

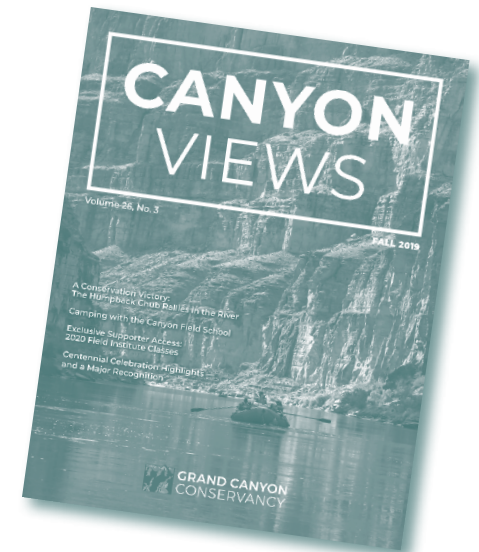


# GRAND CANYON CONSERVANCY

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Your **CANYON** VIEWS newsletter is enclosed.





# CANYON VIEWS

Volume 26, No. 3

FALL 2019

A Conservation Victory:  
The Humpback Chub Rallies in the River

Camping with the Canyon Field School

Exclusive Supporter Access:  
2020 Field Institute Classes

Centennial Celebration Highlights —  
and a Major Recognition



GRAND CANYON  
CONSERVANCY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

How You're Bringing a Species  
Back from the Brink: A Glimpse  
of the Humpback Chub 3-4

New Canyon Field School  
Campsite: 'There's Nothing Else  
Like This at Grand Canyon' 5

Brothers Justin and Joel Ireland:  
Passionate Supporters of a  
'Grand Effort' 7

Grand Canyon: 100 Years of  
Unforgettable Stories 10

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preservation, educational programs for the  
public, and the protection of wildlife and  
their natural habitat.

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FROM THE CEO

From Rim to River

Part of my job as the CEO of Grand Canyon Conservancy is explaining to others why Grand Canyon must be protected.

For you and me, the answer may be obvious: The Canyon and all that lies within its ancient stone walls — the river, the history, the artifacts, the plants and wildlife — are priceless and irreplaceable.

We know the Canyon is more than its sweeping vistas. It is everything from iconic ponderosa pines and desert bighorn sheep, to the humble humpback chub.

As David Noble, whose poem is included in this issue of *Canyon Views*, writes: “birds, mammals, reptiles, fish / give voice to the canyon’s / majestic solitude.”

And as a steward of this remarkable place, you give voice to the life within the Canyon, to the river and to the rock walls.

In your new edition of *Canyon Views*, you’ll read about how you are saving a threatened species that call the waters of the Colorado River home.

And you’ll be introduced to the new Canyon Field School campsite on the rim. It’s just one of the ways you’re showing the next generation of stewards the magic that lies within the canyon.

Thank you for acting on your love of Grand Canyon — for your concern, care, and support. I hope you enjoy the journey from the rim to the river in these pages.



*Theresa*

Theresa McMullan  
Chief Executive Officer



GRAND CANYON  
CONSERVANCY

COVER STORY

How You're Bringing a  
Species Back from the Brink

Hikers braving trails near some Colorado  
River tributaries might get a rare treat —  
a glimpse of the humpback chub

The sight of these large, silver-colored minnows in Grand Canyon wasn't always uncommon. In 1892, a prospector in the canyon wrote of humpback chub “so thick that you can lean over the water’s edge and pull them out by the tail, two at a time.”

So what happened to these native fish with their oddly shaped bodies, perfectly suited to the Colorado whitewater? And how are you helping bring them back with the aid of anglers and aircraft?

**On the Brink of Extinction**

Decades ago, the Glen Canyon Dam reduced the river’s flow, choking the fast-flowing, muddy water the humpback chub likes best. And the water that flowed out of the dam from Lake Powell was too cold to allow these fish to spawn. Finally, competition from rainbow and brown trout, both invasive species, pushed the chub to an estimated low of around 5,000 adult fish.



