BREAKFAST**

There are plenty of reasons the Inn at 410 is considered “the place with the personal touch.” With fireplaces and refrigerators in each guest room, a well-equipped fitness facility, spa products and three private suites with Jacuzzi tubs, you might think you’ve wandered into a five-star resort. But really, it’s just the 10-room pet project of owner Gordon Watkins, who has taken his background in operations and development for Ritz-Carlton and used it to create a stunning, personal experience for visitors who appreciate the inn’s countless charms.

The Inn at 410 Bed & Breakfast is located at 410 N. Leroux Street. Call 800-774-2008 or visit [www.inn410.com](http://www.inn410.com).



RICHARD MAACK

**COMFI COTTAGES**

These aptly named cabins, peppered throughout neighborhoods surrounding downtown, range in size from one bedroom with one bath to four bedrooms and two bathrooms. The 1920s-style homes are equipped with televisions, DVD players and phones, but, more importantly, they come with picnic tables, picnic baskets, bicycles, tennis racquets and barbecue grills. The cottages are within walking distance of Northern Arizona University, Lowell Observatory, parks, shopping and restaurants, and they’re just a short drive from several museums.

Call 888-774-0731 or visit [www.comficottages.com](http://www.comficottages.com).

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**RAILROAD TIES**

On average, more than 100 trains pass through Flagstaff daily, including some from the Amtrak, BNSF and Grand Canyon Railway lines.

**EAST CHERRY INN**

Aspens, oaks and a hammock. What better combination for a relaxing summer escape? At East Cherry Inn Bed & Breakfast, you can enjoy Flagstaff’s natural beauty — the quaint inn resides within its own private wooded hamlet — in a space all your own. The 1,200-square-foot Southwest Suite includes a private entrance, kitchenette, living room, spacious bathroom and enormous private patio. With a maximum capacity of only two guests, this charming B&B is one romantic getaway.

East Cherry Inn is located at 427 E. Cherry Lane. Call 800-456-0682 or visit [www.bbonline.com/az/eastcherryinn/](http://www.bbonline.com/az/eastcherryinn/).



PAULA MARTINI

**July 4, 1876**

Emigrants camped at a small spring near the peaks raise an American flag on a “flag staff” constructed of a stripped ponderosa pine tree.



NAUCLINE LIBRARY

**1882**

Flagstaff businesses include livestock and lumber operations, cafés, hotels and saloons.



NAUCLINE LIBRARY

**1884**

A fire destroys much of Old Town, making New Town the one-and-only Flagstaff, with its center at the intersection of Front and San Francisco streets. Later, Front Street is absorbed into Route 66.



NAUCLINE LIBRARY

**1869**

Major John Wesley Powell embarks on his famed expedition of the Colorado River.

**1880**

The Atlantic & Pacific Railroad begins construction on a railroad line from Albuquerque to California.

**August 1, 1882**

The Atlantic & Pacific Railroad reaches the Flagstaff area, and the town becomes an established stop on the route to California.



NAUCLINE LIBRARY

**1883**

The railroad depot moves just east of the settlement. P.J. Brannen and other merchants follow, building Front Street and another settlement — New Town. The original settlement becomes known as Old Town.

**Early 1890s**

Flagstaff’s population hovers near 1,500 people, making it one of the largest towns in the Arizona Territory.



# WHERE TO EAT IN FLAGSTAFF

## KARMA SUSHI BAR & TAPAS

There are plenty of spiritual folks in Flagstaff who live by the concept of Karma, and one visit to Karma might just make you a believer, too. With a menu that features countless special rolls and some standard Japanese fare, Karma is a standout among Flagstaff's ethnic restaurants. And even though it's more hip than other restaurants in the area — an extensive sake menu draws a young, recession-oblivious crowd — it's a great place for a relaxed evening with friends.

*Karma is located at 6 E. Route 66. Call 928-774-6100 or visit [www.karmaflagstaff.com](http://www.karmaflagstaff.com).*

## BIGFOOT BAR-B-Q

You'd think Bigfoot would be a menace at any barbecue joint — what with his poor manners and oversized appetite. But regulars with a Bigfoot-sized love of ribs will think they've died and gone to hog heaven at Bigfoot Bar-B-Q. Located in the Basement Marketplace at the Old Town Shops downtown, this local favorite features a slew of hickory-smoked meats, as well as some unconventional entrees, like the New Orleans-style catfish po' boy. And as every good barbecue joint should, Bigfoot makes a mean fruit cobbler. Served with or without ice cream, it's a smokin' deal at \$1.99.

*Bigfoot Bar-B-Q is located at 120 N. Leroux Street. Call 928-226-1677 or visit [www.bigfootbbq.com](http://www.bigfootbbq.com).*

## DOWNTOWN DINER

Where Karma is hip, Downtown Diner takes a kitschy approach to its standard fare of burgers, fries and shakes. The only downtown-area restaurant that opens for breakfast at 5:30 a.m., the diner specializes in classic American cuisine, like "T-Bird" turkey sandwiches and "Big Daddy" cheeseburgers. But there's one dish that doesn't fit the standard bill: trout, which is delivered fresh daily from Sedona. The chef marinates and smokes it, then serves it up to hungry locals and visitors alike.

*Downtown Diner is located at 7 E. Aspen Avenue. Call 928-774-3492 or visit [www.downtowndinerflagstaff.com](http://www.downtowndinerflagstaff.com).*

## MARTANNE'S BURRITO PALACE

There's always a gaggle of people waiting to get into local favorite Martanne's Burrito Palace, and with good reason. The huevos rancheros are to die for, as is this smallish restaurant's entire menu of rocking breakfast and lunch fare, all served in monstrous portions. But gird your stomach if you deign to try the chorizo — it's known to inspire perspiration among the happily hung over.

*Martanne's is located at 10 N. San Francisco Street. Call 928-773-4701.*

## LA BELLAVIA

A favorite Flagstaff breakfast spot, La Bellavia is also known for its trout — in this case, in the form of the trout and eggs breakfast plate, which includes two eggs, any style, pan-fried trout, an English muffin, and potatoes or one ginormous pancake. Other top menu picks include blueberry pancakes, custom espresso drinks and a healthy side dish of local art. Although it's small, La Bellavia does feature a decent-sized patio — perfect for sunny midsummer breakfasts.

*La Bellavia is located at 18 S. Beaver Street. Call 928-774-8301.*



DID YOU KNOW?

## HIGH SPIRITS

Flagstaff's Arizona High Spirits Distillery, the first legal distillery in the state, opened in 2005. Among its most popular products are prickly pear vodka and American vodka.

## May 26, 1894

Flagstaff becomes an incorporated town.



NAU CLINE LIBRARY

## 1900

The Hotel Weatherford opens.



NAU CLINE LIBRARY

## 1905

El Tovar Hotel is constructed at the Grand Canyon.

DID YOU KNOW?

## THE HUB

Flagstaff is a main distribution hub for some of America's largest companies. Among the big ones that have set up shop within the city limits are Nestlé Purina Petcare, SCA Tissue and drugstore heavy-weight Walgreens.

## 1891

Coconino and Yavapai counties divide, and Flagstaff becomes the Coconino County seat.



NAU CLINE LIBRARY

## 1897

Developer John Weatherford arrives in Flagstaff.

## September 11, 1899

Northern Arizona Normal School opens its doors to 23 students and one professor.



