

THE GRAND CANYON River Runner

Number Six

preserving public access to the Colorado River

Spring, 2008



PHOTO © NANCY FARRAR

In this Issue

CRMP UPDATE	1
"THE RIVER"	2
"JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO GET BACK IN THE WATER"	3
"RIVER WEED"	4
"EQUIPMENT HAUL TO PHANTOM RANCH"	6
"GRAND CANYON"	7
"GREEN"	7
POSTCARDS FROM THE CANYON	8
"THE KENNEDY HATCH TRIP"	10
"THOUGHTS ON RAFTING THE CANYON"	12
HHS HONORS PEOPLE	13
"THE JOURNEY"	13
"GRAND CANYON, RIVER AT RISK"	14
GCRRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS	16
MEMBERSHIP FORM	16
T-SHIRT ORDER INFORMATION	16



PHOTO © JOE HAHN

CRMP Update

By Jonathan Simon

Plaintiffs Appeal Court Ruling in Favor of National Park Service in Lawsuit Challenging Grand Canyon National Park's Colorado River Management Plan

On January 11, 2008, nearly a month and a half after the federal district court in Arizona wholly rejected their challenge to the new Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) issued by the National Park Service (NPS) in February 2006, the plaintiffs in that lawsuit appealed that court's ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. While the NPS and other stakeholders hoped that the court's decision would provide a basis for the agency to move forward and work with all user groups in continuing to implement the new plan, the appeal ensures that the underlying issues will remain mired in controversy before the courts for some time to come.

Background

In February 2006, the NPS issued a new CRMP that revised and updated the previous river management plan developed in 1980 and revised in 1981 and 1989. The new plan was based on a comprehensive environmental impact statement (EIS) reflecting an extensive analysis of the relevant issues, including overall visitor use levels, allocation of use between professionally-guided and outfitted (*i.e.*, commercial) and self-guided (*i.e.*, noncommercial or "private") user groups, levels of motorized use, and visitor use management options, as well as a thorough evaluation of impacts to natural and cultural resources, visitor experience

and wilderness character, and social and economic effects. Although the Grand Canyon River Runners Association (GCRRA) and other leading groups representing recreational users of the Grand Canyon's river corridor viewed the new CRMP as an outstanding accomplishment, in March 2006, River Runners for Wilderness, Rock the Earth, Wilderness Watch, and Living Rivers filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Arizona challenging the new plan. Subsequently, and over the objections of the plaintiffs, the Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association and Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association intervened in the case to represent the interests of their members (the concessioners and private boaters, respectively) and to help the NPS defend the new plan.

District Court Decision

On November 27, 2007, U.S. District Judge David Campbell entered judgment in favor of the NPS and the Intervenor, GCROA and GCPBA, and against the plaintiffs, holding that the plaintiffs failed to establish that the NPS acted arbitrarily and capriciously when it adopted the 2006 CRMP and rejecting all of the plaintiffs claims against the new plan.

The court held that the plaintiffs failed to show that NPS's decision to continue to allow the use of motorized watercraft, helicopter passenger exchanges, and generators through the plan violates some "duty" of the NPS to preserve the "wilderness character" of the river corridor. Much of the plaintiffs' argument that the CRMP unlawfully continues to authorize motorized river trips and helicopter exchanges and improperly allocates use in favor of professionally-guided and outfitted river trips was based, in the absence of substantive statutes and regulations that support their claims, upon purported violations of the NPS's 2001 Management Policies. Significantly, the court agreed with the NPS and GCROA that it could not, as the plaintiffs urged, set aside the new CRMP simply based upon the plaintiffs' allegations that the plan failed to comply with portions of the NPS's

2001 Management Policies, in the absence of a violation of some statute or regulation. But the court also held that, even if the Management Policies were to create independent legally-binding obligations, they would not require NPS to immediately discontinue the authorized use of motorized rafts on the river. "Seasonal uses of motors on the river," the court noted, "do not preclude wilderness designation."

The court also rejected the plaintiffs' attempts to argue that the CRMP was flawed because it was inconsistent with 1970s-era statements regarding plans to phase out the use of motorized rafts. As the court stated, "The question posed by this lawsuit ... is not whether the 2006 CRMP differs from past Park Service decisions, but whether it is arbitrary and capricious in light of facts in the administrative record and the reasoning of the FEIS."

Next, the court ruled that the CRMP complies with the requirements of federal law governing the granting of visitor service concessions in the National Park System, rejecting the plaintiffs' claim that NPS unlawfully failed to determine that the types and level of motorized use authorized by the plan are "necessary and appropriate for the public use and enjoyment" of the Park and "consistent to the highest practicable degree with the preservation and conservation of the resources and values of" the Park. Rejecting the plaintiffs' attempt to rely on Wilderness Act precedent because the Grand Canyon's river corridor never has been designated by Congress as wilderness under that Act, the court explained that the concessions law does not impose strict wilderness requirements, but instead articulates a policy that calls for the NPS to balance the interests of public use and resource preservation. Explaining that the NPS's balancing of those interests is entitled to deference, the court found that the NPS "quite clearly concluded that motorized commercial services were 'necessary and appropriate for public use and enjoyment' of the Corridor" and determined "the 'type and level' of traffic on the river that was 'necessary and appropriate,' including the type and level of motorized uses." The court was also satisfied that the NPS did not act arbitrarily and capriciously when it concluded that the new plan was consistent to the highest practicable degree with preserving the resources and values of the river corridor.

Further, the court rejected the plaintiffs' claim that the plan's allocation of use between professionally-outfitted and guided boaters and self-guided boaters is

inequitable and thus limits the "free access" of members of the public to the river corridor. The court found it noteworthy that neither GCROA, which consists of commercial river users, nor GCPBA, which consists of non-commercial users, agreed with the plaintiffs, and that both organizations instead contended that the new plan's allocation of user days is reasonable. The court also found that the existence of the waiting list prior to the introduction of the new plan was not probative and that NPS reasonably decided not to complete a demand study. And the court rebuffed the plaintiffs' characterization of the allocation dispute as one between commercial companies and private citizens, properly construing the issue as one between those who can make the run without professional assistance and those who cannot.

Finally, the court ruled that the plaintiffs did not prove that the NPS failed to properly evaluate the potential environmental impacts of motorized use, explaining that plaintiffs' various arguments in support of their claim that the NPS arbitrarily and capriciously concluded that motorized use impaired the natural soundscape of the Park were "unpersuasive." The court found that the NPS specifically considered the cumulative effects of noise on the river environment, including noise from river trips, helicopters, and aircraft overflights. It also found that the plaintiffs failed to provide any factual basis for their argument that the NPS failed to use high quality information or accurate scientific analysis.

Plaintiffs' Appeal

On January 11, 2008, the Plaintiffs filed a Notice of Appeal, appealing the district court's decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Pursuant to the schedule set forth by the Ninth Circuit, the Plaintiffs are required to file their opening brief on April 28, 2008. The NPS and Intervenor are required to file their briefs on May 28, 2008. If the Plaintiffs choose to file a reply brief, which is likely, they must do so by June 11, 2008. Once briefing is complete, oral argument could occur approximately nine to twelve months later. While the court has no time limit, most cases are decided within three months to a year after the close of argument.

Jonathan Simon is an attorney with Van Ness Feldman, PC specializing in NPS concessions law, and represents GCROA in the lawsuit.



