

## Trail Log 2017

Summary: Local hikes, Pasqueflowers, Rocky Mountain National Park; Oregon State University, Corvallis, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, and hikes there; International Society for Environmental Ethics (ISEE) at Highlands Camp, Allenspark, Colorado; Zimmerman Lake Trail, Poudre Canyon, wildflowers collected; Boston Peak Fen Research Natural Area; Shenandoah National Park, Virginia and York River tidal area, Virginia; Aspen colors on Peak to Peak Highway; Turkey Trot, 2017.

## Trail Log 2017

January 21, 2017. North Shields Ponds, with Fred Johnson, Fred Enssle, and Pat McKee.

Two ponds, each with a loop, the first and smaller, half a mile, the second and larger a further mile. 1.5 miles total circle. Ponds frozen and trails frozen, with icy spots. Part of the trail runs along the Poudre River. Common Golden-eye seen well there off and on ten minutes, constantly going underwater to feed and popping back up.

Mostly cottonwoods. Pin cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*) with a little dried fruits still on. Alder. Ash, presumably Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) with a few long seed pods still on. Box-elder (*Acer negundo*), with lots of fruit, samaras.

February, mild

Feb. 11, 2017. Shonny has a crocus in bloom in her back yard.

Feb. 16, Crocus in bloom at edge of front porch.

Feb. 18. Lee Martinez Park to Poudre River Trail, with Fred Johnson, Fred Enssle, and John Didier. Nice day, a little cloudy. Cache La Poudre River Corridor Natural Areas, North. From parking lot, walked a trail s.e. to pick up a river's edge dirt trail back n.w.

(Small area east of the river here is called "River's Edge"). Reached Salyer area and continued upriver to McMurry area and crossed river to southside (on a bridge being repaired, which we weren't supposed to cross). Then returned s.e. on the Poudre River Trail. Couple miles of walking. Mostly cottonwoods, elms (Siberian elms, presumably planted, boxelder). A few Canada geese, pair of mallards, some smaller birds not well seen. Something sounding like a warbler. Some elm buds opening up with flower anthers sticking out. Little or no ice on the river.

Figured out from dry standing plants, *Oenoethera villosa*, Hairy Evening Primrose, This isn't even in my old Weber, though it may be what he calls *O. strigosa*. It is in Ackerfield. Disturbed soil, most of North America. I don't find that I have previously keyed it.

Figured out from dry standing plants, *Carduus nutans*, musk thistle, nodding thistle, Invasive from Eurasia, a pest all over. I don't find that I have keyed it. My old Weber says recently established weed and Harrington suspects it is in Colorado but has no record. (= *C. leiophyllus*) Ackerfield says it is recently incredibly invasive, not known in Colorado until the 1950s.

February 21, 2017. RMNP via Lyons. Left 8.30 a.m., windy and very dusty air blowing over the road where there had been recent plowing. Reached Loveland to find that Route 34 to Estes Park was closed, for rebuilding a bridge. Seems to have been closed some time as there were detour signs posted all the way via Lyons to Estes. More dust driving south, but in clearer spots you could see Pike's Peak far south.

Reached Estes, Moraine Park, and walked in the Cub Lake Trail a quarter mile, latter part over walked over snow. Lunched in car with a magpie sitting on my outside rear view mirror hoping for a handout.

Mountains quite scenic with snow, though always some clouds surrounding, which mostly added to the aesthetics.

Drove to Bear Lake. 7 mule deer roadside. Used my crampons, tied on at the center of my boots, which worked well. Walked some in the Bear Lake area.

Nap at Hallowell Park.

Returning, 31 elk seen, a couple yearling males, and 3 mule deer at the edge of the herd.

Drove back through Lyons, home about 5.30 p.m.

March 2-4. Nassau for Templeton nominations committee meeting. Outdoor barbeque and some drives around, dinner at a seashore restaurant at dusk. Otherwise nothing outdoors.

March 15-17, Oregon State Corvallis. Two hour and a half shuttle from Portland to Corvallis, south half reasonably scenic, along the Willamette River and some good coniferous forests, lots of rain.

