



MUSEUM of  
NORTHERN  
ARIZONA

*Celebrating the Colorado Plateau*

# MUSEUM NOTES

MNA Supervisory Archaeologist and Historian David Purcell records artifacts along a bygone segment of Route 66 in Petrified Forest National Park.

FALL & WINTER 2025-2026

## Kicks, Culture, Car Parts

*New MNA research and exhibition traces the layered history of Route 66*

**THE COLORADO PLATEAU** is classic road trip country—tunes turned up and hands light on the wheel, a narrowing band of pavement unfurling ahead through a vast landscape, pointing toward possibility.

That's the Route 66 cliché from books and movies.

The reality was harsher, as revealed in the *Wagon Road to Mother Road* exhibition opening November 16 for the centennial year of Route 66. When MNA archaeologists walked the length of Route 66 through Petrified Forest National Park, they uncovered tens of thousands of discarded objects, from beer cans and liquor bottles to car parts. The debris explains why locals called the road "Bloody 66."

*Wagon Road to Mother Road* traces the layered history of Route 66, following a path laid by older wagon roads, rails, and Indigenous trails. Even as Edward Fitzgerald Beale marked a route from Zuni Pueblo to the Mohave Desert in 1857, he noted the disruption the wagon road would bring to the many

tribes whose homelands it crossed. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway soon followed, enticing tourists to visit the "Enchanted Land" with paintings of dramatic vistas and stereotyped portrayals of Native Americans. Trading posts and Harvey Houses offered curios and hospitality decades before motels and gas stations dotted the landscape.

By the time Route 66 linked Chicago to Los Angeles, the Southwest had become the stage for the American road trip: epic scenery, eccentric stops, and the promise of self-discovery. Pop culture broadcast those themes worldwide—from *Get Your Kicks* to *Easy Rider* to the Route 66 TV show.

Today, it is easier and faster than ever to reach the bucket-list landscapes of the Colorado Plateau. The roads are paved. Cars are air conditioned and reliable. At the same time, it sometimes feels more difficult to become fully immersed in wilderness the way early travelers did. Many once-quiet places are crowded,

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## DEAR FRIENDS OF MNA,

I am pleased to share updates in this *Museum Notes* about new initiatives that aim to increase the number of people who can visit the Museum of Northern Arizona, either by extending our hours or providing affordable admission options. We hope these initiatives, described in detail on page 3, will make a visit to MNA accessible to a wider audience, particularly local residents and those who live within a day's drive of the Museum.

Research tells us that word-of-mouth is still the way that most people learn about events and opportunities in their communities, so I hope you will help us by spreading the word about these initiatives and taking advantage of them yourself. For example, if you are a member, you already receive free general admission to MNA, but now you can bring a friend on a Thursday evening to take advantage of our extended hours and pay-what-you-wish admission starting at 4 p.m.

You will certainly want to visit this fall around one of our many upcoming events, including the November opening of *Wagon Road to Mother Road*, a new exhibition celebrating the centennial of Route 66. Before that, be sure to plan a last viewing of *Poetry Maps*, closing on October 27.

As you know, MNA is a private, nonprofit institution that relies on charitable support from individuals, foundations, and government entities to achieve our mission and make it accessible to as many people as possible. Your support is essential to the work you will read about in the following pages. We are grateful to have you as members of the MNA community.

Sincerely,

Mary J. Kershaw  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO



**NOW OPEN  
THURSDAYS  
UNTIL 7 PM**  
with pay-what-you-wish  
admission starting at 4 pm

## New Initiatives Aim to Bring More Visitors to MNA

**MNA IS GOING FOR** growth! This year, we are focused on creating a number of programs designed to make the Museum more accessible to a new and wider audience.

For those who are too busy to visit during the day, Twilight Thursdays extend MNA's opening hours until 7 p.m. every Thursday and include "pay-what-you-wish" admission starting at 4 p.m. Guests are welcome to pay any amount—a few dollars, regular admission, or more if they'd like to support the Museum.

Free admission for local college students from Northern Arizona University and Coconino Community College for the 2025–2026 academic year ensures that MNA's educational and research resources are accessible to as many students as possible.

This initiative reflects our commitment to supporting education and making the Museum a welcoming resource for the next generation of thinkers, artists, and scientists.

In 2026, we will launch \$10 Sundays for residents across northern Arizona to celebrate our local communities. General admission, normally \$18, will be \$10 with your ID showing residence in northern Arizona.

Finally, during the month of November and on Indigenous Peoples' Day in October, admission to MNA will be free for all Native American visitors in recognition of Native American Heritage Month.

We will also continue to provide admission and transportation



Visitors at MNA's first Twilight Thursday peruse the Poetry Maps exhibit following a poetry reading in the gallery.

subsidies for MNA field trips to K-12 schools, thanks to support from the Arizona Community Foundation of Flagstaff and a generous anonymous donor.

