Note from the Director

Greetings from the Gulch!

When I wrote this note last spring, we were in the middle of leading a string of successful school group expeditions. Following the final school group trek, there was a brief lull in early June before the summer staff arrived. During this time, a few early arrivals assisted with pre-camp duties like filling the pool and pulling the vehicles out of the Wind Tunnel. By mid-June, staff training was in full swing and within a couple weeks, Trekkers arrived for the 84th season of Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions.

And what a summer it was! Of course, there are too many wonderful memories to recall here but the following pages will describe several highlights from the last five months. Thankfully, the Group Logs always help us remember additional moments from the expeditions: the lyrics to an original song, the pre-dawn coyote calls, the silly conversations during KP, and the shooting star spotted during campfire. A summer at the Gulch is simply too grand of an experience for each of us to take in by ourselves. And that’s the beauty of it – we create the experience together, all of our actions and ideas blending and growing together. In this way, a Foundation newsletter can serve as our communal “Group Log.”

Please enjoy reading about a 44 mile trek through the Zuni Mountains, a 69 million year old dinosaur bone, and our upcoming 85th Anniversary and Reunion. You will also learn about new partnerships with the BLM, new adventures with local schools, new Board members, and new expedition itineraries for 2011.

The Cottonwood Gulch DVD is complete and it’s getting rave reviews. You can even view it on our website along with beautiful slideshows and fun, interactive maps of Base Camp and Trek Country. If Jordan and I don’t get a chance to visit you on our Recruiting Loops this year, please ask us to mail you a Gulch DVD that you can show to potential Trekkers in your neighborhood.

Until then, I wish to thank all of you for a fantastic summer. Even if you weren’t on an expedition this season, your connection to the Trek community remains strong and comprises a little bit of everything in this “Group Log.”

We look forward to seeing you back at Base Camp next summer - our 85th season!

- Mike Sullivan

PS: During the flight mentioned above, I dropped a gift from the plane window for Walter Cloud, Caretaker and Base Camp Cook, which he soon found on the Outfit Trail... a fluffy white chef’s hat.

Mike leading campfire in the Jemez for students from Escuela del Sol in Albuquerque this September.
Note from the Board Chair

It's hard to imagine that the summer of 2010 was my 43rd as part of the Cottonwood Gulch Family as well as my 7th and final one as your Board Chair. At the November annual meeting I will join the honored ranks of Larry Barker and John Bloch (and honorary Molly Madden) as past Chairman and welcome Henry Hooper as our new Chair.

Luckily for my tenure, those past Chairmen and Molly were totally engaged and extremely helpful as I tried to steer the Foundation through the challenges of our economic times. They were always there with helpful advice and had the ability to put most difficult situations into the context of past events. I will certainly look forward to working with Henry in a similar fashion.

Although our endowment has not reached the $1 million mark that I had always hoped would be achieved during my tenure as Chair, I am happy to report that the Foundation is in solid financial shape thanks to your continued generous support. We continue to make sure that scholarship dollars are available for almost every family that requests them. We have continued to upgrade the facilities at Base Camp and have made huge progress in the ecosystem restoration work that was started under Martin Heinrich's guidance and first undertaken during Jeff Zemsky's time as ED. Under Mike's leadership, we have cemented our ties to the Thoreau community, expanded relationships around the state, and started a wonderful Base Camp farming program. I have particular attachment to this program as it was back in the summer of 1970 that I attempted the first rather pathetic efforts at a vegetable garden down by the pool. This year we will be investing in the farm program, as well as purchasing new expedition equipment. Our plans for new buildings were delayed by the financial crisis. Perhaps this was a good thing because we all know that cautious and steady progress is a celebrated Gulch tradition.

I am delighted that we are welcoming two new board members in November. Bill Donald comes to us via daughter Lisa (former NAW Instructor) and brings not only his banking, human resource and finance skills but also a wonderful burst of enthusiasm about our programs and an Albuquerque address. Richard McGinnis and I have been friends since our Group 2 summer of 1968 under Chet Kubit's leadership. Besides sending both of his kids to our programs, Richard has been a regular generous supporter of our programs for years -- especially our land protection efforts beyond the Outfit cabins. He also brings international financial skills to our table and I am delighted that he is willing to join the Board as the new Treasurer. That said, I also want to extend a large thank you to Marjorie Kittle for her years as Treasurer, and Michele Davidson for her role as Secretary. They have been invaluable assets to the Foundation.

