

CoNPS—Boulder Chapter Summer Field Trips

Thursday, May 13, 2010, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Annual spring hike at Six Mile Fold, Boulder County Parks and Open Space property

Six-Mile Fold is located about 4.5 miles north of Boulder near the junction of US 36/ Highway 7 and Neva Rd; please park along the Neva frontage road.

This will be an easy hike.

Join BCPOS plant ecologist Erica Christensen and chapter member Megan Bowes for a leisurely hike along Six Mile Fold. The unique geology of this area yields a wonderfully diverse suite of wildflowers, including the Front Range endemic Bell's twinpod (*Physaria bellii*). Bring your dinner and favorite wildflower book. Contact Megan Bowes bowesm@bouldercolorado.gov if you'd like copies of the wildflower checklist and geology diagrams.

Sunday, May 30, 2010, 5:00 pm

Native Plant Garden Party and Backyard Cook-out

2111 4th St (near the intersection of 4th and Spruce) in Boulder

Billy Schweiger and Megan Bowes will host a chapter social at their home in Boulder. Come early for a "tour" of the native plants growing in their yard—or stop by when you can for some tasty vittles or a game of croquet! RSVP with Megan Bowes bowesm@bouldercolorado.gov (303-561-4883) if you think you'll join us and bring a dish to share.

Sunday, June 27, 2010, 9:00 am

Hike Around Lily Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park

Meet in RMNP's Lily Lake parking area; carpooling to the Park is encouraged.

This will be a moderately challenging hike.

Lily Lake is located approximately 6 miles south of Estes Park on Colorado Highway 7. No RMNP entrance fee required to reach parking area, about a one hour drive from Boulder. Plenty of parking space at this high use area with picnic tables and a restroom. Wear light hiking boots to permit wandering off trail.

Lily Lake walking trail is approximately a one mile flat loop at ~8600'. The vegetation is a montane to subalpine transition zone presenting a nice variety of vegetation in a small area. The south

side of lake is a mixture of wet and dry forest while north side is open field and open ponderosa pine forest. Early season blooming species will likely include: shooting stars, golden banners, parsely, blue-eyed grass, choke cherry, lupine, iris, anemone, miner's candle, blanketflower, pink-plumes, pyrolia, and lousewort . Water fowl, ring-neck and mallard ducks are usually present on the lake at this time of year.

Ron MacDonald has a B.S. in Forestry from University of Michigan, and a M.S.in Computer Science from University of Arizona. He has worked in the Lake States and Inter-mountain regions for US Forest Service well as being a Research Scientist for Atlantic Richfield. Ron retired from Hewlett Packard as Software Engineer. Most recently, he has been studying and photographing the flora of RMNP since moving to Estes Park three years ago.

Please contact Ron ronmachi@gmail.com to sign up for this hike, and contact Elizabeth Drozda-Freeman elizabeth.wildflower@gmail.com if you are interested in carpooling from Boulder.

Sunday, August 28, 2010, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Rocky Mountain National Park Wetland Tour

Meet in RMNP's Fall River Visitors' Center parking; carpooling into the Park is encouraged.

This will be a moderate to strenuous hike.

The wetlands of Rocky Mountain National Park are relatively small and frequently overlooked, but they play a vital role in the health of the park ecosystem and support over a third of the parks flora, including many interesting species. NPS ecologists Katie Driver and Billy Schweiger will lead a field trip to riparian wetlands on the eastern and western slopes of the park, where the success of the willow communities affects the health, appearance and functioning. They will then turn to the parks fens or groundwater-fed peatlands similar to bogs that are known to support unique plant communities including rare and disjunct populations of Holarctic species. We will look at different species and talk about the pressures on plant communities, the long-term effects of population decline and what park wetlands may look like in the future.

Katie Driver and Billy Schweiger are both ecologists with the National Park Service's Rocky Mountain Inventory and Monitoring Network. Katie

specializes in the monitoring of wetlands and other sensitive habitats in the Rocky Mountain region. Her graduate work at Colorado State University on the wetlands of Rocky Mountain National Park won her a regional award for student achievement. Billy Schweiger has spent the last five years conducting research on developing a diverse suite of monitoring protocols in six national parks across the west, including wetlands, streams, and keystone species like beaver and elk.

Contact Billy at Billy_Schweiger@nps.gov (970-213-2677) if you'd like to attend this moderate to strenuous field trip. Space is limited.