

Angel Canyon News



Cyrus Mejia conducts tours of Angel Canyon and its ancient wonders for visitors, animal lovers and experts alike.

The Rock Art of Angel Canyon

**Heavy metal musicians blasting away?
Rocks carefully arranged in art galleries?
No, it's the ancient Anasazi carvings on the majestic red rocks of Angel Canyon, home of Best Friends.**

Last month we welcomed sixty-five preeminent archeologists, geologists, writers and others from the Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA) to explore the pictographs and petroglyphs of Angel Canyon during their thirteenth symposium.

"We travel around the country searching for and documenting the carvings and drawings still visible on rock faces," said Jesse Warner, president of the association, whose specialty is observing the movement of the light and shadow across the figures – symbolic solar interaction. (Remember Indiana Jones at the Well of Souls in *The Last Crusade*?)

Cyrus Mejia, Best Friends' tour director, led the team to some of the petroglyphs (carvings in the rock walls) and pictographs (paintings on the rocks). Cyrus has explored the canyon for the past eight years and says he acquired most of his knowledge "from talking to the rocks, plants and animals." The scholars from URARA helped confirm and expand our knowledge of the ancient peoples for whom Angel Canyon has been a sacred gathering place for over six thousand years.

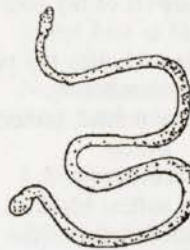
The visiting experts agreed with Cyrus' interpretation of the art here in the canyon. They said that the quality and type of drawings indicate that Angel Canyon was an area where shamans and medicine men went to have a more ritualistic, spiritual experience. They felt that the three sets of concentric circles on one of the cliff faces in Turtle Canyon – a branch off the main canyon – indicate a mystical place where shamans would cross over to other worlds.

It was fascinating to learn more from experts in the study of ancient places, but you don't need to be an expert in order to feel the very deep peace that enfolds this magical place.

What the symbols mean

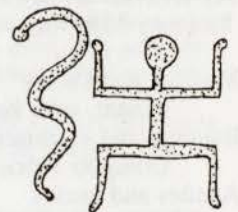
Here are some of the symbols you'll find carved or painted on the canyon walls, together with what archaeologists believe they mean.

Concentric circles represent places where a medicine man or shaman could move freely between this world and other dimensions of existence.

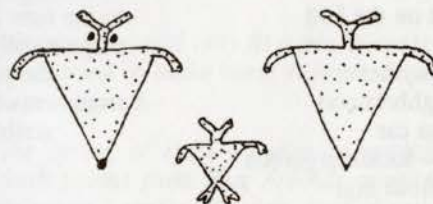


A snake carving indicates a place where strong magic, often healing, is possible. Snake bites often produce hallucinations, and are sometimes fatal, which is why they were associated with the spirit world.

A person holding a snake represents someone who has control over their dreams, and perhaps over death itself – usually a medicine man.



Turtles were sacred animals representing Mother Earth. Ancient tales refer to the earth being carried on the back of a giant turtle.



Triangle shapes represent people, usually in family groups. To many people they look more like owls, who were seen as guardians of the community. 🦉

