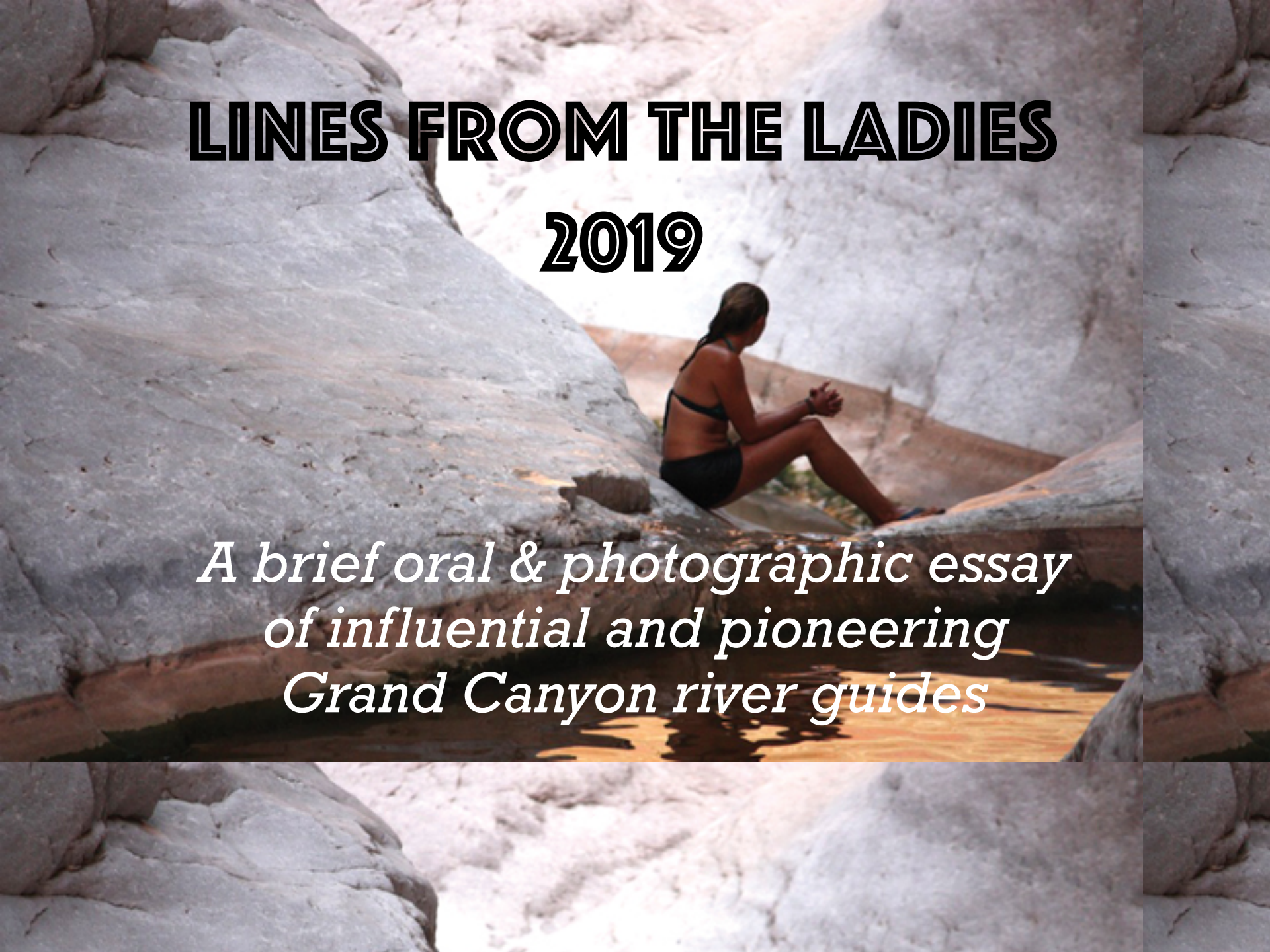


LINES FROM THE LADIES

2019

*A brief oral & photographic essay
of influential and pioneering
Grand Canyon river guides*



“I really find Lines from the Ladies is such a critical component [of the GTS]...I really credit all the gals who started it because it is so wonderful and appropriate and important to have a laser focus on all the women who helped the industry be what it is today and who forged those paths and fought those battles and created a beautiful place for everybody in Grand Canyon. I think it’s a wonderful thing to highlight the women, because they’re the backbone of the river experience as well, so they should get their day to be celebrated.”