April 8, 2017. Watson Lake with Fred Johnson, John Didier, Fred Enssle. Parked at the main area, walked up the road, then south side of lake, then a trail by the river. Various weedy early flowers. Cottonwoods in good bloom, and we discovered they are dioecious, male trees, and female trees, with long flowering sprays, 5-6 inches long. Gulls on lake and near the more or less defunct fish hatchery, maybe ring-billed gulls. A couple cormorants. A few geese.

April 9, 2017. Palm Sunday. Pasqueflowers at Well Gulch, Lory State Park.

Picked up Rolston at 1.00 p.m. and drove to the park via the rim high road. Nice day but windy. Reached Lory State Park. Walked up the Well Gulch trail, having to persuade Rolston that it wasn't too windy. Covered him up with my jogging blazer. You did have to pause and catch yourself in the wind, maybe 25-30 mph.

Found spring beauty, yellow violets, prickly pear cactus almost in bloom.

Then two fine clumps of Pasqueflower, one splendid in full bloom and nicely in the sunshine. Counted 11 blossoms in the two clumps. One and a half feet from the trail on the right, upslope side. Maybe 200 yards up from the bench, with no. 14. The better clump is probably what Fred Johnson had sent me a photo of a couple days back. Didn't see anybody else on the trail.

Walked up a couple hundred yards more but saw no more Pasqueflowers. Lot's of spring beauties.

Returned to car, slowly, as you had to watch your downsteps in the wind. Drove to the end of the road, then home, via the Bellvue road, about 4.00 p.m. One deer on the Horsetooth drive.

Wild plum in fine bloom in the park and elsewhere roadside. I must have seen 100,000 blossoms, on several thousand bushes.

April 24-26. University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. Flew there with supposedly early a.m. take off. But pilots needed their sleep, so late take off. Arrived Mosinee = Central Wisconsin Airport, late afternoon.

Apr 24, Monday. Did a hike/stroll with Chris Diehm and some students. Much about the various oaks we saw. Chris knew them, bark and all.

Tuesday, April 25. Met with classes variously and lectured in the evening. Large

audience, 350-400 students and faculty, some from town.

Wednesday, April 26. In the morning visited several wet areas with decent birding, though not much flora out. mostly water birds.

Stevens Point has a big cheese factory. Lots of cows in Wisconsin.

To the airport about noon, and flew home.

I came back sick with bronchial cough and pretty much shut in for three weeks.

May 18, 2017. Snow dump, University closed. Much damage to trees, oval closed from fallen tree limbs several days. 8-10 inches, and more predicted, which did not arrive.

June 1-4, 2017. International Society for Environmental Ethics (ISEE) at Highlands Camp, Allenspark. Drove up Thursday, June 1, after a lunch celebrating our wedding anniversary, no. 61. Nice drive, nice day, through Lyons.

Friday, program all day. Nice day, short rainstorm.

Saturday, June 3. Afternoon, led hike to the Pool, with about eight in the party. Trail in surprisingly good shape after the big snow dump May 17-19. Allenspark had 42 inches. Park service had cleared some branches from the trail, though there was evident wind and snow damage trailside and in the further woods.

In the party, Benn Johnson, grad student at University of North Texas, and Rika Tsuji, Japanese graduate student there. Also Jeremy Bendik-Keymer, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, and his partner Misty Morrison. an artist much interested in learning the plants. Also Jeffrey Spike, medical ethics University of Houston, and his wife, Elizabeth Spike, teaches environmental science at an upscale private school and active in Houston area Sierra Club, and son Hume. Also Geoffrey Frasz. Also Claire Williams, Australian woman in environmental law.

In bloom: A lot of *Thermopsis*, Golden Banner. Considerable *Hydrophyllum*, water leaf. Lots of pin cherry.

Went rather slowly and time passed. Reached the Arch Rocks area about 5.00 p.m., where I turned around and returned, with Elizabeth Spike. The others went on to the Pool. Elizabeth and I got back to the trailhead about twenty minutes before the rest of the group. Frasz and Benn saw two mink.

Had just about the right amount of time to get to the Tavern 1929, Mary's Lake Lodge for a banquet meal. Supposedly a 1929 tavern, maybe once on this spot, but all the buildings here are recent and huge development.