PHOTO © NANCY FARRAR

The River

The Attraction
The Destination
The Life Source
The Resource

Our Challenge
Our Fear
Our Pathway
Our Highway Home

That Tool that Carved the Canyon
That Magnificent work of Art
That Ever Changing Entity
That Wonderful Timeless Mystery

Their Livelihood
Their Friend
Their Foe
Their Home

A Drinking Source
A Bathtub
A Urinal!
A Personal Air Conditioner

Lo, the Mighty Colorado
You have given us Two Weeks
To Learn a Bit About you
And Given us True Peace

By Steve Smith



PHOTOS © NANCY FARRAR

Just When You Thought It Was Safe To Go Back In The Water...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MARI CARLOS



PHOTO © MARI CARLOS

Just When You Thought It Was Safe To Go Back In The Water...

We got the CRMP. It looked good, and we were eager to give it a try and applauded the Park for the mountain of work that went into producing the plan. Then we got the lawsuit. Jon Simon summed it all up in the last issue of The River Runner with a great history of this plan and its aftermath. We waited for the legal decision to be handed down in Phoenix, and it was one hundred percent in favor of the National Park Service, co-intervenors the Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association and the Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association, and by extension, Grand Canyon River Runners Association. It looked like it was over. We certainly thought it should have been over. Then we got the appeal.

When you read Jon Simon's update on the CRMP, our lead article in this issue, you will probably be struck, as I was, by the chutzpah of a fringe organization that would repeatedly seek to overturn a plan that is successfully working for all of us. Even after a sound political validation of the plan and Judge Campbell's rejection of 100% of their claims, still RRFW has chosen to go back to court. Their claims are manifold and complex, but one of the cornerstone elements of their legal contravention is to remove motorized craft from the Canyon.

If that happened the outfitters would be forced to offer only oar and paddle trips. Many commercial passengers would be able to adjust and take these more leisurely trips on much smaller craft, but the reality is that most would not, and some could not. The

ensuing on-river crowding from up to 5 or 6 oar launches per day, is daunting to consider. Imagine 5 oar trips of 5 boats each launching on the same day, traveling at the same speed, vying for the same camps. This is the vision of RRFW, but we reject it. The National Park Service rejects it. GCPBA and the outfitters reject it. U.S. District Judge David Campbell rejects it. And still RRFW argues that they are right and everyone else is wrong, tying up the legal efforts and financial resources of several organizations, and prolonging the inevitable validation of this good plan. This is the very definition of 'vexatious litigation'.

On a happier note, last November we made a donation to Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association specifically to aid them in their ongoing intervention in this suit. GCRRA was recognized at this meeting as an ally and friend of GCPBA, both of which we hope to be for a very long time.

In other news, GCRRA's newsletter continues to earn accolades. The greatest measure of The River Runner's success is the ease with which we find people who want to contribute their Grand Canyon poetry, journal entries, historical and scientific articles, and wonderful photography and artwork. Our thanks go out again to all who continue to make us the best sixteen pages in the Canyon.

See you downstream.

Mari Carlos

RIVER WEED: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE WEIRD COMPLEXITY OF NONNATIVE TAMARISK INVASION IN THE SOUTHWEST

Larry Stevens (Curator of Ecology, Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff), Gibney Siemion (Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Inc., Flagstaff), and Peter Weisberg and Susan Mortenson (Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Dept, University of Nevada, Reno)

Tamarisk, or saltcedar, is a common and widely recognized arborescent shrub that originally was native to the mid-East. It has invaded moist and river shoreline habitats throughout the southwestern United States.

Widely denounced as water-consumptive, and generally dismissed as worthless habitat for wildlife, tamarisk has become the target of expensive control efforts. Here we describe the natural history and management of this non-native species in southwestern wetlands and rivers to illuminate the longer-term complexity and tradeoffs of exotic species invasions, as well as the prospects and consequences of their control.

We humans have made ecologically disastrous mistakes with our willy-nilly transplantation of invasive non-native species into our ecosystems: prickly pear and rabbits in Australia; starlings, cheatgrass, and zebra mussels in the US; and Africanized honey bees in South (and now North) America. Non-native species invasion is one of the three primary causes of the modern extinction crisis. The cost of managing exotic invasive species exceeds \$50 billion/yr in the US alone, and the long-term consequences of non-natives on our ecosystems are dire but largely unknown.

Why not just go ahead and mix all the species on earth together, some ask? The last time that happened was when the Pangaea began to break up at the end of the Permian Period. Whether because species forced into co-occurrence on the supercontinent resulted in extreme competition, or because all species were equally exposed to the effects of a large meteorite impact and resulting catastrophic volcanic activity, life on earth just barely survived the largest extinction event ever: more than 90 percent of the families of animals on earth

disappeared. Therefore, such egalitarian mixing of species is not such a great idea.

Nonetheless, non-native species invasions happen naturally. A species, such as the Cattle Egret, may blow over from Africa in a storm, and become established in the New World. Such new arrivals most often immediately die out, but if they do survive they are subject to ecological naturalization. After hundreds of generations and adaptation, the newcomer species gradually adjusts into some ecosystems in its new home. This ecological naturalization process typically requires centuries or millennia. However, humans transport hundreds of novel terrestrial and aquatic species around the globe each year, a pace of introductions that far outstrips the gradual process of ecological naturalization. In the case of tamarisk, now in the New World for nearly 200 years, we can begin to see some of the long-term consequences, costs, and impacts of such an invasion.

Besides tumbleweed, tamarisk was one of the first species to be widely recognized as a troublesome invader in the Southwest. Originally brought into the US by horticulturalists as an ornamental and for riverbank stabilization in the 1850's, tamarisk escaped and quickly colonized the Colorado, Rio Grande, and other river basins below 8,000 feet elevation. By the 1950's it occupied more than a million acres in the US (about the area of Grand Canyon National Park), mostly in narrow strips along rivers and in vast monocultural stands on reservoir deltas. But teasing apart fact from fiction in understanding the natural history of this species in the United

States, the ramifications of its invasion, and methods and implications of its control, has proven remarkably difficult.

Tamaricaceae, the plant family to which tamarisk belongs, is native to the Old World from Spain to China. Taxonomically, the deciduous, 5-petaled, highly branched plant we are discussing here is a hybrid form of at least two of the 54 *Tamarix* species, one from China and the other from the Middle East. The other common member of the genus here is called athel (*Tamarix aphylla*), and is a large, evergreen tree commonly used as a shade tree or wind barrier in the low deserts of the Southwest. It has not often turned invasive here yet, but that situation has changed recently on Lake Mead.

Tamarisk might be the perfect weed. A deeply rooted phreatophyte (a long-rooted plant that absorbs its water from the water table or the soil above it), it can tap both deep and shallow water tables. Individuals may live for a century, and a large plant can produce more than 100 million



TAMARISK CONTROL IN GRAND CANYON TRIBUTARIES BY THE GRAND CANYON WILDLANDS COUNCIL AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. PHOTO COURTESY OF GCWC AND NPS.

States, the ramifications of its invasion, and methods and implications of its control, has proven remarkably difficult. tiny, short-lived, wind and water dispersed seeds each year. At low elevations in Arizona, tamarisk seeds are released throughout the year, but flowering is restricted to summertime at upper elevations. Most tamarisk seed release in Grand Canyon occurs between late April and early June. Its great success in the Colorado River corridor is largely because natural, pre-dam floods occurred in early June, when tamarisk seeds are most abundant.

