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People, places and things from around the state, including rodeo announcer Dan Fowlie; a look back at Legend City; and Springerville, our hometown of the month.

16 THE LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD

We like scenic drives. We feature one every month in the magazine, and we have a new book of drives coming out later this year. For most of those, the photos showcase the scenery along the road — the stuff you see out the side windows. For this piece, we put you in the driver's seat, with a look at what you'll see through the windshield.

A PORTFOLIO EDITED BY ROBERT STIEVE & KELLY VAUGHN KRAMER

28 **VIRGIN TERRITORY**

Best known as a direct route between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, Interstate 15 also cuts through a remote corner of Arizona. It's a stretch of only 29 miles, but it's a gorgeous stretch that winds through the narrows of the Virgin River Gorge. Although it's unfamiliar to many Arizonans, it was hailed as "America's most spectacular highway" when it opened in 1973. It's still spectacular today.

BY MATT JAFFE
PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BROWNOLD

30 CLOUDY, WITH A CHANCE OF THUNDERSTORMS

Lightning strikes a lot in Florida, about 1.5 million times a year. In Arizona, the number is less than half of that. Nevertheless, our summer monsoons put on quite a show, with wind, rain, thunder and cloud-to-ground lightning strikes that can generate up to a billion volts and reach temperatures in excess of 50,000 degrees. A PORTFOLIO EDITED BY JEFF KIDA

38 FRENCH IMPRESSIONS

Over the years, we've sent dozens of grizzled old photographers up north to shoot Navajoland. This time, we tried something different. Instead of the usual suspects, we asked a 41-year-old Frenchwoman to do the job. Turns out, la belle fille de Paris can hold her own.

A PORTFOLIO BY MARIE BARONNET

48 **SOMETHING BIG**

Elk are big. In fact, they're among the largest land animals in North America. They're big in Arizona, too, in both size and number. At last count, there were about 35,000 elk in our state. That's a big jump from 1910, when there were none. BY RUTH RUDNER PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRUCE D. TAUBERT

50 PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

As the vegetation-program manager for Grand Canyon National Park, Lori Makarick's mission is to preserve and restore the park's unique biotic communities — no small task, since there are more than 1,700 different plant species spread over 1.2 million acres.

BY ANNETTE MCGIVNEY
PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN BURCHAM



52 **SCENIC DRIVE**

Point Sublime: The name of this drive says it all, but the views of the Canyon from out on the point are only the half of it.

54 **HIKE OF THE MONTH**

Brins Mesa Trail: Sedona and its surrounding canyons are home to one of the best collections of hikes in Arizona.
The Brins Mesa Trail is a great example.



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Visit our website for details on weekend getaways, hiking, lodging, dining, photography workshops, slideshows and more.

www.arizonahighways.wordpress.com

Check out our blog for regular posts on just about anything having to do with travel in Arizona, including Q&A's with writers and photographers, special events, bonus photos, sneak peeks at upcoming issues and more.

www.facebook.com/azhighways

Join our Facebook community to share your photographs, chat with other fans, enter trivia contests and receive up-to-the-minute information about what's going on behind the scenes at Arizona Highways.

Arizona Highways is on Instagram

Follow us @arizonahighways to see our travel photos from around the state.

www.pinterest.com/azhighways

ploin our creative community on Pinterest to share photo inspiration, outdoors ideas and more.

▶ A bull elk and its harem of females walk in the shallow water of Mormon Lake south of Flagstaff. | TOM BEAN ☐ CAMERA: CANON EOS 5D MARK II; SHUTTER: 1/750 SEC; APERTURE: F/8; ISO: 250; FOCAL LENGTH: 800 MM

FRONT COVER Forest Road 128 winds through the Coconino National Forest near the San Francisco Peaks. For directions and more information, contact the Flagstaff Ranger District at 928-526-0866 or www.fs.usda.gov/coconino.

BACK COVER A bellflower blooms in Flagstaff. | EIRINI PAJAK

CAMERA: CANON EOS 5D MARK II; SHUTTER: 1/125 SEC;

APERTURE: F/7.1; ISO: 640; FOCAL LENGTH: 100 MM;

35 IMAGES STACKED



Something a Little Different

t was all Matt's idea. We were driving in the McDowell Mountains on a narrow road that points toward the Four Peaks. The view of the mountains was remarkable, and the landscape around us was even more so. We couldn't believe they'd put a road through a Jack Dykinga photograph. But that's what they did, and it prompted my younger brother to say, "You should really do a story about roads like this."

At first, I thought: Huh? We do a scenic drive every month. You've never noticed? Then I realized he was talking about something a little different. Instead of the way we usually illustrate our drives — with photos that showcase what you see out the side windows — he was suggesting that we show what's straight ahead, through the windshield. "That way," he said, "your readers will get a good sense of what they'll see when they get behind the wheel."

I liked the idea, but it wasn't that simple. Most of our landscape photographers are purists, and to them, the notion of making an image with a road through it is like putting Heinz 57 on a piece of prime filet. Still, after enough insistence, we ended up with what we wanted.

In The Look Straight Ahead, you'll see some of our favorite scenic drives, including State Route 273, which goes from Springerville to Big Lake. Another one of our favorites is the route through Oak Creek Canyon. Sadly, as I write these words, the Slide Fire is destroying thousands of acres in and around that spectacular place. By the time you read this, the fire will be out and the road will likely be reopened, but the devastation will be obvious.

Because this is a story about "scenic" drives, we considered pulling Oak Creek from the list. Here's why we didn't: No matter what happens after the inferno has been wrestled to the ground, the creek will still be a respite, the cliffs will still be majestic, the switchbacks will still be thrilling, and, perhaps most importantly, the good folks at Garland's, Junipine and the Butterfly will need your

support. So will many others. In addition to the attack on Mother Nature, the Slide Fire is plundering the local economy. Now is not the time to abandon all of the above. So, Oak Creek Canyon is in, along with drives through Garland Prairie, the Catalina Mountains and the Navajo Nation.

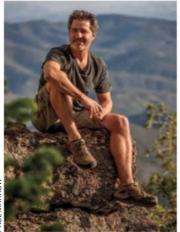
In all, there are eight scenic drives in our cover story. We also have our monthly drive in the back of the magazine, and a short piece about an interstate highway in the middle of nowhere.

Interstates aren't typically considered scenic. For the most part, they're there to move traffic from Point A to Point B. Interstate 15 was built for the same reason. It just happens to cut through the dramatic Virgin River Gorge in the extreme northwest corner of the state — it's so far away, you have to leave Arizona just to get to it.

When it opened in December 1973, I-15 was hailed as "America's most spectacular highway." There's hyperbole in that, but even our writer uses strong words to describe the 29-mile stretch. "If the notion of a superhighway inside the Grand Canyon is more than a little blasphemous," Matt Jaffe writes in *Virgin Territory*, "I-15 through the gorge gives a sense of what that forbidden pleasure might be like."

Although most Arizonans have never driven it, I-15 is the main thoroughfare for road-trippers going from Las Vegas to the North Rim. Eventually, the highway goes all the way to Canada, but it won't take you to Navajoland. If you're headed there, you'll have to find another way. Marie Baronnet took Highway 89.

Marie is a new photographer for us. She's French, and we met her about a year ago, after she'd been shooting down



in Mexico. On her way to L.A., she stopped in to say hello. She wasn't pitching anything specific, but as soon as that first *bonjour* rolled off her tongue, I knew she'd be perfect for a portfolio we'd been thinking about.

We were shooting for something along the lines of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, with the Navajo

Nation as Camelot and a non-traditional photographer as Hank. Figuratively, we wanted somebody from the other side of the world, but we weren't having any luck. Then, literally, in walked *la belle fille de Paris*.

In French Impressions, you'll learn more about Marie and the background of her portfolio. More importantly, you'll see some of her photographs. The most unique is a shot of three Japanese tourists looking at the Mittens in Monument Valley. You'd never see tourists in a land-scape shot by one of our purists — that's Heinz 57 on a filet. But Marie's take on things is a little different. It's a fresh perspective. Kind of like what Matt suggested for our scenic drives.



Kachina Peaks Wilderness

COMING IN SEPTEMBER ...

A tribute to the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and the winners of our annual photo contest.

ROBERT STIEVE, EDITOR

Follow me on Twitter: @azhighways

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KIRSTEN KRAKLIO

Kirsten Kraklio once commented that our days seem to be "one big inside joke," which may be the most insightful thing ever said about the Arizona Highways staff. This month marks the first appearance in the magazine for Kraklio, our intern for the spring 2014 semester. She's a native of Cedar Rapids, lowa, and will graduate from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University in December. She says she's learned a lot about Arizona's nature and history, as well as how Arizona Highways comes together. "I have no prior experience with magazine writing," she says, "so I wanted to see the process of how the magazine ends up on newsstands and how everyone works with each other." As she's learned ... well, her previous comment sums it up. Kraklio's work has also appeared in USA Today and The Arizona Republic.



MARIE BARONNET

Marie Baronnet got her passion for photography from watching movies with her father, a filmmaker, and her mother, a film editor. She says she enjoys "being able to ask the viewer a question through an image that has its own language and aesthetics." A year ago, Baronnet embarked on her first assignment for Arizona Highways: photographing the Navajo Nation with longtime Arizona Highways contributor Gary Ladd (see French Impressions, page 38). Baronnet says finding her own "perception" of the Navajos — one that differs from the Native American stereotypes sometimes prevalent in her native France — was a



welcome challenge. "I have seen, in their culture, a lesson and a response to guestions we have about our own relationship with nature and how to preserve it," she says. Baronnet is currently working on a photo essay about the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, as well as a book of photography that will be published later this year.



MATT JAFFE

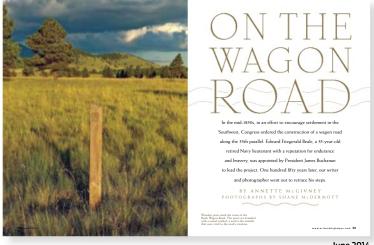
"There's not a lot of romance to most interstate highways," writer Matt Jaffe says, "but this stretch has real beauty and drama." He's talking about the section of Interstate 15 that passes through Northwestern Arizona (see Virgin Territory, page 28). "When you're driving it from the west, it's like a ceremonial entry to the Colorado Plateau," he says. The highway was built through the Virgin River Gorge, which increased the interstate's beauty immensely but also required a lot more engineering. "It's hard to imagine that happening today," Jaffe says. "I also wonder whether there would have been more environmental opposition about putting the highway right through the gorge." In addition to Jaffe's work for

Arizona Highways, he's been published in Sunset, Los Angeles and Westways magazines. And you can regularly find him on the road in Arizona and other parts of the West. - NOAH AUSTIN editor@arizonahighwavs.com

RUSH JOB

Good work with On the Wagon Road [June 2014]. Your readers might be interested to learn about an additional exploit of Edward Fitzgerald Beale. On July 1, 1848, Beale became the designated courier of California gold to be delivered to the federal government in Washington, D.C. Traveling (in disguise) across Mexico, he delivered American River samples on September 16, 1848, thus confirming the strike — the "rush" was on.