NAU CLINE LIBRARY



NAU CLINE LIBRARY

## 1904

Emery and Ellsworth Kolb construct a photography studio at the Grand Canyon's Bright Angel trailhead.

## 1906

Charles "Buffalo" Jones establishes a preserve at the Grand Canyon's North Rim.



LARRY LINDAHL

### CHARLY'S

This famed snack spot is tucked inside the Hotel Weatherford and serves some of Flagstaff's best Southwestern cuisine, including Navajo tacos, enchiladas, Durango tacos, steaks and prime rib. Try owner Sam Greene's namesake "Sam's Special" posole, a wickedly good combination of New Mexico hominy and green chile pork, served in a giant flour tortilla with a garnish of lettuce, onions, black olives, tomatoes, cilantro and cheese.

Charly's is located at 23 N. Leroux Street. Call 928-779-1919 or visit [www.weatherfordhotel.com](http://www.weatherfordhotel.com).



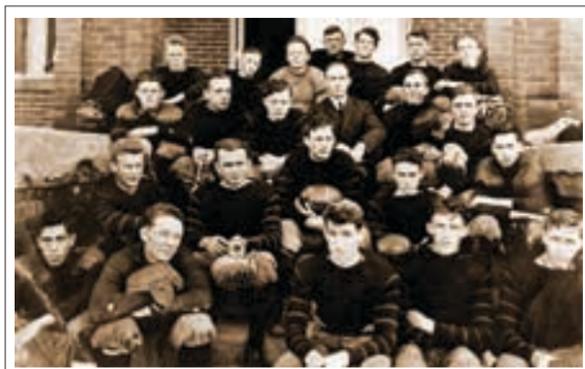
DID YOU KNOW?

### TO THE MOON

From 1963 to 1972, Flagstaff was a major player in the space race, when young geoscientists stationed at the U.S. Geological Survey's in-town astrogeology branch helped plan the six Apollo missions to the moon.

### 1909

Phone service reaches Flagstaff, and the Telephone Exchange building is constructed.



NAU CLINE LIBRARY

### 1915

The Normal School's athletes are, for the first time, referred to as "Lumberjacks."

### 1916

The New Weatherford Opera House (now the Orpheum) opens.

### 1919

The Grand Canyon is awarded National Park status.



NAU CLINE LIBRARY

### 1922

Phantom Ranch is constructed in the Grand Canyon.



NAU CLINE LIBRARY

### 1920-1926

John Weatherford constructs the San Francisco Mountain Boulevard, which was later purchased by the Forest Service.

### 1925

The Northern Arizona Normal School is converted to Northern Arizona State Teachers College.

### WHERE TO EAT IN FLAGSTAFF

#### CUVEÉ 928 WINE BAR & CAFÉ

With a lighter "panini" menu for lunch or dinner and a more substantial "plate" menu for dinner, Cuveé 928 Wine Bar & Café is Flagstaff's primo spot for great wine and innovative cuisine. From hot-and-sour-glazed meatballs and iced-tea-cured pork loin to grilled prawns and goat cheese bruschetta, Cuveé's owners have taken standard fare and transformed it into a treat for your taste buds. And when it comes to dessert — ooh la la — try the barely baked chocolate cake or the house-made bittersweet chocolate truffles with one of Cuveé's delicious wines by the glass.

Cuveé 928 is located at 6 W. Aspen Avenue. Call 928-214-9463 or visit [www.cuvee928winebar.com](http://www.cuvee928winebar.com).

#### DARA THAI

Vegetarians will delight in Dara Thai, with its menu of veggie-friendly options, including noodle and rice dishes, and vegetarian curries. But omnivores needn't shy away — orange chicken, satays and Evil Jungle Princess (traditional Thai chicken and vegetables) are among the most-often ordered menu items. The friendly staff can adjust spice levels to your liking, because while some like it hot, newcomers to flavorful Thai food might prefer to take baby steps toward iron-stomach status.

Dara Thai is located at 14 S. San Francisco Street. Call 928-774-0047.

# No. 2

DID YOU KNOW?

### MAKING THE LIST

In 2005, *Men's Journal* ranked Flagstaff No. 2 on its list of "Best Places to Live." *National Geographic* has also included the town on its list of "10 Great Towns That Will Make You Feel Young."

TONI SNEILING, NAU STUDENT



## BURGERS, BREWPUBS & BEANS

Coffee, beer and burgers are the staples of a college diet — just ask any of the students at Northern Arizona University. Of course, even if you're no longer an academic, you'll still appreciate these Flagstaff hotspots:

### 1. BEAVER STREET BREWERY:

This well-loved brewery combines burgers, beer and a friendly atmosphere for the perfect night out. Try the Rail Head Red brew, a favorite among Flagstaff locals. Call 928-779-0079 or visit [www.beaverstreetbrewery.com](http://www.beaverstreetbrewery.com).

### 2. CAFÉ ESPRESSO:

With a pretty patio and a vegetarian-friendly snack menu, Café Espresso takes coffeeshop fare to new heights. Call 928-774-0541.

### 3. FLAGSTAFF BREWING CO.:

The folks at Flagstaff Brewing Co. describe their clientele as "Beer lovers, dancing deadheads and outdoor enthusiasts who congregate to share their latest adventures while enjoying the brewery's latest creation." And, of course, there are

burgers, too — plenty of them. Call 928-773-1442 or visit [www.flagbrew.com](http://www.flagbrew.com).

### 4. RENDEZVOUS:

Located in the Hotel Monte Vista, Rendezvous is part bar and part coffee shop. During the daytime, its friendly staff slings espresso and sweet treats; by night, it's a martini-lover's dream. Call 800-545-3068 or visit [www.hotelmontevista.com](http://www.hotelmontevista.com).

### 5. MACY'S:

Macy's has been serving up stellar coffee, pastries and vegetarian fare for nearly 30 years. In fact, it was the first commercial coffee roaster in Arizona — long before Starbucks moved in. And Tim Macy's dedication to quality shows in every drop of espresso he brews. Call 928-774-2243 or visit [macyscoffee.net](http://macyscoffee.net).



MADISON KIRKMAN, NAU STUDENT

# WHAT TO DO IN FLAGSTAFF

## ROCK IN THE PINES

Pine trees are ubiquitous in Flagstaff, but unless you're a one-man band, you probably won't have an opportunity to rock out beneath them. That is, of course, unless you pay a visit to the Pine Mountain Amphitheater at Fort Tuthill County Park — think Woodstock without the mud. Pine Mountain's lineup includes B.B. King and John Hiatt, as well as the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra and a three-day bluegrass festival, featuring Del McCoury. And, really, what could be better than bluegrass beneath the cool pines?

*Pine Mountain Amphitheater is located off Interstate 17 at Exit 337. Call 928-774-0899 or visit [www.pinemountainamphitheater.com](http://www.pinemountainamphitheater.com).*

## PAY HOMAGE TO THE "OTHER" CANYON

Most folks don't talk about Flagstaff to potential visitors without mentioning Arizona's grandest of gulches, but while the Grand Canyon might be most popular, Walnut Canyon is stunning in its own right. With trails that appeal to novice and veteran hikers alike, Walnut Canyon features ruins of the Pueblo people who lived there some 800 years ago. The canyon also harbors mule deer, a variety of bird species, elk, black bears and mountain lions, and abundant plant life, from yuccas to Douglas firs.