Tamarisk seeds germinate in less than 24 hours on any moist, unshaded surface, most conspicuously on silty sand bars along the shores



TAMARISK SEEDLINGS ON A GRAND CANYON SANDBAR. PHOTO COURTESY OF L.E. STEVENS

of rivers and reservoir deltas, such as upper Lake Mead and Lake Powell. In such settings, tamarisk seedling beds may contain more than 10,000 seeds/yard² and resemble green lawns. Tamarisk also occasionally colonizes cracks in boulders and bedrock, and being a halophyte (a salt-loving plant), it germinates in alkali flats throughout the intermountain West and even salt seeps, such as the Hopi Salt Mines in Grand Canyon. However, tamarisk seedlings require open habitats for germination, and although seedlings are remarkably plastic in growth in different nutrient and soil texture settings, they fare poorly in competition with willows and other riverside plants. Thus, tamarisk is an excellent colonizer but a poor competitor; it is a species that takes advantage of environmental disturbances, such as springtime flooding.

It's not just that humans learn from blunders, we seem to only learn from our mistakes. A small but quasi-naturally timed flood in late May 2000 resulted in the biggest tamarisk germination event since 1983, and the tamarisk stands resulting from that poorly-conceived flood may have effectively narrowed the channel of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. Armed with improved knowledge on tamarisk reproductive biology, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Inc. (GCWC), a conservation organization in Flagstaff, Arizona, has worked through the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group to conduct planned floods in Grand Canyon during March and early April, well before the primary period of tamarisk seed release there. Consequently, the 2008 planned flood was appropriately timed.

Unexpected trade-offs have emerged with tamarisk as its ecological naturalization proceeds. Originally, tamarisk colonized empty spaces not occupied by other species, thus the direct impact of the plant has been to increase the amount of riverside habitat in the Southwest. Such riparian habitats are remarkably rich in insect and vertebrate species, and many bird species have moved into tamarisk stands, including our only endangered riparian songbird species: the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Although prior to 1920's this species nested in native streamside habitats, this flycatcher now nests preferentially in tamarisk at elevations below about 4,000 feet.

Apparently, the combination of the plant's dense outer foliage and interior open space meets the flycatcher's criteria as acceptable habitat. Not only willow flycatchers, but also Lucy's Warblers and nearly 20 other Neotropical migrant bird species in the Southwest now commonly breed in tamarisk, and many feed on the tamarisk manna leafhopper and other insects and spiders the plant supports. Thus, tamarisk habitat is at least better than nothing for birds, and may actually be superior to native habitat for some bird species.

As a result of the endangered willow flycatcher's reliance on this plant, tamarisk is managed as critical habitat by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, making it difficult to conduct habitat restoration or even research on the plant on federal lands, like Grand Canyon National Park. Nonetheless, GCWC worked closely with the National Park Service to restore 10 acres of land at Lee's Ferry to native cottonwood and willow habitat, and also to mechanically eliminate tamarisk from 65 tributaries in Grand Canyon. That project was completed in 2005, and the NPS has followed up that project



SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*EMPIDONAX TRAILII EXTIMUS*). PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE.

by continuing to remove tamarisk from most tributaries in the Park. GCWC and the University of Nevada at Reno also have nearly concluded a tamarisk ecology and tree ring research project in Grand Canyon to better understand the history of invasion there.

In its natural habitat, tamarisk is preyed upon by more than 250 insect and mite species, as well as being devoured by many livestock species. Here in the United States, it is consumed by very few species. Its most common herbivores are non-native: a manna leaf hopper and two scale insects. The leafhopper sucks sap from the plant and excretes honeydew onto the leaves and foliage beneath the plant. This sugary coating is called manna in the Bible; however, manna is not derived directly from the Creator, but rather through the excretions of leafhoppers. In addition to its non-native herbivores in the US, a few native insects have begun to feed on tamarisk, including the big green Shoshone locust grasshopper and a couple of mirid plant bugs; and other native predators feed on the leafhopper and the scale insects.

Recent research by Gibney Siemion of Northern Arizona University and GCWC suggests that when manna falls to the ground under tamarisk, it waterproofs the soil surface and kills would-be colonist seedlings that might otherwise compete with the mature plants. Also manna appears to feed a fungus that densely colonizes the ground beneath tamarisk canopies, and the fungus attacks and kills seedlings of all

species, particularly tamarisk. These complex interactions may help tamarisk maintain its dense, monocultural stand structure, and thus its permanence along our rivers.

A middle eastern tamarisk leaf beetle recently has been introduced into Texas, Nevada and Utah to control tamarisk by defoliation, at which the beetle is quite effective; however, several years of defoliation is needed to actually kill tamarisk trees. The release of the tamarisk leaf beetle has been prohibited in Arizona, but beetle release and rapid dispersal in Moab, Utah means that, likely in a matter of 5-10 years (perhaps sooner) the tamarisk stands along the Colorado River in Grand Canyon may be defoliated. Funded by the Grand Canyon Outfitters, GCWC is developing recommendations to the National Park Service regarding revegetation plans to promote replacement of defoliated tamarisk along the river with native plant species, particularly Gooding's willow trees, which are disappearing from the river corridor.

Sooner or later, the leaf beetle will force tamarisk into adaptation. Some tamarisk plants are already highly resistant to beetle feeding, and the offspring of surviving plants may well become superweeds. Furthermore, the beetle itself will undergo ecological naturalization, and eventually begin to colonize and prey upon other plant species. One can only hope that our cottonwoods and willows will be spared its appetite. Although the beetle's eventual feeding targets cannot yet be guessed, the long-term consequences of host plant shifting among such an aggressive herbivore may make the cure far worse than the affliction. Only time will tell how this biological control story will play out, but it seems wiser to undertake large changes more slowly. With time and careful thought, we often can better understand the trade-offs, uncertainties, and potential consequences of big actions such as tamarisk management.



TAMARISK IN FLOWER.

By-lines: Larry Stevens, PhD is the Curator of Ecology and Conservation at the Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff. Gibney Siemion is a Northern Arizona University Biology graduate student completing her Master's Thesis on tamarisk-leafhopper interactions. Peter Weisberg, PhD is a professor in the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Department of the University of Nevada, Reno, and Susan Mortenson is completing her PhD dissertation there on tamarisk establishment history in Grand Canyon.

EQUIPMENT HAUL TO PHANTOM RANCH

The Grand Canyon National Park Service called Western River Expeditions in the spring of 1980 asking if the company would be willing to haul some heavy equipment from Lee's Ferry to Phantom Ranch.



The Park Service was rebuilding the sewer system at Phantom that year. A contractor had been hired by the Park to do the work.

Our response was, "yes", we would like to do it.

The equipment to be hauled was a one-ton flatbed truck, a Case 580-C backhoe, a large generator mounted on a trailer, a jeep, and other equipment required by the contractor.

In planning how to secure the backhoe, jeep, and flatbed truck onto a 37' long x 15' wide J-Rig raft, we contacted Waterman welding. Dean Waterman suggested that some special steel frames be made to support the weight. The frames were huge; six inches high, and 13' wide. After the frames were made, we invited Dean to participate in the haul.

In April, preparations were made for the trip departure from Lee's Ferry. Special ramps had been built to drive the backhoe, jeep, and the truck onto the J-Rigs. After loading the equipment, trucker chain binders were used to cinch them down onto each frame. The shovel portion of the backhoe was disconnected from the main body of the backhoe, and carried on a separate J-Rig. The concern was that the J-Rig loaded with the backhoe might be a little top-heavy. It was centered in the middle of the raft, and chained tightly to

the metal frame.

On the day of departure, quite a few people had gathered around to see the five J-Rigs float on down the river. Dean Waterman drove the raft with the one-ton truck, Lynn Keller drove the raft with the



backhoe, Bill Kesterke drove the raft with the jeep, Bill George drove the raft with heavy equipment, and one other man drove the fifth raft.

Comments from people who watched the departure ranged from, "how are you going to run the rapids?" to "how long will it take?" One particular comment from a visitor at Lee's Ferry comes to mind, "There is no way in hell that you are going to make it!"