One of just eight species indigenous to the Colorado River in Grand Canyon, the humpback chub nearly vanished here.

Thanks to conservation efforts funded by Grand Canyon Conservancy supporters like you, these endangered fish are now burgeoning in the waters of Bright Angel and Havasu creeks. The quirky little humpback chub is thriving once again.

**A Two-Pronged Approach  
Step One: Eat Trout**

The complex, labor-intensive conservation effort begins with decreasing the humpback chub’s predator — trout. Fisheries program manager

Brian Healy says as many as 30 seasonal technicians pitch in, along with three full-time staff members.

“We try to supplement all our crews with volunteers,” Healy says. “They need to be prepared for a lot of hiking and have a willingness to get wet and to eat a lot of trout.”

“We always consult with the 11 Native American tribes that have cultural roots in Grand Canyon before undertaking any conservation action,” Healy adds.

*continued on page 4*



“They expressed concern about the taking of life — any life — so we make sure none of the trout we remove are wasted.”

That means fishery crews, park staff, and neighboring Native Americans eat a lot of trout. The Zuni and Navajo peoples will even use them to feed their ceremonial eagles. Anglers play a part, too: Healy enthusiastically encourages area fishers to “keep all the non-native fish they catch.”

The result has been an 80 to 90 percent decrease in the rainbow and brown trout concentrations at Bright Angel, with a corresponding increase in other native species.

### Step 2: Catch and Release and Release Again

While native fish expanded on their own with a decrease in trout, the endangered humpback chub needed additional assistance. So next in the process comes restoring the native species — in tributaries where temperatures are warmer than the Colorado River and there are fewer predators.

First, newly hatched humpback chub are captured from the wild in the Little Colorado River — the largest remaining population in the basin.

From there, they travel by air and then road to a hatchery in New Mexico, where they spend almost a year growing until they’re large enough to be individually tagged with unique numbers. Finally, they are driven from the hatchery to the South Rim helibase, and flown into the tributaries

Healy says it is important, and fortunate, that the fish released in the canyon are truly wild. “We would only use fish hatched in a hatchery if humpback chub were to stop reproducing in the wild, or there was some other catastrophe that resulted in large losses of wild populations.”

And catastrophe is easy when numbers are this low. A population of chub reintroduced into the Shinumo Creek was on its way to thriving. Then ash-laden flood waters from the 2014 Galahad Fire killed nearly every fish in the tributary.

Humpback chub will be reintroduced to Shinumo Creek in the future, but in the meantime, the other two tributaries are doing very well. Removal of invasive trout has caused native fish populations to rebound by greater than 400 percent. And as the relocated humpback chub grow older and larger, they move to the faster,

muddier water of the Colorado River — reclaiming their historic territory.

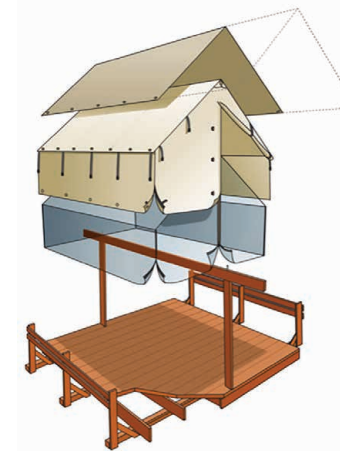
And here’s the best news: Healy’s team has documented reproduction of humpback chub in the translocated population in Havasu Creek. It’s still early, but these fish are on their way to sustaining their own numbers in the canyon!

### Widening the Net

Conservation efforts also have bolstered the presence of flannelmouth and bluehead suckers, which like the humpback chub number among the eight original species that populated the Grand Canyon river system.

Healy’s efforts are aimed at preserving the canyon’s natural history by restoring these threatened species. With his guidance and collaboration with key partner agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we are making great strides for native Grand Canyon fishes.

“Without our donors and contributions from Grand Canyon Conservancy retail sales,” Healy says, “none of this would have been possible.”



