

IRIS

Newsletter of the
Alberta Native Plant Council,
Garneau P.O. # 52099
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2T5

Field Trip Update 1993

Issue 17

1993 Symposia, Conferences, Workshops

- May 06 (start) Wildflower Identification Course.** This comprehensive course uses botanical keys, slides and specimens to help participants identify the native plants of southern Alberta. Six field trips to a variety of habitats complement the classroom study sessions. Sponsored by Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary—phone 269-6688.
- May 18 (start) Spring Wildflowers:** Learn how to identify the wildflowers that bloom in the Calgary area. Emphasis will be placed on those flowering in local natural areas. The course consists of three evening sessions that will combine a brief classroom study with guided hikes, plus two field trips. Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, phone 269-6688.
- May 30 - June 3 Freshwater, Marine and Wetland Interfaces: Dynamics and Management.** Sponsored by the Society of Wetland Scientists, and American Society of Limnology and Oceanography. Contact: Conference Secretariat, Environmental Research and Studies Centre, The University of Alberta, CW-401L, Biological Sciences Bldg., Edmonton, Alta. T6G 2E9 403 492-6659/ FAX 492-8160.
- May 31- June 2 First Canadian Urban Forests Conference.** Winnipeg, Manitoba. Contact: Glen Blouin (613)232-1815.
- June 14 - 20 Restoration: Integrated Planning.** Society for Ecological Restoration 1993 Meeting. Symposia on restoration of mined arid lands; islands; animal populations; sage scrub; education programs and workshops. Participate in restoration project, meet with community groups, folk concert. Held at Irvine, California. Register: SER Office, 1207 Seminole Hwy., Madison, WI 53711 (608)262-9547/FAX same. Contact: John Rieger (619)688-6754/FAX 688-3192.
- June 16 (start) Rocky Mountain Wildflowers:** Many beautiful and colorful wildflowers can be found in the mountains west of Calgary. Participants will learn to identify these plants through brief classroom study, an evening hike in one of Calgary's parks, plus two field
- trips to the mountains. Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, phone 269-6688.
- June 20-26 International Workshop on Sustainable Land Management for the 21st Century.** Lethbridge, Alberta. The objectives of this work shop are to: 1) identify and develop indicators and criteria for evaluation of sustainable land management (SLM) systems 2) develop procedures for integration of SLM indicators and criteria for the use at local, national and international levels; and 3) formulate recommendations for innovative procedures for research and technology transfer in SLM. Contact the University of Lethbridge Conference Services, 4401 University Drive, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 3M4.
- June 26 - July 3 - Grasslands Ecology Immersion Camp.** Camping-Learning-Exploring (for Adults). Base Camp will be the Grasslands Nat. Pk. Operations/Research Centre. You will be doing hands-on research (live-trapping; collecting; banding birds; inventorying vegetation and animals); discovering the range of organisms present, their distribution, and learning about threatened and endangered species. Tenting facilities provided. Approx. \$300.00/person. To register or for more information, write to: Peter Jonker Program Coordinator, Environment Science and Technology, University of Saskatchewan Extension Division, Saskatoon, SK. S7N 0W0, or call (306)966-5552/FAX (306)966-5567.
- Day 1 - Marie Boehm (Inst. of Pedology) Soils/Fungi
Day 2 - Bob Redmann (U. of Sask., Plant Ecology) Vegetation
Day 3 - Dr. Dan Johnson (Agric. Canada, Lethbridge) Insects
Day 4 - Wayne Harris (Prof. Biologist) Grassland Birds
Day 5 - Curt Schroeder (Exec. Dir., SNHS) Furbarers and Small Mammals
Day 6 - Dr. Dan Nieman (CWS, Biologist)

Waterfowl/Dr. Gary Adams (Parks Canada, Winnipeg) Archaeology
Day 7 - George Mitchell (U. of Regina, Biology) Large Mammals
Day 8 - Joe Schmutz (U. of Sask., Biology) Birds of Prey. /Jim Masyk (Supt., Grasslands N.P.) Management and Planning
Day 9 - Peter Jonker (U. of Sask., Extension) Humans in Ecology

July 22 - 25 Canadian Nature Federation Annual Conference. Vernon, B.C. Contact North Okanagan Naturalists' Club. Box 473, Vernon, B.C., V1T 6M4.