Terry and Steve Gandre were brothers, who volunteered their help for the trip. They were excited to be there. It was their first river trip! Ever! At the beginning of the trip, Terry decided to ride on the J-Rig carrying the jeep. A few miles downstream

from Lee's Ferry is Navajo Bridge, the bridge that spans the canyon some 400 feet high above the river. Terry crawled into the driver's seat of the jeep as the raft floated under the bridge. He maintains he is the only man in the world to drive a jeep underneath that bridge! Not to be left out, I maintain I am the only man in the world to drive a backhoe from Lee's Ferry to Phantom Ranch! So Dean Waterman driving the raft with the one-ton flatbed truck can make his claim to fame, as can Bill Kesterke, driving the raft with the jeep!

The crews generally chose to sleep on the rafts at night. On the first night the river level came up so high during the night that the rope tie around the rock securing my raft slipped off. Sensing that there was unusual movement of the raft, I awakened and realized we were floating downstream. A quick jump to the motor box, a pull on the starter rope, and we were soon motoring back to the sand beach. Steve Gandre slept through the whole

event, and next morning said he never heard a thing!

The three-day trip to Phantom Ranch was interesting. The first rapid, Badger Creek, was of interest to all of us to learn how the rafts would handle the loads each one carried. As any boatman knows, there are ways to cheat some rapids, and there are techniques that can be used to avoid dangerous holes. This trip provided the most interesting of challenges, knowing that hitting a hole could prove disastrous.

The technique that was used to negotiate every rapid encountered all the way to Phantom Ranch was reverse running. Since the J-Rigs are motorized, the boatmen approached each rapid in



PHANTOM RANCH SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT UNDER CONSTRUCTION: OVERVIEW - SOUTH ELEVATION. EXTERIOR. JULY 1981. NPS, HODAPP. CLOSEUP OF SEPTIC TANK SHOWING FLOW OUT OF MANHOLE. CIRCA 1981. NPS PHOTO.

reverse. The motor pushing upstream simply slows down the speed of the raft, thereby reducing the momentum and impact of each wave in the rapid. The result of reverse running is that the action is now slow motion. This makes it easy to direct the raft in the direction it needs to go to minimize any impact a rapid may create.

As we proceeded down river over the three days, we observed the amazement of river runners who were camped out. Early morning campers looked, and then ran for their cameras in order to catch a picture before we went by.

Hance Rapid, as always, was our biggest challenge. However, the reverse technique worked well as the J-Rigs were able to glide by in reverse, missing the rocks and holes in that rapid.

Reverse runs ease the jolt when a raft hits a sharp wave or a hole. However a

fast running current such as is found in Sockdolager Rapid can still create a pretty good impact. Terry recalls his amazement as the force of the water buckled the tubes against the motor box. He had asked to ride on that tube before the rapid, and I suggested that it would not be a good idea. He maintains he would have probably ended up as fish food had he not changed seats.

The successful unloading at Phantom Ranch was also witnessed by quite a few hikers. No one had ever expected to see such an armada of rafts pull in with this unique load! One comment one of them made comes to mind, "I don't know how in hell you made it!"

Epilogue:

One no doubt wonders what happened to all of this equipment after the sewer system was built one year later.

The fact is Western River only contracted to carry the equipment to Phantom Ranch.

The NPS had an agreement with the contractor to remove all equipment after completion of the project.

Somewhere in the annals of NPS archives, there probably is a written record or some photos as this equipment was taken out of the canyon.

I was told that all the equipment was taken apart and flown out of the canyon by helicopter, piece by piece.

We always thought this would have been an interesting media event. We had contacts with KSL, and this haul would have been an interesting story! But the

risks of bad publicity outweighed the glamour of the event, should a backhoe or flatbed truck been dropped into the river at Hance or Sockdolager Rapids! I grimace at the thought of a new name such as Backhoe Rapid!

One can only speculate on how the J-Rigs would have fared running Horn, Crystal, Bedrock, Duebendorf, Upset, or Lava Falls with a backhoe, jeep, and one-ton flatbed truck.

Some boatmen say it could be done----others have some serious doubts!

L. Lynn Keller
Western River Expeditions

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF LYNN KELLER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Grand Canyon

You touch me
with remains of ancient mountains
and river smooth stones.

You caress me
with warm days and chill nights.

You fold me in your depths
and kiss me with your breezes.

You whisper old earth secrets
to my thirsty soul.

Though my time with you is brief,
I promise to return.

To be held
in your embrace once again.

Jan Taylor, April 26, 2003

Green

Such brilliant shades I haven't seen
The river glints with light
Of reds and golds and purest green
Of warm and cold daylight.

The desert blooms with crimson hues
Amber, blue, and violet
The colors riot and diffuse
With a scented secret.

The cliffs and slopes in profile loom
Around each turn and bend
In brilliant light or silent gloom
For miles without end.

I've never seen such shape and tone
The way I see them now
My eyes were blind, the world unknown
Until you showed me how.

Jan Taylor, April 30, 2003

POSTCARDS FROM THE CANYON



I'll never forget the look on their faces. We were parked at the bottom of the Bright Angel Trail watching them straggle down to the boats in one's and two's. Some looked quite aware of the immensity of the achievement, and sloughed off their packs with a sort of bravado, repacking everything into the dry bag provided by the outfitter. Others looked out of it, way too focused on the lack of sensation in their feet, or the throbbing of their collected joints and muscles. Those of us who were doing the whole trip, Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek, were realizing now what a good choice we had made, and quietly congratulated one another when the new arrivals weren't looking.

Over lunch we learned their names and where they were from - Georgia, New Jersey, Texas, California, even one from Arizona. They all tried to disguise their weariness, but we could tell that the arduous hike had taken quite a toll. By the time the last orange slice had been consumed the guides had finished loading all the bags. Life jackets were fitted and the new folks were told to expect a few lively rapids downstream. A safety talk, the throw rope, the paddles, all information that the rest of us knew and it made us feel like river veterans to know that the others didn't know it all.

Underway at last, and initially it was just a pleasant float between the majestic Canyon walls. All was well, the new folks were beginning to relax their weary muscles. Then suddenly, Horn Creek. I'll never forget the look on their faces, a cross between deer-in-the-headlights and Drew Barrymore meeting ET for the first time. Sheer terror, stupefaction, stunned disbelief.

We veterans, already 6 days on the river, took it all in stride. Just another rapid.

James Hyde
Georgia



The trip was August 2005. The first half was great weather but the last half it rained every day. When we camped above Stone Creek it rained 12 straight hours.

We camped at Garnet Canyon (mile 114). It had stopped raining, the sky was clear and the sun was shining. There is a gully through camp about 10 ft wide and 10 ft deep. I set my camp site 10 ft from the edge.

After dinner the sky turned black, then lightning and strong winds. As I am putting my tent up it starts to rain. This was probably the hardest rain I have ever been in. After about 30 minutes I heard someone screaming "GET OUT OF THOSE TENTS". The side of the gully had caved in and I am now just 4 ft from the edge and water is running over the top. It did not take me long to move.

Later we camped above Upset Rapid (mile 148 1/2). The weather was fair. I picked out a good spot for my camp site.

After dark a light rain began to fall. No problem -- I had spotted an overhang under a cliff. I grabbed my sleeping bag and I am out of the rain. The rain is coming down harder but I am dry so I go to sleep. The next thing I know I am soaking wet from a flood that ran under the overhang. So now I am putting a tent up in the rain.

The night before takeout we got the message that the Diamond Creek road had been closed for the last 2 days. If it was not opened by morning we would go on down the river.