Petroglyph Rock

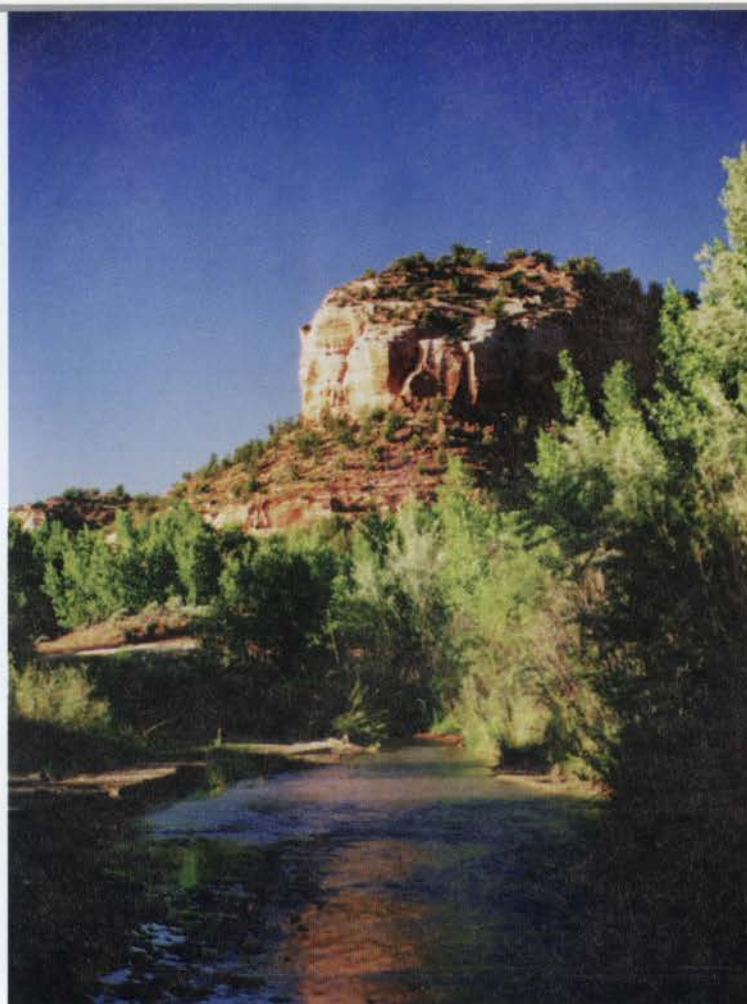
**From the past:
a message of peace**

Angel Canyon, home of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, has been known for thousands of years as a sacred place. This month, we begin a series on seven locations in the canyon that are noted for their beauty and the atmosphere of peace and healing that emanates from them.

By Cyrus Mejia

Footprints in time. Turn off Angel Canyon Drive, just a couple of hundred yards past the Best Friends Welcome Center, and you come face to face with the past – maybe with your own origins.

First, you'll notice the massive, flat, red stones, which form the top of the rock. Although they're



View up Kanab Creek from just below Petroglyph Rock.

way above you, they're actually the old seabed. Millions of years ago, Angel Canyon was a shallow sea, home to dinosaurs at the beginning of the Jurassic Era. If you climb to the top and look carefully, you might see some dino footprints. (Look for prints like giant chicken feet with three big toes.)

Messages of peace. The earliest humans came to Angel Canyon about 11,000 years ago. The figures on the wall of Petroglyph Rock were carved about a thousand years ago by people known as the Anasazi or Hisatzanome.

Nobody has completely deciphered the meaning of all the petroglyphs (carvings) and pictographs (paintings) of the Anasazi. But they share a unique characteristic when compared to the rock art of almost every other ancient civilization of the world. Nowhere, among all the pictures and carvings, will you ever see a depiction of war, violence, slavery, subjugation, or any other form of aggression.

These were peaceful people, and the canyon itself carries this remarkable atmosphere of peace.

The Snake Clan. Now look closely at the petroglyph in the photo here. There are three triangular figures in the group – mother, father, and child. Around them on the wall (not in the photo), you'll see the animals they held sacred: mountain goat, bighorn sheep, and coyote. Above the family, perhaps guarding them, is a snake. Perhaps the people were saying they were the Snake Clan.

Walk down the path and look across the canyon. You might catch sight of one of the golden eagles who nest in the cliff face across the creek. Perhaps her ancestors lived here when ours were carving their pictures in the rock.

At your feet, you'll notice some unusual-looking stones littering the path. In fact, they're pieces of fired clay. The family who lived here probably had a house of clay with a hearth in the middle. One day, their fire would have gotten out of control and the clay on the walls vitrified and became ceramic.

The family, or their descendants, learned from mistakes like this. They quickly learned the art of making pottery, and fragments of their beautiful pots are all over the canyon.

Looking at the lifestyle of this family at Petroglyph Rock, it's easy to feel very close to them. Their peaceful way of life and harmony with nature are a message from their age to ours.

When you visit the sanctuary, you'll find Petroglyph Rock the perfect place to spend a few minutes reflecting on the most important things in your own life, the values you hold dear, and your relationships with friends and family. 🐾

Next Time: Angels Landing – “where the nations gathered each year to seek guidance from Mother Nature for their future.”

Artist and naturalist Cyrus Mejia leads tours of the canyon and the sanctuary.



Oasis in the Desert

The springs and creeks that give life to Angel Canyon

Second in a series of articles about the Seven Sacred Sites of Angel Canyon. What is now the home of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary has been known for thousands of years as a sacred place. These seven locations within the canyon are especially noted for the atmosphere of peace and healing that emanates from them.

By Cyrus Mejia

When artist Thomas Moran returned to New York in 1880 after his trek through the Grand Canyon with one of the new geological survey teams, he began work on his famous painting *Mist in Kanab Canyon*. It took him two years to complete this landmark work – the first painting to capture the primordial quality of the extraordinary landscape.

Behind a landscape of sharp, shifting diagonals and verticals, the huge limestone tower, with mists swirling around it, seems to stand guard against any further encroachment. Indeed, Moran himself never did follow Kanab Canyon north from where it joins the Grand Canyon. Had he done so, he would have found what his limestone tower really was guarding: the entrance to Angel Canyon.



National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Bequest of Bessie B. Croffut

The water that gives life to Angel Canyon seeps out in gentle springs from the red-rock walls. These springs feed a crystal-clear creek that babbles and chatters its way down to the Grand Canyon. Most of the time, that is. Once or twice a year, generally at the end of summer, a thunderous downpour turns that chatter to a roar as huge volumes of water surge down the canyon from the waterfalls upstream.

