



Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

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April Adams, Editor

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Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer!

Welcome back to AGA. We are very excited to welcome all our new members and existing “old” members back! Please make sure to introduce yourselves to one another if you see a new, fresh (aren’t we all?) face in the crowd. That is definitely what we are about as the Arizona Guides Association:

To enrich the lives of our members by offering the opportunity to learn, experience and share the many facets of the tourism, hospitality, transportation and travel industries that we represent. To give service to our community by sharing in efforts to enhance the visitors’ experiences.

The By-Laws committee has been extremely busy working and refreshing the Association By-laws. That being said, we will be voting on the acceptance of the changes at the meeting on September 21st.

I look forward to seeing you all and to welcoming the Destination Management Companies that have taken the time to attend and introduce what their about at the September meeting. Please make sure to stop by and introduce yourselves to them and bring your resumes with you!

Best Regards,

Janette Bell

2015/2016 AGA President

AGA Kick Off Meeting—Save the Date

Our September meeting will be held on Monday, September 21 at the Kerr Cultural Center, 6100 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale 85253. Meet the DMC’s at 6:00pm. More details to follow by email.

Get Ready for Real ID’s

As early as next year, travelers without REAL ID will be require to use an alternative forms of identification, such as a passport or Permanent Residency Card, to board a commercial airplane—even for domestic flights—and to enter federal buildings. An Arizona driver’s license will no longer suffice.

This change follows legislation recently signed into law by Gov. Doug Ducey. Arizona was one of the last states to adopt the federal legislation, which was passed in 2005 to standardize state ID’s nationwide. Unlike an Arizona driver’s license, travelers will need to renew their REAL ID every eight years through the Motor Vehicle Division.

Getting Older Has Its Perks.

If you are 62 or older, for \$10 you can get a lifetime pass to more than 2,000 national parks and recreation sites. Visit store.usgs.gov/pass/senior.html

Arizona’s Lucky 7 Attractions

1) Canyon De Chelly, 2) Nature’s Bridges, 3) Meteor Crater, 4) Antelope Canyon, 5) Petrified Forest and Painted Desert, 6) Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon, 7) Wild West Towns. www.aaahighroads.com



Funky and Far Out from AAHighroads.com

Near Tucson, a ranch called Keeylocko pairs wacky with the Wild West by Monica Surfaro Spigelman

A cow town where pigs outnumber citizens? Yep. This offbeat attraction is part ranch and part art, and it's worth a visit if you hanker for adventure.

Head about 40 miles southwest of Tucson along Arizona State Road 86 to the Hayhook Road turnoff at Milepost 146. Take this south 4 miles, making a right turn onto a passable yet washboard ribbon of a road. Next, follow four Keeylocko signposts through three more bumpy miles. At the final signpost, make a left. With a hoop and a holler just ahead up the rise is Keeylocko — one gritty, bizarre place on 80 acres near the Coyote Mountains.

In all its spunky glory, Keeylocko is a collection of 10 wacky tin and wood buildings owned by Ed Keeylocko and guarded by a drove of squeaky pigs. At one corner of this peculiar “cow town” is the weathered Blue Dog Saloon. If you're lucky, it's open. You step inside to a gaggle of dusty memorabilia and a spiffed-up Ed Keeylocko, who sports a silver bolo and proper cowboy hat. He sits at the bar, welcoming you heartily.

At 84, Ed still runs his ranch with a swagger and the help of friends who double as ranch hands. He encourages visitors to pull up a bar stool to hear his tales.

Ed traveled the country after an Army career before settling in Arizona. He built his ranch in the 1970s to breed livestock. Ed still has 100 head of cattle and a dozen horses, but over the years his eccentric Keeylocko became successful in catching the interest of unconventional explorers. Now it draws a handful of music festivals, weddings, and film productions each year.

There's plenty of character in this tumbledown place that includes a fort, library, barn, arena, and bank, as well as the saloon (all part of Ed's ranch). The public is welcome to meander. For group appointments, Ed fires up the generator, lights the smoker, opens the saloon, and spins stories about his buildings, which usually are closed until events like October Keeylocko Days, an annual weekend fest of music, crafts, barbecue, and primitive camping.

Be prepared for the unexpected in this handmade oddity. There are no restrooms but plenty of photo ops. Look out yonder to the wild landscape, and maybe — just maybe — you'll feel a tingle of your inner wrangler.

Grand Canyon National Park Announces Entrance and Backcountry Camping Fee Increases, Review submitted by Sharon Waldie

Effective June 1, 2015, Grand Canyon National Park will increase park entrance fees and the cost of overnight backcountry permits. The current park entrance fees have been in place since 2006. Grand Canyon began charging for overnight backcountry permits in 1997 and last modified backcountry fees in 2000.

