

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
BUTTERFLIES: EAST OF THE DIVIDE**

JUNE 6, 2020

**COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: S3022
FEE: \$80 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER**



**Rocky
Mountain
Conservancy**
FIELD INSTITUTE

INSTRUCTORS: DR. PAUL OPLER & EVI BUCKNER-OPLER

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**LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute & Conference Center
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado**

TIME: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Butterflies can be observed flying in every life zone of Rocky Mountain National Park. This class will begin with an indoor introduction to basic butterfly biology, butterfly behavior, and butterfly identification. In the field, we will visit several habitats on the east slope of the park to search for summer species such as Rocky Mountain Parnassian, blues, several fritillaries, hoary comma, and Weidemeyer's admiral. We will learn when and where to observe butterfly species as well as practice butterfly identification while discussing their life histories and ecology, host-plant associations, and conservation concerns. The class will focus on butterfly observation through binoculars and digital photography. However, the instructor will have a net-and-release permit to allow participants a close-up look at a variety of species!

COURSE LEVEL: II

The class will include short-distance walks throughout the day on primarily level terrain.

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES (additional information can be found at www.RMConservancy.org): Paul and Evi have been teaching butterfly natural history classes for about 25 years. They have taught classes for Rocky Mountain Conservancy for more than 10 years and have also taught classes for Teton Science School in Wyoming and San Francisco State University in the Sierra Nevada, California. Paul is a professor at Colorado State University and has written several butterfly books including the eastern and western *Peterson Butterfly Field Guides*. He is an internationally recognized expert on butterfly conservation and butterfly ecology and classification. Evi is a retired schoolteacher, nature photographer, and artist. She and Paul have observed and photographed butterflies in North America, Mexico, Costa Rica, South America, Europe and China.

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 Conservancy – Field Institute courses 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.

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TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

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|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 8:30AM – 9:30 AM | Indoor presentation |
| 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM | Field study |
| 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM | Indoor wrap-up |
| 5:00 PM | Depart |

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, **WATER**
- Binoculars (preferably close focusing such as Brunton, Eagle or Papilio)
- Butterfly field guides (recommended but not required):
 - Angel, *Butterflies of Rocky Mountain National Park*
 - Chu and Jones, *Butterflies of Colorado Front Range*
 - Brock & Kaufman, *Butterflies of North America*
- Wear comfortable, natural-colored clothing, NOT red.
- Notebook
- Pen/pencil
- Digital camera (optional)

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

Note: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute 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.

REFUND POLICY:

Cancellations received at least 14 days prior to the start of a class will qualify for a refund minus a cancellation fee of \$25 per participant for a one-day class, \$50 for a multi-day class, \$5 per kid's class and \$15 per half-day class or bus tour seat. Registration money transferred to another class will be subject to a \$10 switch fee. Cancellations received less than 14 days prior to the start of a class or bus tour will not generate a refund. If the Field Institute cancels a class, every effort will be made to place the participant in another class; otherwise, a full refund will be given.

TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT:

Most courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The fee is \$25 per class (.5 units) or \$25 per series of threaded courses (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded courses can be found online at www.RMConservancy.org. Participants must enroll in all courses of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25 multi-unit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a class or on the final day of a threaded series of courses.