

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

MARCH - APRIL 2011



© John Catsis

When John and Connie Catsis moved to Silver City, New Mexico, they probably were unaware that they would be sharing their yard with the resident deer population. But the deer continue to drop by to see what the Catsis's are up to. This 16-point buck visited three days in a row, often accompanied by his 8-, 10-, and 12-point buddies, according to John. This portrait appeared on the cover of the January issue of *Desert Exposure*, a regional monthly newspaper in southwestern New Mexico.

please send in your registration form with your photo tour choice marked as soon as possible.

The **writing critique** has a new twist this year, with plans to publish works submitted in an outdoor journal. Participating authors retain complete copyright except for the right to publish this work in the journal. Papers submitted may include stories, poems, photo essays, or other format, on the outdoors, and each author should bring a draft of the paper to the conference to read in the writing workshop. RMOWP members will help critique the work and give feedback. After the workshop, authors will have one month to rewrite as they wish and send the final to the editor (Wayne Turner) who will publish the journal and mail a copy to each author and any other interested members. Additional information will be found in the Jan-Feb newsletter.

The conference also includes ranger-guided tours to historic sites, several workshops, a sunrise photo shoot, and opportunities to see RMOWP members' photography.

## See you at the Reef

Time is running out to sign up for the **2011 RMOWP conference**, which takes place June 8-12 at Capitol Reef National Park in southern Utah, with headquarters in the adjacent community of Torrey.

Capitol Reef ([www.nps.gov/care](http://www.nps.gov/care)) offers plenty to see and do, ranging from wildlife along a picturesque river and spectacular multi-colored rocks, to geologic wonders and prehistoric and historic sites.

Lighting in Capitol Reef is good in the morning (sunrise around 6:00am in early June), lousy at midday, and terrific in late afternoon and evening (sunset about 8:45pm), so plan to get out early, take an afternoon siesta, and stay out late. Trail Wizard Jack Olson will be getting to the park early to check trail conditions and prepare handouts with the latest information on where to go and when.

We'll have **guided photo tours** into two of the most scenic areas of the park and surrounding areas - Cathedral Valley and Burr Trail - with a well-respected local outfitter (Hondoo Rivers & Trails, [www.hondoo.com](http://www.hondoo.com)). However, because of National Park Service requirements for no more than a dozen people including guides on commercial backcountry trips, we must limit the number of participants to ten per trip and spread the trips over several days. Hondoo has asked for our numbers in early April, so



© Don Laine

along the scenic drive in Capitol Reef

**Conference headquarters** will be at the Sandstone Inn ([www.sandstonecapitolreef.com](http://www.sandstonecapitolreef.com)), which has a meeting room and restaurant. Cost for conference attendees for one or two people is \$62 plus tax per night for the very adequate standard room, and there are also a limited number of more upscale rooms, with microwave and fridge, for \$10 more.

We've blocked 30 standard rooms from June 6 to 11 - that's Monday through Saturday nights - so those who want to arrive early will have a place to stay,

see Reef... page 2



## Rocky Mountain Outdoors

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"Discovery" © Linda Martin  
(1910 Honorable Mention, People in Nature)

*Reef, cont. from pg. 1*

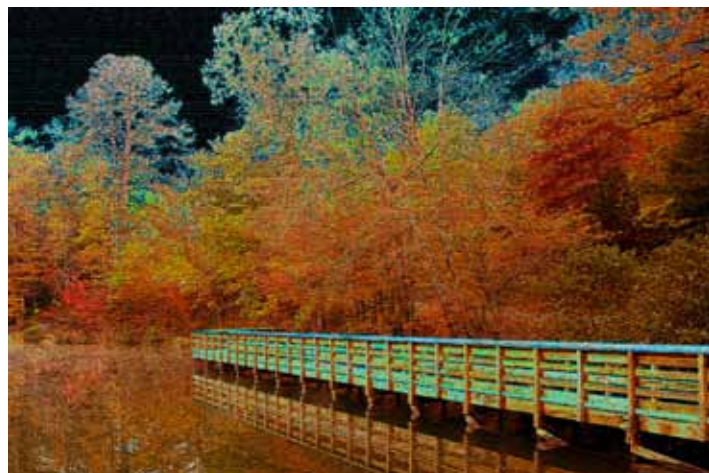
and we'll all make our own reservations. This rate will be held until May 6.