It was this thunderous water that created Angel Canyon millions of years ago. It's still reshaping it today. Old-timers in the nearby town of Kanab remember their parents describing the 500-year flood just before the turn of the century that left the canyon about one hundred feet deeper than it was before.

Sit quietly at Creek Crossing just as dawn is breaking on a summer morning, and you'll see creatures of all shapes and sizes come to drink from the springs that line the creek.

Coyotes and mule deer prefer these cool, quiet, early hours.



Photo: Raphael de Peyer

Owls are returning to their cliff hideaways from their silent watch over the night. Their place is being taken, for the daywatch, by hawks and eagles.

Likewise, the bats are returning to their caves just as the cottontail bunnies are emerging from their burrows.

Way above you, the distant barking from Best Friends Dogtown lets you know that breakfast can't be far behind!

Walk softly along the creek and you'll see all the plants that gave life to the people who first made their home in the magical land 8,000 years ago. Before they planted corn, they lived mostly off the cattails and watercress and other plants that grow abundantly in the spongy, saturated soil.

Willows are everywhere around you. Indeed, it was the ancient Indian word for the willow tree that gave the creek its name, Kanab. In the ponds that form around the springs, baby water spiders and tiny fish are emerging for the day. Mother ducks are setting forth from the banks with ducklings in tow.

While the redrock canyon walls and silent white cliffs stand as monuments of stillness and eternity, the creek – always moving, always changing – speaks of the very essence of life.

Whether a surging tide or just a trickle, it's always alive. No matter what tries to block its progress, it always finds a new way over or around or through. Nothing can stop its journey to join with others of its kind until they all merge in their final destiny, the great ocean.

From there, the cycle begins again as water is carried away from the ocean, falls as rain, then seeps slowly through the rock until, purified and reborn, it emerges in the gentle springs that feed the moss and watercress that give birth to the chain of life all over again. 🐾

Next Time: Angels Landing – “where the nations gathered each year to seek guidance from Mother Nature for their future.”



The Best Friends Wishing Garden

May we plant a special wish for you?

At the Best Friends Wishing Garden, just outside the Welcome Center, your spring wishes are now in full bloom.

We plant real wishes, written on special rice paper, and with a flower seed for each wish.

The Wishing Garden is for the sanctuary and the animals, and for all members of Best Friends.

There's plenty of time to plant more wishes for the summer. Just send in your special wish – for yourself or for anyone you love. We'll sow a seed of good fortune for you.

And thank you, as always, for helping to make Best Friends a dream come true for all your furry friends here.

Best Friends Events 1998

May 15-17: Animal Healing Workshop

Join professional healers Joanna Seere and Catherine Nelson. Learn to communicate with animals and help them physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Includes hands-on healing techniques. For the beginner or professional.

\$285 incl. lunches. Contact Rita Fraser at (435) 644-2702.

June 26-28: Communicating with Animals (Basic)

Unveil the mystery of telepathic communication with animals! Popular animal communicator Gina Palmer reveals how animals understand what we say to them, and teaches you how to listen and communicate in their language.

\$250 incl. lunches. Contact Rita Fraser at (435) 644-2702.

July 17-19: How to Start Your Own Animal Sanctuary

Work side-by-side with Best Friends staff and experience the nitty-gritty of running a sanctuary. Hear from professionals regarding tax-exempt status, membership development, volunteer recruitment, fundraising, long-term financial planning, and more!

\$200 incl. lunches. Contact Rita Fraser at (435) 644-2702.

Aug. 14-16: Grief Workshop: Healing our Hearts, Honoring the Loss of an Animal Companion

Coping with the loss of an animal companion. Facilitated by Enid Traisman, MSW, specialist in grief counseling and pet loss support, and Susan McElroy, former humane society professional and author of *Animals as Teachers and Healers*; with Marion Hale, facilitator of the on-line forum, “Saying Goodbye.” Also for therapists, counselors, clergy, and veterinary professionals. CE credits possible.

\$225 incl. lunches. Contact Rita Fraser at (435) 644-2702.

September 10-13: No Kills in '98

We're delighted to be one of the sponsors of this annual conference dedicated to the no-kill philosophy and the fulfillment of **2001: No More Homeless Pets**. This year's conference is in Concord, California.

For more details, call Lynda Foro, (602) 977-5793.

Oct. 2-4: Conference on Animals and Spirituality

Explore the sacred connection between humans and animals with Susan McElroy, author of *Animals as Teachers and Healers* and *A Blessing from the Animals*; Joanne Lauck, author of *The Voice of the Small in the Infinite*; Linda-Lacy Shearer, Animal Communicator; and others!

