

Arizona Coach Talker

Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

Volume 26, Issue 1

January, 2012

"Mmm...mmm Good!"

Collin Williams is Director of Sales/Marketing for Desert Splash Seaplane Adventures and he will be telling us all about his Arizona Seaplane Tour. Where there's smoke and fire, you'll find Colin Williams. The Paradise Valley resident is a certified firefighter and former fire department public information officer. He and his family own Smoketree Resort & Bungalows in Paradise Valley, and for years, Williams, a certified pit master, has been serving up barbecue for gatherings at the resort, plus public events such as the town's annual public safety day and for friends and family.

Six months ago, Williams launched El Toro BBQ. In addition to operating the resort, he caters parties, group functions, company lunches and other occasions. He drives a Chevy van dubbed 'Coyote 1' that has a dancing bull on the side.

"Barbecue allows you to take your guard down. It's kind of classic American cuisine. It's all about having smoke on your face," he says. Williams said his firefighter training comes in handy when he barbecues. A fire requires three basic elements to ignite and burn - heat, fuel and oxygen. "It's really all about the heat and oxygen management," in controlling the barbecuing process."

After a short business meeting, we will be entertained by Arizona Johnson with his cowboy music and Arizona stories. Gary Marshall Johnson is famous for sharing his amazing tales and humorous insights into history and legend of the Grand Canyon state.

AGA Meeting ~ January 9, 2012

When: Monday, January 9, 2012

Where: Cattle Track Arts Compound ~ 6105 N. Cattle Track Road,
Scottsdale

Time: 6:00 ~ Barbecue and Program.

Followed by short business meeting and music by Gary Marshall Johnson.

Please RSVP by January 6 to Larrydyb@juno.com or call 480.628.2037

AGA President's Notes.....

Happy New Year! I think we can expect a good year with work for all of us. Your board will be offering several mini educational opportunities during the rest of the season on Mondays. The first will be a city tour in mid February. You will receive the information within the next two weeks. Start the New Year right.....see you at Cattle Track Arts Compound!

Larry Dyb, AGA President 2011-2012

In case you missed it.....from the Arizona Republic

NE Valley conservancies are models for preservationists. A new land-trust census indicates the strength of efforts to conserve land in Arizona, including through the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy and Desert Foothills Land Trust in the Northeast Valley. Land trusts have protected nearly 530,000 acres in Arizona, which represents a 440 percent jump in acreage conserved since 2005, the National Land Trust Census indicates. More than 18,000 of those acres are in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve in Scottsdale.

The report from the Land Trust Alliance tallied 577 volunteers across the state, of which 400 support the Scottsdale-based McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, said Linda Raish, the conservancy's community-development director. "We are known as a national model for land conservation as we are able to protect so much land because of these volunteers." Beyond that, the census cited 4,400 statewide members and financial supporters of land-trust efforts. Of those, 1,250 support the non-profit conservancy, which champions the completion and sustainability of Scottsdale's preserve.

The 2010 census, released last week, also cited Arizona's only accredited land trust, the Desert Foothills Land Trust in Carefree. "As a signal of the land-trust community's commitment to excellence, there is now one accredited land trust in Arizona," the Land Trust Alliance said. The Desert Foothills Land Trust has protected more than 620 acres in the north Valley. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awards the accreditation to institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/scottsdale/articles/2011/11/25/20111125sr-landtrust1125.html#ixzz1f1Op2LqR>

Arizona hotels net 4 diamonds from AAA. The number of top-rated five-diamond properties remained at five, but four hotels have been added to AAA Arizona's list of hotels awarded four diamonds for 2012. New four-diamond properties are Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino, Chandler; Westin Phoenix Downtown, Phoenix; Talking Stick Resort, Scottsdale; and El Portal Sedona Hotel, Sedona.

Kai restaurant at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa on the Gila River Indian Reservation near Chandler remained the only five-star restaurant. The Grill at Hacienda del Sol restaurant in Tucson joined the four-diamond list of eateries. The diamond guides are designed to help travelers and meeting planners decide where to stay or eat.