Meet Richard McGinnis

I was a Group II Trekkers in ’67 and ’68 and staff on what was then the Little Outfit in ’71 and ’72. My family did the Family Trek in ’99 and my children were on the Outfit in 2000. For the next few summers, MacCauley, my daughter, moved on to the TT and my son, Connor, participated on the PT (Mike was one of his staff members in 2002). I grew up in Indianapolis, went to The Orchard School where Hillis Howie had been the Principal. I attended Indiana University, then went to Boston College where I got a JD and an MBA. Later, I received an LLM at NYU. I am a partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers specializing in international tax matters. We recently moved back to the US from London, and currently split our time between Steamboat Springs, Colorado and Wellesley, Massachusetts. I love the Southwest, and the outdoors, skiing, hiking, bike riding and I’m looking forward to joining the Board.

Thanks to all of you for your support and encouragement over the last 12 years that I have served on the Board. There have been changes but we have always been true to Gulch traditions, asking the question – what would Mr. Howie think? For me, his vision (and I am proud to have known him during his last summers as Director) holds as strong in 2010 as it did that fateful summer of 1926. Hope to see you all at the 85th.

-Jamey French
Rendezvous of the summer and then joined us in the Jemez Mountains to teach students from Escuela del Sol about supervolcanoes and the unique geology of northern New Mexico.

In an effort to reciprocate all the energy he devoted to us this summer, five Gulch staff members traveled to El Malpais in September to assist Paul with a large educational event he held for over 200 Grants middle school students. It is safe to say that, among Gulch staff and Trekkers, Paul is currently the most popular government employee around. He had a big impact on several Trekkers, including Miles Steinert, who wrote Paul with a large educational event he held for over 200 Grants middle school students. It is safe to say that, among Gulch staff and Trekkers, Paul is currently the most popular government employee around. He had a big impact on several Trekkers, including Miles Steinert, who wrote

Of course, Paul is by no means the only friend of the Gulch who helped us out this year. **Dr. Dan Klinglesmith** from New Mexico Tech

in Socorro joined us for two school groups and brought along his impressive telescopes and laser pointers to teach us about the cosmos. **Ed Scott**, archer extraordinaire from Grants, joined us several times to teach Trekkers how to make and use bows and arrows (and once to help pull the TT out of the dreaded El Malpais mud -- see page 5). In addition to **John Laing**, a local engineer and rock climber, we also received climbing and rafting guidance from **Sam Glaser** and **Dan Isaac** from the Kirtland Recreation Department in Albuquerque. As you'll read later, paleontologists **Dr. Robert Sullivan** and **Dr. Axel Hungerbuehler** were instrumental in our dinosaur excavating adventures. And lastly, **Patricia Pantano** and **Bridget Love** from Camino de Paz Farm School in Española participated in our first summer exchange program. They brought two female students to Base Camp during the first loop, where they showed the TT how to felt, make cheese, and slaughter chickens. Later, the CdP girls joined the TT on their river trip in the Rio Grande Gorge. Our list of local friends is growing every summer and with it each Trekker's experience is deepened. After all, it was that fateful meeting many decades ago between Mr. Howie and Grandpa Tom Henio that got us all started.

New Friends in New Mexico

On what turned out to be a fateful day early in the summer, the Mountain Desert Trek made a visit to the El Malpais BLM Station. There they were greeted by a nice man in a standard ranger hat and uniform who introduced himself as **Paul Yoder**. Little did they know that his name would be repeated countless times over the next few months, or that Mr. Yoder would end up playing a huge educational role both for our summer treks and our school group trips in the fall.