\$295 incl. lunches. Contact Rita Fraser at (435) 644-2702.

Nov. 6-8: Acupressure Massage Therapy for Animals

Massage professionals Joyce Manion and Lesley Nall will teach you how to bring better health and emotional well-being to your animals with easily learned techniques. Also for massage professionals wishing to expand their skills to include animals.

\$250 incl. lunches. Contact Rita Fraser at (435) 644-2702.

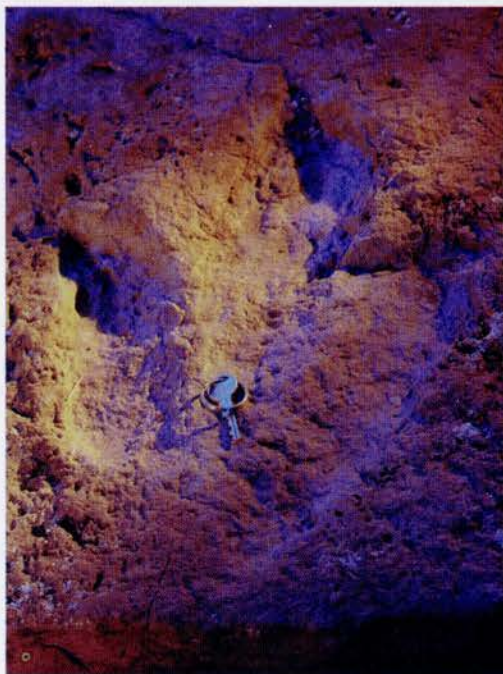
Across the Sands of Time

Handprint Cave

► By Cyrus Mejia

Angel Canyon has been known for thousands of years as a sacred place, especially among the Anasazi ancestors of the modern Hopi people. There are seven locations around the canyon that are especially noted for the atmosphere of peace and healing that emanates from them.

Photo: Raphael de Peyer



Dinosaur footprint from Angel Canyon. It's like a giant bird foot with three clearly visible claw marks (the dark spots).

We're standing around a kiva – a small circular building, built partially underground, in one of the caves that was home to a community of the Anasazi people.

The kiva was the heart of the community – most likely a ceremonial room where the people would gather on special days for prayer or purification. Similar buildings are used by other Native American people in the Southwest today. But, like so much else about the Anasazi, we can only guess about their lifestyle and beliefs.

Many of the mysteries of the Anasazi have been solved in the last 20 years. Archaeologists are fascinated by what they've been discovering about what has been the biggest puzzle of all: How did an entire civilization and culture just suddenly vanish from the face of the planet about 650 years ago?

Before serious study was given to the disappearance of the Anasazi, this central mystery had fueled a whole raft of theories, especially among New Age and UFO groups: The Anasazi had been lifted off in space ships; they had discovered portals into other dimensions of space and time; or they had mastered nodal energy centers that are scattered around the whole region. (A few hundred miles away, in Sedona, Arizona, you can help the local economy by taking a Jeep tour to conveniently located nodal points just outside of town!)

However, piece by careful piece, a more sobering explanation and history of the Anasazi has emerged over the years as follows, according to most experts:

The ancestors of the Anasazi came to Angel Canyon at least 10,000 years ago. A thousand years ago, they had become a peaceful farming society that could turn its attention to studying the stars, building observatories, creating beautiful art, and spreading their culture across the Southwest.

The Anasazi culture built its capital city at Chaco Canyon in New Mexico. Society soon became centralized as political/religious leaders asserted themselves and took control, building roads to outlying colonies and trade routes to other civilizations, in particular the Toltecs of Mexico.

Then, about 800 years ago, the economy began to collapse. The land had been overworked and when a drought set in, the leaders at Chaco Canyon became more tyrannical. The small, still-peaceful communities like those at Angel Canyon found themselves suddenly victims of the ruling classes. They moved their homes into caves high in the cliff walls and prepared to defend themselves.

To add to the woes of the Anasazi, there is evidence of bands of roaming Toltec outlaws invading their small communities, terrorizing the people, then murdering them and – one of the most shocking recent discoveries – eating them.

Rather than fighting back, the Anasazi people responded with a mass exodus. Over a period of just a few years, around 1350, they just walked away from the troubles that had beset them. They abandoned their ancestral lands and migrated south, eventually building a new culture and religion that we know as the Hopi. (The Hopi reject the name Anasazi which is a Navajo word meaning “enemy of my ancestors,” and prefer to call them the Hisatsinom, or Old Ones.)

Six hundred years later, the old home in the cave where we’re standing is little the worse for time. With some careful excavation, the kiva could easily be restored, along with the storage rooms for the corn and other crops, and the family dwellings – although we have no plans for any archeological restorations here.

Faint petroglyphs (carvings in the stone) and pictographs (paintings) decorate the walls of this cave home. The paint is red and yellow, colors that were painstakingly distilled from the iron oxide that gives the cliffs those same colors.