July 23- 25 Wildflowers of Jasper National Park: Enjoy an evening slide talk on the botany of the Rockies and then head onto the trails for two days of botanizing in the park. This is THE time for alpine wildflowers, so expect to spend at least one full day above timberline. Course is lead by Elisabeth Beaubien, ANPC President. For more information call the Jasper Institute, 403 852-4012.

August 1 - 5. Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences will meet in Ames, Iowa to discuss grasslands. Contact: L. Salmon, AIBS, 730-11 St. NW, Washington, DC 20001-4521 (202)685-1500.

August 9-13 Symposium of the Ecology, Restoration, and Management of Prairie Wetlands. Sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildl. Research Centre, Jamestown, N. Dakota. Contact: Dr. N. Euliss, Jr., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Centre, Route 1, Box 96C, Jamestown, ND 58401-9736 (701)252-5363.

August 11 (start) Mushroom Identification: Many types of mushrooms grace southern Alberta's natural areas in the spring and fall. Learn about the identification, life history and edibility of these fascinating plant through classroom study and field trips. Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, phone 269-6688.

August 11-13 Landscape Change: Opportunities and New Approaches. Lindsay, Ontario. This is the annual meeting of the CLRA/ACRSD. It will explore the role of reclamation activities within surrounding ecosystems and bioregions. For more information write Moreen Miller, Harington & Hoyle Ltd., 91 Anderson Avenue, Unit 2, Markham, Ontario, L6E 1A5.

August 12 (start) Identification of Wild "Berries": In Alberta, over one hundred species of plants produce berries or berry-like fruit. Learn to identify the "wild berries" found in southern Alberta in three evening lectures plus two field trips. Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, phone 269-6688.

Fieldtrips, 1993

Please bring portable lunches, drinking water, rain gear, mosquito repellent, a hat and sunscreen for all field trips. Make sure to put on your sturdy footwear (required especially for the Big Sagebrush, Lake Haig/Prairie Bluff, and Rummel Lake trips).

Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies will be holding their 1993 summer camps in the Sunset Pass area, Banff National Park. These hikes are an excellent opportunity to observe alpine flora and fauna. For details, write to P.O. Box 3514, Stn. B, Calgary T2M 4M2.

Castle Wilderness & Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Discovery Trips conducted throughout the summer. Contact the Castle-Crown Coalition, Box 2621, Pincher Creek, Alberta TOK 1W0.

May 29-30 Province Wide May Species Count. Identify and record the flowering species in bloom in your area. Contact the coordinator Derek Johnson (Edmonton; work 435-7306, home 436-8231) for information on setting up or joining observer teams. He has species checklists for some areas.

May 30 Rumsey Aspen Parkland. Join Cheryl Bradley and gain insight into the natural and cultural history of this unique area. This is also the ideal opportunity to learn the management issues that surround the largest representative block of aspen parkland in Canada. Bring a lunch, rain gear and your binoculars and field guides. Meet at 9:15 at the Highway 585 crossing of the Red Deer River (east side campground), approximately 15 km. east of Trochu. Allow 2 hours travel time from Calgary; from Edmonton, approximately 2 1/2 hours. From the meeting place you will travel approximately 30 km. to the south boundary of the area, and begin the guided hike at 10:00 a.m. The hike will end between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. Contact Cheryl Bradley at 328-1245 (Lethbridge) or Fax 380-4969.

June 12 Proposed Big Sagebrush Natural Area Trip. Dave Sheppard, of the Castle-Crown Coalition, will take us on a tour of the Big Sagebrush Natural area in the South Castle valley. Beautiful vistas and a large variety of rare plants are guaranteed! Meet at the parking lot across from the store in Beaver Mines at 9:30 a.m. Trip will end at approximately 4:30 p.m. Degree of difficulty: Moderate. Call Kathy Wilkinson at 278-3203, Calgary, to register.