A total of 46 hotels and restaurants and 26 restaurants made the 2012 list. Properties were notified earlier in the year and honored with a dinner Monday evening. Five-diamond hotels and resorts -- all in the Phoenix area -- are the Camelback Inn, which has been on the list 36 years; Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, 21 years; Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North, 11 years; the Phoenician, eight years; and the Canyon Suites at the Phoenician, five years. Find the full list at az.aaa.com/news/index.htm.

Forbes Travel Guide, formerly Mobil Travel Guide, also just came out with its 2012 rankings. The more exclusive list only lists 11 businesses in the state. No hotels or resorts were given the top-rated five stars. The only restaurant to be ranked that high was Kai. Forbes gave its second highest four-star rankings to the Four Seasons, Phoenician and Ritz-Carlton hotels and resorts and the Talavera restaurant in Scottsdale, as well as six spas. Find the full list at blog.startle.com/forbes-travel-guides-five-and-four-star-award-winners

Mountain Shadows Resort owner will sell property to JDM Partners The owner of the shuttered Mountain Shadows resort in Paradise Valley has agreed to sell the property to a well-known local development company co-owned by Jerry Colangelo, town officials said. California-based Crown Realty & Development Inc. has entered a purchase agreement for the sale of the resort to JDM Partners LLC. The high-profile developer's projects include Chase Field, US Airways Center and Comerica Theatre. A recent project was the renovation of the Wigwam resort in Litchfield Park.

The resort at Mountain Shadows, 56th Street and Lincoln Drive, on the northeastern side of Camelback Mountain, closed in September of 2004. Tom O'Malley, chief operating officer for JDM Partners, said the group is looking forward to restoring Mountain Shadows' reputation as a top destination. "We have the same interests with Mountain Shadows as we do with the Wigwam," he said. "There are certain properties in Arizona that are iconic, and Mountain Shadows and the Wigwam are two of them. We want to bring those properties back to their prominence."

Paradise Valley Mayor Scott LeMarr said the agreement will bring in a company with a proven track record. "Many people have wanted to develop Mountain Shadows, but few have gotten permission to do so," he said. "Now, we have a reputable and capable company to do it." The resort aspect of the property is closed because of a lack of available equity in the economy, LeMarr said. However, the 18-hole executive golf course and residential components remain open. "Our residents have had to endure the condition of Mountain Shadows for too long," LeMarr said.

Crown Realty, developer of the Montelucia Resort and Spa, bought the 68-acre Mountain Shadows from Host Marriott Corp. for \$42 million in January 2007. Host Marriott Corp. is now known as Host Hotels & Resorts. Later that year, owner Robert Flaxman proposed a boutique-style resort and residential project for Mountain Shadows that included 320 rooms and 26 resort patio homes. However, the plan never moved forward and the resort remains shuttered.

Flaxman put it on the market near the end of 2008, citing a desire to spend more time with his family after his work on the Montelucia resort. Mountain Shadows originally opened in 1959.

Phoenix to cut hours for downtown parking meters. Drivers who park in downtown metered spots won't have to feed the meter after 5 p.m. starting sometime in January, and credit-card operated meters would be installed within a year or so, under a measure approved by the Phoenix City Council Downtown, Aviation and Economy Subcommittee. The subcommittee voted 3-0 to immediately shorten the parking-meter hours to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and gave city staff the OK to issue a call for bids for new credit-card operated meters to replace the old coin-operated ones. The nine-member City Council will vote on the parking-meter hours and replacement at a meeting in January.

The parking-meter rate, \$1.50 per hour, would stay in effect. The shortened parking-meter hours are the same as they were before 2009, when the city had extended the days and hours to boost revenue. In 2008, the City Council had extended the on-street, metered parking hours to Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and increased the hourly rate from 60 cents to \$1.50. The extended hours and increased rate boosted parking revenue by an estimated \$2 million a year, according to a city-commissioned study by Kimley-Horn and Associates. But some businesses complained to council members the extended hours deterred customers. This summer, City Council member Michael Johnson told city officials he wanted to revert to the old hours even though the city would see a decrease in parking revenue.

