



# Boulder County Nature Association

## 2013 Summer-Fall Field Class Schedule



Boulder County Nature Association  
PO Box 493  
Boulder, CO 80306  
[www.bcna.org](http://www.bcna.org)

## Wildflowers of the Alpine Tundra

Janice Harvey and Megan Bowes

Colorado's alpine environment features spectacular scenery, a short growing season, environmental extremes, and plants with unique adaptations. The evening class will feature alpine habitats, the plants that inhabit them, and alpine plant adaptations. During the two field classes, we will explore alpine ecosystems and the environments which shape them, with a special focus on plant identification. Participants are likely to posey mosey up to five miles during the field classes, with frequent stops along the trails.

Indoor class: Tuesday, July 9, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Field class: Saturday, July 13, 7:30 am to 3 pm

Field class: Saturday, July 27, 7:30 am to 3 pm



Tuition \$110 (\$100 for BCNA members). Limited to 12 participants. To register, contact Janice Harvey at [jjharvey@indra.com](mailto:jjharvey@indra.com) or 303-903-6477.

## Dragonflies and Damselflies

Scott Severs

This fun course introduces beginners to the Odonata-- better known as dragonflies and damselflies, and often considered the masters of flight in the insect world. We will search for flashy bugs like Calico Pennants, Wandering Gliders, and Vivid Dancers to name but a few of the nearly 60 species in Boulder County. We will learn about their early life as fierce aquatic predators, and how to best approach these jumpy fliers for photography and observation.

Indoor class: Wednesday, July 10, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Field class: Sunday, July 14, 8 am to 1 pm

Tuition: \$60 (\$55 for BCNA members). Limited to 8 participants. To register, contact Scott at [scottsevers@gmail.com](mailto:scottsevers@gmail.com) or 303-218-0830.



## Pika Encounter

Chris Ray

The American pika or "little chief hare" is an icon of the mountains, often heard calling from alpine boulder fields. But these bold and charismatic conies are disappearing from many places, and may be threatened by climate change. This class will include an evening slide show and discussion about the conservation status of pikas. During the field class, we'll observe how pikas live and have the opportunity to photograph their unique foraging behavior. We'll be hiking about 2.5 miles, which includes rocky terrain at the higher elevations of the trip.

Indoor class: Thursday, August 1, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Field class: Saturday, August 3, 8 am to 3 pm

Tuition: \$75 (\$65 for BCNA members). Limited to 10 participants. To register, contact Chris Ray at [cray@colorado.edu](mailto:cray@colorado.edu) or 303-489-8863.



## Grassland Ecology: Nebraska Sandhills Prairie

Steve Jones

Experience the solitude and beauty of the Nebraska Sandhills while exploring the lives of native grasses and prairie wildlife. This class begins with an indoor session to discuss prairie types, prairie grasses, and the ecology of the Sandhills. Next we'll spend an August morning at Boulder's tallgrass prairie natural area. Finally we'll travel to the Nebraska Sandhills in September to enjoy four days of camping with visits to Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Smith Lake State Wildlife Area, Niobrara Valley Preserve, and Willow Lake.

Indoor class: Thursday, August 15, 6:30 to 9 pm

Field class: Sunday, August 18, 7:30 to 11:30 am

Car camping trip: Thursday, September 19, through Sunday, September 22

Tuition: \$165 (\$150 for BCNA members). Limited to 10 participants. To register, contact Steve Jones at [curlewsj@comcast.net](mailto:curlewsj@comcast.net) or 303-494-2468.



Indoor class: Wednesday, October 9, 7 to 9:30 pm

Field class: Saturday, October 12, 9 am to 1 pm

Field class: Saturday, October 19, 9 am to 1 pm

Tuition: \$80 (\$70 for BCNA members). Limited to 12 participants. To register, contact David Buckner at [buckner6fam@gmail.com](mailto:buckner6fam@gmail.com) or 303-499-4277.



## Soils and Vegetation

David Buckner and Lynn Riedel

What makes soil different from a layer of dirt? What can plants tell us about the soil beneath and vice versa? During our indoor class we will learn about the interaction of living things, the physical environment, and the passage of time to form soil. In the field we'll participate in hands-on activities to explore texture, color, and salt content in various layers of soil. While visiting different sites in Boulder County, we'll also learn how to "see" plant communities in relation to the landforms and soils on which they grow.