Call 800-458-0216 or 435-425-3775, or email sandstoneinn@yahoo.com. Tell them you're with the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Group.

For those who prefer camping we suggest the Wonderland ([www.capitolreefrvpark.com](http://www.capitolreefrvpark.com)), with full RV hookups. The park ([www.nps.gov/care](http://www.nps.gov/care)) also has a good campground, with plenty of shade but no RV hookups or showers.

The conference schedule is on page 8 and the registration form was included with your Jan-Feb newsletter, and both can also be found at [www.rmowp.org](http://www.rmowp.org).

For suggestions on pre- and post-conference activities, see "Jack's Jaunts" on page 4 and Wayne Turner's fishing update on page 3 of this newsletter.



"Funky Fall" © Terry Guthrie  
(1910 Honorable Mention, Altered/Composite)



"Photographing Sunset" © Jack Olson  
(1910 Honorable Mention, People in Nature)

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## OWAA Writing Workshop

Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) is back with its **second annual Goldenrod Writing Workshop**, July 31 to August 6 at The University of Montana in Missoula. Open to both novice communicators and published professionals, the week-long workshop is designed to improve skills in outdoor, nature, and environmental writing.

This year's workshop offers a casual setting with hands-on learning from peer groups and veteran instructors. The curriculum includes assignments, discussions, readings, and shared critiques along with time to explore the beautiful Montana outdoor wilderness and socialize with others who share a passion for outdoor writing.

Enrollment is limited to 30 students, on a first come, first served basis. The \$995 fee includes tuition and room and board in University of Montana campus housing. The deadline for applications is June 1, and requires a \$250 non-refundable deposit.

For details, see [www.owaa.org](http://www.owaa.org) or contact OWAA Executive Director Robin Giner at 406-728-7434; [rginer@owaa.org](mailto:rginer@owaa.org).

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## Fishing Update for Capitol Reef

by Wayne Turner

A guide tells me that fishing in the park is not productive that late in the year (June). I intend to give it a try upstream from the campground but I suspect he is correct. Kathy and I are going to go two days early to fish with him and gather maps of public fishing areas that are productive. By the time the conference starts, we should have good information (and maybe caught a bunch of fish).

Try [www.quietflyfisher.com](http://www.quietflyfisher.com) or call 435-616-2319 and talk to Mike. We are fishing with Mike the weekend before our conference. He knows about us so you might mention RMOWP. Again, we will have maps and information on registration day. See you then.