David Roderique, president and CEO of the Downtown Phoenix Partnership, said businesses that are members of the partnership want the new card-operated meters installed because they're more convenient than the old coin-operated ones. Deputy City Manager Rick Naimark said that at the earliest, the city could be installing the new meters in August 2012. The Street Transportation Department has said they want to replace all the city's 2,400 meters.

City staff have estimated that it will cost about \$500,000 to replace 800 of the meters, so the cost of full replacement could reach \$1.5 million.

CopperWynd Resort and Club a Fountain Hills hotel with views of the McDowell Mountains, used to be geared toward those willing to pay big bucks for all the "bells and whistles one could imagine." But times have changed, and after closing in 2009, the resort has reopened "leaner and meaner" and ready to welcome more cost-conscious guests. "A large portion of the population doesn't really want to pay top dollar for all the frills, and this works out well," said Jeff Locke, resort spokesman. "It really appears like a luxurious kind of place, but now the rates are a heck of a lot more reasonable and the fact that there's no room service doesn't make any difference to the views."

CopperWynd, located on Eagle Ridge Drive north of Palisades Boulevard, encompasses 10 acres, with 32 European-inspired guest rooms, an upscale restaurant, spa, fitness center, and tennis and pool areas. It is owned by Scottsdale-based Sun Tech Development LLC and managed by Pinnacle Diversified. "It was pretty much a high-end boutique resort," Locke said. "Essentially, it operated under that mode up until 2008 when things got kind of rocky in that arena. It actually closed down in May 2009, and they were kind of thinking it was a done deal."

Sun Tech was able to gain some new investors and reopened the resort in November of last year, then shut down this past summer. It is now open again for the winter tourism season. "Instead of trying to limp along in the summer, they just close down and tennis members can still play and the health club and spa are still open, but the rooms and restaurant close to save a few bucks when it's slow," Locke said. "It's located in a residential neighborhood, so there's not much drive-by traffic. You need to know it's there to find it."

The resort debuted in 1999 to much fanfare. Frank Ferrara, president and CEO of the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce, called it the "jewel" of Fountain Hills. "Of course, the economy dictates, but we are certain that after the economy turns around, it will regain its status, if not more so, than it had in the past," Ferrara said. "We are very happy to know that it's up and running and open for business."

Room rates have been slashed to fit more budget-minded visitors. Rates now top out at \$299 a night, whereas before the recession, rates were above \$400, Locke said. "There also wasn't a lot in terms of special rates and promotions, and now we have an e-mail database, we're on Facebook and Twitter, and we'll send out two-for-one deals for the restaurant and resort," he said. "We'll package together some things, like rooms with the restaurant, and a stay-and-spa package."

Guests can dine at Alchemy, the resort's upscale restaurant, and there's a market cafe where premade food and snacks are available. However, there's no more room service, reducing the number of employees. Occupancy remains soft until after the holidays, reaching 100 percent around March.

Airport News.....

Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport shuttles The shuttle-van contract for Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is back on track for council approval. A City Council subcommittee this fall had delayed a decision on the four-year deal, worth \$1.7 million a year, after attorneys for the incumbent contractor, Veolia Services' SuperShuttle, questioned the city staff's recommendation to award the contract to a startup business, Pouya.

The attorneys then noted that Pouya, a family-owned firm, is led by Arash Khaleghi, a Scottsdale man who four years ago had faced a charge of drunken driving under the age of 21, and other charges, such as speeding, and driving on a suspended license. Khaleghi has said he was younger and more foolish at the time, but he is now a responsible businessman working with his father on their new shuttle service. Because city attorneys have determined Khaleghi's past would not affect his family's ability to operate their shuttle service, the Downtown, Aviation and Economy Subcommittee voted 2-1 Wednesday in favor of Pouya. Councilman Michael Nowakowski, who represents residents in Laveen, parts of Maryvale and downtown Phoenix, opposed the recommendation, saying he worried that switching to a startup company is a risk for the airport and its reputation as "America's friendliest airport."

