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Desert Winds Newsletter -- Fall 2013

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Goodbye, Professor Valley Field Camp!



CFI has given its final farewell to Professor Valley Field Camp once and for all. On October 11, CFI and friends gathered for Send-Off Under the Stars, a benefit dinner and celebration. The evening included staff favorites: harvest season lasagna and salads, plus S'mores and music around the

campfire. Former staff ranging from the creators of CFI to last year's interns gathered and shared stories about the beloved field camp, conveying the evolution from the original army tent to the painted tipis and yurts of today. It was a wonderful evening to reunite and say farewell, while raising funds for the costs of the transitions to the new site.



The following week, CFI staff and volunteers began the process of dismantling camp. We are working to meet the BLM deadline to remove facilities by year end and initiate restoration work to return the seven acres to a natural state. Site plan and permits for the

new Field Camp at Taylor Ranch (located only 1.5 miles "down the creek") are pending final county approval and fundraising to make it all happen is underway. We plan to be up and running by April to host our school and adult retreat groups; the new site will be ADA/ accessible. We are excited about the move and the opportunity to make Taylor Ranch our new outdoor classroom in Professor Valley.



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Major Donations Jan. 1-Oct. 15 2013

Andrew Phelps
 Barbara Pedersen
 Canyon Voyages
 Castle Creek Winery
 Charla Brown & Rob Burnett
 Cherry Talbott
 Chevron Humankind
 City Market
 Colin Fryer/Moab Lodging
 Diane Hanson
 Eastern Utah Community
 Credit Union
 Fanwood Foundation/Hope
 Stevens
 Gerald & Dedee Riggs
 Grand County Credit Union
 Grand County Recreation
 Special Services District
 Henry & Angela Hite
 Howard Mann
 James & Donnasu Moody

Spotlight on CFI Interns

Of the many great accomplishments of CFI, perhaps the most long-lasting is the impact we have on interns, AmeriCorps/VISTA Members and first year Apprentice Guides. These young adults learn "on the job" and carry their newly honed ethics and skills onward in their professional lives. Your contributions to our special Intern Apprentice Guide makes this possible and please share this opportunity with someone you know!



Carmelita Rosner, Fall 2013 Program Intern

Carmelita grew up in Jakarta, one of the most populated and polluted cities in the world. Fortunately for her, she was still able to spend significant time exploring the natural world thanks to her parents' passion for traveling via foot, kayak or canoe. The contrast between Jakarta's concrete jungle and the actual jungles of Manado or New Zealand taught her the value of a sense of connection with, and responsibility and reverence for the natural world. She recently graduated from Oberlin College with a major in English and minor in Environmental Studies. Looking for a seasonal position where she could pursue outdoor education, Carmelita landed at CFI, where she continues to fall in love with Moab, the Colorado Plateau, and the work she is doing. In her next step she plans to join the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic to work as a part of an initiative to improve literacy in school children.



Hannah Boone, 2013-2014 AmeriCorps VISTA

Hannah grew up in the D.C. suburb of Arlington, Virginia, where she enjoyed the urban life but was exposed to the outdoors at a young age through family outings. She really got hooked when she went on a NOLS trip in the Wind River Range in high school. Hannah followed this love for the outdoors and concern for the environment by pursuing a degree in natural resource management at Cornell University and living in the forest of Ithaca, NY. She tried out the tropical forests of the Brazilian Amazon for a semester abroad. But upon graduation, she decided that she had seen a lot of the broad-leaf deciduous forest and wanted to live somewhere completely different, so she came to Moab! Hannah will be spending a year at CFI as a part of the federal AmeriCorps VISTA program, where her efforts are primarily geared toward building strong communities, building organizational capacity at CFI, and working as a part of a national effort to alleviate poverty through education.

Jennifer Speers
John & Sena Hauer
Joy Investments
Ken & Jane Sleight/Pack
Creek Ranch
The Maki Foundation
Mary Kohler
Moab Brewery
Moonflower Market
North Face Planet Explore
Fund
Ruth H. Brown Foundation
Steve & Terri Getz
Val A. Browning Foundation
Wiancko Charitable
Foundation
The William H. & Mattie Wattis
Harris Foundation

***CFI thanks you for your
generous support!***

Our apologies if we are
forgetting someone!

Nature Note: These Red Rocks Aren't Red At All

by Carmelita Rosner, CFI Program Intern



These rocks are called red. And, yes, their dominant color is that of the familiar rust color of oxidized iron, made unfamiliar and striking by its presence in the rocks before us. And, yes, that red, caused by the iron oxide known as hematite

(Fe₂O₃), is arresting, especially when the light of the setting sun sets it afire. But calling these rocks red does them a disservice. It also blinded me from seeing their true colors. These rocks are so much more than red. They are green, purple, orange, yellow, lavender, tierra, salmon, black, brown, tan, even turquoise. A perfect example of the last literally stunned me mid-sentence with its vibrancy as I turned the corner of the parking lot loop at the trailhead of Delicate Arch in Arches National Park.