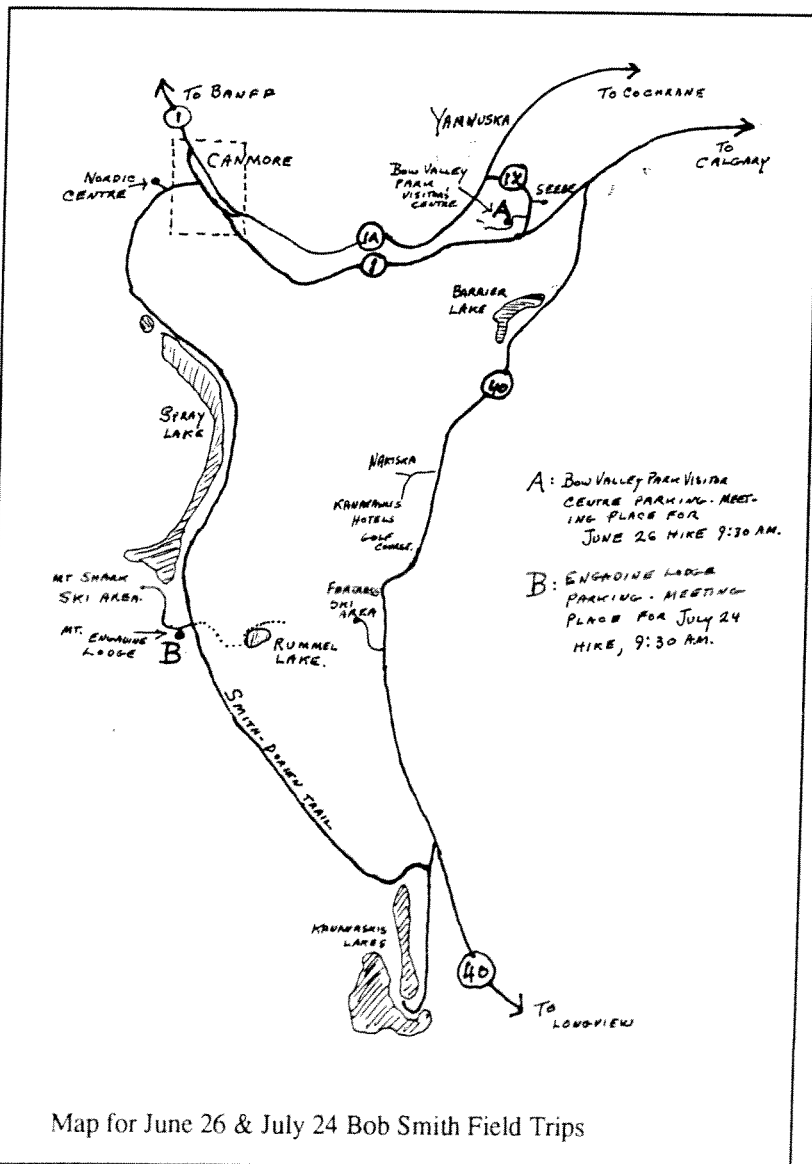
- June 13 Lake Haig or Prairie Bluff** Dave Sheppard will take us to either Lake Haig in the Westcastle area (currently proposed for a large four season resort) or possibly to part of Prairie Bluff, depending on weather conditions. Both areas are noted for their rare wildflowers and scenery and both have been the focus of heated controversy in the recent past. Degree of Difficulty: Strenuous. Meet at the parking lot across from the store in Beaver Mines at 10:00 a.m.; return at approximate 2:00 p.m. If you can join us, please contact Kathy Wilkinson at 278-3203, Calgary, to register.
- June 12-13 Peace Parkland Naturalists Wild Flower Hunt—** Grande Prairie. You can expect to find prickly pear cactus, western wood lilies and striped coral-root orchids all on one trip. Saturday's tour to Saskatoon Mountain, 25 km. west of Grande Prairie, will take you through 5 major vegetation types: aspen woodland, balsam poplar woodland, white spruce woodland, paper birch woodland and alder willow shrubland. Enjoy a barbecue and slide show that evening. Sunday, travel to a unique patch of Peace River Grasslands in the Kleskun Hills, a few kilometers NE of the city. Grande Prairie has several motels and two excellent campgrounds. Billeting also can be arranged. A species list of the area is available upon request. Contact Joan Snyder — ANPC Northern Director H 532-0709, W 539-2846 or Rick Scott (H 532-2764 W 539-2952) Please call at least 1 week before the trip.
- June 16 Red Deer Wetland Habitat.** Come and explore a wet habitat west of Red Deer with Betty Spiers. You may see fringed gentians and carnivorous plants. Sponsored by the Red Deer River Naturalists'. Phone Betty at 347-3280, Red Deer.
- June 19-20 Lac La Biche Tour.** This weekend trip starts Friday night with a stroll along the boardwalk in Sir Winston Churchill Island Provincial Park. Saturday visit the orchid bog west of Lac La Biche, the Lac La Biche Mission, a national historic site. Then take a boat trip to Black Fox Island, a newly designated natural area, and go for a hike along Portage La Biche. Sunday travel to Lakeland Provincial park hike along Jackson Lake trail in search of round-leaved bog orchids. The meeting times for Friday is 7:00 p.m. at the McArthur Place-Town Civic and Cultural Centre, located on Churchill Drive along the lakeshore. For the Saturday meet at McArthur Place at 9:00 a.m. Lac La Biche is only 200 km. from Edmonton, and offers an unusually diverse set of habitats—come see. There is a selection of good accommodation in the area and camping is available at Churchill Island Provincial Park (reservations available—call 623-7961) For more information contact Tom Maccagno (Mayor of Lac La Biche) Home 623-2447 or Carla Zelmer Home 436-0994, work 492-0083.