The subcommittee chairman, Councilman Michael Johnson, said he wanted to give a small local business a chance at a big business opportunity, as the city is doing with the airport food-and-beverage contracts that require concessionaires to involve local restaurants. Johnson's council district includes downtown, south Phoenix and the airport.

Aviation Director Danny Murphy said that his department staff closely studied Pouya's pitch and determined it has the resources and capability to provide quality shuttle service at the airport. SuperShuttle has been running shuttles at Sky Harbor since 1986. It won its first big contract at the airport in 1988. Even if SuperShuttle doesn't win the contract, it will be certified to pick up passengers who have made special reservations with the company.

Phoenix Airfares up 5 percent in second quarter. Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport had only the 82nd-highest airfares of the nation's 100 largest airports in the second quarter of 2011, according to data from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. The average domestic fare from Sky Harbor was \$327 in the second quarter, which was up 5 percent from the same quarter in 2010 (\$311). In 2000, the average fare from Phoenix was \$270. Average domestic fares are 21 percent higher now. Memphis, Tenn. (\$467) had the most expensive average domestic airfare in the second quarter, while Atlantic City, N.J. (\$205) had the least expensive. (BizJournals.com/Phoenix, Dec. 14)

News from the Arizona Office of Tourism (AZOT).....

Bearizona Wildlife Park receives accreditation from the Zoological Association of America. ZAA President, Jim Fouts announced at the 2011 annual business meeting held in Dallas Texas in November 2011 that Bearizona Wildlife Park earned accreditation. The accreditation process requires a zoological facility to have a professional ZAA member on staff, demonstrate professional standards for husbandry and animal care practices and safety of humans, both staff and visitors, and wildlife conservation. An expert panel of ZAA board members inspected Bearizona Wildlife Park in September and presented their findings to the entire board at the annual meeting.

The Accreditation is important because it shows Bearizona's standards on maintaining excellent park facilities, great care for the animals, continued conservation efforts and educational programs.

The ZAA's mission is to promote responsible ownership, management, conservation, and propagation of animals in both the private and public domains through professional standards in husbandry, animal care, safety and ethics. Bearizona Wildlife Park Chief Operating Officer, Vanessa Stoffel explained, "Obtaining ZAA accreditation was a strategic goal since Bearizona's concept phase. We constructed our exhibits and facilities to ZAA standards with this goal in mind. We are proud to be associated with ZAA and its accredited members, and look forward to actively participating in the organization for wildlife conservation."

For more information contact Bearizona Wildlife Park 928-635-2289 or visit the web www.bearizona.com.

Brewer Proposes \$7 million boost for Arizona's tourism sector. Tourism in Arizona got a big boost with a Dec. 16 announcement by Gov. Jan Brewer that her proposed state budget will include an additional \$7 million in funding for the Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT). If approved by the Legislature as proposed, the money will more than double AOT's current budget of about \$5 million. "The Arizona Office of Tourism makes marketing decisions based on what will generate the biggest return on investment for Arizona residents – and it's the only organization that promotes tourism throughout the entire state," Brewer said.

Travel and tourism in Arizona is a multi-billion dollar industry. Direct travel spending in 2010 totaled \$18 billion with more than 36 million domestic and international overnight visitors staying at properties across the state. There are an estimated 300,000 Arizonans employed in tourism and tourism-related industries. "As we near our Centennial celebration on Feb.14, 2012, we must look at how we build the economy and work together toward the next 100 successful years. Tourism is a large piece in the bedrock of our state's economy. It's important not only to hotels and restaurants, but to overall growth in our state." BizJournals.com/Phoenix, Dec. 16)

Scottsdale Tourism Updates....

