



## Insider's Look at Grand Canyon

### Webisode #41 – What happened at Grand Canyon on Earthday 2010 Transcript

**Ranger Patrick Gamman:** Here on Earth day I am joined by Ranger Lori Rome and Ranger Deirdre Hanners. Both of you, welcome to the show.

**Ranger Lori Rome and Deirdre Hanners:** Hi Pat. (both)

**Patrick:** So Lori, why as rangers is it important for us to join everybody here on Earth Day?

**Lori:** Well Pat, happy Earth Day. The mission of the Park Service is preserving and protecting our natural resources. We are here on Earth Day with our partners to celebrate something that we are doing everyday and that is protecting the Earth and finding ways to protect our resources.

**Patrick:** Awesome! Deirdre you are a part of our "GREEN TEAM" you're that green ranger... so what is the Park Service/Grand Canyon National Park actually got going, what have we done, what are we planning to help out on Earth Day and the Earth?

**Deirdre:** How much time do you have, Pat? (laughter)... We are doing a lot of things. Notably we have a 18 kilowatt photovoltaic system has been added to the Grand Canyon Visitor Center. It provides 30% of the power.

**Patrick:** Those are big solar panels, right?

**Deirdre:** These solar panels are awesome! You can see Mother Nature at work; the sun is shining in Arizona everyday. We have some pretty exciting projects, one at Phantom Ranch. We are going to install a hydro-electric generation system and upgraded appliances for Phantom Ranch including Xanterra properties and the National Park Service. So the whole place will off... well, not off the grid it will still be connected to the grid, however 100% of the power will be provided by the hydro-electric system.

**Patrick:** So that is Phantom Ranch down at the bottom of the canyon, we are going to be making hydro-electric power down there to supply for the hotel and the ranger station?

**Deirdre:** That is correct! And we are going to probably supplement with some solar too.

**Patrick:** That is amazing! Well, hey both of you... thanks for joining us on Earth Day here.

**Lori & Deirdre:** Happy Earth Day!

**Patrick:** I am joined here by Megan Bloomer. Megan, welcome to the show.

**Megan Bloomer:** Thanks for having me.

**Patrick:** So Megan, you work for the concessioner here at Grand Canyon that runs lodging, that runs the food... it is Xanterra. I see a lot of Earth Day stuff going on, what are you folks trying to achieve?

**Megan:** Today we are trying to educate our guest. So we talk a lot about things we do at Xanterra... so we use a lot of green products, we have CFL's in our rooms, we have sustainable cuisine. But our main goal is to make sure that you as the guest walk away understanding what you can do in your life.

Because if we can educate every guest that is such a larger impact then what we could do in our own operations. So ultimately we just want people to understand what Earth Day is, the small changes they can make in their daily life and go home and make those changes.

**Patrick:** One more question for you Megan. What's going on with all these different displays here?

**Megan:** Well, we want to educate our guest about what we do, so we have different displays. One of them talks about how we purchase renewable energy. Here at the south rim it is a very small property, very condensed. So instead of trying to put in a renewable energy plant we buy credits. So, we talk about why we do that and how we make sure we have carbon offsets. We then go into our "Green Guestroom" so we are going to tell you we have green cleaners and all natural soaps that everything in our guestroom is going to biodegrade. On, all the way down to sustainable cuisine, so today we are sampling some local juices, local chips, all natural products, and then custom made slider, an Earth Day slider, made with all natural beef. So, we are just trying to give you an idea of what we do as a company and make sure you walk away with some free goodies today.

**Patrick:** Hey Megan, thanks for being on the show and happy Earth Day.

**Megan:** Thank you.

**Patrick:** Here on Earth Day, I have moved on over to the General Store. Run by Delaware North, and our general manager here at the store at Grand Canyon village is Cendy, hey welcome to the show.

**Cendy:** Hi, how are you guys doing?

**Patrick:** Doing great! So, I noticed that you had these shirts for sale, and what is it called again? The "Green Path shirt", what's that whole movement about?

**Cendy:** Well, Green Path is Delaware North's environmental management system and it is our continuous environmental program. Today, on Earth Day, Delaware North has introduced a new logo for Green Path. Our old logo was a circle, if you had seen, it was pine trees with a path. And our new logo is the hand print with the leaf. Delaware North is encouraging all of its associates to extend a hand to our Green Path efforts. So they want all of our associates to get involved in the environment and extend a hand. So that is the meaning behind hand and the leaf represents the environment.

**Patrick:** That is excellent. Well, here in the store with the visitors coming here in spring (even though it is Earth Day we are getting a little bit of snow showers here today), but I noticed you have all these going. You've got environmental questions and the spin the wheel (you can hear that in the background), but I noticed over in the deli you've got thing make from corn by-products. Could you give us a brief run down of why you have all these little exhibits here?

**Cendy:** All the little exhibits are things that we do here in the store for our environmental initiatives. So, over in the deli we have all of our disposable wears that are either compostable or made of recycled materials. In front of the store we've got a cardboard bale that shows that we recycle our cardboard. We also have stack of magazines over here encouraging our guest to recycle your magazines that pile up around your home.

**Patrick:** Oh here is the battery one, what is going on with batteries here?

**Cendy:** Well, we recycle our batteries here and we encourage our guest to bring their batteries back and we will recycle them for you. This display is just guess the number of batteries and you will win a prize.

**Patrick:** Excellent! It is nice to know that here at Grand Canyon it's not just the rangers who are thinking about Earth Day, but you folks as well. So, thanks for doing all the stuff you do and happy Earth Day Cendy.

**Cendy:** Thank you, happy Earth Day everyone.

