

Spring and Summer Wildflower Hikes 2020

Wood River Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society

March 21. Birds and Buds. Characteristics of plants, shrubs and trees in their early spring garb at Silver Creek Preserve, plus naturalist Ann Parry will help us identify birds. Meet at HP&R (see codes below) at 9am or SCSP at 9:45. Home by 2pm. What to bring: see Details below. Hike difficulty: moderate for uneven terrain.

April 18. Bulldog Trail. Spring bloom comes early to our southfacing hillsides. Join us in a wildflower walk out west of Hailey in Croy Canyon. This hike will be an awakening for those who think "there's nothing out there!" Meet at 9am at HP&R. Home by 1pm. Hike difficulty: moderate (distance 3 miles with altitude gain of 500').

Date TBA. Lomatium Pop Up. Want to go play citizen scientists? We look at an unusual variety of Lomatium triternatum (nine leaf biscuit root) in the Camas Prairie, and see the Camas Lily bloom to. Camas Prairie is always a rewarding trip with great birding to boot! Details TBA

May 30. Taylor Canyon. This canyon in the Boulder Mountains boasts a mix of lush streamside habitat plus open woodland and muddy puddles that are butterfly heaven. Rated moderate/difficult (4 miles with 1300' elevation gain). Meet at HP&R at 9am or at LCPL at 9:45am. Home by 2pm.

Date TBA. Pop Up for Hollyhocks. When the hollyhocks up Imperial Gulch are popping, we'll let you know less than a week before the hike, so make sure we have your email for the newsletter. There'll be loads more to see out Greenhorn, so keep your eyes peeled for this one! Difficulty: moderate plus one really good climb. Distance about 5 miles with 1000' elevation gain.

Date TBA. Hailey Native Tree and Shrub Arboretum. This isn't a hike, just a lovely summer evening midweek program. Linda Ries of the Hailey Tree Committee will give us a private tour.

June 20. West Fork of the North Fork of the Big Wood Shaded forest, waterfalls, and avalanche carved canyon walls create many opportunities for diverse wildflowers. Hike difficulty: Moderate to difficult high elevation hike of 6 miles and 1500' elevation gain plus wading the creek. Bring wading shoes and poles. Meet at 8am HP&R, then SNRA at 9am. Home by 3pm.

July 25. Mill Lake. Mill Lake is one of the easier alpine lakes to access. There's a flower-filled chest-deep meadow plus the beautiful small lake itself. Hike difficulty: moderate/difficult. High elevation, 3.5 miles with 1200' elevation gain and a stream crossing. Bring wading shoes and poles. Meet 8:30 HP&R; 9:15 LCPL. Home 2pm.

August 21-23. Group Campout in Stanley Basin. This two night expedition is for members only, but membership is very reasonable (see website below). We will camp at Elk Creek camp ground next to a meadow full of flowers and wildlife. During the days we'll catch the shuttle boat across Redfish Lake to hike into the wilds at the south end of the lake, possibly hike to Bridal Veil Falls off Stanley Lake Trail, and more!....You'll get all the details after you sign up. Participants will be asked to pay their share of the group campsite fee for the two nights and the shuttle boat fee. Friday night potluck dinner, other meals on your own. Look for signup information in the newsletter.

September 19. One Big Tree Plus. We're going out Fish Creek to look at those gargantuan aspen trees (a possible state record!) and then more fun stuff (details TBA). We can finish up with a hot drink back at Silver Creek Store. Meet at HP&R at 9am, or SCSP at 9:45am. Home by 2pm.

MEETING PLACE CODES: HP&R = Hailey Park and Ride Lot at River X Bullion Sts. SNRA = Sawtooth National Recreation Area Headquarters parking lot off Hwy 75
SCSP = Silver Creek Store in Picabo THRS = Timmerman Hill Rest Stop Hwy 75 X Hwy 20 LCPL = Lake Creek Parking Lot (Fox Creek Loop ski area)

Details: Our programs are free but we do encourage memberships. A few programs each year are for members only. Please note the difficulty descriptions of each hike and please know your own limitations. Wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers for our changeable Idaho weather, and carry water, snacks, sunscreen, bug repellent, and hiking poles if you use them. You don't need to know much about wildflowers to go out with us. Our group consists of professionals, photographers, hikers, birders, butterfly lovers, tree huggers, trackers, and lots of folks who just think plants are pretty. You'll fit right in! Details about the Idaho Native Plant Society are available at www.idahonativeplants.org. More information about these hikes or our Wood River Chapter: 208-721-2583. E-newsletter signup: 1gypsy2016@gmail.com