Scottsdale buys nearly 2,000 acres for Sonoran Preserve. Scottsdale was the winning and only bidder in early December for 1,937 acres of state trust land that will be added to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. State Land Commissioner Maria Baier said the city paid the appraised price of \$41 million for the land. That amounts to \$21,165 per acre. The Scottsdale Preserve South parcel is on both sides of Rio Verde Drive between the alignments of 122nd to 136th streets. Scottsdale hopes to buy another 2,482 acres of state trust land for its preserve next Wednesday. That land, valued at \$45 million, is northeast of Pima Road and Dynamite Boulevard and along Lone Mountain Road to 136th Street.

Elevated trail proposed..... in south Scottsdale. Jason Rose and Douglas Sydnor have come up with a big idea they say would jump-start economic revitalization of south Scottsdale's McDowell Road corridor. Rose, a Scottsdale-based publicist and political consultant, and Sydnor, a Scottsdale-based architect, are seeking feedback on their idea of developing an elevated trail that would run above the center of McDowell. It would go from Indian Bend Wash just east of Miller Road to 64th Street at Papago Park. It also could include a 3,000- to 4,000-seat amphitheater in Papago Park. The 30-foot-wide "elevated park experience" would include street-level access at all major intersections, stadium seating on the west end for viewing the Papago Park buttes and sunsets, and viewing platforms that extend east and west. Early estimates put the cost at \$40 million to \$45 million, and Rose and Sydnor would like to see the City Council get behind the idea and push to make it a reality.

"There's three policy options before us," Rose said. "One is to do a citizens initiative and put it on the ballot in 2012, and it would be voted on in November. "There's also the possibility that the council could adopt this vision for McDowell Road, and just as WestWorld has evolved over the years, we could see an evolution of this plan in a council-initiated action without a public vote." Rose got the idea while walking around New York City, where he came across the High Line, a public park built on a historic freight-rail line elevated above the streets on Manhattan's west side. "It's really become this fantastic social, recreational and economic-development tool," he said. "Museums, office buildings and hotels have sprung up all around it and it's become this truly fantastic urban amenity." Rose brought his idea to Sydnor, who quickly came on board and began coming up with his own ideas for a similar concept along McDowell.

Rose and Sydnor have launched a website, scottsdalehighlinepark.com, that includes photos of New York's High Line and descriptions of what a similar concept could do for McDowell and south Scottsdale.

Scottsdale Downtown Trolley route changes made. Scottsdale's free downtown trolley service has changed its route to eliminate the western portion of Indian School Road, Sixth Avenue and a Scottsdale Road segment, where there is little ridership. The service will focus on an eastern segment of Indian School Road, Third Avenue and Drinkwater Boulevard. The new route also provides two transfer stops: one for the Miller Road Route at Indian School and Miller roads and the other for the Neighborhood Route at Marshall Way and Second Street. The trolleys run every 15 minutes from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except for Thursdays, when the downtown service is extended until 9 p.m. to serve patrons of the downtown ArtWalk. During spring training, the trolley provides direct service to Scottsdale Stadium for every home game from all downtown parking lots and business stops.

WestWorld General Manager shares plans for upgraded Equestrian Center. During this 17 minute video, you'll hear from Brian Dygert, general manager for WestWorld of Scottsdale, who shares construction plans, funding sources and implications of the plans to expand and enclose the Tony Nelssen Equestrian Center on retaining current events and attracting new ones. This video, Part 1 of a three-part series taped at the Scottsdale CVB's Dec. 6 Quarterly Update Meeting, includes a digital walk-through of the proposed design plans. Part 2 and Part 3, which will be available in January, include comments from representatives of our top equestrian events about how the WestWorld plans will impact their future event operations and visitation to Scottsdale.

\$300 Fines await those who trash downtown Scottsdale's entertainment district. Patrons of downtown Scottsdale's entertainment district soon will face a \$300-plus fine if police officers or code-enforcement workers spot them improperly discarding a beer can or cigarette butt. The City Council on Dec. 13 adopted an ordinance establishing a \$75 fine for littering anywhere in the city and created a litter-free zone that doubles the fine in the entertainment district. The boundaries of the litter-free zone are Camelback Road to the north, Indian School Road to the south, Miller Road to the east and Scottsdale Road to the west. Those caught littering in the litter-free zone will face a fine of more than \$300 once state surcharges are added. The ordinance and litter-free zone will be effective in 30 days. According to J.P. Twist, Mayor Jim Lane's chief of staff, signs will be placed throughout the district to make patrons aware of the new fine, and 17 new trash cans will be installed in the area.

