

The Confluence

The Journal of Colorado Plateau River Guides

Volume 6, Number 3, Winter 1999

New Board Members

Grove K. Gilbert

Diary of the Wheeler Expedition

River Education Seminars

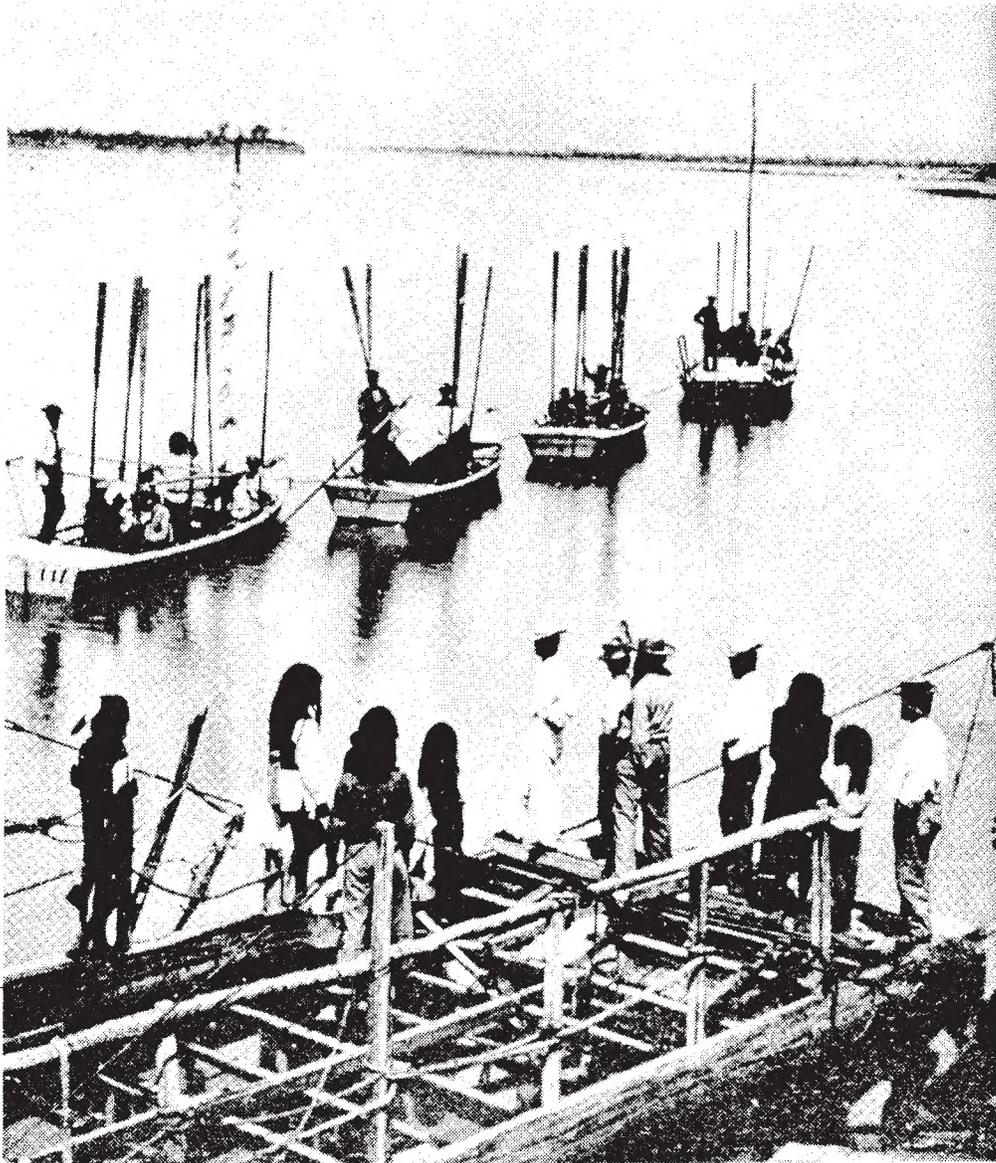
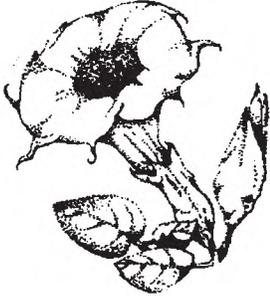
F. G. Faatz

Letters and Comment

Westwater Canyon

Neverland

Precambrian Geology



George Wheeler's Grand Canyon Expedition starting from Camp Mojave to Diamond Creek, Colorado River.
Timothy O'Sullivan photo, 1871. Courtesy of National Archives

The Confluence

...wants to be the quarterly journal of Colorado Plateau River Guides, Inc. (CPRG), which is a member of a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization called Canyon Country Volunteers. CPRG is dedicated to:

- Protecting the rivers of the Colorado Plateau
- Setting the highest standards for the river profession
- Providing the best possible river experience
- Celebrating the unique spirit of the river community

Guide Membership is open to anyone who works or has worked in the river industry of the Colorado Plateau

General Membership is open to those who love the rivers of the Colorado Plateau

Membership dues

\$ 20 per year
\$100 for 6 years
\$195 for life
\$295 Benefactor

General Meetings and Board Meetings
will be announced

Officers

President Dusty Simmons
Vice president Dave Focardi
Secretary/Treasurer John Weisheit

Directors

Bluff Clay Hamilton
Grand Junction Darren Smith
Green River Shane Edwards
Moab Eric Thompson
Vernal Herm Hoopes

Colorado Plateau River Guides

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Faxes accepted: Please call first.