The home was naturally cool in summer and warm in winter. You feel comfortable and welcome in the rooms.

But your attention is immediately, almost hypnotically, drawn to the handprints.

Your attention is immediately, and almost hypnotically, drawn to the handprints.

They’re quite small. Perhaps the hands of a young person, although the adults were not large people and the prints have been carefully placed on the walls with no smudges.

The effect of the handprints is irresistible. You go up to them gingerly and put your hand up against theirs, being careful not to actually touch the delicate red and yellow paint. But the invitation is so strong. It’s calling you over . . .

. . . Come, whoever you are, let us go hand to hand. Soon we will be leaving our ancestral home. Perhaps all trace of us will be lost. So, first we reach out to you. One day you will come. Take our legacy. We bid you at once farewell and welcome . . .

In the centuries that followed, other people came to the Golden Circle and to Angel Canyon: the Navajo, the Paiute, and then the European immigrants. Each, in turn, left their mark on the place.

For example, a small hut, further up the canyon, seems to have been last occupied in the 1920s. *July 23rd, 1923* is the date on the newspapers that this particular occupant pasted up for insulation.

Soon after, in the 1950s, Hollywood discovered Angel Canyon. Outlaws, heroes, wagon trains, lone rangers, even six-million-dollar men, came and went.

Tourists followed in the 60s and 70s, and there was looting at some of the burial sites in the canyon.

The people who left their handprints and their messages on the



Cyrus Mejia at Handprint Cave

walls of their home in troubled times six or seven hundred years ago, would perhaps be pleased to know that Angel Canyon is, once again, a place of peace and tranquility.

But they’d surely be surprised by the animals that would greet them today. Dogs would be familiar, but not all the shapes and sizes they’d see at Best Friends. And small, fluffy, friendly versions of mountain lions and bobcats! And the horses – a totally unfamiliar species that were yet to be brought to the Americas.

One other thing to ponder. As we are drawn to the handprints on the sandstone wall, were the people who lived here drawn, in their own time, to yet another set of prints left in the sandstone by far more distant ancestors?

Near the caves, millions of years earlier, a family of dinosaurs walked by and left their huge, three-toed footprints in the red sand one rainy day. The sand dried and the prints remained.

And so it goes. And so we go – hand to hand, toe to toe – as we follow each other across the sands of time. 🐾



The Best Friends Wishing Garden

May we plant a special wish for you?

Spring is just around the corner and we’ll soon be planting this year’s crop of special wishes for the sanctuary and the animals, and for you and your pets at home.

The Best Friends Wishing Garden is just outside the Welcome Center at the sanctuary. Each wish is written on rice paper that nourishes the earth and then planted with a flower seed.

Just send in your own special wish and we’ll sow a seed of good fortune for you.

And thank you for helping to make Best Friends a dream come true for all your furry friends here.

Animal Magic at Angel Canyon

While visiting Best Friends Animal Sanctuary you're suddenly captivated by a hawk in a tree, or a rabbit on the ground, or a small herd of deer watching you from close by. Does an unexpected encounter with nature have a special meaning in your life? Author and wildlife expert Ted Andrews talks with artist and tour guide Cyrus Mejia about the significance of animal "magic" in our lives.

Cyrus Mejia: *When I'm taking visitors on tours of the sanctuary, I'm always struck by how one person may be affected by seeing a pair of hawks soaring in the sky while another is taken by seeing a rabbit. What draws people to a particular animal?*

Ted Andrews: Most traditions teach that the animal chooses you. The animals that catch our attention are the ones that have a message for us. So when we have a particular encounter, it's good to take a look at what has been on our mind recently. That animal can usually provide an answer to an issue or problem that's been taking our attention.

I picked up a deer antler on the ground the other day. I took it home and hung it up and it wasn't until later that I found myself wondering why I'd done that. I did it without even thinking.

That's like what the Native Americans call "the stone that speaks." They realize that the qualities of that animal and its behavior are the clues to what that animal means in your life. When the animal or the antler "spoke" to you, it was because something in it had significance for you – probably because of what's going on in your life right now.

Deer shed their antlers in the fall; each year they come back a

Angel Canyon, the home of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, has been known for thousands of years as a sacred place to generations of people who have lived here. The canyon is located at the heart of the Golden Circle of national parks of the Southwest that include the Grand Canyon, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon, Lake Powell, and the new Escalante National Park.

little bit larger with more points on them – each year bigger until it reaches its ultimate growth in about five years. So when we have antlers coming into our life, or we're drawn to them, it generally means we're coming to the end of a five-year period or we're about to start a new one.

Incidentally, snakes are also a symbol of renewal. Snakes never stop growing throughout their whole lives. Every so often they grow a new skin and shed their old one. So, finding a cast-off snake skin can be an indication that it's time to cast off the old and begin something new in your own life.