Items of interest.....

HabiMap Arizona can help you find bears in the woods. Ever wonder where Arizona's wildlife roam? The Arizona Game and Fish Department has made that information available through HabiMap Arizona, a Web-based data viewer that allows users to locate, for example, where the likely place would be to spot a bear. Game and fish officials launched www.habimap.org this month. "You wouldn't be able to go into the tool to find out where there are three bears, but you would use the tool to look at the state of Arizona and find out the most likely area where you would encounter a bear," said Laura Canaca, Arizona Game and Fish Department's project evaluation program manager.

The program, 8 years in the making, is designed to develop planning for the state's wildlife department. Within that plan, the department needed to find out where the species are, where hunted animals are located, where is the best location for birdwatching and fishing areas, Canaca said. The tool identifies which of the state's 300 species are threatened or endangered. The website will educate about the state's wildlife. The information came from varied sources, including the federal government and private parties.

"This is a great example of how technology can be used to assist in transparent wildlife conservation and project planning," said Larry Voyles, the department's director. "We're excited to offer a tool that not only allows the department to better manage wildlife at a statewide scale, but also can be used to help address the growth needs of our state."

The State of Arizona contains approximately 73 million acres with a large range of topographic and geologic diversity. Elevations in Arizona range from about 75 ft above sea level (near Yuma) up to 12,643 feet at its highest point (San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff). Generally, elevation increases moving from west to east and from south to north. Precipitation ranges from less than 3 inches to over 30 inches per year depending on elevation and location. Most precipitation in Arizona comes from summer monsoons and winter storms carrying moisture from the Pacific Ocean. The Sonoran Desert in the southwest corner of the State typically receives near equal amounts of summer and winter rain. Winter rain or snow dominates more in

northern portions of the State, while summer rain dominates more in the southern portion.

Variability in climates, elevations, landforms, vegetative communities, watercourses, and soil types create many different environments throughout Arizona. These environments range through all 6 of Merriam's life-zones —from the hot, dry deserts of southern Arizona through grasslands and woodlands in mid-elevations, to the cold, moist, montane and alpine forest environments in the higher elevations. In addition, isolated mountains throughout Arizona, known as “sky islands”, create steep elevation gradients assuring rapid environmental changes over very short distances.

Throughout Arizona, aquatic systems and associated riparian areas play a major role in maintaining biodiversity. Riparian communities along the aquatic habitat provide migratory birds and pollinating insects and bats with vital travel corridors for their migrations between North and South America. The State is home to a number of large rivers. The Colorado River runs through the Grand Canyon and forms the western boundary of Arizona. The Gila, Salt, and Verde rivers drain the northern-central portion of Arizona, and carry water to reservoirs supporting the cities in central and southern Arizona. Many smaller creeks and tributaries have perennial or intermittent flow. Springs, cienegas (marshes), and stock tanks provide valuable aquatic and riparian habitat and water for wildlife use. The complexity of the Arizona landscape gives rise to a diversity of habitats that support diverse wildlife communities.

Arizona ranks third in the nation for the number of native bird species, second for reptiles, fifth for mammals, and eighth for overall vertebrate animal diversity. Wildlife that reside in or regularly migrate through Arizona include: 32 species of amphibians, 297 species of birds (not including accidental and casual (migrants), 72 species of fish, 164 species of mammals, 145 species of reptiles, and over 20,000 species of macro-invertebrates.

The Prescott National Forest

The Prescott National Forest is a 1.25 million acre (5,100 km²) US National Forest located in north central Arizona in the vicinity of Prescott. The forest is located in the mountains southwest of Flagstaff and north of Phoenix in Yavapai County, with a small portion (about 3.5 percent) extending into southwestern Coconino County. Its administrative offices are in Prescott. There are local ranger district offices in Camp Verde, Chino Valley, and Prescott. The forest includes Lynx Creek where Sam Miller panned for gold and was wounded by a cougar.