Each of these initiatives is made possible by generous philanthropic support. As a private, nonprofit institution, MNA sustains discounted and free programs through philanthropic giving, including financial support from members like you.

Thank you for making the Museum more accessible to all visitors.



Extended Thursday hours allow residents and visitors a chance to experience the Museum at a more convenient time, explore exhibits after work or school, and enjoy a quieter, more relaxed visit.

## Colton Meadows Conservation Project Complete

**IF YOU HAVE EVER** hiked or biked on the social trail from Quintana Drive to Mount Elden Lookout Road in Flagstaff, you have passed through Colton Meadows. This area, which runs on the east side of Highway 180 behind Coyote Springs and The Peaks Senior Living Community, provides a beloved connection to the Schultz Pass area for recreationists, as well as 90 acres of prime wildlife habitat.

Now, with the generous support of the Flagstaff community, MNA has successfully preserved Colton Meadows



through several conservation easements.

This project began in 2018, when MNA's Board of Trustees embarked upon a creative approach to converting land

bought as an investment in 1977 into funds to add to MNA's endowment for long-term sustainability. Instead of selling the 90 acres for development, the board segmented it into five 18-acre sections, and generous donors stepped up to raise the funds needed to preserve each section.

With a final donation pledge fulfilled and the parcels of land placed under a conservation easement held by Coconino County, this project is now complete.

We are grateful to the many donors who supported this effort.



# Encounter Vibrant Traditions at Celebraciones

OCTOBER 25, 10 A.M.-8 P.M. | OCTOBER 26, 10 A.M.-4 P.M.

**EXPERIENCE THE VIBRANT** traditions of Mexican and Mexican American communities at the 22nd Annual Celebraciones de la Gente (Celebrations of the People).

Join us October 25 and 26 for a weekend filled with color, culture, and celebration. Held in partnership with Flagstaff Nuestras Raíces, Celebraciones honors the spirit of Día de los Muertos with heartfelt remembrances of those who have passed and joyful festivities.

Highlights include displays of brightly adorned ofrendas (altars) and colorful murals created by ethnic studies students at Northern Arizona University.

Mariachi Agave from Tucson and Ballet Folklórico de Colores of Flagstaff will bring distinctive sounds and movement to the celebration. Children will delight in sugar skull decorating and face painting. All visitors can enjoy culinary treats from Aguas Fabulosas, Tamales USA, Lolly's Lemonade, and other food vendors.

Cultural presentations by Flagstaff Nuestras Raíces and P. Antonio Cuevas, PhD, an assistant teaching professor of ethnic studies at NAU, encourage a deeper understanding of Día de los Muertos.

As the sun sets on Saturday, the Jaime Major Golightly Courtyard transforms into a magical scene for Courtyard After Dark. Witness the glowing ofrendas under the night sky, indulge in sweet treats and warm beverages, and soak in the dazzling atmosphere.



Student-designed cultural murals are part of this year's Celebraciones.



Winter Market offers a chance to learn about and buy gifts directly from Indigenous artists of the Colorado Plateau.



## Winter Market & Open House

DECEMBER 7 AND 8, 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

**SHOP FOR THAT PERFECT**, one-of-a-kind gift and enjoy your favorite galleries at our annual Winter Market & Open House on December 7 and 8. A holiday market takes over the Museum's Branigar Chase Discovery auditorium and Living Room, highlighting 25 Indigenous artists from the Colorado Plateau. They will showcase and sell their unique art, ornaments, jewelry, pottery, apparel, weavings, and more.

Bring the whole family—there will be puppet shows, crafts, and other activities for kids. Admission to the Museum is free this weekend thanks to generous support from APS.

## Founders to Fieldwork MNA's Research Legacy Continues



MNA archaeologists work with El Malpais National Monument staff to ensure cultural artifacts and built features within lava tubes and caves remain in good condition and protected.

**RESEARCH IS THRIVING** at MNA. Our team has more than a dozen active projects in archaeology and botany, continuing the tradition begun by founders Harold and Mary-Russell Ferrell Colton. That spirit of discovery expands through collaborations with tribes, federal agencies, and citizen scientists across the Colorado Plateau. Here are some areas of focus.

### National Parks

Our archaeology division is working cooperatively with the National Park Service to locate, document, and protect ancestral cultural sites. This year we've expanded our reach by working with El Malpais National Monument, where we visited previously recorded habitation and burial sites within lava tubes to assess their current condition.

At Petrified Forest National Park, we spent two months partially excavating a site that is being heavily impacted by erosion along a drainage. The site was occupied between AD 400 and 550 during a period when people were beginning to settle into villages, manufacture pottery, and expand their agricultural practices. Our excavation of storage and processing features containing corn offers new insight into the early use of domesticated crops. MNA previously excavated in Petrified Forest in the 1950s, and over the last five years documented historic Route 66 across the

park. Future collaboration with the park will involve completing research to nominate a historic overland stage station and a prehistoric rock art site to the National Register of Historic Places.