We pull in to Diamond early next morning. No vehicles in sight. Radioed the office and they said the road is being graded and we will get out. We de-rigged the rafts. Another radio message: No, cannot get down the road. We re-rig the rafts and get completely loaded up to go. We are about to leave when a truck arrives. The road is clear except the last mile. Back on the radio. AZRA will meet us up the road. We hike up the road. While we are walking the sky begins to turn black and lightning flashes. When we get to the meeting place no one has arrived yet to pick us up. The decision is made to go back to the river if no one shows up in 5 minutes. We were about to leave when 2 vans arrived. We loaded up and probably set a speed record up that road. And guess what? It did not rain a drop.

Now, you might think this was a terrible trip, but it was an adventure. Everyone should see at least one flash flood, and I had two of them. Even though it was not a great trip weather wise, and if I knew my next trip would be the same, I would still be the first one on the raft.

Jake Coggin
Stockbridge, GA



June 25, Orientation. Tension is high. Our motel room is a mess. Day 1 - To THE RAFTS at Lee's Ferry. Get fitted, snugly, for my closest friend for the next 13 days, my orange life preserver. Badge on the chest says "America's Cup". On the back, some previous river runner had written her nickname, "Wait a Minute." (That turns out to be perfect for me. Prophetic.)

Day 2 - We have hiked North Canyon, a hot, dry hike that ends with a pool and amphitheatre, a beautiful spot to sit and speculate. We stop after the rapids at Redwall Cavern, a huge cave/cavern which John Wesley Powell described as being "large enough to hold 50,000 people." We spend some time there in the shade. Some play frisbee; Bonnie plays the flute soothingly way in the back of the cavern.

Day 4 - The LC is blue-green, just like Havasu. Beautiful and clear. It is a lovely spot. Candy for the eyes. Lots of photo-taking. Mari points out a Chuckwalla, a lizard hiding between two rocks, posing, or is he just enjoying the sight of close to 100 humans acting like children playing in the pools. At bedtime, Kathy tells me, "I'm glad you made me come."

Day 6 - After Pipe Creek, we hit Horn Creek Rapid (7-9) where Dave's boat, including me, Kathy, Jeanette and Charlie, pulls over to take photos of the 4 other rafts taking the rapid. After watching them successfully maneuvering through it, it is not so scary for me. Other rapids follow - Granite, Hermit, which Kathy and I remember from 1985. I said, "After watching folks do Hermit from the beach on that backpacking trip, I declared I would never want to raft the Colorado." "Me, too", she said. But here we are. Right in the middle of it!

Day 12 - The mood changes. Everyone is thinking this is really the last full day on the River.

Day 13 - I sit on a boulder looking up at the morning sun lighting up the redwall and caps of the canyon walls, and in the far distance - Diamond Peak, or at least one side of it. That's where we are headed. It will be a short run to Diamond Creek, but sadly, the end of our wonderful journey. But it need not be the end. Perhaps I have another Grand Canyon in me.

Kathryn Skinner
Memphis, Tennessee



Dear Friends,
On my September dory trip our guides lead us on a hike to the 'Tabernacle'. The word they used to describe it was 'challenging'. What an understatement! We started out walking over a rocky ridge with steep sides and you could look down on the campsite far below. We climbed 2,000 feet up, some of it gradual, other parts rather steep involving scrambling over rocks, until we reached the top where it was quite windy. Others dropped out along the way, but I made it and felt really proud of myself! It was a great day and the view of the canyon and river from the top was incredible. This was a hike I shall remember always.

Ann Hamilton
Los Angeles

The KENNEDY Hatch Trip

by Roy Webb

Many river guides can tell stories of high-profile clients, but few can match the trips that Hatch River Expeditions ran in the mid-1960s in which the passenger list included some of the biggest names in American politics, entertainment, and literature.

In 1965, Robert F. Kennedy, Senator from New York and brother of the slain president, contacted Hatch about taking his family down the Yampa River through Dinosaur National Monument. No one is sure how Bobby Kennedy selected Hatch, but at the time they were the best known outfitter on the river, and Don and his father Bus were members of the Explorers Club by virtue of their first descent of the Indus River in Pakistan in 1956. The trip was fairly low-key for the Kennedys, whose family vacations



sometimes resembled a traveling circus. The next year they came back to run the Middle Fork of the Salmon in Idaho. This time they brought along a large entourage, including a number of their ten children, and family members Sargent and Eunice Shriver and two of their children, including Maria Shriver. Other family friends included Senator John Glenn, mountain climber Jim Whittaker, the first American to scale Mt. Everest, skier Willy Schaeffler, and actress Claudine Longet. It was a wonderful trip, although Don and Ted Hatch were not used to clients who were accustomed to being waited on. As one of the boatmen on the trip, Al Holland, noted, the Hatches were not ready for luxury trips, but they adapted:

"They conceived that they'd invented river running and their dudes needed to learn to do things the Hatch way. They got

grumpy when the kids didn't wash their own dishes. Nonetheless, Don and Ted flew in extra ice and alcohol at Flying B."¹

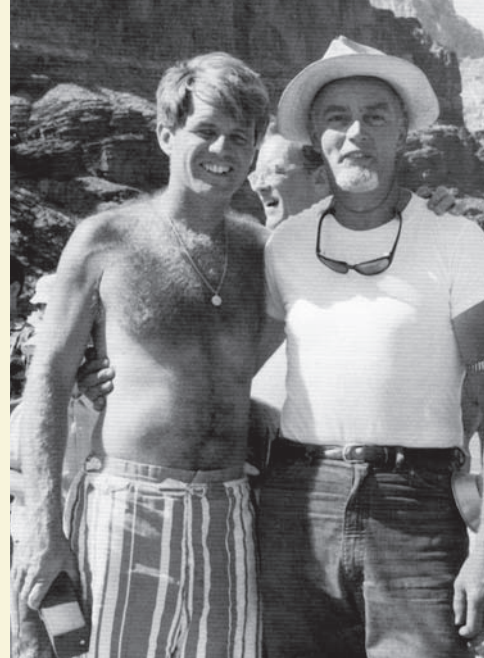
The Kennedy family trips were not about quiet contemplation of the wilderness; rather, they were marked by arduous hikes, jumping off cliffs, swimming rapids, and general rambunctiousness. Nor were they dry; they always brought along plenty of beer and Old Fitzgerald whiskey, which was the Kennedy family brand. Water fights were another favorite pastime. Ted Hatch remembered that at one point, a furious water fight broke out. John Glenn was riding with Ted and they were on the losing end of the fight.