Immediately after meeting the MDT and learning about the Gulch (like so many nearby residents, he had not heard of us), Paul discovered that he shared many philosophical underpinnings with our organization. Like us, he strives to get kids (and adults) outside so they can develop a deeper connection with the natural world, which in turn affects their future decisions in a positive way. His educational wizardry and proximity to the Gulch made him a perfect fit for our summer programs. In addition to the MDT, he led the Outfit, Trek Institute, and second Family Trek on hikes around El Malpais and shared his own knowledge about geology, ornithology, and cultural history. He also attended the first

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**SUMMER 2011**

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<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Gender/Age/Participants</th>
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<td>Co-ed 10-13 10-20</td>
<td>Session 1: June 25 - July 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild Country Trek</td>
<td>Co-ed 13-15 10-20</td>
<td>Session 1: June 25 - July 14</td>
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<td>Turquoise Trail</td>
<td>Girls 13-15 10-20</td>
<td>June 27 - August 1</td>
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<td>Boys 13-15 10-20</td>
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<td>Co-ed 14-18 10-20</td>
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<td>Co-ed 14+ 5-10</td>
<td>July 10 - July 17</td>
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<td>Adult &amp; Family Trek</td>
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<td>Reunion Treks / 85th</td>
<td>Co-ed All 10-20</td>
<td>August 2 - August 7</td>
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5% Alumni discount and 5% discount for sign-ups before Dec. 15th
June 27th

The group huddles around our campfire, eager for the warmth it provides. We sing a few songs, unfamiliar to some of us; campfire songs, old songs, nothing like modern-day tunes’ top 10. We play a round of mudgje in what seems to be a traditionally very competitive style. As the fire dies down, the chill sets in and almost all light is lost. With a final round of “Desert Silvery Blue” we conclude our campfire and head off to our tents with the prospect of a deep sleep on the soft earth of the mesa, surrounded by shockingly cool, clear air and a sky full of individually brilliant stars ahead of us.

-Helena Ratté, WCT1 (front row, second from left)

July 3rd

We started out the day with Thommy rolling over us. It was a surprising and annoying way of waking up. I quickly woke up from the screams of the people before me, and quickly scurried away from being rolled over by Thommy. Breakfast was instant mashed potatoes with rooster sauce. We then cleaned up, packed up and joined the other group to start the hike. The hike started with the crossing of the same river various times. I now hate crossing rivers… will probably be the most annoying part of the backpacking trip. After finishing crossing the same river six times we reached the Gila Visitor Center where we rested and refilled our water bottles. Inside the center I watched a short film on the Native Americans that lived in the Cave Dwelling, and picked up a map of New Mexico. Later we hiked down a dirt road, stopping for lunch – sausage and cheese- and I read a Smokey the Bear comic. After settling down in the Scorpion Campground we had some time to relax and/or swim. I did both. We then headed down to the Cave Dwellings. It was pretty sweet, but our topic of conversation was 1: Immature. 2: Tiring to hear. And 3: was just plain stupid. We came back to camp and had more time to chill and eat. We then had s’mores. Our faces were covered in chocolate and sugar and that hyped us up for a loud game of Wah at campfire. Like, REALLY LOUD!!!!

July 8th

In the car once again I’m proud to say we have completed the lava tubes. Walking to the area where we were to climb down I thought that the large drop to what seemed like an endless tunnel of darkness was simply an area to rest. When one of the staff started to descend down the rocky path I saw many trekkers suddenly look up in slight fear. Although Emmi’s exact quotes were, “Great I am going to die on my birthday,” I am proud to say all trekkers are still containing all fingers and toes. Once at the bottom we were met with what seemed like hills and hills of rocks, and after we gathered our flashlights we were off into the great darkness. Although at some moments the immense rocks that we were attempting to step on seemed to slide out from under us, it was a real adventure. Even though it was a great experience I can tell you all that it wasn’t at all what I expected. Through pictures on the website and my own experience I was imagining a small cramped space where we would inch along simply trying to not get stuck. However the actual reality turned out to be a spacious cavern with designs on the wall that Tasha dubbed “fractalicious.” Overall it has been a day I will remember for a very long time, not only for the lava tubes but also for our own Emmi Rivera’s 10th birthday.