Harold James, Georgetown, Texas



June 2014

STAR STRUCK

When I opened the current issue of Arizona Highways [May 2014] to The Journal, I was brought to tears by the sight of the beautiful stars above Glen Canyon. I now live in Southern California, where, because of the bright night light, we can only see a few of the brightest stars. I miss them. I grew up in Missouri in the '30s and '40s, where we had great night skies, but I have actually forgotten what the Milky Way looks like. I am presently not well enough to travel where I could see stars again, so every time your wonderful photographers include the stars in their pictures, I am able to see and enjoy something I miss very much.

Alice E. Davis, Irvine, California

SAFETY CONCERN

I expect you'll get several comments on the hotshot article [Odd Jobs, June 2014]. I enjoyed it, and my compliments go out to Derek Schloss. As a retired forester, I know what it is to fight forest fires. Granted, my day was a long time ago, but I do believe your photographer posed Mr. Schloss for the photo. In my day, for safety purposes, we did not carry an unsheathed tool on our shoulder. We always carried them in our hand, sheathed, down by our side. In case we slipped, we could toss it out to the side as we were falling and hopefully not cut ourselves. I started

my firefighting days in the late '50s on the North Kaibab. That inspired me to become a forester. Later, I was timber staff officer on the Apache-Sitgreaves. Now, my wife and I spend winters in Tucson. We thoroughly enjoy your magazine. Keep up the good work.

Jerry Hustead, Aloha, Oregon

JUST A THOUGHT

Your story about Leave No Trace in the June 2014 issue [Do Not Disturb] was a great reminder for all visitors — no matter where they spend time in our great outdoors — to pack out their trash. Channel 8 [KAET, Phoenix] recently had a very informative show about beavers and how little streams can be made big by their engineering skills. Do you think adding a beaver or two to Fossil Creek would be a plus? In the show, beavers created a river from a stream in the desert in Nevada. Just a thought.

Nancy Rinehimer, Queen Creek, Arizona

NOT AMUSED

Make no mistake, I thoroughly enjoyed reading the Summer Hiking Guide [June 2014], and I'm contemplating my next visit home to Arizona, but I also have a couple of concerns this month. Ironically, you wisely assert "Rule No. 1: Never hike alone," but every photo shows a solitary hiker. Yes, I know there's a photographer, but the pictures controvert the rule. I was mostly

amused. Less amusing was the piece titled Don't Try This at Home, especially the climber in Sedona and the hiker at Rainbow Bridge, which is sacred to the Navajos. Couple that with your story titled Do Not Disturb, and I find myself disturbed, even offended. I am going to hope you meant to raise questions about whether and how people should engage with their environment. I understand the purpose that Arizona Highways serves. I am grateful for every issue, I study every photograph and I look forward to someday returning home to Tucson, but I think you need to watch closely the actual message you are delivering. Meantime, I'll assume the subjects in Don't Try This at Home had the proper permits.

Skip Crouse, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

DIFFERENT SUBJECTS

I enjoyed your article [Prescott: Still Not as Old as the Hills, May 2014], especially the way it was written, with little bits on different subjects, which made the reading fun. By the way, the town of Deer Trail (just east of Denver) also claims to have had the first rodeo.

Eric Hall, Boulder, Colorado

CONTACT US If you have thoughts or comments about anything in Arizona Highways, we'd love to hear from you. We can be reached at editor@ arizonahighways.com, or by mail at 2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009. For more information, visit www.arizonahighways.com.





SPRINGERVILLE

FOUNDED: 1875 (approximate) | POPULATION: 1,961 | AREA: 11.7 square miles

ELEVATION: 6,972 feet | **county:** Apache

www.wmonline.com

HENRY SPRINGER, THE BAVARIAN MERchant for whom Springerville is named, is credited with this impressive quote: "I talk business, mean business, do business, and if anyone has business to come up and do their business, then go about their business, and give someone else a show to talk business and to do business also." Springer



came to the area from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and established a large grain store where Springerville is today. He eventually went broke and died of a strangulated hernia, but his namesake town, located at the junction of U.S. Route 60 and state routes 180 and 191, is still going strong. A haven for hunters, anglers and skiers, Springerville

also caters to tourists visiting nearby Casa Malpais Archaeological Park, home to a pueblo that dates to the 13th century. When you visit Springerville, make sure you stop at Booga Red's and try the green chile. Like Henry Springer, it's all business.

- NOAH AUSTIN

local favorites

Western Drug & **General Store**

SPRINGERVILLE

Western Drug and General Store is a lot of things to a lot of people. It has a little something for everyone, and that's why families have been stopping by for 80 years. Manager Rick Nathan talks about the store.

So, Western Drug has a long history?

The store is a descendant of the Becker brothers' trading post from the 1870s. Western Drug was started in 1934 by a pharmacist named Ellis Chitwood. In the late 1950s, descendants of Gus Becker — one of the earliest settlers in Round Valley — bought Western Drug. Inside the store, we have a full-size cabin that's a replica of the Becker brothers' trading post.

What else will customers find?

We have a saying here: "If we don't have it, you don't need it." Besides our pharmacy and gun department — both of which are award-winning — we have camping supplies, a huge fishing department, an excellent fabric department, a crafts department and an over-the-counter department. And we sell T-shirts, greeting cards, liquor, candy, ice ... all kinds of supplies.

So, you're sticking to your roots?

We're the descendants of a frontier trading post, and frontier trading posts had to carry everything. They were often the only source of dry goods for miles around. It's tradition.

How do you explain your longevity?

We go out of our way to treat our customers like family. We like to instill in them a good, warm, positive feeling. We know our customers on a first-name basis. There's something for the whole family here. There's a popcorn machine, and I constantly have a hot pot of coffee on. That's how we like to treat our customers: like they're in a place where they can feel at home.

- KIRSTEN KRAKLIO

Western Drug and General Store is located at 106 E. Main Street in Springerville. For more information, call 928-333-4321 or visit www.westerndrugstore.com.

The Lost City

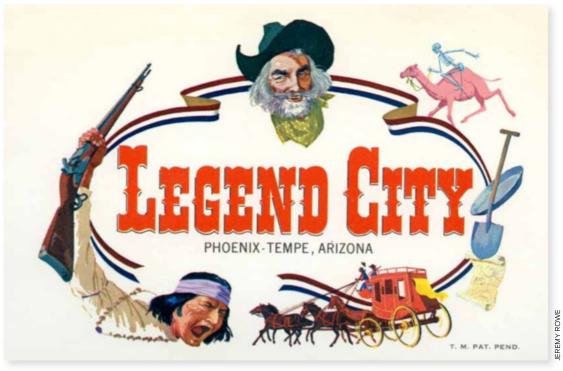
For 20 years, Legend City was a wonderland for kids in Arizona. But time took its toll, and today the old theme park is just a memory.

here's no sign of it today, but Phoenix once had its own Wild West-themed Disneyland on 30 acres of land next to Papago Park. When it opened in 1963, Legend City was the stuff kids dreamed of. Its attractions included candy shops, historical re-enactments and roller coasters.

Some of the park's more popular rides were the Lost Dutchman Mine, which took park-goers through a skeletonfilled mine, and the River of Legends,

later renamed Cochise's Stronghold. Visitors also enjoyed live performances and weekly Wallace and Ladmo shows.

Despite Legend City's popularity, the park was a money pit. Not long after its grand opening, the owners declared bankruptcy. The park closed temporarily but reopened years later.



John Bueker, author of the book Legend City, remembers visiting the park as a child and again as an adult.

"The last time I went was in 1980. and I hadn't been since I was a kid. It was very depressing, it was run-down, and none of the rides worked properly anymore," he says. "Near the end, it was An advertisement promotes Legend City, a Wild Westthemed amusement park that once operated in Phoenix.

pretty dilapidated and had pretty much run its course."

The park closed its doors in September 1983. - DANIELLE GROBMEIER

To learn more, visit www.legend-city.com.

this in history

- On August 13, 1873, landscape painter Thomas Moran writes to his wife about his adventures in the Grand Canyon, where he joined John Wesley Powell's exploration of the Colorado River. A Tucson resident receives the state's first piece of official mail on August 19, 1857. On August 27, 1918,
- a man tries to cross through a guarded gate into the Mexican side of Nogales. A gun battle between Mexican and American guards ensues. The incident is dubbed the Battle of Ambos Nogales.
- On August 27, 1920, The Coconino Sun advertises a new millinery by saying,
- "Start a conversation about hats, and you can get the attention of the fair sex most any time."
- Mormon missionary and pioneer Jacob Hamblin dies August 31, 1886, at the age of 67. Hamblin helped settle much of Northern Arizona, and Jacob Lake is named after him.



The August 1964 issue of Arizona Highways was dedicated to birds — from roadrunners to water birds to vultures and the feature article described the state's four seasons of birding.

~photography ~



Sandhill cranes take flight at sunrise near the Dos Cabezas Mountains in Southeastern Arizona.

Flight Plan

Photo Editor Jeff Kida talks with John Sherman about the challenges of photographing birds.

JK: This shot has three simple elements: a dominant sandhill crane, a flock of cranes in the background and the Dos Cabezas Mountains behind them. How did it come together?

JS: I was in Willcox and scouted these birds, and I put myself in a position where I could photograph them well. The angle that always seemed to work was facing east at sunrise, so the birds were backlit. The cranes all rose up at once in the morning, and I was able to set my camera and tripod and watch waves of birds come through. This was made with a 500 mm lens. The birds in the background are a little out of focus, but the viewer's mind can fill that in.

JK: You do a lot of bird photography. How do you prepare for shoots like this one?

JS: I use a large tripod and a gimbal head, which allows me to move the camera freely. I usually shoot with a shutter speed of 1/1250 second and an aperture of f/10. I also do a lot of research, and I try to "think like the birds" and anticipate what they're going to do. But nature is unpredictable. You never know what you're going to see, and most of the time, your "models" don't cooperate. This is an exception. I scouted it and worked it, and it actually happened the way I had hoped it would.



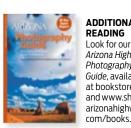
BUILDING A LANDSCAPE

Landscape photographs, such as those you might take on your summer vacation,

sometimes fall flat because they don't give viewers a sense of "being there." Include a foreground, middle ground and background



to make the photograph appear threedimensional. It helps to crouch down to a low vantage point, making smaller foreground elements appear larger.