We got in a water fight, and the Kennedys were just poundin' us. They had all the buckets, and we were in rowboats, and John said, "Get closer to 'em. I know how to fix this." I said, "John, they're whippin' our ass, we gotta get across the river, get away from 'em." "No," he said, "get over there." So



I got closer, and he dove in, swam across, got in the boat with Ethel and the Kennedy kids. He grabbed each one of 'em and threw 'em in the river. Threw 'em all out! And then I went over and picked him up, and we went back and he said, "That'll slow 'em down." "What made you think of that?" He said, "It's an old Marine tradition to charge when you don't know what to do."²

The Kennedy family had such a good time that they came back to float the Grand Canyon with Hatch in 1967³. For the Grand



Canyon trip, Robert and Ethel Kennedy once again brought along a large following, this time including Andy Williams—who brought along numerous bottles of fine French wine—mountaineer Jim Whittaker, writer George Plimpton, Willy Schaeffler, humorist Art Buchwald, and "350 Kennedy children," according to Buchwald.⁴ Actually there were 42 people in the party, not counting the boat crew, which included Don and Ted Hatch and several of their most experienced boatmen. The trip was also accompanied by a boatload of reporters, who would send their film and stories out by helicopter every day. They camped on separate beaches, but by this time Bobby Kennedy was running for the presidential nomination, so the publicity was worth the intrusion. The Kennedy family was the closest thing to American royalty, and they were treated like it. Even though this was a time of low flows in the Grand Canyon, because Lake Powell was still filling up, while they were on the river the water came up and stayed up. Every day airplanes would fly past, and it had been arranged for them to drop blocks of ice for cocktails and cold drinks. Warren Herlong, a new boatman with Hatch, remembers that one of his jobs was to swim out into the river to retrieve the blocks of ice⁵. Things almost got off to a bad start, though; as they approached Badger, the first rapid, Bobby Kennedy declared his intention of swimming through the rapid on his air mattress. Ted Hatch, appalled by the thought of losing a member of the Kennedy family on the first day, warned him not to try it, as Badger is a big rapid. Kennedy would not be told what to do, and besides, as George Plimpton noted, "Taking an icy dip before lunch was a WASP ritual...you would let out a gleeful whoop and then down a martini."⁶ Kennedy dove

in, the air mattress went one way, he went another, and he was pounded by the big waves. When they finally caught up to him, quite a way downstream, he was exhausted and beat, but the first thing he did was apologize to Ted for not taking his advice.

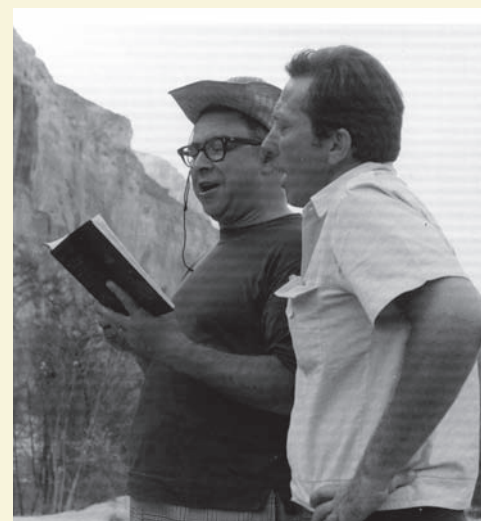
That wasn't the last rapid they swam; Art Buchwald joked about his experiences in the river with Bobby and the others:

"You really don't get to know a man until you've taken a rapid with him. The trouble is, Bobby Kennedy took a lot of rapids, and he took them on an air mattress. Ethel, mother of ten, also took the rapids out of the raft, so there was nothing left for the



rest of the party to do but leave the raft as well. The best way to take a rapid is to float feet first on your life preserver, just in case you hit a rock. But I invented a new way of doing it. If you keep your mouth open, you can swallow most of the water you're going over, which makes it half as rough."⁷

With Jim Whittaker, the first American to climb Mt. Everest, along, Kennedy's thoughts naturally turned to climbing the cliffs of the Grand Canyon. Art Buchwald described this as well:



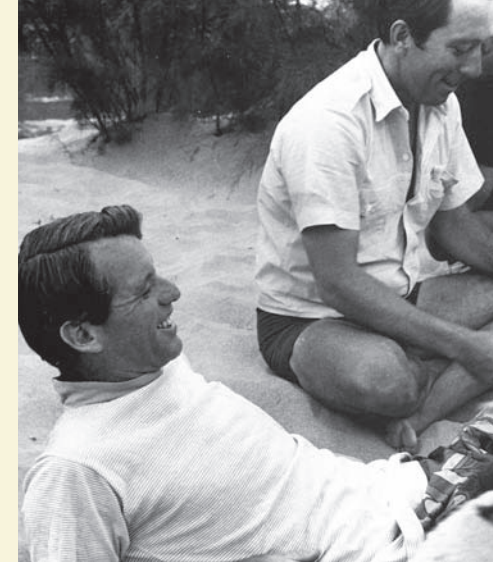
"If you're ever going down the rapids with the Kennedys, it's best to choose a river that isn't surrounded by cliffs. Every morning after breakfast Bobby would look up at a mountain and ask Mount Everest climber Jim Whittaker, 'Do you think it's tough to

climb?' If Whittaker said no, Bobby would look at another mountain. 'What about that one?' If Whittaker said 'It's impossible,' Bobby would call the party together and say 'That's the one we're going up, and pretty soon Ethel, mother of ten, the Kennedy children, and the rest of the group would be scrambling up the mountain in 110-degree heat.'⁸

The Kennedys only went to Phantom Ranch, where they planned to climb out. But by now the weather had grown unbearably hot, and Ethel, concerned about the younger children, wanted to fly them out from Phantom Ranch. Once they stopped there, she telephoned the superintendent of Grand Canyon and asked for a helicopter. She was told that there was no way a helicopter would be allowed. She made another phone call, and the next day a helicopter appeared to fly the youngest children out. The rest were left to climb out the Bright Angel trail, a seven mile hike that gains almost a mile of altitude. It was an ordeal for all but Bobby Kennedy.

On the morning of July 1, Kennedy set forth on a seven-mile climb out of the Grand Canyon. The temperature at noon was 110 degrees. Some of the entourage begged off and flew out with the younger children by helicopter instead. The march was so demanding that one of the professional guides dropped out. At one point, Whittaker, who by then was half carrying a couple of young Kennedys, asked if the group should turn back. Kennedy answered by reciting a few lines of the St. Crispin's Day speech from Shakespeare's *Henry V*. "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers," Kennedy orated. "For he today that sheds blood with me shall be my brother..." "Say the whole thing," urged his wife, Ethel. Kennedy did once, and then a second time when the group was again flagging. Plimpton was reeling like a drunk by the time they neared the end. Andy Williams, unable to go on, had to be carried on a [mule]. Considerate in his way, Kennedy stopped the [mule] near the summit to let Williams walk the last few hundred yards, and thus not lose face.⁹

Even though the Kennedys had only gone part way through the Grand Canyon, the resultant publicity was a boon not only for the Hatch business but for river outfitters in general. Ted Hatch later noted that their phone didn't stop ringing for months after the trip, and Hatch River Expeditions was once again catapulted into the national spotlight¹⁰. The Kennedy family planned another trip with Hatch the following year, on the Selway River in Idaho, but before that could take place Robert Kennedy



was assassinated in California on June 5, 1968. Ted Kennedy, the surviving brother, later came out to Utah and ran the Green with Hatch in 1969, but the days of the big Kennedy family trips ended with Bobby's death.

(Endnotes)

1 Personal communication, 15 November 2007.

2 Boatman's Quarterly Review, Summer 2003.

3 Just before the Grand Canyon trip was scheduled to leave, the Hatch family was rocked by personal tragedies. On June 14, 1967, Jesse "Shorty" Burton, a long-time Hatch boatman and friend of the family, was drowned when his boat capsized in Upset Rapid. Just four days later, on June 18, Bus Hatch, founder of Hatch River Expeditions and Don and Ted's father, died in Vernal. There was nothing to do but continue with the trip.

4 *Down The Seine And Up The Potomac*, by Art Buchwald. NY: G.P. Putnam's sons, 1977. p. 289-291

5 Warren Herlong, personal communication, 19 December 2007.

6 *American Journey: the times of Robert Kennedy*. Interviews by Jean Stein. Edited by George Plimpton. Hartcourt Brace Jovanovich, NY., 1970.