- June 23 Sylvan Lake Natural Area.** Join Myrna Pearman to visit this unique site. Meet at the Sylvan PetroCan station at the east end of town (HWY 11X) at 7:00 p.m. Bring boots! Sponsored by the Red Deer River Naturalists'. Contact Myrna at 346-2211, Red Deer.
- June 26 Yamnuska-Sebee Tour** Bob Smith will lead us on a trip to some special sites of the Bow Valley corridor where we hope to see several orchids and a surprisingly wide variety of species within a small area. Degree of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Bow Valley Park Information Centre Parking Lot (see map on page 4) Hike will finish around 3:30 p.m. Please register with Kathy Wilkinson at 278-3203, Calgary or Bob Smith at 678-4720, Canmore.
- June 29 Wagner Bog.** The Calgary Field Naturalists' sponsor ²⁰ this annual bus trip to Wagner Bog, a recently designated natural area, with an incredible variety of habitats and at least 15 species of orchids. The trip leaves Calgary at 7:00 a.m. and return at approximately 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$30.00. Call Jillian Swaine (Calgary 240-1568).
- July 3-4 or 10-11 Backpacking the Headwaters of the Cardinal River.** Contact Allison Dinwoodie (Edmonton 437-7183). For description of the area, see July 29-August 2 trip for a description of the area.
- July 7 Vesper Ridge Natural Area.** This area, close to Ponoka offers a diversity of landforms and a variety of plants from sundews to orchids. Sponsored by the Red Deer River Naturalists'. Contact Dell McKinnon at 783-2010.
- July 10 & 11 Ram Mountain Field Trip.** Come and enjoy the beautiful alpine meadows of Ram Mountain while keeping a look out for Bighorn Sheep. Meet 9:00 a.m. Saturday at the Strachan Forest Recreation Area, about 22 km. south and west of Rocky Mountain House on Secondary Rd. 752.
- Ram Mountain II.** Meet 9 a.m. Sunday at the Strachen Forest Recreation area, to look for another interesting location. The trip on this day will be decided by the group: One possible choice is Swan Lake; an area where Trumpeter Swans have been spotted and where an osprey nests. Another is the North Ram-Nice Creek candidate natural area; at the junction of the Ram River and Nice Creek. The fescue grassland and foothills woodlands make this a botanically interesting spot to visit. For more information on either of these days contact Darrell Smith, Rocky Mountain House 845-8250 or Lorna Allen, Edmonton 427-5209.

