



Syllabus

Cycles – Past and Present

Teacher Enhancement Course

Friday, July 9, 2010

8 AM – 4:30 PM

Fee: \$70 (plus \$35 for ½ CSM credit)

Register for both courses for \$120 per person, plus \$35/course for ½ CSM credit

Course Description: Experience a unique opportunity to explore the Plains Center's West Bijou site in the company of Denver Museum of Nature & Science curators. See how dung beetle populations alter with the reintroduction of bison at the Plains Center's West Bijou site. Examine a world famous exposure of the K-T boundary and learn about the extinction of the dinosaurs and how mammals survived and then flourished. Make tools and integrate current research into your classroom through math and science.

Course Goal: Enhance your understanding about the interrelationships of Earth's many cycles. Examine the importance of insects, specifically beetles and their relationship to the reintroduction of bison on the prairie.

Observe the evidence of a mass extinction. Appreciate how research moves a theory of a meteorite impact at the end of dinosaur era to a largely accepted fact. Examine the evidence first hand.

Course Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

- Understand through inquiry the life cycles of dung beetles.
- Investigate ways to study insect life cycles.
- Recognize the significance of major extinctions.
- Collect fossil plants from the first forests following the KT extinction.
- Make tools to use in your classroom.

Course Schedule

Morning –

Welcome and introductions.

Travel to West Bijou - changing land use discussion.

Beetle research: DMNS curator, Frank Krell

Collection and discussion about the beetle population change related to reintroduction of bison.

Lunch – Bird Migration discussion, observation and activities.

Afternoon-

Paleontology research: DMNS curator, Ian Miller

Fossil collection above and below the K/T boundary, examination of climate clues from 65 million years ago and lecture at the K/T boundary.

Wrap up and review

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