*From Flagstaff, travel approximately 7.5 miles east on Interstate 40 to Exit 204 and continue south 3 miles to the canyon rim. Call 928-526-1157 or visit [www.nps.gov/waca](http://www.nps.gov/waca).*

DAVID H. SMITH



## BLOW OFF STEAM

After moving from Philadelphia to Arizona, Old Baldwin Steam Engine No. 25 has spent most of its life in Flagstaff. When it was purchased by the Arizona Lumber & Timber Co. in 1917, it was used to haul timber all over the Grand Canyon State. Since being purchased by the city of Flagstaff in 1995, the big engine that could serves as a reminder of the city's railroad-centric history. Access is limited to viewing only — the engine is located behind a fence — but visitors can plainly see how No. 25 earned a nickname of "two spots." Canvas water bags once hung from the engine's windows, resulting in two areas where the number 5 was rubbed away.

*Old Baldwin Steam Engine No. 25 is located at 1 E. Route 66 in downtown Flagstaff.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

### ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Flagstaff's theater scene is an impressive one. Its community theater company, Theatrikos, was founded in 1972 in the basement of the Hotel Weatherford and hosts five productions each year. In 2002, the group moved to a new venue — the Doris Harper White Community Playhouse downtown.



TOM BEAN



ROBERT McDONALD

## TAKE A DRIVE

If you're into panoramic vistas and snapping stunning photographs, Schultz Pass scenic drive should do the trick. Rambling through the San Francisco Peaks and Elden Mountains, the drive is a 26-mile loop over a combination of paved and gravel roads, so be sure your vehicle can handle rocky terrain. But don't feel obligated to stay in the car. The route offers easy access to hiking trails and picnic areas, and occasional glimpses of local wildlife, like elk and mule deer.

*From Flagstaff, drive approximately 2 miles north of the city on U.S. Route 180. Turn east on Forest Road 420, just beyond the Museum of Northern Arizona. Follow the route over Schultz Pass to U.S. Route 89, where you'll turn right to return to Flagstaff.*



**1930**

Clyde Tombaugh, a scientist at Lowell Observatory, discovers Planet X, later named Pluto.



NAU CLINE LIBRARY

**1933**

Desert View Watchtower opens at the Grand Canyon.



NAU CLINE LIBRARY

**1938**

Arizona Snowbowl ski area opens.

**1942**

The Navajo Ordnance Depot is constructed 10 miles west of Flagstaff. During World War II, the depot had 800 ammunition bunkers. Today, the depot is known as Camp Navajo.

**1958**

The Flagstaff City Council passes the nation's first ordinance governing outdoor lighting in an effort to keep light pollution to a minimum.



DAVID H. SMITH

**1963**

Geologist Eugene Shoemaker moves the U.S. Geological Survey's Astrogeologic Studies unit from Menlo Park, California, to Flagstaff. Between 1963 and 1972, the branch hosted 200 field-training exercises for NASA astronauts near Sunset Crater, Cinder Lake, Meteor Crater (pictured) and the Hopi Buttes.

**1966**

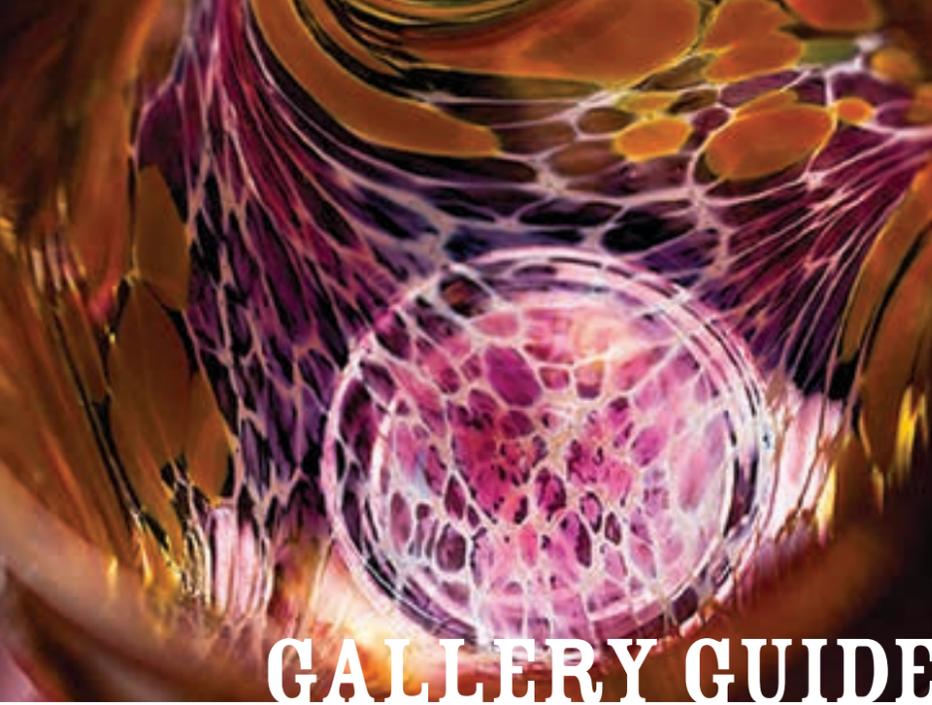
Northern Arizona State Teachers College becomes Northern Arizona University.



NAU CLINE LIBRARY

**1979**

Sears and J.C. Penney leave downtown Flagstaff to set up shop in the new Flagstaff Mall.



# GALLERY GUIDE

Fire on the Mountain Gallery

Inspiration is easy to come by in Flagstaff, which is why so many artists are drawn to the area. To see their work, check out some of these popular galleries:

**1. ARIZONA HANDMADE GALLERY:** This destination gallery features works by more than 50 Arizona artisans, with price and pomp ranging from gift-suitable to collector-credible. Call 928-779-3790 or visit [www.azhandmade.com](http://www.azhandmade.com).

**2. THE ARTISTS GALLERY:** Voted “Best of Flagstaff,” this gallery offers visitors a chance to meet regional artists and purchase their work. Call 928-773-0958 or visit [www.theartistsgallery.net](http://www.theartistsgallery.net).

**3. COCONINO CENTER FOR THE ARTS:** Variety is the spice of art at the 4,000-square-foot Coconino Center for the Arts, where rotating exhibits feature the work of regional artists. Call 928-779-2300 or visit [www.culturalpartners.org](http://www.culturalpartners.org).

**4. THE MUSEUM SHOP:** Specializing in Native American art, the Museum of Northern Arizona’s museum shop is a collector’s dream. Call 928-774-5213 or visit [www.musnaz.org](http://www.musnaz.org).

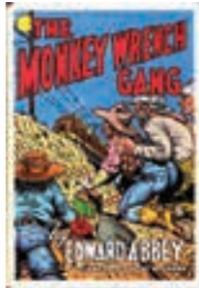
**5. WEST OF THE MOON GALLERY:** This funky gallery has grown significantly from 15 artists in 2000 to approximately 50 today. It features plenty of quirky local and regional art. Call 928-774-0465 or visit [www.westofthemoongallery.com](http://www.westofthemoongallery.com).

**6. FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN GALLERY:** This private gallery features the stunning glasswork of former jeweler and metal craftsman George Averbeck, who is an instructor at Coconino Community College. His work can also be found at the Arizona Handmade Gallery. Call 928-779-3790 or visit [www.azhandmade.com](http://www.azhandmade.com).