July 21 Medicine Hills Natural Area. This natural area is located west of Bentley. Sponsored by Red Deer River Naturalists'. Contact Jim Allen at 887-2253.

July 24 Rummel Lake, Kananaskis with Bob Smith. This hike offers spectacular scenery and alpine wildflowers in the Kananaskis high country. Degree of Difficulty: Strenuous. Meet at the Mt. Engadine Lodge Parking Lot, off the Smith-Dorrien Hwy. at 9:30 a.m. (See map below) Contact Kathy Wilkinson at 278-3203, Calgary or Bob Smith at 678-4720, Canmore. Return at approximately 3:30 p.m.

July 29-August 2 Backbacking the Headwaters of the Cardinal River. Join the ANPC for an adventure to discover and inventory the rare plants of this mountain oasis. Both the ANPC and the Alpine Club of

Canada have applied to be steward of this proposed natural area. Many rare alpine plants and interesting periglacial features can be found in these headwaters, an area nestled between Jasper Nation Park and the Cardinal Divide (Tripoli and Cheviot Mountains). This area is in danger of being negatively affected by motor-bikes and ATV's. Meet on the evening of July 29 at the Whitehorse campground south of Cadomin (south of Hinton and Edson-highway 16). Friday we will hike up the Cardinal River on an established trail and set up a base camp (total distance 18 km.). Saturday and Sunday will be spent exploring the area, including a pass into Jasper National Park. Monday we hike out. Contact Elisabeth Beaubien, Edmonton, H 438-1462, W 987-3054.



HELP!!!

May 1993 - Edworthy Park Heritage Society. Volunteers required for extensive wildflower planting and trail restoration program during weekends in May (planting) and onward (trail repairs) at Edworthy Park, Calgary. Call 686-2690.

Deadline for articles for next issue of IRIS

June 1, 1993. Please send information to Editor, IRIS at our address on the front of this newsletter update (or Fax to Carole Calenso-Fair at 556-4713).

Calgary Field Naturalists' Society Botany Study Group Schedule for 1993

Meeting Locations:

- MARKET MALL:** Northeast corner of the Market Mall parking lot, at 40th Av. & Shaganappi Tr. NW.
- SOUTHCENTRE:** In front of the supermarket at northeast Corner of Southcentre Shopping Centre (Bonaventure Dr. and Anderson Rd. SW).
- ALTADORE SAFEWAY:** Southwest corner of the Safeway parking lot at 18th St. and 34th Av. SW.
- DEERFOOT MALL:** Deerfoot Mall parking lot at 64th Av. and Deerfoot Trail NE, north side of lot, north of the Bay.

Except as noted, MEETING TIME is 6:30 p.m.

This schedule is subject to change without notice, so if you have been out of touch, or want us to expect you, phone! Except as noted, the leader is Jim Posey; phone 560-2551. If no one has phoned, and no one comes to the first meeting place, the trip will be cancelled. Prior arrangements are required only as noted.

These trips are organized for members of both the CFNS and the Alberta Native Plant Council; members of both are doubly welcome. Newcomers are also welcome. We hope they'll want to join.

■ Thursday, May 20

Nose Hill, 19 St. Meet at MARKET MALL or at the parking lot at the corner of 19 St. NW and John Laurie Boulevard. Habitats include south-facing prairie; with patches of Buckbrush, Rose, and Wolf Willow; and taller shrubs in the coulee, including Saskatoon, Willows, and Hawthorn.

■ Thursday, May 27

Sandy Beach, east side Meet at ALTADORE SAFEWAY or at the parking lot at the end of Riverdale Av. SW (follow Riverdale Av. west from Elbow Dr., along the south side of the Elbow River). Habitats include south-facing eroded prairie slopes, riverine forest, and groves of aspen & willow on north-facing prairie slopes.

■ Saturday & Sunday, May 29 & 30

May Species Count If you have a favorite place to go, organize your own trip. Contact Jim Posey for report forms and further information. Or, on Saturday, come to Williams Coulee. Meet at ALTADORE SAFEWAY at 9:00 a.m. or at 10:30 a.m. at the SW 1/4 of Sec 15, Twp 16, Range 29, W4M, due west of Nanton 5 miles on pavement (the road to Chain Lakes) plus 3/4 mile on gravel (west from the intersection at which the paved road turns south). Phone in advance if you need a ride or if you plan to meet at the site. This is an all-day trip and may involve 4 to 5 miles of walking. Bring lunch & water. Nearest facilities are at Nanton.

The site is in an east-west glacial outwash channel about 300 ft. deep through the north end of the Porcupine Hills. It includes short-grass prairie, several shrub communities, some Aspen, a sandstone bluff, and some semi-naturalized areas which were cultivated 40-50 years ago. Last year was the first time in many years that it had not been heavily grazed year-round.

■ Thursday, June 3

Nose Hill, Porcupine Valley Meet at MARKET MALL or at the parking lot opposite Berkley Gate N.W.

