

The Grand Canyon Intrepids
The 1ST Grand Canyon Plein Air Painting Expedition – May 2005

The early morning aroma of strong coffee stirred many awake each day on the most incredible artistic journey through the majestic Grand Canyon. Anxious to catch the morning light before it changed so rapidly against the great walls of time, brushing the grains of sand from our gear, the bugs out of paints and rubbing sleep from our eyes... tenacity ruled. Eleven artists at times struggling against Mother Nature's winds, hard sun, and often driving rains... assisted each other through a journey . . .

. . . where incentive genuinely imprinted our memory and images.

Our daily tasks of setting up and taking down camp each day was hard, but the rewards of floating down one of the greatest rivers on this continent, the Colorado, left a lasting impression with a group of artists who quickly became a tight knit family. As wonderfully rugged in beauty, that is how in a flash - if not being careful - brutally dangerous this wilderness jewel can be.

Our guides, Clair Qist and his sister Annie, were graciously helpful and together with our coordinator, David Haskell, helped choose the best campsites and daily stops for artistic splendor and comfort. Little did I know the Southwest climate would be so difficult to adjust to, being from the far north . . .

. . . but the overall sensory overload was felt by everyone.

Meals were also on a grand scale, as well as the camaraderie. Stories of the history and geology were shared to us by Clair between thrills maneuvered safely in magnificent rapids, which took us back in time . . .

*. . . many of us feeling as if we visited another planet - in a dimension
nearly lost to many who live in society's hectic times today.*

I wish to thank David Haskell and the Sedona Arts Centre for co-coordinating a truly memorable lifetime excursion! Also heartfelt thanks to Moki Mac River Expeditions for their kind and caring hospitality. And to each and every gifted artist... we the 'Intrepids'... may you all walk in good light! I'm honored to have journeyed with all of you - David Haskell, Val Carson, Elizabeth Wallace, Mark Hemleben, Kevin Kibsey, Gregory Hull, Julia Seelos, Kathryn Townsend, Norma Holden, Vince Langfield.. And myself Hedy Ziegler.

The whole experience truly was '**Grand**' -- Hedy Ziegler