### Navajo Nation

We recently partnered with the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department to document and photograph a large cliff dwelling in southern Utah. In addition to 14 masonry rooms in a large alcove, the site boasts extensive pictographs executed in red hematite paint, along with several dozen historic inscriptions. We deployed a small drone to photograph the rooms from above, expanding our archaeological toolkit.

**Peebles Navajo Cactus** (*Pediocactus peeblesianus* subsp. *peeblesianus*) In April, we conducted our annual monitoring of Peebles Navajo Cactus permanent plots. We found 26 cacti in our three plots—the same number as 2024. This is down from 40 cacti in 2023, 46 in 2022, 58 in 2021, and down from the historic high of 415 in 1995. This remarkable decline is likely due to drought and increased temperature. We counted an additional 128 cacti outside of our monitoring plots. We inserted PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tags next to each cacti in a second plot and these seem to

be effective for marking individual cacti. We collected soil samples at ten sites and will analyze these for macronutrients, organic matter, soil texture, and soil stability. We will compare these results to the 1980s soil analyses to see if the results can give us more information as to reasons for the decline of the cacti.

### Goodding's Onion

(*Allium gooddingii*) MNA received a grant to resurvey six areas of study in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. Goodding's onion only occurs in the high-elevation mountains of Arizona and New Mexico, and it is being considered for listing as an endangered species. Much of the habitat of Goodding's onion was affected by the Wallow Fire of 2011. The Wallow Fire burned 522,642 acres in Arizona, and the areas where Goodding's onion grows now have no canopy cover and are much hotter and dryer. The Goodding's onion abundance has decreased dramatically at all the study sites since MNA last surveyed them in 2016. We also surveyed five areas where Goodding's onion was thought to be gone, and we found the plant at three of those sites.



A flowering Goodding's onion

### Arizona Flora Finders

This year is MNA's fourth round of funding for the Arizona Flora Finders project, which trains citizen scientists to search for rare plants. In 2025, we looked for species that occur on the Mogollon Rim. During an August field trip, we did not find the species we were looking for, but we found some other interesting species, including the mountain adder's mouth orchid (*Malaxis soulei*).



# Disconnect to Reconnect ‘Call’ Exhibition Aims to Awaken Senses

**CONTINUED FROM COVER**  
views blocked by phones raised to capture proof of presence rather than presence itself.

Another exhibition opening this winter, *Call of the Colorado Plateau*, reminds us that while a road brings us to a destination, it is what we bring that shapes our experience. Often the best memories from a road trip occur when we pull off the interstate and into a small town or find a quiet spot to just sit with the scenery.

**THE CALL OF THE COLORADO PLATEAU** exhibition asks us to set aside our distractions and practice using our senses. Through art, sound, and scent, the exhibition creates an environment that encourages slowing down, looking closely, and listening deeply to create the same heightened awareness that artists, writers, and adventurers have felt on the Colorado Plateau over the years.

There are real benefits to taking a break from humanity and its pressure. Far from the madding crowds, where the only sounds may come from insects on a hot afternoon, we may connect to the beauty and mystery of our world. The Colorado Plateau has long been a place for people seeking to explore. Portions of the plateau were the last places to be mapped in the lower 48 states. One of the maps carried by John Wesley Powell on his audacious 1869 river exploration of the Green and Colorado Rivers indicated a region north of the Grand Canyon that was still “unexplored.”

Some adventurers push themselves to go further, take more chances, and get as far from humanity as possible. Northern Arizona math professor Harvey Butchart spent his days off hiking in the Grand Canyon, climbing summits, and finding routes to inaccessible places that most tourists couldn’t imagine as they look over the rim. Butchart seemed driven to visit every last nook and cranny of the immense canyon.

In the early 1930s, Everett Ruess, a young artist and adventurer, disappeared while wandering alone with his burros in remote areas of southern Utah. In his last letter to his brother, Ruess wrote, “... as to when I revisit civilization, it will not be soon. I have not tired of



Everett Ruess in Canyon de Chelly  
Image courtesy of Special Collections, University of Utah



Flagstaff artist David Politzer brings his Observation Station: From the Rim installation to MNA for the Call of the Colorado Plateau exhibit.

*Wagon Road to Mother Road*  
**Opens November 16, 2025**

*Call of the Colorado Plateau*  
**Opens January 25, 2026**

the wilderness... It is enough that I am surrounded with beauty.”

One doesn’t need to get lost in the wilderness to be surrounded by beauty or experience the sublime. Though the Colorado Plateau has been fully explored and mapped, there remain vast areas where few people venture, and even local trails near urban areas provide quiet spots for contemplation—if we are willing.

*Call of the Colorado Plateau* sets the stage with *Observation Station: From the Rim*, a semi-circle of synchronized iPhones playing a collage of family vacation videos. By transforming personal recordings into a collective spectacle, Flagstaff artist David Politzer critiques “selfie culture” and asks how our obsession with selfies and screens changes the way we experience nature.