July 18, 2017. Zimmerman Lake Trail with Fred Johnson, also wetland on Laramie River Road.

Met Fred at Watson's Lake Parking lot and drove up Poudre Canyon. 8-10 deer, mostly as twos and threes roadside. Reached the Zimmerman Lake Trailhead about 9.00 a.m.

Off on a meandering hike toward the Lake, mostly looking at wildflowers and what mosses we could find. Lots of Polytrichum, almost a ground cover on the roadside banks in places.

juniper Polytrichum moss. *Polytrichum juniperinum*

*Mitella stauropetala*, Side-flowering mitrewort. Flowers with little or no pedicel secund on a long stalk. Flower petals have linear lobes, three-parted. Wet areas. Weber says rather rare. I had collected it before but forgotten it.

Fred also found: *Mitella pentandra*

Cypripedium fasciculatum. Purple, or clustered, Lady Slipper. Saw two of them, Weber says very rare, but Ackerfield says uncommon. I had collected it before, on Rawah Lakes Trail.

alpine leafybract aster - *Symphotrichum foliaceum*

beautiful cinquefoil - *Potentilla pulcherrima*

thickleaf ragwort - *Senecio crassulus*

weak saxifrage - *Saxifraga rivularis*

Whipple's penstemon - *Penstemon whippleanus*

Alpine bistort - *Bistorta vivipara*

Yarrow - *Achillea millefolium*

Orange Agoseris - *Agoseris aurantiaca*

pincushion beardtongue - *Penstemon procerus*

Rocky Mountain goldenrod - *Solidago multiradiata*

Coulter's fleabane - *Erigeron coulteri*

alpine speedwell - *Veronica wormskjoldii*  
long-stalked starwort - *Stellaria longipes*  
tall chiming bells - *Mertensia ciliata*  
arrowleaf ragwort - *Senecio triangularis*  
sulphur paintbrush - *Castilleja sulphurea*  
Payson's lousewort - *Pedicularis bracteosa* var. *paysoniana*  
Hemlock parsley - *Conioselinum scopulorum*  
Jacob's ladder - *Polemonium pulcherrimum*  
Fendler's cowbane - *Oxypolis fendleri*  
sickletop lousewort - *Pedicularis racemosa*  
Elephantella - *Pedicularis groenlandica*  
heartleaf Arnica - *Arnica cordifolia*  
splitleaf Indian paintbrush - *Castilleja rhexiifolia*  
fivestamen miterwort - *Mitella pentandra* See above.  
Small-flowered miterwort - *Mitella stauropetala* One-sided  
marsh marigold - *Caltha leptosepala*  
witches' hair lichen - *Alectoria sarmentosa*  
Arizona calcareous moss - *Mnium arizonicum*  
mountain sweet-cicely - *Osmorhiza berteroi*  
heartleaf buttercup - *Ranunculus cardiophyllus*  
elegant death camas - *Anticlea elegans*  
mountain parsley - *Cymopterus lemmonii*  
Virginia strawberry - *Fragaria virginiana*

heart-leaved twayblade - *Listera cordata*  
white bog orchid - *Platanthera dilatata*  
clustered lady's slipper - *Cypripedium fasciculatum*  
wooly hawkweed - *Hieracium triste*  
milkflower willowherb - *Epilobium lactiflorum*  
different-nerve sedge - *Carex heteroneura*  
beautiful fleabane - *Erigeron formosissimus*  
brook saxifrage - *Micranthes odontoloma*  
  
mountain gooseberry - *Ribes montigenum*  
whortleberry - *Vaccinium myrtillus*  
Douglas fir - *Pseudotsuga menziesii*  
Spruce, Engelmann - *Picea engelmannii*  
bluntseed sweetroot - *Osmorhiza depauperata*  
pearly everlasting - *Anaphalis margaritacea*  
clover-leaf rose - *Sibbaldia procumbens*  
wild candytuft - *Noccaea fendleri*

Never got to the lake. Ate lunch at a streamside, a little below the old sawmill.