DID YOU KNOW?

## NOVEL IDEAS

Flagstaff has been featured in several novels, including Edward Abbey’s *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, Arthur C. Clarke’s *3001: The Final Odyssey* and Stephen King’s *Firestarter*. Italian novelist Giorgio Faletti set his 2006 novel, *Fuori da un Evidente Destino*, in Flagstaff, as well.



DAVE EDWARDS

West of the Moon Gallery



## July 2009

Flagstaff residents rejoice because their town is featured on the cover of *Arizona Highways* magazine.

FRANK ZULLO



## 1987

City officials draft the “Growth Management Guide 2000” and construct a new city hall, library and administrative building.

## 2001

Flagstaff is recognized as the world’s first “International Dark-Sky Community” for its commitment to the avoidance of light pollution.

## 1990s

Downtown Flagstaff gets a facelift, complete with repaved sidewalks, new restaurants and shops.

## WHAT TO DO IN FLAGSTAFF

### CATCH A FLICK

Although Flagstaff continues to grow, it retains its small-town charm with events like Movies on the Square. Each weekend throughout the summer, the Flagstaff Downtown Business Alliance presents a family-friendly movie at Heritage Square, and, often, live entertainment precedes it. Best of all, the event is free, thanks to sponsorship by local businesses.

Call 877-668-4319 or visit [www.flagdba.com](http://www.flagdba.com).

### GIDDYUP

Hikers and cyclists are flocking to the Arizona Trail, as are equestrians who hope to take advantage of nearly 800 miles of linked primitive and newly constructed trails. Currently, 43 passages comprise the trail, and they range in length from 11 to 35 miles. By the time the trail is complete, supporters hope it will become “one of the premier long-distance trails in the country.” Until then, visitors to Flagstaff can guide their horses along portions of Walnut Canyon and throughout the area’s gorgeous mixed-conifer forests.

Call 602-252-4794 or visit [www.aztrail.org](http://www.aztrail.org).

### SHOP AROUND

After a long day of hiking, biking or riding, a little retail therapy goes a long way — especially at Aspen Place at the Sawmill, where shops, restaurants and entertainment venues are surrounded by Flagstaff’s famed aspen trees. Anchored by a New Frontiers natural foods market, the center also features such shops as Chico’s and Coldwater Creek, and restaurants like Pita Jungle and Wildflower Bread Co. But Aspen Place isn’t your standard, cookie-cutter mall. Its open-air atmosphere highlights Flagstaff’s best attributes: clean, cool air and breathtaking views.

Aspen Place at the Sawmill is located at 825 E. Butler Avenue. Visit [www.aspenplace.com](http://www.aspenplace.com).

### BLOOM

More than 2,500 species of wildflowers bloom at the Arboretum at Flagstaff. And while that’s impressive, there have also been sightings of 100 different bird species, including plenty of sparrows, warblers, mockingbirds and even a white-breasted nuthatch or two. The arboretum also offers a slew of educational programs, like daily wildflower and bird walks, birds of prey demonstrations, a “full moon” bat program and a bug zoo.

The Arboretum at Flagstaff is located at 4001 S. Woody Mountain Road. Call 928-774-1442 or visit [www.thearb.org](http://www.thearb.org).



JIM MARSHALL

### WHEEL AROUND

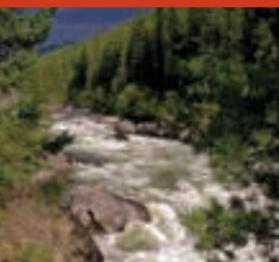
In addition to being a launch pad for trips to nearby Sedona, Flagstaff is home to 33 miles of urban trails. Whether you’re a take-me-to-the-scenery cruiser or a rugged bring-on-the-bumps (and potential bruises) type, Flagstaff is a great place to explore atop two wheels. Prefer to BMX your way to bliss? Flagstaff is also home to The Basin BMX facility. Open from 9 a.m. to dusk, the park features side and central rails, an over-vertical wall, two straight walls and a wraparound wall for teenagers to test their riding chops.

The Basin is located at 1700 E. Sixth Avenue in the Sunnyside neighborhood. Visit [www.flagstaffaz.gov](http://www.flagstaffaz.gov).

### GET VERTICAL

Climb every mountain. That’s what Julie Andrews would do. But if you’re not quite ready to conquer Everest, you can start training for the quest at Vertical Relief Climbing Center. With more than 6,500 square feet of varied climbing terrain, the center has something for every type of climber, and a wide selection of climbing gear — from helmets to carabiners. While there’s no guarantee that Vertical Relief’s friendly staff of expert instructors will turn you into a Sherpa-ready explorer, they might come close.

Vertical Relief is located at 205 S. San Francisco Street. Call 928-556-9909 or visit [www.verticalrelief.com](http://www.verticalrelief.com).



DID YOU KNOW?

### GLOBAL SISTERS

Flagstaff has four sister cities: Barnaul, Russia (pictured); City of Blue Mountains, Australia; Hsin Tsiens, Taiwan; and Manzanillo, Mexico.

From just about anywhere in Arizona, a trip to Flagstaff means a gain in elevation, and with that come cooler temperatures, verdant meadows, evergreen forests, spectacular wildflowers and, of course, mountain vistas. In this month's portfolio, you'll see all of those things, and by the time you get to the last page, you'll know why this neck of the woods is considered the high point of the state.