There are eight designated wilderness areas comprising more than 104,000 acres (421 km²), located entirely or partially within the Prescott National Forest. These are: [Apache Creek Wilderness](#) (Chino Valley District); [Castle Creek Wilderness](#) (Bradshaw District); [Cedar Bench Wilderness](#) (Verde District); [Granite Mountain Wilderness](#) (Bradshaw District); [Juniper Mesa Wilderness](#) (Chino Valley District); [Pine Mountain Wilderness](#) (Verde District); [Sycamore Canyon Wilderness](#) (Chino Valley District); [Woodchute Wilderness](#) (Verde District).

The Prescott Forest Reserve was established by the General Land Office on May 10, 1898. It was transferred to the U.S. Forest Service in 1906 and became a National Forest on March 4, 1907. On July 1, 1908 it absorbed Verde National Forest, and on October 22, 1934 it absorbed Tusayan National Forest.

Education

Spring Education Trip will be in mid-May, and information will be announced soon. It will be an exciting two day tour of Northern Arizona, including: Page, Lake Powell, Antelope Canyon, a boat trip to Rainbow Bridge, Glen Canyon Dam, and Cameron Trading Post!! Look for details soon.

Are you thinking about taking AGA Certified Guide test? Betsy Todd is the AGA Certification chair, and you can contact her for more information: betsy_todd@q.com or call her at 602.943.2900.

Certification Test Question: What is the State's Motto?



Notable Post-War buildings (highlights for a city tour):

1947 Hanny's Department Store (now Hanny's Restaurant), 40 N. First St., Phoenix.

1947 Stewart Motor Co. (later Circles Records), 802 N. Central Ave., Phoenix.

1954 Tovrea Land and Cattle Co. (Stockyards Restaurant), 5009 E. Washington St., Phoenix.

1955 Park Central Mall, 3300 N. Central Ave., Phoenix.

1956 Town and Country Mall, 20th Street and Camelback Road, Phoenix.

1956 Cosanti, 6433 Doubletree Road, Paradise Valley.

1959 St. Francis Xavier Church, 4715 N. Central Ave., Phoenix.

1959 Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave., Phoenix.

1960 Farmer and Stockmen's Bank (Bank of America), 5001 E. Washington St., Phoenix.

1962 Phoenix Sky Harbor, Terminal 2, Phoenix.

1963 Phoenix Municipal Building (Calvin C. Goode Building), 251 W. Washington St., Phoenix.

1964 Gammage Auditorium, 1200 S. Forest Ave., Tempe.

1965 Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 1826 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix.

1968 Financial Center ("Punchcard Building"), 3443 N. Central Ave., (top eight stories added 1972).

1972 Valley Bank Center (Chase Tower), 201 N. Central Ave., Phoenix.

1972 Symphony Hall, 75 N. Second St., Phoenix.

GO ONGET OUTSIDE !!

Weather doesn't get much better than this!!

West Clear Creek Wilderness The thick green canopy of the sycamores and cottonwoods that stand along West Clear Creek contrasts dramatically with the terra-cotta cliffs that tower above it.

Details: 928.282.4119, www.redrockcountry.org/recreation/trails.shtml

Tonto National Monument Contains cliff dwellings occupied by the Salado people during the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. Long and short hikes take you to the lower and upper ruins. The monument and visitor's center are located four miles east of Roosevelt Dam on AZ 188. Details: 928.467.2241,

www.nps.gov/tont

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AGA Newsletter

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www.arizonaguides.org

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Websites to visit

Be able to answer questions about the Valley's interesting buildings:

<http://www.azcentral.com/photo/Entertainment/Arts/20293>

Journey through Arizona's history and celebrate our centennial:

<http://www.azcentral.com/centennial/architecture/#prehistory>

Test Answer: *Ditat Deus* ("God Enriches")

~ SEE YOU AT CATTLE TRACK ARTS COMPOUND !! ~