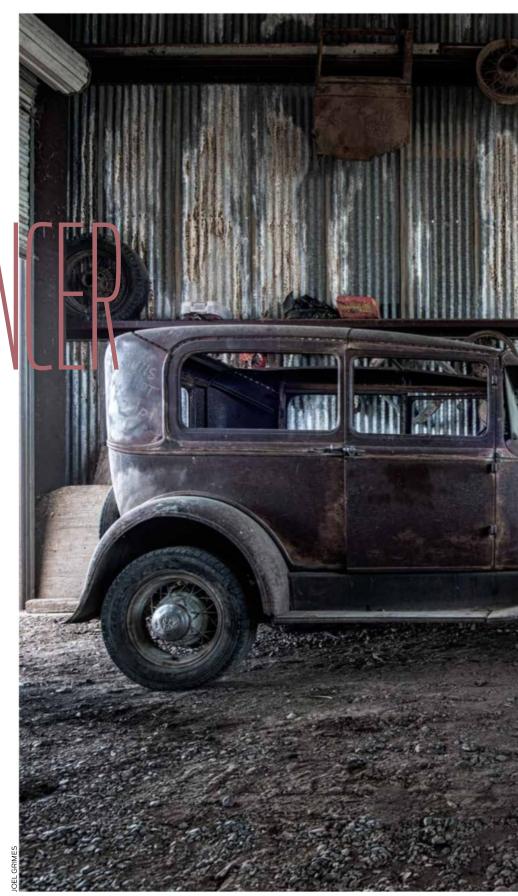


ADDITIONAL READING Look for our book Arizona Highways Photography Guide, available at bookstores and www.shop arizonahighways.

Dan Fowlie, Phoenix

DAN FOWLIE LANDED HIS FIRST GIG as a rodeo announcer inadvertently. During his days at Eastern Arizona College, Fowlie competed in steer-wrestling, team-roping and bull-riding competitions. "I was certainly a legend in my own mind," he jokes. And though he had talent, it would turn out his real skill was in the publicspeaking arena. At an event in Coolidge, Fowlie was asked to substitute for the scheduled announcer, who had canceled at the last minute. The young competitor had a knack for keeping audiences engaged — he swears he can talk for hours on end - and the rest is history. Fowlie continued to compete and used his announcing earnings to fund his fledgling rodeo career. Then, in the late 1990s, he suffered a serious setback: He broke his knee during a steer-wrestling event. "That injury was a bit of a blessing," he says. "It allowed me to focus on working as an announcer." These days, Fowlie travels the country, performing at hundreds of rodeos each year. "It's live entertainment," he says. "There's no script, and it makes you nervous, but it teaches you to feed off that nervous energy and turn it into an 'All right, here we go' moment." - KATHY RITCHIE

For more information about Dan Fowlie, visit www. danfowlie.com.





Reading, Writing & Red Meat

Although it's independent of the school, 1899 Bar & Grill is turning Northern Arizona University into a culinary hotspot, where ribeyes and New York strips are as impressive as the campus curriculum.

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS "CAMPUS DINING." I'm immediately transported to my college years, recalling haunting images of

flagstaff

hairnets, plastic trays and questionable meatloaf. The memories come rushing back, and they are remarkably absent of filet mignon, cumin-dusted

1899 Bar & Grill, an independent restaurant on the Northern Arizona University campus, is bridging the chasm between these two dining experiences, offering students and the general public valuable lessons in campus dining done right.

scallops and Arizona wines.

1899 is a hat tip to the year that NAU, then called Northern Arizona Normal School, opened. That campus history is celebrated throughout the restaurant, housed in a restored 1950s building that has been everything from a post office to a pool hall. Photos from the NAU archives adorn the walls, and the original wood floors, brick walls and mammoth floor-to-ceiling copper fireplace are reminders of the building's colorful past.

While the setting is decidedly historic, the menu is firmly rooted in a more modern culinary tradition. A quick and approachable lunch spot by day and a

casually elegant steakhouse by night, 1899 is the kind of place where diners in hiking shorts sit alongside suit-clad symphony-goers.

The lunch menu features build-yourown salads and burgers with enough topping, vegetable and cheese options to allow indecisive diners to mix and match to their hearts' content. But sometimes it's better to leave it in the hands of the experts, and the signature 1899 Burger is proof that the chefs in the kitchen know best. Good things happen when you marinate a burger in local dark beer. Even better things happen when you do a little mixing and matching of your own, pairing the sweet-potato fries with a side of the deliciously spicy and creamy chipotle ranch from the salad menu.

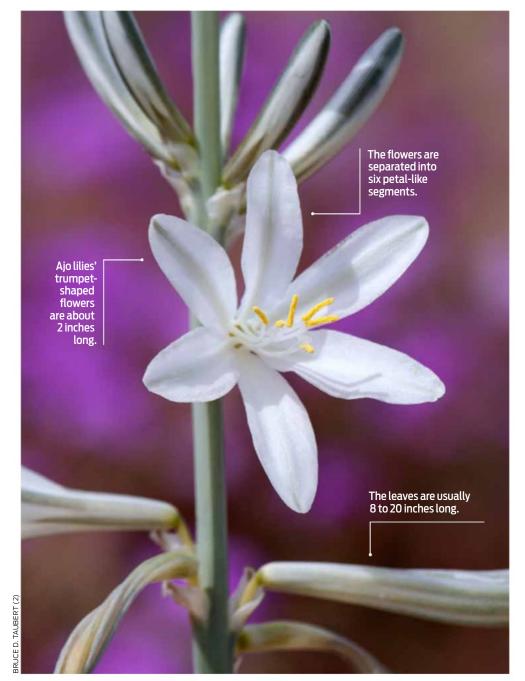
Fresh steaks and seafood are the stars of the show at dinner, and the unmistakable sizzle of steaks hitting the grill in the open kitchen makes it nearly impossible to visit any other section of the menu. Although the menu changes quarterly, items such as the ribeye and New York strip are fixtures, as is the difficult choice between a bacon-and-blue-cheese baked potato or garlic-cheddar mashed potatoes as a side.

The culinary team at 1899 takes "local" to a whole new level. Sure, they serve local beers and wines and work with Arizona farms for fresh produce. But if the menu features something with tomatoes or basil, there is a good chance it came from a greenhouse right on the NAU campus.

At the end of the semester, don't be surprised to see a dining room full of college students using up their parentfunded dining dollars at 1899. Can you blame them for choosing filet mignon over meatloaf? — JACKI MIELER



1899 Bar & Grill is located at 307 W. DuPont Avenue in Flagstaff. For more information, call 928-523-1899 or visit www.1899barandgrill.com.



Ajo Lilies

he large, cream-colored, funnel-shaped flowers that can be seen along desert highways in the spring are named for the plants' flavor. Ajo lilies, also known as desert lilies, were used by Native Americans as a food source, and they were so named because of the bulbs' garlicky taste (garlic is ajo in Spanish). The bulbs grow as far as 2 feet below ground, which helps protect them from both hungry animals and summer rains — moisture could otherwise cause the bulbs to rot. Above ground, the lilies bloom from March through May on spikes that are usually less than a foot tall; however, the spikes will occasionally exceed 6 feet. Each flower has a silver-green band on the back and clusters of long, blue-green leaves with wavy edges. Ajo lilies are most commonly found in loose, sandy soils. Their range extends from the eastern Mohave Desert south through Arizona and into Northern Mexico. - KIRSTEN KRAKLIO

nature factoid

BEYER'S SCARABS

Given that they boast bright-green bodies, it's no surprise that Chrysina beyeri, or Beyer's scarabs, are popular among collectors. The insects, part of a genus known as jewel scarabs, are found in Southern Arizona, including the Huachuca and Santa Rita mountains, and parts of Northern Mexico. Beyer's scarabs emerge during monsoon season, between July and early September. They're one of four species of jewel scarabs in the United States.

- KIRSTEN KRAKLIO





Lazy Trout

"THE LAZY TROUT doesn't get the worm."

If that isn't a saying, it should be. But lazy is a

greer

good thing at Greer's Lazy Trout, an ideal place for summer relaxation in the cool temperatures

of the White Mountains. The motel features eight cozy rooms that can accommodate as many as four people, and the rooms' front

porches face Greer Valley and offer frequent sightings of deer and elk. Next door to the motel is the Lazy Trout Market, which sells the kinds of things people on vacation are likely to forget. For larger groups, the motel's owners rent out more than a dozen private cabins. The Greer area provides easy access to hiking and mountain-biking trails, and it's

also a good place to put your feet up and enjoy the view. But if it's trout, rather than laziness, that interests you, don't worry: The Lazy Trout offers private fishing at three nearby ponds.

— NOAH AUSTIN

The Lazy Trout is located at 38940 State Route 373 in Greer. For more information, call 928-735-7540 or visit www.lazytrout.com.

\sim things to do in arizona \sim

Indoor Swap Meet

August 9, Yuma

Escape the summer heat at the Yuma Civic Center, where shoppers can hunt for bargains in air-conditioned comfort. This event also includes local food vendors. *Information: www. yumaaz.gov*

Bird and Wildlife Festival

August 13-17, Tucson

The Sonoran Desert and Arizona's "sky islands" are at the center of this Tucson Audubon Society event, which features events, workshops, field trips

and family activities to learn about "watchable wildlife" opportunities in and around the city. Information: 520-629-0510 or www.tucsonaudubon.org

Route 66 International Festival

August 14-17, Kingman

This celebration honors Historic Route 66, a.k.a. "the Mother Road." Attractions include conferences, exhibits, a car show, wine-tasting events and the dedication of the city's Route 66 Walk of Fame. Information: www.kingman66fest.com

Faire on the Square

August 30-September 1, Prescott

More than 100 merchants, including artists, jewelers and food vendors, set up shop under the cool elm trees of Prescott's historic Courthouse Plaza. *Information: 800-266-7534 or www.visit-prescott.com*

Brewery Gulch Daze

August 31, Bisbee

Brewery Gulch once was one of Bisbee's liveliest neighborhoods. This event celebrates the town's past with a pancake breakfast, a pet parade, a chili cook-off, an art show, kids activities and more. *Information:* 520-432-3554 or www.explore cochise.com

Photo Workshop: Monument Valley

September 10-14, Navajo Nation

Arizona Highways contributor Derek von Briesen leads this workshop, which is highlighted by a trip to Hunts Mesa for a view of one of Earth's most spectacular landscapes. Information: 888-790-7042 or www. ahpw.org