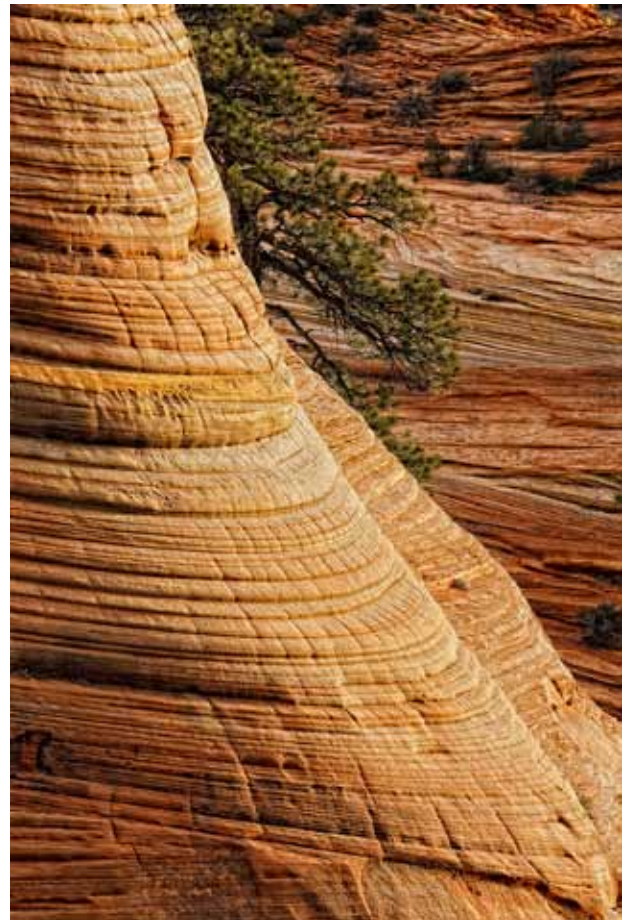
## Celebrate National Park Week

Getting Americans outside and active is the focus of National Park Week, April 16-24, and to help encourage us to visit America's national parks, entrance to all national parks is free throughout the week.

"National parks have always been great places to go on vacation, have fun, and learn something, but for millions of Americans national parks are also a daily part of a healthy lifestyle," National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said. "If you've never thought of your national parks that way, we'd like to invite you to come out to see how parks can help you meet your fitness goals."

In addition to waiving entrance fees throughout the week, many national parks are offering programs as part of National Park Week festivities. On Saturday, April 16, many parks will be looking for volunteers to help with projects, and on Saturday April 23, kids will be special guests for the 5th annual Junior Ranger Day. For more information, including details of special events at specific parks, see [www.nps.gov/npweek](http://www.nps.gov/npweek).

Additional fee-free days this year are June 21 (the first day of summer), September 21 (National Public Lands Day), and November 11-13 (Veterans Day Weekend).



"Cross Bedding" © Al Perry  
(1910 3rd Place, Image from Last Conference)

# Jack's Jaunts

## On the road to Capitol Reef

Story & photos by Jack Olson

No matter how you get to our 2011 conference in Capitol Reef, the route will not be straight. It will be quite crooked. It will go this way, and then it will go that. Some, driving from the east, will begin on Interstate 70. Others, coming from more southerly locations, may ramble in on a variety of road choices. Eventually, most will be entering Capitol Reef through Hanksville on Utah 24. We'll look at some sights along the way, worth a stop coming or going.

First, for those traveling west on I-70 from Colorado, about 15 miles past Green River take exit 147 onto Utah 24 and head south. About 24 miles along, there's a road westerly to **Goblin Valley State Park**. It's about 12 miles to the park entrance.

I have to make a confession: this is my first recommended "Jaunts" location to a place I've never been. But I've heard many positive reports about the park.

There are wild, sculpted features, with many areas suitable for hiking. They also have camping facilities at the park. As in most desert sites, midday light will be flat for photography. Check out various web sites for more information and photos of Goblin Valley State Park. I'll go there someday. (ed. note - Barb & I have been to Goblin Valley, camped there in fact. It's a fun fantasyland of oddly-shaped rock formations - many resembling mushrooms - that makes you smile. And it's in the middle of nowhere, with no light pollution, offering a spectacular star show when conditions are right.)

There are several great stops for those of you coming in from the south on US 191 and US 163. Near Mexican Hat, Utah 261 heads north. Soon after entering this

highway, Utah 316 goes west a few miles to **Goosenecks of the San Juan State Park**. There's an overlook providing an expansive view down onto the



the massive Kachina Bridge  
(Natural Bridges National Mon.)



San Juan River from the overlook in Goosenecks of the San Juan State Park

serpentine meandering of the San Juan River. This can be a short, but dramatic, stop for the view.

Back on Utah 261, drive north some 30 miles and hang a left on Utah 95. In just 2 miles you can take

Utah 275 into **Natural Bridges National Monument**. If you have the time, it's really worth it to view one or more of the three natural bridges in the park. Each bridge - Sipapu, Kachina, and Owachomo - has its own short trail. The trails range from ½ mile to 1½ miles round-trip. The three bridges are markedly different from each other. A 9-mile loop road covers the trailheads in the park. There are overlooks from the road which present views of the bridges but these are not nearly as worthwhile as a hike to at least one of the bridges. It's fun. Hiking all three might involve two to three hours in the park.