## New Canyon Field School Campsite: ‘There’s Nothing Else Like This at Grand Canyon’

After a year of hard work, the new Canyon Field School campsite opened in June, providing a unique, immersive space for groups — both kids and adults — to experience the natural and cultural wonders of Grand Canyon in a whole new way.

“It’s so great!” says Allison Amavisca, camp program manager. “There’s nothing else like this at Grand Canyon. We can immerse the kids in nature and also use the space as a tool to talk about the human history of the canyon.”

space, a raised fire pit for campfire activities, and even solar-powered flush toilets.

“We’re able to give kids an outdoor experience while still having some amenities,” Amavisca says. “That’s a good way to get them hooked, and hopefully they’ll take the next steps to becoming environmental stewards.”

The Canyon Field School is funded by grants from the APS Foundation, Teva, and many other generous donors.

On their visits, the children participated in plant-identification activities, visited archaeological sites, took night hikes and experienced the peace of the canyon — and life away from the distraction of technology.



“A lot of work has gone into this project, but it’s absolutely worth it,” says Amavisca. “It’s truly amazing!”

The site — which Amavisca describes as “primitive glamping” — features platform tents with bunks, so visitors don’t have to sleep on the ground. The site also includes a classroom tent, a dining tent with tables, outdoor classroom

The campsite hosted ten groups this year, including a teacher development weekend. Amavisca says a major goal is to welcome more at-risk and low-income youth from cities such as Phoenix and Tucson, as well as Native American youth.

If you are affiliated with a youth group or work with students, contact Allison Amavisca for more information on the Canyon Field School at [aamavisca@grandcanyon.org](mailto:aamavisca@grandcanyon.org) or (928) 863-3894.

*Photos: Courtesy of Teva and Abi LaFleur-Shaffer*

[grandcanyon.org](http://grandcanyon.org) – 5



# Be the First to Register for 2020 Field Institute Programs!

Mark your calendar for the launch of Grand Canyon Conservancy Field Institute's 2020 season on Tuesday, November 5. As a Supporter, you'll be among the first to have access to registration for world-class adventures and courses before booking opens to the public on November 12!

Since 1993, the Field Institute has been engaging park visitors in the natural, historical and cultural wonders of Grand

Canyon. By sharing the expertise of our seasoned team of geologists, biologists, archaeologists, historians, artists, and National Park Service resource specialists, we are committed to helping visitors find adventure, new knowledge, and inspiration at the canyon.

As always, 2020 will feature programs such as guided backpacking and hiking trips; photography, art, writing, and

yoga workshops; service-based trips; and natural and cultural history classes. New offerings include a hands-on cooking class focused on traditional Zuni foods, a program highlighting the connections between the Hopi people and Grand Canyon,

a service trip to assess agave plants in the inner canyon, and a yoga retreat at Marble Canyon.

Popular programs also have been expanded, including Writing Along the Rim, which will now include a class on the South Rim, and the Fiber Arts & Wool Workshop, which includes a Navajo site visit.

The Field Institute also offers training and certification courses, including a Guide Training Seminar and Wilderness First Responder Training and Recertification, as well as rim-based day tours, which include hiking and exploring in the company of a private instructor/guide.

To view Grand Canyon Conservancy Field Institute's full schedule, visit [grandcanyon.org](http://grandcanyon.org) and click on "Classes & Tours" or call (866) 471-4435.



## SUPPORTER BENEFIT

Grand Canyon Conservancy Supporters always get first access to sign up for Field Institute trips and classes. Watch your mail for the 2020 Field Institute class list and note Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at 8 a.m. MST as the moment registration opens just for GCC Supporters. Registration opens to the general public on November 12 at 8 a.m. MST. If you need to check your Supporter status, call or e-mail (928) 638-2481 or [gcconservancy@grandcanyon.org](mailto:gcconservancy@grandcanyon.org).

6 – FALL 2019

## Brothers Justin and Joel Ireland: Passionate Supporters of a 'Grand Effort'

Brothers Justin and Joel Ireland grew up in Tucson, about six hours from Grand Canyon, but didn't get their first experience of the canyon until they were teenagers.