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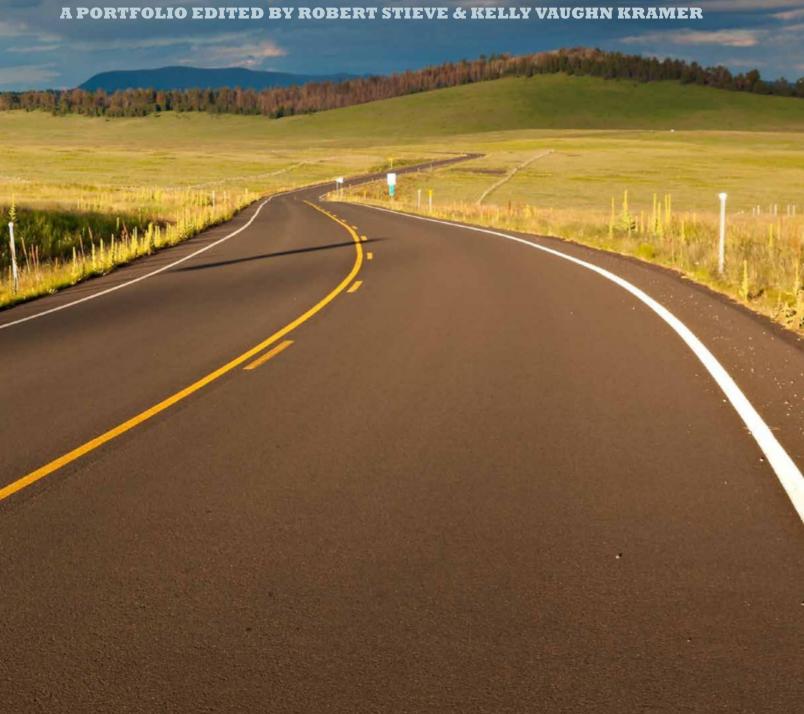


Main: Ken Brown; Left to Right: Lynn Tharsing, Richard Maack, John Frelich, Suzanne Mathia, Denise Carson, Derek Von Briesen



STRAIGHT AHEAD

We like scenic drives. We feature one every month in the magazine, and we have a new book of drives coming out later this year. For most of those, the photos showcase the scenery along the road — the stuff you see out the side windows. For this piece, we put you in the driver's seat, with a look at what you'll see through the windshield. Drive carefully, and keep your eyes on the road.





(preceding panel)

STATE ROUTE 273, WHITE MOUNTAINS

Getting there: From Springerville, go south on Mountain Avenue, which turns into Main Street, for 1.6 miles to State Route 260 in Eagar. Turn right onto SR 260 and continue 18.7 miles to State Route 273. Turn left onto SR 273 and continue 18.9 miles to Big Lake Recreation Area, where the road becomes Forest Road 249.

Vehicle requirements: None in good weather.

Information: Springerville Ranger District, 928-333-4301 or www.fs.usda.gov/asnf

PHOTOGRAPH: DEREK VON BRIESEN





(below)

INDIAN ROAD 60, NAVAJO NATION

Getting there: From Winslow, go east on Interstate 40 for 3 miles to State Route 87 (Exit 257). Turn left onto SR 87 and continue 20 miles to Indian Road 60. Turn right onto IR 60 and continue 24.4 miles to where the road rejoins SR 87 farther north.

Vehicle requirements: None in good weather.

Information: Navajo Tourism Department, 928-871-6436

or www.discovernavajo.com





(below)

FOREST ROAD 285, WHITE MOUNTAINS

Getting there: From Springerville, go south on Mountain Avenue, which turns into Main Street, for 2.7 miles to Forest Road 285 (Water Canyon Road). Turn left onto FR 285 and continue 21 miles to Forest Road 249 near Big Lake.

Vehicle requirements: None in good weather.

Information: Springerville Ranger District, 928-333-4301

or www.fs.usda.gov/asnf **PHOTOGRAPH:** NICK BEREZENKO





(right)

STATE ROUTE 89A, OAK CREEK CANYON

Getting there: From Sedona, go north on State Route 89A for 27.5 miles to Flagstaff.

Vehicle requirements: None in good weather.

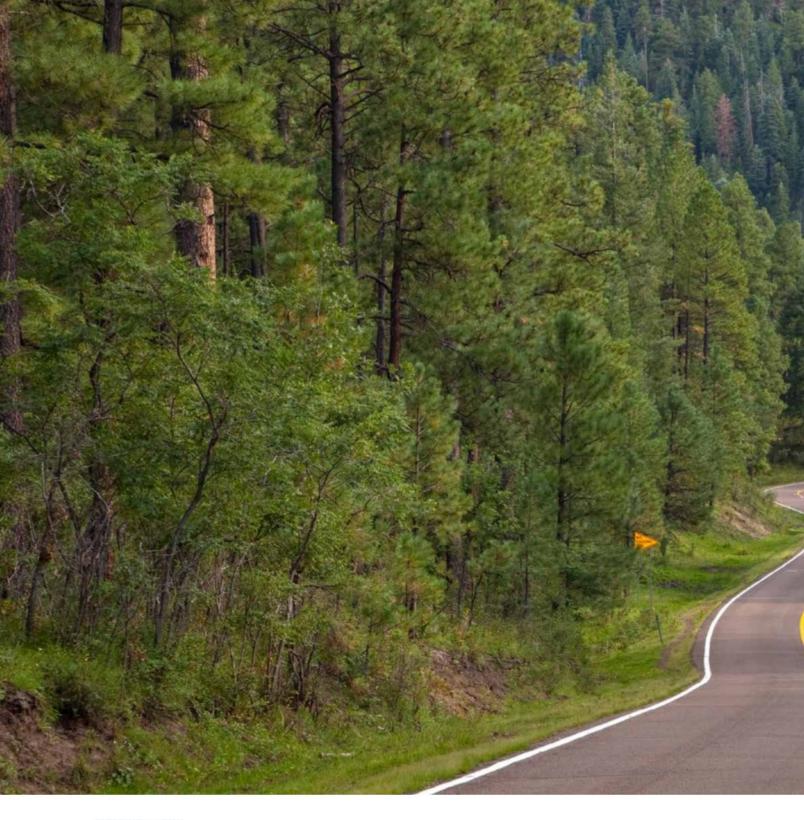
Information: Red Rock Ranger District, 928-203-2900

or www.fs.usda.gov/coconino

PHOTOGRAPH: DEREK VON BRIESEN

Editor's Note: At press time, the Slide Fire was burning in and around Oak Creek Canyon. By the time you read this, the fire will be out and the road will likely be reopened. Despite the fire, many parts of the canyon were not affected. Please take the drive and visit our friends in Red Rock Country.







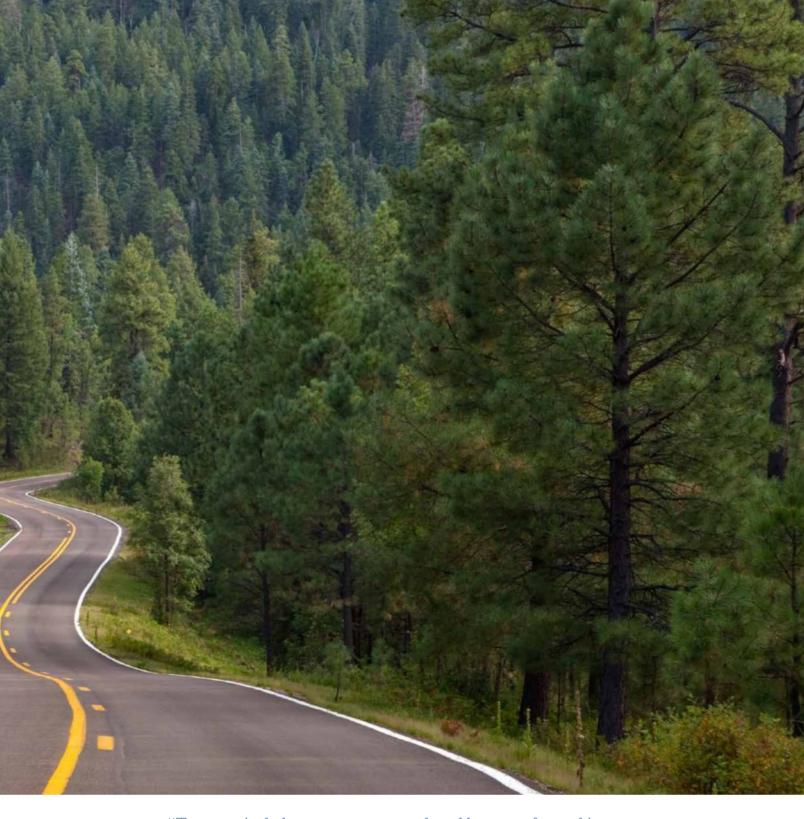
STATE ROUTE 473, WHITE MOUNTAINS

Getting there: From Show Low, go east on State Route 260 for 26.6 miles to State Route 473. Turn right onto SR 473 and continue 10 miles to Hawley Lake.

Vehicle requirements: None in good weather.

Information: White Mountain Apache Tribe, 928-338-4346

or www.wmat.nsn.us **PHOTOGRAPH:** TOM BEAN



"To my mind, the greatest reward and luxury of travel is to be able to experience everyday things as if for the first time, to be in a position in which almost nothing is so familiar it is taken for granted."

— BILL BRYSON





(left)

STATE ROUTE 67, **NORTH RIM, GRAND CANYON**

Getting there: From Jacob Lake, go south on State Route 67 (North Rim Parkway) for 43 miles to Grand Canyon National Park.

Vehicle requirements: None in good weather.

Information: North Kaibab Ranger District, 928-643-7395 or www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab; Grand Canyon National Park,

928-638-7888 or www.nps.gov/grca

PHOTOGRAPH: DEREK VON BRIESEN





(above)

CATALINA HIGHWAY, **MOUNT LEMMON**

Getting there: From the intersection of Tanque Verde Road and Catalina Highway in Tucson, go north on Catalina Highway (also known as General Hitchcock Highway or Sky Island Scenic Byway) for 30 miles to Summerhaven, near the summit of Mount Lemmon.

Vehicle requirements: None in good weather.

Information: Santa Catalina Ranger District, 520-749-8700

or www.fs.usda.gov/coronado

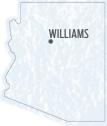
PHOTOGRAPH: RANDY PRENTICE



"One's destination is never a place, but a **NEW Way** of seeing things."

— HENRY MILLER





GARLAND PRAIRIE ROAD, **KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST**

Getting there: From Williams, go east on Interstate 40 for 4 miles to Garland Prairie Road (Exit 167). Turn right onto Garland Prairie Road (Forest Road 141) and continue 12 miles to an intersection with Forest Road 131. Turn left to stay on Garland Prairie Road, then continue 9 miles back to I-40 near Parks.