The single vehicle entrance fee will change from \$25 to \$30 for a seven day pass. The motorcycle entrance fee will increase to \$25 for a seven day pass. The current rate of \$12 per person entering the park via Grand Canyon Railway, the park shuttle bus, private rafting trip, by walking or riding a bicycle will increase to \$15. Grand Canyon National Park's annual pass will increase from \$50 to \$60. This increase does not affect commercial entrance fees.

During a 60-day public engagement period, the park received 59 formal comments about the entrance fee increase. Many comments supported an increase, as the additional revenue will be used to enhance visitor services, including repair and maintenance of park facilities, restoration and rehabilitation of visitor service buildings, additional park programs and transportation services, and to increase resource protection. Examples of projects where fee revenue was used include the Bright Angel Trailhead renovation, the re-design of Mather Point, and the Grand Canyon Visitor Center. The park's free shuttle bus system is also funded by entrance fee income.

Entrance fees are not charged to persons under 16 years of age or holders of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Annual, Senior, Access, or Military Passes. These passes may be obtained at the park. The interagency passes, honored at all federally managed land units, are not affected by the entrance fee increase and will remain at \$80 for the Interagency Annual Pass, \$10 for the Senior Pass, and free for the Access or Military passes. Continued page 3.....



The cost recovery charge for overnight backcountry permits will increase June 1, 2015 for permits issued starting on or after October 1, 2015. The new charge will be \$10 per backcountry permit (same as present), plus a nightly charge of \$8 per person or stock animal camping below the rim and each group camping above the rim in designated backcountry camping areas. This increase does not affect camping fees at Mather, Desert View, or the North Rim campgrounds.

All backcountry permit revenue pays actual costs for running and staffing Grand Canyon's permit offices and Backcountry Information Centers. This adjustment and decisions to trim costs for the backcountry operation are designed to eliminate a funding deficit and ensure the operation will recover the actual costs incurred.

Additionally, Grand Canyon National Park will end its Frequent Hiker Membership program effective June 1, 2015. As part of terminating this program, all existing members who have not already experienced \$25 in savings through their memberships will be provided with hiker credit for the difference (up to \$25). For questions about the backcountry fee increase and termination of the Frequent Hiker Membership, contact Steve Sullivan at 928-638-7415. (May 13)

Dreamy Draw by Susan Mercer Hinrichs—paraphrased

As you're reading this, mentally turn back the hands of time some 90 to 120 years ago. Imagine you're standing on what now is known as the Christiansen Trail, also called Trail 100, near one of its current-day heads at the North Mountain Visitors Center, 12950 N. Seventh St, in Moon Valley. Image you are a young lad returning home from school to his home that was one of the miner's tents or the so-called Lunger tents that housed people afflicted with tuberculosis and sometimes their families, too. This young man would then set up to guide their Fathers home after the men had worked an arduous day in the cinnabar mines dotting the Phoenix Mountain Preserve.

Minors, intoxicated from inhaling toxic cinnabar fumes, frequently needed assistance traversing the variable terrain. Their youngsters would ensure a safe and sobering-up passage home. Cinnabar, once refined, becomes mercury. It is a dangerous substance to humans in either form. Inhaling toxic cinnabar fumes created a hallucinogenic effect on miners, who were said to be in a dreamy state after their workday. Hence the name, Dreamy Draw, according to local lore referring to those mountainside mines holding the promise of work and maybe even wealth.

Mining was a way for men—some of whom came to our area seeking respite or hopefully a cure for tuberculosis to earn a living for their families. Our hot dry climate was touted as a haven for T.B. patients. Minors also came seeking riches of gold, silver, copper and cinnabar in some of the more than two dozen mines dug in the hills and mountains in our immediate Moon Valley area.

Desert Botanical Garden among Top 10 Innovative Parks

With spring in full blossom, botanical gardens are in their busy season. But the landscaped sites now offer more than just beds of blooms. Gardens have evolved to host interactive exhibits and art installations, encouraging visitors to reconnect with nature, says Michael Gauthier of the North American Garden Tourism Conference, which recently honored top innovative parks. "Gardens are stress relievers. They are more and more relevant to the quality of life." He shares the winning gardens and other favorites with Larry Bleiberg for USA TODAY.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Miami

From palms to water lilies to tropical fruit, this huge garden takes full advantage of its subtropical location. "It has that climate where they can push the envelope," Gauthier says. "There is a bit of a wow factor with water gardens and lakes." An annual July mango festival attracts thousands for a plant sale, cooking demonstrations and displays. 305-667-1651; fairchildgarden.org

The Huntington, San Marino, Calif.

This former estate includes an expanding art museum, a library and a top-notch collection of 12 gardens covering 120 acres. Gauthier likes the imaginative offerings, which includes special tours and garden teas. Highlights include a conservatory and Japanese, Chinese and desert gardens. Other collections range from carnivorous plants to camellias. 626-405-2100; huntington.org

Butchart Gardens, Brentwood Bay, Canada. Continued page 4.....