Previous trips to Zimmerman Lake:

March 25, 1972, skiing  
July 27, 1980, with Giles  
January 20, 1986, on snowshoes with Giles  
January 27, 1990, on snowshoes alone  
October 1, 2000, with Bill Forbes  
June 24, 2006, with Julia and Gray

Trees here are Engelmann spruce and Doug fir.

Returned and drove to Jan McKee's wetland site on the Laramie River road, Found it with little trouble, and walked across it on as dry spots as we could find, often walking in 2-3 inches of water.

June 21, 1989. Jan McKee's study site on Larimer River Road. Spent day collecting mosses with her. Of particular interest in the site is Salix candida, known from only two stations in Colorado, but probably overlooked. See notes.

The oily film on water in the bog is not plant oils but a bacteria. A USGS study team has worked this site, since there were traces of radon gas here and presumed uranium below. They cored the peat bog, down about 15 feet or so, which is dated back 16,000 years, when it was a lake in glacial times. Someone in the East is figuring out the pollen. There are two head-high willows in here: Salix plantifolia, newer twigs red, and S. monticola, yellow twigs. To separate S. candida, from S. brachycarpa, also low and similar, also lanate, see notes. It's easy.

The site is rather notably well developed with Helodium blandowii, in the transition zone on the far side.

The 321-acre Boston Peak Fen Research Natural Area (RNA) is near the southern end of the Green Ridge. Plants that survive in fens are uniquely adapted to their alkaline environment. The Boston Peak Fen RNA contains a unique wetland ecosystem of sedge fens and willow carrs (willow communities) containing uranium-enriched peat, several rare plant species, and the complete watershed for this fen. (enlarged to 550 acres?)

Petrographic reconnaissance of uraniferous fractures in Precambrian gneisses, Laramie River valley, Larimer County, Colorado. Open-File Report 95-242. By: Francis Allan Hills

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1995/0242/report.pdf>

Uranium entrapment in wetlands: A case study at the Boston Peak fen, Colorado, U.S.A by Otton, J.K.; Zielinski, R.A.; Platt Bradbury, J.; Robbins, E.I.; Owen, D.E.; Madole, R.F.; Schumann, R. R.

[http://www.iaea.org/inis/collection/NCLCollectionStore/\\_Public/38/063/38063299.pdf](http://www.iaea.org/inis/collection/NCLCollectionStore/_Public/38/063/38063299.pdf)

[https://inis.iaea.org/search/search.aspx?orig\\_q=RN:38063359](https://inis.iaea.org/search/search.aspx?orig_q=RN:38063359)

ABSTRACT: The Boston Peak Fen: a Multidisciplinary Case Study of a Uraniferous



## Mountain Wetland

D. E. Owen, J. K. Otton, R. R. Schumann, R. A. Zielinski, J. P. McKee, E. I. Robbins, F. A. Hills

Uranium (U) enrichments as high as several thousand ppm occur in surficial, organic-rich sediments of mountain wetlands, which provide natural laboratories for studying the transport and fixation of U. Boston Peak fen covers about 8 ac in the glaciated upper Laramie River valley of north-central Colorado. The valley follows a north-trending fault zone that was active as late as the Oligocene. The fen is bounded primarily by Precambrian rocks along the sides and upper end and by a postglacial landslide deposit on the lower end. Ground-water hydrology is characterized by a basal, confined, gravelly, locally artesian aquifer overlain by lacustrine clay and an unconfined peat aquifer. Faults and fractures in the bedrock are conduits for uraniferous waters that enter the fen through seeps and springs. Present-day vegetation communities are controlled by peat thickness and seasonal groundwater fluctuations.

Uranium mineralization in the fen is closely related to its depositional history. Immediately after the landslide dammed the valley floor, a pond formed and began filling with silt and clay. About 10,000 years ago, pond weeds became established and organic productivity increased. During this time, U was sorbed from the pond water by organic matter in the sediment, forming layers containing 10 to 150 ppm U (dry weight). About 3000 years ago, downcutting of the spillway and sediment infilling resulted in depths shallow enough for the establishment of peat-forming sedges. Since then, up to 3.5 m of peat has accumulated. During this time, ground-water recharge zones in the fen became point sources of metal input, and as much as 3300 ppm U (dry weight) accumulated locally in the peat.

