

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BUTTERFLIES: WEST OF THE DIVIDE

SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: S3028
FEE: \$80 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER



Rocky
Mountain
Conservancy

FIELD INSTITUTE

INSTRUCTORS: PAUL & EVI BUCKNER-OPLER

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LOCATION: Trail River Ranch Trail River Ranch is located on a small unmarked gravel road on HWY 34. It is located between the Coyote Valley Trailhead to the north and the Onahu Creek Trailhead to the south, approximately two miles inside Rocky Mountain National Park from the west entrance (Kuwaneche Visitor Center). The unmarked gravel road is made visible by two pedestrian crossing signs. Trail River Ranch is reached by following this road to a small parking lot. At the small parking lot, turn left and go through the gate. Trail River Ranch is at the end of this one-way road. **(Map on page 3)**

TIME: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Butterflies fly 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 diversity. In the field, we will visit several different habitats on the west side of the Park to search for late summer species, such as Rocky Mountain parnassian, Scudder's sulphur, silver-bordered fritillary, mourning cloak and dark wood-nymph. We will learn to identify these species while discussing their life histories, ecology, host-plant associations, conservation concerns, and the impact of loss of lodgepole pine stands to bark beetles. 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 butterfly species!

COURSE LEVEL: II

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

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information can be found at www.RMConservancy.org): Paul and Evi have been teaching butterfly natural history classes for about 20 years. They have taught classes for RMC for almost 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 Buckner-Opler 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:

- 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM** Indoor presentation
10:30 AM - 3:30 PM Field study
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Indoor summary

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, **WATER**
- Binoculars (preferably close focusing such as ‘Papilio’)
- Butterfly and 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
- 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 \$25.00 per participant for a one-day class, \$50.00 for a multi-day class, \$5 per kid’s class and \$15 per bus tour seat. 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 \$25.00 per class (.5 units) or \$25.00 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 \$25.00 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.

TRAIL RIVER RANCH MAP

