

MOUNTAIN STUDIES INSTITUTE 2008 SUMMER EDUCATION SERIES

SEMINARS, FIELD TRIPS, EXHIBITIONS

Free and open to the public.

More Info at www.mountainstudies.org or call 970-387-5161.

Seminars will be held at the Silverton Town Hall unless specified otherwise.

- June 9, 12-1:30pm **Seminar: Climate Change & the Mountain West**
- June 19, 7:30 pm **Seminar: How's the Air Up Here? Update on Air Quality**
- June 26, 7:30 pm **Seminar: Desert Dust to Mountain Soils**
- July 4 **Join the MSI Float in Silverton's July 4 Parade!**
- July 10, 7:30 pm **Seminar: Moving Forward - Linking Trails, Community & Recreation**
- July 17, 7:30 pm **Seminar: Abandoned Mine Clean-Ups**
- July 26, 9 am **Field Trip: Wildflower Walk**
- July 26, 5-7pm **Art Exhibit: Mountain - the Work of Judy Graham**
Caledonia Boarding House Historic Museum (next to the Courthouse)
- Aug 6, 7:30 pm **Seminar: What Are Zooplankton & What Are They Doing In My Lake?**
- Aug 9, 9 am **Field Trip: Discover the Snowden Rock Glacier**
- Aug 14, 7:30 pm **Seminar: New Approaches to Investigate Metal Sources
in Alpine Watersheds**
- Aug 23, 10 am **Field Trip: Aquatic Insects of Silverton's Streams**

WORKSHOPS

Check www.mountainstudies.org for details & registration info.

- **Air Quality Forum**, May 29, 8:30am-4:30pm, Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO
- **Climate Change Adaptation Workshop for Natural Resource Managers**, June 12, 12:30-5pm, Town Hall, Silverton, CO
- **Tree-ring Stream Flow Reconstruction for Water Management**, June 13, 9am-12:30, Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO
- **Fen Wetland Workshop: Assessment Results & Restoration Preview**, July 17, Silverton, CO
- **Trail Building Workshop**, July 25-27, Silverton, CO

Mountain Studies Institute 2008 Seminar & Field Trip Details

Monday, June 9, 12 noon – 1:30 pm, Silverton Town Hall, upstairs

Seminar/Discussion: Climate Change & the Mountain West

Henry Diaz (University of Colorado & NOAA), Lisa Graumlich (University of Arizona), Connie Woodhouse (University of Arizona), Connie Millar (US Forest Service), Koren Nydick (Mountain Studies Institute); and others.

Past, present and future climate and impacts on natural resources will be discussed. This event is part of the 2008 Mountain Climate Conference held June 9-12 in Silverton.

Thursday, June 19, 7:30 – 8:30 pm, Silverton Town Hall, upstairs

Seminar/Discussion: How's the Air Up Here? Update on Air Quality

Dr. Koren Nydick, Mountain Studies Institute

Mercury and ozone are emerging air quality issues both in the San Juans and nationally. We will discuss the state of air quality in our region, air quality policy, and a variety of efforts to address these issues.

Thursday, June 26, 7:30 – 8:30 pm, Silverton Town Hall, upstairs

Seminar/Discussion: Desert Dust to Mountain Soils

Corey Lawrence, University of Colorado at Boulder

Recent research shows that soils in the San Juan Mountains contain a significant amount of windblown dust. Learn where the dust comes from, how it impacts mountain ecosystems, and what likely caused the dust in the first place.

Friday, July 4, 9:30 – 11:30 am

Join the MSI Float in Silverton's July 4 Parade!

The Silverton Community and Visitors

This parade is really fun as are all of Silverton's July 4th events. The parade will line up at 9:30 and start at 10:30 am in front of the Carriage House on Blair Street.

Thursday, July 10, 7:30 – 8:30 pm, Silverton Town Hall, upstairs

Seminar/Discussion: Moving Forward - Linking Trails, Community and Recreation

Marcie Demmy Bidwell, SWCA Environmental

Come hear about Silverton's Animas River Corridor Revitalization Project. Initial focus of the ARCRP is a trail system, wetland boardwalk, gateway art, interpretive signs and more.