I know the arches are the main draw, and, man, they are awe-inspiring, but what I savor most within the park is Cache Valley's yellows, oranges, greys, greens and turquoise. The green in the Morrison Formation is due to the volcanic ash, blown over from the western volcanoes, falling into the lakes and large, lazy rivers of the time. The iron-rich ash that fell into the lakes sank down into the oxygen-free environment at the bottom where, instead of becoming oxidized, they were actually chemically reduced due to the lack of oxygen. It took me a little while for me to truly see these rocks, not just the concept of rock I held in my mind, but since then, I've been marveling at the colors around me.

If you want to learn more about the rainbow of these rocks, [here's a good read](#).

Hiking to Get Kids Outside

From May 8th to September 29th, 2013, CFI guide Kate Niederehe hiked over 2,300 miles of the Pacific Crest trail, from the California/Mexican border to central Washington State. Kate hiked with a purpose: to



build awareness for the need to keep kids exploring in and connecting with the natural world. Niederehe's project is called "Hiking To Get Kids Outside," where she collects donations and pledges per mile hiked that she will split evenly between Canyonlands Field Institute and City Kids Wilderness Project, based in Washington, DC. Niederehe has worked for both of these groups and believes that both of their missions support her cause of getting kids outside.

Nearly five months into the hike, and only 350 miles from the Canadian border, Kate started to face tough conditions. An extraordinary storm rolled through the Pacific Northwest bringing cold rains and early snow. After a serious hypothermic incident and more storms ahead, she decided to end the trip a little short of the border. Thus far, Kate has raised over \$5,000 for the two organizations traveling over two thousand miles by foot. She is still accepting donations and plans to finish the remaining miles next August.

Kate returned to Moab right after her hike, just in time for the closing celebration of Professor Valley Field Camp. To read more about Kate's hike or to donate to her cause, visit her website www.hikingtogetkidsoutside.org.

Why Pay for a Tour Guide?

By Carmelita Rosner, CFI Program Intern



On National Public Lands Day, I had the opportunity to spend the entire day in Arches National Park working with the Bates Wilson Legacy Fund/Friends of Arches and Canyonlands Parks. The group included about 30 volunteers and park staff and we worked to remove graffiti from the rocks. As I was about to depart the project to lead my CFI Sunset Tour in Arches.... Superintendent

Kate Cannon asked me a question: What's your favorite part of your work at CFI?

My answer the TOURS! I spend four hours with people in a beautiful place and I get to really know them. And I learn from them just as much they from me. I've come to see what an impact these short tours can have.

I'm lucky to have parents that value the outdoors; we spent family vacations exploring beautiful areas, both within and without national parks. But we shied away from paying for guides, partly because of cost, partly because we thought them touristy, and partly because we couldn't imagine how a tour could enhance our experience. Now that I'm on the other side, I

know how they can. A tour with an educational focus led by a naturalist can deepen that connection and imbue it with meaning. Simply put, the more you understand about something, the more you care about it. A guide can help you understand the world around you, whether it be the awe-inspiring geological formations of Arches National Park, the names of the fall-blooming flowers, human history or current issues in the community.

Though CFI concludes our Ancient Past Rock Art and Arches Sunset Tours at the end of October, I encourage you to plan ahead for next May and beyond. If you live here, keep these wonderful tours in mind for your house guests, and come along, too!

Remembering Chris Phelps

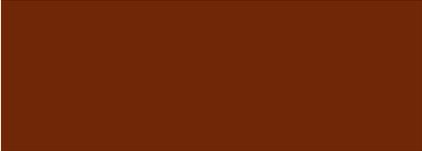


Friend, guide, muse and musician, Chris Phelps, died January 19, 2013 in San Francisco of colon cancer. Chris worked at CFI for many years, starting out as an intern in 1993 and returning for ten seasons. Chris shared his knowledge

and love of canyon country, his guitar playing and beautiful smile with over a thousand school children and many Elderhostelers. Though playful in nature, he also challenged himself intellectually, spiritually and physically. One winter, he completed a solo canoe trip, paddling down the Green River to Confluence and back *up* the Colorado, "Denis Julien style," landing at Potash as icebergs formed.

The evening of October 12, friends and family, including many present and past CFI guides, gathered at Professor Valley Field Camp to celebrate Chris's life and share tales as boatman do. Tamsin McCormick and Michael Smith of Plateau Restoration, who worked with Chris at CFI in the 1990's, planted a native shrub at the memorial and gave all attending handfuls of native grass seed to toss in closing. These acts give life in honor of Chris and began the restoration at camp. The next day, floating "The Daily" stretch, some of his ashes were tenderly released to mix with the River he so dearly loved. Guides' kids watched respectfully, played in the mud, squealed in the rapids and took a turn learning to paddle and row. *For everything there is a season.*

We ask friends of Chris to consider contributing to CFI's special



Intern & Apprentice Guide Fund in his memory to help grow the next generation of environmental leaders, guides and educators.