Since then, the brothers have more than made up for lost time. They've both hiked rim to rim and have five rafting trips under their belts. Justin has also volunteered with the Wildland Fire Crew, clearing brush and trees in the park.

That eye-opening experience revealed the vast resources needed to keep the canyon well-maintained and welcoming for everyone from veteran adventurers to first-time guests.

"Until then, I had no idea of all the work that goes into making the park a safe, pleasant experience for visitors," Justin says. "I might see a ranger here or there and think that was it."

It makes sense, though, he says. "It is Grand Canyon, after all. There's got to be a grand effort behind it."

Their deep connection to the canyon has inspired Justin and Joel to become Grand Guardian Supporters, helping to preserve the park's majesty while ensuring that new initiatives have the backing to enrich the canyon experience for visitors from all over the world.

"The canyon means so much to us. We always knew we wanted to give back," Justin says.

"It's truly a natural wonder," Joel adds. "On our last river trip, we found a place where you can put your hands about a foot apart on the rocks and see a billion years of geology between them. It puts you in touch with creation in a mystical way."

As Grand Canyon Conservancy Supporters, the Ireland brothers are leaving a legacy for future generations, including their own children and extended family, many of whom are joining an "Ireland Family River Trip" next year.

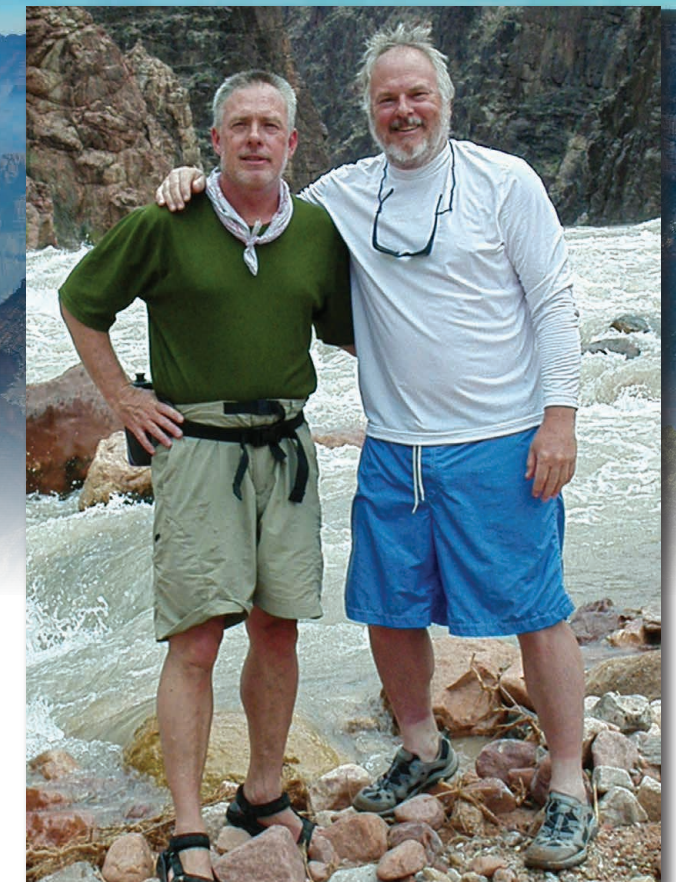


Photo courtesy of Justin Ireland (left). Joel Ireland (right).

Joel wants them to experience all the natural wonder Grand Canyon has to offer.

"The more time you spend there, the more you recognize that it's a place where religion, culture, and science come together in a magical way to inspire a person," he says.

Justin agrees that preserving the park is essential: "We have one of the greatest park systems in the world — and the Grand Canyon is the crown jewel."

To become a Grand Guardian, contact Anne Dowling at (928) 863-3883 or [adowling@grandcanyon.org](mailto:adowling@grandcanyon.org).

[grandcanyon.org](http://grandcanyon.org) – 7



As we begin wrapping up Grand Canyon's Centennial year, we are already hard at work raising funds for the most urgent projects in 2020.