# IT'S ALL UPHILL

» BY ROBERT McDONALD



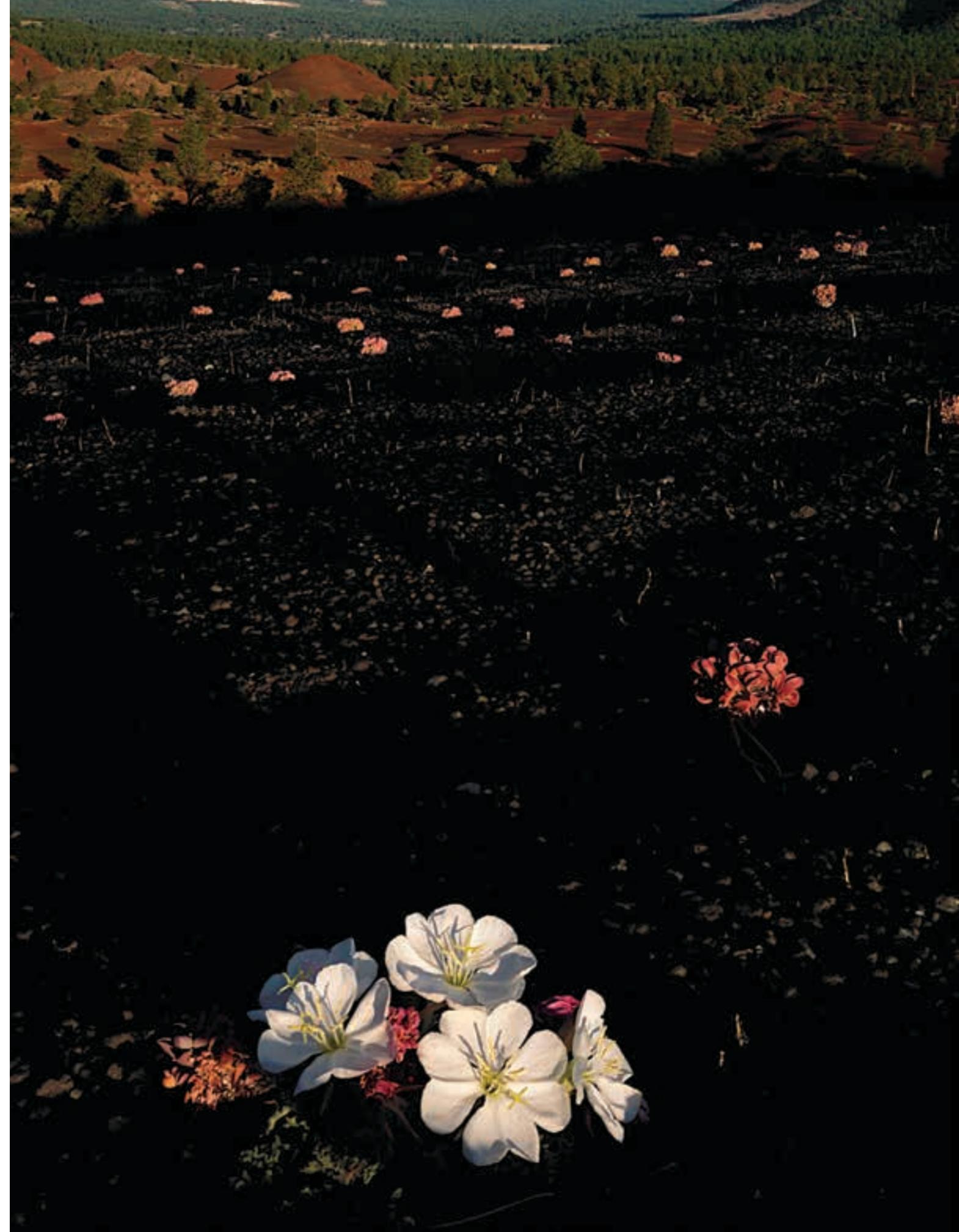
THE SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS (PRECEDING PANEL) DOMINATE FLAGSTAFF'S LANDSCAPE FROM EVERY DIRECTION. THE SNOW-CAPPED PEAKS OFFER A STARK CONTRAST TO THE VERDANT HUE OF SUMMER.

THICK CLOUDS (THIS PAGE) OBSCURE THE VIEW FROM THE TOP OF MOUNT ELDEN.



SUNRISE ILLUMINATES WUKOKI RUIN (ABOVE), PART OF THE ANCIENT PUEBLO AT WUPATKI NATIONAL MONUMENT, NORTH OF FLAGSTAFF.

AN EVENING PRIMROSE (OPPOSITE PAGE) ADDS A DELICATE TOUCH TO THE CINDER-COVERED TERRAIN OF SUNSET CRATER VOLCANO NATIONAL MONUMENT.





THE SERENE WATER OF BISMARCK LAKE REFLECTS  
SNOW FIELDS NESTLED IN THE RIDGES OF THE  
SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS IN MID-JUNE.



A MOUNTAIN STREAM PROVIDES THE PERFECT HABITAT FOR PARRY'S PRIMROSES (OPPOSITE PAGE) IN THE SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS' INNER BASIN.

A LUSH FIELD OF GOLDEN PRAIRIE SUNFLOWERS (ABOVE) PLAYS THE PART OF A POT OF GOLD AT FLAGSTAFF'S BONITO PARK. ■



# A CHANGE OF HART

CHANGE, IT'S BEEN SAID, IS GOOD. IN THE CASE OF HART PRAIRIE PRESERVE NEAR FLAGSTAFF, CHANGE IS A MATTER OF SURVIVAL. THAT'S WHY THE NATURE CONSERVANCY SPONSORS VOLUNTEER WEEKENDS WHERE PARTICIPANTS WORK TO RECREATE THE OLD-GROWTH FOREST THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE AREA WAS LOGGED. IT'S NOT ABOUT TREE-HUGGING, THOUGH. IT'S ABOUT PREVENTING FOREST FIRES AND RESTORING THE NATURAL HABITAT.

Jennifer Williams splits logs during a volunteer work weekend at Hart Prairie sponsored by The Nature Conservancy.

BY LISA SCHNEBLY HEIDINGER  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER SCHWEPKER



Once you've been to **Hart Prairie Preserve**, returning is like going back to **summer camp**. Climbing out of the car to open the long metal gate across the road leading to the property on **Friday** afternoon felt familiar; seeing Fern Mountain started the **eager-kid** feeling of being almost there. Perhaps the best part of Hart Prairie Preserve is that, unlike at a real **summer camp**, anyone can be an alum. All we need to do is sign up and pay \$25 for a weekend's worth of meals.

This smaller gem in The Nature Conservancy crown is 245 acres of comparatively well-kept secret, dotted with aspens and ponderosa pines and nestled on the side of the San Francisco Peaks. Formerly the Fern Mountain Ranch, Hart Prairie Preserve is home to the world's largest known grove of environmentally significant Bebb willow trees. Seven buildings on the National Register of Historic Places include the Homestead, where Teddy Roosevelt, en route to the Grand Canyon, is said to have paid the ranch owner's wife a silver dollar for a glass of buttermilk.

My father, Larry, pulls up to our cabin for us to unload before parking in the corral, knowing the car will feel unfamiliar when we next get in it on Sunday afternoon after two days of walking everywhere. There's a lot to carry — backpacks to hold gloves, gear and water bottles, duffels with work boots and clothes to layer as temperatures rise and fall. We take sleeping bags to put on top of the beds, to save both water and labor by leaving clean sheets when we depart. My dad puts the six-pack he brought on the porch, where it will stay cold, here at 8,500 feet.

**S**trolling down to historic Mariposa Lodge for dinner includes a pleasant anticipation similar to the first evening on a river trip or sea cruise. *Who are the fellow passengers? Whom will I get to know best, work with, be surprised to learn about?* We pause on the veranda and stare at the nearby San Francisco Peaks, with an aspen grove spreading near the base. A half-circle of Adirondack chairs invites a longer look. This time we resist the call, choosing to go inside for beverages and introductions.

Deanna De Cou is already moving swiftly and quietly in the kitchen. Her 4-year-old son, Shea, makes up for her serene demeanor by rocketing through the rooms, eager to ring the dinner bell. Husband and father, Mike De Cou, helps with tonight's fare of chili — both vegetarian and meat — corn muffins, salad and pies while we meet our fellow guests. Lyndon Lamborn has just finished writing a book about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Jan Marvin and Ray Myers live in different cities and are clearly delighted to be together this weekend; Karl Striebel travels for business but loves hunting.

Neil Chapman is the site coordinator and our host. He welcomes the group and explains the weekend. He invites newbies to mend a fence, making us feel more like ranchers than we would otherwise, and points out that the Mariposa Lodge might be on the National Register of Historic Places, but it's still two years younger than my dad.

After dinner, Neil sketches out The Nature Conservancy's role in Hart Prairie, starting with the back-story of Frank Hart homesteading in 1877, but not getting a roof on his house. Then in the 1880s, Augustus



Deanna De Cou and son, Shea (left), share a moment, while a group of volunteers (below) stacks ponderosa pine branches onto a truck after clearing an area of Hart Prairie.

