

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS

LEARN ♦ EXPLORE ♦ ADVENTURE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FLORA

JULY 7-12, 2008

COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #:08-024

FEE: \$325

INSTRUCTOR: DR. RICHARD BEIDLEMAN AND
LINDA BEIDLEMAN



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<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MEETING LOCATION</u>
Monday	8:00 AM-4:30 PM	RMNP McLaren Hall
Tuesday	7:45 AM-4:15 PM	RMNP Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Parking Lot
Wednesday	7:45 AM -4:15 PM	RMNP Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Parking Lot
Thursday	7:45 AM -4:15 PM	RMNP Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Parking Lot
Friday	7:45 AM -4:15 PM	RMNP Fall River Visitor Center Parking Lot
Saturday	7:45 AM-12:45 PM	Rocky Mountain Field Seminar & Conference Center 1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introduction to the flora of the Rocky Mountain National Park region and the techniques used to identify plants. It will include excursions to a diversity of the Park's ecosystems and life zones (montane to alpine). Participants will learn the primary characteristics of many plant families and individual plants through the use of identification keys and field observation. Field trips include some hiking at elevations from 8,000 - 12,000 feet above sea level.

COURSE LEVEL: II

Moderate hikes of less than five miles per day with elevation gain of less than 1,000 feet

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at www.rmna.org):

Dr. Richard Beidleman, an ecologist, received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Colorado. Formerly on the faculty at Colorado State University, University of Colorado and Colorado College, he is now professor emeritus of biology at Colorado College and research associate at the University of California Herbarium (Berkeley). He has been an instructor of RMNA bird and plant courses and an instructor of bird classes at the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, as well as instructor of ornithology at Colorado College. He has authored numerous ornithological and other publications, including *California's Frontier Naturalists* (2006).

Linda Beidleman received her M.A. degree in biology from Rice University. She is co-author of *Plants of the San Francisco Bay Region* (1994 and 2003), *Plants of Rocky Mountain National Park* (2000), and *The Annotated Bibliography of Colorado Vertebrate Zoology* (2000). With Dr. Beidleman, she has co-authored a number of winter bird population studies for the *Journal of Field Ornithology*, and together they teach bird classes at the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies.

EXPECTATIONS: Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Individual ideas will be respected. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

CAR POOLING:

Rocky Mountain Field Seminars utilize car pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the Park. Car pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car pooling to course locations.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:**Monday:**

- Registration for credit if applicable
- Introduction to plant families and the use of identification keys
- After lunch, we will identify plants outdoors and visit the RMNP Herbarium.
- This first day's session is necessary for all participants because we will learn the basic skills that will be used throughout the week.

Tuesday:

- All day plant identification field trip to Gem Lake area (lower montane flora)

Wednesday:

- Plant identification field trip in west Moraine Park and Cub Lake Valley (upper montane flora).

Thursday:

- All day plant identification field trip along Fall River Road (subalpine spruce-fir forest) and tree line

Friday:

- All day plant identification field trip on the tundra via Trail Ridge Road and upper subalpine around Lake Irene

Saturday:

- Quizzing on the park's flora
- Illustrated lecture on American frontier botanists followed by a field quiz

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, & **WATER (at least a quart)**
- 10x hand lens (diameter of 2 cm is most useful—available the first day of the course)
- 15 cm ruler—Available for \$1.00 on the first day of the course.
- Field notebook (shirt pocket size) and pencil
- A portable camp stool or chair if you have difficulty sitting on the ground
- Tweezers, or a safety pin (optional)
- Light-weight binoculars (optional)

Beidleman, Beidleman, and Willard. *Plants of Rocky Mountain National Park*. 2000. Falcon Press. Available through the Rocky Mountain Nature Association and on the first day of course

REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

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| ▪ Raingear | ▪ Map & compass | ▪ Flashlight or headlamp |
| ▪ Sunglasses & sunscreen | ▪ Candles | ▪ Matches or other fire starter |
| ▪ Pocketknife | ▪ First-aid kit | ▪ Extra layers of clothing |
| ▪ Sack lunch, snacks, & water | | |

Note: Rocky Mountain Field Seminars recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.

REQUIRED READING: SEE WHAT TO BRING.

TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT

All courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The new fee is \$25.00 per seminar (.5 units) or \$25.00 per series of threaded seminars (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded seminars can be found in the Field Seminar catalog or online at www.rmna.org. Participants must enroll in all seminars of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25.00 multi-unit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a seminar or on the final day of a threaded series of seminars.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS PURSUING CSU CREDIT

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Participants can expect to see members of approximately 50-70 plant families in the park and become familiar with the dominant families. By the end of the week, participants will be able to use plant keys. Students will be able to discuss frontier botanists of North America and ecological relationships of the Rocky Mountain flora.

CONTACT HOURS: 45 class hours.

EVALUATION TECHNIQUES:

Undergraduate credit: During the week's field trips, participants will be evaluated on their ability to begin to identify plants and plant families. Students will keep a daily field notebook and will be given a final written and field exam.

Graduate credit: In addition to the requirements listed above, participants will complete a field project after the course involving preparation of a floral inventory. The field project must be completed and sent to Linda Beidleman at 766 Bayview Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950 by a date to be determined during the course.

GRADING METHOD: TBD