

Autumn Leaves

Each year on the last Saturday of September a trip into the mountains is organized by Terry and Trudy Thomson for international students at Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado. They work out of First Baptist Church in Golden. The purposes are to view the bright yellow leaves of the aspen trees and also to meet people from different countries. This year we Americans were joined by many from China, Mexico, India, Jordan, Egypt, Burma (Myanmar), Chile, Ghana, and Malaysia. (I may have forgotten about some others.)

I am usually a driver for this event and can take up to six people in my van. Five people from China chose my van and enjoyed talking to each other in the Chinese language. Two others from China rode with the Thomsons. All are in these photos.



Our first stop overlooked a valley with bright yellow aspen trees contrasting with dark green conifer trees. We enjoyed the view and climbing on the rocks.

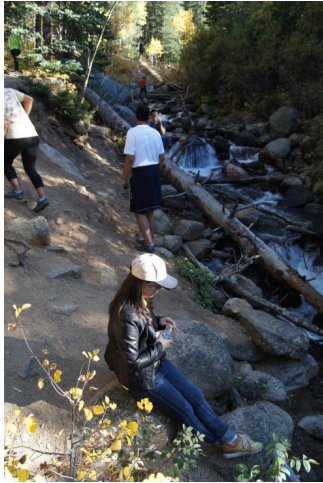
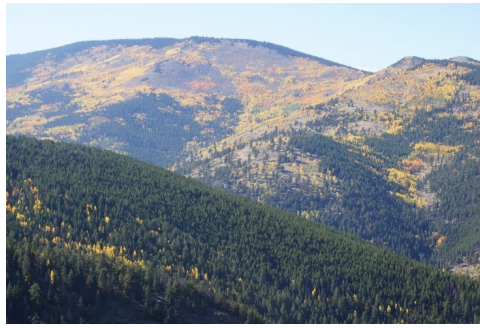


Our second stop was at Echo Lake Lodge. We walked along a trail to the other end of the lake and returned to the lodge.

The weather was excellent and unusually warm at about 23 degrees C even though we were more than 3 km above sea level.



The third stop was along the descending road where the yellow aspen trees were more common. We had some group and single photos there with the colorful backgrounds.



The fourth stop was along a mountain stream where we enjoyed the sound of the water.



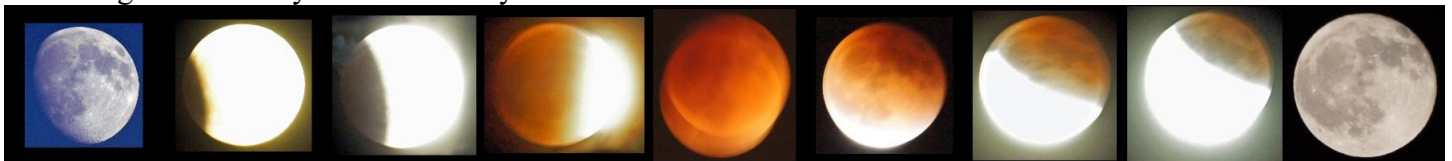
Along side the stream were small rose bushes with small ripe fruit called “rose hips”. I showed several people in our group about how to eat the fleshy skin of these fruits and discard the abundant seeds. Rose hips in larger sizes (shown in an Internet photo at the right) are harvested commercially for a variety of nutritious foods, such as jams and soups and baby food. They are especially rich in Vitamin C. Numerous Internet sources give more details about the uses of larger rose hips.



Though this is the time of the Mid-Autumn Festival for Chinese, most Americans do not recognize it as a holiday. We had a family gathering anyway at our home to celebrate the 33rd birthday of our younger daughter, Maren. Her family



includes two of our grandsons. Her husband’s mother from Prague, Czech Republic, was visiting again. Our son’s family included the twins (boy and girl) who were born July 11. Our older daughter and family live too far away in Wisconsin.



This year the full moon became eclipsed and viewable in the Americas, Europe, and West Africa. My camera give me difficulties getting good photos. The sky moved during the exposures, blurring or doubling the images. The first photo in the series was from 3 days earlier. There was much contrast between the shadowed and illuminated parts of the moon.