**“FACING ISSUES LIKE CLIMATE CHANGE, FIRE SUPPRESSION AND NON-NATIVE SPECIES, WE HAVE TO STEWARD THE LAND.”**





Jennifer Williams walks along a forest trail, gathering seeds from such plants as fescue, sneeze-weed and brome grass.

## THERE ARE NEITHER CHEERLEADERS NOR CRITICS ON THESE WEEKENDS. IF YOU GOOF OFF, NO ONE KNOWS BUT YOU.

Dillman Freudenberger established a sheep ranch on the property. Eventually the land was sold to the Wilson family, whose descendants chose the Conservancy as the new owners of Hart Prairie Preserve.

Neil mentions scarlet gilia, a local flower that blooms red to attract hummingbirds in summer. When cooler weather sends the birds south, he explains, the blossoms turn white, to draw moths as pollinators. Then he shares his philosophy about our roles for the weekend.

“Facing issues like climate change, fire suppression and non-native species, we have to steward the land,” he says. “Very few places are left in the lower 48 that are unaltered by human activities. It used to be: Put up a fence to keep out people. That’s not enough anymore. But if you go out and buy a Mercedes, and don’t maintain it, it’ll fall apart. The same is true with land. That’s what we do. My job is to get it ready for people to go help.” To that end, each of us is encouraged to help in whatever way catches our fancy. Some love firing up a chainsaw, some prefer quieter work. Like Tom Sawyer attracting fence painters, Neil makes it easy to like the jobs offered.

**A**t around 8 o’clock, we pick our way up the path to Columbine, our assigned cabin. Each charmingly named dwelling (Deer’s Ear, Basalt, Butterfly, Bat Cave) varies slightly from its neighbors, but all have walls made of large logs; thick, soft bedding in sage green with backup blankets in bags on wooden pegs; and rustic beds, tables and chairs. Lying down, still breathing at time-and-a-half to make up for walking in thin air, we feel sheltered and safe with a whole lot of nature just on the other side of the little window next to us. An elk bugles and is answered by a holler similar to a cross between whale song and an expressive dog. Our eyes close with a vague feeling we’re doing a guest shot on *Little House on the Prairie*.

And while we have to put on boots and a jacket to go to the bathroom down the path, we get the night sky — the panoply, the pageant, of stars everywhere, scattered like glittering stitchery on an amazing dark quilt. At home, Orion is outstanding in his field; here, he’s surrounded by lesser-known friends. Every trip out includes silent upward gazing.

Morning dawns clear and cold. Our incentive to get dressed is knowing that coffee awaits in the lodge. People drift in, carrying daypacks and visiting: “Who heard the elk? Weren’t those stars some-

thing?” From oatmeal to baked french toast, the wonderful breakfast options charm the grateful eaters.

After breakfast, we gather on the porch, marveling at how rapidly the sun warms us at this altitude. Bonnie Heinz, who did a nature hike here with Neil, is back for the weekend, as are repeat volunteers Charlie Haussman and his son, Alex, from Holbrook. We all look at the peaks. During a weekend, we will see many different versions of this view — misted in pink clouds at sunset, with a double rainbow; under sun, making the growing patch of yellow aspen almost neon; a faint outline against the starry sky. Neil tells us we’ll be hauling slash and rounds. This means trees that have been felled will be sliced into sections, called rounds, which will be piled and taken to the wood lot. Slash (tree detritus) will be dragged to other piles and eventually burned. The long-term goals are to re-create the old-growth forest that existed before the area was logged, and to prevent future forest fires from burning the historic buildings by creating more of a meadow than the “dog-hair” thickets of ponderosa pines, which grow so closely that none gets very big.

Neil says some people use very scientific methods for thinning the forest, but he turns to history. “I read an early account of the old-growth ponderosa pine forest around here, and it said you could ‘bring a horse and carriage through at a trot.’ So that’s the basic way of describing the tree densities we’re aiming for,” he says. Part of Hart Prairie Preserve fits this description, and trees that were cut down as part of the thinning process are now lying on the ground, creating a fire hazard.

Perhaps because the air is thin, perspective narrows to the task at hand. It is partly Zen to be so completely focused on dismantling piles of ponderosa trash. A tall pine is broken into branches, bark, fragile curls of fragrant inner trunk, and carried away. Nothing is left but the scent and crushed duff on the forest floor.

I take more breaks than my 80-year-old father, who moves tirelessly from the dismantling to the slash piles. Maybe because he was raised in Northern Arizona and helped his father work outside as a kid, he’s steady as a metronome. He pauses to point out a little falcon.

“You can tell it’s a falcon because they fly very quickly; the wing strokes aren’t hummingbird-fast, but they look kind of herky-jerky.”

He also points out spider webs and sacs under the loose slices of bark. We marvel at how two minutes after thinking it’s getting too

hot to work, a breeze can pick up that makes us roll down our sleeves. It’s like a climate in fast motion.

We learn to work smarter, not harder. There’s a puzzle to solve: Which branch can I grasp to move a large section of tree? It’s satisfying to drag away something larger than oneself, like an ant. Finally, when I’m starting to feel like an animatron in a Disney ride — a pirate endlessly moving my tankard from left to right — it’s noon and time to break.

**A**t lunch, the rice and beans, chopped vegetables and soup become burritos, casseroles and salads. The group now includes Dominic Garcia, a local firefighter, and his son, Tristan; Jim Jackson, a friend of the De Cous; and Anne Weber, Neil’s assistant, who excels at running a chainsaw.

After lunch, we decide to try seed collecting, led by Jennifer Bassett Williams, who explains what to look for, showing us each plant — the fragile petit point of tiny dropseed plants, tousle-headed fescue, long leaning brushes of nodding brome grass and little, dried daisy-looking plants called sneezeweed. We walk behind the compound of buildings toward more old-growth forest. It’s amazing how quickly scenery changes from ponderosas and aspens to meadows filled with spruce. It’s a dreamy landscape, with the susurrus of the wind rising and falling as we walk.

Seed collecting demands a different mindset than hauling slash. “It’s a microcosm,” my dad says. “The focus is completely different.” Looking for the low plants, using a thumbnail to brush the seeds off into a paper bag is silent, patient work compared to the heft and stagger of grabbing big branches and logs and crashing through the field.

Seed collecting is the closest one can come to being a butterfly or bird, helping plants fulfill their procreative potential. Filling a bag takes time but no particular effort to wander in a grazing pattern, absorbed with the treasure hunt.

**T**he next morning, I catch a ride in the big black diesel truck to the field closest to the peaks where we will clean away the remains of a couple of large ponderosas before lunch. On the way, I ask Neil what challenges loom on the preserve’s horizon, like the heavy dark clouds gathering over the peaks. While the Bebb willows are Hart Prairie Preserve’s most famous flora, he worries more about the aspens.

Neil explains that there are different types of bark and how ponderosa bark is dead, like human hair, connected to us, but nothing more. Aspens, however, have living bark. If it’s carved too deeply or rubbed too vigorously by elk, the tree can die. Elk, an introduced species, are the 500-pound gorillas of Hart Prairie Preserve, eating young trees, trampling habitat and, according to some, in need of stricter management.

“I’d like to develop a hunting plan at Hart Prairie Preserve to help do our part to manage the elk population,” Neil says. “Aspens have survived thousands of years of climate, tent caterpillars and fire-sup-

pression. Then you add non-native elk and all of a sudden the aspen population is in jeopardy. Aspen groves are biodiversity hot spots, and as they decline, so goes the general health of the forest.”