**Recommended equipment and reading lists** will be provided to participants upon class registration.

**Mileage rate for field classes:** Non-drivers will be expected to pay drivers 12 cents per mile per person for field class car trips.

**Refund policy:** Participants who cancel at least one week before a class will receive a tuition refund minus a \$15 processing fee. No refund is given if a participant cancels less than a week before a class begins.

**Children 16 or under** and accompanied by a parent receive a 50% tuition discount or may apply for a scholarship. Contact individual instructors for the minimum age for each class.

**Scholarships:** BCNA offers partial scholarships for class tuition. To apply, go to [www.bcna.org](http://www.bcna.org) and fill out the online application form. If you have questions, please contact Dianne Andrews at [dandrews@boulder.net](mailto:dandrews@boulder.net).

## About the Instructors

**Megan Bowes** is a plant ecologist with Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks. She has created a number of botanical and natural history classes and presentations for the Colorado Native Plant Society, CSU Extension's Native Plant Master Program, and many other organizations. Megan currently serves on the BCNA Board of Directors and loves nearly all things plant.

**David Buckner** is a product of Boulder public schools and CU, where he received his doctorate in 1977. During his 45-year career in field plant ecology, he's used his plant identification skills and knowledge of soils to do research and to conduct ecological inventories and restorations. David has presented many workshops on plant identification in the grass and sunflower families, as well as on the ecology and interpretation of soils.

**Janice Harvey** is a botanist and horticulturist who is currently the assistant greenhouse manager in the biology department at the University of Colorado. She has worked as a seasonal plant ecologist for Boulder County and enjoys getting out in the field to identify plants from the prairies to the alpine. Her study of tropical plants in the greenhouse and native plants in the landscape gives her broad experience and knowledge of the plant world.

**Steve Jones** is author/co-author of *Butterflies of the Colorado Front Range*, *Wild Boulder County*, *The Last Prairie*, *The Shortgrass Prairie*, *Colorado Nature Almanac*, and *Peterson Field Guide to the North American Prairie*. Steve organized the BCNA small owl and wintering raptor studies and helped carry out the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas project. He has taught nature classes in Boulder County for 30 years.

**Chris Ray** is a researcher at the University of Colorado studying threatened plants and animals. The author of many scientific papers, she has studied pikas throughout the western United States for over 20 years. She has conducted field studies centered on the pika almost every summer since 1989. Chris has been interviewed about the plight of the pika for national and international news broadcasts, and her knowledge of pika behavior helped the producers of David Attenborough's *Life of Mammals* film their wonderful sequence on pikas.

**Lynn Riedel** has spent her career in natural areas management in Colorado, initially working with the National Park Service. Her academic background is in biology and science education. Over the last 17 years, she has worked as a plant ecologist with Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, specializing in grassland ecology.

**Scott Severs** has been fascinated by insects since his grandmother first read him *We Like Bugs*, a wonderful 1962 children's book by Gladys Conklin. With a degree in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University, he enjoys field biology and currently works as a consultant for Walsh Environmental. Scott also has taught BCNA classes on warblers and sparrows.

## About Boulder County Nature Association

The Boulder County Nature Association (**BCNA**) is a private, nonprofit organization committed to studying and preserving the cultural and natural history of Boulder County and adjacent areas of the Front Range.

**BCNA** volunteers perform natural area studies, flora and fauna studies, wildlife inventories, and historical and geological research.

**BCNA** also disseminates natural and cultural history information to the public through hikes, classes, programs, publications, seminars, and support for interpretation facilities in Boulder County.

The strength in **BCNA** lies in active membership support.

## Join Boulder County Nature Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:

_____ Student/Senior (65+)	\$15
_____ General Membership	\$20
_____ Family or Household	\$30
_____ Supporter	\$40
_____ Founder	\$100
_____ Life	\$300

Please make checks payable to **BCNA**, PO Box 493, Boulder, CO 80306. Membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

For more information on **BCNA**, view our website: [www.bcna.org](http://www.bcna.org).