After Natural Bridges, you will reenter Utah 95, go right, and keep traveling some 90 miles to Hanksville. Along the way, you'll cross the Colorado River at **Hite Marina**, at the northern end of **Lake Powell**. There are colorful views of the deep blue lake surrounded by red rock cliffs. At Hanksville you'll take Utah 24 west into Capitol Reef National Park, traveling along the Fremont River.



the excruciatingly thin Owachomo Bridge  
(Natural Bridges National Monument)



bridge carrying Utah 95 over the Colorado River at Hite Marina

Just so that you're aware of it, there's an orientation pullout at the east entrance to Capitol Reef. Right here the paved Notom Road begins its southward climb east of the park. The road becomes unpaved, enters the national park, and reaches the top of the Waterpocket Fold after some 30 miles from Utah 24. For those of you choosing to take the Burr Trail Photo Field Trip during the conference, you will be returning via the Notom Road.

After this prelude, adventure awaits in Capitol Reef. And if you want to visit the above sights on the way home, just reverse the directions.

## Supporting Member News

**Coleman Company**, a longtime supporter of RMOWP, has announced its new products for 2011, and this certainly is not your parents' camping gear!

The dozens of new offerings include Instant Tents, with sizes to sleep from four to eight, and take only one minute to set up or take down. There are also new beach chair recliners in orange and green, and a variety of portable gas and charcoal grills including the very handy Fold N Go charcoal grill.

There are a number of new LED lights, ranging from flashlights to work lights, plus lanterns of all sizes. And the best part is that many of the new lights give you a choice of power from conventional disposable batteries or Coleman's new rechargeable battery packs. There are two battery packs available, and each will power a variety of types of lights.

For details, check out Coleman's website, [www.coleman.com](http://www.coleman.com).

RMOWP is pleased to welcome the **National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF)** back as a supporting member. The National Shooting Sports Foundation is the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting, and shooting sports industry, and this year is celebrating its 50th anniversary of working to preserve the heritage of this great American pastime.

NSSF promotes, protects and preserves hunting and the shooting sports through programs that help increase participation, raise awareness about firearm safety, and ensure successful business environments for its more than 6,000 member companies. The organization serves as the go-to resource for the media on statistics and position statements on issues involving industry, hunting and shooting, and offers a variety of online publications to assist writers with their articles on shooting sports.

NSSF has an excellent website - [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org) - with lots of news and information about the industry, including a list of job openings with shooting, hunting, and outdoor businesses. There is also information on shooting safety, including links to videos aimed at novice shooters.

Media contact for RMOWP members is Bill Brassard, Director of Communications, [bbrassard@nssf.org](mailto:bbrassard@nssf.org); 203-426-1320 ext. 212. Mailing address is 11 Mile High Road, Newtown, CT 06470.

**World Fishing Network (WFN)** wants to know the best fishing town in America, and invites RMOWP members to nominate their favorite for WFN's Ultimate Fishing Town contest.

North America's only 24-hour fishing lifestyle network, World Fishing Network is conducting the search through a nationwide contest and awarding a \$25,000 prize to the winning community. Anglers can make nominations and also support nominations by adding photos, videos, and essays at [www.wfnfishingtown.com](http://www.wfnfishingtown.com).

Nominations are being accepted through April 8 from anglers across America who feel that they fish in WFN's Ultimate Fishing Town. In addition to national recognition and a \$25,000 donation to be used towards fishing-related cause(s), the town will also receive a tourism boost when it is featured on WFN.

"No matter if they love to fish in a small rural community or a tourist mecca, we encourage everyone to nominate their favorite fishing spot," said Shauna Gosevitz, Senior Director of Marketing for WFN. "This promotion gives us, and the participating towns, a great opportunity to profile the places where people love to fish all across the USA. We look forward to hearing their stories and letting the people choose WFN's Ultimate Fishing Town USA."

There will be several rounds of voting, and the results will be announced in June at a ceremony in the winning community emceed by Mariko Izumi, host of WFN's Hookin' Up with Mariko Izumi.



