

UNTANGLING THE MYSTERY OF RMNP NATIVE ORCHIDS

JUNE 13, 2020

COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: S3091

FEE: \$80 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER



**Rocky
Mountain
Conservancy**
FIELD INSTITUTE

INSTRUCTOR: MARLENE BORNEMAN

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

TIME: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: What is an Orchid? The orchid family (Orchidaceae) is the largest family of flowering plants, about 35,000 species. Surprisingly there are about 26 species native to Colorado with many growing in the montane and subalpine zones of Rocky Mountain National Park. Our day will include learning the characteristics of the orchid family, orchid terminology, their symbiotic relationship to other plants, history of uses, and looking at specific orchid species found in RMNP. We will see how many species we can find and identify in the field while enjoying these elusive and mysterious plants.

COURSE LEVEL: II

Short-distance walks throughout the day primarily on level terrain.

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

Marlene spends much of her time in Rocky Mountain National Park locating and photographing wildflowers in their native habitats. Her passion for Colorado flora began in 1974 and has grown through the years. Marlene has earned her Native Plant Master certification. As a member of the Colorado Native Plant Society she is a contributor to the newsletter *Aquilegia*. She is the author of *Rocky Mountain Wildflowers 2Ed.*, *The Best Front Range Wildflower Hikes*, and *Rocky Mountain Alpine Flowers*.

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.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Welcome/Introduction to Rocky Mountain Conservancy Meet participants; Review class objectives; Discuss wildflowering ethics; Explain schedule for the day
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Depart for time in the field to locate and identify orchids
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Break
10:15 AM – 12:30 PM	Resume orchid finding and identifying
12:30 PM – 1:00PM	Lunch/discussion
1:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Return to Field Institute
1:15 PM – 2:00PM	Overview to orchid family, orchid terminology, major characteristics of orchid family
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Orchid uses and how orchids grow
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Specific Colorado native orchids and summary of course objectives
4:30 PM	Depart

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USEFUL EQUIPMENT:

- Hand lens to examine small plant details necessary to be seen clearly for species identification
- Small plastic 6” ruler that includes inches on one side and centimeters-millimeters on the other
- Clipboard or sturdy three-ring notebook for organizing and using worksheets in the field
- Notepad and pen/pencil for taking notes
- Weber, William A. *Eastern Slope 4th Edition Field Guide*; Wingate, Janet *Rocky Mountain Flower Finder* or Ackerfield, Jennifer *Flora of Colorado* (If you have any of these please bring along)

RECOMMENDED READING:

Those Elusive Native Orchids of Colorado by Scott Smith

The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession by Susan Orlean

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 classes 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 class or on the final day of a threaded series of courses.