Vehicle requirements: None in good weather.

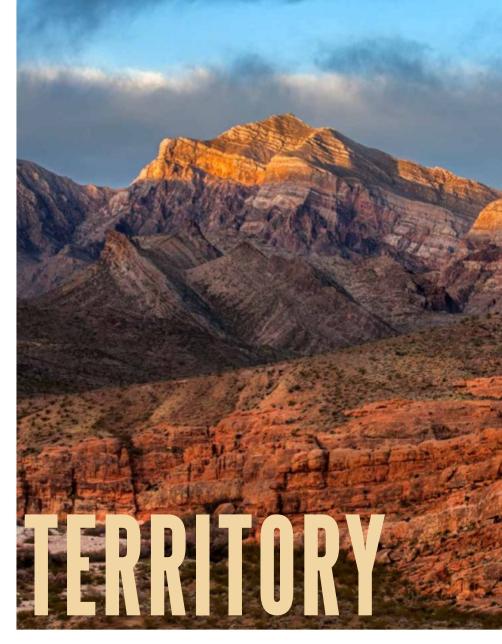
Information: Williams Ranger District, 928-635-5600 or www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM BEAN AH

Best known as a direct route between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, Interstate 15 also cuts through a remote corner of Arizona. It's a stretch of only 29 miles, but it's a gorgeous stretch that winds through the narrows of the Virgin River Gorge. Although it's unfamiliar to many Arizonans, it was hailed as "America's most spectacular highway" when it opened in 1973. It's still spectacular today.

BY MATT JAFFE PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BROWNOLD

VIRGIN



RIVING NORTHEAST on Interstate 15 toward Zion National Park, safely past the glare of casinos and a tangle of interchanges in Las Vegas, I set the rental on cruise control for the run across the desert. It was my first time on this stretch, and about 80 miles beyond Vegas, a sign announced that I was entering the Arizona Strip — the part of the state that lies north of the Colorado River.

I have an unfortunate habit of arriving after dark in the world's most scenic places. And what I couldn't see that night, some 20 years ago, was the interstate surging straight toward a great mass of rock, the wall of the Beaver Dam Mountains. The straightaways suddenly transformed into a series of sharp bends as I-15 began winding through the narrows of the Virgin River Gorge. It was like running a river and, without

On the return trip a few days later, I glimpsed what I had missed. After heading west through Cedar Pocket, an open expanse of dramatically eroded red sandstone buttes and turrets, the interstate entered the 4 miles of the narrows. It glided

warning, moving from flat water to rapids. At 65 miles per hour.

along banked turns and across bridges, following the river's twisting course beneath sheer limestone cliffs.

That was my introduction to the Virgin River Gorge and the beginning of a fascination with a stretch of interstate like no other. Historic Route 66 inspires songs, and dusty back roads get the truck commercials. But interstates? They are to two-lane blacktop as a Boeing 777 is to a hang glider.

Then again, this isn't exactly Interstate 80 through Iowa.

The Virgin River Gorge segment of Interstate 15 should be a point of pride for Arizona. When the road opened in December 1973, a Federal Highway Administration publication hailed it as "America's most spectacular highway." The dedication pamphlet described layers of limestone, sandstone, siltstone and shale, touting the journey as "Twenty-Nine Miles Through 500 Million Years" of geology. And if the notion of a superhighway inside the Grand Canyon is more than a little blasphemous, I-15 through the gorge gives a sense of what that forbidden pleasure might be like.

By the time the Virgin reaches Arizona on its 160-mile run between Utah and Lake Mead, the river has sculpted one of America's iconic places, Zion Canyon. The gorge's narrows are



Interstate 15 enters the Virgin River Gorge. Arizona's remote stretch of I-15 was the most expensive rural section of interstate ever constructed.

less famous but impressive in their own right, with cliffs rising 750 feet above the river and sections that are no more than 70 feet wide.

The stretch here was the most expensive rural section of interstate

ever constructed and the last major segment completed on I-15, which runs 1,470 miles from Canada to Mexico.

Tuffy Ruth of Mesquite, Nevada, worked as a high scaler during his four years on the project. He ascended cliffs and installed dynamite to blast away millions of cubic yards of rock that were used to build the roadbed. His earlier jobs included the Nevada Test Site nuclear facility and Glen Canyon Dam, but Ruth thought Interstate 15 was tougher.

"When I first got out there, it seemed like some engineer's nightmare come true," he says. As one Arizona official said at the time, the gorge was a great place for a river or a highway. Just not both.

Arizona has always maintained an uneasy relationship with Interstate 15. For one thing, you have to leave the state to drive it, because I-15 doesn't connect to paved roads beyond the Arizona Strip. Many Arizonans have never seen the gorge, and the highway doesn't provide any economic benefits to the state.

It is, however, part of a vital national lifeline. It's also vital for St. George, Utah, and Mesquite, the two cities that bookend the strip. Until the Virgin River portion was completed, traffic had to climb the nearly 5,000foot summit of what locals call Utah Hill on U.S. Route 91, a road notorious for overheated vehicles in summer and ice in winter.

Arizona originally endorsed a slightly longer, though cheaper and less difficult, route in a pass to the north. But as early as 1946, federal highway officials aimed to build along the Virgin. The advantages included reduced grades for trucking and the opportunity to construct a showcase highway — what one expert would later praise as "an engineering masterpiece."

The gorge posed colossal challenges. The river had to be rechanneled a dozen times — nine in the narrows alone. Eight bridges were built in a 13-mile span, including one 1,500-footer where the river bends are so tight that the span begins and ends on the same side of the Virgin.

A swamp buggy with 5-foot-tall and 3.5-footwide tires to climb over boulders and drive through water was the only way to get in and survey the gorge. One newspaper account described a helicopter crash in the gorge. By the next day, the aircraft had been swallowed by quicksand. And a summer flash flood sent down gravel and sand that completely buried an Army amphibious vehicle equipped with a drilling rig.

"Oh, there's lots of stories about equipment getting lost, but it's [B.S.]," Ruth says. "Some got washed downriver a bit, or sand and water in their engines. A lot of them stories, I don't know where they came from."

But Ruth adds that serious accidents did occur. A rock-truck driver died when he went off the road, and a fellow high scaler fell 85 feet. "He was fine, though," Ruth says. "Came by and visited me a couple months ago."

Forty years after opening, I-15 remains both vexing and beautiful. Faced with the need to upgrade and repair the aging highway, in 2011 the Arizona Department of Transportation proposed turning the stretch into a toll road. That idea met strong resistance from Utah, Nevada and truckers before federal highway officials rejected it. Then, in December 2013, a snowstorm turned the highway into a luge run, leading to multiple accidents and stranding hundreds of motorists overnight.

"Well, that's how it goes in that old canyon," Ruth says. "In the summer, you couldn't get a breath of air or find any shade. In the winter, the wind would blow and you couldn't find no sun. It was a challenge, but I always liked challenges. Everyone who worked on the highway had a sense of pride. We did things in the gorge that hadn't been done anywhere else."





A storm cloud produces heavy rainfall and a single lightning bolt near the small town of Red Rock northwest of Tucson. In Arizona, the monsoon season is considered to be mid-June through September.

MIKE OLBINSKI







"THUNDER IS GOOD, THUNDER IS IMPRESSIVE; BUT IT IS LIGHTNING THAT DOES ALL THE WORK." -MARK TWAIN

ABOVE: Lightning strikes three spots in the Sonoran Desert near Saguaro Lake.

MIKE OLBINSKI

RIGHT: A storm at sunset lends a golden hue to the Signal Hill petroglyphs at Saguaro National Park near Tucson.

RANDY PRENTICE

RIGHT, CENTER: Lightning from a monsoon storm silhouettes Saguaro National Park's namesake cactuses.

FAR RIGHT: Monsoon rainfall saturates the sandstone of Vermilion Cliffs National Monument in Northern Arizona.

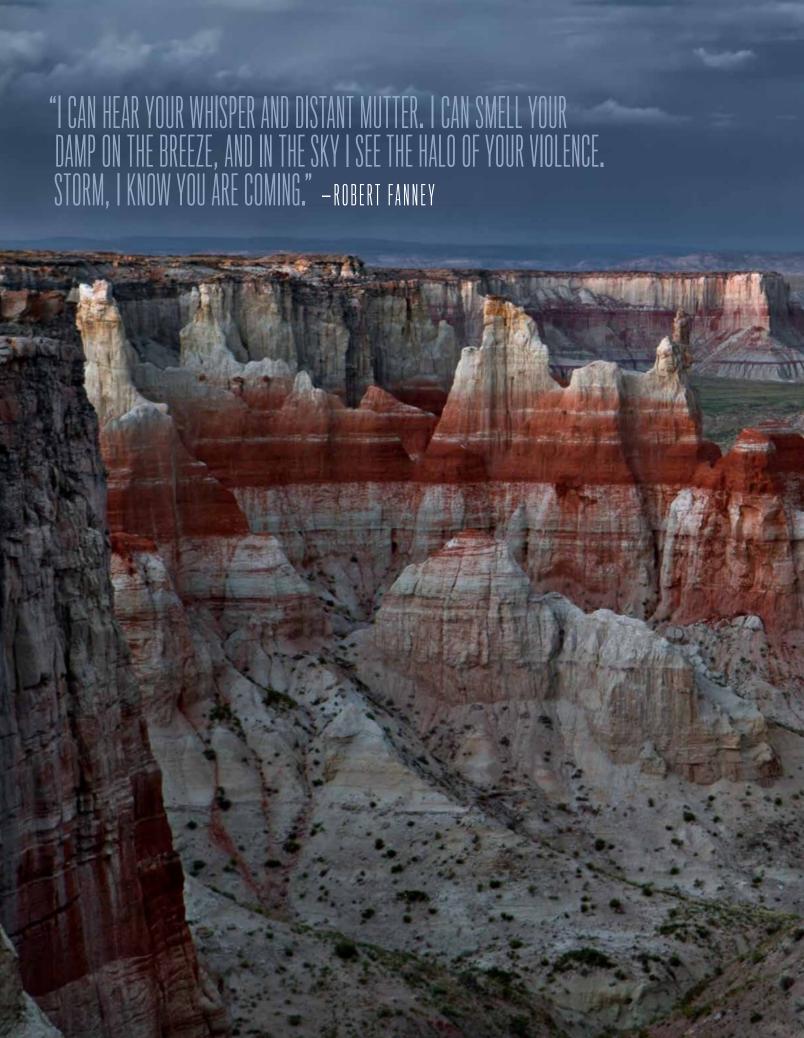
GEORGE STOCKING















Over the years, we've sent dozens of grizzled old photographers up north to shoot Navajoland. This time, we tried something different. Instead of the usual suspects, we asked a 41-year-old Frenchwoman to do the job.