It's hard to believe this stunning garden near Victoria was once a quarry, but now it attracts nearly one million visitors a year. "The quality of their garden display is unbelievable. You won't find a dead leaf or a weed there," Gauthier says. "You're not only getting a garden, but a historical site. It has been there for 100 years." 866-652-4422; butchartgardens.com

Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pa.

One of the world's top gardens, Longwood, developed by industrialist Pierre du Pont, doesn't rest on its laurels. It attracts major exhibits, offers fantastic summer fountain and fireworks shows, and was even honored last year for having the country's best public bathrooms, which include a green wall with 47,000 living plants. Thirty miles away, Chanticleer Garden in Wayne, Pa., is noteworthy for its English-style design, Gauthier says. 610-388-1000; longwoodgardens.org

Atlanta Botanical Garden

Located on the edge of Piedmont Park in Atlanta's midtown area, this garden has taken an innovative approach since opening in the 1970s. Highlights include a canopy walk, an edible garden with an outdoor kitchen, and a huge orchid display. It recently opened "Forest of Light," a special nighttime exhibit, featuring hundreds of miles of fiber optics. 404-876-5859; atlantabg.org

Denver Botanic Gardens

This popular garden has Wi-Fi and sunrise yoga classes. It also welcomes picnics, and hosts special indoor and outdoor exhibits, like the display this summer of minimalistic horse sculptures. Gauthier particularly likes the children's garden: "It's on a slope. You go down to various levels, and when you get down to the bottom, you get a completely different view." 720-865-3500; botanicgardens.org

Vallarta Botanical Gardens, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

While it's just 10 years old, this garden has quickly become part of the visitor experience in this Pacific Coast city. "Twenty years ago, people just went there for the beach, now the garden is part of it," Gauthier says. Displays focus on native Mexican plants, including orchids, showcased in a new conservatory. Further up the coast, Jardin Botanico de Culiacan focuses on incorporating art within garden displays. vbgardens.org

Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix

This Arizona site works wonders with cacti and other desert plants, including some that only flower at night. "It's like something you've never seen before. They just played with the desert and created an unbelievable garden," Gauthier says. The park's known for its agave collection, and includes plants from Australia and South America. 480-941-1225; dbg.org

Montreal Botanical Garden,

This huge 185-acre garden near the city's Olympic Stadium has 10 exhibition greenhouses along with an arboretum, showcasing a wide variety of trees. There's an alpine garden, and a First Nations area, featuring plants associated with Canada's indigenous population. "I like the layout. You just go from one style to another. It takes you through the different experiences," Gauthier says. espacepourlavie.ca/en

Myriad Botanical Gardens, Oklahoma City

This 15-acre urban garden reaches out to its community with an outdoor theater, band shell and even a dog park. A meadow area features plants from the Oklahoma Ozarks, while its centerpiece, a tropical conservatory, includes palms, waterfalls and animals. 405-445-7080; myriadgardens.org

10 Best Gardens (USA Today, May 15)

Have you been to Tucson lately?

Barrio Viejo. Tucson's colorful Barrio Viejo is home to the largest collection of 19th-century adobe buildings in the United States and was one of the first neighborhoods built outside the city's walled presidio in 1775. It has character like no other place, and the neighborhood's vibrant murals and historic building can best be explored on foot. Among its highlights are El Tiradito (the wishing Shrine), St. Augustine Cathedral, La Pilita Museum and the Teatro Carmen, one of Tucson's first theaters showcasing dramatic works in Spanish.



Arizona Taco Festival Scottsdale, AZ

October 17-18, 2015 it is held at the Salt River Fields at Talking Stick. This zany festival is all about mixing great food and drinks with good fun. You can sample tacos and tequila. There is a taco eating contest, hot chile pepper eating contest, cooking demonstrations, live bands and the ever popular Chihuahua beauty pageant.

Arizona Trivia-----History

1. How many years did Barry Goldwater serve as U.S. senator?
2. Who was the first woman to become governor of Arizona?
3. In 1850 what incident turned Geronimo into the leader of the Apache resistance?
4. In what year were Native Americans in Arizona allowed to vote?
5. When was the first cotton grown by white settlers in Arizona?
6. What ancient people were the ancestors of the Apache and Navajo?
7. From what Arizona community does Justice Sandra Day O'Connor hail?
8. What federal territory was Arizona originally part of?
9. In the 1950s what were Tucson's main tourist attractions?
10. What was the nick name for the town of Tombstone?

Answers: Thirty, Rose Mofford, his mother, wife and three children were murdered by white men, 1948, in 1873 near Phoenix, Athapaskan, Duncan, The territory of New Mexico, dude ranches, the Town Too Tough to Die.