From there visitors are asked to set aside their own mobile devices and experience the inner portion of the exhibition with heightened awareness—just as Ruess, Butchart, and other travelers experienced the Colorado Plateau.

Within the exhibit, wall-sized paintings and photographs bring the sense of being surrounded by massive stone walls. In *Havasu Redwall*, Merrill Mahaffey brings attention to the detailed patterns of a cliff face. The sandstone runs off the canvas, insisting that the viewer notice the small cracks and crevices we sometimes ignore. Look at it long enough and you’ll begin to imagine forms and faces within it.

Another large-scale painting, *Vishnu Schist* by Stephen Auger, explores the relationship between seeing and sensing. Trained at the Center of Advanced Visual Studies at MIT, Auger brings a scientific understanding of visual perception to his paintings. By precisely layering red, green, violet, and blue in ways that match the sensitivities of the human retina, his installations create complex optical effects that blur the boundary between scientific research and sensory experience.

“My aim is to reawaken humanity, both individually and collectively to their senses by enriching the sensory experience of art, design, and technology for the betterment of society,” says Auger.

The exhibition also weaves in the voices of Colorado Plateau artists and writers across generations, both well-known and obscure. Subtle soundtracks recorded at national parks and the scent of desert rose and juniper deepen the multisensory experience.

Ultimately, *Call of the Colorado Plateau* invites us to go back outdoors and treat the land not as backdrop, but as living presence—a place of quiet, of immensity, and of subtle details that reward patience and attention.



Detail from Near the Mouth of Bright Angel Creek by Gunnar Widforss

## What draws me to the Colorado Plateau

By Troy Gillenwater

Why would I rather spend time wandering atop sandstone plateaus, gazing into deep canyons, and peering across vast valleys backdropped by snow-clad mountain ranges than on any other landscape on earth?

The Colorado Plateau is a giant time piece—an eternal timekeeper that humbles me.

In the sedimentary strata, I witness time and its passage on the grandest geological scale imaginable. In dinosaur fossils and tracks embedded in rocks that span millions of years, I see time meted out in the paleontological record. In petroglyphs, pictographs, stone granaries, and ancient pueblos, I recognize time and its inexorable march all the way down to the granular level of human lives that first inhabited the landscape thousands of years ago and continue to do so to this day.

When I stand atop some lonely mesa studded with ancient and gnarled juniper trees dotting the limestone caprock surface and look out upon magnificent landforms of buttes, spires, arches and alcoves, I’m reminded that the span of my own life represents not even a nanosecond in the framework of the universe.

This recognition is inspiring, gift-giving. With that knowledge comes a sense of interconnectedness with all life, and even death. I am a part of the never-ending cycle that has rolled along before I stepped foot on this planet and will continue to roll long after I disappear. But for now, for this instant in time, I am here, inseparable from the plateau’s intensely beautiful landscape.

*Troy is an MNA friend, benefactor, and a board member of the Museum’s Endowment Foundation.*



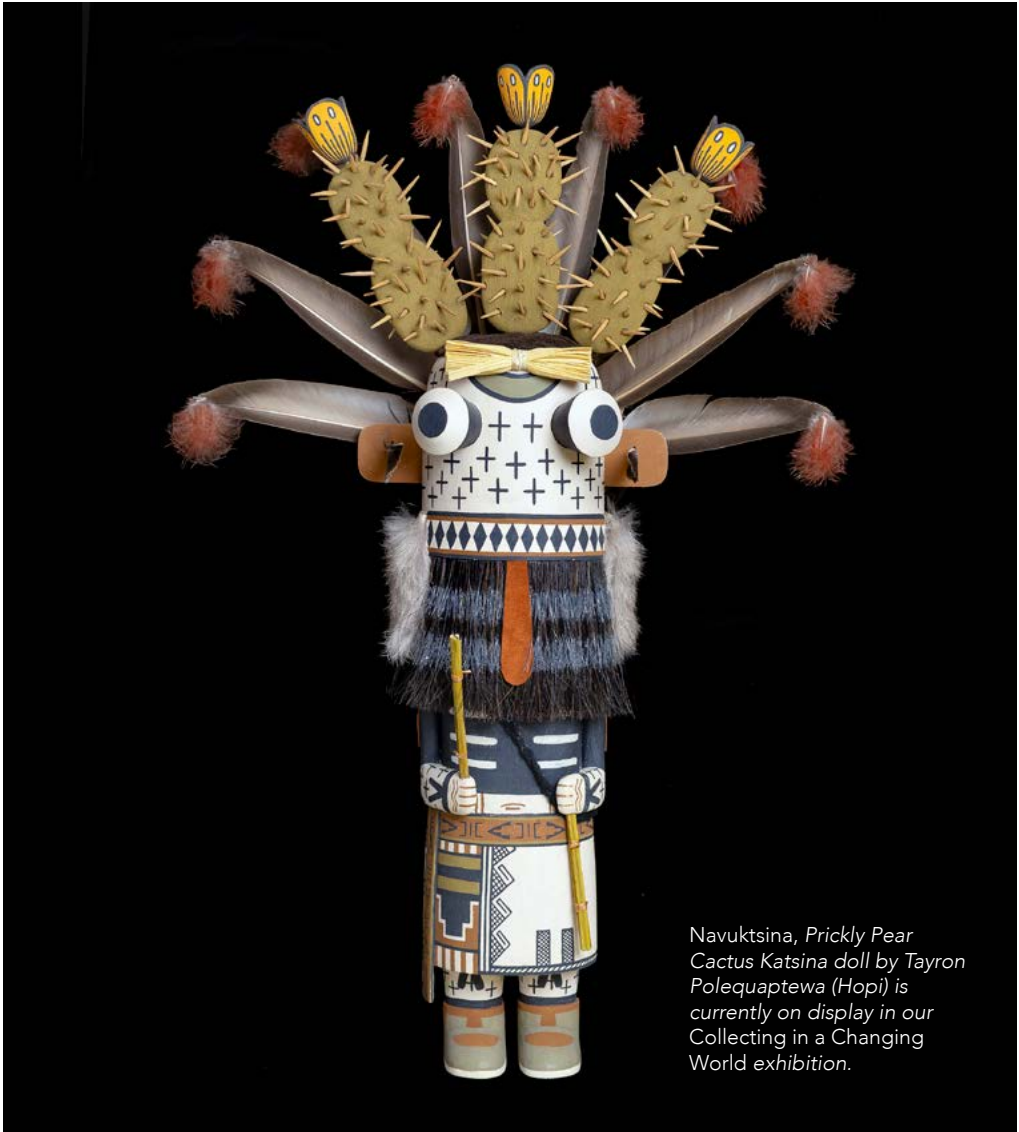
# World-Class Katsina Doll Collection Going on Display