Turns out, la belle fille de Paris can hold her own.

A PORTFOLIO BY MARIE BARONNET

EDITED BY JEFF KIDA, ROBERT STIEVE

& KELLY VAUGHN KRAMER





EDITOR'S NOTE: For almost 90 years now, we've been sharing the beauty of Arizona with the rest of the world. It's something we do every month through the words of writers such as Charles Bowden and Craig Childs, and the images of photographers such as Ansel Adams, Laura Gilpin and David Muench. Their interpretations of places like the Grand Canyon, Sedona, Monument Valley and the Sonoran Desert have inspired other artists to follow in their footsteps. ■ ■ It's especially true with young photographers. Whenever we ask about their role models, they usually rattle off names that can be traced to our archives. Marie Baronnet was different. As a 41-year-old Parisian who specializes in gritty photojournalism, Marie was mostly unfamiliar with *Arizona Highways* and its iconic photographers. And that's what made her perfect for this portfolio. 💵 We were shooting for something along the lines of A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, with Marie in the role of Hank and the Navajo Nation as Camelot. The one big difference from the Twain classic was that our protagonist - a Frenchwoman on assignment in a rugged foreign land — would be a willing participant. Of all the things we could tell you about Marie, perhaps the most important is that she's fearless. In fact, she would have gladly ventured to the Navajo Nation alone, but we wanted to give her some guidance, so we set her up with Gary Ladd. But only for a few days. • • Gary is one of those iconic photographers who inspires others. He's also a kind man, a wonderful teacher and an expert on the history, culture and landscape of Navajoland. Although he and Marie have almost nothing in common other than talent, we knew he'd point her in the right direction, give her the lay of the land and introduce her to some of the locals. And, of course, he did. Thank you, Gary. Beyond that, it was up to Marie — she was The Boss. 💵 In all, she spent more than a month on the Navajo Nation, shooting everything from storm clouds and Navajo elders to Japanese tourists and stray dogs. In this portfolio, we feature just a few of her spectacular images. As you'll see, it's something different, and that's exactly what we wanted.

ALTHOUGH MARIE HAD NEVER before visited the Navajo Nation (preceding panel), she was familiar with long views of Monument Valley's famed Mittens. When she made this photograph, she incorporated a human element - three Japanese tourists. "I've seen so much of Monument Valley in photographs and guidebooks," she says. "I was fascinated by the crowd. It felt like a nice little anecdote that they were all wearing the same type of hat - it was just something that I noticed. If I had been making a photograph of the landscape without the tourists, it would be very beautiful, but something would be missing for me without the people."

MONSOON SEASON ON THE Navajo Nation means that dramatic storms consume the landscape as quickly as they do in other parts of Arizona. Marie experienced several storms during her assignment, but this one, in particular, led to a moving shot (opposite page, above). "This was a very quick capture," she says. "This was in September, and moisture was everywhere. We went to this little stand, and rain fell suddenly - and very hard. Everyone moved their things very quickly, with the exception of these people, who were left outside, struggling with their work. I could see how skilled they were in the folding and unfolding of things, taking things apart and putting them back together. And there was

a division of worlds. Tourists went back to their rental cars or trucks or the safari-style jeeps, and the artists were struggling to protect their work."

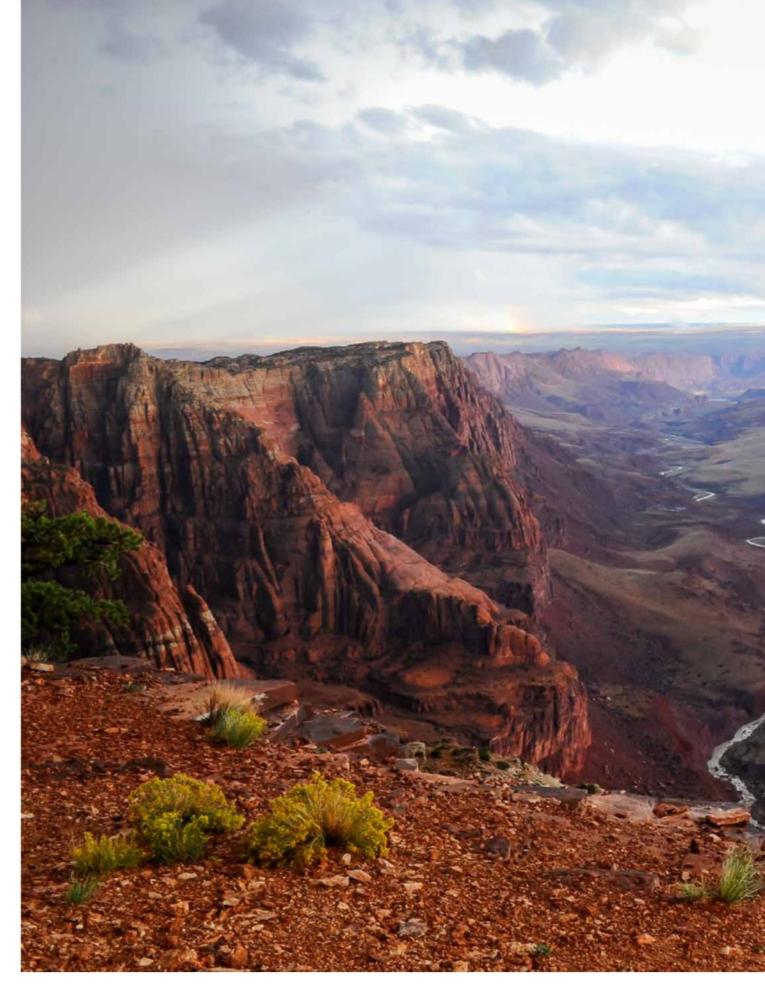
FOR MARIE, THIS PHOTOGRAPH (opposite page, below left) was all about the light. "I had some magical moments where the light was beautiful and soft," she says. "This was at the end of the day, and this artist was still working. Dreamcatchers are so significant in the culture. Many European tourists buy them and take them home. They followed me everywhere on the Navajo Nation, and they're nice to have. This picture isn't really sending a message. It's just a moment between day and night."

AS MARIE TRAVELED MORE and more across the Navajo Nation, she paid closer attention to the Navaios' interaction with tourists and the delicate relationship between tradition and technology. "I was surprised to see these creditcard signs (opposite page, below right)," she says. "I presumed that the artists would accept only cash. I was in this wide space — this natural space — and there were creditcard machines. The stand was jam-packed with tourists, and this photograph was about me exploring the relationship between consumers and the Navajos."











"Alyia was riding a horse like a goddess. I'd never seen someone so confident on a horse at that age."

THIS YOUNG HORSEBACK rider, Alyia Johnson, lives in Phoenix but frequently visits relatives on tribal land. "I visited this family in Black Mesa," Marie says. "Alyia was riding a horse like a goddess. I'd never seen someone so confident on a horse at that age. She had attitude. I left, then came back, stayed overnight and talked to Alyia's aunt, who was training her for a con-

test in New Mexico — 'Miss Rodeo.' It was interesting to me because the little girl travels all the way from Phoenix to ride the horse and see family. Navajo children seem self-reliant. It's as though Nature gives them the possibility to be stronger, more confident. They're very special kids, but I felt as though the parents were trustful."







FOR 12 YEARS, MARSHALL Johnson and his wife, Nicole, have worked as conservation activists on the Navajo Nation. He was one of several activists Marie met during her assignment. "The Johnsons live with their kids in Pinon, a remote community affected by the [Peabody] coal mine and uranium pits. In this photo, Marshall is showing me earth fissures in Blue Gap, which isn't far from Pinon. He says

they are caused by heavy water-drafting. The earth fissure has been filled with water because of the rain. Marshall explains that before the mine and power plant were built, there was an abundance of vegetation, but now it has disappeared. He also says that the quality of water was 'the best,' but now the kids are coughing. Marshall believes that with strong leadership, the Navajo Nation could have running water and low-cost power."



parents." AH





SOMETHING BIG

Elk are big. In fact, they're among the largest land animals in North America. They're big in Arizona, too, in both size and number. At last count, there were about 35,000 elk in our state. That's a big jump from 1910, when there were none.

By Ruth Rudner | Photographs by Bruce D. Taubert

OBODY KNOWS HOW MANY ELK once roamed the high meadows and forests of the land that became Arizona. Whatever their numbers, by 1910, two years before statehood, the native Merriam's elk was extinct. The combination of settlers hunting meat, ranchers removing competition for forage and military expeditions destroying an Indian food source to gain control was deadly. Even the closed season on elk imposed by the Territorial Legislature in 1893 was too late to stem the loss.

That didn't keep some people from believing that elk, a member of the deer family, belonged in Arizona. When the U.S. government offered free surplus Yellowstone National Park elk to any state that wanted them, Prescott frontier doctor Robert Looney, along with Arizona's Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, jumped at the opportunity. Even if the free elk were Rocky Mountain elk—not Merriam's elk—to most people, they



seemed close enough. The catch was that the state getting them had to pay for transportation. Arizona's governor supported the idea of elk, but there was no money available from the state. Faithful to their namesake, Arizona Elks members provided money and logistical support.

During the winter of 1913, 14 bulls, four cows and 68 yearling cows were captured from Yellowstone's northern herd near Gardiner, Montana, urged into crates, shipped by railroad to Winslow, transferred onto 12 wooden horse-drawn wagons and transported to holding pens in the Sitgreaves National Forest south of Winslow.

More releases into the state's wild areas followed. Given the difficulties of getting into Arizona's backcountry in winter, most were near rail lines. The 281 elk released between 1913 and 1963 grew into today's population of around 35,000.

Not everybody was thrilled with the arrival of the large mammals, which can weigh as much as 1,100 pounds, about four times the size of a mule deer. Ranchers once again worried about competition for limited forage. Some hunters were concerned the elk would interfere with the welfare of struggling populations of deer and pronghorns. (Before freezers, preserving all the meat on an elk was problematic, whereas if deer or pronghorns were plentiful, you could eat your way through one, then go out and harvest another.) Purists argued that the elk transplanted to Arizona didn't belong because they were not native Merriam's elk.

hile no one can bring back an extinct animal, the Arizona Game and Fish Department does what it can to avoid conflicts between elk and stock growers. The department conducts annual elk surveys and monitors key foraging areas where only wildlife grazes. When elk numbers increase too much anywhere in the state, hunters get more cow-elk permits.

