

# **Observing the Butterflies of Yellowstone #190708**

**Start**: 7/12/2019 at 9:00 a.m. **End:** 7/13/2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Yellowstone Forever - Gardiner, MT

Welcome to Yellowstone National Park! If you are a newcomer to the Yellowstone Forever Institute, you will be amazed at what awaits you during each day of exploration. We are glad that you are able to join us in Gardiner, Montana, a wonderful Yellowstone gateway community that many of us at Yellowstone Forever call home. Our goal is to provide you with an enjoyable, high-quality educational experience and a safe and memorable visit to Yellowstone.

The following information is provided to help you prepare for your program. Please read it thoroughly and call us at 406.848.2400 or email contact@yellowstone.org if you have any questions. We recommend all first-time visitors seek general park information through the National Park Service at 307.344.2107 or www.nps.gov/yell.

## **Important Information Included in this Document:**

- Letter from Your Instructor
- What's Included
- How to Prepare for this Program
- Suggested Reading
- Yellowstone Forever Park Store Information
- Yellowstone Forever Supporter Information
- Code of Ethics
- Cancellation Policy
- Travel Information
- Supplemental Lodging Information

## From the Instructor

I look forward to sharing the wonderful world of Yellowstone butterflies with you! We will spend ample time learning species-level identification skills and observation techniques, as well as exploring as broad a spectrum of the butterflies' world as possible. To accomplish this, we will spend much time out and about in the environs of Yellowstone investigating areas such as: breeding habitat, flight patterns and timing, host plants, geography, geology and more. Specific gear that will aid in your enjoyment of the class will include close-focus binoculars (i.e. ones that will, or nearly so, allow you to clearly look at your own feet (<6' focal distance)!), a good field guide or two (specific options listed below in reading list), a camera with macro lens/setting and a small sketchbook or spiral-bound pad for jotting notes. Please bring sturdy walking/hiking shoes, preferably with ankle support – especially if you would like to try

your hand at netting (more on this below)! Sunscreen and sunglasses are also a good idea as good butterfly watching conditions are also ideal sunburn conditions.

We will also have the opportunity to do some limited capture-and-release of insects under the Yellowstone Forever's educational permit. This will allow us to reinforce lessons on species-level identifications, to determine gender and breeding status, etcetera AND to be involved with the capstone event of the program – participating in our annual contribution to the national "4th of July Butterfly Count" effort in coordination with the North American Butterfly Association. This event pools data across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Like the Audubon Society's "Christmas Bird Count," the butterfly count makes use of citizen observers to track large- and small-scale changes in butterfly species abundance and distribution. Make sure to bring a lunch or funds to purchase lunch on the count day as it will be based out of Gardiner at the North Entrance to the park.

Please be prepared for a variety of weather conditions and contingencies in the agenda. Even though butterflies are fair weather creatures – not getting out of bed until the sun is nice and high along with ducking for cover at the first sign of clouds or rain – the class time is fixed and so we will make the most of whatever comes down the pike.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at gb@GeorgeBumann.com.

Best regards,

George Bumann

## What's Included

Your tuition includes daily outings and transportation during your program. It does not include transportation to the park, park entrance fees, meals, or lodging. Gratuities are not included in the price of programming. If you would like to recognize exceptional service by an Institute staff member, tips are appreciated. Donations to support Yellowstone Forever educational programs are also appropriate and will be used to improve and expand opportunities for people to make deep connections to Yellowstone.

## **Continuing Education Credit**

Many of our Field Seminars are recognized by universities across the country. We are happy to provide a letter of completion and supporting documentation that you can submit to the institution of your choice to request approval for university credit or CEUs.

# **Lodging Option**

Institute students in field seminars based out of Gardiner, Montana, may have the opportunity to stay in our comfortable lodging at the Yellowstone Overlook Field Campus for an additional charge. The Yellowstone Overlook features comfortable cabins on 80 acres, awe-inspiring views, and easy access to the northern section of the park. Cabins include self-serve kitchens for preparing meals and open-floor plans for group dining and evening activities. For more information please see the last page of this document. Feel free to call our contact center at 406.848.2400 to make your reservations today.