-Marina Henke, Outfit Session 1 (left, with Natasha Slavin)
July 14th
Comparing the Gulch to high school: you make friends, learn a bunch and have a ton of fun, but I have found that one thing sets them apart...here you are NOT forgotten when you leave the program as you most often are in high school...you make lifelong friends, and touch the lives of many. You can make a project or improvement that can last up to 60 years or more, and you go back home with a whole new range of ideas about nature, rocks, arts, archeology, and history. I feel like I have learned a ton and now feel that I have a much greater impact on my surroundings, environment and community... it seems so soon to already say that (thoughts, methods) but I think being away from the familiar pushed a person to change or improve themselves.

-Jacque Miller, TI (pictured right)

July 23rd
Today began like a usual day, a slow crawl out of our tents, a yummy breakfast, and a line up. Before I continue this log entry I will give a brief description of the road at El Malpais. At the beginning of this long dirt road there is a sign reading “impassable when wet.” So, After lineup we began to drive out of El Malpais. Oh, wait, did I mention that it had been pouring for the past two days? So we made it a fair amount of distance down the muddy road with minimal skidding, and then we got stuck. We shed our shoes and began to push. We pushed and pushed, getting quite muddy in the process…and we got the van free! But the com was still stuck. After hours of pushing, the com was still stuck, so Ellen went to get the van to pull it out. Instead she came back with a nice family from Kansas. They helped us push and got just as muddy as we were, if not more. Then it began to rain, making the road even more muddy. Finally, with the help of the Kansas family, we freed the com. By that point we were all covered head to toe in mud, and we were all very wet. So we shed a layer and climbed into the van. There we ate lunch. After we ate lunch and after Elyse read us a little Harry Potter, the tow truck that our stuck companion had called arrived. He told us that we could easily get off the road with our vans. So we tried to get out; we got stuck. Then the tow truck driver came back. We thought he was coming to offer to tow us out, but it turned out his car died and he wanted our help (we later found out that before he entered the road his car was on fire). After some more pushing, our savior arrived in the form of a 4 wheel drive truck. In the truck was Mike, 2 of his friends, and Thommy with 6 PT boys in the trunk. The 4 wheel drive truck pulled the com out with the help of the PT boys pushing, which means they ran at the van, bounced off and fell in the mud. When we got off the road we met the rangers who 7 hours earlier had said they would come in and help us. They commented on how dirty we were and took a picture of our dirty shoes. So after the com was pulled out and we had sufficiently thanked the rangers, who had been oh so helpful, we drove to Grants.

-Charlotte Levine, TT (pictured above on the far left)

July 18th
Today we awoke to a delish breakfast of leftover peach cobbler, the odd deer wandering through the fruit trees (considering our location of Fruita, UT), and the slightly startling sight of the imposing, surrounding mobile homes and RVs parked on the bright green, overly manicured grass. It seems strange to me, seeing all these people going through life attached, seemingly bodily, to their various motor vehicles. It is a startling change from the far off specks of light that represented lone hikers on our backpack that we restlessly avoided. However, I criticize too harshly our campsite neighbors. Sure, it is excessive to bring out a satellite TV, but most of those surrounding us are a lot like the Edward Abbey look-a-like in the RV on our right; most are trying to get as close to nature as they can while building human relations with those around them. They are like us – just not as tough.

-Emma Lloyd, MDT (above, left)

August 4th
Today is the day that everyone hates to think about. Today is the last day. We all started out as 23 individuals with different expectations of what was to come. Now with all things coming to a close, I have realized that this summer has exceeded expectations. People come and people go, good friends don’t. 23 hearts and minds combining to create something indefinable, the MDT. Every summer I come to the Gulch to experience the Southwest, however, it isn’t the Southwest that I end up missing at the end of every summer. This year I will end up missing every single one of you, my best friends. People will never truly understand the beauty of the Southwest until they see it alongside their closest friends.

-Walker Hooper, MDT (above, middle)


A Tale of Omph and Vigor by Gaea McGahee, MDT Leader

A couple of days ago, Jordan handed me a copy of the MDT log – he had that Cheshire Cat grin he sports. You may be familiar with it. By Halloween, the logs will have landed in the hands of the Trekkers, and as they read it they will likely become transported and moved as was I.