*Your gift right now helps determine what we can accomplish in the park in the months ahead. And, as 2019 draws to a close, so does the window for last-minute tax deductions.*

To make giving even easier and more convenient for you, we're excited to announce a new way to support Grand Canyon: **monthly giving!** Your monthly gift provides reliable support and consistent funding to the park to advance our programs and protect this natural wonder for future generations.

### Here are just some of the benefits of monthly giving:

1. It's more sustainable. By participating in monthly giving, you reduce the amount of paper mailings we send you.
2. Your support never lapses! No more writing and mailing checks and having to keep track of your giving throughout the year. Monthly gifts are made automatically and securely.
3. Your donations will protect and enhance Grand Canyon National Park every month ... all year long!

**Did you know? You also can make a gift directly from your IRA!** The IRA charitable rollover laws allow individual taxpayers 70 ½ and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs to charitable nonprofits like GCC, avoiding additional taxable income while helping important canyon initiatives.

Start giving monthly today at [donate.grandcanyon.org](https://donate.grandcanyon.org) or call (800) 858-2808.

Please visit [grandcanyon.org/ways-to-give](https://grandcanyon.org/ways-to-give) for more information or contact us at (928) 638-2481 or [gccconservancy@grandcanyon.org](mailto:gccconservancy@grandcanyon.org)

# Holiday Gift Guide

Looking for the perfect Grand Canyon National Park gift? Visit [shop.grandcanyon.org](https://shop.grandcanyon.org), where you'll find new books, collectibles, gifts, and other ways to show support for your favorite park! Shopping at in-park stores or the GCC Online Store supports Grand Canyon National Park, and GCC Supporters receive 15% off their purchase (some exclusions apply).

### Inspiring images bring home the magic

**\$125.00** for 8"x12"; **\$175.00** for 11"x17"

Metal prints are a beautifully unique way to capture the allure of the canyon in your home or office. Each comes with a float mount hanger so there's no frame needed.



### Deck the halls with the canyon

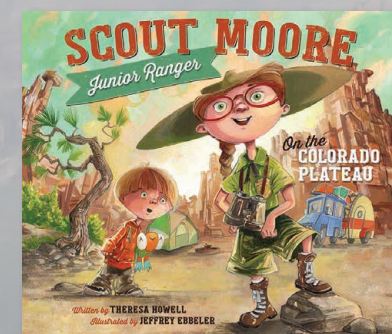
**\$19.99** each

Our holiday ornaments represent the wide variety of sights, sounds, and experiences that sparked your love for Grand Canyon. Collect them all, or use them as gifts to encourage friends and family to become supporters!

### Handmade jewelry tells one of the canyon's oldest stories

Starting at **\$21.00**

Split-twig figurines have been found in the canyon's remote caves — some dating to 4,000 years ago. This sterling-silver wire jewelry, created by Navajo artist Jimmy Jensen, replicates these fascinating artifacts.



### The perfect gift for kids

**\$15.95**

*Scout Moore, Junior Ranger: On the Colorado Plateau* takes young readers on a grand adventure to discover natural wonders such as peaks, parks, ruins, arches, and even dinosaurs! Give the little ones in your life their first taste of the canyon and the Colorado Plateau.



# Grand Canyon: 100 Years of Unforgettable Stories

In April, Grand Canyon Conservancy and The Arizona Storytellers Project hosted one of the most emotional and heartfelt events of the centennial celebration — Grand Canyon: 100 Years of Stories. Almost 200 people packed Crescent Ballroom in downtown Phoenix to hear five extraordinary true stories about Grand Canyon told by the people who lived them. These tales of adventure, conservation, community, moments, and memories in the canyon left audience members laughing, crying, and smiling!