## **How to Prepare for this Program**

How fit do you need to be?

This program is an activity level 2 and students enrolled in this program are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 3 miles per day, comfortably, with elevation gains up to 600 feet. Some off-trail hiking possible. We recommend you begin an exercise program right away if you have not already done so. Participants residing at lower elevations may want to arrive a day early to adjust to the altitude. To learn more about how specific medical conditions can be affected by Yellowstone's environment and our activities, please visit www.Yellowstone.org/experience/health-information/

# **General Clothing and Equipment List**

Much of your time will be spent outdoors and all programs are held rain, snow, or shine. You should be prepared for a variety of mountain weather conditions and temperatures. Appropriate clothing, equipment, and footwear are very important. Winter temperatures can range from below zero in the mornings to 35 degrees Fahrenheit in the early afternoons. The layered use of garments for protection against the wind, sun, and temperature extremes should guide your clothing choices. Loose fitting layers allow you to maintain a comfortable and dry body as outside temperatures change and as your own body's temperature and moisture output changes with different levels of exertion.

# **Suggested Reading**

This is a small selection of the best books on butterflies and butterfly ID. I have marked the ones that I keep in my pack on field outings with an asterisk (\*).

- Brock, J. & K. Kaufman Butterflies of North America (Kaufman Field Guides). 2006. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.\*
- Glassberg, Jeffrey. Butterflies through Binoculars: The West A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Western North America. 2001. Oxford University Press.\*
- Scott, J. The Butterflies of North America: A Natural History and Field Guide. 1992. Stanford University Press.
- Pyle, R.M. Handbook for Butterfly Watchers. 1992. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
- Debinski, D. & J. Pritchard. A Field Guide to Butterflies of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. 2002. Roberts Rinehart Publishing.

## **Equipment**

emerg	ency communication device.
	Daypack, with enough capacity to carry extra clothes, water, lunch, camera, binoculars, field
guides	s, etc.
	Water bottle, one-quart is the minimum recommended. Camelback or similar hydration systems
work v	well in summer but can freeze in winter.
	Sunglasses
	Sunscreen/lip protector, sun at high altitude can burn unprotected skin quickly.
	Camera, binoculars

Yellowstone Forever field staff assigned to your program will be carrying a first aid kit, bear spray, and

- □ Notebook/pencil
- □ Pocket hand and foot warmers, recommended November through May.
- ☐ Flashlight/Headlamp, a small light for walking to and from your cabin in the evenings and mornings.
- □ Alarm, so you're on time for the day's activities.

# **Summer Clothing**

□ Insulating underwear, capilene, polypropylene, or similar wicking fabric.

	Heavyweight insulating layer, wool, down, or heavy-weight fleece jacket, for less-active times.	
	Waterproof and windproof outer layer, lightweight and breathable. Jackets and pants are	
recommended.		
	Short sleeved shirt, cotton okay in summer, but synthetic wicking shirts are ideal.	
	Pants, synthetic hiking pants, lightweight pile/fleece pants or tights or similar. Jeans are not	
recommended.		
	Hats, both a brimmed sun hat and an insulating hat for cool weather.	
	Gloves, lightweight glove liners and a pair of wool/fleece gloves or mittens.	
	Socks, light wool or synthetic liner sock with heavier wool or synthetic outer sock. The inner-outer	
sock c	ombination helps prevent blistering, wicks moisture and reduces friction. Cotton socks do not wick	
moisture and are not recommended.		
	Hiking boots, that provide stability, traction, and comfort. Unless you've consistently hiked in	
athleti	c shoes, bring boots that provide ankle support.	
	Off-duty shoes, sandals, athletic shoes, or other leisure footwear.	

Midweight insulating layer, light, 200-weight synthetic fleece or wool shirt/pullover.