World Fishing Network, a supporting member of RMOWP, is the only 24/7 television network dedicated to all segments of fishing with programming that covers instruction, tips, tournaments, travel, food, boating, and outdoor lifestyle. See [www.WorldFishingNetwork.com](http://www.WorldFishingNetwork.com) for additional information.

### 2011 CALENDAR

April 16-24 ~ National Park Week

May 30 ~ Scott-McKenna Scholarship application deadline

June 8-12 ~ RMOWP conference in Capitol Reef National Park, Utah

June 28-July 2 ~ RMOWP Photography Workshop in Rocky Mountain National Park

July 9-11 ~ OWAA conference in Snowbird, Utah

Oct 14-15 ~ NMOWPA conference in Santa Rosa, New Mexico



© Jon Sheppard

That was one big and bright moon on the evening of March 19, and Jon Sheppard had perfect sky conditions at his home near Vail, Colorado, to capture it. Commonly called a Super Moon, it appears larger and brighter because it is closer to the earth than usual due to the oval shape of the moon's orbit. Scientists say the Super Moon, which they prefer to call a Perigee Moon, appears about 14% larger and 30% brighter than when the moon is at its furthest from earth. It will be another 18 years before the moon comes this close again.

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## Member Updates

### **New Members**

RMOWP welcomes several new members, including two student members.

**Morgan Bronson**, a student in Murray, Utah, is a photographer and writer who also likes backpacking, hiking, and camping; and **Emily Harrington**, a student in Golden, Colorado, is a writer and photographer who wants to learn more about photography.

Other new members include photographer **Linda Bundren** of Marion, Illinois, whose photographic interests include wildlife, landscapes, and historic sites in the U.S.

Colorado Springs resident **Jim Van Namee** is a photographer, writer, and lecturer. He is training coordinator at Pikes Peak Camera Club with interests in outdoor and abstract photography. His photos have been published in *USA Today* and other newspapers and magazines and he has written for several aviation magazines.

**Randy Williams** of Choteau, Montana, is a photographer who especially likes landscape and wild-

life photography. His professional credits include the front cover of the Udall Foundation's 2009 annual report, and you can see his work, including some fantastic wildlife shots, at [www.randywilliamsphotography.com](http://www.randywilliamsphotography.com).

### **Member Announcement**

RMOWP member **Angelo Sciulli** is looking for some help to get to Capitol Reef (and possibly other conferences) and has asked us to run the following announcement:

#### **Travel Buddy Wanted**

Must be willing to provide minimal assistance with luggage, ordering food and beer. Air, car provided, rest negotiable. If you have interest in nature travel for photography with a semi skilled semi retired nature photographer and critically acclaimed humorist, this is your chance!

Since I haven't received any response to my previous ad, I am lowering my expectations. Hence: Preference given to post-nubile henna rinse red heads with legs and any personality sans George Costanza's mom (Seinfeld). **MUST** have own walker, denture cream and Depends!

My wife approved this ad after laughing so hard she broke two ribs. Contact: Cabin fever in South Carolina, [cdc601@yahoo.com](mailto:cdc601@yahoo.com).

### **Obituaries**

RMOWP member **Merton Leeper** of Lakewood, Colorado, passed away January 7 at the age of 66. He served in the marines during the Viet Nam war and later worked as a human resources manager. A writer and photographer as well as a master fisherman, Mert was the author of three books and one annual publication, and his articles and photos were published in numerous outdoor magazines. In addition, he was a featured speaker at the Colorado Sports & Leisure and RV, Boat & Travel shows for many years. Survivors include his wife Mary and two daughters, Talli and Cecily. The family has requested that memorials be in the form of donations to American Boston Terrier Rescue, P.O. Box 525, Sanger, TX 76266.

Former RMOWP member **J. Jay Myers**, 91, of Santa Fe, passed away February 25. He served as an officer in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II, taught American history and economics at a high school in Michigan for 36 years, and was also a championship swim coach. After retiring from teaching he moved to Santa Fe, where he continued

swimming, and his love of history led him to serve as Sheriff of the Santa Fe Corral of Westerners. Jay was the author of three books - including *Altered Brand*, a western novel published in 1993 - and numerous articles, and won several awards for his photography. Survivors include Char, his wife of 52 years, daughters, son, and grandchildren.