It's recently become fall in Albuquerque (late October). Today is overcast and the coolness had me don a wool sweater. It's recently become fall in Albuquerque (late October). Today is overcast and the coolness had me don a wool sweater. Still, this is what we did not so long ago. Our bodies got tougher on the trail, especially on our first backpack - over 40 miles in the Zuni Mountains, and trail blazing all the way. It was a strange job, when I think back on it. We kept our charges safe, and we brought them into a wilder land and helped them lead a life less ordinary. And they took care of themselves and looked out for each other. I am proud of those people and how they're growing up. The kids who joined the MDT are a bunch of individuals with very good ideas and dreams. And they're capable! Full of verve.

We need it – we need to know how to be outside, to survive those hikes in hail and rain, to look after each other, and the places that awe us. And it happens that the spirit we need is made of motivation and youthful energy. This is what teenage people are made of – they sing in hailstorms! Like other young animals, they have unexplainable omph.

I had spent 2005, 2007, and 2009 as the Base Camp Archaeologist and after plenty of good summers I longed to join a trek. And now, as I reflect, warmed and with many amenities near me, I'm glad to know that I did it; that I could do it. We all did. We called on ourselves to bear storms and grew cold, so we could dry in the sun and love that warmth. We walked up and up, and faced switchbacks that seemed eternal, but at the top was a red canyon view that was eternal. I hope the Mountain Desert Trekkers hold on to their memories, and as guides on their journey, I hope that we channeled their liveliness gently. I watched lone Trekkers, possibly slowing on an ascent, maybe feeling down, soon joined by a cohort and cajoled into better humor, and suddenly … life was better. No matter what the challenge or when we faced it, we knew that in a collective off-key DSB, or in a brief sunrise moment, we were all fortunate to be there. We were leading unusual lives, eating weird backpack foods, and peering in exciting places. We looked out into that view and expanded ourselves to match it.

### The Paleo Trek: Fun Fieldwork, Serious Science, and College Credit

This year marked the first cooperative Paleo Trek involving the Gulch, Mesalands Community College, the BLM, and the State Museum of Pennsylvania, where I am Senior Curator of Paleontology and Geology. This novel outdoor program gave young people the chance to learn about the importance of the paleontological resources on our federally protected lands, through their active participation in the collection of scientifically important specimens. As part of its mission, the BLM, through its National Landscape Conservation System Research and Science Program, seeks to promote and foster a greater understanding of the scientific value and overall importance of the landscapes which they administer. It is important to introduce young people to the cultural, scientific, and aesthetic value of these public lands to ensure their proper stewardship continues for years to come. From my perspective, this inaugural Paleo Trek was a great success. I enjoyed interacting with the participants and sensed a keen interest in the fieldwork. I am also very grateful for their enthusiasm and willingness to help us haul out by hand a very large specimen from the field (pictured left). But perhaps the most rewarding part of my experience was at our departure. A young man from the Gulch, came up to me and personally thanked me for the experience and stated that he was now considering paleontology as a career. It is immensely gratifying to know that you've had a positive impact on a young person's life. I look forward to working with Mike Sullivan and the participants of the 2011 Paleontology Trek.

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**After hiking over 40 miles through the Zuni Mountains, the intrepid MDT arrived at First Rendezvous on foot.**

**After the weeklong Paleo Trek came to an end, some members of the PT and TI volunteered to join Mike Sullivan (Paleo Trek Leader) and Erin Smith (Base Camp Naturalist) for an overnight “Cottonwoods” trek to excavate, plaster, and hike out a 69 million year old petrified pelvis bone of Alamosaurus sanjuanensis, found in the De-Na-Zin Wilderness, where Dr. Robert Sullivan has worked for decades.**
For a 1941 Regional Review (published by NPS), Hillis Howie wrote of his treks: "These expeditions are not sight-seeing trips." The Trek has always been much more than a summer camp or vacation. We proudly continue to honor Mr. Howie's words and vision every season. Next August, we invite you to the 85th Anniversary and Reunion to celebrate our united commitment to this unique and powerful educational model. Join us for the weekend or the whole week! More information is online.

