

## 2010 CoNPS Field Studies

**Ongoing, summer 2010**

**Plant Survey of Corral Bluffs Open Space**

**Leaders: Phyllis Cahill, Vice President, Corral Bluffs Alliance**

**Location: Corral Bluffs Open Space**

The Corral Bluffs Alliance is planning to do plant surveys of the new Corral Bluffs Open Space near Colorado Springs this year, beginning with a preliminary plant tour on May 23. We are seeking anyone interested in helping with plant surveys, especially if familiar with local flora. There is an incomplete plant list to build upon. Results may help form a management plan. Help in efforts to conserve this special place! Contact: Jackie Hilaire, hilaireja@aol.com, or call 719-683-8086.

**May 18, 2010**

**Moonwort Monitoring**

**Leaders: Scott Smith**

**Location: Bonny Prairie Natural Area, Yuma County**

Join Colorado moonwort (*Botrychium*) enthusiast Scott Smith to attempt to observe these fern-like ancient plants at a small site near Kansas that is annually monitored. Below-ground plants were confirmed a few years ago by analysis at a University in Minnesota, but, for unknown reasons, individuals have not been seen above ground in about a decade despite intense search efforts. We hope this year will be the year (!), and we can use eager eyes to help in the search. Limit 3 people. Contact: Scott Smith, plumberdude71@gmail.com.

**July 10 – 11, 2010**

**Stonecrop *Gilia* Monitoring**

**Leaders: Vinnie Rossignol and Gay Austin (Forest Service)**

**Location: Sheep Mountain southwest of Lake City**

Assist in research in the alpine tundra on Sheep Mountain. Join us in relocating a known population of the very rare stonecrop *Gilia* (*Gilia sedifolia*), using geology maps to look for additional populations, counting tiny plants, and documenting human and wildlife activities in the area. The hike will be strenuous and is limited to 8 people (avid Botanists and novice plant enthusiasts welcome). We will camp out at the trailhead Friday evening in order to get an early start Saturday. Contact: Gay Austin, austinaceae37@roadrunner.com, or call 970-641-6264.

**August 3, 2010**

**Moonwort Survey and Scientific Collecting**

**Leaders: Dr. Tim Reeves and Scott Smith**

**Location: Molas Pass south of Silverton**

Join fern authority and Four Corners Flora co-author Dr. Tim Reeves and Colorado moonwort enthusiast Scott Smith in exploring a great roadside site for these fern-like ancient plants. Tim

and Scott will gather rare moonworts for genetic analysis at Iowa State University. Help find and mark individuals for collection. You will see several species of these fascinating plants, and may even help collect an undescribed species new to science! All eyes are needed. Hear about the history of moonworts, and learn why medieval folklore thought people dusted with moonwort spores became invisible! Limit 10 people. Contact: Al Schneider, San Juan/Four Corners native Plant Society, coloradowildflowers@yahoo.com, or call 970-882-4647.

**August 13 – 15, 2010**

**High Elevation Fen Reconnaissance**

**Leader: Gay Austin (Forest Service)**

**Location: Cinnamon Pass north of Silverton**

Join Gay Austin in exploring alpine fens with incredible views of the surrounding mountains near Cinnamon Pass. We will be documenting plant species and mosses (bryophytes) in several fens above 11,000 feet. Fens are specialized wetlands that are fascinating to visit. Altai cottongrass (*Eriophorum altaicum*), a rare plant in the sedge family, should be easily observed. We will camp Friday evening near Silverton and carpool in 4 wheel drive vehicles up to the pass Saturday morning. The trip will be easy to moderate and is limited to 8 people (avid Botanists and novice plant enthusiasts welcome). Rubber boots are required.

Contact: Gay Austin, austinaceae37@roadrunner.com, or call 970-641-6264.

**Plant Survey of Fox Ranch**

**Date to be determined, summer 2010**

**Leader: Brian Kurzel, Colorado Natural Areas Coordinator**

**Location: Fox Ranch in Yuma County**

The Nature Conservancy would like CoNPS to help perform a “botanical bio-blitz” on the Fox Ranch. The Ranch includes 14,700 acres along the Arikaree River that is in very good ecological condition. We need folks familiar with prairie grassland and riparian vegetation to identify and record plants. Help us establish a botanical baseline for this wonderful prairie ecosystem! Contact: Brian Kurzel, Brian.Kurzel@state.co.us.