Neil says he loves “hanging out with people who care” about taking care of the land. “Volunteers come up here and like to do different things,” he says. “Someone likes to run the tractor; someone likes to gather seeds. We move rock, fix roads, fix fence.”

We work alone, but as part of a whole, dedicated to a common good. There are neither cheerleaders nor critics on these weekends. If you goof off, no one knows but you. If you drag a preternaturally heavy branch away, no one applauds. In a society pocked with performance evaluation, it is both freeing and a little lonely. But relying more on yourself than usual is surely part of the charm.

**B**y late morning, I’m getting stumbingly tired. My brain functions minimally: *Pick up a branch; carry it to the slash pile. Drop it. Go back for another.* The only thing resembling a decision is figuring out what pieces are too small to be worth clearing up. Basically, if it’s big enough to see, it’s big enough to burn. If I die here, I think, my ghost will forever ferry ponderosa leftovers across this field, muttering, “combustible fuels, combustible fuels.” I wonder again why I come to Hart Prairie with such alacrity and eagerness. Why don’t I stay in Phoenix and clean out my garage? Part of it is the scenery, but there’s also the draw of being part of something larger than oneself — contributing to The Nature Conservancy’s stewardship. Any bit of work we do matters. Physical labor pays with different coin than anything done at a keyboard. Some primal self is satisfied with this in a way city life doesn’t offer.

A truck engine fires up; another load of slash is being driven down to the field for eventual burning. Anne is riding on top of the load, laughing in the sun, her arms brown and strong. Seeing her, I remember something Sharlot Hall, Arizona’s official Territorial historian, wrote in 1910 to a friend:

“... I’m glad, so glad, so glad that God let me be an out-door woman, and love the big things. I couldn’t be a tame house cat woman and spend big, sunny glorious days giving card parties and planning dresses ... I’m not unwomanly — don’t you dare to think so — but God meant woman to joy in His great, clean, beautiful world — and I thank Him. He lets me see some of it not through a window pane.” ■

### When You Go

**GETTING THERE:** From Flagstaff, drive north on U.S. Route 180 for 14 miles to Forest Road 151. Turn right and drive approximately 5 miles to the entrance.

**TRAVEL ADVISORY:** Nature walks are scheduled on weekends. Overnight lodging is available to those who register for a workshop or pay for meals for a volunteer weekend. Groups may reserve the entire site for retreats and events.

**INFORMATION:** 928-774-8892 or [www.nature.org/arizona](http://www.nature.org/arizona).



**FOREST ROAD 249** You won't see Sasquatch — most likely — but you could see up to 400 other species of wildlife along this scenic route in the White Mountains.

BY JO BAEZA  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER ENSENBERGER

You've got to hand it to those old-time Texas trail drivers. They knew good cattle country when they saw it. That's why, in 1882, Pete Slaughter and his brother, Mason, left West Texas and turned loose 10,000 head of Texas longhorns on an impressive range that stretched from Mount Baldy to the San Francisco River and from the San

Carlos Apache Indian Reservation to the Blue River. I'd always wondered what it was like to gather so many cattle from more than a million acres. This assignment offered an opportunity to get some perspective.

My friend's husband, Ray, volunteered to drive, and we headed east from Pinetop to State Route 261, just west of Eagar. The paved highway took

us through grassy foothills to Mexican Hay Lake, while storm clouds doled out distant showers. The air cooled as we approached the vast wet meadows around Crescent Lake and Big Lake on the east slope of Mount Baldy.

We skirted Big Lake, turned onto Forest Road 249, and passed through subalpine forests, 8,000 feet above sea level. It was only a few miles farther to Three Forks, a protected wetland that's off-limits to humans and domestic animals. Here, where three forks of the East Fork of the Black River converge, three species exist that are found nowhere else in the world: the Chiricahua leopard frog; the California floater, a freshwater clam; and

**OPPOSITE, ABOVE:** Three forks of the Black River converge to create a protected wetland named, appropriately, Three Forks.

**BELOW:** The Black River winds through the pine forests of Eastern Arizona's White Mountains.



the Three Forks springsnail, a miniscule freshwater snail.

If you take time to read the information on the kiosks, you'll learn that in 1997, the first Mexican gray wolves, an endangered species, were reintroduced into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. Although sightings are rare, campers sometimes hear the night music of wolf packs out hunting.

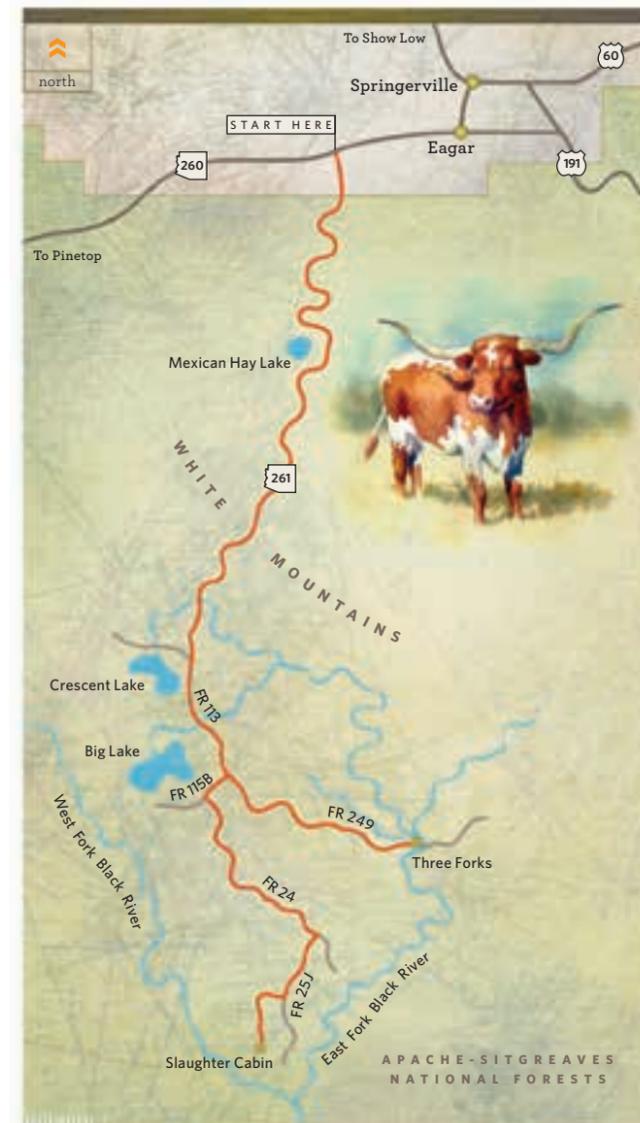
From Three Forks, we back-

tracked on FR 249 to Forest Road 115B to Forest Road 24. After 5 or 6 miles, we took the right fork onto Forest Road 25J, a narrow dirt road that penetrates thick forest. The only traffic we encountered was a mule deer bounding up a ridge, and a herd of cow elk watching us from a clearing. We turned right on an unmarked road, climbed a hill, and there it was — the prettiest ranch I'd ever seen.