85th Anniversary and Reunion - Aug. 5-7, 2011 at Base Camp
Cottonwoods activities, meals in the Mess Hall, games on the field, music on the back porch, campfire stories, square dances at sunset, dips in the pool, presentations, hikes, starry skies, old trucks, friends, and much more. Friday afternoon through Sunday morning. Stay in cabins or tents (Baker tents!). $85/person (kids under 10 are free)

Reunion Treks and 85th Anniversary - Aug. 2-7, 2011 on the road and at Base Camp
Come out a few days early and enjoy an exciting road loop with your friends and family on your way to the weekend festivities at Base Camp. $400, (kids under 10 are free), 20 members

Meet Bill Donald
My association with the Gulch came by way of my daughter, Lisa, who ran the NAW in 2008 and 2009. A New Mexico resident since 1979, I have five years experience as a high school teacher in Iowa, followed by seven years aircraft marketing for Cessna Aircraft Company and Sky Scenes, Inc. of Albuquerque. Since 1984, I have been a Vice President, Wealth Advisor for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Other experience includes: Head of Canoe Tripping, Camp Northland for Girls (Ely, Minnesota and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area); Head of Day Camping for Glenwood State Hospital School for the Mentally and Physically Handicapped (Glenwood, Iowa). My board experience includes: Campfire Boys and Girls of NM; Stock Market Education Forum for NM high schools, NM State University in Las Cruces; Human Resource Management Association of NM; Albuquerque Youth Symphony (current Board member). My interests include photography, golf, travel, fly fishing, hunting, music, camping, motorcycling, and flying. I’m also a Reiki Master and a certified sailor and scuba diver. I live in Albuquerque and have two daughters, Lisa and Kim. It is a pleasure to be joining the Gulch Board and I feel my broad range of experiences will help enhance our mission.

Loop Report: Family Trek 2 by Bill Donald
Having never been on a Gulch Trek before, I really wanted to find out for myself what Trekking was all about. For me, the nicest part of the Family Trek (Session 2) was going unplugged for a week. I remember hearing a thunderstorm long before it arrives; the smell of bacon in the morning while on the trail; a coyote's wake-up call at 4:30 a.m.; the smell of rain; the sound of rain drops on the tent; warm days & cool nights; wonderful campfires at day's end; a lot of mud; learning new things; morning coffee on the back porch; glorious sunset; great food (thanks to Walter & company!); sunrise on Mt. Taylor; friendly Trekkers; engaging, competent staff; meeting new friends! This summer, I also enjoyed the Board overnight in Rice Park, another place I’d never been. Now I can say I’m a Trekker! And I look forward to more adventure with the Gulch.

Our Recruiting Plans
December: DC, MD, VA, PA, NY, NJ
January: VT, TX, MO
February: IN, IL, WI, IA, CO
March: CA, OR, WA, AZ
Contact us if you're willing to host an event.

The 85th Anniversary and Reunion
For a 1941 Regional Review (published by NPS), Hillis Howie wrote of his treks: “These expeditions are not sight-seeing trips.” The Trek has always been much more than a summer camp or vacation. We proudly continue to honor Mr. Howie’s words and vision every season. Next August, we invite you to the 85th Anniversary and Reunion to celebrate our united commitment to this unique and powerful educational model. Join us for the weekend or the whole week! More information is online.

The Gulch Wants You!
We want to deputize you with a Gulch DVD. Please inquire with us if you want a copy and can show the 15 minute video to potential Trekkers you know. You can also visit www.cottonwoodgulch.org to view the video and slideshows. A 5% referral discount is available for those who recruit a new Trekker.

Our Wish List
- Tents
- Bikes and Helmets
- Garden Tools/Gloves
- Books
- Carpentry Tools
- Sports Gear
Contact us if you're interested in donating any items.

Mr. Howie and his Trekkers excavate the bison skull that is now our beloved logo (1936).
Visit www.cottonwoodgulch.org for information on our 2011 Expeditions.