Thursday, July 17, 7:30 – 8:30 pm, Silverton Town Hall, upstairs

Seminar/Discussion: Abandoned Mine Lands Clean-Up

Stephanie Odell, Abandoned Mine Lands Program, San Juan Public Lands (USFS/BLM)

Saturday, July 26, 9 am – noon

Field trip: Wildflower Walk

Dr. Julie Korb, Biology Department, Fort Lewis College

Participate in a 1-2 mile hike to learn about wildflowers and other mountain plants. Meet at the Lime Creek Trailhead at 9 am (Hwy 550 between Coalbank and Molas Passes) or at the Silverton Hostel at 8:30am to carpool to the trailhead. Map to the trailhead and a species list will be available at www.mountainstudies.org at least one week prior to the trip. Bring appropriate hiking gear, water, and lunch.

Saturday, July 26, 5-8 pm

Art Exhibit: Mountain - The Work of Judy Graham

Held at the San Juan Historical Society's Caledonia Boarding House Museum

On the surface, this exhibition is about the look and feel of the mountains and the objects related to being in the mountains – pyramidal shapes, areas of blue, horses, mules and dogs, the elk, maps and tarps, etc. How the mountains, skies and these other things look is important. That these images are of very specific places which are pinpointed on the maps makes it clear that specificity of place is of utmost importance. But also of utmost importance is the belief that the landscape itself and paintings thereof can suggest what lies beyond. In a compressed and metaphorical form, whether it is the land or a land substitute (a painting), we can get an idea, a glimpse of something beyond ourselves and our lives here. The detail of place and thing can hold the purpose of suggesting something other than itself. What is interesting is how or when the local can imply the universal. We, or at the least some of us, believe that a place or a thing can be a veil over what we yearn to understand, a portal. The science of place and thing is, in itself, mysteriously wondrous but the essence is infinite.

Wednesday, August 6, 7:30 – 8:30 pm, Silverton Town Hall, upstairs

Seminar: What Are Zooplankton & What Are They Doing In My Lake?

Dr. Jim Elser, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University

Zooplankton are little-known underwater heroes. These tiny animals are fish food and in turn eat algae that could muck up otherwise clear waters. Jim Elser has been studying zooplankton in lakes - from their genes all the way up to their effects on entire ecosystems. His latest project brought him to Silverton, Colorado where he and his team, hosted by the Mountain Studies Institute, has set up an extraordinary experiment in an alpine lake. Read their blog: <http://ndeposition.squarespace.com/colorado-summer-2008/>.

Saturday, August 9, 9 am – 2 pm

Field trip: Discover the Snowden Rock Glacier

Dr. Rob Blair, Fort Lewis College and Mountain Studies Institute

Leave the Silverton Hostel at 9am or meet at the Andrew's Lake Trailhead at 9:30am. Andrew's Lake is located on Hwy 550 just south of Molas Pass, about 20 minutes from Silverton by car. Hike about one hour or so (maybe a little more) toward Snowdon Mountain to the rock glacier at 12,000 feet elevation. Learn about what rock glaciers are, how they form and move, and walk on it to get a personal sense of their instability. Discuss regional geology and take a look at

other features such as alpine karst along the way. Bring appropriate hiking gear, water, and lunch.

Thursday, August 14, 7:30 – 8:30 pm, Silverton Town Hall, upstairs

Seminar/Discussion: New approaches to investigate metal sources in Alpine watersheds

Dr. David Borrok, Geological Sciences, University of Texas at El Paso

Many watersheds in the Colorado Mountains are impacted by acidic, metal-rich drainage. Distinguishing between anthropogenic (i.e., mine wastes) and naturally-occurring metal sources in these watersheds is difficult, but necessary to establish pre-mining water quality levels. This talk will describe how new isotopic and hydrologic approaches can be used to fingerprint and track metals in mountain watersheds. The discussion will highlight the role of basic science (i.e., isotopic research) in tackling these real-world problems.

Saturday, August 23, 10 am – noon

Field trip: Aquatic Insects of Silverton's Streams

Chester Anderson, BUGS Consulting

Meet at Cunningham Gulch to learn about stream invertebrates, their life cycles, and tolerances to stresses such as metals and acidity. You will compare the insects you find in Cunningham Creek and the Animas River. Great info for anglers, especially those tying flies. Bring appropriate outdoor gear and a lunch if you'd like to picnic. Bring waders, rubber boots, or sandals and a hand lens if you have them.