Host Megan Finnerty, founder and director of The Arizona Storytellers Project, introduced each storyteller:



*"This canyon is special to us. This canyon is sacred to us."*

**Kyle Mitchell** — Diné, South Mountain Community College faculty member, Army Ranger veteran



*"The only way to see the canyon was to get down there."*

**Helen Ranney** — Grand Canyon Conservancy Field Institute Instructor



*"First-time travelers from Canada or New England, they get out of the van and I'm like, 'Bless your heart! Strap in; we're going to Mars!' It's an alien world to them."*

**Brian Krauss** — Park ranger for the City of Phoenix



*"Step by step by step ... on this rocky, rugged, narrow switchback trail ... 20 minutes into this I'm like, 'Did we make the right decision?'"*

**Floyd Alvin Galloway** — Journalist and internet radio show producer/host of The Alvin Galloway Show on radiophoenix.org



*"I found the music I was looking for all along, echoing off Grand Canyon's walls."*

**Elyssa Shalla** — Park ranger in the inner canyon at Grand Canyon National Park

The stories ranged from funny-yet-harrowing tales of hiking the canyon, to how the canyon inspires people to live their best lives, to the canyon's influence on a visitor's psyche. The evening was both fun and moving, and 100 percent of ticket sales benefited Grand Canyon Conservancy. Thank you to all who supported this event!

# Grand Canyon National Park Recognized as an International Dark Sky Park

After several years of work to make the South Rim dark sky compliant, Grand Canyon National Park received official International Dark Sky Park status in a ceremony at the park on June 22. The park is the largest, most complex International Dark Sky Park in the world!

The International Dark Sky Places (IDSP) Program was founded in 2001 to encourage communities, parks, and protected areas around the world to preserve and protect dark sites through

responsible lighting policies and public education. The International Dark-Sky Association designates IDSPs following a rigorous application process requiring applicants to demonstrate robust community support for dark sky protection and document designation-specific program requirements.

"Without GCC and its commitment to the dark sky initiative, it's hard to imagine the park would have received this status," said park ranger Rader Lane.



*This project was funded by the generosity of Sally and Craig Clayton, Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation, Joe Orr, The Orr Family Foundation, and many other Grand Canyon Conservancy Supporters.*



## Celebrating the Centennial: Star Party and Summerfest

The Centennial celebration reached new heights at the end of June with the week-long Star Party and Summerfest, hosted by Grand Canyon National Park and GCC.

Visitors from around the world joined in the celebration and enjoyed family activities, cultural demonstrations by tribal members, and the first-ever beer garden set up at the South Rim.

We owe special thanks to the following organizations that participated in Summerfest:

- Arizona Office of Tourism
- Arizona State Parks & Trails
- Arizona Trail Association
- Arizona Wilderness Co.
- Dark Sky Brewing Company
- Delaware North
- Desert Botanical Garden
- Flagstaff Extreme
- Flagstaff Subaru
- HawkWatch International
- Historic Brewing Company

- Lowell Observatory
- Lumberyard Brewing Co.
- Museum of Northern AZ
- Planes of Fame
- REI Flagstaff
- Sierra Club
- Xanterra

Grand Canyon Conservancy would also like to thank our Centennial sponsors for their generosity during this milestone year: APS, Bank of America, and Teva.



# solitude

incised dendritic  
watercourse etched down and back  
into the plateau  
provides a habitat for  
life's multitudinous forms

wind and water  
the bursting of the heavens  
birds, mammals, reptiles, fish  
give voice to the canyon's  
majestic solitude

the canyon beckons  
its untold stories whispered  
for only our ears  
water cascading down walls  
speaks volumes to listeners

– David Noble

## Love Song to the Canyon

*We are honored to share this tanka poem written by David Noble, a Supporter of Grand Canyon Conservancy. One of the oldest Japanese verse forms, the tanka — which translates to "short song" — was often used for romantic expression. The first two sections of the tanka examine an image, while the third turns to the writer's emotional response. As David shows, the tanka poem is a perfect way to capture the feelings the canyon inspires in visitors' hearts.*



**GRAND CANYON  
CONSERVANCY**

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To make a gift, call us at (928) 638-2481  
or visit [grandcanyon.org/ways-to-give](http://grandcanyon.org/ways-to-give).