AAPG Search and Discovery Article #91002©1990 AAPG Rocky Mountain Section Meeting, Denver, Colorado, September 16-19, 1990

<http://www.searchanddiscovery.com/abstracts/html/1990/rms/abstracts/1340d.htm>

saw:

red sandspurry. *Spergularia rubra*

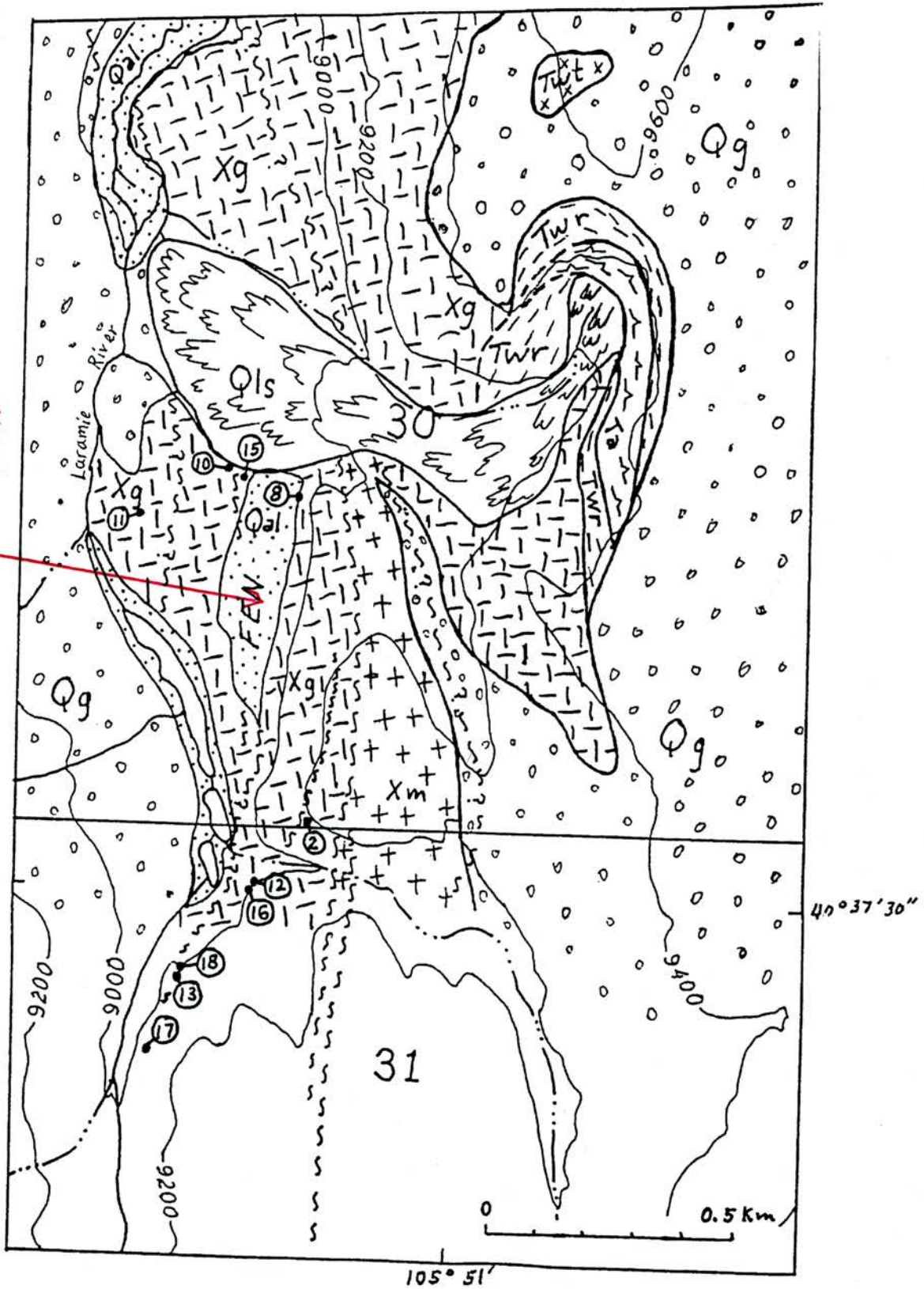
shrubby cinquefoil

star gentian

pink pyrola

purple avens *Geum rivale*

Boston Peak  
Fen



USGS, Petrographic Reconnaissance of Uraniferous Fractures in Precambrian Gneisses, Larimer River Valley, Larimer County, CO. by F. Allan Hills, Open File Report 95-242, 1995.