■ Sunday, June 6

Sibbald Flats Meet at MARKET MALL at 9:30 a.m. or at the Sibbald Lake day use area parking lot at 10:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water. This is an all day hike. At first the trail skirts extensive willow bogs and meadows, with Aspen woods on the slopes above; then it climbs up a dry rocky ridge through a Lodgepole Pine forest. Phone in advance.

■ Thursday, June 10

Williams Coulee (see May 29) Meet at the site at 7:30 p.m. Jim will have been there all day with another group, so there is no Calgary rendez-vous. Phone before June 9 if you plan to come.

■ Sunday, June 13

Bragg Creek Cantidate Natural Area Birds, Butterflies, Geology, and Botany trips. See the June CFNS Newsletter for details.

■ Thursday, June 17

Shaganappi Slopes Meet at MARKET MALL or at the parking lot on the South side of the CPR tracks, off the end of 10 Av. S.W., just west of Crowchild Trail.

■ Sunday, June 20

CFNS Bus Trip to **Wagner Bog**. Phone Jillian Swaine at 240-1568 or Howard Troughton at 283-3392 well in advance for further information and to book a seat. Better yet, buy your seat at the May CFNS meeting on May 19, 7:45 p.m., U of C Engineering Building Room E241.

■ Thursday, June 24

Bow Valley Provincial Park & Manysprings Fen Meet at ALTADORE SAFEWAY or at the park interpretive centre. Habitat: a major spring-fed fenland, surrounded by Aspen, Willow, prairie, and montane forest. We usually see more orchids at this time and place than anywhere else. Be prepared for a late evening.

■ Sunday, June 27

Dry Island Buffalo Jump. Meet at DEERFOOT MALL at 8:00 a.m. or at the park at 10:30 a.m. Don't drive down the hill if the road is wet. Contact Jim Posey in advance. The destination is a spectacular Provincial Park on the Red Deer River, north of Three Hills. Habitats are a jumble of north, south, and montane, including short grass prairie with cactii, fescue grassland, spruce woods, alkaline sloughs, riverine forest, and mixed stands of Balsam & Aspen poplar with understory including *Aralia* and high bush cranberry (but no Black Spruce bogs). Come prepared for a hike in rough country. Bring lunch and supper and plenty to drink. This will be a full day.

No camping facilities are available at the site, but there is a campground where Hwy 585 crosses the Red Deer River and another near Three Hills. The road into Dry Island does not accommodate campers or trailers, but there are picnic facilities. Phone in advance in any case, but especially if you need a ride, or if you are camping in the vicinity and want to meet the rest of the group.

■ Tuesday, July 6 NOT THURSDAY

Bragg Creek Provincial Park Meet at ALTADORE SAFEWAY, or at the Alder Loop trailhead.

■ Tuesday, July 13 NOT THURSDAY

Big Hill Springs Meet at MARKET MALL or at the park. Prairie slopes, extensive Aspen and Willow on a spring-fed moist slope, a major spring with tufa deposits and aquatic plants.

■ Sunday, July 18

Moose Mountain Meet at ALTADORE SAFEWAY at 9:00 a.m., or call in advance to arrange an alternate meeting place. This is about as close as alpine tundra gets to Calgary.

■ Thursday, July 22

Fish Creek Provincial Park Meet at SOUTHCENTRE or at the intersection of Park Estates Place and Park Estates Drive S.W. (Turn onto Park Estates Drive from Canyon Meadows Drive and go the the third intersection.) We often find *Mirabilis hirsuta* and *Liatris punctata* at this location.

■ Thursday, July 29

Bowmont Flats, Waterfall Valley Meet at MARKET MALL.

■ Thursday, August 5

Fish Creek Provincial Park, Votier's Flats Meet at ALTADORE SAFEWAY, or at the parking lot in the Park at the south end of Elbow Drive S.W.

■ Sunday, Sept 12

Ptarmigan Cirque Meet at MARKET MALL at 9:00 a.m., or meet at Highwood Pass. Bring lunch & water and be prepared for a warm autumn day with golden larches, or alternatively a snowstorm. This is a short hike which gains elevation rapidly. Phone in advance if you need a ride. Plan to come back on your own if you want to be back before 6:00 p.m.