### Other Member News

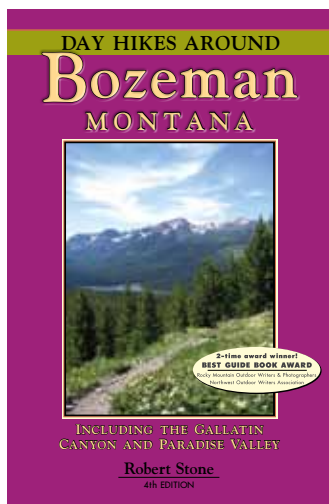
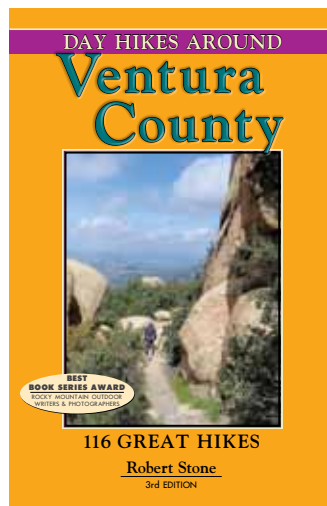
RMOWP member **Robert Stone**, author and publisher of Day Hike Books, has just released two new books.

*Day Hikes Around Bozeman, Montana*, now in its 4th edition, includes 110 hikes in a straight forward, hassle-free guide aimed to get you on the trails. Trail highlights include waterfalls, alpine lakes, petrified forests, riverside trails, historic sites, and amazing overlooks. It is a soft cover book with 320 pages, includes 129 maps, and has a list price of \$15.95.

In a greatly expanded 3rd edition, *Day Hikes Around Ventura County* features 116 day hikes in this scenic coastal county, just north of Los Angeles. From Ojai to Thousand Oaks to the 50 miles of coastline, the guide covers hikes in the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Padres National Forest, and the Santa Susana Mountains, including open spaces, ecological corridors, coastal estuaries, forested canyons, waterfalls and pools, ecological corridors, caves and ridges. It is soft cover with 320 pages and 129 maps, and lists for \$17.95.

Both books can be purchased from all the usual places including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Borders, REI, and most book stores and outdoor shops.

Since 1991, Robert Stone has been writer, photographer, and publisher of Day Hike Books and has hiked every trail in the Day Hike Book series. With twenty-three hiking guides in the series, many in their third and fourth editions, he has hiked thousands of miles of trails throughout the western United States and Hawaii. Robert is a Los Angeles Times Best Selling Author, an award winning author of RMOWP, the Outdoor Writers Association of California (OWAC), Northwest Outdoor Writers Association (NOWA) and the Bay Area Travel Writers (BATW). Robert resides in



the Rocky Mountains of Montana and winters on the California Central Coast.

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## Website wonkies

by Barb Laine

For those of you who may have noticed an interruption in our website availability, I apologize. I moved our site to a new host in mid-March, and was told the move would be simple and seamless. Right, and the Easter bunny will be here soon also.

Long story short, the move has now been accomplished, I have fixed about a zillion broken links, removed some old code that caused some interesting effects, and the site is again up and functional.

If you find anything that doesn't work, or text that is either confusing or just plain wrong, please contact me at [info@rmowp.org](mailto:info@rmowp.org).

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## Photo Workshop Update 2011

by Nic Showalter

Preparations are in full swing for this year's RMOWP-sponsored **Photography Workshop in Rocky Mountain National Park June 28 through July 2**.

The workshop continues to evolve in order to stay relevant and responsive to our ongoing experience. This year's workshop begins one week later than the starting date of workshops over the past years. With the slightly later date we hope that we will catch more wildflowers at their peak as well as more mammals in higher elevations. The mammals have become more popular subjects with our participants than the nesting birds (which had favored a slightly earlier date). Our wildlife instructor, **Jared Gricoskie**, is a full-time resident of Estes Park and works daily in the national park and as such he is able to keep close track of larger mammal locations and put our participants on them with a high measure of reliability.

