

# Wild Women, Wild River

by  
Ann



**Weiler-Walka, Nature Writer/Naturalist/Guide** *Women Wild by Nature*, a Green River canoe trip, pushed off from Ruby Ranch on September 14th and paddled for five blissful days down Labyrinth Canyon. The eight lucky women on this trip quickly settled into harmony with this place and each other, paddling a stretch of river, living on her sandbars, working in community.

Along the way, we took time for stretching, painting or writing in journals, reading aloud and listening to stories of place. Allyson introduced us to the stars, and on the last night, when we were dressed to the nines, we belly danced with Katie. Together we compiled an awesome set of Nature Notes - a kind of map of this stretch of river - including peregrines, Allison's beaver family, blue beetles that clustered like flowers on the coyote willows, the music of tent zippers.

Mostly we settled into a mindful quiet punctuated by plenty of laughter. By Friday we were comfortable members of both our own small community and the wider, wild community of Labyrinth Canyon. Our senses and intuitions honed, our spirits refreshed, we came home ready to delve deeper into the detail of our own habitats and savor the landscapes of home. I couldn't have had a finer week to carry with me into the winter.

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# CFI Celebrates 329 Moons



## Rising Over Field Camp

Many generations of CFI friends, trustees, staff and supporters gathered at the Professor Valley Field Camp to commemorate CFI's 25th season. In true form, this CFI event was a celebration of the Colorado Plateau's beauty.

The sun streaked below dark clouds to illuminate the Fisher Towers before the clouds finally parted to reveal the full moon on Professor Valley.

Keynote speaker, Tim Brown of the Tracy Aviary, reminded us that children develop a connection to nature through immersion. Learning to love nature on its own terms is the spark that creates future defenders of the environment. Mr. Brown applauded CFI for immersing young (and old) in the experience of the Colorado Plateau.

Director and founder of CFI, Karla VanderZanden, recalled the similar vision of co-founder, Robin Wilson. Mrs. Wilson wanted to bring children into the environment and let nature speak for itself. Ben Phillips, Chair of the CFI Board of Trustees, spoke of the accomplishments of the past and the challenges facing CFI in the next few years. He announced that the BLM does not intend to renew the lease of land for the Professor Valley Field Camp after the current lease expires in 2012. A public hearing is being requested and CFI supporters are welcome to contact CFI for ways they can help. Mr. Phillips also announced that Range Creek will come under the supervision of State Institutional and Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) and the University of Utah, which may discontinue commercial contracts after the 2010 season.

# CFI 2010 Calendar



**Rainbow Bridge Trail Hike April 28—May 2**  
Navajo guides will give you a personal tour while horses carry everything you need for a high quality adventure.

**Valley of the Gods and Monument Valley featuring Gene Foushee May 14-May 16**  
Stay two nights at the Valley of the God's Bed and Breakfast and enjoy hiking and van tours to some of the most and unusual places in the area.

**River Skills I Course April 3-4**  
For the beginner who wants to learn proper boating techniques

**River Skills I Course April 9-11 2010**  
This course provided hands-on active training in risk management.

**WFR Recert & Wilderness Advanced First Aid**  
**WFA Recert March 2-4 WFA Full Course March 6-10** Taught by the Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI) of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) in Moab. This is a two year certification and includes CPR.

**Women Wild by Nature Colorado Raft Trip Aug 3 (eve)-Aug 7**  
This year's trip will be through Ruby, Horsethief and Westwater Canyons. Details TBA soon.

**Range Creek Overnights June-Oct 2010**  
See the best preserved ruins of the Fremont Culture. This may be the last year to go with CFI as the university is reviewing their permitting process.