Pete Slaughter's log cabin, which has been restored by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, rests at the edge of a sprawling meadow with the West Fork of the Black River running through the middle of it. It's OK to drive up to the cabin and park, but don't go inside the fenced area. Eating my lunch at Pete's place was an occasion of reverie for me. Ray poked around the place and took pictures.

I sighed and looked around as we headed back. More than 400 species of wildlife call the area home, including Rocky Mountain sheep and osprey. Thanks to the national forest system, Black River country is still remote, pure and ageless. Elk fatten on meadow grass, wild turkeys herd their wayward young, mule deer ignore "no trespassing" signs and wolves deliberate on moonlight hunts.

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



KEVIN KIRSEY

tour guide

Note: Mileages are approximate.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Pinetop-Lakeside, drive east on State Route 260 for 40 miles to State Route 261 and head south. As the road progresses, SR 261 turns into Forest Road 113 near Big Lake. Continue on FR 113 to Forest Road 249, which leads to Three Forks, about 7 miles down the road. To get to Pete Slaughter's ranch, backtrack on FR 249 and FR 113 to Forest Road 115B, turn left, and continue to Forest Road 24. Turn left onto FR 24 and go south for 5 or 6 miles to Forest Road 25J, turn right, and after about 8 miles you'll come to an unmarked two-track road on the right. Turn in and drive 1.5 miles to the cabin.

**VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Accessible to all vehicles.

**WARNING:** Back-road travel can be hazardous, so beware 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.

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





## SECRET MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Because of Facebook, Flickr, et al., there aren't many secrets anymore. This gorgeous hike is an exception.

BY KERIDWEN CORNELIUS  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LARRY LINDAHL

Unlike Victoria's Secret or the popular book *The Secret*, Secret Mountain Trail 109 really is a secret. The 27 miles of dirt roads between it and the highway help ensure it'll stay that way. If you have a quick two hours before dinnertime, this is not the hike to embark upon. It is the hike to embark upon if you have time to bump along back roads, mosey through virgin pine forest, peek into a historic cabin and take in views so majestic you expect some voice to boom, "Behold, Rivendell!"



► The trail along Secret Mountain offers a peek inside Secret Cabin (above), built by homesteaders in the 1870s, and long views of Loy Canyon (opposite).

Starting on Forest Road 231 in Flagstaff, you'll weave through forest and meadows on lanes suitable for a regular passenger vehicle, despite frequent bumpiness. Toward the end of the drive, you'll be stopped by a fallen tree in the middle of the road. But there's a clearing where you can detour a few yards

around it. It's that kind of place: It requires a spirit of adventure, and a little patience.

Fortunately, the Shangri-La-esque views at the trailhead are well worth it. Below you, ravens float in hazy sunlight that filters through a valley hidden between tree-cloaked mountains.

The pine needle-carpeted trail — marked by a square and rectangle carved into pine trees — meanders through mixed ecosystems as it gently climbs Secret Mountain. Ponderosas and firs tower over grandfatherly alligator junipers, which in turn offer shade to agaves and prickly pears. This forest has never been logged, so it isn't as dense as many others, or as vulnerable to drought and bark beetle infestations.

At .6 miles, the trail enters woodland crosshatched with numerous trees that fell in a 1994 fire. It passes through a lovely grove of manzanitas, then descends into a swale where, at 1.5 miles, you'll find Secret Cabin and a corral.

This 20-by-12-foot ruin was once home to a Mormon family evading polygamy persecution. One wonders if, after cramming multiple wives and children into one room for yet another meal of roasted Abert's squirrel, the husband wished he had just remained single.

Later, the cabin was occupied by horse thieves who led their equine booty from Sedona along the Loy Canyon Trail (which you'll have passed earlier) to this hideaway before selling them throughout Northern Arizona.

Follow the cairns to the right of the cabin to a stunning viewpoint. From here, you can either follow the trail south for .75 miles to another lookout, or if you're feeling tired, just turn around. There's no one else out here, and it can be your little secret. ■

### trail guide

**LENGTH:** 3.2 or 4.7 miles round-trip

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

**ELEVATION GAIN:** 6,400 to 6,607 feet

**DIRECTIONS:** In Flagstaff, take Forest Road 231 (also called Woody Mountain Road) south for approximately 15 miles to Forest Road 538. Turn west (right) onto FR 538 and follow it for about 12 miles to the parking area by the Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness sign.

**INFORMATION:** 928-282-4119 or [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/recreation/red\\_rock/secret-mtn-tr.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/recreation/red_rock/secret-mtn-tr.shtml)

**LEAVE NO TRACE ETHICS:**

- Plan ahead and be prepared.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- Dispose of waste properly and pack out your trash.
- Leave what you find.
- Respect wildlife and minimize impact.
- Be considerate of others.



KEVIN KIBSEY

**ONLINE** For more hikes in Arizona, visit our "Hiking Guide" at [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com).



where  
is this?

## The King of Queens

BY ROBERT STIEVE  
PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD MAACK

Yes. This is a Dairy Queen. We'll tell you that much. Obviously, it's not the first DQ, which opened in Joliet, Illinois, in 1940. This classic is in Arizona. The question is where? While you scan the horizon trying to figure it out, here are a few interesting tidbits about Dairy Queen: Banana splits first appeared on the menu in 1951, the Mister Misty slush debuted in 1961, and the Buster Bar was born in 1968. Still thinking? OK, here's a hint: Rex Allen most likely had a cone or two here. Maybe more.



**Win a collection of our most popular books!** To enter, correctly identify the location featured above and e-mail your answer to [editor@arizonahighways.com](mailto:editor@arizonahighways.com) — type "Where Is This?" in the subject line. Entries can also be sent to 2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009. Please include your name, address and phone number. One winner will be chosen in a random drawing of qualified entries. Entries must be postmarked by July 15, 2009. Only the winner will be notified. The correct answer will be posted in our September issue and online at [www.arizonahighways.com](http://www.arizonahighways.com) beginning August 15.

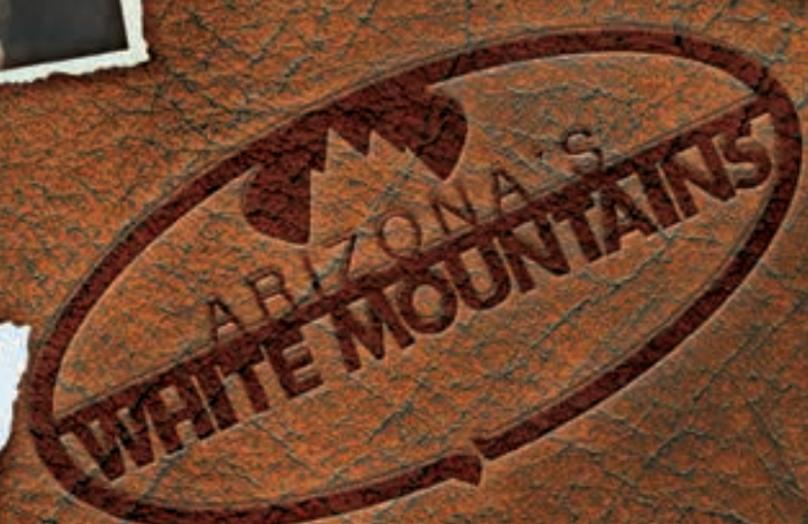


May 2009 Answer:  
Vermilion Cliffs  
National Monument.  
Congratulations to  
our winner, Barbara  
Todd of Ludington,  
Michigan.

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