7 *Down The Seine And Up The Potomac*, by Art Buchwald. NY: G.P. Putnam's sons, 1977. p. 289-291

8 IBID.

9 *Robert Kennedy: His Life*. By Evan Thomas. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000

10 One thing about the Kennedys that everyone noted, however, was that they did not give tips. It's not that they were cheap; they were just wealthy and powerful and were used to having people do such things for them. One family friend later said "Traveling, anywhere, just out his door, [Kennedy] was always out of cash; he never had any small change; I guess every rich man has this, but he was particularly like that." *American Journey: the times of Robert Kennedy*. P. 149

Story and photos from the upcoming revised 3rd edition of RIVERMAN, THE STORY OF BUS HATCH, by Roy Webb. Fretwater Press, 2008.

B&W PHOTOS © GEORGE T. HENRY
OTHERS : COURTESY OF J. WILLARD MARRIOT LIBRARY, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



Thoughts on Rafting the Canyon

by Susan Yim

When first approached to participate in the "Right to Risk" project, which documented a 15-day rafting journey made by 8 physically disabled individuals through the Grand Canyon, I jumped at the chance. Not because of the philosophical or political ramifications, not from a public relations angle, and certainly not out of a need to be part of an "inspiring" story. I simply saw it as an opportunity to go down the river and to feed my soul again, as those who have experienced it know, only a Grand Canyon trip can do. The facts that my fellow rafters were also disabled and that the entire expedition would be recorded on film did not enter into my decision whether or not to become involved. In fact, to be honest, I decided to go DESPITE these things. I felt that the documentary's aim was to show some "brave, pioneering", "Jerry's Kids"-types, and really did not want to be associated with such a portrayal. I, also, didn't relish my intensely personal communion with the Canyon being interrupted by cameras.

But a river trip's a river trip- no matter the circumstances- and there's nothing like it.....I signed on in a minute!

This would be my 3rd river trip through the Grand Canyon. I first discovered whitewater rafting trips, offered by the "River of Dreams" organization in Arizona in 1997, through a small ad in *Sports & Spokes* magazine- a publication about sports and recreational opportunities for the disabled. The ad boasted that they could accommodate ANY disability....."Haha", I thought!, "They probably mean like a slight limp or a little deaf". I am quadraplegic and unable to speak- the result of a stroke in 1981. But I applied for a 16-day trip down the Colorado River anyway, and was astonished to be ACCEPTED! A friend came along as my personal care attendant.

I've been totally hooked on the Grand Canyon ever since that first trip, and go to that part of the country from my home in Baltimore whenever I get the chance. The view from above- on the rim- reveals a spectacular panorama, the majesty and

sheer magnitude of the Canyon ("Grand" indeed!). The experience from below- on the river- is more personal and, in my opinion, more moving. There's a lot of time to think and reflect, surrounded by huge stone walls, with only the sounds of the oars kissing the water around your raft and the songs of canyon wrens. And camping on the sandy banks each night- sleeping under a canopy of more stars than you ever thought could exist.

Anyway, I digress.....

Back to the "Right to Risk" trip- Turned out to be a lot of fun (what river trip isn't?)- plus, my fellow rafters were some incredible and (yes, I have to use this word) inspiring people. 7 other disabled folks with impairments including blindness, paraplegia, spina bifida, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis. Each of us was on this trip for a different reason; each at a different place on the continuum of adjusting to life with a disability. The Canyon (the entire experience, actually) worked its usual magic, though- leveling the disabled and the able-bodied and making families out of strangers. Along the way, I watched people becoming more accepting of their DISABILITIES, more aware of their ABILITIES, and just happier, more secure, and more optimistic about their futures.

I've been on several other trips since..... not only to the Grand Canyon but, also, on cruises, trains, buses, planes.....

But taking that first rafting trip proved to me the capability, and indeed the RIGHT, of the disabled population to be a full participant in life.

How important it is to keep these Grand Canyon river trips available and accessible to EVERYONE, so that all may experience this same epiphany- the realization that doing everything the world has to offer reasserts your place in humanity.

By refusing to accept society's expectations of what a disabled person SHOULD be, and its limitations on what a disabled person is capable of, I've been able to create a satisfying and full life for myself.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATHLEEN JO RYAN

HHS Honors People Making a Difference in the Lives of Persons With Disabilities

On October 25, 2007, in Washington D.C., the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services presented the Secretary's Highest Recognition Award to four individuals in celebration of National Disability Awareness Month.

The honorees included documentary filmmakers **John and Kathleen Ryan**, the brother and sister team, who created the inspiring and motivating film, "Right to Risk," a documentary that accompanies eight individuals with significant physical disabilities on a 15-day, 225-mile whitewater raft trip down the Colorado River through Grand Canyon. "Right to Risk" is about every individual's right to choose what they are willing to do and risk in pursuit of their dreams.

At the ceremony, Acting Surgeon General Rear Adm. Steven Galson told the audience, "Today's award recipients are changing the perception and improving our understanding of persons with disabilities. I am honored to be a part of today's ceremony to recognize these truly great leaders who are working to improve the lives of people living with disabilities."



DEE RUNNING LAVA @ CATHARINE COOPER

The Journey

They Came Together on September 15
Full of Wonder and Awe
What Great Unknown Awaited
Down the mighty Colorado

Chuck, our fearless Leader
Each day he would explain
Our daily river schedule
The wonders yet to gain

They Came from far and Wide
From Switzerland, London and D.C.
Each with their Own Agenda
Whatever that may be

The hikes became a highlight
Each day brought something new
The daily death march taught us
Just how much we could DO

We suited up and headed off
From Lee's Ferry to Points West
Late Instructions Still in Mind
We All Hoped for the Best

The meals they were a wonder
With Allen and the Team
How'n the Hell they'd keep it cold?
We wondered in our dreams

One -half day on river
Then into camp we sailed
Instruction on the Toilets
Then bedtime soon prevailed

The rapids were exciting
That's Really Why we came
Every One a Challenge
Everyone They Tamed!

The first Day's Morning Ritual....
Eggs and Bacon it Was
Then into the boats and onward
We gave it not a pause

It all came down to Lava
The big Kahuna, you see
Each boatsman after another
Nailed it, one, two, three.

The days they drifted onward
We found our own routines
Each One Helping Out Some
We Bonded As a Team

And So, we wind it up now
Sixteen Days in All
We've Learned a lot, we've grown so much
We wish the clocks would stall

Each day a new Adventure
The Canyon to explore
The more we saw, the more we yearned
We longed to see yet more

So to the gang, we give our best
We wish you happy trails
To Mike and all the team
May Your Luck Never Fail

By Steven Smith



Grand Canyon Adventure, River at Risk

An IMAX® film by MacGillivray Freeman Films

Reviewed by Catharine Cooper

As river runners, we know why we head to the canyon: for adventure, excitement, an adrenalin rush, and a chance to experience natural untouched beauty untouched by man. We are drawn by the opportunity to raft and hike in wild lands, and are rewarded with unexpected personal discoveries and the development of new friendships.

Because the canyon beckons us like a distant star, we come. And if we are lucky, we will journey through her heartland once again.

"The main thing I hope the film accomplishes," says MacGillivray, "is to get people to look at water as gold."

To tell this particular story, MacGillivray brought together writers Steve Judson and Jack Stephens. The three decided, that instead of filming piecemeal across the globe, they would focus on one of the most important rivers – and close to the hearts of many Americans – the Colorado.

"One of the things that was so wonderful about working on this project," co-writer Stephens says, "was getting the chance to meet people like Bobby Kennedy, who really understands the history of water rights and what's at stake for humanity."

Kennedy was named one of Time Magazine's "Heroes for the Planet," for his success helping Riverkeeper lead the fight to restore the Hudson River. He viewed MacGillivray's project as, "an opportunity to run some of the best whitewater in the world, and at the same time, tell the story of what's happening in the struggle over water management across the entire globe."