**CARVED FROM COTTONWOOD** root, katsina dolls carry cultural teachings and deep significance for Hopi and other Puebloan people. They have also become highly collectible as works of art. The Museum of Northern Arizona cares for more than 1,500 katsina dolls, with some examples dating before 1850. This remarkable collection is regularly accessed by researchers and Indigenous artists, and beginning this January select dolls will be displayed in a new exhibit area.

The displays are curated by MNA Curator of Anthropology Dr. Kelley Hays-Gilpin in consultation with the Hopi tribe. Hays-Gilpin, a leading researcher of Hopi art and culture with nearly 40 years of experience, works closely with Hopi partners to ensure the presentation of katsina dolls is both culturally authentic and respectful. This collaboration continues the Museum’s nearly 100-year relationship with the Hopi people.

The new exhibit space, located just past the Hopi section of the Native Peoples of the Colorado Plateau gallery, was made possible through a grant from the Southwestern Foundation. Three wall cases will showcase the dolls, rotating twice a year to feature different themes:

- January–July 2026: Carving Styles — from traditional teaching dolls to modern action-style sculptures and revival works using natural materials.



Navuhtsina, Prickly Pear Cactus Katsina doll by Tayron Polequaptewa (Hopi) is currently on display in our Collecting in a Changing World exhibition.



Dr. Kelley Hays-Gilpin shows part of MNA's katsina doll collection to a journalist.

- July 2026–January 2027: Katsina Roles — highlighting katsinam who serve as clowns, racers, singers, disciplinarians, and drummers in ceremonies.
- January–July 2027: Dolls as Gifts — tracing how dolls evolve from cradle dolls to increasingly elaborate works given as girls grow older.

- July 2027–January 2028: Celestial Beings and Phenomena — katsina dolls representing the sun, moon, stars, clouds, and rainbow.
- January–July 2028: The Ceremonial Calendar — dolls tied to seasonal dances, from Powamuya to summer plaza dances and the Home Dance.
- July 2028–January 2029: The Natural World — katsina dolls representing animals, birds, plants, and insects.

Through these rotations, visitors will experience the breadth of MNA's katsina doll collection and the artistry of Hopi carvers past and present.

Thanks to the Southwestern Foundation, the Museum of Northern Arizona is able to share this extraordinary collection in a way that both honors Hopi traditions and deepens cross-cultural understanding.