- Lynn Hamilton, Executive Director of GCRG

SHARON HESTER



Sharon at this year's GTS!



Photo by: Dugald Bremner

Sharon braces her kayak in the throes of the wild currents of Lava Falls at 45,000 CFS during the high-flow experiment of April 1996

- Sharon did her first trip in August of 1975 as a passenger on a snout trip with ARTA. “My dad loved it because [once I started working in the Grand Canyon], he got 15 free trips out of it!”
- Next was kayaking on a private trip in June 1981.
- The first boat Sharon rowed commercially in Grand Canyon was in August 1981 for Wilderness World. In 1982, she started guiding for AZRA and is still there now.
- In April 1991, Sharon did the first female solo kayak trip through the Grand Canyon
- She has rowed 22’ snouts, safety kayaked, and has run 14-18’ paddle boats and 18’ rowed oar boats



TERESA YATES

Teresa running a
sport boat through
Lava

Photo by Steve Bledsoe

Teresa kissing chub
Photo by Bill Liebfred.



Teresa and Tim!

- First private trip in 1980
- She was so interested to learn more that she bought a couple of military surplus rafts and checked out a book about Georgie Clark from the library
- She contacted Georgie for more help and eventually did her first trip down the canyon with Georgie.
- That first trip Georgie made her stand in the water at Lee's Ferry for 45 min. They became best friends and she ended up doing 4 trips
- In 1987, she started with ARR, simultaneously working on the Bald Eagle Project with Larry Stevens until 1994. During this time she also ran ARR's new river company in Moab, Descent River Expeditions
- By 1989, she was a full time Grand Canyon guide averaging 250 days a year.
- "It was absolutely priceless personally and professional for me to be down in the canyon... I learned so much minute by minute and filled my soul with positive experiences."
- She took every opportunity offered that would fit into her schedule, getting to work for a number of Grand Canyon Companies
- Over the years, she's worked for: ARR, AZRA, GCE, OARS, Science, NAU and NPS, to name a few
- She ran all types of boats upstream and downstream: 10 – 18ft row sport rigs, S Rigs, and Georgie's famous G Rig
- Her mentors are Georgie Clark "for giving me the opportunity to go with her and introduce me to a life of river running." And Tim Whitney. "He was a huge mentor who spent so much time with me. I gleaned so much from everyone I worked with but Tim Whitney was the one I learned so much from."
- She is most proud of her four trips with Georgie. Georgie eventually handed down the leopard print flag to Teresa, this she flew on her memorial trip and has flown every trip after.
- She is proud of the diversity of trips she's run down the canyon and my village of people "so near and dear to me."
- "Some have called me the modern day Georgie because I took my time in the canyon in so many directions and so many boats. Right now I am a National Board Certified Instrument Specialist for 11 year at Costco."