Too many elk can be a problem even when no livestock competes for grass. In Yellowstone, decimated stands of willows and trampled stream banks provided an example of how too many elk browsing streamside willows badly affected riparian ecology. Beavers, whose dams are essential for maintaining willow growth, disappeared. So did songbirds. But after the 1995 restoration of wolves to the park, elk behavior changed. As wolves provided a check on elk numbers, devastated areas began recovering. While other factors figure into this complicated process, many scientists studying it feel the presence of predators is necessary for Nature to put itself back in order.

In Arizona, where damage to its riparian areas could be disastrous for the threatened Apache trout (the Arizona state fish, one of only two trout native to the state), there are too few wolves on the ground

to have much effect. To ensure stream banks are not harmfully impacted, Game and Fish manages elk through hunting.

I ask Rick Langley, regional game specialist at the department's Pinetop-Lakeside office, about the relationship of elk and wolves in those early days when there were elk and wolves. His reply is that by not knowing the populations of elk back then, nobody knows whether wolves historically helped keep riparian areas intact. Telling me that "wolves being in the system in sufficient numbers would probably have the same effect as in Yellowstone," he adds an ultimate truth: "It's an unbelievably complex little puzzle."

Elk like Arizona's ponderosa forests. In the White Mountains, I often see elk herds in high meadows on Escudilla Mountain or find them at forest's edge in the Williams Valley west of Alpine. The Mogollon Rim, the South Rim of the Grand Canyon and Mormon Lake south of Flagstaff are all prime habitats. Come winter, many migrate down to lower-elevation piñon-juniper forests.

One of the largest species of the deer family, elk are among the largest land animals in North America. A mature bull is an awesome sight. For sheer



wildness, though, few things compare to the sound of an elk bugling. Hunters know the sound well, and many of them use elk bugles (devices that mimic various elk calls) to bring in their animal. (Elk-call apps for smartphones seem much less romantic to me.) But nobody needs to be a hunter to hear bugling. Big Lake and Mormon Lake are good places to be early mornings and evenings in September or October, during the rut. Like the cry of a loon or the howl of a wolf, an elk's bugle is a primal sound of nature. It starts low and climbs octaves to a high-pitched, air-piercing whistle before descending to a grunt, and you may not know, on hearing it, whether it is a challenge to another bull, a warning, an answer or a call to a harem.

But you do know you have been present for a moment of pure wildness. AH

ABOVE: A Rocky Mountain elk bull eyes its surroundings in Grand Canyon National Park The species was brought to Arizona in 1913 after the state's native Merriam's elk became extinct.

ABOVE, RIGHT: An elk cow guards its calf near Payson, Cows and calves typically live in loose herds.

Putting Down ROLL STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

As the vegetation-program manager for Grand Canyon National Park, Lori Makarick's mission is to preserve and restore the park's unique biotic communities — no small task, since there are more than 1,700 different plant species spread over 1.2 million acres.

By Annette McGivney Photograph by John Burcham



HEN IT COMES TO DESCRIBING thorny plants, "cute" is not a word that often comes up. Unless you're Lori Makarick, whose soft spot for desert flora is so big, she's made it her life's work to preserve all the prickly, spiny and scaly native-plant species of Grand Canyon National Park.

"These are so adorable," says Makarick as she caresses a plastic cup where the pointed tip of an agave seedling is pushing through black soil. She sighs contentedly at the progress of the other newborns inside a greenhouse at the park's nursery, where 856 just-sprouted agave plants reach toward the sun. The seeds were gathered in the park along the South Rim's Hermit Road, and in a few years, when the agaves mature, they will be planted in the same area as part of the restoration of the old Orphan Mine site.

Makarick, 44, is Grand Canyon National Park's vegetationprogram manager, and over the span of two decades, she's spearheaded numerous successful ecological-restoration initiatives at the park, ranging from the removal of invasive tamarisks along the Colorado River to the recovery of a tiny endangered plant on the edge of the South Rim.

After growing up on a farm in New Jersey, Makarick learned she had a love for plants when she was getting her bachelor's degree in conservation biology at the University of Wisconsin. She first came to the Grand Canyon in 1993 as an undergraduate intern for the Student Conservation Association. "Grand Canyon is such a unique environment," she says. "I fell in love with the place, and that 12-week internship turned into 20 years."

When Makarick was first hired into the park's vegetation program, her boss was a landscape architect who upheld the time-honored tradition of keeping park grounds looking green and manicured. But Makarick was more interested in restoring the Grand Canyon's underappreciated and rough-aroundthe-edges native-plant species. While completing her master's degree in restoration ecology at Colorado State University, Makarick was inspired by the writings of conservationist Aldo Leopold, and a particular essay stuck with her. "The land is one organism," Leopold wrote. "Its parts, like our own parts, compete with each other and cooperate with each other. ... To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering."

S MAKARICK took on more responsibility with the Grand Canyon's vegetation program, she set out to preserve and restore every part of the park's unique biotic communities — no small task, since there are more than 1,700 different plant species spread over 1.2 million acres. Thanks to Makarick's Leopold-like vision, the Grand Canyon is one of the few parks in the nation that have a comprehensive nativevegetation program, with a dedicated nursery for plants grown only from seeds collected inside the park.

"We try to maintain the genetics of the species by gathering seeds from specific areas in the park," says Makarick as she walks down the middle of the nursery's greenhouse, where thousands of tiny plants are sprouting. "It has involved a lot of trial and error, because each species has a different need. Some seeds have adapted to go through a cold winter or through an animal's gut, so we try and figure out how to replicate that by doing something like abrading the seed with sandpaper to get it to grow."

After the seeds are gathered, they're stored in large refrigerators, then coaxed to life in the greenhouse and eventually moved outside, where nursery staff tends to the plants using reclaimed water from the park's nearby wastewater-treatment plant. Finally, and usually after years of tedious work, the plants are put in the ground by volunteer crews who work alongside Makarick and her staff.

During her tenure at the Grand Canyon, Makarick has assembled one of the largest volunteer programs in the National Park Service. Volunteers, through the Grand Canyon Association and other nonprofits, spend an average of 25,000 hours per year cutting, digging and planting. In one of the most monumental efforts, thousands of volunteers removed tamarisks from more than 130 side canyons along the Colorado River between 1999 and 2007.

Recent projects have returned native plants to the newly constructed visitors center and the Bright Angel Trailhead, and soon, native, elk-resistant plants will replace the exotic, water-sucking green grass around El Tovar and other South Rim lodges. "Getting rid of that lawn has long been a dream of mine," Makarick says.

Another of her dreams being realized is the recovery of the sentry milkvetch, the only plant in the Grand Canyon that is on the federal endangered-species list. The tiny, matted plant is a member of the pea family and grows on the waterless, windblasted edge of the South Rim. It ekes out a living in soil pockets atop Kaibab limestone and exists in just three locations, all within the park boundaries. One is the Mather Point overlook, where visitors were unknowingly trampling the milkvetch into oblivion. Under Makarick's watch, Mather Point's parking area was closed in 2008, and a program was implemented to restore the milkvetch at the overlook and grow the plant in the nursery for establishing future populations.

On a breezy morning in April, Makarick stops by Mather Point to check on the milkvetch. As the director of a large park division, she is pulled in many directions, but she still makes time to get her hands in the dirt. "Desert plants are amazing for their adaptability and survival," she says as she tiptoes from rock to rock to avoid stepping on any milkvetch seedlings not yet visible. "This plant has evolved to grow very low to the ground and in only one kind of rock. It is a treasure that exists nowhere else in the world."

Makarick stops 5 feet from the rim and looks down. The milkvetch is in bloom, and new tufts of the plant are all around. Its delicate purple flowers peek out from craggy white limestone shining brightly in the morning sun. Makarick will ensure that every new plant is tagged and protected. "I often walk out here and find the babies," she says. "I have the patience for it." AH

For information about volunteering for upcoming Grand Canyon vegetation projects, visit www.volunteer.gov or www.grandcanyon.org.

Point Sublime

The name of this drive says it all, but the views of the Canyon from out on the point are only the half of it. BY ROBERT STIEVE

hen the payoff on a scenic drive is something called Point Sublime, it's reasonable to think that the drive itself might fall short. In this case, it doesn't. Not even close. The old-growth ponderosas are part of that. So are the other evergreens, the wildflowers, the meadows and the extreme solitude that'll make you wonder: Why aren't there more cars lined up? Sublime ... that means stupendous, right? Why am I the only one out here? You'll be intrigued by the isolation, but not for long. You'll be too busy looking around.

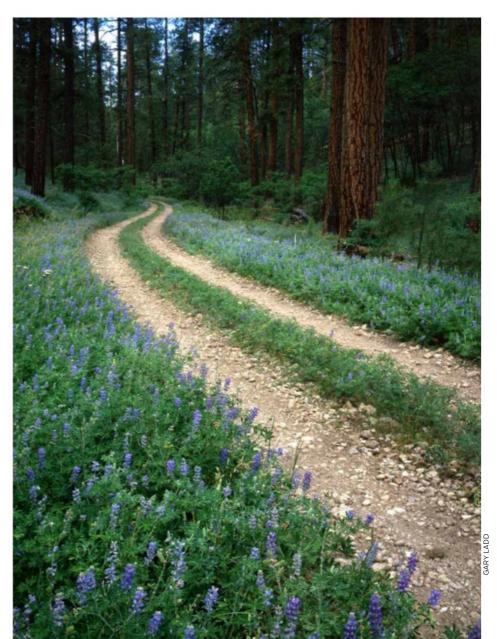
The drive begins a couple of miles north of the North Rim's Grand Canyon Lodge. From the park road, look for a sign on the left that marks the Widforss Trail. Although the focus here is the ride out to Point Sublime, Widforss is worth remembering — it's one of the best trails in Arizona. Just past the trailhead, the dirt road veers right and slips into the forest. A few hundred yards later, it splits. Veer left and follow the signs. You'll see a lot of lupines at the outset, and at the 1.5-mile mark, an elderly ponderosa surrounded by youthful aspens.

"Your way is lined with heavy growth of the Kaibab Forest," longtime editor Raymond Carlson wrote in the September 1941 issue of *Arizona Highways*. "Pine trees cluster about your path, shouldering each other to get a better look at you. You come across small meadows, where a deer will look up, almost annoyed by the intrusion. Flowers carpet the forest, having a high old time in the sunlight."

The trees still cluster, especially in the early stages, where the road narrows to a single lane. Then, about 4 miles in, the road widens a bit and crests a hill. Up ahead you'll see the drive's most impressive meadow. The road slices through the middle of it for a mile and a half and then dips back into the woods. Bright-green ferns and deep-orange ponderosas mark the passage. A couple of miles later, you'll go through a small burn area and another meadow, and then re-enter the woods, where the first tree is a hulking ponderosa. Although the forest on the Kaibab Plateau is blessed with quaking aspens, Engelmann spruce and Douglas firs, it's the ponderosas that stand out most.