white geranium

elephantella

western polemonium *Polemonium occidentale*

white bog orchid. *Platanthera dilatata*. formerly *Habenaria dilatata*. Lots of it.

Drove home.

*Aulacomnium palustre*. Ribbed bog moss

early August - lots of rather cool weather and rain.

August 19, 2017. Trail Ridge Road, alone. Left home about 8.30 a.m. Lovely day, only a few clouds in the sky. Still lots of construction on Route 34 from Loveland to Drake, seriously rebuilding two or three stretches of the highway.

Reached RMNP, and in Horseshoe Meadows, where the sheep come down, there were 17 bighorn sheep. Others said 18 but I only saw 17. Half ewes, half yearling males, and a couple lambs. Hanging around in the wetlands there. Watched them 40 minutes. I don't recall seeing this many in one group at a time. Wyoming ground squirrel, picketpin.

Climbed Trail Ridge Road, lots of traffic. Walked out the Forest Canyon overlook. So much traffic in the Visitor Center parking lot that they were holding cars out on the highway in the entry lane, and only letting 6-8 go in every fifteen minutes. I only needed a rest stop there.

Lunched up at the overlook over Mt. Ida, Specimen Mtn, and the Never Summers. Ate in the car, too windy to eat outside. But a good event.

Returned, 18 elk up top, all cows.

Napped at Hidden Valley and drove home.

Sept 5-11. 2017. Trip to Richmond, Shenandoah National Park, and Shannon Bryant's

wedding on York River.

Sept 7. Drove via I-64 to Shenandoah National Park. There is a rest area with vending machines just west of Ivy exit.

Hiked Rip trail to Calvary Rocks. Nice day. Cool. Hiked on AT about 45 minutes, then on Rip Rap trail about an hour, one mile to Calvary Rocks.

Oaks, hickories, laurel, azalea, lots of sassafras. Witch hazel. Trail goes slabside down mostly, but then a climb up to Calvary Rocks.

Trail well kept and I did o.k.

Lunched in the car on return, about 1.30 p.m. Milkweed, goldenrod.

Previous Rip Rap hikes when a teenager, June 26, 1973, May 12, 2004, Oct. 16. 2015.

Meandered north to Big Meadows Lodge by about 4.30 p.m.

*Galinsoga* about the Big Meadows Lodge area.

Decent room on the back side, though room tended to overheat. Cool outside. Good meal, Yankee Pot Roast, but three times as much food served as I needed. Cell phone works here.

Sept. 8. Up at 6.00 a.m., coffee and snacks in room for breakfast, and off about 8.00 a.m. 4 deer, one a buck on way out, then 3 deer up close on highway.

Then saw a small black bear crossing the highway. Bear-shaped, quite black, size of a mid sized dog. Nice sight. In vicinity of Bearfence Mountain Parking area.

Squirrel. Dogwood, sumac with big red berries.

Tried to find the Sawmill Run trail from parking lot at Jarman Gap, and found it overgrown and remnants of it, but not hikeable. There was a trail to Sawmill Run Shelter half a mile down, which I backpacked June 26, 1973. Formerly, there was a usable road through this gap. [Andrew H. Myers, "The Creation of the Shenandoah National Park: Albemarle Cultures in Conflict," *The Magazine of Albemarle County History*, vol. 51, 1993, pp. 52-89, on p. 57]

So I went up the other side to the AT and hiked that an hour and a half.

Lots of white pine

plantain, roadside

Virginia creeper

knot weed

orange jewelweed, spotted jewelweed, spotted touch-me-not. *Impatiens capensis*  
striking orange flower with curved tail.

