**BOTANY BC**

**Big Bar Ranch/Churn Creek PA**

**Thursday June 16 – Sunday June 19, 2016**

**Program as of June 10, 2016**

Botany BC is an annual gathering of professional and amateur botanists from British Columbia and nearby areas. ***This year it will feature botanical forays into the grasslands of the Cariboo with a special focus natural and cultural settings around the beautiful Churn Creek Protected Area***

Please check the Botany BC website for updates. <http://www.members.shaw.ca/botanybc/>

**Thursday, June 16th**

Arrive Big Bar Ranch anytime in the afternoon/evening, find your accommodation and get settled. Everyone is on their own for dinner.

6:45 - 7:15 pm: - Gather in the dining area of the Big Bar Ranch for an Ice breaker and, if required registration finalization/name tag pickup, general Botany BC program information and the start of Botany BC 2016! *(Light snacks/coffee/tea will be available)*

7:15 pm: Welcome to Botany BC 2016 by the Botany BC Organizing Committee

- review of program & update (sign up) for field trips

7:40 pm - @ 8:30pm: - Evening speakers at Big Bar Ranch -

Ordell Steen & Kristi Iverson - *Introduction to ecosystems of Churn Creek Protected Area.*

**Friday, June 17th**

Have a hearty breakfast and pack up (or pick up) your lunch for the full day trip! *(Those who have paid for breakfast and lunch from the Ranch will have meal tickets in their registration package)*

Meet up at Big Bar Ranch prior to heading out as a group.

8:30 - @ 4:30 pm – choice of day field trips

Option 1: Full Day at Churn Creek Protected Area (Leaders: Ordell Steen, Jenifer Penny & Frank Lomer - good mix of easy walking on existing cow trails and old roads. Some gentle hills) <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/churn_crk/>

* + although mostly grazed by cattle, there are many examples of little disturbed grassland ecosystems in the BGxh and BGxw and the IDFxm (public access to the IDFxm grasslands and some of the better ones in the BGxw are limited);
  + loop near CDC site near marsh; also see grassland/sagebrush and canyon overlook
    - *Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*, river bulrush

Option 2: Full Day at Lime Ridge, south of Mt. Bowman (Leaders: Ken MacKenzie & Terry McIntosh - more rigorous hike, some steep areas)

Here is the Lime Ridge trail report. <http://www.kamloopstrails.net/lime-ridge/>

* + <https://www.campingcanucks.com/porcupine-creek-canyon-trail/>

Option 3: OK Ranch with grasslands and saline flats (Leader: Kristi Iverson - easier hiking terrain)

* Gentle hike in shrub-steppe - grasslands and visit to saline ponds and distinct saline vegetation alongside ponds. The vegetation in the Race Track area is near pristine grassland.

6:00 - Buffet dinner @ Big Bar Ranch

7:15 pm – @ 9:30 pm Evening speakers & activities at Big Bar Ranch -

Heather Gorrell – “Kelly Lake Microbialites and Mars”

Terry McIntosh – “Musings on Rare plants of the Cariboo region”

**Saturday June 18th**

Have a hearty breakfast and pack up (or pick up) your lunch for the full day trip!

Meet up at Big Bar Ranch prior to heading out as a group.

Option 1: Full Day at Churn Creek Protected Area (Leaders: Kristi Iverson, Terry McIntosh & Ordell Steen - good mix of easy walking and some gentle hills)

* + although mostly grazed by cattle, there are many examples of little disturbed grassland ecosystems in the BGxh and BGxw and the IDFxm (public access to the IDFxm grasslands and some of the better ones in the BGxw are limited);
  + loop near CDC site near marsh; also see grassland/sagebrush and canyon overlook
    - *Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*, river bulrush

Option 2: : Full Day at Lime Ridge, south of Mt. Bowman (Leaders: Ken MacKenzie - more rigorous hike, some steep areas)

Here is the Lime Ridge trail report. <http://www.kamloopstrails.net/lime-ridge/>

* + <https://www.campingcanucks.com/porcupine-creek-canyon-trail/>

Option 3: OK Ranch with grasslands and saline flats; (Leaders: Jenifer Penny & Frank Lomer - gentle terrain)

* Gentle hike in shrub-steppe - grasslands and visit to saline ponds and distinct saline vegetation alongside ponds. The vegetation in the Race Track area is near pristine grassland.

6:00 pm Buffet Dinner @ Big Bar Ranch

7:15 pm – @ 9:00 pm Evening speakers & activities at Big Bar Ranch -

Linda Jennings “UBC Herbarium Centennial celebration”

Beauties and the Beast “30 years of Accomplishing Nothing”

The annual Botany BC AGM/vote (aka: “Where in the province are we going next year?”)

**Sunday, June 19th**

8:30 am – Possible optional field trips on the way out of town - if they are a go we will gather one last time...

* Pidgeon/Meadow lake
* Saline lakes Farwell Canyon (2 hr drive)
* Marble Range
* Pavilion/Kelly Lake (southern route back to Clinton via Jesmond)

Additional tidbits:

* All transportation will be in private vehicles so please consider sharing if you have room. Ride details will be worked out closer to the event.
* As additional information and details about field trips, speakers and registration are confirmed they will be posted to the BBC website. Stay tuned!