This year we welcome **Fred Lord** of Frisco, Colorado as our scenic photography instructor. Fred, who is taking the place of long-time workshop instructor Jack Olson, is an active member of RMOWP and an accomplished photographer. We welcome Fred to our workshop leadership team.

RMOWP members can celebrate the high quality of this event and the very satisfied annual participants, many of whom have become active and contributing members of RMOWP. We are pleased to have Mpix which continues to sponsor the workshop and this year's new sponsor: Zenfolio!

For additional information see [www.rmowp.org/workshop](http://www.rmowp.org/workshop).

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# RMOWP CONFERENCE 2011

## CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK, UTAH

Meetings & Group Meals at Sandstone Inn Meeting Room unless noted otherwise  
Photo Field Trips meet at Sandstone Inn parking lot outside meeting room

### Tuesday, June 7

1:30-9:00pm Pre-Conference: Cathedral Valley Or Burr Trail Photo Field Trips (\$125, includes box supper & tip; 10-person limit for each trip)

### Wednesday, June 8

2:00-4:00pm Board of Directors Meeting (open to all members)  
4:00-7:00pm Registration  
5:00-7:00pm Opening Reception with Happy Hour & Light Buffet (included in registration fee for registrants & guests)  
7:00-7:30pm Welcome from Vice-President Al Perry and Trail Tips and Handouts from Jack Olson  
7:30-9:00pm Showcase of Selected Members' Photography

### Thursday, June 9

8:30-9:00am Meet at Capitol Reef Visitor Center for an Overview and History of the Park by a Park Ranger  
9:00-9:20am View "Watermark," the park Orientation Movie, at the Visitor Center  
9:30-10:00am Tour of Historic Gifford Farmhouse by the Capitol Reef Natural History Association staff  
10:00-10:30am Ranger Presentation at the Historic Fruita Schoolhouse  
10:30-11:00am Meet at the Petroglyph Panel for a Ranger Talk on the area's Prehistoric Cultures  
Noon Lunch on your own  
1:30-9:00pm Cathedral Valley Or Burr Trail Photo Field Trips (\$125, includes box supper & tip; 10-person limit for each trip)

OR

Explore Capitol Reef National Park on Your Own

### Friday, June 10

8:30-8:45am General Membership Meeting, with Vice-President Al Perry  
8:45-10:15am Writing Critique, with Wayne Turner  
10:15am Break  
10:30-11:30am Santa Clara Ranch - The Creation of a Wildlife Sanctuary, with Beto Gutierrez  
11:30am-1pm Lunch (Pizza Buffet, included in registration fee; \$12 for non-registrants)  
Noon-1:00pm Presentation of All Photo Contest Submissions  
1:30-9:00pm Cathedral Valley Or Burr Trail Photo Field Trips (\$125, includes box supper & tip; 10-person limit for each trip)

OR

Explore Capitol Reef National Park on Your Own

### Saturday, June 11

5:30-8:00am Sunrise Photo Shoot with Jack Olson  
9:00-10:30am Animal Sign - for Fun and Forensics, with naturalist Cecilia Travis  
10:30am Break  
10:45am-noon Photo Critique, with Tom Ulrich & Jack Olson  
Noon-1:00pm Lunch (Sandwich & Salad Bar, included in registration fee; \$12 for non-registrants)  
1:00-2:30pm Movie Making Using Your DSLR, with Al Perry  
2:30-3:00pm Break  
3:00-5:00pm Auction to Benefit Scholarship Fund, with Jim Baker and John Catsis  
6:30-10:00pm Banquet Buffet (Prime Rib, \$25 including tax & tip) and Awards Ceremony

### Sunday, June 12

8:00-9:00am Board of Directors Meeting, if needed (open to all members)  
9:30am-1:30pm Post-Conference: Capitol Reef on Horseback (\$95/person, 10-person limit, sign up directly w/ Hondoo Rivers & Trails, 800-332-2696, [www.hondoo.com](http://www.hondoo.com))  
11:00am Lodging Check-Out