## Road to the Museum

**ONE ROAD LEADS TO** another—and in Flagstaff, they also lead to the Museum of Northern Arizona.

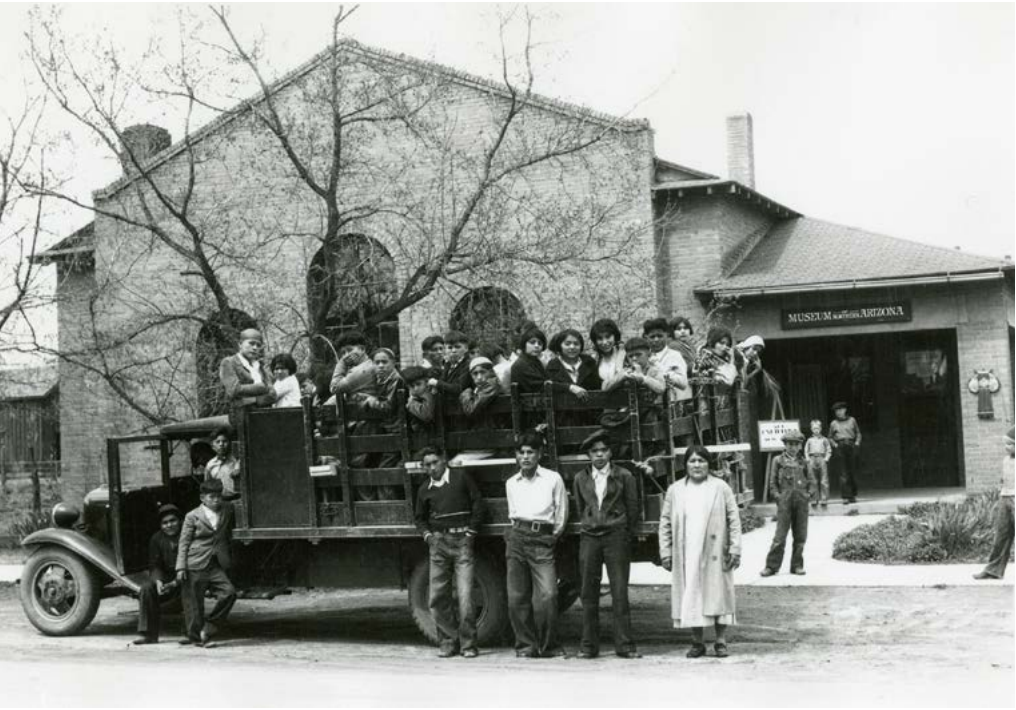
The first federal road in northern Arizona, the Beale Wagon Road, ran right past the current location of the museum. It's even possible that Edward Beale and his men, mules, and camels camped on what is now museum land in September 1857 while scouting the route. Museum archaeologists have noted remnants of a campsite from the right time period, and Beale's journal describes a "cheerful camp" at the base of the mountain with a water source identical to the creek and canyon beside the museum:

"We crossed a low hill, and found the water rising from a marshy place, and running, or rather trickling through high grass, down a short canon not over a hundred yards in length or more than fifty in width. The sides of this canon are some ten feet high, and of solid rock, and should this become an emigrant trail, by throwing a dam across the lower end, water sufficient for ten thousand head of cattle may easily be obtained."

Emigrants followed Beale's Wagon Road, and some settled. One of the first was sheep rancher Thomas McMillan, who built the white homestead that stands opposite the museum building. Of course, when McMillan built his home there was no museum, nor the idea of one. But one thing leads to another.

When the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway followed Beale's route in 1882, Flagstaff grew into a busy lumber town with a railroad depot. What had been a month-long ordeal to travel from eastern cities to Flagstaff became a rail journey of a few days—one tourists and scientists were willing to take. First C. Hart Merriam (1889) studying life zones, then Percival Lowell (1894) establishing an observatory, followed by Gustaf Adolf "G.A." Pearson (1908) opening the first forest research station.

By the time Harold and Mary-Russell Ferrell Colton took the train to Flagstaff for their honeymoon in 1912, Flagstaff was already known in scientific circles. The Coltons returned regularly and in fall 1925



A school group visits the Museum of Northern Arizona in 1934 when it was located steps from Route 66 at the Women's Club in Flagstaff.

bought 40 acres from C.J. Babbitt. As *The Coconino Sun* reported at the time:

"Flagstaff is coming more and more to the attention of scientists and artists. In the next few years 25 or 30 or more of them will have summer homes here, as Dr. Harold S. Colton, a distinguished scientist, and his wife, one of the most marvelous artists in America, already have. Soon this will be a natural scientific and art center."

Tourism was already a key industry for Flagstaff in 1920s, promoted by the railroad and the Fred Harvey Company. By 1923 about 20,000 tourist cars passed through Flagstaff on what was then designated the National Old Trails Highway, which closely followed the Beale Wagon Road. The town passed ordinances regulating traffic in May 1924, and soon after state and federal funds were allocated to rebuild the stretch of road between Flagstaff and Winslow. *The Coconino Sun* reported:

"The benefit in greater comfort to travelers and in increased trade here and throughout the state in the increase of tourist travel will be considerable. When this work is completed, the National Old Trails across Arizona will be a fast road

and the popularity of the highway with transcontinental tourists vastly increased."

Route 66 was officially designated in November 1926, but paving the road took many years. In Flagstaff and Williams headlines about Route 66 appeared alongside advocacy for a museum, both often tied to tourism, as was the push to preserve ancestral pueblos. In a letter to archaeologist Jesse Fewkes about Elden Pueblo, Harold Colton wrote:

"The ruin... would receive more visitors than any ruin that I know of in Arizona, for this is one of the main arteries between the East and the West, the National Old Trails Highway."