Just beyond the old yellow belly, the road heads up a steep, rocky hillside. You'll need a high-clearance vehicle four-wheel-drive if you have it. The rest of the road is in pretty good shape, weather permitting, as it weaves through the thick, alpine forest. A few miles beyond the rough spot, you'll come to an intersection. The short detour to the left is the first good opportunity to see the Canyon — in case you forgot, there is a natural wonder over there. To get to Point Sublime, go the other way, and within a few minutes, you'll come to another intersection. To the right is Fire Point, but you'll veer left.

Other than those two side roads and a smattering of sawed-off trees, there are no signs of man on the road to Point Sublime. Enjoy the scenic beauty and



LEFT: Lupines line the dirt road to Point Sublime on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The view from the point is worthy of the long drive required to reach it.



pay attention to your odometer. At the 12.1-mile mark, you'll get a glimpse of the Canyon to the left, but it's just a glimpse. A half-mile later, the views make another appearance before the road winds back into the woods.

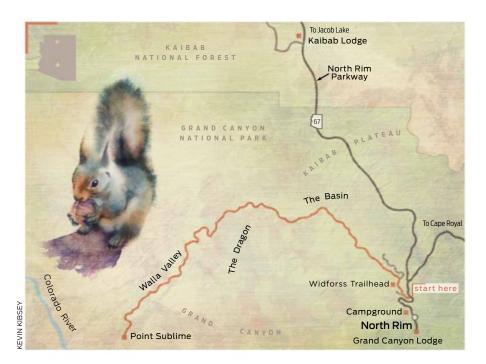
Things remain about the same for the next 4 miles. That's when you'll start to sense the abyss off to your right. Moments later, bam, there it is. The

Grand Canyon. Despite your natural inclination to stare at Mother Nature's handiwork, keep your eyes on the road. There are sheer drop-offs to your right, and a half-mile later, the drop-offs close in on both sides of the road.

Take a deep breath and make the short but harrowing ride out to the point. "Out there," Mr. Carlson wrote in 1941, "is a view of the Grand Canyon you'll see

from no other place but Point Sublime." Sublime is certainly one of the words that'll come to mind. Stunning, spectacular, sensational ... those will occur to you, too. It's a payoff that's worthy of the drive that takes you to it.

For more scenic drives, visit the Arizona Highways website and search the state's best back roads by region. You can find us at www.arizonahighways.com.



tour guide

Note: Mileages are approximate.

LENGTH: 17.7 miles one way

DIRECTIONS: From Grand Canyon Lodge on the North Rim, go north on the park road for 2.6 miles to the turnoff for the Widforss Trail. Turn left and continue 17.7 miles to Point Sublime.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS: A high-clearance vehicle is required; four-wheel-drive is recommended.

WARNING: Back-road travel can be hazardous, so be aware of weather and road conditions. Carry plenty of water. Don't travel alone, and let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.

INFORMATION: Grand Canyon National Park, 928-638-7888 or www.nps.gov/grca

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

Brins Mesa Trail

Sedona and its surrounding canyons are home to one of the best collections of hikes in Arizona. The Brins Mesa Trail is a great example.

BY ROBERT STIEVE | PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK FRANK

ow have I missed this all these years? That's what you'll think within the first 71 seconds of hiking the Brins Mesa Trail. Not only because of the surrounding beauty, but also because it's so easy to get to. For a few lucky Sedonans, one of the trailheads is right out the back door. For everyone else, it's just a few blocks from the pink jeeps and turquoise jewelers.

Before you get started, you should know there are two established trailheads for this hike. The most accessible is the Jim Thompson Trailhead — the one that's so close to the strip. The alternative is out on Vultee Arch Road. If your SUV has wings or extremely high clearance, that trailhead is an option. Otherwise, take the easy route. You can navigate it with a Mini Cooper, and the hike is equally impressive from either end.

From the parking lot on the Thompson

side, the trail hops up and over a small embankment and immediately passes two other trails (Jordan and Cibola Pass). The intersection is well marked. Keep right for Brins Mesa, which begins as an easy walk through manzanitas and junipers. Sedona red is all around, without any signs of civilization. Even the traffic noise disappears. It's a lovely loneliness.

The trail points north at this point, and after about five minutes, it crosses into the Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness. There are certain responsibilities that come with hiking in these areas, including the principles of Leave No Trace. Please be responsible. A little farther up the trail, you'll see what happens when you're not.

The trail stays about the same — rocks and trees — for the next 20 minutes. That's when the hike heads west and launches into the only significant ascent.

There aren't any switchbacks. Just a natural rock staircase that winds upward. Along the way, there are several points that invite you to stop, turn around and look around. Do so.

Ten minutes later, you'll arrive on the mesa and see the effects of irresponsibility. The Brins Fire, which scorched 4,000 acres on and around the mesa, was ignited by an illegal, unattended campfire on June 18, 2006. Most of the trees on the mesa were lost, and their descendants won't be back for many decades. It's a drag. That said, the grass that moved in makes a gorgeous placeholder, especially in the morning. This time of year, that's when you'll want to hike Brins Mesa, and if you can time your

BELOW: The Brins Mesa Trail offers expansive views of Red Rock Country.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Low clouds shroud Wilson Mountain, as seen from the trail.



arrival to see the sunrise from up on the mesa ... well, it's very beautiful.

From the top, the literal high point of the hike (5,099 feet), you'll begin a gradual descent that offers long views in every direction. You'll see Soldier Pass to the left, and up ahead, more trees — the fire line is obvious.

At the 50-minute mark, you'll intersect the Soldier Pass Trail and begin a steep drop. It's short, about 100 yards, and when the trail hits the bottom, it leaves the wilderness area and enters a good-sized wash. The forest is thicker down there, and some of the trees are unexpectedly big. One of the biggest isn't around anymore, but the stump that remains can attest to the tree's Bunyanesque heyday.

Just beyond the big stump, the trail crosses the wash, crosses again, and crosses once more before arriving at a large, flat rock, about the size of a Whole Foods' produce department. The trail then parallels the wash, going back and forth for most of the rest of the hike beware of flash floods, especially during monsoon season.



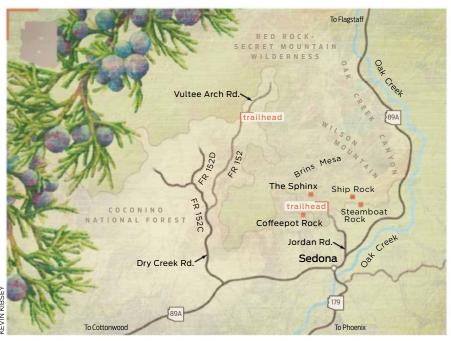


A few minutes later, you'll pass through a fence and begin the 200-yard home stretch to the the trailhead on Vultee Arch Road. You probably won't see anyone when you get there, but if you do, it's a good bet their SUV has extremely high clearance. Or maybe a set of wings.

ADDITIONAL READING:

For more hikes, pick up a copy of Arizona Highways Hiking Guide, which features 52 of the state's best trails - one for each weekend of the year, sorted by seasons. To order a copy, visit www.shoparizonahighwavs. com/books.





trail guide

LENGTH: 6.4 miles round-trip **DIFFICULTY: Moderate**

ELEVATION: 4,503 to 5,099 feet

TRAILHEAD GPS: N 34°53.286', W 111°46.097'

DIRECTIONS: From the roundabout intersection of State Route 179 and State Route 89A in Sedona, go north on SR 89A for 0.2 miles to Jordan Road. Turn left onto Jordan Road and continue 0.7 miles to Park Ridge Drive. Turn left onto Park Ridge Drive and continue 0.1 miles to where the pavement ends. From there, continue 0.5 miles on the dirt road that leads to the Jim Thompson Trailhead.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS: None (at the Jim Thompson Trailhead)

DOGS ALLOWED: Yes

HORSES ALLOWED: Yes

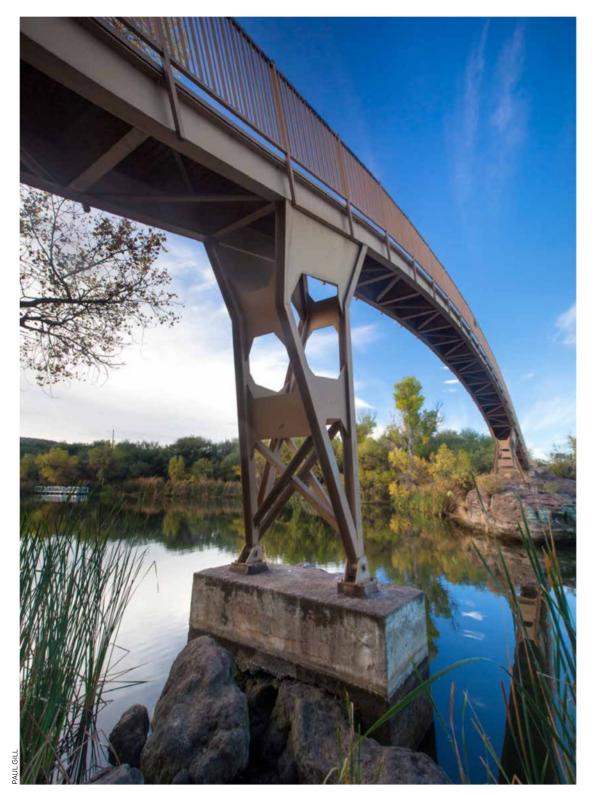
USGS MAP: Wilson Mountain

INFORMATION: Red Rock Ranger District, 928-203-2900 or www.fs.usda.gov/coconino

LEAVE-NO-TRACE PRINCIPLES:

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

where is this?



The Bridge to Somewhere

This pedestrian bridge spans an Arizona body of water that got its name from a nearby town, which once was a supply hub for nearby mines and ranches. The lake is a popular fishing spot, and earlier this year, a Tucson man caught a 56-pound catfish there.

— NOAH AUSTIN

June 2014 Answer & Winner

Celtic cross at Holy Trinity Monastery near St. David. Congratulations to our winner, Jacqueline Wells of Jacksonville Beach, Florida.



Win a collection of our most popular books!

To enter, correctly identify the location pictured at left and email your answer to editor@ arizonahighways.com type "Where Is This?" in the subject line. Entries can also be sent to 2039 W. Lewis Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009 (write "Where Is This?" on the envelope). Please include your name, address and phone number. One winner will be chosen in a random drawing of qualified entries. Entries must be postmarked by August 15, 2014. Only the winner will be notified. The correct answer will be posted in our October issue and online at www.arizonahighways. com beginning Septem-

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AND WE'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE US FOR A RIDE.



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