Christmas fern, lots of it  
came to a spring, with weak flow. Large beech tree  
unknown shrub with simple leaf and elongated red berry  
ragweed

drove to Zion Crossroads, milkshake for lunch, about 1.30 p.m.

Back to Ann's about three o'clock, disappointed that Jennings Bunch was ill and could not be there.

White pine, greenbriar

Sept 9. Drove to tidewater and went to Shannon's wedding. Fell and cut back of my left wrist at the patio of the upscale home where we were staying a quarter mile up from the home of the wedding site.

Sept. 10. Drove back to Richmond.

Sept. 11. Flew home. Take off 4.00 p.m. Home about 8.30 p.m.

Sept. 20, 2017. Aspen, Ward, with Jane, Bill and Augusta Forbes. Left about 9.00 a.m. and drove to Lyons. Up St. Vrain Canyon, and excellent aspen as soon as we turned onto the Peak to Peak Highway. Nice day and aspen colors excellent in the good sun against the conifers. Drove up the Brainard lake Road, still excellent aspen until halfway up.

Lunched at the fine picnic area at the lake. A bit cool, needed jackets, but good sun and a fine lunch. Drove around some up there, then returned, now going to Estes Park on the Peak to Peak Highway. Eight or ten elk in the distance at Moraine Park but none well seen. Drove back, arriving for a fine dinner at Shonny's about 6.15 p.m.

Sept. 22, 2017. Trail Ridge Road, with Jane, Bill and Augusta Forbes. Left about 9.30 a.m. in his car. Blue sky, nice temperature. Reached RMNP and drove up Trail Ridge Road, still blue sky and nicely scenic, rather good aspen. Too cold to be out much up top, but Bill, Augusta, and I walked down to the Forest Canyon overlook.

Lots of traffic. Reached the Visitor Center and Store. About 12 elk with one very nice bull down in the cirque valley below the visitor center, seen reasonably well with binoculars. Still nice weather but more clouds.

Returned and ate picnic lunch at Hidden Valley in the shelter, temperature and wind o.k. for a comfortable lunch.

Drove down the Beaver Meadows side and there were maybe two dozen elk in the



trees, that could be seen off and on as they moved about. A couple nice bulls here and heard half a dozen bugling calls well. Surprisingly, the weather, here at least, had cleared up and good sun. Continuing some good aspen.

Took Bear Lake Road and at the Moraine Park visitor center two dozen elk nicely out in the open and rather close to the road in full son. A couple of good bulls.

Drove to Bear Lake intending to walk around it and couldn't get a parking space. Returned to Glacier Gorge and couldn't get a parking space there either. Now about 4.30 p.m. so we just drive home. One deer.

September 24-25. Lots of rain and much cooler. We were lucky with the weather.

November 23, 2017. Thanksgiving. Did the Turkey Trot with Shonny. Rolston and Ellie Jane joined us halfway, at the City Park, unregistered participants. Did o.k., but enough pounding on pavement. Got a bit of a bloody toe from a toenail too long on right foot. Lovely weather, 20 degrees above normal. In the 70s.

# Turkey Trot - 2017



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← → C results.active.com/events/fort-collins-thanksgivings-day-run--7/timed-runners/expanded?age\_range=75-99 ☆

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		Gender	Age Group	Division	Search by name or bib			Search	
		All ▾	75-99 ▾	All Divisions ▾					
2014	912	NELLY KUTCHUKIAN	FORT COLLINS	CO	84	F	F70+	0011	01:24:34
2040	2007	HOLMES ROLSTON	FT COLLINS	CO	85	M	M70+	0018	01:29:47
2042	1199	DENISE NERVIK	FORT COLLINS	CO	84	F	F70+	0012	01:32:13



A close-up photograph of a single brick from a memorial walk. The brick is light-colored and has a dark inscription. The text is arranged in three lines: the first line reads 'Holmes & Jane Rolston', the second line reads 'Keep Colorado wild', and the third line reads 'and free!'. The brick is set against a dark background, and the mortar joints are visible.

Holmes & Jane Rolston  
Keep Colorado wild  
and free!

Charles A. Lory Society - Brick Memorial Walk  
center of the CSU Oval