A year later, in July 1927, Dr. Gammage told the Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce that a museum would also draw tourists. U.S. Route 66 placed Flagstaff squarely on the "Main Street of America." When the Museum of Northern Arizona opened in 1928 just a few steps from the famous highway, it became a stop where travelers could step out of their cars and connect with the science, cultures, and stories of the land rushing past their windows.





Along the Rio de Flag trail, Museum members join a flora discovery hike with Kirstin Phillips (left), MNA's Botany Collections Manager.

# Thank You, Members & Donors!

**FROM UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS** to educational programs, the activities in these *Museum Notes* are possible because of your financial support! As a private nonprofit institution, the Museum of Northern Arizona relies on philanthropic giving like yours. Thank you!

In these uncertain times, there are many ways you can support MNA. Learn more at [musnaz.org/ways-to-give](https://musnaz.org/ways-to-give) or by contacting our development team at [development@musnaz.org](mailto:development@musnaz.org) or call 928-774-5211, ext. 227.

**Upgrade Your Membership**

Not only will you receive additional perks, but you will be supporting MNA's mission at a higher level. Start by reviewing our membership levels on the following page.

**Join the Colton Circle**

The Colton Circle Giving Society honors individuals giving \$1,000 or more annually to MNA. Colton Circle gifts can be made annually or monthly (starting at \$84 a month). Learn more at [musnaz.org/coltoncircle](https://musnaz.org/coltoncircle).

**Make a Donation**

Your donation is fully tax-deductible and supports MNA's educational programs, exhibitions, research, and collections.

**Give Through Your IRA**

Did you know you can make a powerful impact with your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)? By making a contribution from your IRA, you may realize significant tax planning benefits – all while supporting MNA's mission to share the art, science, and culture of the Colorado Plateau. Consult with your financial advisor to see how a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) may benefit you.

**Join the Legacy Council**

MNA's Legacy Council celebrates supporters who have made provision in their wills, trusts, and estate plans to support MNA with a legacy gift.

**Volunteer**

Whatever your skills and interests, there's a way for you to volunteer at MNA.



Colton Circle members enjoy invitations to special Museum events and programs, like this exclusive tour of the Easton Collection Center.

# Why Different Membership Levels

**AT THE MUSEUM** of Northern Arizona, we want everyone to feel welcome and connected. That's why our membership program offers several levels—so you can choose the option that best fits your interests and the way you want to experience the Museum and community connection.

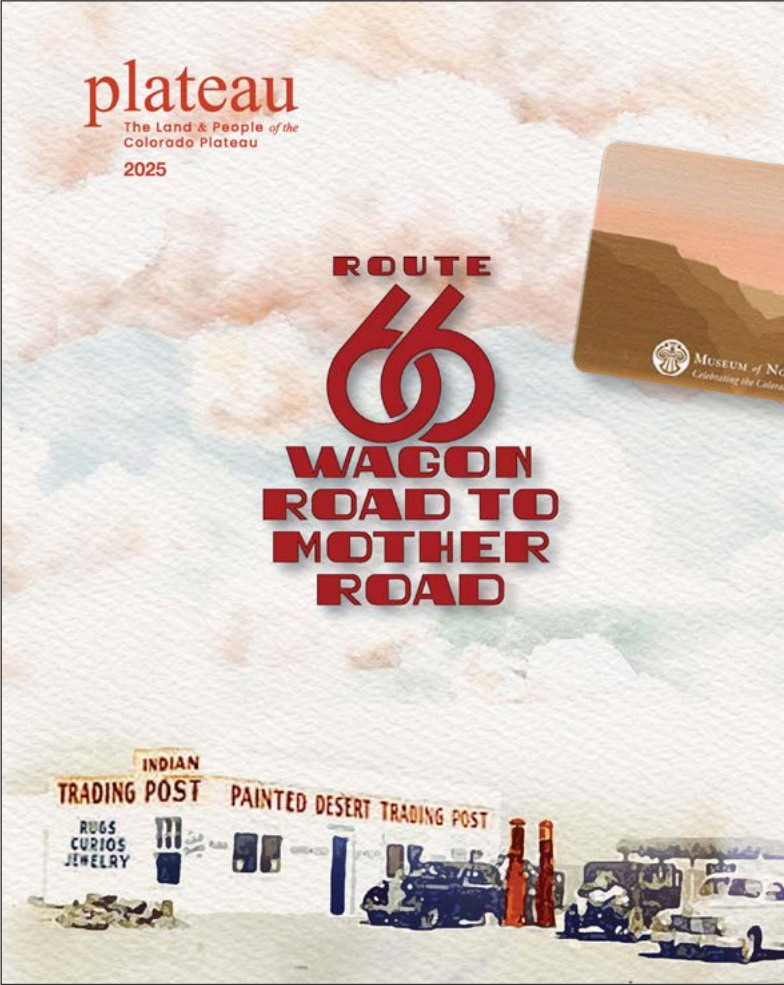
- Whether you are single, a family, or an avid art and science enthusiast, there's a level designed for you.
- Membership connects you with a community of people who share a love of the Colorado Plateau.
- Higher membership levels include extra perks, like behind-the-scenes opportunities, subscription to *Plateau* magazine, invitations to special events, and more.
- Every membership directly supports exhibitions, educational programs, and research. Different levels give those who are able the chance to contribute more to the Museum's mission.