### **Park Stores**

Our Park Stores feature more than 900 books, maps, and videos to help you plan your visit, along with a wide selection of shirts, hats, and other logo items to remind you of your visit to Yellowstone. Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15 percent discount on merchandise online or at any of our 11 locations in and around Yellowstone. Proceeds directly support Yellowstone. Visit: Shop.Yellowstone.org

## **Supporter Program**

Yellowstone Forever Supporters directly fund priority park programs and projects. Supporters also provide scholarships for teachers and help expand programming for underserved youth. Benefits include a subscription to our magazine Yellowstone Quarterly, early registration and discounts for Yellowstone Forever Institute programs, and discounts on retail purchases throughout Yellowstone (exclusions apply). If you are not yet a supporter of Yellowstone Forever, an introductory subscription (one year) to our magazine Yellowstone Quarterly is included with your tuition. For more information, visit: Yellowstone.org/donate

#### **Code of Ethics**

The Yellowstone Forever Institute is committed to demonstrating a high standard of appropriate and ethical behavior in Yellowstone. As a participant in a Yellowstone Forever Institute program, we ask you to adhere to the following Code of Ethics. In addition to the ethics highlighted below, the Institute abides by all National Park Service rules and regulations. We also practice Leave No Trace guidelines for traveling responsibly in the wilderness.

• **Observing wildlife:** We will do our best to have as little impact on wildlife as possible. Animals will be observed from a distance, using high-powered spotting scopes to help keep our presence from affecting their behavior. Participants should not expect to get close-up photographs of wildlife. The Yellowstone Forever Institute will adhere to National Park Service regulations by keeping a minimum distance of 25 yards from bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, coyotes and nesting birds and 100 yards from bears and wolves. We will not entice wildlife with food, animal calls or any actions that change their behavior.

- **Leave what you find**: It is illegal to remove natural or cultural artifacts (plants, animals, bones, rocks, etc.) from Yellowstone. Yellowstone Forever Institute instructors have permission from the National Park Service to manipulate plants, rocks, bones, etc. for educational purposes and will return them to their natural positions and locations.
- **General etiquette**: Yellowstone Forever Institute groups will be considerate of other visitors and respect the quality of their experience. Voices and vehicle sounds carry great distances and affect both wildlife and people—remaining silent or very quiet while watching wildlife lets the sounds of Yellowstone (including wolf howls) prevail.
- **Roads and vehicles:** Expect wildlife on the road, and drive at or below the posted park speed limits. When stopping to observe wildlife or other park features, the Yellowstone Forever Institute will move vehicles entirely off the road. If there is no safe pullout available, we will drive to the next safe place and walk back to observe the wildlife. We will not stop in the middle of the road, and should a traffic jam develop as a result of our activities, we will cease the activity.
- **Properly dispose of waste**: We will pack out all trash, leftover food and litter. Your instructor will discuss techniques for properly disposing of human waste in the field.
- Traveling lightly: When hiking or walking in Yellowstone, we will use existing trails and boardwalks. We will follow appropriate techniques when walking off-trail. Walking around muddy or wet places in the trail increases erosion and negatively affects the resource; proper equipment is essential to hiking ethically. Participants should come adequately prepared with the equipment listed for their course and should expect to walk through mud, snow or puddles in the trail.

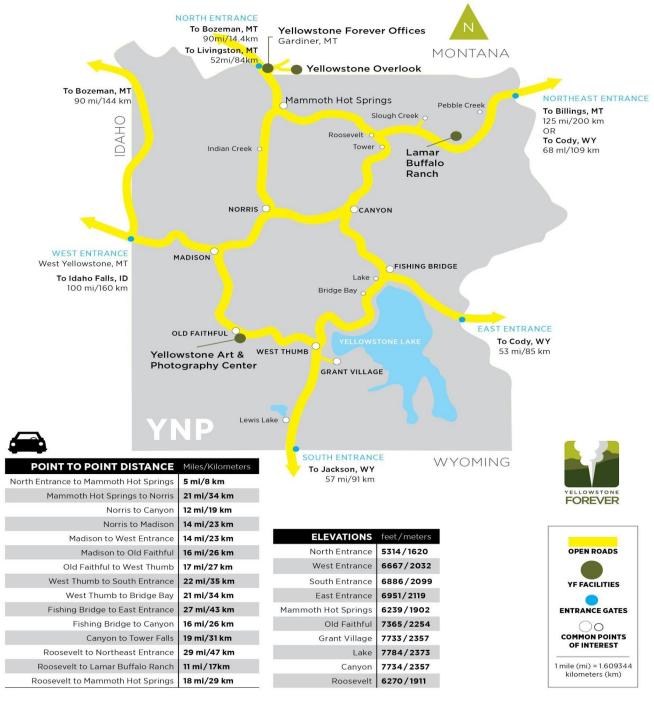
# Field Seminar Cancellation and Refund Policy

