

**Press Release**  
(for immediate release)

## River and Desert Plants of the Grand Canyon

Kristin Huisinga, Lori Makarick, and Kate Watters

276 pages • 6 x 9

263 color photographs • 80 line drawings • 5 color figures and maps • thumbnail identification guide • illustrated plant anatomy • glossary • references • index

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The Grand Canyon's isolation, great elevational range, and position at the convergence of three North American deserts—the Mojave, Sonoran, and Great Basin—have created unique habitats for an unusual assemblage of plants. Some grow only at seeps and springs, others emerge from cracks in the bedrock, and some live only in the Grand Canyon—for example, Roaring Springs prickly poppy and Grand Canyon flaveria. *River and Desert Plants of the Grand Canyon*, the first comprehensive field guide devoted to plants that live below the canyon rims, is bursting with beautiful color photographs and detailed line drawings of more than 250 ferns, grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees. Narratives organized by life form and common family name describe each plant and its natural history, and thumbnail photographs arranged by flower color and shape offer a key for easy identification. Essays by contributing experts explore such topics as Grand Canyon ecology, desert-plant adaptations, biological soil crusts, plant pollination, invasive species, and domesticated plants of the canyon's indigenous people.

**Kristin Huisinga** combines her master's degree in botany with a passion for community-based projects. She works with native people in the Southwest to incorporate indigenous perspectives about the land into management plans and educational programs.

**Lori Makarick** grew up in New Jersey but began a steady, determined migration west as soon as she could drive. She has spent the majority of her adult life living and working in the Grand Canyon area and is committed to protecting its diverse natural resources.

**Kate Watters** first stumbled on the Grand Canyon's plant world while working on a trail crew there almost 10 years ago. She became transfixed by desert plants and now specializes in botany and restoration ecology.

**Ann Zwinger** writes extensively about the natural history of the Southwest. She has authored over 10 books, including *Downcanyon: A Naturalist Explores the Colorado River through Grand Canyon* and *The Nearsighted Naturalist*.

*River and Desert Plants of the Grand Canyon* is available from bookstores or directly from Mountain Press Publishing Company at 800-234-5308 or [www.mountain-press.com](http://www.mountain-press.com).