Another thing people like to pick up and keep are bird feathers.

Well, they need to bear in mind that it's illegal to pick up the feathers – or any other part – of a migratory bird.

Having said that, birds all have different messages for us. It's common to hear an owl, for example, but rare to actually see one. And if you see an owl in the daytime, it's even more significant; and yet more so if you find the feathers.

Owls do most of their hunting at night and rely upon their hearing. They can see very well, but they rely a lot on their hearing. So, owls teach us to trust what we're hearing, and also to trust the underlying sound of what may be going on in conversation with other people.

Another thing about owls is that they fly very silently. So the owl may be telling you that if you're going after a particular goal, be silent about it; there's strength in silence.

If you're staying in the canyon, you'll almost certainly hear a chorus of laughing coyotes in the early morning.

Coyotes are amazingly intelligent. They have an extraordinary ability to adapt and move into new areas. They're the only animal whose territory is spread throughout the United States.

People often consider coyotes to be nothing but pests, but if you kill one of the alpha animals in a community, the rest of the pack will mate indiscriminately, which results in an increase in their population. They do it as a survival mechanism. So people are having to reevaluate how to control them.

Coyotes will adapt in whatever way is necessary to survive. So they teach us that we need to learn to adapt, too, and to use whatever means is available.

Is there one animal that you've learned the most from?

Years ago, I had a fear of spiders. It took working with spiders and picking them up a lot before I overcame the fear. It taught me that the more you know about an animal, the less there is to fear.

Spiders are amazing creatures. The silk they spin is the strongest fiber we have on the planet. The other thing about them is that they never get caught in their own webs. That's because only some of the threads are sticky. The ones that go around are sticky, while the ones that radiate out from the center are not sticky. So when a spider shows up in your life, it might be telling you to not take the roundabout way of dealing with things or you're going to get caught and entangled.

“We can starve as much from a lack of wonder as from a lack of food. Nature keeps that sense of wonder alive.”

Another lesson from spiders is patience. They spin their webs and then sit back and wait for the food to come to them. So do your work, be patient, and the rest will then come to you in time.

The canyon here has an extraordinarily peaceful quality. As an artist, I've always felt that this has something to do with the colors: the deep blue sky, the red rock canyons, and the green pastures and trees.

Red rock, blue sky, green trees. When you get opposite colors showing up in a landscape, it has a tendency to balance and to bring everything back into harmony. That would certainly account, in part, for the very peaceful quality.

Most of the trees out here are the junipers and pines. Do they hold any particular significance?

Every tree has its own unique qualities. Most evergreens are very calming to the emotions. Different trees all have different properties. If you have aches and pains, by the way, sitting under a willow can be helpful.

What do you say to people who think all of this is just superstition?

Every religion and tradition has taught the sacredness of nature and of the divine within the natural world. Most traditions, including the early Christian tradition, taught that the only way the divine could talk to humans was through nature. You can't look at the metamorphosis of a butterfly without realizing that the divine is operating all around us.

We cloak ourselves in civilization, but we are still fully a part of nature. Everything that happens in nature affects us and everything that we do affects nature.

Other people might argue that encounters with animals, as you're describing them, are just pure coincidence.

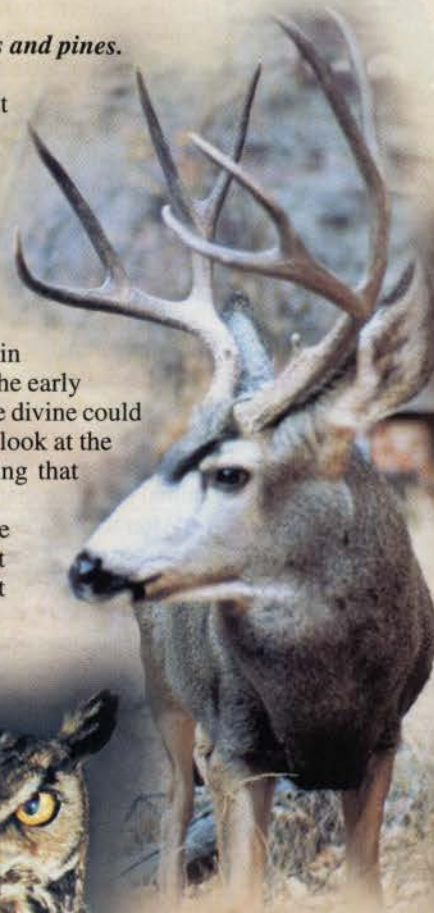
I don't really believe in coincidence. I think everything happens for a reason. So when something happens, it's significant and we need to pay attention.

When people come to a place like Angel Canyon, they're getting away from their everyday life. When they get away from these daily obligations and they have an encounter, it has a much stronger impact. It's a reminder to look at what you've been

forgetting about, what you've been neglecting in your life.