DENICE NAPOLETANO

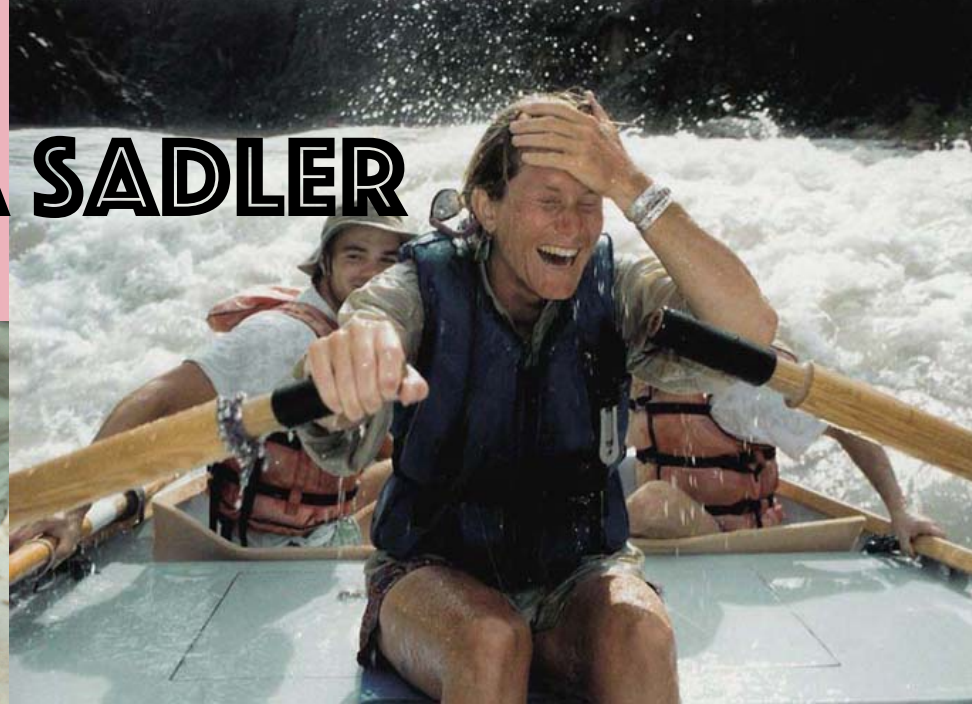


- Denice joined her first Grand Canyon trip in 1984 as a helper for Grand Canyon Dories. She was invited by Barb and Moki Johnson
- Denice came back the next year as a cook. In 1984, she met Kenton Grua and they married in '86.
- Rowed her first baggage boat in 1986
- Co-founded GCRG in 1987
- Moved to Flag from Utah in 1988 following the sale of Grand Canyon Dories to OARS
- First guide pay was in 1988 for Dories and she guided 70-80 GC trips from '84 – '93
- She rowed 18ft raft and dories
- Has been to about 100 Dead shows
- Worked for Tour West, GCES, NPS and continues to work for OARS, but not for long as she is retiring!

CHRISTA SADLER



A Teaching Moment



Big smiles—
Christa running a dory

- Over the last 30 years, Christa has worked with Expeditions, AzRA, Grand Canyon Dories, CanX and Tour West
- Currently, she guides in Grand Canyon doing mostly chartered trips for CanX and Tour West. She also guides in Alaska, the Arctic and Baja
- She captains oar boats, dories, paddle boats and sea kayaks
- Famous for authoring / editing books, including “There’s this River: Grand Canyon Stories”
- Teaches with the Grand Canyon Field Institute and organizes Immigration Policy Field Trips with NAU and FALA
- Also runs a foundation providing scholarships to young women in developing countries so they can attend classes.
- “I am the person I am today in large part because of the Colorado River. She [the Colorado] has been one of the best teachers of my life, followed very closely by all the people I have traveled with over all of the years. Its been the very best kind of learning, part of every day but you often don’t know its happening till later. I learn every day about community, patience, kindness, beauty of all kinds.”

LYNN HAMILTON



Lynn with her twin sister



In DC, advocating for the Grand Canyon

- Grew up overlooking the river bluffs on the Missouri River in St. Joseph, Missouri
- For the first 16 years of her life, she and her three sisters were “gone all day long” on 60 acres of land, “hanging from cliffs, hiking around...always outside.”
- After attending UC Berkeley for political science and working for a bit in DC (an atmosphere she didn’t like too much), she moved to Flagstaff with her husband and two daughters. In Flag, she met Jerry Ledbetter, who was running GCRG at the time. It was “pure serendipity. I wanted to do something that had to do with the outdoors and environmental work but didn’t know what.”
- In 1995, she started working part time as the secretary/treasurer in the GCRG office. By 1996, she was the Executive Director. “I was longing for something meaningful, and here it was... and I just never left!”
- Jerry helped Lynn learn about the issues surrounding Grand Canyon and the community — “I was really blessed to work with her in the beginning.”
- She hiked into her first GCRG river trip in 1997. That trip, they flipped “within the first hour” in Hermit. “We were upright and cracking a beer before we got to the eddy at the bottom.” Up to that point, she had done “little trips here and there” but she had never rafted in Grand Canyon before.
- The canyon captured her heart on that trip. “However much you can learn about it in the abstract, without going down there, you really just don’t quite get it. That’s why I feel so strongly that, for example, any superintendent that comes in, they need to be on the river, they need to get it, and understand the dynamics and place to manage it well.”

*“I definitely like to bring people together, and that’s why
I really love this job.”*

**HAPPY 25TH YEAR
AT GCRC, LYNN!!**

THANK YOU!!