

Nature Notes

Eimer's Lakes



Eimer's Lake is a short walk up from the Higgins Entrance into the Kimberley Nature Park. For many years, folks have visited this small lake for pond studies, to fish or bird watch, or for a leisurely evening walk with the dog. Less known are Second Eimer's and Third Eimer's, titillating names, into which no trails are maintained. Some members of the Nature Park's Natural History Committee recently visited all three riparian areas.



Eimer's Lake
(photo Kent Goodwin)

While water at First Eimer's remains a constant level, the water in the other two ponds fluctuates over the summer as underground streams slow down. At the muddy edges of Third Eimer's, clear tracks of a bear could be seen along with those of deer. A Spotted Sandpiper was bobbing near the water searching for insects, worms, or crustaceans. Feeding off Bull Thistle were a pair of lovely

Great Spangled Fritillary. This would be our largest summer butterfly. The male is golden with black markings while the female is black with cream dots along the wing edges. It is easy to think you are looking at two different species of butterfly!

As we approached Second Eimer's, there was a strong scent of mint. What a surprise it was to find an abundance of Field Mint in the wet meadows around the pond! The aromatic odor of this herb is produced from glands dotted on the leaf surface. For botany enthusiasts, learning the naming of plants is interesting. Mint comes from the Greek *minthe*. Minthe was a nymph who was turned into a mint plant by Proserpina in a fit of jealousy!

Lastly, we walked the trail around First Eimer's. Memories of seeing moose and bear swimming in the water were shared along with admiring the wonderful crop of berries this year in our woods. Several species of currants can be found around this pond, including Northern Black Currant and Sticky Currant. As we looked for a White-Flowered Rhododendron thought to be growing near the back of the lake, the grey/blue Belted Kingfisher cackled as it flew across the water.



Great Spangled Fritillary
(photo Kent Goodwin)

Before we knew, the morning had passed as we meandered in the Nature Park, noticing the nature around us. A very pleasant way to spend a summer morning!

Visit www.rockies.net/kimberley/naturepark for a hard copy or more information about Nature Park events.