We can starve as much from a lack of wonder as from a lack of food. Nature keeps that sense of wonder alive. 🐾

Ted Andrews is the author of dozens of books about wildlife and nature including *Animal-Speak*, and its recent follow-up *Animal-Wise*, published by Dragonhawk.



A Walk Through Time

► By Cyrus Mejia

The first known European to walk the length of the Grand Canyon was Colin Fletcher. He wrote about it a little over 30 years ago in a book called *The Man Who Walked Through Time*.

Walking through time simply meant he passed through layers of rock and sediment that represented many epochs in the history of the earth.

Here at Angel Canyon, which is a tributary of the Grand Canyon, it is also possible to walk through time, both geologic and human, while hiking a much less strenuous trail.

Our starting point is almost 200 million years ago, at the top of a short trail that leads from near the top of the canyon, down to the creek, and then across to the Best Friends Welcome Center.

As you start down the trail, you're surrounded by the cliffs of Navajo sandstone that form the canyon. The lighter colored rock, sitting atop a darker layer of sandstone, is actually a petrified sand dune sitting on top of an ancient seabed, dating from the Triassic Period.



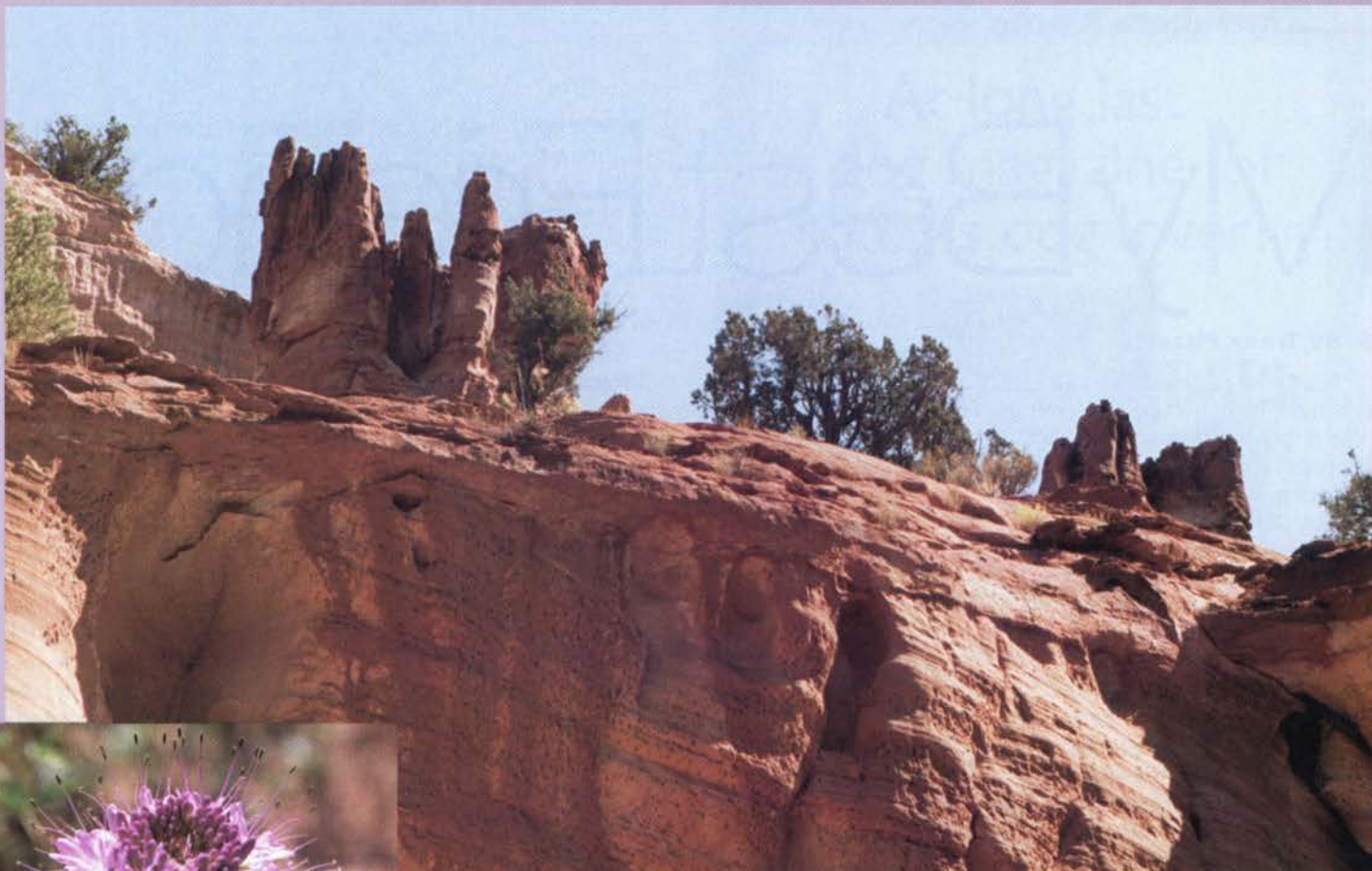
Angel Canyon, the home of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, is the heart of the Golden Circle of national parks that include the Grand Canyon, Zion Park, Bryce Canyon, Lake Powell, and the Grand Staircase Escalante Park. There's more about the Golden Circle and Angel Canyon on the Best Friends Web site at www.bestfriends.org.



