

# Romance and Rattlesnakes

*Canyon Voices: The Nature of Rattlesnake Canyon*

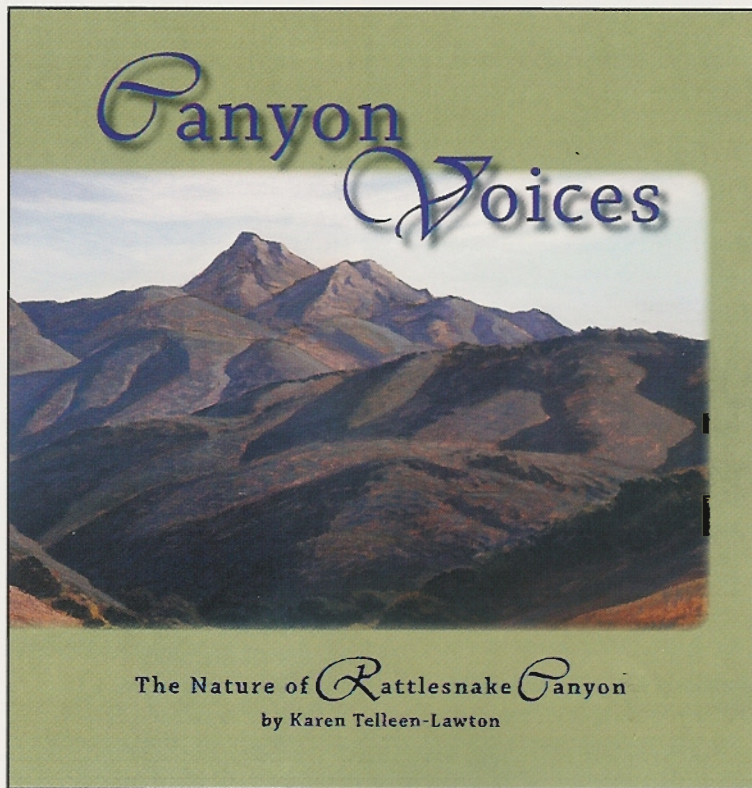
By Karen Telleen-Lawton

Romance and rattlesnakes? Only deft authors tackle such a subject. Local resident and Botanic Garden Docent Karen Telleen-Lawton has done just that. In her recently published book, *Canyon Voices: The Nature of Rattlesnake Canyon*, Karen shares her romance with this canyon and provides thoughtful commentary on the canyon that is many things to many people, embodying “both the uniquely sacred and the perfectly ordinary.”



Exploring the canyon through a variety of eyes, from a hang glider to a geologist, from a monk to a botanist and others, she allows the voices to bring their deep understanding and unique perspective to this local gem. Through their experience, expertise, and insight, they help to paint a picture of Rattlesnake Canyon that is steeped in history and rich with diversity. It is through these voices that she also explores the positive and negative relationship between humans and nature, the competing recreational and economic demands, and the contentious factors in the natural world itself.

Through her exploration, the voices that Karen captures remind us of the larger context in which we live and our vulnerability to ever-increasing loss of biodiversity that threatens so many places like Rattlesnake Canyon. We are reminded of our connection with nature and our environment as she so eloquently states, “The natural world is worthy of our protection not only for its beauty, its economic value, and its sanctity. It describes the essential link to



our own nature, whether we view that link as an historical and tenuous thread or a current force as powerful as a creek in flood.”

Join us for a book signing with Karen in the Garden courtyard on September 20th, from 5:30–7:00 p.m. to celebrate this wonderful new book. RSVP to 805-682-4726 ext. 654 -ad

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