

Wildflower Wanderings at Logan Pass
Instructor: Janet Bones, M.Ed.
Wednesday, July 22, 2020

The wildflowers of Glacier are spectacular. They are especially beautiful against the rugged backdrop of mountain peaks. Their fragility is even more striking when the adverse environment of their habitat is understood. In this class, our goal is to discover and enjoy Glacier's wildflowers in an informal and relatively non-technical manner. We will enjoy discovering the diversity of Glacier's wildflowers--the spectacular and the inconspicuous. Structure and function of plant parts, plant tolerance, adaptation, distribution, habitat, and limiting factors will be discussed as they apply to flowering plants along the trail. Various flower books and keys will be available for review.

Meeting Place: Glacier Park Field Camp Meeting Hall (see campus map).

Meeting Time: Wednesday, July 22nd at 7:00 AM.

Tentative Itinerary (dependent on current blooming patterns):

The day will be spent in the field identifying the wonderful wildflowers of Glacier's alpine areas. At 7:00 AM we will begin with an introduction to wildflower identification and a brief overview of the day. We will then travel to Logan Pass to hike to Hidden Lake Overlook. We will eat sack lunches near the overlook and then return to Logan Pass. For the remainder of the day we'll view flowers along the Highline Trail, walking as far as time permits. We will be taking special note of the plants growing on the rim rock at the beginning of the Highline Trail. Our day ends at 3:00 PM when we return by the same trail to the Logan Pass parking lot. We should return to Field Camp by about 4:30 PM.

If late snowfall or unexpected trail closures should make flower viewing at the higher elevations impossible, we will visit alternate sites at lower elevations in the Park. Glacier Park affords glorious floral displays in a wide range of habitats.

Food: Students are responsible for their own meals. Please bring a sack lunch and ample snacks for trail days. Use of the kitchen is restricted to Glacier Institute Staff only. No food or cooking is allowed in the cabins.

Equipment: Please see basic gear list. The weather at Logan Pass can be really cold and snowy or extremely hot, so check the latest NOAA forecast and come prepared. A magnifying lens as well as binoculars are nice to have. We will provide small field lenses if you don't have your own.

Weather: This course will not be canceled due to weather.

Physical Requirements: Moderate. Hiking distance covers less than five miles. The Hidden Lake Overlook gains approximately 500 feet of elevation over a one-way distance of 1-1/2 miles, while the Highline Trail gains and loses about 500 feet of elevation. We will hike the Highline trail about 2 miles one-way (at the most).

Transportation during course: We will be traveling in a Glacier Institute vehicle.

Accommodations: Lodging can be purchased for \$35/person/night at the Glacier Institute Field Camp. Facilities include bunkhouses, a community bathhouse, a library and a kitchen. Please call the registrar at 406-755-1211 to book lodging.

Academic Credit: Please see our '2020 Academic Credit' Link on our website to learn about OPI credit and FVCC and UM credit for our courses. There is a \$20 administrative fee to receive OPI renewal units with FVCC.

My favorite books for this course are:

If you have flower identification books, bring them with you. For Glacier's alpine plants my favorite books are:

Alpine Wildflowers of the Rocky Mountains. Duft and Moseley, Mountain Press, Missoula, MT

Rocky Mountain Wild Flowers. Porsild, National Museums of Canada.

Plants of Waterton-Glacier National Parks. Richard J. Shaw and Danny On.

Wildflowers of Glacier National Park by Shannon Fitzpatrick Kimball and Peter Lesica