



Insider's Look at Grand Canyon

Webisode #30 – Interview with Rangers Patricia and Ron Brown- Condor Transcript

Ranger Patrick: On this week's webisode of Insider's Look at Grand Canyon, I'm joined by two Grand Canyon Rangers, Pat and Ron Brown. Both of you, welcome to the show.

Ranger Ron: Hello.

Patrick: So, back in November you folks were instrumental in helping bring out folks from all over the western US for a condor conference. What was the purpose of that? What were you trying to achieve?

Ron: Well, as California condor reintroduction is beginning to succeed and condors are expanding their range, they're being seen in a lot more places- a lot of parks, a lot of other natural areas- and so we recognized that we needed to get together, the communicators, the people who talk about condors, and bring them together so that we could, first of all, just get to know each other, but also so that we could talk a little bit about how we present the message of condors. We also brought in some of the biologists and had them give us updates about the most current information. But what we really wanted to do was just sort of share our techniques and our styles and our information and get all of the different folks from different agencies and from different areas together so that we could talk a little bit about how we communicate about that magnificent bird now that more and more people are getting a chance to see it.

Patrick: Excellent. And I understand you got some interviews with some of the members of the conference.

Ron: Right. As we brought people in from other areas, as far away as Mexico and Argentina and several from California, I just kind of talked to a few of them and asked them why they were here. And it was pretty universal that the main thing people really wanted to do was meet other people who talk about condors and you know how communicators are- we all like to tap each others' brain and what we like to do is kind of learn from each other. So this was an opportunity for us to learn from each other, teach each other what we know and get some good updates from the biologists, who have their own meetings to do roughly the same thing when they want to get together and talk. But it was a chance for us to get the biologists to give us information and give us a chance to kind of talk to each other and learn from each other.

Patrick: Well, we're going to play a few of those interviews.

Ron: Okay, this is Ranger Ron at the California Condor Outreach Workshop and I have one of the participants here, so tell us who you are and tell us what you do.

Tammy: I'm Tammy Skalitzky and I'm a park ranger at Pinnacles National Monument.

Ron: Well, what brought you to this conference and what kind of things do you hope people will take home from it?

Tammy: I came to the conference to learn the best possible information out there at the current moment about California condors so that when I talk with the public about them, either face-to-face in an informal contact or in a ranger program, that I'm giving the best possible information to visitors interested in the California condor. I'm hoping that people take away everything that was talked about over the last two days. I hope that they take away the science that was mentioned about lead and the effects of lead. I'm hoping people take away different interpretive techniques that can be used when presenting information to the public about condors so that, presented in a provocative way that,

hopefully, people will think differently or feel differently about condors after speaking with an interpreter or a condor biologist.

Patrick: And Pat, so you had the conference, what can you say was achieved from that?

Ranger Pat Brown: I think we did start opening the lines of communication between the biologists and the interpreters and educators because we're all talking about the condors nowadays. And therefore, we shared materials, we shared different ways of talking about the condors and I think it was a great opportunity for us just to get to know each other, take that first step, open those lines of communication, get everybody on the same page.

Patrick: Excellent. And is there any message you'd like to share with the public right now about condors?

Pat: I think they are, eventually will be successful. It may take a while. It may not be in our lifetimes, but I think we're getting there. And that they're a wonderful bird to see.

Patrick: Wonderful. Would you two be willing to come back on the show and give us some updates on how the condors are doing?

Ron: Oh, sure. We're going to try to get together regularly. The scientists, the biologists, do get together on a regular basis, so we kind of sneak into their meetings once in a while, so as the program progresses, we'll have a chance to learn from them a little bit more and be more than happy to give you updates on their status and how they're doing.

Patrick: Well, thanks for joining us on the show, and Pat, any last words?

Ron: How many condors do we have now, Pat?

Pat: We're up to 78 here in northern Arizona, southern Utah. We now have more condors flying in the wild than there are in captivity and they hope to keep it that way from here on out.

Patrick: That is a wonderful message to share at the end. Thank you both for joining us on the show. We'll catch you folks next time on Insider's Look at Grand Canyon.