If you cancel within seven calendar days of your registration date, your payment is refundable less a \$50 per person per course processing fee. Under most circumstances, if you cancel on the eighth calendar day or after, from the date of registration, 100% of registration payments will be forfeited. If lodging is cancelled after the eighth calendar day from the date of registration, 100% of lodging payments will be forfeited. Applicable taxes will be refunded in the event of program or lodging cancellations. We reserve the right to cancel a course up to 30 days before the first class day. If we cancel, you will receive a full refund of your payment. We urge you to take out accident, baggage, and trip cancellation insurance through a travel agent or website such as TravelGuard.com. Travel insurance can help protect you against financial loss if you must cancel or interrupt your trip.

# YELLOWSTONE OVERLOOK FIELD CAMPUS INFORMATION



# Yellowstone Map YELLOWSTONE FOREVER



From Livingston, travel south on Highway 89 into Gardiner, Montana. Just before you cross the Yellowstone River, you will see the Conoco gas station on your right and 4th Street on your left. Turn left on 4th Street (you'll see a green sign indicating 5 miles to Jardine) and go up the hill for 1.5 miles. Turn right on Above the Rest Lane at the sign for the Yellowstone Overlook Field Campus (by the mountain man carving) and follow the signs to the cabins.

From Yellowstone, leave the park through the North Entrance and go through the Roosevelt Arch. Turn left on Highway 89 towards Livingston. Cross the bridge over the Yellowstone River. You will see the Conoco gas station on your left and 4th Street on your right. Turn right on 4th Street (you'll see a green sign indicating 5 miles to Jardine) and go up the hill for 1.5 miles. Turn right on Above the Rest Lane at the sign for the Yellowstone Overlook Field Campus (by the mountain man carving) and follow the signs to the cabins.

# What to bring

Each cabin includes a fully equipped kitchen for you to prepare meals. You will need to bring your own food and toiletries. Groceries are available nearby in Gardiner. Linens and towels are provided. Smoking is not allowed in the cabins. Camping and pets (with the exception of service animals) are not permitted.

# Arrival and departure

Our volunteer campus host will be available to greet you between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. on the day of your arrival. Check out is by 9:00 a.m. the day of your departure to allow our volunteers to begin preparing the cabins for the next group. Parking is available in front of your cabin. Please do not store food in your vehicle as it can attract animals.

If you are visiting during the winter we recommend an all-wheel- or 4-wheel-drive vehicle as roads can be snow-packed and icy. Feel free to call our office at 406.848.2400 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to check the local weather and road conditions.

## **During your stay**

Our volunteer caretakers live on-campus in the cabin with the "Welcome" sign. They will help orient you to the Overlook campus. An emergency phone is available all hours outside their cabin. We do not have a housekeeping staff at the Overlook. Quiet hours are observed between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Verizon is the only cell phone provider currently providing reliable coverage at the campus. In the event of an emergency during your stay, the caretaker's cabin phone number is: 406.848.9128. Wireless Internet is available in the cabins and at several businesses in Gardiner.

The campus has a picnic table and pond. A marked, 1-mile-long trail leads down to the Yellowstone River. Wildlife is abundant. You may see bison, wolves, elk and deer. You may also see rattlesnakes. Please exercise caution, and notify someone of your plans if you will be away from the campus alone. Each cabin has a TV/DVD player and an educational library with books and videos. The Overlook is designed to be a comfortable and peaceful base from which to explore and learn in America's first national park. We look forward to your visit!