

## Nature Note: Flash Floods

By Madora Hance, PR Intern

**Flash Floods:** Late summer is monsoon season here in canyon country and locals also know to be on the lookout for flash flood conditions. Recently the Moab area has had some fairly destructive floods beginning with the rains on August 18 that completely washed out the switchbacks on Mineral Bottom Road.

Students from East Middle School in Grand Junction were fortuitous enough to witness the Professor Creek flashing during their stay at the field camp -- see photo. Students lined up at a safe distance along the fence to watch the water hurdle down the creek bed and they could hear the cracking of rocks being tossed along by the torrent.

**How Flash Floods Form:** Flash floods can occur for many reasons including a dam or barrier break, or over when saturated soil cannot hold the continuing rain. The typical flash floods in Southeastern Utah occur from rain falling heavily on dry soil that has poor absorption ability. The floods are seen anywhere downstream from the source of the precipitation, even dozens of miles from the source.

### What To Do When Caught in Flash Flood:

- (1) Pay attention to weather reports and listen for thunder or watch for lightning, two signs of precipitation.
- (2) Dry channels, ditches and lake beds will fill quickly and the water can be strong and violent -- sometimes creating a wall of water 10 to 30 feet high.
- (4) Move to higher ground, immediately. Abandon your car if necessary, your car is replaceable, you are not.
- (5) Listen -- You may hear the rush of water before you see it.

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## The Leaves Are A Changin'

The La Sal's are on fire! Brilliant yellows from the Aspens are beginning to light up the mountains while the summer weather is still trying to hold on to Moab. Here at Canyonlands Field Institute we too wish we could hold onto summer, onto our programs and field camps, onto all of the fun and excitement before winter begins.

It has been a unique fall season, complete with a Benefit Dinner, school groups and raft trips. The last school group to experience all that is Professor Valley Field Camp was the Grand County Middle School from Moab, and our last scheduled trip is the Range Creek Overnight in October. To everyone who participated on a CFI trip or program, we thank you.



*Students from The Challenge Program at East Middle School in Grand Junction, CO, perform a study to measure the stream flow or CFS.*

## THANK YOU to our Supporters

### Horsethief Ranch Benefit Dinner

The wonderful dinner at the historic Horsethief Ranch, location of the last of the Robber's Roost Gang, netted \$1,000 giving us the ability to provide scholarships to Grand County 8th Graders to attend our Outdoor Science School in Professor Valley on September 29 to October 1, 2010.



Guests and CFI Director, Karla

Special Thanks to Michael Behrendt, Owner of Horsethief Ranch, and Calvin and Juanita Oliver, Caretakers of Horsethief Ranch.

### Thanks to our Auction Donors

Gifts were auctioned both online this summer and in a silent action at the benefit dinner. Proceeds went directly toward funding our youth programs, specifically those for Moab youth.

*Dee Garcau, James Knipmeyer, Mary Kohler, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Mike Milligan, Rim Mountain Bike Tours, Calf Canyon Bed and Breakfast, Sheri Griffith River Expeditions, Tom Till Gallery, Rim Vistas Condominiums, Alta Lodge, Roy Webb, and John and Sena Hauer.*

### Belated Thanks to our Donors

Regrettably the following Plateau Society donors did not previously receive recognition:

*Diane Hansen  
Jim Lindheim*

## Wounded Warriors on Westwater

### By Alex Ward, Program Intern

In late July I drove to Moab, UT to begin my program internship for CFI, eager to work amongst the red rocks and rivers. I graduated from the University of Oregon in March and applied for the job, unsure of what to expect.

As my time here nears its end, I find many aspects of my professional life progressed and refined: teaching abilities (especially with youth), communication skills, logistical thought, guiding ability, and participant interaction.

One particular river trip embodies the essence of both CFI and my time working here. The trip was through Westwater Canyon with Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans suffering from mental and physical disabilities. CFI collaborated with Splore, a local non-profit organization specializing in outdoor adventures for people of all abilities, for their valued expertise and assistance.

The veteran group was an enthusiastic bunch, whooping after each rapid, swapping jokes, and getting into good-natured water fights. Many of them had never been on a river before, and seeing their faces light up was priceless.

It was an honor to be a part of the group, and I felt silly to have speculated that somehow this trip would be difficult. On the contrary, I would happily do it again to see people who've been through many hardships have some good ol' fun.

It's because of experiences like these that I've come to treasure my time at CFI and the opportunities I've been given. I'm grateful for every day I get to spend working here, and I hope to return in the future.

## Donor Profile: Chantze Palmer

Chantze, a long time friend of CFI and currently a teacher at Grand County Middle School, DONATED a Birthday Wish through Facebook Causes to CFI.

Chantze's friends on Facebook saw his wish, to make donations to CFI in lieu of birthday gifts, and participated. We are grateful to both him and the donors. Thank you Chantze!

## Custom Trips

**Easily the most memorable** way to support CFI programs for youth and schools is to plan an exhilarating Private Custom Trip for your family, friends or coworkers! Profits go directly to funding scholarships and providing discounted rates for schools to attend our programs.



Our trips can be River, Hiking or Lodge based for all different activity levels and interests! Popular trips include:

- San Juan, Green, and Colorado River Multi-Day trips by raft or canoe.
- Lizard Head Wilderness and the Rainbow Bridge/ Navajo Mountain Pack-stock supported hiking trip (above);
- Or stay at a lodge in the Moab area and have CFI guide days of river, hiking, and exploration.

Prices per night range from \$180-270 for adults, and \$130-270 for youth. And as always, once the minimum is met, the **planner goes free!**