We need articles, oral histories, poetry, stories, and opinions. This journal is composed using Microsoft Publisher. If you use a word processor, we can translate most programs. Otherwise, please send your text typed. Please include useful photos, charts, diagrams and artwork. There really is no deadline, but the beginning of each quarter works best.

Managing editor: John Weisheit (jweisheit@hotmail.com)

Editor of this issue: John Weisheit

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Disclaimer

The opinions and statements made within the pages of The Confluence are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the position of the guide membership, the board of Colorado Plateau River Guides, nor Canyon Country Volunteers. This forum is open with no restrictions at the present time. If you have an opposing or supporting viewpoint please send your comments to CPRG.

New Officers for CPRG

The CPRG board met at the America Outdoor convention in Salt Lake City this last December. It has been a struggle to get nominations for the officers of CPRG. T-Berry's term was over last year and he carried an additional year as president because no one stepped forward—until now. That guide is Dusty Simmons and she would like to fill the role as our president; Dusty currently works at Tag-A-Long Expeditions. For vice-president Dave Focardi has stepped forward to replace Michele Hill; Dave is a guide at Sheri Griffith Expedition. For Vernal director, Herme Hoopes will replace Clark Hatch. For the Moab director, Eric Thompson will replace Dusty Simmons. Our sincerest thanks to all for serving past and present.

If guide members object to this ad hoc leadership please act by March 1, 2000, provide nominations and we will do an election. If you are interested in serving on the CPRG board in the future, or know someone who would, please let us know. We have many goals and objectives waiting for leadership.

River Education Seminars and River Trips

River Trips (guides only)

San Juan April 17 – 21
Westwater April 24 – 27
Cataract May 1 – 4
Dinosaur May 1 – 5

(RES) River Education Seminar (for everybody)

May 5 – 6, "Boats and Boaters." A land-based river history seminar at the J. W. Powell River History Museum, Green River, Utah.

Remembering Glen Canyon in Word, Song and Film

May 7, a special public event to restore Glen Canyon Moab, Utah; Grand County High School Auditorium

Wilderness Medicine and First Aid Courses

Please contact these providers:

Wilderness Medical Institute; PO Box 9; Pitkin, CO 81241; 970.641.3572; www.wildernessmed.com

Canyonlands Field Institute; PO Box 68; Moab, UT 84532; 435.259.7750; www.canyonlandsfieldinst.org

From the Members

Dear John,

As always, I enjoyed reading the most current issue of *The Confluence*, Volume 6, Number 2, Fall 1999. I found the article by Jim Strong, regarding the names of our regional rivers, particularly interesting.

As you know John, Canyonlands Natural History Association (CNHA) has been involved in the development of *Plateau Journal*, a regional publication dedicated to the interpretation of the Colorado Plateau. While I was serving on the editorial board of that publication, a question arose that has haunted me ever after. The question is that of the Rio Colorado—Red River place name.

Mr. Strong mentioned several times in his article that the source of this place name was from the Spanish term for red river. While I could never debate the “Big Red” nature of the river we now call Colorado, especially in the spring runoff, the Spanish translation for red river would be ‘rio rojo’ not ‘rio colorado.’ Colorado is in fact an adjective that means colored, it does not translate to red.

Upon consultation with linguist Louis Robledo of Brigham Young University, an even more interesting twist emerged when he said ‘Rio Colorado’ could be translated to mean either ‘colored river’ or ‘river of changing colors.’ While language, and specifically place names, are not an exact science, I felt that these translations more correctly describe the character of the river I have enjoyed so much while living here in Moab. Day to day, hour to hour the color and mood of the river seems to change. To me, this is so much more than ‘red river.’

Thinking not only about the uniqueness of the changing colors of the Colorado River, but also of the vast array of colors to we see from the red rocks of Moab to the summits of the Rockies, I really value the rich linguistic depth of the term ‘Colorado.’ In some ways, I find comfort that a culture which some may define as simplistic, seems to be more adept in describing the natural world around them than we are today.

Sincerely,
Brad Wallis
Executive Director, CNHA

Trespassing on the Indian Nation

From a renewal notice by Darren Smith, the CPRG Grand Junction director.

In the name of professionalism stop supporting trespassing into the Indian Nation. It does not support our mission.

Darren brought this topic up at our board meeting in Salt Lake City and we all agreed that the guides need to set a good example of professionalism by honoring tribal lands according to the wishes of the tribal council (s). To not would indeed be a compromise of our mission statement (see preceding page, first column). We ask all guides to please not camp or lead hikes on the Indian Nations without the permission of the tribal government.

There is also the issue of trespassing on private land while conducting a river trip, for example: Rock Creek in Desolation Canyon, in the vicinity of Moab, Green River, and from Grand Junction to Westwater, to name but a few.

Be a professional and know the boundaries of our public lands where camping and hiking is allowed by law.

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8	\$4.75	\$3.90
9	\$5.00	\$4.10
10	\$5.50	\$4.30
12	\$6.00	\$5.10
15	\$6.75	\$6.20
20	\$8.00	\$7.80
Loop 4 feet	\$6.35	\$5.15
8	\$6.75	\$5.75
20	\$8.40	\$8.20

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In the United States

A rendezvous and rally at Glen Canyon Dam

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Katie Lee
Martin Litton
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and many others**

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**For info on the international scene contact:
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