No matter which level you choose, you will enjoy free admission, a discount at the Museum Gift Shop, and the knowledge that you're helping the Museum thrive. Best of all, you can upgrade your membership at any time. Our team is ready to assist you. Simply reach out to our membership manager at [membership@musnaz.org](mailto:membership@musnaz.org) or call (928) 774-5211 ext. 285.

Here is a breakdown of the MNA annual membership levels and benefits.

**Walnut Canyon – \$55**

- Free Museum admission for one named adult
- Subscription to our twice yearly *Museum Notes*
- Digital subscription to our monthly *Museum News*
- 10% discount on many items in the Museum Gift Shop
- Reduced ticket pricing for most special events, including the Heritage Festival of Arts and Culture



Upgrade your MNA membership to the Sunset Crater level or above and you'll receive the museum's annual *Plateau* journal, which takes a deep dive into topics on the people and landscapes of Colorado Plateau. This year's *Plateau* is all about the Mother Road, with a fascinating look at its legacy in the history of American road travel.

- Invitation to members-only exhibition previews and events
- Advance registration for our Discovery Camps for kids

**Painted Desert – \$70**

All the benefits as Walnut Canyon, but for two named adults in the same household.

**Sunset Crater – \$100**

All the benefits of Painted Desert, plus a subscription to MNA's annual magazine *Plateau*. You will not want to miss the 2025 edition, which is all about Route 66, diving deep into the topic of our *Wagon Road to Mother Road* exhibition.

**Canyonlands – \$150**

All the benefits of Sunset Crater, plus membership to the North American

Reciprocal Museums Program, which includes admission to more than 1,000 art, science, and cultural institutions.

**Chaco – \$300**

All the benefits of Canyonlands, plus free admission to our summer Thirsty Thursdays live music series.

**Black Mesa – \$500**

All the benefits of Chaco, plus free admission to the Heritage Festival of Arts and Culture.

**Colton Circle**

Members making annual gifts of \$1,000 or more are enrolled in MNA's Colton Circle, a special group of supporters celebrated with additional benefits, including invitations to exclusive programs and events.





**MUSEUM of NORTHERN ARIZONA**  
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Flagstaff, AZ  
Permit #152

The Museum of Northern Arizona sits at the base of the San Francisco Peaks, on homelands sacred to Native Americans throughout the region. We honor their past, present, and future generations, who have lived here for millennia and will forever call this place home.

## UPCOMING EVENTS >>

**OCT 11** Spooky Science and Freaky Finds  
**OCT 12** Museum Members Meetup: Poetry Workshop  
**OCT 23** Grand Canyon Cave Mysteries with Stephen Eginoire  
**OCT 25** Celebraciones de la Gente with Courtyard After Dark  
**OCT 26** Celebraciones de la Gente  
**NOV 8** Museum Members Meetup: Brady Paleontology Tour  
**NOV 15** *Wagon Road to Mother Road* MNA members preview  
**NOV 16** *Wagon Road to Mother Road* exhibit opens  
**NOV 21** Museum volunteer appreciation event  
**NOV 27** Museum closed for Thanksgiving Day  
**NOV 29** Diamond Creek Apache Crown Dancers  
**DEC 7-8** Winter Market and Open House  
**JAN 10** New Katsina doll display opens  
**JAN 25** *Call of the Colorado Plateau* exhibit opens  
**JAN 31** *Call of the Colorado Plateau* MNA members preview

MORE AT **[musnaz.org](http://musnaz.org)**

### MUSEUM HOURS

**OPEN DAILY 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.**

EXTENDED HOURS ON THURSDAYS TO 7 P.M.



*Kingman Turquoise  
Bracelet by Diné artist  
Travis Teller, available  
exclusively from the  
Museum Gift Shop.*

### YOUR GIFT SHOP PURCHASES SUPPORT NATIVE ARTISTS AND THE MUSEUM

Discover unique, one-of-a-kind pieces—jewelry, pottery, weavings, basketry, fine art, carvings, and more—at the Museum Gift Shop. We hand-select and buy directly from Colorado Plateau artists, with new items arriving every few weeks. Proceeds from each purchase support the artists and the Museum of Northern Arizona. Peruse all the offerings at the Museum or shop online at **[shopmusnaz.org](http://shopmusnaz.org)**.