In the film, Kennedy makes reference to his first trip down the Grand Canyon with his father, Robert F. Kennedy,

"The river is sick and dying," says Davis during the film, as the camera exposes the depleted reservoirs of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Clips illustrate the growing power and water demands of hungry southwestern cities, such as Las Vegas, and are juxtaposed against images of poor agricultural practices. The Colorado River begins her journey in headwaters high in the Rockies, yet rarely reaches her destination at the Sea of Cortez.

Even with its core water message, *Grand Canyon Adventure, River at Risk*, does not short change the thrill-seeking movie-goer. Incredible 3D IMAX® cinematography brings the river and her wild rapids off the screen and into the lives of viewers. Underwater shots of a boater upside in fast moving rapids, a kayaker dropping off the edge of Havasu Falls, and a slot canyon flash flood



GREG MACGILLIVRAY FILMS A SCENE IN THE RAPIDS © MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN FILMS



PRODUCER/DIRECTOR: GREG MACGILLIVRAY © BEN HORTON



FILMING TARA DAVIS WITH THE SOLIDO IMAX 3D CAMERA © WADE DAVIS



GREG MACGILLIVRAY WITH STEREOGRAPHY DOUG LAVENDER © MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN FILMS

Grand Canyon Adventure, River at Risk, the latest IMAX® film by award winning director and producer Greg MacGillivray, makes river runners out of everyone. In the spectacular fashion that only 70mm film (and this time, 3D) can provide, rapids spill over the tubes of rafts and into our laps. Bubbles splash out of the screen and seem to touch our cheeks. A wild run down Lava Falls holds us spellbound as the camera, mounted directly on a raft and hammered by every wave, captures each hole and rock of the muddy river's most famous rapid.

But while the film takes its viewers on a wondrous adventure, it is water – our precious natural resource – that is the heart, soul and theme of this film. Against the magnificent backdrop of the Grand Canyon and the wild cut of the Colorado River, *Grand Canyon Adventure, River at Risk*, serves as a metaphor for troubled waters across the planet.

Water conservation and protection are key components of MacGillivray's passion, and he has exercised his talent – telling stories through the powerful media of IMAX® films – to convey his message.

What MacGillivray sought, and ultimately found, were some "larger than life" river rafters to descend the canyon. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., whose name is synonymous with water conservation, and Wade Davis, an anthropologist/author/explorer, jumped at the chance to participate. Their teenage daughters, Kick Kennedy and Tara Davis, who would leave for college in the fall. This was their last opportunity, before that right of passage, to spend time with them in such an exquisite setting, and to "pass the torch" of conservation to their generation.

To the talent mix, MacGillivray added the first Native American river guide in Grand Canyon National Park, Shana Watahomigie, a Havasupai, and her daughter, Cree. In the film, Shana speaks about the ancient spirit of man in the canyon, and her hopes and dreams for its renewal and preservation.

"We had three parallel stories—the white water adventure, the ecology of the Grand Canyon and the global water crisis," writer Judson explains. "Making them all mesh was a fantastic challenge... Our job, as writers, was to set the context for those key images, and then get out of the way."

as "the beginning of my river journey." (See the "Kennedy Hatch Trip", page 10, this issue of *The River Runners*) It was 1965 and he was twelve years old.

Davis, an Explorer in Residence at the National Geographic Society, is an avid adventurer who has traveled the globe exploring indigenous cultures that have inspired documentaries, feature films, TV series and books. He has written the film's companion book, *Grand Canyon Adventure, River at Risk*, which was published in March and includes stunning photography by Chris Rainier, and a forward by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

During the filming, both Kennedy and Davis sought to replicate views of the river first captured by Jack Hiller during John Wesley Powell's 1873 exploration of the canyon. What they found was a vastly changed corridor.

"This river, because of short sighted engineering solutions," says Kennedy, "is a very different river than the river my father showed me 40 years ago. We had beaches that were vast at that time. There were many kinds of animals in this river. There were otters, muskrat, which are gone today."

will have the audience gripping their seats. While seasoned rafters might question the sequence of rapids portrayed in the crews decent through the canyon, the stunning imagery, with narration by Robert Redford, and engaging music by the Dave Matthews Band, will placate the most critical of minds.

As anyone who has traveled down the canyon knows, a journey on the Colorado is one of the most spectacular trips of a lifetime. From the wild and unpredictable rapids to the quiescent flat water floats, the river turns her travelers into soul searchers, and rewards them with the solace to discover that the deepest parts of themselves are intact and accessible.

Grand Canyon Adventure, River at Risk, brings a sense of actually being on the river to the IMAX® screen for everyone to experience. For more information on theatre locations, screening times, to view a trailer or read notes about the making of the film, log on to MacGillivray Freeman's website : <http://www.grandcanyonadventurefilm.com/>

GCRRA DIRECTORS

Mari Carlos

President

Los Angeles, CA

Pam Whitney

Vice President, Treasurer

Flagstaff, AZ

Kristen Ross

Secretary

Phoenix, AZ

B. Dwight Sherwood

Founding President

Phoenix, AZ

Catharine Cooper

Publications

Laguna Beach, CA

Linda Kahan

Olympia, WA

Robert McConnell

Washington, D.C.

JOIN GCRRA

Yes! I want to become a GCRRA member to help ensure my right to visit and enjoy a Grand Canyon river trip facilitated by a professional river outfitter licensed by the National Park Service.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Membership Options:

One-year: \$15 individual \$30 family (# family members _____)

Three-year: \$35 individual \$50 family (# family members _____)

LIFETIME: \$500 individual/family Corporate memberships are available.

I've participated in a professionally-outfitted Grand Canyon river trip (check all that apply):

full canyon motor full canyon non-motor (oar/paddle/dory/combination) partial canyon motor

partial canyon non-motor (oar/paddle/dory/combination) kayak support

haven't participated yet, but want to in the future

Mail this form along with your membership dues to:

Grand Canyon River Runners Association, P.O. Box 1833, Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Make your check payable to: "Grand Canyon River Runners Association"

GCRRA is a 501(c)3 Corporation, and your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

newsletter design : Catharine Cooper : cooperdesign.net

CALLING ALL RIVER RUNNERS!

YOUR LITERARY AND

ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE SHOWCASED
IN THE NEXT GCRRA NEWSLETTER

Send us your journal entries, poetry, postcards from the canyon, humorous stories, photos, and original art work for publication in the next newsletter or on the GCRRA website. Electronic submissions are preferred, and MSWord is preferred for text contributions. [WE CAN ALSO CONVERT FROM WORDPERFECT, IF NECESSARY] Click on "Contact Us" on the GCRRA website :

www.gcriverrunners.org to submit all materials.

Technology challenged? Mail your contributions to P.O. Box 1833, Flagstaff, AZ 86002. If you need more information your question will be routed to the Editor.

Submission deadline for the FALL Issue is

September 1, 2008

GCRRA T-SHIRTS

Sizes - S, M, L, XL, & XXL
Color - Natural

Only \$20 (XXL = \$22)
INCLUDES SHIPPING & HANDLING

SEND CHECK AND ORDER INFORMATION TO:

GRAND CANYON
RIVER RUNNERS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 1833, FLAGSTAFF, AZ 96002

ORDER NOW TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT
AND SHARED CONNECTION TO
THE GRAND CANYON RIVER COMMUNITY.



Grand Canyon River Runners Association



preserving public access to the colorado river

www.gcriverrunners.org
P.O. Box 1833, Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Prst Std
US Postage Paid
Permit #110
Medford, OR