It was about this time that the first dinosaurs appeared, and today you can find their tracks imprinted in the bright red sandstone. They look like giant chicken prints.

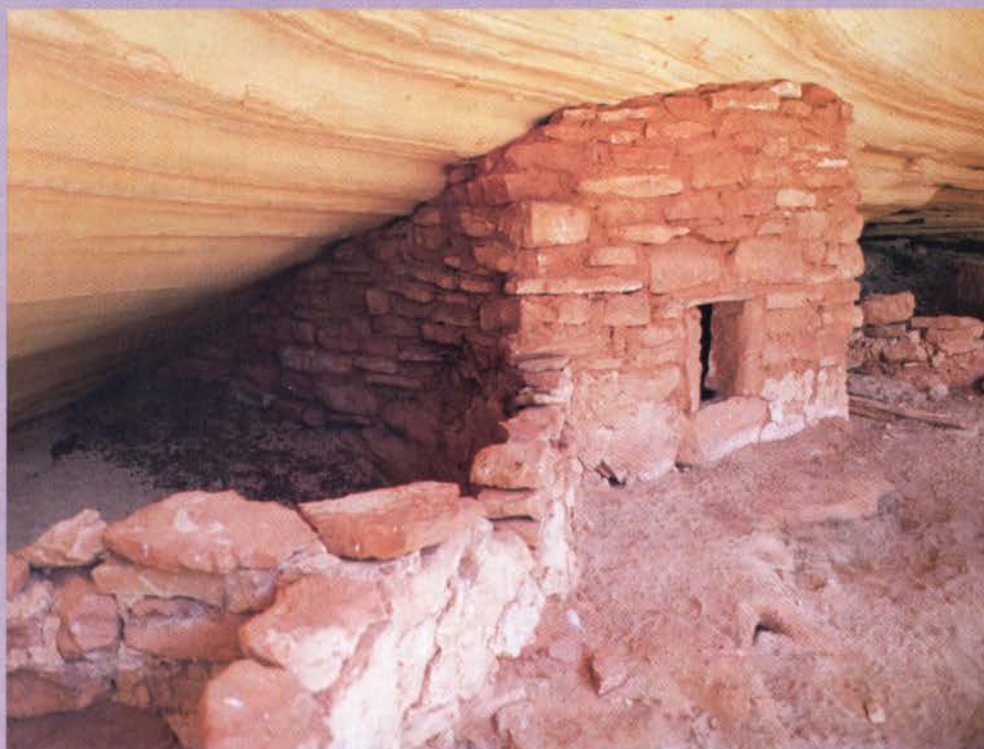
As the trail continues, you'll come across a most remarkable sight. Wasps have burrowed into the sandstone in order to build nests, creating tiny tunnels along some of the canyon walls. Water got into these holes and froze, breaking away the surface of the rock to expose these tunnels. Don't stick your fingers in them because all kinds of little creatures may be living in them today.

A mere 800 to 1,000 years ago, ancestors of today's Pueblo people (the so-called Anasazi people) inhabited Angel Canyon. Evidence remains along the trail of granaries that were used to store their crops. However, this particular ruin was "restored" by a local rancher about 40 years ago, as evidenced by the



Now, stop and listen for a moment and you can hear the latest “settlers” on the other side of the canyon. It’s the barking of hundreds of dogs – just some of the animals who have found a haven in this ancient canyon.

The final link to the past is Kanab Creek, which flows through the length of the canyon. If you follow it down to where it joins the Colorado River at the Grand Canyon, you will have traveled more than a billion years on your walk through time. 🐾



bottom layer of lighter colored, older rocks.

European settlers began farming and ranching in this region 150 years ago. You can see the effects of this as you continue down the trail: changes in vegetation, such as the abundance of the opportunistic sage, exotic tamarisks in riparian areas, and the scarcity of native grasses. Still, many native species remain, such as the Rocky Mountain bee plant (*above*), which was used by native peoples for black pottery glaze.

Starting in the late 1950s, Hollywood moviemakers came to Angel Canyon, drawn by the spectacular western scenery. Over to one side of the trail you can see a small box canyon where one of the final scenes of *The Outlaw Josie Wales* was filmed.